

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Recreational swimmers hoped to take a bite out of the competition at the recent Orinda Moraga Pool Association championships.

Photo Gint Federas

## Growing up Swimmingly in Lamorinda

By Cathy Dausman

Imagine a giant block party, only instead of residential lawns, participants lounge in tents pitched poolside. Many parents and swimmers alike plunge wholeheartedly into Lamorinda's recreational swim culture when their children reach preschool and leave only reluctantly

when their teens age out at 18. Lamorindans take their swimming seriously, even at the recreational level: There are two swim conferences and 15 teams, most with decades-old histories of membership, comradery and competition.

Recreational swimming leagues meet only in the summer, but make no mistake about it; the swimmers, their families and friends are fully immersed.

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**Help Local Foster Kids Get Ready For School This Year...Donate Supplies at 5A!**

Many don't even have the basic supplies... 5A Rent-A-Space in Moraga is collecting donations of new school supplies for our area's Foster Children. For every donation we will give you a gift with our "Thanks"! Our goal is 100 items at each 5A location... **Will You Help?**

A list of needed items is at 5aspace.com. Promotion Ends 8/21/16

## District Attorney Investigating Possible Voter Fraud in County

By Sora O'Doherty

The extraordinary number of provisional ballots cast in the June presidential primary election delayed the vote count, leaving such people as the Orinda roads bond supporters anxiously awaiting the final count of Measure L. But the delay was just the tip of the iceberg of problems at Contra Costa County's Elections Division.

"We would have liked to have (the results) sooner, but we are satisfied to be able to get them within the time allowed," said Orinda City Manager Janet Keeter.

While delays in counting so-called provisional ballots was a problem, there were greater issues of possible election fraud in the county.

Throughout the county, 113 voters have been referred to the Contra Costa County district attorney for voting twice in an election. County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters Joe Canciamilla asked the district attorney to follow up on the duplicate ballots following a request from the California



County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters Joe Canciamilla. Photo S. O'Doherty

Secretary of State to deal with the issue. "Our office has no investigative authority so it is our responsibility to turn these issues over to the appropriate parties for further review," Canciamilla said.

... continued on page A12

## Students are Primed, but are Local Roads Ready for School to Start?

By Nick Marnell



Repaving on Ivy Drive in Orinda is just one local roads improvement project. Photo Victor Ryerson

With school starting in just a couple of weeks, some local residents fear a "Commuter-geddon" due to several high-profile Lamorinda road projects.

As the voters passed the tax measures, and funding has been allocated, the infrastructure projects approved and bid out, Lamorinda is experiencing the tough part:

... continued on page A14

### Local Election Deadlines

Deadline for candidates to file and pay for "Candidate Statement" — Aug. 12  
 Extended Filing Period for non-incumbents for offices for which no incumbent files nomination papers by Aug. 12 — Aug. 13 – 17

**Civic News A1-A16**

Moraga businesses see some big changes.— page A4

**Fire District A8**

Fire investigators put the heat on arsonists. — page A8

**Life in Lamorinda B1-B8**

Helping to get rid of unwanted tattoos. — page B1



**Sports C1-C4**

Acalanes grad swims in second Olympic trials. — page C1



**Our Homes D1-D16**

Via Moraga gets ready to open its doors. — page D1





**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Monday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

Monday, Aug. 15, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**

Monday, Aug. 22, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, Aug. 10, 7:30 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

**Lafayette School District**

Wednesday, Aug. 17, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
District Office Board Room  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

**City of Lafayette:**

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

**Chamber of Commerce:**

www.lafayettechamber.org

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**Large Lennar Project in West Lafayette Gets Design Tweaks**

By Cathy Tyson

A new project that will transform a city block in west Lafayette is inching its way forward.

A fence around Celia's Restaurant has gone up, but don't expect construction to start any time soon for the essentially block-long development on a two-acre site that will house 66 housing units, a restaurant and commercial space that will be built on the corner of Dolores Drive and Mount Diablo Boulevard. The project will stretch to include the adjacent parcel and a tiny triangle of land near the freeway.

... continued on page A16



West building revised with simpler composition and roof line

East building with complex interlocking composition and room-size roof variation

Images Studio T Square

Individual walkways and unit entries engage the residential units with the public green space.  
Large specimen trees planted on grade in large landscaped setback

**Environmental 'Green Screen' Will Protect Springhill Elementary Students**

By Cathy Tyson



Ivan Dikov plants at Springhill. Photo Cathy Tyson

It took a village, or rather a trifecta of interested parties, to transform a chain link fence at Springhill Elementary school to a lush green hedge: a scout in search of an eagle project, a Green Team mom and the school superintendent.

Ivan Dikov and fellow boy scouts from Troop 224 raised the money, finagled discounts and provided the labor to install over 40 lady bank roses that will work as a sponge to reduce the amount of car exhaust students breathe while on the school playground that is directly adjacent to busy Pleasant Hill Road. The barrier will act as a noise buffer and give some privacy to students.

Dikov wanted to give back to his former elementa-

ry school, and provide a natural barrier for kids on the playground and baseball field. Through a GoFundMe effort, called Ivan's Eagle Scout Project, he was able to raise \$850 of a total requested amount of \$1,000 to get the job done. He and fellow scouts, along with non-scout friends, were hard at work over the weekend of Aug. 6 and 7, digging and planting.

Elizabeth Dietsch, chair of the Springhill Elementary School Green Team, came up with the idea of a green screen fence years ago to provide cleaner air when her oldest son was a first grader; he's now entering seventh grade. She was concerned about the high volume of traffic and the school's field and playground next to the street with only a fence separating the children from car exhaust. She figured there has got to be a better way. There's evidence that "green" walls can reduce pollutants and particulate matter.

Collaborating with both Dikov and Dietsch, Superintendent of the Lafayette School District Rachel Zinn was very supportive of the project, especially since adjustments needed to be made anyway to the irrigation system near the fence.

Requirements for selecting the type of plants presented some hurdles. A fair amount of research went into selecting hardy, vigorous, low-maintenance, drought-tolerant, deer-resistant plants that don't attract tons of bees, don't have thorns and are reasonably lightweight to not damage the fence.

Lady bank roses are the perfect fit: robust climbing rose vines with clusters of miniature white or yellow flowers that profusely bloom in the springtime, which will benefit the school and the community for years to come. The Moraga Garden Center offered the plants and soil at a substantial discount.



**Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report July 10-23**

- Alarms** 67
- 911 Calls (incl. hang-ups)** 11
- Noise complaints** 7
- Traffic stops** 198
- Suspicious Circumstances** 17
- Suspicious Subjects** 27
- Suspicious Vehicles** 35
- Abandoned Vehicle**  
Camino Diablo/Camino Justin  
10 block Diablo Oaks Way  
3600 block Chestnut St.
- Arson**  
3400 block School St.
- Auto recovery**  
3200 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3700 block Mosswood Dr.
- Animal Cruelty**  
Mt Diablo Blvd./Golden Gate Way  
50 block Lafayette Cir.
- Battery**  
900 block Paulson Ct.
- Burglary, Auto**  
4000 block Mt Diablo Blvd.  
Reported to police  
1200 Rose Ln.
- Burglary, Residential**  
1100 block Orchard Rd.  
20 block White Oak Dr.  
1700 block Toyon Rd.  
1600 block Reliez Valley Rd.  
3900 block Canyon Rd.
- Civil Problem**  
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd.
- Dispute, Verbal**  
Mt View Place/Mt. View Dr.  
3300 S Lucille Ln.
- Disturbance**  
Brown Ave/Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Carol/Berta Lanes  
600 block Lucas Dr.  
Moraga Rd./Toflemire Dr.
- Defrauding Innkeeper**  
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Drunk in Public**  
Moraga Rd/Mt Diablo Blvd.
- Fireworks**  
500 block Merriewood  
3300 block Springhill Rd,  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Second St.  
Moraga Blvd./Foye Dr.  
900 block Third St.
- Fraud**  
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
10 block Dianne Ct.  
500 block Florence Dr.
- Health & Safety violation**  
1100 block Pleasant Hill Cir.
- Hit & Run**  
1000 block Second St.  
3300 block Moraga Blvd.  
Lafayette Cir./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Indecent Exposure**  
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Loitering**  
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3300 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Missing adult**  
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Police/Fire/EMS response**  
900 block Hough Ave.  
3400 block Sweet Dr.  
3600 block Happy Valley Rd.  
4300 block Appian Way

- Public Nuisance**  
3400 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
900 block Fourth St.  
Silverado/Rohrer Drives  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.  
McBride/Bradbury Drives  
20 block Hartwood Ct.  
300 block Castello Rd.  
1000 block Dyer Dr.  
Avalon Ave./School St.  
3300 N. Lucille Ln.
- Promiscuous Shooting**  
3300 block Mt Diablo Blvd.
- Reckless Driving**  
Acalanes Rd./Pleasant Hill Cir.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Mt. Diablo Ct.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.  
Moraga Rd./School St.  
Moraga Rd./Tanglewood Dr.  
Hwy 24/Acalanes Rd.  
3400 block Hamlin Rd.  
Elvia/Del Rey Sts.  
Lucas/Burton Drives  
Mt Diablo Blvd./First St.  
Oak Hill Rd./Hwy 24  
Deer Hill/Pleasant Hill Rds. (2)  
S Lucille Ln./St Mary's Rd.  
Acalanes Rd./Hwy 24  
Reliez Station Rd./Glenside Dr.  
Brown Ave/Deer Hill Rd.  
Carol Ln./Mt Diablo Blvd.  
Hwy 24/First St.  
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd.
- Road Rage**  
Mt Diablo Blvd/First St.
- Robbery, strong arm**  
3400 block School St.
- Shoplifting**  
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (7)  
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Theft, Petty**  
3200 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3400 block Woodview Dr.  
900 block S. Thompson Rd  
3300 block Mt. Diablo Blvd
- Theft, Grand**  
500 block Dawkins Dr.
- Theft, ID**  
3500 block Springhill Rd.  
900 block Kelley Ct.  
700 block Moraga Rd. (2)  
3400 block Hamlin Rd.  
3400 block Hanlon  
4000 block Los Arabis  
30 block Topper Ct. (2)  
Reported to police (2)  
900 block Hunsaker Canyon Rd.  
10 block Green Acres Ct.
- Theft, Vehicle**  
3600 block Happy Valley Rd.  
3600 block Mt Diablo Blvd.
- Trespass**  
10 block Nemea Ln.
- Unwanted Guest**  
1200 block Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Mt Diablo Blvd/Oak Hill Rd.
- Vandalism**  
1100 block Via Media  
3300 block Betty Ln.  
St Mary's Rd/Avalon Ave.  
3400 block School St. (2)
- Warrant**  
900 block Risa Rd.

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\*per Public Records

# Will Lafayette Get a Central Park Downtown?

By Cathy Tyson



The Lincoln Building parking lot.

Photo Cathy Tyson

There are some big hurdles to clear for the city's dream of a centrally located Library Park to become reality, and only time will tell if an existing building and parking area will be transformed into a public park.

At issue is the vintage Lincoln Building and adjacent parking lot directly behind the Lafayette Library and Learning Center on Golden Gate Way. Several things will need to happen to turn pavement into what some community leaders call a civic paradise: namely a commitment by the city council to purchase the property, making a mutually acceptable deal with the seller, and coming up with the money, estimated to be more than \$10 million.

City Manager Steven Falk summed up the situation: "Many (perhaps) unlikely things will have to come together before Library Park graces downtown Lafayette."

He acknowledges that if the park came to fruition it would benefit literally hundreds of people daily due to its location close to two schools, two senior housing complexes and across the street from the library. Falk sees this property as the best location in the city for a downtown park, and notes that other small cities have a downtown park, like the Sonoma Plaza or Healdsburg Town Square.

"Pulling this off will require a big vision from the city council and Lafayette's residents, but it's a truly rare opportunity that's before us, one that could have an impact for many generations to come," he said.

While the owner of the property, John Protopappas of Madison Park Financial Corporation, has not agreed to sell the property at this point, he has entered into discussions about it with the city. However, Falk says he told the city the owner is waiting for the outcome of the Lafayette sales tax measure before proceeding.

Back in January, the city council agreed to split the cost of an appraisal with the owner. The aging 27,500-square-foot building has 22 residential units and approximately 25 small businesses; together with the adjacent parking area, the two parcels are roughly 1.5 acres.

Virtually all of the ground floor units in the Lincoln building used to be apartments, but were flagged by the city as illegally converted to commercial businesses without permits. In 2014, the city informed the property owner that there was a five-year window to either restore the units back to their original residential use or obtain the appropriate permits.

If Library Park comes to fruition, an active park could replace the large flat parking area bordered by a creek, and the vintage building could be demolished. In its place, a number of options for a new building include condominiums, a police station, a civic building, a senior center, a recreation center or a combination of uses.

The creek, which is now hidden away in a concrete channel topped by a chain link fence and barbed wire at the rear of the property, could be greatly enhanced, possibly with financial assistance from the Contra Costa County Flood Control District, which realizes the downtown channels, installed in the 1960s, are at the end of their useful life. The district already has a plan in place to convert channels into more natural creeks.

If a joint city hall and police station was erected, it could result in a longterm cost savings, as the city currently spends more than \$300,000 per year to rent space in Desco Plaza. The future of the park will have to wait for the outcome of the November election, along with the decision of Protopappas, who didn't respond to a request for comment.

# City's Financial Reporting is Honored With Award

By Cathy Tyson



Jennifer Wakeman

Photo Cathy Tyson

For the first time ever, the city of Lafayette's financial reporting won the "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting," from the Government Finance Officers Association.

The award recognizes the quality of municipal financial management that goes beyond the minimum requirements, offering full disclosure and transparency.

Credit goes to Financial Services

Manager Jennifer Wakeman and other city staff for putting together the city's comprehensive annual financial report.

At a brief presentation at the July 25 city council meeting, City Manager Steven Falk explained that the award, "Speaks to the level of diligence and energy that Jennifer Wakeman has brought to the job," and publicly thanked her for her hard work.

## Correction

An article in the July 27 issue of the Lamorinda Weekly contained the wrong email address for Bob Evans, who runs backyard trains. To get on his mailing list for future tours, contact him at bob94549@yahoo.com.

## Summer Market in Lamorinda!

**Estate Property**

**56 Merrill Circle North, Moraga**  
Exquisite traditional estate property in Sanders Ranch. 6426 sqft, 6 Br, 5 Ba, paneled office, in-law suite.  
**\$3,295,000**      [www.56MerrillCir.com](http://www.56MerrillCir.com)

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CalBRE#: 01408025  
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## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 6, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Design Review

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

#### School Board Meetings

**Moraga School District**  
Tuesday, Aug. 16, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium  
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us  
Phone: (925) 888-7022

#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

#### Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

## Moraga Police Report



### Weird vandalism 7/25/16:

Someone apparently sprayed a large amount of water in a Moraga Way business through a window screen located above the front door of an unnamed business, leaving a large puddle of water, dust and dirt inside the shop. At the time it was unclear if any of the mess caused permanent damage.

### Alleged loud party 7/24/16:

A neighbor reported an alleged loud party on Sandringham Drive North, and said this was an ongoing problem. Cops came and spoke with an adult female resident who said she had a few guests in the backyard. Guests came inside, music was turned off, so the cops determined "there was no party being held."

### Guy sleeping in car 7/23/16:

A fellow returned to his vehicle after working his shift at Saint Mary's College, and found a mystery man sleeping in his car around 9 p.m. Surprised, the car owner asked the fellow to get out. The sleeper said he had too much to drink at his class reunion, so he climbed in the car and passed out. Nice-guy SMC employee didn't want to make a citizen's arrest. The subject waited at the guard shack until an Uber driver picked him up. At least he didn't attempt to drive.

### Stuff stolen from inside car 7/22/16:

A Parson Brown Court resident reported the theft of undisclosed property from a vehicle. Sometime during the night a number of items were removed from his unlocked car. No suspects or leads at this time. A lesson learned.

**Car vandalized 7/21/16:** While at a meeting at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, an estimated \$3,000 in damage was made to a car parked in the lot. This happened at a church?

### Mystery box in roadway 7/21/16:

A metal box containing business papers and U.S. currency fell onto the roadway near the intersection of Moraga Way and Moraga Road around 11 a.m. The box was picked up by two subjects who were seen placing the box next to an open business. Employees of the business

# Planning Department Sheds Light on Business Changes

By Sophie Braccini



The open lot on Moraga Way and School Street.

Photo A. Scheck

Summer may be a slow time for some businesses, but there is a flurry of activity in Moraga. While rumors have abounded, according to the Moraga Planning department, several businesses in town are closing, expanding or even

changing hands.

The Burger King at the Rheem Center is being replaced by Starbucks, which owners hope will include a drive-through. The project requires a use permit amendment and design review for exte-

rior changes. A recent Bloomberg article about Starbucks' strategy noted that, "Drive-through account for more than 40 percent of company operated stores and have a higher than average sales growth compared with non-drive-through locations."

Chase Bank has filed an application to construct a new retail bank on the vacant lot at the corner of Moraga Way and School Street, also known as the Christmas tree lot. The planning commission should review the use permit in September.

The UPS store that is presently located near Lord's Ice Cream has an application approved to relocate its services to a larger and more visi-

ble space in the same Moraga Center, next to Bianca's Deli & Catering.

The old post office at the corner of Country Club Drive and School Street has been approved to become a warehouse/office space for a beauty supply business.

Bets are still out regarding the Jack in the Box that closed a few weeks ago. Mayor Mike Metcalf recently noted that he had heard people regretting that the only cheap place for breakfast in town had closed, but there has not been any official confirmation of the rumor that a McDonald's would be replacing the fast-food joint.

The owners of the Moraga Center, the Bruzzone family, have not replied to requests for information.

# New Signs Point Moragans in the Right Directions

By Sophie Braccini



The design draft for new gateway signs.

Image provided

Pear or no pear? Blue or green sky? Many hours of public debate have been consumed by these difficult questions. Creating wayfinding signs may seem trivial to some, but as Planning Director Ellen Clark says, it supports the image a community has and wants to communicate of itself.

The signs finally chosen by the Moraga Town Council are simple and will consistently be installed townwide for cars, bicycles and pedestrians. A whole new map will be created for these three categories of users. The council also chose a new

gateway sign style for the entrances to town.

As part of the pedestrian and bicycle master plan, staff had found that signage in Moraga lacked consistency. "Key destinations have been identified, and different types of signs have been chosen by the design review board, as well as through an online poll," Clark said at a July council meeting.

The initial design alternatives included one with a pear at the top left of the signs, a reference to the glorious past of Moraga when it was the Bartlett pear capital of the

world. The online poll results said no pear, but staff recommended the inclusion of the historic symbol because the DRB preferred it that way.

Mayor Mike Metcalf said he did not want to start World War III over the pear-or-no-pear debate. Council member Phil Arth said he didn't want it as it would clutter the sign; council member Teresa Onoda said she would rather follow the poll's result; and vice mayor Dave Trotter dealt the final blow to the pear when he said that it looked like a partridge or a quail.

Once the simple design was approved, the council focused its attention to the four proposals for new gateway signs. This project was started when the Moraga Movers (residents over 55) offered the town \$10,000 to build new gateway signs at the town limits along Moraga Way, Moraga Road, St. Mary's Road and Canyon Road. The group had become frustrated with the dilapidated air of the hand-carved

wood billboards that welcome people in town.

Associate planner Coleman Frick showed four styles of signs to the council, and explained that individual costs were in the range of \$10,000 to \$17,000 each. The council members had a preference for the least expensive sign with its hill silhouette that resembles the newly adopted wayfinding signs, but they indicated that they did not have the budget at this time and that the project would be reevaluated at the budget's mid-year revision in January.



Wayfinding sign

# Public Art is Finally Coming to Moraga this Fall

By Sophie Braccini



Horse heads by Amy Evans McClure

Photo provided

Monumental art displayed in public places is definitely coming to Moraga.

Within a few months, sculptures on loan from regional artists will be erected for residents of all ages to share and enjoy. The Art in Public Places Committee has been working for months on behalf of the Moraga residents to select eight pieces; some of them will begin to be installed in October, starting at two first public sites, the library on St. Mary's Road and the town council chambers and community meeting room at 335 Rheem Blvd.

The town council will approve all or some of the eight pieces the committee unanimously recom-

mended at either the Sept. 14 or Sept. 28 meeting.

The committee began meeting

and exploring how to bring art in the public space in May.

... continued on page A14

## Just Listed in Moraga!



### 4 Dolores Court, Moraga

Located on a cul-du-sac in Carrol Ranch, this stunning Townhouse has 3 bedroom and 3 bathrooms. This Townhouse also has a fabulous floor plan and is conveniently located minutes from shopping, schools, parks and public transportation.

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# Bocce, Frisbee Golf and Pokémon Go — Can it all Fit at the Commons?

By Sophie Braccini



A map of the Moraga Commons Park Master Plan - existing conditions.

The Parks and recreation department is preparing a master plan for Moraga Commons Park.

In the words of the department director Jay Ingram, the purpose is to select, with the community, projects that will define the park's usage for the next 10 years. With the help of consultant RHAA Landscape Architects, the stakeholder outreach has started, sketching broad outlines and raising some

questions. The objective is that the public will be asked to contribute ideas after the summer and the town council will receive the plan in November.

Doug Nelson from RHAA has been meeting with the Park Foundation, the Bocce Ball Club, the Junior Women's Club and the parks and recreation commission. He says that those groups consistently stated that the park is beautiful as it

is, and whatever changes are made, they want to make sure it will stay that way.

However, some issues have also been raised. First of all is parking. The commissioners agreed when they discussed the topic last month that parking is challenging, but that since the park is surrounded by development on all sides there was no easy solution. Nelson said that his study will look at increasing

parking spaces, but that there will be trade-offs. The commissioners proposed to look at the new pocket park that will be available across from the Commons along Moraga Road and discussed the possibility of adding parking there.

After some initial support they decided that encouraging people to park there, when the pedestrian path will not be secured by an overhead roadway, was not a good recommendation.

Nelson listed other requests, such as to provide better lighting for evening events, to add an indoor event space, to get the two existing playgrounds closer to one another and to add more bocce ball courts.

Commissioner Carman noted that this topic of adding bocce ball courts has been continually surfacing for at least eight years but never seems to get resolved. The game is very popular in Moraga, with many of the players being seniors, but not all. Moraga would need two more courts to be able to be on par with other regional leagues and be part of tournaments.

Besides the question of funding — probably over \$70,000 to build two courts — one challenge is the conflict between bocce and the nine-hole Frisbee golf course. Ingram noted that the golf course is highly used and that he would not recommend abandoning the use.

... continued on page A16

## Help Name the New Park

By Sophie Braccini

The Parks and Recreation Commission proposed four names for residents to choose from to label the new small park across from Moraga Commons along Moraga Road.

The town has set an online survey for people to cast their vote at [www.Moraga.ca.us](http://www.Moraga.ca.us). The town council will make the final decision.

The names proposed are:

- Dos Arroyos** – because it has two creeks;
- West Commons** – because it is close to the Commons Park;
- Camino Campos** – because Campos means “commons”;
- Camino Tesoro** – because “Tesoro” means gem.

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# Orinda

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, Sept. 6, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Aug. 23, 7 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
Orinda Library

### Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2016, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda

### School Board Meetings

**Orinda Unified School District**  
Monday, Aug. 15, 6 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda  
www.orindaschools.org  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

### City of Orinda:

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

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



## Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report July 10-23

<b>Alarms</b>	53
<b>Noise complaints</b>	5
<b>911 Calls (incl. hang-ups)</b>	4
<b>Traffic stops</b>	81
<b>Suspicious Circumstances</b>	17
<b>Suspicious Subjects</b>	10
<b>Suspicious Vehicles</b>	23
<b>Abandoned Vehicle</b>	
Tamalpais View Rd./Diablo View	
<b>Armed robbery</b>	
20 block Moraga Way	
<b>Barking Dog</b>	
300 Block Dalewood Dr.	
40 block Muth Dr.	
<b>Burglary, Auto</b>	
Theatre Square	
<b>Civil</b>	
10 Block Altarinda Rd.	
50 Block Monte Vista Rd.	
Muth Dr./Bates Blvd.	
30 block Barbara Rd.	
<b>Corporal Injury</b>	
Hwy 24/Wilder Disturbance	
Camino Pablo/El Toyonal	
Donald /Hall Drives (3)	
100 block Silver Oak Terrace	
Glorietta Elementary	
Orindawoods Dr./Kite Hill Rd.	
<b>Dispute</b>	
El Toyonal/Alta Vista	
100 block Orchard Rd.	
<b>Drunk in Public</b>	
Moraga Way/Woodland Rd.	
20 Block Ardilla Rd	
<b>DUI misdemeanor</b>	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Old Tunnel Rd.	
500 block Moraga Way	
<b>Fraud</b>	
700 Block Miner Rd.	
<b>Hit &amp; Run</b>	
20 block Spring Rd.	
<b>ID Theft</b>	
20 Block Crescent D.r	
100 block Meadow View Rd.	
<b>Illegal entry</b>	
50 block Oak Dr.	
<b>Ordinance Violation</b>	
North Ln./Camino Pablo	
Moraga Via/Glorietta Blvd.	
<b>Police/Fire/ EMS</b>	
Santa Maria Way/Orinda Way	
<b>Promiscuous Shooting</b>	
10 Block El Sueno	
Orinda Senior Village	
Miner Rd./Camino Lenada	
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.	
Wilder Rd./Rabble Rd.	
Moraga Way/Valley View Dr.	
Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Way	
500 Block Moraga Way	
<b>Runaway Juvenile</b>	
Safeway	
<b>Theft, Grand</b>	
Wells Fargo	
<b>Theft, Petty</b>	
200 block El Toyonal	
10 block Estates Ct	
<b>Theft, Vehicle</b>	
Brookwood Rd./Spring Rd.	
<b>Trespass</b>	
Orindawoods Dr./Altarinda	
<b>Vandalism</b>	
500 Block Bear Creek Rd.	
<b>Warrant Service/Arrest</b>	
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.	
Wilder/ Hwy 24 (2)	
10 block Lavenida (2)	



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# At 175 Years Old, Moraga Adobe is Slated for Restoration

By Sora O'Doherty



The once neglected Moraga Adobe will be restored.

The Moraga Adobe is celebrating its 175th year, making it the oldest residential building in Contra Costa County and one of the oldest in Northern California.

Although it is located in Orinda, the Moraga Adobe borders Moraga, the town named for Joaquin Moraga. Both Orinda and Moraga have been interested in the fate of the building, which has regional significance.

Plans to restore the Adobe are progressing, although it is not yet possible to see that progress. Built in 1841, the Moraga Adobe was the home of Joaquin Moraga, who, together with his cousin, had received a 13,000-acre land grant from the Mexican government in 1835. The Adobe sits high on a hill above Miramonte High School and Del Rey Elementary School. The extensive views from the Adobe extend out over much of Orinda, Moraga, Rheem and farther.

The Adobe had never been open to the public and has always been in private ownership, most recently owned by the developers of J&J Ranch. In 2009, when J&J acquired the property, they opened the Adobe for a walk-through, and, inspired by the historical building, the Friends of the Moraga Adobe was formed, with Kent Long as president. In 2012 the FMA appealed the approval of J&J's development plan by the Orinda Planning Commission, under which the Adobe would have become a private clubhouse for the development. The Moraga Town Council took an interest in the building, and wrote a friend of the council letter to Orinda to try to explore options regarding access to the building for public benefit.

After years of talks, J&J and the FMA reached an agreement which has been recorded in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). In late 2015 J&J obtained approval for 13 homes on 20 acres adjacent to the Adobe, with 2.3 acres and the Adobe building to be deeded to the Friends of the Adobe.

According to Long, the FMA needs to raise \$450,000 plus a reserve of \$50,000. J&J will pay the balance to restore the Adobe and to build a support structure with bathrooms. Thus far, the FMA has raised over \$100,000 and are hosting another fundraiser: the Fandango Fantastico on Aug. 27 to celebrate the Adobe's 175th year. (See sidebar.)

There is a three-year timeline for the Adobe restoration project, but the time has not yet begun to run. Long says, however, that in

the next few months planning will begin in earnest. The Adobe originally was three rooms. Owing to the fact that the land grant included the redwood forest of Canyon, the

Adobe had the unusual feature of redwood plank floors. Many parties and dances were hosted at the Adobe, and the redwood floors were very popular. Cooking was

Photo Sora O'Doherty

done outside the building.

The adobe walls of those original three rooms are still sound, although they are not visible, having been covered by later additions to the structure. The Adobe was expanded to include three bedrooms in 1848. Those added rooms will probably be removed, although there may be an indication of where they were. There was also a hay barn on the property, but it was removed years ago. The property had been substantially renovated in the 1960s.

The Moragas incurred substantial legal bills during the transfer of California from Mexico to the United States and during the tumultuous years of the Gold Rush. By 1886, they lost the Adobe to a reputedly unscrupulous attorney. But the property remained in private hands and was been used as a residence until it was vacated. The building shows signs of neglect and some vandalism, but is now fenced off to prevent further harm until the work begins on restoration. ... continued on page A14

## Fandango Fantastico!

The Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe are hosting their third annual Fandango to raise money for the restoration of the Moraga Adobe.

Fandango party celebrations were the core of the social calendar for early Mexican settlers, and the Moraga family was well known for those held at the Adobe in the 1840s. This year's Fandango will be held on Saturday, Aug. 27. The MC for the evening will be radio personality John Hamilton, host of On the Go with KGO. Entertainment will feature traditional music from Los Arribeños de San Francisco, a band that includes a direct descendant of the Moraga family.

Tickets are \$100 per person. Visit [www.MoragaAdobe.org](http://www.MoragaAdobe.org) for more information or to buy tickets online. Tickets may also be purchased by sending a check payable to "FJMA" to "Fandango Tickets" at PO Box 872 Orinda, CA 94563.

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## Summer Makeover Enhances Colors and More at Orinda Schools

By Victor Ryerson



At Orinda Intermediate School, a fresh coat of Bulldog gray paint (left) contrasts with the Navajo white color formerly used on all Orinda schools. Photo by Victor Ryerson

Orinda students will return from vacation to find their schools brighter and more inviting, thanks to major improvements and maintenance work accomplished over the summer.

Construction projects run the gamut from the addition of major new facilities to the replacement of aging plumbing, and every campus in the Orinda Unified School District will sport a

fresh new look. Most of the work is funded by developer fees and the proceeds of the sale of school district property to Pulte Homes.

The most obvious change is that each school is newly painted in its own colors, rather than the institutional Navajo white that was standard throughout the district.

“Every school had the opportunity to select its color scheme rather than using a uniform color,” said Stuart House, director of facilities maintenance and operations. For example, Orinda Intermediate School now sports the snappy blue and gray Bulldog colors of the school’s sports teams. The painting cost was paid from fees from so-called Fund 40, a legacy of the sale of property for Orinda Grove. No taxpayer dollars were spent, House emphasizes.

Major construction projects include the reconfiguration and expansion of the parking lot at Wagner Ranch School, which will improve traffic circulation. That change enabled expansion

of the kindergarten playground in response to growth of the school population at that level; a portable classroom was added last year because of that growth. A new portable was also added at Glorietta School this summer to accommodate growth. Again, these improvements were made without taxpayer funding, because the cost of school growth is paid from developer fees.

Other projects are less obvious, but they will improve students’ lives perceptibly. At Del Rey and Sleepy Hollow schools, new water lines have replaced rusty pipes that produced unsightly, albeit safe, brown drinking water. Both schools are also being reroofed. The Kennel Club lunch facility at OIS is being expanded to accommodate an increased lunchtime crush.

There are various smaller projects being completed over the summer, many to improve safety and security at the schools. These include the addition of new lighting and security cameras, and a new fire hydrant at

Glorietta. Other changes are in the works, such as the addition of car charging stations at most schools, made feasible by the installation of new solar power facilities under a separate program.

Orinda’s high school students will notice at least one big change, too. Two large irrigation pipes originally installed when the Miramonte campus was built in 1955 are being replaced, a project that has transformed the large lawn into something resembling a trench warfare battlefield this summer.

“The old pipes were shot,” says district facilities director Dave Humphrey. Replacing them was a big job.

In just weeks Miramonte students will return to find that the lawn is no longer a swamp, and elementary school students will not have to wonder whether they are getting coffee from the water fountain. This may be a small recompense for returning to books and homework, but at least it should ease the transition.

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-Regina and Doug, Lafayette, CA

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**Fire Districts**

**Public Meetings**

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District** Board of Directors  
Wednesday, Sept. 7, 7 p.m.  
Go to website for meeting location  
For meeting times and agendas,  
visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

**ConFire** Board of Directors  
Tuesday, Aug. 16, 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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# Station 16 Gets Closer to Breaking Ground

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District will shortly submit its design review application to the city of Lafayette for construction of fire station 16, moving ahead with a project long demanded by frustrated city residents.

Western Lafayette has been without its fire station since the county closed station 16 in 2012, and the city considered detaching from the fire district because of the reduced coverage. Plans to build a shared station with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District collapsed in 2015, and in May, the ConFire board approved the reconstruction of station 16. Later that month, the district conducted

a neighborhood workshop and developed a station design based in part on the public comments.

Once the district submits to Lafayette its design review application, which deputy chief Lewis Broschard said includes a 3-D model rendering, the city reviews the document for completeness and determines if the project complies with the California Environmental Quality Act. Because the fire station is being rebuilt at its exact location, Lafayette senior planner Michael Cass said there is a high possibility that the project will receive a CEQA exemption.

The application then moves on to the design review commis-

sion. Generally speaking, Cass said the city anticipates about five months from application submission to design review approval, but he could not comment specifically on the station 16 project as he had not seen the application.

After design review, the district submits its construction drawings and architectural plans to the city and to the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District for approval, and applies for a building permit from Contra Costa County, which, according to Judi Kallerman of the county department of conservation and development, may take four to six weeks.

“The county reviews the project to comply with building codes and regulations and the city reviews it aesthetically and environmentally,” Cass said.

ConFire can begin station 16 construction once the county issues the building permit. In May, Broschard told his board that construction estimates ranged from \$3.5 to \$4 million, with work likely completed in 18 to 24 months. The station will be put back into service after the city planning department completes its final inspection.

“We will do whatever we can to expedite this because we understand the need for emergency services,” Cass said.

# Fire Investigators Put the Heat on Arsonists

By Nick Marnell



ConFire investigators Vic Massenkoff, left, and Ryan Graham. Photo Nick Marnell

Fire investigator Vic Massenkoff confirmed a report that took even his fire chief aback: There is an intentional fire set at least once a day in the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.

Massenkoff explained that it was not uncommon to have a serial arsonist at work at any given time in each of the nine cities of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. The agency staffs a full-time fire investigation unit of four, supervised by Capt. Randy Champion, whose department determines the origin and cause of fires that are suspected to be criminal in nature.

“The first due officers are responsible for the fire investigation,” Massenkoff said. “But

they’re taking care of rescue, board-up and they’re expected to look into the cause, too? It doesn’t work.”

Investigators arrive at the fire scene often at the same time as the first-response crew. They walk around, gathering their impressions. They work outside in, circling, then entering the house, working their way toward the heaviest damage. “We want to find the area where the fire started, then zero in on the exact point of origin. What is the heat source? Was it electrical? A candle? What was the first item ignited? And how did it come together with the source?” said Moraga-Orinda Fire District Battalion Chief Sean Perkins, the district investigator.

“We walk into every fire a little jaded,” ConFire investigator Ryan Graham said. “We put it together in our heads, until something just doesn’t make sense.”

The investigators do not speculate, but rely on science-based training. “Fire burns in very predictable ways,” Graham said. “How it burns, how different materials react to fire? That is a science.”

Graham discussed a recent incident at a hair salon. “The firefighters have a good sense of a deliberate fire,” he said. “(The) captain says, ‘You need to come inside. Something’s not right here.’” The exterior of the salon had burned, there was no fire inside the building, yet one chair was completely burnt. Did someone see the fire outside and look at it as an opportunity to burn the business down?

“You’ve got to think like that,” Graham said. As it turned out, there was an outside vent above the chair, and burning pine needles shot through and landed on the doomed chair.

“When I suspect a suspicious fire, we work with the police department,” Perkins said, because no one in his district has the power of arrest. “In 26 years with MOFD, I have never had to pursue a case, but if I did I know Vic would come over and help.” The ConFire investigators have both a fire and a law enforcement background, which allows them to carry a weapon and to make arrests.

In 2015 Champion’s unit investigated 729 fires, of which 630 were considered suspicious — but the department arrested only 12 suspects. “Arson cases are very difficult to prosecute because the evidence is often all circumstantial, and that can be difficult for juries to wrap their brains around,” said Devon Bell, deputy district attorney for Con-

tra Costa County.

Bell successfully prosecuted a high-profile case when ConFire, together with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the county Sheriff’s Office, nabbed James Wilson, a serial arsonist suspected of setting more than 60 fires, including activity in Lafayette and Orinda.

The capture of Wilson was a massive undertaking. The agencies looked at small fires, and similar incidents began to recur. Officials tracked and mapped the pattern. Once investigators suspected Wilson they followed him, got a search warrant to put a tracker on his car, and set up cameras in the area where they saw his vehicle. “We found traceable DNA evidence on an item left at a fire scene, which was a one-in-a-million shot,” Massenkoff said.

Wilson was arrested in August 2015, and in July he pleaded no contest to 14 counts of arson and took the court’s offer of nine years, eight months in state prison. “The evidence was so strong that a jury would have found him guilty, so I got him the best deal possible,” said Michael Thorman, Wilson’s defense lawyer.

“It was better than he deserved,” Bell said. “The sheer number of fires set him apart. The amount of resources it took to figure it all out was enormous. He’s lucky no one was hurt.”

Fire investigators struggle between the need to keep their surveillance activities secret and the public’s right to know that an arsonist is on the loose in their neighborhoods. “The agencies were monitoring Wilson so closely at the end that they were never going to let the fires get out of control,” Bell said.

“But they had to make sure they had the right person.”

# Firefighters Association Collects \$10,000 for Charity

By Nick Marnell



From left, Chris Davies, MOFD engineer, and Jeff Keena, a firefighter-paramedic.

The Moraga-Orinda Firefighters Association hit the streets July 28 for its annual Fill the Boot drive, collecting donations along prime interstitials. According to spokesman

Lucas Lambert, the firefighters collected over \$10,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. In all, Local 1230 of the firefighters union collected more than \$50,000 throughout Contra Costa County.

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# Letters to the Editor

## County Sales Tax Will Hurt Residents

Dear Editor:

A Contra Costa County sales-tax increase will bring harm to county residents.

County supervisors have placed a sales-tax hike on the November 2016 ballot (Lamorinda Weekly, July 27.) The proceeds from the proposed tax increase are to be used for transportation.

The proposed tax hike, if passed, will raise the county's sales by one-half percentage point. For example, in Orinda, where the current sales tax is 9.0 percent, the new sales tax would be 9.5 percent.

In 2012 in Orinda, the sales tax was 8.25 percent. This means that the tax on a \$50,000 automobile in 2012 was \$4,125.

If the new 9.5 percent sales tax takes place in 2017, that \$50,000 automobile will have a tax of \$4,750.

A tax going from \$4,125 to \$4,750 is a 15.2 percent increase.

Contra Costa County residents already pay a one-half percentage point sales tax for BART. In addition, part of a homeowner's property tax goes for BART. Worse, in November 2016, there will be a measure on the ballot for a \$3.5 billion bond for BART. If the BART bond measure passes, property taxes will be increased over a 30-year period.

Eliminating these BART taxes — really subsidies — becomes essential if the countywide sales tax goes up.

Raising the countywide sales tax by one-half percentage point is an attack on low-income people and retired individuals living on fixed incomes. In 2016, recipients of Social Security received no raise, making a higher sales tax even more burdensome.

The proposed countywide sales-tax increase will raise prices for goods. The more something costs, the less people buy. If people buy fewer items, workers (like those in car dealerships) will get lower pay or lose their jobs (or both). Moreover, shoppers may buy more merchandise online, where — for many purchases — there is no sales tax.

Economic harm, especially in the area of employment, will be the result if the county sales tax is raised.

In November, voters in Contra Costa County should soundly reject any increase in the sales tax.

Richard S. Colman

Orinda

## Join Measure C Oversight Committee

Dear Editor,

Lafayette's schools are overdue for improvements. Fortunately, voters wisely passed Measure C, the Lafayette School District bond, with a 73 percent vote. Now we have an opportunity to improve our schools. This is good news; important first steps have been accomplished. However, the hardest step still remains: how to manage the funds? Over \$70 million dollars will be at our disposal. How should it be spent? Who can we count on to ensure it is spent wisely?

I'm a Burton Valley Elementary dad with two sons in the district. I care about the quality of education our children receive. We need this bond to work for everyone.

I'm also a capital asset manager, engineer, and member of Lafayette's Capital Projects Assessments Committee. I know from experience that we're going to have to overcome challenges to ensure the best for our kids.

The district will have to weigh projects, and prioritize the best ones. "X-factors" like design constraints, changing costs and complicated scheduling will lead to trade-offs and tough decisions.

Over the last year, I have attended many school board meetings. I commend the board for their efforts to pass Measure C.

Now the board has to shift to the nitty-gritty of execution. The first step was to hire consultants to manage the bond and coordinate construction. Who will manage these consultants?

The board will need to be mindful that poorly thought-out designs, cost overruns, and blown schedules will lead to reduced value. We must manage our consultants and seek out input from students, teachers, parents, administrators, and the community. We'll be paying for this bond for 50 years. We better make sure that we're getting the best "bang for our buck."

I hope that all my neighbors who have an interest in fighting for our students — or maximizing our tax dollars — will strongly consider joining the Measure C Citizens' Oversight Committee. The more perspectives, the more expertise, the better. If you're not ready to dive that deep, at least let the school board know what you think.

Get out there. Make your voice heard. I know I will.

Mark Kindhouse

Lafayette



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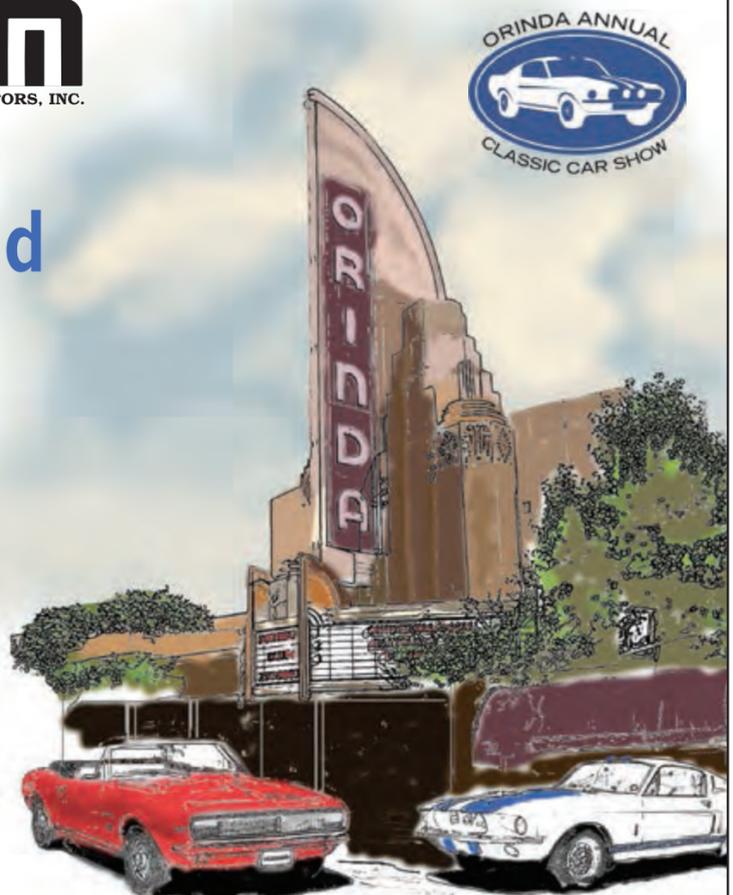
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# Moraga Mom Makes Backpacks and Donates 1-for-1 to Needy

By Diane Claytor



Sydney Paige founder Courtney Brockmeyer (center) with her daughters, from left, 10-year-old Paige and 9-year-old Sydney. Photos provided

A sign hanging in the entrance to Courtney Brockmeyer's immaculate Concord warehouse reads, "She believed she could. And so she did." Those eight words succinctly describe Brockmeyer.

Admittedly strong-willed, the Moraga mom started her own high-quality backpack company, Sydney Paige (named after her daughters) three years ago. And like Brockmeyer herself, Sydney

Paige is not a typical company; with a tag line of "giving back together," Sydney Paige implements the "buy one, give one" business model – and then takes it up a notch.

A Southern California native, Brockmeyer spent many years working very long hours in the corporate world. When, at the age of seven, her oldest daughter asked why she worked so much, "I cried," Brockmeyer said. "I

didn't have an answer she could understand and I started asking the same question. Why was I working so hard? What was I doing? And I decided, then and there, that I could never be asked that question again and had to make a change."

Brockmeyer clearly understood herself. A workaholic, she said, "I knew I could not be happy staying home." So she decided to start her own business. But then new questions arose. "It was an open slate. What did I want to do?"

While at Nestle USA, Brockmeyer worked on growth initiatives. This role gave her the opportunity to meet lower income consumers in their homes, often shopping with them to observe food purchasing habits. She saw their struggles. When contemplating a new business, "There was one thing I knew for certain," she said. "I wanted to give back more, help people more. I wanted to make a difference." With those goals in mind, the memories of the kids she met while doing market research at Nestle and her strong belief in the importance of education, Brockmeyer honed in on the idea of making – and filling – high-quality backpacks.

"Kids just want to fit in," she said. "They know they're poor, but they don't want to stand out because they don't have a nice backpack or school supplies. Education is the most important way to get these kids out of poverty." Brockmeyer knew she couldn't solve the problem

of 16 million American children living in poverty. But she could give many children from lower income families the confidence and tools they need to succeed in school.

With the support of her family, Sydney Paige was born; its mission is "to promote the importance and enrich the life of a child in need while empowering those more fortunate to help break the cycle of poverty..." Brockmeyer thought the buy/give model was "brilliant," she said, but she wanted to raise the bar. "Instead of giving something cheaper," she explained, "I decided to donate the exact same backpack as the one purchased – and fill it with school supplies. And I wanted customers to be able to choose where their matching donated backpack went, because it's such a personal decision."

With plans in place, Brockmeyer was ready to begin selling the personally designed, colorful backpacks in 2014. But then her husband was transferred to the Bay Area. "So, along with our belongings, we moved hundreds of boxes of inventory to Moraga," Brockmeyer said. "My garage, along with three storage units, were filled with backpacks and school supplies."

Three months ago, Brockmeyer moved into the Concord warehouse, making life much easier. Pallets of boxes line the walls. With Asher, her six-month old Golden Retriever, by her side (and chewing anything in sight), Brockmeyer is almost a

one-woman band. She sells, markets, designs, manages inventory, does the bookkeeping, packs and ships, and sweeps the warehouse. She has several helpers, including two other Moraga moms – Tracy Feldman and Tenaya Garrett, described by Brockmeyer as "My VPs of Everything"... These women have so much heart. I couldn't do it without them." She looks forward to the day when she is profitable enough to actually pay them a fair salary. Her husband, Dale, along with her two daughters, have also been known to sort, pack, move and ship.

For Brockmeyer, whose passion and enthusiasm for what she does shines through, this is just the beginning. Her goal is to start a nonprofit foundation, providing college scholarships to lower income students.

"I'm super passionate about helping these kids," she said. As a student at Pepperdine University, Brockmeyer was awarded a scholarship created by the Chancellor in memory of his son. "It was a huge deal to me. I felt very grateful and honored. I want to do the same thing and I want it to be personal. Just as Dr. Runnels did for me all those years ago."

Her girls have never again asked why she works so much; they understand that while she still does, it's all for good reasons.

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



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## Business Bites

By Vic Ryerson

### Moraga Businesses are Shuffling

It seems as though Moraga businesses are doing a kind of square dance.

Surprising many regulars, Jack in the Box abruptly closed at Moraga Shopping Center. On the other side of the street, the Moraga UPS store is moving around the corner from its present location to the larger space vacated by a flower shop long ago, the better to serve its burgeoning business.

Over in Rheem Shopping Center, Starbuck's is moving to Burger King's spot so it can offer drive-through service. And Burger King? Well, there is a nice space available over in Moraga Shopping Center.

For more on these unfolding developments, see the story on page A4.

### Moraga Employee of the Month



From left: Moraga chamber president Wendy Scheck, Association Communications owner Caroline McCormick, Amanda Schmalenbach, Rotary President Kevin Reneau. Photo provided

Amanda Schmalenbach, a customer service manager for Association Communications, Inc., has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for July. Schmalenbach helps manage the company's various homeowners' association clients and is highly regarded for her superior customer service for clients.

"We never have any customer complaints when she is involved, and she goes out of her way to make sure any complaints are (resolved) promptly," says owner Caroline McCormick.

Moraga Rotary and Moraga Chamber of Commerce will award Schmalenbach a gift card for Safeway, and another for Ristorante Amoroma, at an upcoming luncheon at Saint Mary's College

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### Mega Mixer — Beer at the Bruns.

Lafayette, Pleasant Hill, Moraga, Orinda, Walnut Creek and Concord Chambers of Commerce and young professional groups will assemble at the Cal Shakes' Bruns Amphitheater upper picnic grove from 5 to 7 p.m. Aug. 16 for appetizers, beer and networking. Limited space available. RSVP by calling (510) 548-3422 x118 by Aug. 10.

### Moraga Chamber of Commerce

www.moragachamber.org (925) 323-6524

### Chamber/Community Barbecue

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

### Entrepreneur's Lunch

Come at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 7, to Ristorante Amoroma, 360 Park St. in Moraga. Digital strategist Robin S. Fox will share "5 Easy Ways to Leverage Social Media to Support Your Business" during the lunch hour. It's open to members and nonmembers. Lunch is \$10. RSVP to 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.

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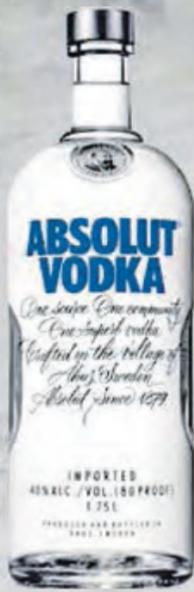
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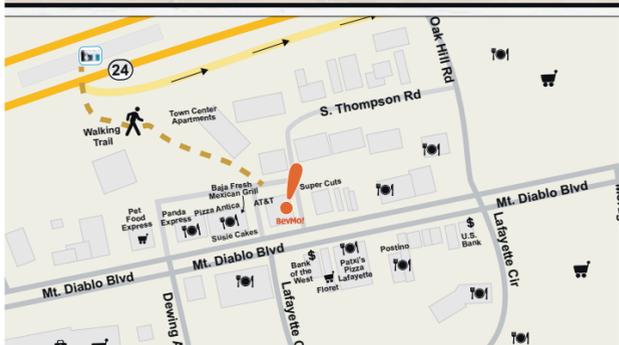
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## District Attorney Investigating Possible Voter Fraud in County

... continued from page A1

Could 113 votes have made a difference to any race? As it happens, Contra Costa County Democratic Committee Chair and Lamorinda resident Jeff Koertzen won his seat by only 25 votes, so yes, potentially those 113 votes could have made a difference.

### Complaints About Election

After America tuned into the Republican and Democratic conventions, it makes sense that elections are on many minds. And making elections run smoothly and fairly is proving to be a hot-button topic this election season.

On July 12, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors heard complaints from a dozen citizens about how the primary election was conducted. The complaints ranged from voter registration reflecting wrong party affiliation, voters not appearing on the roll requiring the use of a provisional ballot, and insufficiently trained poll workers. The speakers included residents, a poll worker and a poll observer.

Another complaint was that when problems at the polls arose on June 7, it was difficult, if not impossible, to reach the elections office by telephone.

Lamorinda, with an affluent and educated population, always has an excellent turnout and probably experienced fewer problems with the June election than other areas, Canciamilla

said. However, the election on June 7 did create widespread confusion and there have been claims that the some county results were skewed by corruption, voter suppression and fraud.

One of the issues was the large number of provisional ballots, allowing for possible fraud. According to the secretary of state, a provisional ballot is a regular ballot that is placed in a special envelope prior to being put in the ballot box. Provisional ballots are cast by voters who believe they are registered but whose names are not on the official voter registration list at the polling place, or voters who vote by mail but did not receive their ballot or do not have their ballot with them, and instead want to vote at a polling place. Provisional ballots are counted after elections officials have confirmed that the voter is registered to vote in that county and did not already vote in that election.

The reissuance of ballots may have led to the duplicate voting, according to Koertzen, who has concerns with some of the practices at the elections department. He pointed out that California Elections Code requires that a new ballot may only be issued when the voter submits a written declaration, signed under penalty of perjury, that his or her ballot was never received or was lost or destroyed.

Koertzen says that the county did not follow this requirement

strictly, which may have led to some voters, having already voted with one ballot, showing up at a precinct and exchanging an additional mail-in ballot for one that could be voted at the polling place. Unlike mail-in or drop-off ballots, those ballots were not required to be in signed envelopes. Ballots received by elections up to the Saturday prior to the election were counted.

According to Koertzen, elections staff told him that they had been instructed to say that it was okay to submit more than one ballot, because for vote-by-mail they can track the ballots and make sure the person did not vote more than once. They would only count the first one they received.

Koertzen noted that Canciamilla, first appointed as registrar in early 2012 and then elected to the post in 2014, has only handled a couple of major elections. While he believes that Canciamilla is doing his best to make sure that elections are fair and conducted in a way that is fair to all participants, Koertzen thinks that improvements are required, and will be made as the registrar gains more experience.

Anne Mobley, President of Lamorinda Republican Women Federated, said that she doesn't think it was a problem for Republicans, who did not allow crossover ballots.

### Primaries Are Unique

Primary elections and crossover ballots fall into a peculiar class of their own. Back in 2010, California voters approved Proposition 14, the Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act. This was the first presidential primary election since then, and not everyone was aware that "top two" did not apply to candidates for president of the United States.

Political parties have the right to determine if they will allow voters registered with no party preference (NPP) to vote in the primary election to select the party's candidate. For the June 7 primary, the Democratic, Libertarian and the American Independent Parties agreed to do so, while the Republican, Peace & Freedom, and Green Parties would not allow NPP voters to weigh in on who should be the candidate.

The process was not simple, however. NPP voters did not automatically receive a presidential candidate ballot; if they wished to vote for the Democratic, Libertarian or American Independent party's candidate, they had to specifically ask for a ballot. This information was contained in the sample ballot sent out by the Contra Costa County Elections Division, and also as an insert with NPP ballots. Other

counties chose different ways, such as sending out postcards, to alert voters to the need to request presidential ballots. Unfortunately, many voters didn't consult the documents until late in the game, and some were too late to receive a presidential ballot.

In an interview, Canciamilla pointed out that presidential primary elections are not sponsored by the government, but are party elections, and the parties establish the rules. The voters don't actually vote for the candidates but for the delegates to the political conventions that will select the parties' candidates. He acknowledged that the situation with the NPP ballots caused more confusion than anything else. A lot of people were shocked to discover that they did not receive a presidential ballot.

### Provisional Ballots a Factor

There are many misconceptions about what provisional ballots are, with some people believing that provisional ballots are not counted at all, to others believing that provisional ballots are counted only in the event of a close election.

"We don't feed them to gerbils," Canciamilla said, and he emphasized that all ballots, including provisional ballots, are counted and subject to meeting the requirements. Each of the 19,008 provisional ballots from the June election — many more than normal — had to be processed individually by hand, as did the 33,000 ballots dropped off on election day.

In all, 278,127 ballots were counted by the Elections Division. This is the order in which votes were counted: Vote by mail ballots received in the mail through Saturday, June 4; votes cast at polling places on election day; everything else, which included ballots dropped off at early voting stations and vote-by-mail ballots received after June 4 and up to and including ballots received through June 10; provisional ballots; then ballots that had to be remade by hand by election workers because they were damaged.

Of the total of 19,008 provisional ballots, 16,797 were counted. Twelve percent of provisional ballots were not counted because the voter was ineligible, not registered or for some other reason. The fate of all the ballots cast in the county is recorded in a statistical table by the department. Ballots are kept for 22 months after the election.

The 1,408 ballots cast that were not counted included ballots that were received too late, including 62 military/overseas ballots; ballots returned in unsigned envelopes; ballots where

signatures did not match the voter record and ballots signed by someone other than the voter. Forty people managed to send in their envelopes without a ballot, four people submitted their ballots without an envelope, while 28 envelopes contained multiple ballots, which is not permitted. Six hundred and thirty-two people submitted two ballots, and three people voted in the wrong election. Fifty-nine voters were no longer eligible to vote.

Further, about 7,500 ballots were returned as undeliverable by the Post Office, with 164 of those being for military/overseas voters.

### Other Potential Fraud Issues

In response to claims regarding the use of hackable computerized election machines, Canciamilla stated that Contra Costa does not use electronic voting machines, but does use machines to count ballots. He described these machines as old technology that are so low-tech they cannot be hacked. The machines are not connected to anything, and only have a small chip in them. Every machine was tested before being used in this election. The county used a total of seven counting machines, one of which was rented.

Canciamilla also says he doesn't suspect corrupt employees. "We don't care enough, we're not partisans."

Canciamilla also explained that the voter rolls come from the state of California, not the county. He acknowledged that there are some errors, but that there is sufficient time for voters to contact elections and have any errors fixed before the election. There would never be a purge of voters right before an election, he added.

What about claims that some voters did not receive a ballot in the mail? Ballots are sent out from the printer and can be tracked. Missing ballots can be reissued, and sometimes ballots are reissued multiple times.

As for accusations that the secretary of state position is partisan — Alex Padilla is an avowed supporter of Hillary Clinton — Canciamilla noted that when he was a member of the California Assembly (2000-2006) he twice introduced legislation to make the secretary of state a non-partisan office, like superintendent of public instruction, because he felt strongly that the chief election official should not be a partisan position. Neither bill got anywhere, he said.

It's clear the county, like so many candidates who will appear on the ballots, has a lot of work to do before the November general election.

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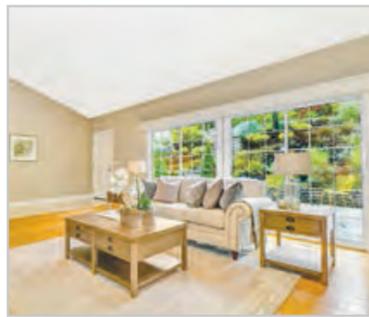
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**Food Truck Extravaganza Gears up for More in Moraga**



The inaugural Food Truck event at Hacienda de Las Flores revved up Moragans appetites for fun.

Looking like a town-wide picnic, the July 15 affair brought out scores residents of all ages to the Hacienda's parklike grounds to partake in food from Streatery Peasant Food, among others.

Two more Food Truck events will be held at the Hacienda this summer, one on Friday, Aug. 12 and the final one on Friday, Sept. 9. — P. Spear

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# Are Local Roads Ready for School to Start?

... continued from page A1

the actual construction. Many roads in Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga have been getting a summer makeover. But the school bell waits for no one.

## Orinda

"We are not concerned at all. It will be paved by Aug. 23," said city of Orinda engineer Daniel Chavarria, regarding the Ivy Drive reconstruction between Orinda Intermediate School and Miramonte High School. The paving will be completed, but the road may not be striped until 30 days later.

"It is too expensive to bring in the striper to mark one small street," he said. Though part of Ivy Drive lies in Moraga, Edric Kwan, Moraga public works director, said that Orinda is managing the project, and the town pays the city for its portion of the repairs.

Chavarria did warn that Ramona Drive, off of Ivy, may not be completed because of a work delay on a PG&E gas line. Tamar Sarkisian, PG&E spokeswoman, did not respond to questions about Lamorinda construction projects.

"Ten of our buses go to Orinda Intermediate School," said Juliet Hansen, manager of the Lamorinda School Bus Program. "It's a concern." Also, a few bus stops

may need to move, or equipment be rerouted, near Sleepy Hollow Elementary School while work continues at Charles Hill Circle and along Singingwood Lane.

## Lafayette

The roundabout project at the Pleasant Hill Road-Olympic Boulevard intersection will impact three bus routes, according to Hansen.

"But the buses will still be able to run their routes," said Lafayette city engineer Tony Coe. "Intersection closures will be only on weekends, causing a detour." The city required that its contractor forbid weekday lane closures before 8:30 a.m., but Coe said there may be delays in the afternoons.

The East Bay Municipal Utility District forced no such requirement on its contractor working on the Mt. Diablo Boulevard pipe installation west of Pleasant Hill Road, but district spokeswoman Charlotte Sullivan promised drivers that more flaggers will be added once school begins. Lane switching will likely be required into October, as the eastbound lane is open now, but will change.

## Moraga

Kwan warned that a paving project over a portion of Corliss



The road, sidewalk and parking lot at Miramonte High School are still under construction. Photo Andy Scheck

Drive in Moraga will disrupt the area near Los Perales Elementary School. The town is working out contract details with two utilities before it can complete the job.

School traffic will not be further impeded by the sinkhole, Kwan said, and though Rheem Boulevard will be closed until mid-October, the road will be opened for emergency vehicles when necessary. Hansen said that new bus route 5, from Burton Valley to Campolindo High School, will begin this year,

snaking through Fernwood and Draeger Drives and avoiding all but a tiny section of Rheem Boulevard.

The solar panel installations at each of the Lamorinda high schools will continue well into the fall, according to Jeff Arnold, a consultant to the Acalanes Union High School District. But, except for maybe a couple of exceptions near corners or poles, spaces in the school parking lots will not be eliminated. "None of this work will have any

effect on students or parents accessing the schools," Arnold said.

Chavarria noted that, in addition to frayed nerves during their construction, newly paved roads such as Ivy Drive elicit another emotional response: Drivers tend to speed up on the smooth surface.

"Be careful out there," he urged, undoubtedly speaking for all Lamorinda officials as the improved roads and other infrastructure repairs welcome drivers to a new school year.

## Moraga

# Public Art in Moraga

Its mission statement is to recognize artists as important cultural resources and to install artwork throughout the town to create vibrancy to broaden public awareness and encourage dialogue about public art. This definition is very close to the one crafted by Orinda Arts in Public Places. This more senior program is mirrored in Moraga, and Orindans are helping get the Moraga program off the ground.

At the July 12 meeting the commissioners looked at different pieces.

Town council member and committee chair Teresa Onoda had done the research and talked to the artists. She indicated when the sculptures would be available to be installed in October.

The idea would be to have a number mounted all at once to create a real buzz in town. The commissioners all agreed that the benches by Colin Selig would be very appropriate in the area surrounding the library. "He makes them with recycled propane tank,"

said Onoda, adding that they were attractive and functional for anyone of any age.

All liked the idea that the tall piece "The Drain" would be perfect in the bioswale in front of the community meeting room. They agreed that David Mudgett's "Radar Man" would be an attractive piece for children at the library. Onoda presented the two horse heads by Amy Evans McClure, saying they would be very intriguing for children. The commissioners agreed that ultimate placement should be done when pieces are on hand, and that it should fit the locations.

Onoda was the champion of this new public art activity in Moraga. An artist herself — she is a recognized plein air painter — she has invested a lot of energy in this program, meeting artists and Orinda residents such as Ted Urban to get the program going.

The other members of the commit-

... continued from page A4

tee are Karl Davis, a builder and representative of the Design Review Board; Parks and Recreation Commission chair Jeannette Fritzky; Tia Kratter, a former Pixar art director, and teacher in Pixar university; Jamie Patterson, a stage artist who used to work with the California Musical Theater; photographer and teacher Grant Rusk; and Tina Saladino from the Parks and Recreation Foundation.

The town council gave the committee a yearly budget of \$5,000, which should cover marketing and installation cost. The artists enter in a loan agreement with the town for one or two years. Commissioners will discuss fundraising and appealing to local foundations to be able to purchase art when the people will want to keep specific pieces.

Come 2017, the committee will meet quarterly and continue to look for new pieces to be added at different places in Moraga.



David Mudgett's "The Drain" Photo provided

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# Moraga Adobe

... continued from page A6

The plans, which were finally approved late last year — having survived an appeal from neighbors concerned about traffic issues — call for the Adobe to be open to the public as a museum, where people, especially school children,

can come to learn more about the history of the building and the surrounding area. Public access will be limited to 30 days per year and additional days for maintenance of the building.

## Old Adobe Inspires Young Entrepreneur

By Sora O'Doherty

Isabela Chow's light brown eyes light up when she speaks about the Moraga Adobe. She was in the third grade at Del Rey Elementary School when she learned from her teacher about the historic building. On a field trip, Isabela's class hiked to the Adobe, which sits on the hill overlooking the school, and Isabela was enthralled by the history of the people who had built the Adobe.

So inspired was Isabela that she raised money and donated \$360 to the Friends of the Moraga Adobe last year at their fundraising Fandango Fantastico. This year, Isabela, who is now going into the fifth grade, will be donating again at the Fandango on Aug. 27.

Isabela has found a number of ways to raise money for the Adobe: she sells eggs from her four chickens on Nextdoor.com. Buyers pay what they choose, which is usually around \$5 per dozen. She makes jewelry too, and sells it with her friends, sometimes at the Farmers Market. She makes beaded earrings, keychains and friendship bracelets. She looks after Kit Kit, a neighbor's cat, and adds her pay to her contribution.

Isabela also contributes from her allowance. Her mother, Ana, matches Isabela's contributions dollar for dollar. Her mother will accompany Isabela to the Fandango, and she hopes that some friends will join her as well. Last year Isabela loved the Spanish dancers with their beautiful costumes.



Isabela Chow Photo S. O'Doherty

# Growing up Swimmingly in Lamorinda

... continued from page A1



Longtime swimmers, from left, Sleepy Hollow's Ellie Reed, Abby McFessel and Jesse Wilson, and Moraga Country Club's Haley Charlesworth, compete at their last OMPA meet. The four started rec swimming when they were 4 and 5 years old. Photos Gint Federas

This year is especially significant: the nine-member Orinda Moraga Pool Association meet coincided with the opening of the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, and while few recreational swimmers make it to that national stage, Katie Ledecy and Michael Phelps are sure to be inspirations.

Ryan Sitar became a "Mini Marlin" when he began swimming recreationally at Moraga Valley Pool at the age of five; he will soon enter his sophomore year in college. "I am back this (summer) as a coach just because swimming has always been such a big part of my life that it is a little difficult and saddening to move on," he admits.

Sitar estimates he spent 20 or more hours on the pool deck each week during high school. "During swim season I pretty much lived and breathed swimming," he said. His typical rec swimming day was morning practice starting at 8 a.m.; coaching from 10 to 1 p.m. and afternoon swim lessons or life guard duty later in the day.

Sitar says the most memorable swim event came not from his teammates but from the swim club dads and their cannonball contest. "Most dads have a couple special dives up their sleeves," Sitar said. "I've seen cannon balls and can openers that have sprayed the entire pool deck in addition to painful belly flops, two-point-five revolution flips and soaring flying squirrel dives (a head first dive holding both ankles)," he said.

Julie Oliver is a second-generation Lamorinda swimmer now working with gen three — her children. Oliver's parents were active at Moraga Ranch pool. Her mother was swim team president, her father served on the renovation committee that expanded the Moraga Ranch pool from 17 yards to 25 yards. Oliver's family now swims at Moraga Valley Pool; she is completing her tenure as swim team president.

"My parents inspired me to continually give back and make the (recreational swim) experience the best for all members," she said. From the age of eight, Oliver and her older brother Erik, whom she calls a much more accomplished swimmer, rode their bikes downhill to swim practice every day, putting off going home "for as long as possible to avoid that giant hill on the way back."

Oliver's current mid-summer swim schedule is little changed — she's still in the pool before breakfast, but she now also oversees her

children's breakfast and sends them off to practice.

Sitar and Oliver both credit team swimming with playing a part in their personal development. Sitar says he learned perseverance and leadership, Oliver emphasizes teamwork and commitment. Oliver says the team sizes have grown enormous since her time as a rec swimmer in the mid-1970s, and current technology has facilitated the logistics of record keeping and award distribution. "The level of coaching is really off the charts now," she added.

Swimming and Lamorinda are so enmeshed "because of the sheer number of pools here, and the long history of participation in swimming and water polo," says Jack Kelly, communications director for Orinda Park Pool. OPP is one of Lamorinda's oldest pools; it was established by the de Lavega family in 1921. Many of OPP's deeply committed volunteers themselves swam at OPP as children including current head coach Brad Allen, who still holds some pool records.

"For most of the kids it's much more than just a swim team, it's a community," Kelly says. He cites the OPP participation in the Orinda Fourth of July parade and the very friendly car decorating competition which precedes the OMPA meet. The pool's end-of-season awards ceremony for graduating high school seniors "is absolutely heart-breaking (to watch)," Kelly says. And no, you're not imagining it — there really is an end-of-summer exodus which begins immediately after the OMPA conference meet ends.

"I've known families who brought their bags to OMPA and left for their vacations the moment they were done swimming," Kelly said.

Lamorinda area recreational swimming is something to experience, says Rancho Colorados Swim and Tennis Club president Sean McLellan. He calls it a community sport with deep involvement and truly friendly rivalries.

McLellan is relatively new to the recreational swim culture in Lamorinda, having moved his family to the Bay Area from Canada six years ago. He says his children were not asked whether they would join rec swimming, but what pool they would join. Even at the recreational level, McLellan says the sport is "super fun, super exciting, and fabulous to watch."

"The kids get into it; they take it seriously," he says, even at the

six-and-under level. He says the swimmers support both friends and siblings during meets while learning how to set goals and manage time — both important life lessons. McLellan says although there

are "last chance" qualification meets very few get the opportunity to swim at the County meet, so the Lafayette Swim Conference meet signals the winding down of the

season. McLellan's family enjoys the camaraderie and healthy fun of rec swimming within the Lafayette Swim Conference.

"There's no downside," he said.

## Lamorinda Recreational Pools Lafayette Swim Conference

www.lafayetteswim.org/

1. Lafayette Moraga Youth Association (Dolphins)
2. Oakwood Athletic (Makos) mackerel shark
3. Rancho Colorados (Wahoo) aka ono (sports fish)
4. Springbrook (Hogs)
5. Sun Valley (Rays)
6. Pleasant Hill Aquatics

## Orinda Moraga Pool Association

www.ompaswim.com

1. Moraga Valley Pool (Marlins)
2. Orinda Country Club (Sharks)
3. Meadow Swim (Dolphins)
4. Moraga Country Club (Waves)
5. Sleepy Hollow (Legends)
6. Orinda Park Pool (Stingrays)
7. Moraga Ranch (Piranha)
8. Miramonte (Gators)
9. Campolindo Cabana (Marlins)

The Contra Costa County Championship meet is Aug 13-14 at Acalanes High School.

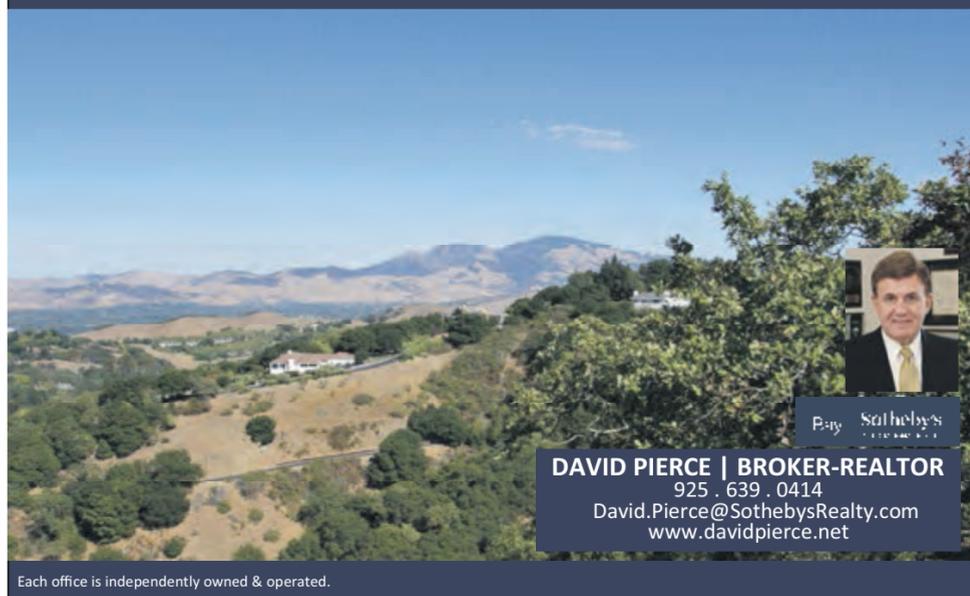
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### Lafayette Large Lennar Project



Since the Lennar project was officially proposed over two years ago, after a number of informal study sessions, the design has changed significantly. Although the development was given a green light in March, the Planning Commission had lingering concerns, so it set forth conditions of approval.

Responding at a recent design review commission meeting, architect Chek Tang of Studio T-Square explained the changes made to ar-

chitectural plans to address those concerns, and after some discussion, this particular condition of approval, Phase I Design Plans, was satisfied.

The developer still needs to complete much more detailed plans to satisfy Phase II Design Plans, which will include building materials and colors, windows and doors, balcony design, chimney design, outdoor furniture and more. Those items are slated to be reviewed over four more design review meetings.

... continued from page A2

For example, one of the Planning Commission's requests is to maintain a transitional feel between the downtown core and west end districts, while avoiding uniformity.

The current design response from the architect is a "coherent timeless application maintains the integrity of high-quality design," transcending time and style. Architecturally, the west and east building should be related in proportion, elements and materials, yet clearly distinguished in their overall appearance.

For non-design professionals who may be unfamiliar with some of the architectural lingo, it's worth checking out the project plans on the city website that illustrate previous and current designs. Visit [www.lovelafayette.com](http://www.lovelafayette.com), click on public meetings, and click on the July 25 Design Review Commission meeting.

### Moraga Commons Upgrades

Commissioners remarked that the same amount of youth were on the back of the park, a.k.a. the back 40, is mostly unused if not for two holes of the Frisbee golf course. Commission chair Jeanette Fritsky noted that when she recently visited the park, over 10 people were playing the Frisbee course and about

the same amount of youth were on their phone playing Pokémon Go. She noted that this may be a fad, but it was nonetheless a new use of the park.

Ingram added to the list of projects the recent council's request to look into placing the all-access

... continued from page A5

playground that the Rotary Club has pledged to give the town at the Commons. RHAA will also be looking into that.

Public outreach meetings will be announced in the coming weeks to get the largest community input on the topic.

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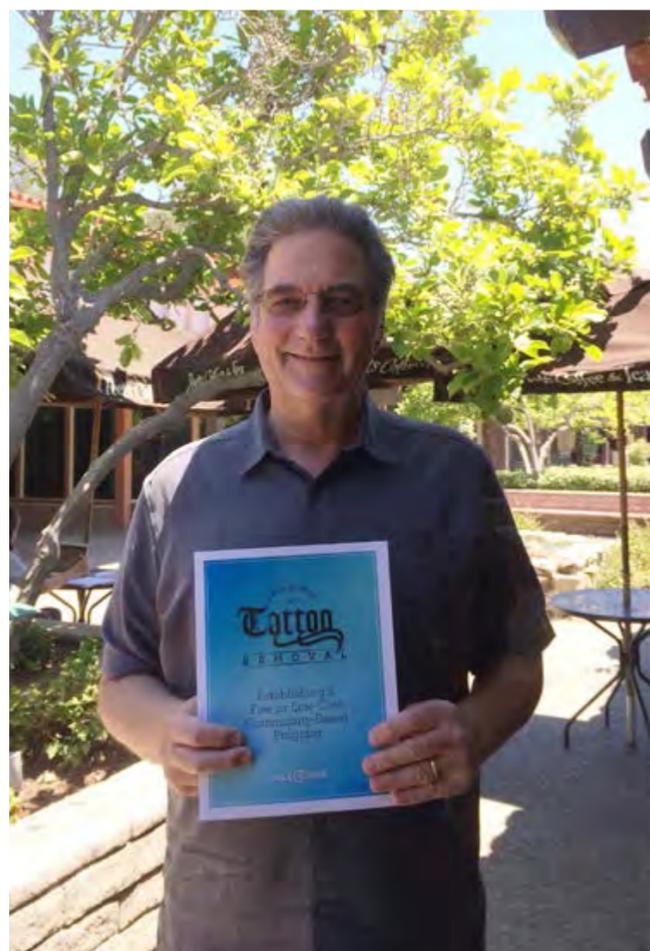


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# Lafayette Resident Helps Remove Offensive Tattoos

By Sophie Braccini



Lafayette's Mark Drevno presents his book on tattoo removal.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Lafayette resident Mark Drevno is fighting tattoos.

What he is advocating passionately is not the removal of the cute butterfly on your shoulder or even the dragon on your forearm; what he wants is to solve a serious social problem: the removal of antisocial or gang tattoos that are highly visible and hinder ex-convicts' ability to turn around their lives.

Drevno created the nonprofit Jails to Jobs and he has been going to prisons for years giving tools to inmates to get a job when they get out (see [www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0906/Jails-to-Jobs-Lafayette-resident-helps-former-inmates-find-jobs.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0906/Jails-to-Jobs-Lafayette-resident-helps-former-inmates-find-jobs.html)).

He noticed in prison the tattoos that the detainees were displaying sometimes on their faces and hands. He talks about the teardrops that can mean that you have killed someone, the cobweb or the clock with no hands that symbolizes a very long term, the letters EWMN on someone's knuckles meaning Evil, Wicked, Mean, Nasty, and all the variations of the different gangs' marking, including the very crude three black dots typically found on the hand or around the eye and that represents a predilection for gang lifestyle.

Drevno and his teams decided to write a book on how to start a program for community based organizations to help facilitate tattoo removal. It is a free book, self-funded by Jail-to-Jobs volunteers.

"There are 225 free or low cost programs in 40 states," says Drevno pointing to the Jail to Jobs' website where all the services are listed. Of these 225 places, over 100 are in California, which means that some states have just one or two. For all the locations that are not served or underserved, Drevno decided to write the book.

Drevno cites the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department study that says that prisoners who get their tattoos removed have a lower rate of reoffending than other prisoners. He adds that gang tattoos can cause grave harm from other gangs or even their own when you want to leave it. Some tattoos are applied in prison and some inmates make money that way.

Knowing that this will create a problem later in life, one could wonder why prisoners would go an extra mile to label themselves and look intimidating. Drevno cites Rev. Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries, who says that prisoners suffer from either

trauma, despair, mental illness or all of the above.

"People are looking for connection and ultimately love," says Drevno, "and they try to find that connection through their gangs." But when they come out, they want to remove their tattoos.

Homeboy Industries in L.A. provides services to formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated men and women; it is the largest gang intervention in the world. It has four laser tattoo removal devices and 34 volunteer doctors. "Last year they removed 43,000 tattoos," says Drevno.

Testimonies from former inmates found in Drevno's book show people who were finally able to cut the ties with their old lifestyle and start anew.

One of the main issues former inmates face is that it is expensive to remove tattoos and that there are areas in the nation that have little or no low-cost tattoo removal services for the former incarcerated population.

"The rule of thumb is that you take what it cost you to have the tattoo made and you add a zero, and that will be your cost to remove it," explains Drevno. And it is a long process of two to 15 and more sessions with six to eight weeks between sessions.

"We interviewed existing successful programs for their best practices and developed case studies from these interviews," he says. The book is not for medical professionals, but for community-based organizations, showing them who to contact, how to get organized. "It makes it very simple," he says.

Drevno and his team have also started creating a database of dermatologists in the states where there is no program and will email them the press release about the book asking them if they would volunteer. "Once we have identified those service providers, we will contact the organizations in their community that will sponsor the program (and will receive the book)," says Drevno. Jails to Jobs totals four volunteers and could use more.

Drevno says that tattoo removal is not only good to find a job, "It also helps to cleanse the soul," he says, referring to people who testified that removing the gang or prison tattoos was like a baptism.

"And it saves taxpayer money as it cuts down on the recidivism," he adds.

To support Jails to Jobs go to [www.jailstojobs.org](http://www.jailstojobs.org).



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**Orinda Theatre – Friday September 9**  
12:30 PM – Shorts Program A – Make Us Laugh  
2:00 PM – 2016 CAIFF Composer Contest  
4:00 PM – Short and Feature film  
6:30 PM – Short and Feature film  
8:30 PM – Short and Feature Film  
**Rheem Theatre – Saturday September 10**  
10:00 AM – Iron Filmmaker Contest  
11:30 AM – Documentary  
1:30 PM – Shorts Program B – Crimes and Misdemeanors  
3:00 PM – Children's Program  
5:30 PM – Short and Feature Film  
8:00 PM – Short and Feature Film  
**Castro Theatre – Saturday September 10**  
1:00 PM – Short and Feature Film  
3:30 PM – Short and Feature Film  
6:30 PM – Short and Feature Film  
9:00 PM – Feature Film  
**Orinda Theatre - Sunday September 11**  
12:00 PM – Shorts Program C – Love and Friendship  
1:45 PM – Short and Feature Film  
4:00 PM – Short and Feature Film  
6:15 PM – Feature Film  
8:30 PM – Documentary  
**Rheem Theatre – Monday September 12**  
6:30 PM – Bay Area Documentary Program  
7:15 PM – The World We Live In Documentary Program  
**Rheem Theatre – Tuesday September 13**  
6:30 PM – Sapporo Short Fest Showcase  
7:30 PM – CAIFF 2016 Audience Award Winner  
**Rheem Theatre – Wednesday September 14**  
6:30 PM – 2016 Slate Award Best Film Winner's  
7:30 PM – 2016 Slate Award Short Feature Film Winner

Pickup a free guide at the Rheem or Orinda Theatre or at local stores



# Author Explores 'The Sacred Art of Eating'

By Sophie Braccini



Author Lisa Ota in her Tower vegetable gardens. Photo Sophie Braccini

statistic to the documentary "Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret." "This puts the power in our hands, this is not beyond us," she says. Her book makes the case that eating a diet primarily based on plant food is good for the body, the soul and the planet, and it can save money, too.

Honoring her heritage, Ota has also studied shamanism, a spiritual healing practice. She began to experience how everything is connected. She explains that people are constantly undergoing transformation and that based upon what we eat we can experience greater levels of vitality. For instance, cells in the body regenerate at different speeds — the liver every 150 to 500 days and the bones every 10 years, she says.

Guiding the reader through a series of topics — food for thoughts — she carves the concept of being imperfectly vegan, someone who will eat a mostly plant based diet, but with flexibility.

"Being imperfectly vegan is a spiritual path toward increased consciousness and unity of body, mind and spirit," she says. She explains that it gives choices to people who still will want to have turkey on Thanksgiving. She adds that if people cut back 10 percent of their meat consumption it would make a difference. Her book is full of advice on how to balance such a diet and where and what to buy. She even recommends how to grow your own vegetables. In her home she has installed Tower gardens that are set up to save on water, use no fertilizer or pesticides and is cost efficient.

Ota conducts seminars, workshops and webinars. Information can be found on her website at [www.sacredexploration.com](http://www.sacredexploration.com).

Perched in the less-travelled hills of Lafayette, Lisa Ota's house is a haven of peace and serenity. There, the local author and teacher has been able to combine her passion for food with her inner spiritual search.

It is there that she grows food in the most innovative ways, thinks and writes, and entertains thoughts on how to spread her words of wisdom and her vision of what healthy lives should be. She recently published "The Sacred Art of Eating," a simple and meaningful guide to a better way, in every sense, to sustain healthy lives.

Ota's book is not a recipe book; it is a guided reflection to support people's desire to improve their relationship with food in a more environmentally conscious way. It consolidates years of experience, intellectual pursuit and heritage.

From her childhood, Ota has been connected with the natural world and its forces. Her maternal grandfather was part of the Cherokee people and had a farm in the Ozarks. It was in her parents' cabin that Ota's mother taught her to pay attention to the little things, such as flowers and animals, and value their place on earth.

"From an early age I was con-

nected with nature and wanted to protect it," Ota says. She believes that people's unhealthy relationship with food hurts their health as well as the planet. Her book carves a path toward a multidimensional reformation of the way people consume food to renew their bodies.

In college, she studied to become a nutritionist. Coupled with her desire to protect the earth, her studies led her toward consuming a more and more plant-based diet.

"The number one thing that can turn the tide (of global warming) is moving away from eating meat," she says. She explains that the raising of cattle for meat and dairy produces more greenhouse gas than any other source. She refers that



Lisa Ota calls herself "Imperfectly vegan."

Image provided

# Amphora Nueva: The Oil of Champions

By Sophie Braccini



Amphora Nueva oils and vinegars, being used at the Olympics in Rio, were already at Sochi Olympic Winter Games. Photo provided

the fresh and organic ingredients Crisafulli's team purchase locally to make healthy meals for the athletes.

"John (Crisafulli) used our products for the Olympic games in Sochi," says Nate Bradley, who manages the Lafayette store. "Apparently, our products were such a tremendous hit among the athletes in Sochi that he wanted to continue working with us for this year's games."

The San Diego-based caterer discovered Amphora Nueva's oils at a tasting in Los Angeles and reached out to the Bradleys. Bradley says that what makes this even more exciting for them is the fact that this connection was unsolicited and that Crisafulli actually went out of his way to find the highest quality oils available. He adds that some product placement firms pay large sums to have their product in Rio, while they will be paid to do it.

Crisafulli has selected over 30 oils and vinegars to be featured in various dishes and to be used as dressings. What makes Amphora Nueva special is the many years this family has partnered with olive oil producers all over the world, making sure that they produce according to their criteria to extract the maximum benefits and taste from the olives. Procuring all over the world allows them to follow the season and to constantly sale very fresh oils.

... continued on next page

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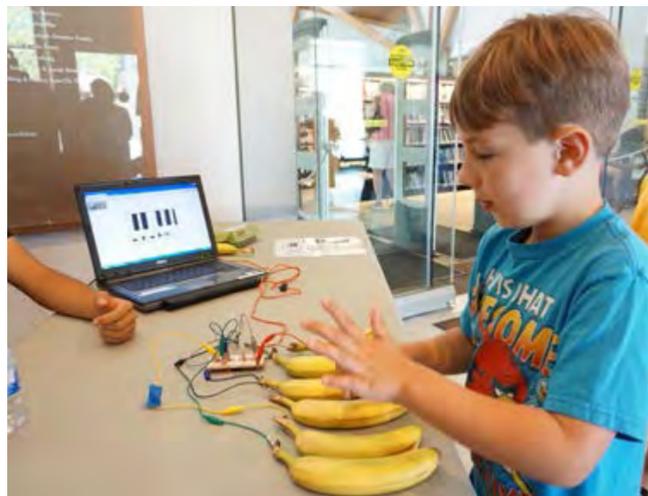
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# It's Full STEAM Ahead at Lafayette Library's MakerFest

By Cathy Dausman



A young musician tries his hand at musical bananas. Photos Cathy Dausman

What to make of the MakerFest at Lafayette Library and Learning Center? How about rockets and roller coasters, buttons and musical instruments – guitars, gourds, maracas, musical bananas; candy sushi, beeswax lip balm, slime, green screen photography and 3D printed objects.

LLLC packed five hours' worth of fun into 30 booths during their third annual MakerFest July 30. The event put the wraps on the county libraries' Year of S.T.E.A.M. theme, and it was a fitting blend indeed of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

MakerFest began three years ago when Emily Koster challenged fellow librarian Orlando Guzman to develop a kind of family street festival. Their MakerFest idea was presented at a Contra Costa libraries meeting earlier this year.

"This is a really big event for our community," said executive director Beth Needel. Many attendees were initially drawn to the library plaza rocket launch, where they could send handmade paper rockets soaring several stories high using compressed air from a bicycle hand pump. Most rockets touched down safely; a few landed on the library roof.

The science of roller coaster physics may have eluded some of the younger visitors, but their delight watching marbles perform loop-de-loops along lengths of pipe insulation was clearly evi-

dent. Nearby, a table of volunteers helped children and their enthusiastic parents to fill plastic eggshells with beans. Attach a spoon handle and you've made a maraca. Shoebox guitars with rubber band strings were being assembled at another booth.

In the conference room, children were encouraged to mind their own beeswax, watching it melt, before combining it with a bit of olive oil and the scent and color of their choice to make lip balm. Chocolate mint was the overwhelming flavor favorite. There was also slime to be made from detergent, water and glue. Less appealing perhaps, but equally fun.

While adults may have been drawn to the library's painstakingly hand-built 3-D printer which busily etched a plastic gear destined as a part for another 3-D printer children and parents alike flocked to a button making table where recycled magazine pictures turned into wearable art.

Visitors stepping into the library proper could play musical bananas or be digitally photographed on a variety of whimsical settings thanks to the magic of green screen technology.

MakerFest was supported this year by Lafayette Partners in Education, but Guzman hopes to expand the partnerships, mentioning Sustainable Lafayette and Lafayette Community Garden as possible sponsors. Thanks to more than 60 library volunteers and staff, an estimated

800 attendees enjoyed the 2016 S.T.E.A.M. MakerFest, where science, technology, engineering, arts and math blended into weekend fun.

"It always surpasses our expectations," Guzman said.

LLLC offers additional community-wide events, including Dogtown Downtown in the spring, as key pieces of their approximately 1,100 programs offered year-round. For details visit <http://www.lafayettelib.org>.

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Decorating musical gourds was part of the fun at the MakerFest.

## Amphora Nueva

... continued from page B2

Bradley explains that the fresher the olive oil, the higher the polyphenols (anti-oxidant substances found only in very good olive oils), and oleic acids (the good fat in olive oil) that are highly renowned for their health benefits, will be. They also sell pure balsamic vinegar and have created naturally scented oils and vinegars that the athletes will be able to sample.

If the health benefits are important for the competitors, it seems that it is more the taste that Crisafulli chooses Amphora Nueva's products. He had commented during the preparation of the games in Sochi, "The oils are one of the biggest hits in the commissary. It's our first time with infused vinegars and the people have raved about them. People are trying to eat healthier and organic, and since we have fresh fruits and vegetables, it's a great compliment."

This year Crisafulli bought extra virgin oils: Italian Favalosa, Spanish Arbequina, Chilean Picual, Australian Picholine, Australian Coratina, Chilean Koroneki, Chilean Coratina. He also bought flavored oils: Wild Rosemary, Tuscan Herb, Eureka Lemon, Baklouti Green Chili, Basil, Wild Dill, Herbs De Provence, Persian Lime, Mushroom and Sage, Chipotle, Cilantro and Onion, Harissa, California Walnut Oil, Italian Truffle Oil. The balsamic vinegars he bought include: Neapolitan Herb, Blackberry Ginger, Fig, Traditional, Mango, Jalapeno, Peach, Sicilian Lemon.

Bradley says that about 75 percent of the products bought by Crisafulli are presently on tap at his Lafayette store. He is thinking of adding a small Olympic symbol on these oils and vinegars.

Amphora Nueva is located at 7 Fiesta Ln. in Lafayette.



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## Diablo Women's Chorale is Looking for Some Strong Voices

Submitted by Sarah Koller



Auditions for the Diablo Women's Chorale are Aug. 15.

Photo Provided

The Diablo Women's Chorale will hold auditions for new singers at 6:15 p.m. on Aug. 15. The group encourages any woman with choral experience, music-reading ability, and a love of good music and spirited company to audition.

Auditions for the 2016 fall season are open to all female voice parts. Singers are asked to prepare a song to sing and bring sheet music; this need not be a formal aria

or art song and need not be memorized, but should demonstrate vocal quality, technique, and musicality.

All auditions are by appointment only. To schedule an audition, please call Nancy with DWC at (925) 899-5050 or email [diablowomenschorale@gmail.com](mailto:diablowomenschorale@gmail.com). Please tell them what voice part you sing and include a brief description of your prior vocal/choral experience.

## New Eagle Scouts from Troop 224

Submitted by Karen Chelini



From left: New Eagle Scouts Nic Van Oss and Cole Robertson.

Photo provided

Nicholas Nguyen Van Oss and Cole James Robertson have earned the rank of Eagle Scout and were presented with their award at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony on July 9 at the Lafayette Community Center. They are members of Boy Scout Troop 224 in Lafayette under the direction of Scoutmaster Kyle Blocker.

Van Oss, 18, is the son of Bill and Khanh Van Oss. His Eagle Scout community service project was constructing and planting a brick herb spiral which you can observe at the Lafayette Community Garden. Van Oss enlisted 21 volunteers, 13 of them scouts, to aid in the building of the structure in the first phase of the project. A month later, when the soil and bricks had settled, a multitude of herbs were planted in the spiral.

Robertson is the son of J. Michael Robertson and Karen Chelini. For Robertson's Eagle community service project he and his team built a 90-foot split rail fence for the Lafayette Community Garden. Robertson and his volunteers built the fence on a rainy day on Jan. 23 to honor his grandfather Col. James R Robertson. Despite the weather Cole and team built the fence in one day.

## AAUW Sponsors Tech Trek Camp

Submitted by Jan Cushman



Photo Jan Cushman

Six rising eighth-grade girls from Lamorinda have returned from their week-long Tech Trek camp on the Stanford University campus July 3-9 with glowing reports of fun and learning.

The girls attended camp on scholarships sponsored by the Orinda/Moraga/Lafayette branch of the American Association of University Women. The OML Branch has been sending middle school girls to Tech Trek camp since 1998, and to date, it has sponsored 72 girls. The girls who went to Stanford this year are Emilia Gutman, Hanel Kaidantzis, Abbie Lee, Shannon Lipp, Hannah Liu and Reese Whipple. The cost to send each girl to Tech Trek camp is currently \$900.

Tech Trek math/science camp is designed to encourage seventh grade girls to persist with their excitement about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through high school, college and into their careers. The program features numerous hands-on activities as well as a chance for the girls make friends with other girls interested in STEM and to meet professional

women in STEM fields. All sleeping, eating, instructional and recreational facilities are located on a university campus where camps are held. Tech Trek camps are organized, managed, and funded by AAUW volunteer leaders, with core classes taught by paid credentialed teachers. Each camp is unique with varied field trips and laboratory experiences.

The success of AAUW-CA's Tech Trek Project has gained national recognition. Corporations that see the need for more women in STEM fields are discovering the value of AAUW's project nurturing budding scientists and engineers of the future. The project has been rolled out to other states with 21 camps now serving 1,600 girls. Only girls nominated by a science or math teacher are eligible.

If you would like to donate to the AAUW OML Tech Trek scholarship program, or if you would like to attend a Tech Trek fundraising event such as the Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk on Oct. 18, 2016, please contact Jan Cushman at [jancushman@comcast.net](mailto:jancushman@comcast.net).

## Rescue One Foundation Seeks Applicants for its Board

Submitted by Greg Reams

The Rescue One Foundation is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on its board of directors. Residents living within the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's coverage area are eligible to apply.

The Rescue One Foundation serves as a support organization for the paramedic program of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, acquiring emergency medical equipment and training materials not otherwise available through the fire district's regular budget. Financial support comes from gifts of appreciation, memorials and annual tax-deductible

donations by members of the community. The foundation has provided in excess of \$400,000 of equipment and training materials for paramedics since its formation 35 years ago.

Letters of interest should be sent no later than August 31, 2016 and addressed to:

Rescue One Foundation, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, CA 94556.

For further information about this position, please visit [www.mofd.org/about/rescueone](http://www.mofd.org/about/rescueone) or call (925) 376-2086

## Sunrise Rotary helps Donate eReaders to Springhill

Submitted by Dennis Kurimai



From left, Marissa Guerrero, Eva Hempfling and Martha Burns enjoy the eReaders that the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary helped to fund.

Photo provided

Shortly after classes were under way last fall at Springhill Elementary School in Lafayette, fifth-grade teacher Martin Wong came up with the idea of replacing reading books in print form with their electronic counterparts.

After selling the idea to both of the other fifth-grade teachers, Christina Churchill and Deborah Hungerford, together they went knocking on the door of Springhill principal Mette Thallaug. To their elation, the reaction was affirmative, albeit with one caveat: Because no money had been budgeted for the purchase of eReaders, the funds would have to come from outside sources.

Within a few months, the full amount needed — \$8,000 — had been raised, enough to acquire 120 Kindle Fires. Donations from parents, community members, and even strangers, with a matching gift from Chevron, were collected via [DonorsChoose.org](http://DonorsChoose.org). As they neared the fundraising finish line,

a check for \$2,000 from Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club pushed them over the top.

For the Rotary club, it meant reviving a community service program it had long sponsored: handing out print dictionaries to every third-grader attending a Lafayette school. The program was dropped in 2010, by which time iPads, tablets and other internet-based technologies had begun to gain widespread use. Over a period of 10 years, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary has donated more than \$50,000 worth of Merriam-Websters.

Creation of Springhill's fifth-grade eReader project represented a perfect segue opportunity for the Club, redirecting its contributions toward updated curricular needs.

"We welcomed the opportunity to participate," said club president Ron Melvin. "Support of education has always been a priority commitment for Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, as it is for Rotary clubs from coast to coast."

## Lafayette Native Victorious in International Moot Court

Submitted by Stephen Allen



Chancellor Michael Farris of Patrick Henry College coaches Lafayette native Helaina Hirsch in the Nelson Mandela World Human rights Moot Court Competition.

Photo provided

Lafayette's Helaina Hirsch helped her school, Patrick Henry College, win the eighth Annual Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition on July 20 in Geneva, Switzerland — a leading human rights educational event.

The final round of the competition, sponsored by the Centre for Human Rights, of the University of Pretoria, South Africa, was held in the UN Human Rights Council Chambers. Michael Farris, Chancellor of Patrick Henry College, coached the team of rising juniors, William Bock and Hirsch, to victory. PHC has won multiple national

championships in undergraduate moot court competition, but this tournament was unique for the school in that it was a world tournament and all other universities and colleges were represented by law students. The only other American university to qualify for the tournament was Yale Law School.

The two students competed against 24 other law school teams. Only five schools can come from each region. PHC is a part of the region that includes all of North America, Australia, and Western Europe. In the finals, PHC's undergrads beat a team of law students from Moi University in Kenya.

**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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

# Love of Local Places Showcased at Lafayette Library Exhibit

By Kara Navolio



"Calibogue Sound," a watercolor by Geoff Meredith. Image provided



Olga Jusidman's ceramics. Photo Kara Navolio

Three local artists, whose work all reflects the influence of places they have lived in and travelled to, are exhibiting their work at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall through Sept. 12. The exhibit features oil paintings by Geoff Meredith of Lafayette, pastels and watercolors by Dalia Alekna, and ceramics by Olga Jusidman, both of Walnut Creek.

Meredith's oil paintings include striking landscapes and cityscapes painted in a style referred to as a 21st Century reinterpretation of the Bay Area Figurative Movement of the 1950s and 60s. The influence of artists like Wayne Theibaud and Richard Diebenkorn can be seen in the abstracted landscapes.

"I think we are all influenced by the experiences we have as we are coming of age, and these artists definitely influenced me," explains Meredith. He starts by making a sketch or a study of places he visits, and then takes the work back to his studio to paint. The paintings are grounded in representation, but then become abstracted as he works. Sometimes the abstraction goes further until the landscape is reduced into line, shape and color.

"I'm looking for what works as a painting," adds Meredith, "not necessarily what is a representation of the place."

In "Calibogue Sound" Meredith tips the foreground into a bird's eye view of boats at the pier, challenging the perspective, while the background remains in a more traditional or realistic perspective. The clouds are abstracted to geometric shapes of soft pink.

Meredith's work can also be seen at Valley Art Gallery in Walnut Creek.

Alekna's pastels reflect her love of Northern California. She originally hails from Lithuania and then Chicago, landing in the Bay Area as a young adult.

"These pastels show my excitement of living here. I feel like I live in paradise, and I want to express my admiration and love of California. I feel so lucky to live here and to be alive," explains Alekna of her beautiful scenes of Mt. Diablo, the California coast, and wine country. "I try to capture the emotional feeling I get from the landscape," she adds. Alekna also works in painting, etching and drawing, and her work can be seen at Diablo Gallery in Walnut Creek.

Jusidman's ceramics are

inspired by her travels around the world. Her current series is reminiscent of boats and her love of water.

Originally from Mexico, Jusidman looks at ceramics as an art form and prefers to make things that are decorative rather than functional. Her vessels reflect her love of texture and organic material. She is a member of the Walnut Creek Clay Arts Guild and shows her work at Main St. Arts in Martinez.

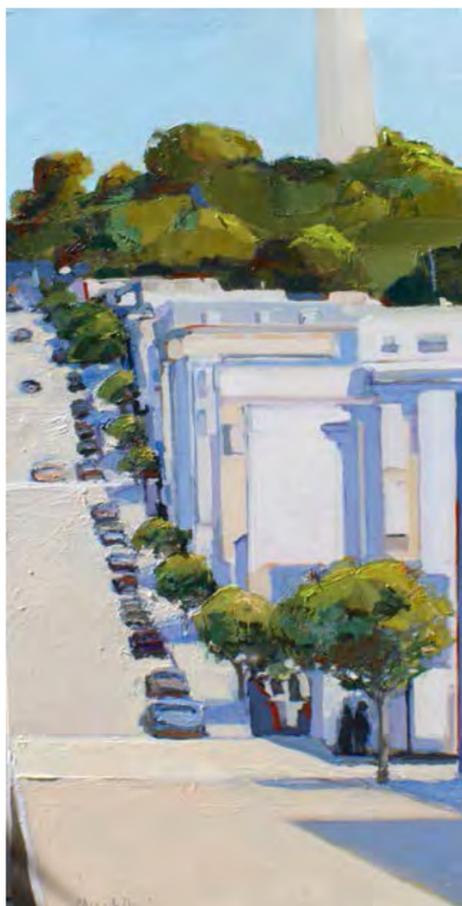
The City of Lafayette's eight member Public Arts Committee chooses artists to show their work in the Community Hall and also inside the Library's Homework Room. Exhibits change about every three months. Commu-

nity Hall is open every Monday from 6-9 p.m. and during public events in the hall. The Homework Room, which currently is showing portraits and landscapes painted by Ruth Stanton, is open

during library hours. Artists can submit an application to be considered for future exhibits at [www.ci.lafayette.ca.us/city-hall/commissions-committees/public-art-committee/library-gallery](http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us/city-hall/commissions-committees/public-art-committee/library-gallery).



A watercolor by Dalia Alekna. Photo provided



Another Geoff Meredith oil painting. Image provided

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### ART

**The Moraga Art Gallery announces "Creative Contrasts,"** a new exhibit featuring George Ehrenhaft's serene watercolor paintings inspired by California's incomparable outdoor world, and also David and Reed Bowman's brass and copper objects, shaped and hammered, ground and sanded into myriad decorative and functional works of art. The exhibit runs from Aug. 17 to Oct. 22 and includes works by the gallery's 16 member artists and several guest artists. The public is invited to a free opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20. Use the occasion to meet the artists and sip glass of wine, accompanied by light snacks and live music. The gallery is located in the Rheem Shopping Center, at 522 Center Street, Moraga.

**Valley Art Gallery presents their featured artist Peter McNeill,** running through Sept. 9. McNeill is an accomplished figurative and landscape artist who lives and works in Walnut Creek and draws inspiration from many different locales. To learn more and see the work of all its artists, visit [www.valleyartgallery.org](http://www.valleyartgallery.org)

### MUSIC

**The UC Theatre Taube Family Music Hall** presents Cat Power's "SUN" at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27. Doors open at 7 p.m., at The UC Theatre Taube Family Music Hall, 2036 University Avenue, Berkeley. Cat Power wrote, played, recorded and produced the entirety of "SUN" by herself, a statement of complete control that is echoed in the songs' themes. Cost: \$35.00. For more info see [www.theuc theatre.org/event/1268863-cat-power-sun-berkeley/](http://www.theuc theatre.org/event/1268863-cat-power-sun-berkeley/) or call (510) 356-4000 or email [information@theuc theatre.org](mailto:information@theuc theatre.org).

**Thursday evening concerts continue 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** at Moraga Commons Park: Aug. 11 Mixed Nuts - Decades of rock; Aug. 18 Beatles Flashback - Tribute to the Beatles.

### THEATER

**Comedy Under the Stars' first annual benefit** for the Boys and Girls Club of Diablo Valley at the Martinez Waterfront is at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20 at the John Muir Martinez Waterfront Amphitheatre, 115 Tarantino Drive, Martinez. Doors open at 7 p.m. General admission \$20 available at [www.cococomedy.com](http://www.cococomedy.com)

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**Local East Bay Democratic Clubs invite** you to hear author David Dayen discuss his award winning book, "Chain of Title: How Three Ordinary Americans Uncovered Wall Street's Great Foreclosure Fraud" starting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 16 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. The book tells the dramatic true story of how, in the depths of the Great Recession, a cancer nurse, a car dealership worker, and an insurance fraud specialist helped uncover the largest consumer crime in American history — a scandal that implicated dozens of major executives on Wall Street. Ad-

ditional information is available at [www.lamorindademoclub.org](http://www.lamorindademoclub.org). Copies of the book will be available for purchase during the event.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**The Summer Movies in the Park Series continues** in Orinda. Movies begin at dusk on Thursdays at the Orinda Community Park. August 18: "Good Dinosaur."

**Candy Sushi and 5 Minute Ice Cream** from 2 to 3 p.m. on Aug. 13 at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center. This teen program will take place in the Arts & Science room and is for sixth to 12th grade students. Teens can register using [tinyurl.com/laf-candysushi5minicecream](http://tinyurl.com/laf-candysushi5minicecream)

### OTHER

**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](http://www.diabloballet.org) or by calling (925) 943-1775.

**Join National Park Service interpretive rangers** for a night sky adventure, "Path to the Perseids - A Meteor Shower Adventure," from 8 p.m. to midnight on Friday, Aug. 12, 2016 at Mt. Wanda, part of the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez. Increase your appreciation of the night sky by watching the Perseid meteor shower in a fun and enlightening way! Reservations are requested, but not required. Please call the John Muir NHS Visitor Center at (925) 228-8860 for reservations or if you have questions. Visitors should meet at the parking lot on the corner of Alhambra Avenue and Franklin Canyon Road, Martinez (at the Alhambra Ave. exit off Highway 4).

**Concord's Japanese American Club's annual Summer Festival** is from 1 to 9 p.m. on Aug. 13 and from noon to 8:30 p.m. on Aug. 14 at the Japanese American Religious and Cultural Center, located at 3165 Treat Boulevard in Concord. The festival features Japanese food, including tempura, sushi, teriyaki chicken, teriyaki beef, udon, and gyoza, as well as fresh baked goods. There will be games for children. Entertainment includes multiple Taiko drum performances, kendo and judo demonstrations, Koto performances, as well as Japanese dances. Admission is free.

**August drought? Not when it's raining kittens** at Community Concern for Cats An adoption event is from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 13-14, at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see [www.communityconcernfor cats.org](http://www.communityconcernfor cats.org).

**Mindful Leadership from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday** Aug. 16 at the Lafayette Library, Oak Room, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Stuart Moody of Green Sangha will present findings from a qualitative study of stress, mindfulness and leadership, looking at skills and attitudes that foster cooperation and success. Anne Baker of Generation Green will lead a simple self-care exercise you can do on the road, at home or at work. Donations requested. Space is limited. RSVP to reserve: [stuart@greensangha.org](mailto:stuart@greensangha.org)

**DCF presents Desi Comedy Fest @ Freight and Salvage** from 8 to 10 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 17, at Freight and Salvage, 2020 Addison St., Berkeley. The Desi Comedy Fest is back for its third year with 50 comedians traveling from nine countries to be part of the fest. Cost: \$25-35. For more info see [www.desicomedyfest.com](http://www.desicomedyfest.com) or call 415-746-9770 or email [info@desicomedyfest.com](mailto:info@desicomedyfest.com).

**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. Aug. 18: "Saturday Night Fever." Tickets are \$10 for the film series, or \$5 at the door. Register at [tinyurl.com/LLLCDanceonfilm2016](http://tinyurl.com/LLLCDanceonfilm2016) or call (925) 283-6513 x102.

**The California Independent Film Festival** opens Thursday, Sept 8 at the Rheem and Orinda Theatres. Visit [www.CAIFF.org](http://www.CAIFF.org) for full schedule and tickets.

**Don't miss the 12th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show** Week-end: "Dancing with the Cars." Pre-party, 6 p.m. Friday Sept. 9; Classic Car Show, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, September 10. Enter your car and buy party tickets today at [www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com). These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda and other local charities.

**Mobility Matters Spaghetti Hop, Birthday bash** and Fundraiser - Support Our Services and Celebrate Our CEO's (Elaine Welch) 70th Birthday from 4 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Tickets: \$35 per person, adults only. 925.284.2207 email: [office@mobilitymatterscc.com](mailto:office@mobilitymatterscc.com). Space is limited, RSVP early to ensure your seat.

### SENIORS

**Let's Do Lunch! Discover and explore** the various dining experiences in the Lamorinda area at 11:30 a.m. the first Tuesday of the month. Relax, dine, meet new people, socialize and enjoy lively conversation. Space is limited. Contact Lafayette Senior Services for the schedule of restaurants and to make your reservations: [Seniors@LoveLafayette.org](mailto:Seniors@LoveLafayette.org) or 284-5050. Individuals will pay for their own lunches; the restaurants will provide separate checks.

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MOVIE REVIEW

Film Clips

# The California Independent Film Festival Has Something for Everyone

By Derek Zemrak



"The Innocents" will be screened at this year's CAIFF.

Photo Provided

This year's California Independent Film Festival begins on Sept. 8 and runs through Sept. 14. The tagline this year is "Something for Everyone from Around the World."

Over 10 countries are represented including France, Poland, Canada and Australia. There will be a wide array of films from award-winning feature films, shorts, documentaries to an award-winning children's animated film from Russia.

Here is a quick pick from each of the categories.

"The Innocents," a feature-length film, was a 2016 Sundance Film Festival hit from France. It is set in 1945 Poland where a young French Red Cross doctor is sent to assist the survivors of the German camps. During a visit to a nearby convent, he discovers several nuns in advanced stages of pregnancy. "The Innocents" will be screening at the Orinda Theatre at 6:15 p.m. on Sunday Sept. 11.

"The Eve" is a short horror/thriller from Italy that was won over 20 international film festival awards. Simon is an eight-year-old boy who seems to have everything in life but his greatest wish is for Santa Claus to take him away to live in Santa's fairyland toy factory. You can see "The Eve" at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday Sept. 10 with five other short films. The showcase is titled "Crimes and Misde-

meanors."

Looking for something a little on the lighter side with a Bay Area focus? You will not want to miss "Trailhead," a documentary that discovers Oakland's gateway to the redwoods. "Trailhead" will be showing at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 12 as part of the Bay Area Documentary Program at the Rheem Theatre.

It is never too early to expose your children to the learning and joys of attending a film festival. This year CAIFF's Children's Program is at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10 at the Rheem Theatre. The program will open with a charming short animated film from Mexico titled "The Treehouse." Not only does the story teach us all about holding on to your dreams, the beautiful animation is breathtaking. Following the award-winning short will be a feature-length animated film from Russia, "Kikoriki: Legend of the Golden Dragon." All ages will enjoy this movie about the lovable residents of the peaceful Island of Kikoriki.

These are my quick picks of the 19th annual California independent Film Festival. I encourage you to pick up a festival guide at the Orinda Theatre or Rheem Theatre or go online at [www.caiff.org](http://www.caiff.org) to discover for yourself the amazing lineup of films that truly has something for everyone.

See you at the festival!

**diablo ballet**  
Lauren Jonas, Artistic Director

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

**Thursday, August 18 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Saturday Night Fever (1977)** The film that popularized disco dance around the world and made John Travolta a star. The film is rated R.

Diablo Ballet's Artistic Director, Lauren Jonas and PEEK Associate Director, Edward Stegge, introduce the film with fascinating facts about the dance scenes including disco steps. Disco attire is encouraged and light refreshments will be served.

**Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall**

**\$5 admission**

For event and ticket information, visit:  
[tinyurl.com/LLLCDance](http://tinyurl.com/LLLCDance) or call (925) 283-6513 x 102  
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## 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](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com)

<b>August 12</b> Edy Schwartz from California Independent Film Festival	<b>August 19</b> Major Leagues Scouting, Oakland A's Style
--	---

*Yes indeed... progress is clear... a teardrop trailer will soon appear!*

**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.

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**Layout/Graphics:** Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.

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## In Memory

**Robert Burroughs**  
1956 - 2016

Robert Burroughs fulfilled his dream of summiting Mt. Adams on July 17. He fell on decent and after a two-week search, he is coming home.

Robert was born in Guam and spent his early years in Thailand. He grew-up in Lafayette, Calif., and graduated from Del Valle High School, where he had many good, lifelong friends.

Furthering his education, he attended Seattle Community College. He traveled the world; achieved the rank of lieutenant in the Army, was a chef on Amtrak, car salesman and business owner.

He loved the great outdoors; Robert was an avid cyclist, scuba diver and hiker. Robert was a stand-up fellow who would do anything for family and friends. He will always be with us, and we will always think of him with love.

Robert is survived by his wife Lauren Burroughs; sons Duncan Burroughs, Peter Larrabee and Keith Kennedy; daughters Allie Kennedy and Chelsea Burroughs; sisters: Rebecca Harms and family; Lynda Purvis and family; Karen Fossen and family; Mary Burchette and Sharon Zemanek; as well as all of his Kansas and Florida family and friends.

Our thanks go out to each member of the search and rescue teams, their coordinator, the Yakima Army helicopter crew who searched for one of their own, the Navy helicopter crew, the Yakima County sheriff and especially Sgt. Randy Briscoe.

Please join us for a celebration of his life at his home, Stevenson, WA. On August 11.

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*Thoughtful Food*

# Mocha and Kahlua Cheesecake is an Entertainer's Delight

By Susie Iventosch



Mocha Cheesecake Photo Susie Iventosch

This cheesecake is absolutely delicious. It is made with real coffee, melted dark chocolate and Kahlua, along with a chocolate wafer crust. The beautiful thing about this dessert is that it can be made

several days ahead of time and refrigerated.

I was a bit worried that the crust would get soggy, but tried it anyway because we were having eight weekend guests over the Fourth of July, which meant a lot of time in the kitchen. But, as is always the case, the more that can be prepared ahead of time, the more time spent with friends doing all sorts of fun holiday weekend activities.

I always like to get the marinades, sauces, desserts, breakfast goodies and anything else that can be held for several days, done in advance whenever possible, in order to maximize time with summer visitors.

## Mocha Cheesecake

### INGREDIENTS

#### Crust

- 1 package of Nabisco Chocolate Wafers, pulverized
- ½ stick butter, melted

#### Filling

- Two 8-ounce packages cream cheese
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 5 ounces dark (or bittersweet) chocolate, melted
- 1 Tbsp. whipping cream
- 2/3 cup nonfat plain yogurt
- Dash salt
- 2 Tbsp. strong coffee, cooled to room temp
- 2 Tbsp. Kahlua
- 1½ tsp. vanilla extract

#### Garnish

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 Tbsp. Kahlua (or other coffee liqueur)
- 1 Tbsp. powdered sugar
- 2 Tbsp. chocolate shavings

Beat cream until stiff peaks. Fold in Kahlua and powdered sugar. Serve each slice of cheesecake with a dollop of whipped cream and a sprinkling of chocolate shavings.

### DIRECTIONS

For crust: mix melted butter with chocolate wafer crumbs and pat into the bottom and up the sides of a well-greased 9-inch pie dish. Set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar with an electric beater until soft and creamy. Add eggs and beat until well-integrated.

Stir whipping cream into melted chocolate and stir into cream cheese mixture. Fold in yogurt and then add all remaining ingredients: salt, coffee, Kahlua and vanilla extract. Mix until smooth.

Pour custard into prepared crust and bake at 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes or until top is still a little bit jiggly, but not runny. Custard will firm up as it chills. Refrigerate for several hours (or several days). When ready to serve, garnish with Kahlua whipped cream and chocolate shavings.

Susie can be reached at [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com). This recipe can be found on our website: [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com). If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.



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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## LSC Championship Meet 2016

The Lafayette Swim Conference Championships (LSC) was held on July 30 and 31 at Acalanes High School Heaston Aquatic Center.



Wayne Hawkins, Rancho Colorados set a new LSC record in 100 meters backstroke

Photos Gint Federas

### 2016 Lafayette Swim Conference Championship

#### Final Team Scores

Place	Team	Points
1	Springbrook Swim Team	5,120.50
2	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	4,315.00
3	Lmya Dolphins Swim Team	2,978.00
4	Sun Valley Rays Swim Team	2,715.00
5	Pleasant Hill Dolphins	2,203.00
6	Oakwood Athletic Club	504.50

#### Records:

Suppiger, Sadie, Girls 7-8, 25 Freestyle, 14.40 (14.41 previous record)  
 Suppiger, Sadie, Girls 7-8, 25 Back, 17.71 (17.75 previous record)  
 Hawkins, Wayne, Boys 15-18 100 Back, 54.98 (55.01 previous record)

#### Relay:

**Springbrook Swim Team** - 'A', Girls 7-8, 100, Medley Relay, 1:10.43 (previous record: 1:12.68)  
 swimmers: Kayden Page 8, Elise Gratton 8, Sadie Suppiger 8, Ella Del Rosario 8

**Rancho Colorados Swim Team** - 'A', Boys 7-8, 100, Medley Relay, 1:11.50 (previous record: 1:12.16)  
 swimmers: Brandon Hoff 8, Dylan Felson 8, Nikolaos Tzorbatzakis 8, Jasper Brock-Utne 7

**Rancho Colorados Swim Team** - 'A', Boys 9-10, 200, Medley Relay, 2:19.62 (previous record: 2:19.67)  
 swimmers: Jon Mendelssohn 9, Paul Kuhner 10, Sammy Lee 10, Walker Smith 9

**Springbrook Swim Team** - 'A', Girls, 13-14, 200, Medley Relay, 1:57.41 (previous record: 1:58.11)  
 swimmers: Anna McCarthy 13, Emma Miller 13, Audrey Passalacqua 13, Kiana Thorson 13



Katherine Hawkins, Rancho Colorados, Girls 13-14, won 50 breast in 32.73



Submit stories to [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

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



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# 60th Annual OMPA Championship



Record Breakers 15-18 Girls 200 Medley Relay (Orinda Country Club) from left: Katie Lyons, Hailey Eberle, Katrina Drake and Charlotte Wu  
Photos Gint Federas



### Team Results

Orinda Country Club	4451.5
Meadow Swim Team	3106.5
Sleepy Hollow Legends	3008.5
Moraga Country Club	2568.5
Moraga Valley Pool Swim Team	2331.0
Orinda Park Pool Swim Team	2280.0
Moraga Ranch Swim Club	1690.5
Miramonte Swim Club	1310.5
Campolindo Cabana Club Marlins	913.0

### 2016 Meet High Point Winners

**2016 Outstanding Swimmer-Boy**  
Michael Brennan 11-12 Orinda Country Club

**2016 Outstanding Relay-Girls**  
Sleepy Hollow Legends 9-10 200 Medley Relay,  
Swimmers: Mollie Appl, Maren McDonald,  
Natalie Aiken, Ava Satterfield

**2016 Outstanding Relay-Boys**  
OCC 15-18 200 Free Relay, Swimmers:  
Tommy Fellner, Pat Hallahan, Stephen Schmidt,  
Tyler Abramson

### 2016 Meet Records

Swimmer Name	Team	Event	New Record	Old Record
Amelia Knutson	MCC	Girls 6&U 25 Free	0:15.85	(2003) 0:16.54
Amelia Knutson	MCC	Girls 6&U 25 Fly	0:16.35	(1989) 0:16.78
Analisa Pine	MEAD	Girls 15-18 50 Free	0:24.21	(2010) 0:24.30
Katrina Drake	OCC	Girls 15-18 100 Free	0:51.73	(2011) 0:52.24
Molly Pines	MEAD	Girls 15-18 Breast	0:31.13	(2012) 0:31.16
Natalie Aiken	SH	Girls 9-10 50 Fly	0:28.72	(2008) 0:29.23
Miles Gaffney	MIRA	Boys 6&U 50 Breast	0:20.40	(2013) 0:20.74
Donovan Davidson	SH	Boys 11-12 50 Fly	0:27.40	(1984) 0:27.56

### Relays

Team	Event	New Record	Old Record
OCC	Girls 15-18 200 Medley Relay	1:51.48	(2015) 1:52.53
Swimmers: Katrina Drake, Hailey Eberle, Charlotte Wu, Katie Lyons			
SH	Girls 9-10 200 Medley Relay	2:07.64	(2011) 2:13.39
Swimmers: Mollie Appl, Maren McDonald, Natalie Aiken, Ava Satterfield			
SH	Girls 9-10 200 Free Relay	1:55.37	(2012) 1:57.63
Swimmers: Mollie Appl, Maren McDonald, Ava Satterfield, Natalie Aiken			
OCC	Girls 15-18 200 Free Relay	1:37.68	(2015) 1:38.93
Swimmers: Katrina Drake, Charlotte Wu, Ryan Hagglund, Katie Lyons			
OCC	Boys 15-18 200 Free Relay	1:26.43	(2009) 1:26.50
Swimmers: Tommy Fellner, Pat Hallahan, Stephen Schmidt, Tyler Abramson			

Go to [www.ompaswim.com](http://www.ompaswim.com) for all results.

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# Acalanes Grad and Former UCSB Star Swims in Second Olympic Trials

By Karl Buscheck



Katie Records at the Lafayette City Meet in 2010 Photos Gint Federas

A veteran of two Olympic trials, Katie Records watches the proceedings in Rio with a level of appreciation that few can understand.

"I think for me personally knowing how much time and hard work is spent preparing for the Olympics, it makes it that much more enjoyable for me to watch," Records said.

For the Acalanes grad, it can also be difficult to tune in.

"But then at the same time, it makes it that much harder because when athletes don't hit all of their dreams or go as fast as they wanted to swim," Records said. "(I know) they have been training for four years — just for those few, honestly, seconds of racing. And if they're lucky, a couple of minutes."

From June 26 to July 3, Records was among the select group of swimmers competing for a spot on the Olympic team at the trials in Omaha, Nebraska. After swimming in the 200-meter breaststroke in 2012, Records took part in the 100-meter race earlier this summer.

"The second time was definitely a different experience than the first," Records explained. "The first time I was just kind of star struck and in awe of the spectacle that they created. Whereas the second time I knew what to expect — granted they had taken the show to a whole new level."

Records was a late entrant into the world of competitive swimming.

"I didn't have the dream that most young swimmers have when they start swimming and they look up to the Olympians," Records said. "Obviously, they were incredible, but I never thought that I'd get to that level."

Part of the reason is that Records didn't commit herself fully to the sport until her senior year at Acalanes — when she was an All-American in the 100-meter breaststroke. Before becoming a swimming star for the Dons, Records excelled as a competitive Irish Dancer, taking part in a pair of world championships.



"I learned so much through dance and swimming," Records said. "(I learned) about time management and leadership and working with other people. I truly think everything paid off in the end and everything was worth it."

Back in 2011, as Records searched for collegiate opportunities, she found her options limited.

"Greg Wilson, the coach at (UC Santa Barbara), he had been there for 35 years by the time I got there and he just finished his fortieth year and just went into retirement," Records said. "He truly was the one college coach that was willing to give me a shot — even just as a walk-on."

Wilson's bet paid off.

In her first season with the Gauchos, Records won the 200-meter breaststroke at the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Championships and was named the conference's Freshman of the Year. It was during that breakout season that Records first realized she had the chance to swim her way to one of the biggest stages in the sport.

"It wasn't until after my freshman year in college that I thought I might actually have a shot at qualifying for the Olympic trials," Records said. "So, after my freshman year of college championship meet it was really my goal to qualify for the 2012 Olympic trials."

After her first taste of the trials, Records continued to excel at UCSB. In 2015, Records completed a hat trick at the MPSF Championships, winning the 100-meter and 200-meter breaststroke along with the 200-meter individual medley. That showing also earned her the title of UCSB Female Athlete of the Year.

"It was such an honor and I never thought that it would be something that I would be able to accomplish or that it was even on my radar," Records said. "But as soon as I did see that little bit of success and the success that came from all that hard work it just made you want to work even harder and set even higher goals for myself."

# Diablo Alliance U12 Wins at USA Water Polo Junior Olympics

Submitted by Jeff Holman



The 12 and Under Diablo Alliance Water Polo Team, front row from left: Zoe Jimenez, Abby Ruppert (Orinda), Quinn Arroyo (Orinda), Sara Archer (Lafayette), Rosalie Hassett (Orinda) Back row from left: coach Hannah Buck, Mary Hassett (Orinda), Sofia Holman (Orinda), Sarah Peterson, Ava Donleavy, Alexa Carter (Lafayette), Hannah Mendenhall, Anna Ryan, Elizabeth McGrath (Lafayette), coach Cat Arroyo; Not pictured: Emma Rose Photo provided

The Water Polo teams of Diablo Alliance participated in the USA Water Polo Junior Olympics Session 2 in San Jose July 28 – 31. The teams results are: 12 & under: First in Gold; 14 & under: 11th in Platinum Division; 16 & under: Ninth in Platinum Division; 18 & under: 19th in Platinum Division.

# 12U Contra Costa United Wins Bronze at Water Polo Junior Olympics

Submitted by Breese Berkowitz



Back row from left: Ben Boccabella, coach Tor Jensen, Zack Benisek, Jeff DeBoer, Caden Carpenter, Warren Cooper, Eli Berkowitz, Chase McFarland, Bardia Koopah, coach Stephen Loomis; front row from left: Tommy Roder, Caleb Boggan, Charlie Whipple, Tony Puthuff Photo provided

The Contra Costa United 12U boys' water polo team took the Silver Medal at the 2016 Junior Olympics held July 23-26 in San Jose. A total of 72 12U boys' teams competed in the national tournament, only losing to one team. The CCU 14U boys came in fifth out of a total of 96 teams.

# Lafayette Little League All Stars 11's Win District 4 Championship

Submitted by Jenny Solari



From left: Manager Dave Gannon, coach Ken Daly, coach Jonathan Breznikar, Matthew Daly, Charlie Solari, Colin Godfrey, AJ Bianchina, Matthew Muren, Dylan Breznikar, Andrew Huchingson, Gabe Lund, Coco Gannon, Aidan Nelson, Theo Stoll, Kyle Bielawski and Logan Mikalis Photo provided

With a victory over Continental, the Lafayette Little League 11U All Stars baseball team won the District 4 championship. Avenging an earlier loss to Continental Lafayette pounded out 15 hits and led wire to wire in the 9-4 victory, sending the team to the sectional playoffs. This is the second consecutive year this team has played for the district championship and overall Lafayette posted a 16-3 record over the summer.

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1:00 - 2:30 PM	GRADES K-5, 6-8 AND 9-12 GROUPS
3:15 - 4:30 PM	GRADES 6-8 SOLOISTS
5:00 - 6:15 PM	GRADES 9-12 SOLOISTS
7:00 - 7:30 PM	ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

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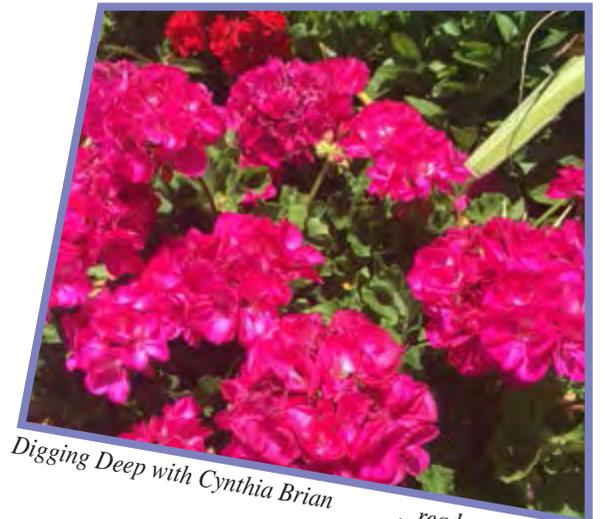
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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 10 Issue 12 Wednesday, August 10, 2016



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

*...read on page D12*

## Via Moraga Will Welcome Homeowners in Early 2017

By Diane Claytor



*First house in the new development Via Moraga on Moraga Road*

*Photo Andy Scheck*

For 40 years, Moraga's Rheem Valley Bowl was a popular hangout for Lamorindans of all ages. In 1999, the bowling alley lost its lease and closed its doors. For the next five years, the boarded up building sat, abandoned and deteriorating. In 2004, the building was demolished and drivers on Moraga Road, the main thoroughfare through town,

viewed an empty lot.

Come early 2017, the site will look better than ever and again be populated by young couples, empty nesters, families and laughing children.

Via Moraga, one of several housing developments going up in Moraga, is looking to welcome its new homeowners at the beginning

of the new year. Developer Signature Homes has been working with the town since 2011 to build the subdivision of single-family homes and, weather permitting, the hope is that construction will be completed within the next six months, according to Senka Maricic-Foster, Signature's on-site sales associate.

*... continued on page D4*



# THE *Beaubelle* GROUP

## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	8	\$1,225,000	\$2,485,000
MORAGA	18	\$407,000	\$2,595,500
ORINDA	15	\$890,000	\$3,205,000

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

### LAFAYETTE

- 3211 Ameno Drive, \$1,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 3325 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 6-30-16  
 1030 Dolores Drive, \$1,250,000, 2 Bdrms, 1709 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 7-12-16;  
 Previous Sale: \$810,000, 08-12-04  
 1367 El Curtola Boulevard, \$845,000, 3 Bdrms, 1070 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 7-7-16;  
 Previous Sale: \$730,000, 07-29-08  
 24 Jennifer Highlands Court, \$1,366,500, 4 Bdrms, 3307 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt,  
 7-1-16; Previous Sale: \$1,420,000, 05-04-07  
 483 Peacock Boulevard, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1890 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 7-11-16  
 1262 Redwood Lane, \$2,595,500, 4 Bdrms, 4166 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-11-16;  
 Previous Sale: \$2,075,000, 06-28-11  
 1820 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2242 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 6-30-16;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,435,000, 12-29-15  
 496 Silverado Drive, \$1,155,000, 3 Bdrms, 2405 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-7-16;  
 Previous Sale: \$800,000, 08-12-03  
 600 Sky Highway Circle, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2598 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 6-30-16  
 845 Solana Drive, \$2,485,000, 3 Bdrms, 1561 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-1-16;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,055,000, 09-16-05  
 15 Southampton Place, \$1,363,000, 4 Bdrms, 2465 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-29-16;  
 Previous Sale: \$340,000, 06-06-88  
 1022 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,455,000, 4 Bdrms, 3539 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 6-28-16;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 06-30-09  
 3215 Surmont Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2089 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 7-13-16  
 1038 Via Roble, \$1,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 3256 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 6-28-16;  
 Previous Sale: \$520,000, 10-07-87  
 1001 Woodbury Road #A301, \$1,225,000, 16 Bdrms, 13002 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt,  
 6-30-16; Previous Sale: \$1,566,000, 11-24-15

### MORAGA

- 613 Augusta Drive, \$779,000, 2 Bdrms, 1262 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 7-6-16;  
 Previous Sale: \$710,000, 07-02-14  
 402 Birchwood Drive, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2226 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 6-30-16;  
 Previous Sale: \$477,000, 05-06-94  
 7 Carr Drive, \$870,000, 4 Bdrms, 1624 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 6-29-16;  
 Previous Sale: \$825,000, 02-22-13  
 305 Corte Gabriel, \$825,000, 3 Bdrms, 2117 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 7-7-16;  
 Previous Sale: \$663,000, 06-02-04  
 2056 Donald Drive, \$1,040,000, 4 Bdrms, 1967 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 6-30-16;  
 Previous Sale: \$789,000, 04-25-07  
 253 Draeger Drive, \$1,482,000, 4 Bdrms, 2638 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-5-16  
 100 Eileen Court, \$975,000, 4 Bdrms, 2484 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 6-29-16;  
 Previous Sale: \$700,000, 10-25-12  
 620 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,015,000, 4 Bdrms, 1936 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-1-16;  
 Previous Sale: \$790,500, 03-07-08



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# Via Moraga Will Welcome Homeowners in Early 2017

... continued from page D1



*Kitchen in the new home*

*Photo Diane Claytor*

Seventeen two-story, four-bedroom homes are planned for the site directly across the street from the Rheem Shopping Center. There are three different floor plans available, ranging in size from just under 2,000 square feet to 2,570 square feet. Each home has a finished two-car garage and a small yard and features premier KitchenAid stainless steel appliances, beautiful quartz slab countertops, Moen faucets and showerheads, custom beech cabinetry stained in a rich warm oak, quality plush carpet, designer selected light

fixtures and upstairs laundry room.

Signature Homes, builder of Pleasanton's renowned Ruby Hill, is known for "providing quality homes of enduring appeal." They believe that the "details make the difference" and the outstanding features incorporated into the bright, sunlight-filled Via Moraga homes fully illustrate that belief. Each home is prepped for future solar installation, and includes a security system, state-of-the-art home wiring for networking capabilities and High Tech Nest thermostat. The commu-

nity will also include a small park and children's play area, as well as attractive landscaping.

There are many ways buyers may customize their home and, according to Marcic-Foster, there are a number of beautiful top-of-the-line alternate design selections available.

Marcic-Foster, who began selling Via Moraga only three months ago, proudly stated that 12 homes have already sold. The remaining five are priced starting at \$1.2 million.



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\* 2016 MLS Sales by Volume in Orinda

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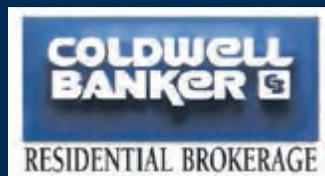
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# Smart Ideas for Your Student's Learning Environment

By Michele Duffy

"The secret to getting ahead is getting started." — Mark Twain



*Photo Andy Scheck*

As the promise of a new school year begins it's a timely exercise to review and perhaps redesign for success our student's study area and improve their ability to concentrate on their school work. Feng Shui can help.

Let's start with a review of the self-knowledge and cultivation (skills and wisdom) Bagua area of the Bagua map.

## **SELF KNOWLEDGE and WISDOM**

The location on the Feng Shui map for self-knowledge and wisdom is along the front door wall to the left corner. Remember to keep in mind that each Bagua area occupies a third of the total floorplan layout, not just the corner area.

As the new school year approaches we can help set up a student's study area to be more peaceful, powerful and successful for them with easy and fun Feng Shui adjustments. Children may not always have a choice of where they sit in a classroom and most classrooms may not be arranged with positive Feng Shui alignment. But at home we can improve their ability to focus, concentrate and retain what they study.

First begin with a review your child's home study area and ask yourself if it worked well in the last school year. If not, it may first be a good idea to consider, if possible, changing the study location in your home altogether. If you have limited space and the dining or kitchen table remains the only spot in your home,

don't fret as there are still many Feng Shui enhancements that will help a student succeed in studying. For example, make sure the student sits at the end of the table that is rarely used for eating so they can leave their work undisturbed and create more permanency.

Students should sit ideally with their backs to a solid wall facing the entrance to the room (The Commanding Position), so they are "in command" and feel more powerful about the work they must complete.

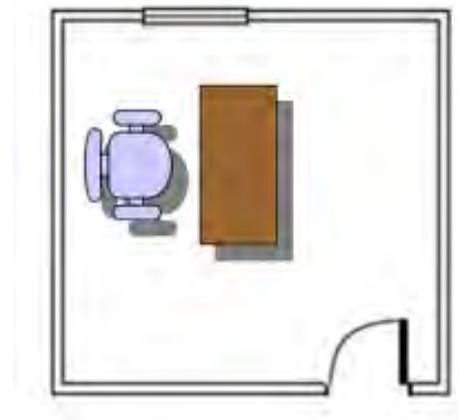
Next, it is extremely important to keep all study areas free of clutter, so invest in storage options that tidy the study room. Also check the lighting and use stylish floor lamps if necessary to create lots of bright light to illuminate their work.

If it is possible, based on your home's layout, to place a student's study area in the self-knowledge and wisdom area of the Feng Shui Bagua (the entry wall to left) of your home, this the most powerful area for them to study and work on their schoolwork. This also holds true for the possible placement for your home office as well.

If you cannot place a student's study area in the self-knowledge and wisdom area of your home — say if it is your attached garage or a closet — do not worry as other areas can also work well with individually created Feng Shui enhancements. The most important task in any room a student uses to study is decluttering the area where they study as much as possible, to

create calm and reduce the overall chaotic energy clutter creates, so make sure to consistently tidy this area.

If a student studies in their room or another room



in the home, placing the desk, also in the knowledge and wisdom area (entry door wall) of that room, if possible, is highly recommended. Next, placing the child's desk also in the Commanding Position is the single most important feature of any study environment. Having a solid wall behind the student while they study gives them the physical support of the Mountain behind them, and allows them to be in command of their work.

... continued on page D10

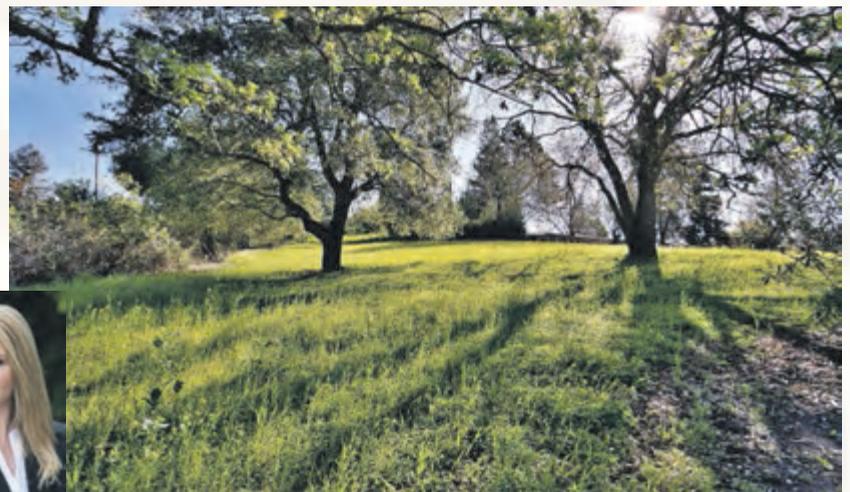
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# Smart Ideas for Your Student's Learning Environment

... continued from page D8

Declutter, tidy and organize where a student studies. Items that represent growth and creativity, like tape measures, encyclopedias and other educational resources, should also be smartly placed in the wisdom area. Bookcases, pens, colored pencils and writing tablets or notebooks are perfectly placed here, as well as globes of our wonderful Earth. Placing lighting to illuminate what students' study is easy to address with table and floor lamps so remember a 60-watt lamp is not sufficient. Bump up all lamps to 100 watts and let the learning begin.

Also, try to review the actual desk set-up beyond the Commanding Position. Does the student have adequate room to spread out their school work? If not, consider purchasing or making a new desk that is slightly larger and customized to your student's needs. Check to make sure the chair and the chair height offer comfort and support.

Place inspirational and calming images of majestic mountains to climb or the wonder of our Earth on study area walls and allow them to dream, too. You can also place some of the shells and rocks collected on summer beach excursions to the study area to activate the Earth element. Or paint the walls a soothing and soft light blue or green to stimulate growth and development.

Remind a student to develop good study habits that include tackling the toughest assignments first, work before play, time management, and also personal care with small breaks to stretch, eat, hydrate and rest to refresh.

Present the idea of being a lifelong learner with your child and as such, all the ways that they learn are important. Limit social media access and instead allow your child to softly play classical music in the background that will stimulate concentration and creativity. Place at least one healthy plant in the study room to stimulate upward growth and bring life force (Qi) into the area.

As the new school year approaches be motivated to model your own commitment to a student's success through your proactive interest in reviewing and making positive changes to their study environment in your home.

Proactively placing emphasis on creating an energized and calming place for the learning adventures of our children will set the right tone and start the school year out on a positive note.

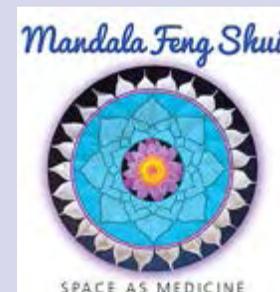
<p><b>WEALTH &amp; PROSPERITY</b> "Gratitude"</p> <p>REAR LEFT</p> <p><u>Wood</u> Blues, purple &amp; reds</p>	<p><b>FAME &amp; REPUTATION</b> "Integrity"</p> <p>REAR MIDDLE</p> <p><u>Fire</u> Reds</p>	<p><b>LOVE &amp; MARRIAGE</b> "Receptivity"</p> <p>REAR RIGHT</p> <p><u>Earth</u> Reds, pinks, &amp;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

The Bagua Map: Front Door

## Quick guide to Self Knowledge and Wisdom Bagua Area of Child's Bedroom:

- De-clutter, tidy and organize;
- Activate the self-knowledge area — the left area along wall of the entry door;
- It's ruled by the Earth element and supported by the Fire element
- Minimize Wood and Water elements;
- The strong color is blue;
- The I CHING Imagery is Mountain
- Wisdom is more than the accumulation of knowledge so this area rules our skillful self-reflection and cultivation, contemplative capacity as well.

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2016 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to [spaceharmony@gmail.com](mailto:spaceharmony@gmail.com).





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## Digging Deep

# Gardening is Good for Your Mind, Body and Spirit

By Cynthia Brian

*Kings and cabbages go back to compost, but good deeds stay green forever, ~ Rick De Marinis*



*Is there anything more bucolic than a waterfall cascading into a pond?*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

**G**ardening is good for you. It rekindles our passions, arouses our senses and keeps us in shape. Gardening is a terrific activity for maintaining joint flexibility, bone density, range of motion and, most of all, quality of life.

We have to garden wisely, however, if we don't want to be complaining about aches, pains, bug bites, cuts and injuries, of which I've had more than enough to last my lifetime. Do a good deed for yourself and heed some handy, healthy tips to safer, happy gardening experience.

If you are already a gardener, you know the joys and benefits. For those who are about to begin, get ready for a strenuous workout with the music, smells and tastes of nature.



*Choke Weed, although green, is an invasive nuisance.*

### Getting Going

1. If you have any injuries or illnesses, like all activities, consult your physician before beginning.
  2. Choose a time of day where you can dedicate an hour or so to the task.
  3. Wear a hat, sunblock, gloves and comfortable clothing.
  4. Warm up your body with a few stretches or a brisk walk before beginning.
  5. Despite your enthusiasm, pace your work and avoid being in the same position for extended periods. For example, if you are weeding, switch to pruning after 45 minutes.
  6. Use a hand truck to move large, heavy sacks and potted plants.
  7. Keep your feet on the ground when cutting limbs or harvesting fruit. Use a ladder only when you have a spotter.
  8. Use the best tools that are strong, yet lightweight.
  9. Give your back a break. Too much twisting and bending can cause strain. Consider raised beds as an alternative if you experience back pain.
  10. Buy a wheelbarrow. It makes moving easier and saves so much time.
  11. If you like to kneel while planting or weeding, use a Styrofoam pad to protect your knees. Alternate sitting and kneeling. You can also purchase a rolling garden stool.
  12. Shake it up, varying your chores to work your different muscles. Carrying, lifting, mowing, blowing, pruning, raking, sweeping, deadheading, digging, weeding, arranging, even smelling the roses all activate different muscles and senses.
  13. Take frequent breaks to avoid stiffness or tightness.
  14. Drink plenty of water to rehydrate.
- Get fit. Get gardening. Get doing good deeds for you.

... continued on page D15



## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

### MORAGA ... continued

- 170 Shuey Drive, \$1,190,000, 3 Bdrms, 1930 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 6-28-16;  
Previous Sale: \$142,000, 10-25-79
- 137 Via Joaquin, \$745,000, 2 Bdrms, 1921 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 6-29-16;  
Previous Sale: \$645,000, 02-12-14
- 809 Villa Lane #2, \$407,000, 2 Bdrms, 952 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 6-29-16;  
Previous Sale: \$391,000, 04-25-05
- 149 Westchester Street, \$835,000, 3 Bdrms, 1892 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 6-30-16;  
Previous Sale: \$545,500, 03-04-11

### ORINDA

- 63 Bates Boulevard, \$1,560,000, 3 Bdrms, 2126 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 7-1-16;  
Previous Sale: \$1,099,000, 03-28-14
- 38 Crestview Drive, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 1875 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 7-7-16;  
Previous Sale: \$989,000, 02-14-08
- 42 Crestview Drive, \$2,675,000, 2 Bdrms, 2564 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 6-29-16
- 230 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,620,000, 4 Bdrms, 3478 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-7-16;  
Previous Sale: \$550,000, 05-28-97
- 15 Hilldale Court, \$2,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 5270 SqFt, 1933 YrBlt, 7-1-16;  
Previous Sale: \$3,000,000, 04-28-06
- 237 La Espiral, \$1,500,000, 2 Bdrms, 2338 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 7-8-16;  
Previous Sale: \$929,000, 01-18-12
- 97 Meadow View Road, \$1,435,000, 3 Bdrms, 2135 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 6-28-16;  
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 08-30-06
- 3 Monterey Terrace, \$2,800,000, 5 Bdrms, 4312 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 6-29-16;  
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 01-06-89
- 250 Moraga Way, \$1,130,000, 3 Bdrms, 2576 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-28-16
- 463 Moraga Way, \$890,000, 4 Bdrms, 1871 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 6-30-16;  
Previous Sale: \$475,000, 12-13-02
- 60 Muth Drive, \$1,010,000, 3 Bdrms, 2000 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 7-6-16;  
Previous Sale: \$90,000, 10-08-76
- 108 Overhill Road, \$3,205,000, 5 Bdrms, 3724 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 7-1-16;  
Previous Sale: \$1,201,000, 10-03-03
- 16 Valley View Drive, \$2,590,000, 4 Bdrms, 3282 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 7-8-16;  
Previous Sale: \$2,400,000, 05-25-06
- 2 Van Ripper Lane, \$2,735,000, 6 Bdrms, 4423 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-28-16;  
Previous Sale: \$1,110,000, 11-05-93
- 411 Wovenwood, \$1,090,000, 3 Bdrms, 2150 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 7-11-16;  
Previous Sale: \$939,000, 10-10-08

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## Cynthia Brian's Mid-month Gardening Tips

**RELAX** and rejuvenate around a pond, stream, or waterfall in a garden.

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**PROTECT** your pet by knowing which plants are toxic to them such as daffodils, hemlock and oleander. See a full list at [www.aspc.com](http://www.aspc.com)

**CREATE** mini herb gardens in window boxes or strawberry pots. Buy four-inch pots of sage, lemon thyme, basil, and parsley for a pretty and aromatic edible display.

**DEEP**-soak trees like magnolia or redwoods, especially when you see them dropping abundant leaves.

**SOOTHE** cuts, burns, bites and reduce redness after too much summer sunbathing by planting the succulent aloe. Cut off a piece of the spike, squeeze out the anti-inflammatory and antiseptic gel to apply directly to your skin.

**HARVEST** Asian pears, apples, peppers, squash, tomatoes and eggplant.

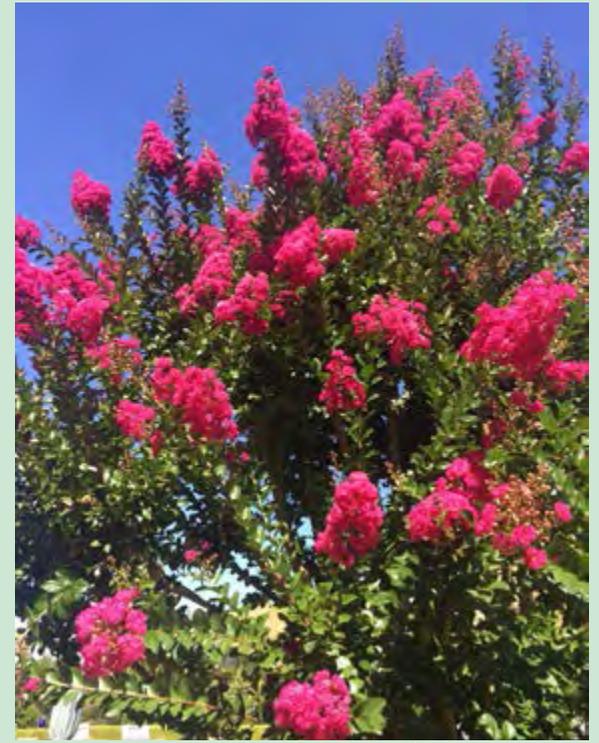
**ADD** color to your planters with bright, perennial pelargoniums. My favorite colors are the deep maroon and bright pink.

**MAKE** a statement on your porch or patio by grouping urns and pots planted with pretty petunias and pansies.

**PULL** up a chair next to a hummingbird feeder and let the show begin as hummingbirds enchant you with their chatter, twitters, squeaks and songs. Their hovering wings buzz, trill and thrill.

**CONTINUE** to compost all of your vegetable and non-meat scraps including cabbages (no Kings).

**SET** a table outdoors using your favorite tableware and glasses for an upscale meal alfresco on a hot August night.



Crape myrtle trees are beautiful in every season. Photos Cynthia Brian

### Trending in my garden:

- Naked Ladies are dancing in the breeze.
  - Tomatoes are finally red and sweet, although most don't make it to my kitchen. I eat most of them right off the vine with a snip of nearby arugula and basil
  - Deer have been deterred from my orchard and garden with fencing.
  - Pearl's Premium lawn is green with some bare and brown spots, but definitely looking better this summer than any previously seeded grass.
  - Choke weed is invading. It spreads rapidly, choking out the nutrients and sunlight needed for other plants to grow. I wage a constant pulling battle against it.
  - Fluorescent pink crape myrtle trees are in full bloom, attracting hummingbirds and bees.
  - Incredible amounts of exercise for me as I pull hoses up and down hillsides to keep plants alive.
- Gardening is good for my body, mind and soul as long as I give my back a break.

Do good deeds, stay healthy, and enjoy the month of August.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



Blue Agapanthus is complemented by the pink oleander in the rear.



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### California Trees

Darren lives his life with passion, and trees have been his passion since he was a kid, working with his father in the tree care company, he is a firm believer in the power of planning, and in the importance of giving back to those aspects of life that sustain you. California has a rich horticultural history and many extraordinary specimens of trees can be seen in nearly every community here. Each of the many tree species provides unique form, texture, color and often aroma. These are the trees that provide shade, help to conserve energy, improves property value, reduces storm-water runoff, sequester CO<sub>2</sub>, mitigate air pollution, and make urban living healthier and more peaceful. "We all have a role to play in planning for the future of our trees". So invest in the future and plant the correct type of tree in the proper location. So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service.

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## Digging Deep

... continued from page D12



Charming arrangements of urns and pots with petunias and pansies.

### For Increased Health Benefits, Add These Simple Greens to your Plot

1. Dandelion Greens: I know, everyone considers dandelions weeds but these weeds are high in vitamin A, actually 10 times more than a serving of broccoli.
2. Leeks: Rich in vitamin B folate, these onion relatives are heart healthy, preventing blood clots.
3. Arugula: My most favorite green, arugula provides more nitrates than spinach or rhubarb delivering energizing oxygen to the rest of your body. Maybe arugula is my secret ingredient to my exuberant energy.
4. Bok Choy: Great for bone health, two cups of this crunchy green delivers as much calcium as half a glass of milk plus 80 percent of your daily requirement for vitamin K.
5. Swiss Chard: A great source of blood balancing nutrients, Swiss Chard prevents blood sugar spikes and dips while being a top source of magnesium.



Cynthia Brian encourages planting the succulent aloe to ease summer burns and bits.

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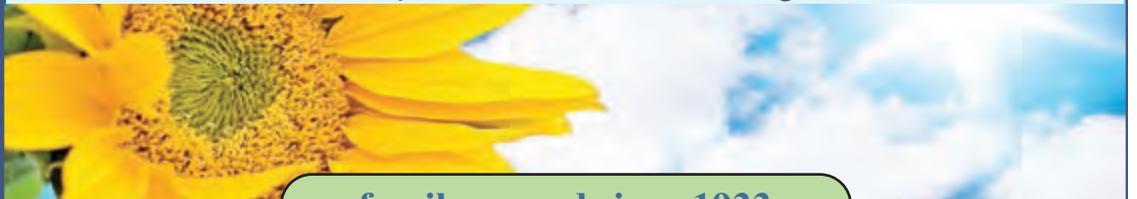
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## ORINDA



New Price

**23 Ivy Drive** Opportunity abounds in unique living of 2 units in one house (or combined for 1 large home). Beautifully updated with new baths + kitchens & lovely quality features. Quiet & peaceful setting. **\$1,270,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**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. **\$1,299,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**244 El Toyonal** Forever views across Orinda to Mt. Diablo. Truly delightful living spaces on 2 levels w/ modern remodeled kitchen, living rm & dining rm open to outside w/ extensive decking/ views. Bonus offices. **\$1,395,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**16 La Cintilla** This exquisite OCC 6bd/6ba two story residence is located on a private oak-studded .30 acre lot. Vaulted ceilings, open flr pln, gourmet kitchen, spacious game rm & priv. au-pair guest suite. **\$1,999,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**105 Crane Terrace** Exceptional 4.87 acre gated estate traditional of incredible appeal on alluring knoll, private setting of panoramic views. Classic custom craftsmanship. Lovely grounds w/ lawns, gardens, mature trees. **\$3,000,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**735 Augusta Drive** Detached, desirable MCC plan 13 on large .42 acre lot with huge yard setback from street! Pool, hot tub & flagstone patio. Large master suite upstairs with deck, walk in closet & views. **\$1,195,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**8 Ravenhill Lane** Tucked on a quiet lane near Los Perales School, this has it all – 5bd, 2.5ba, .66 acres w/sweeping westerly views. Sunny updated family rm/ kitchen, hdwd flrs, level yard + a chicken coop! Serene privacy. **\$1,375,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**3644 Mosswood Drive** Duplex offers a lot of flexibility. Rent both sides, live in one side & rent the other or open wall and live in both. Total of 4bd/2ba & 2068 square feet. Convenient location. **\$1,100,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Price

**3455 Goyak Drive** Great open-space floor plan of granite kitchen, informal dining, large family area, viewing deck, garden & entertaining areas. Walk to Springhill Elementary and Acalanes High. **\$1,278,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**2079 Reliez Valley Road** Lovely 3bd/3ba home w/huge beautiful yard & waterfall. Open flr plan w/French drs leading to flagstone patio. Updated kitchen & bath. Plans avail. for kitchen expansion if desired. Over 2300 sq. ft.! **\$1,295,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**859 Acalanes Road** Private drive leads to a renovated home w/gourmet updated kitchen w/cherry cabinets & granite counter tops; low level in law unit w/kitchen & sep. entrance. Views, stone patios & prof. landscape. **\$1,395,000**

## LAFAYETTE



Back on Market

**1155 Camino Vallecito** Esheric Architectural Mid Century. Spectacular 2ac Happy Vly Estate. Beaut. updated, walls of glass, Fr. doors, high ceilings, pano views. Kit/fam rm, stunning liv/din rms, cabana/ba. Top schools. **\$3,595,000**

## MARTINEZ



New Price

**1887 Olympic Drive** Traditionally-styled 4 bed/2 bath home of 1517 sf on corner lot of cul-de-sac. Open kitchen/family combo floor plan adjoining spacious living rm. Fresh paint, new carpet & flooring. Cozy backyard w/deck. **\$479,000**

## PLEASANT HILL



New Listing

**204 Greenwich Drive** Totally remodeled in 2007 3 bed 2 bath home located in sought after area of P.H. Beautiful backyard, updated kitchen, dual pane windows. Side patio located off dining rm. Expansion possibilities. **\$675,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

**625 Shadowhawk Way** Beautiful level-in Rossmoor home on Grey Eagle Ridge w/ views, large patio, plantation shutters, high ceilings & attached 2 car gar. Large eat-in kitchen & family rm. New HVAC. Call for appt. **\$1,475,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

**156 Brodia Way** New construction by KT Builders, a local, high-end home builder. Captivating views of Mt. Diablo & La Casa Via Valley. High ceilings, open flr pln & large .92ac lot at end of cul de sac. **\$1,895,000**



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