

# LAMORINDA

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# ORINDA LAFAYETTE MORAGA

Photos Gint Federas and Andy Scheck

## Local Candidates Prepare for '16 Election

By Pippa Fisher, Sophie Braccini, Sora O'Doherty and Nick Marnell

The complexity of creating a vibrant community, or a cluster of communities, is often mired in the details, which are often painstakingly decided upon after hours of contemplation, discussion, negotiation and reflection by people who want to make a difference, in their own special way. Lamorinda residents will have an opportunity to choose which of these people will serve on the Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda city councils and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District governing board in the upcoming Nov. 8 election. The Lamorinda Weekly

set out to have these candidates, whether they are in contested or uncontested races, answer questions about themselves and about the issues that matter most to residents in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, such as traffic congestion, storm drains, roads and infrastructure, downtown development, public safety, and finding new ways to foster these growing communities, while keeping Lamorinda's semi-rural vibe intact. See the articles on pages A8 (MOFD), A10 (Lafayette), A11 (Moraga) and A13 (Orinda).

Advertising

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## Lafayette Goes Round and Round on Roundabouts

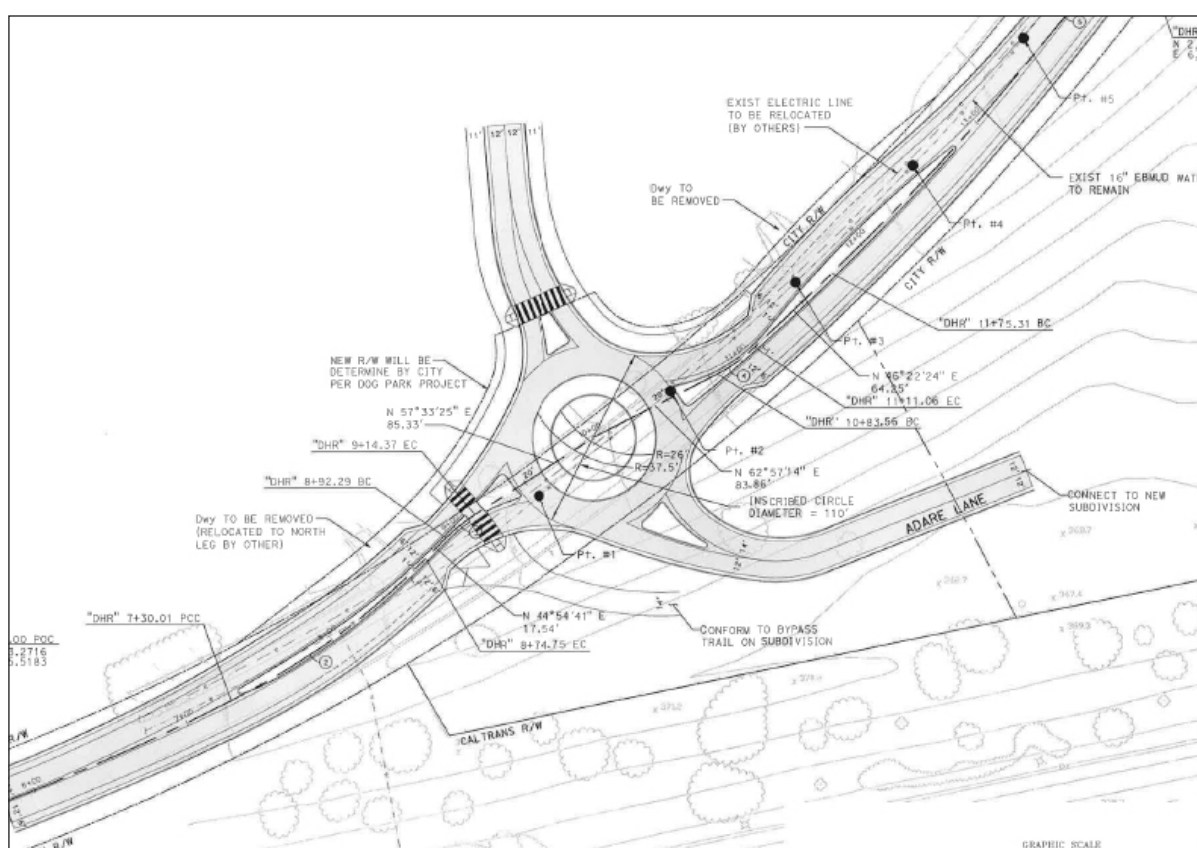
By Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette circulation committee gave the green light for two future roundabouts on Deer Hill Road.

The issue of the traffic calming features will go before the Lafayette City Council following a presentation by City Engineer Tony Coe. The circulation committee voted three to one to push forward with the roundabouts, taking into consideration concerns with grading, lighting and safety for trucks on adverse slopes.

A crowded room heard the presentation about the two roundabouts, one of which will be at the entrance to the future Homes at the Deer Hill development with a second one where Deer Hill Road intersects with Brown Avenue.

... continued on page A2



## General Election — Important Voter Dates

- Military Overseas voter ballots mailed Sept. 23
- Sample Ballot mailing Approx. Sept. 29
- Vote-by-Mail mailing Oct. 10
- Registration deadline Oct. 24
- Supplemental Sample Ballot mailed Oct. 27
- Last day to request Vote-by-Mail ballot Nov. 1
- Last day to return or mail Vote-by-Mail ballot Nov. 8
- Election Day Nov. 8**

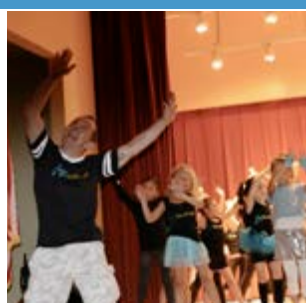
**Civic News A1-A14** **Life in Lamorinda B1-B8** **Sports C1-C4** **Our Homes D1-D20**

Water board mandate in Moraga – page A4.

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Woman charged with arson in Lafayette fire – page A3.

Dance-a-thon to benefit Bay Area Crisis Nursery – page B2.



Girls Tennis teams hope for net gains this year. – page C3.



The proper gardening technique to save seeds – page D1.







**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Monday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

Monday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**

Monday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

**Lafayette School District**

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 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:**

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# Art Chosen for the Jennifer Russell Building

By Pippa Fisher

In a discussion that was more like “American Idol” than a city meeting, the Lafayette City Council made the final decision on which of two pieces of artwork will grace the vestibule area of the Jennifer Russell Building.

Five artists had been invited to propose and of those five, the Public Arts Committee (PAC) selected two. Both had been previously presented at a joint meeting of the PAC and the Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee. The resulting vote was evenly split so the choice was sent up to city council for a final ruling.

It was clear why it had been a

split vote – both pieces met all the parameters for aesthetic quality, relationship to the city’s present collection and to the community, compatibility with the environment and for the materials used and both were art pieces of high quality.

Elin Christopherson, an Oakland artist with 25 years experience of sculpting using mainly glass, wood and aluminum, presented her concept – “Red Buds Sprig” – a suspended aluminum and glass sculpture of leaves and branches featuring nature-inspired colors. Christopherson pointed out that the art would be visible from St. Mary’s Road. She said that the aluminum would provide durability.

The Council then heard the presentation from Emily Payne, a Berkeley-based artist, whose installation “Hover” is a suspended wire sculpture consisting of several spheres made from wire circles joined together and designed to rotate as people open doors and move about below. She said that her work was intended to be playful and interactive and might suggest balls or bubbles.

Both artists expressed a need



Photo provided

for additional lighting.

Juliet Hansen, staff liaison to the PAC, noted that \$25,000 has been approved for the art project but that the committee was now asking for an additional \$250 to be awarded to the runner up. The timeline for installation of this project is between four and five months.

Council member Brandt Andersson said that although he felt “Hover” to be more intellectual, he was concerned about the strength of the wire. He said the color and scale of “Red Buds Sprig” would make it more visible from the street, an opinion also shared by

council member Don Tatzin and vice mayor Mike Anderson. Council member Traci Reilly said she thought that although the colors were striking in “Red Buds Sprig,” she liked the subtlety of “Hover” and that it suggested clouds and movement, blending with the environment.

All members approved the extra \$250 and agreed that they would come back later to discuss specific amounts and design for lighting.

And the winner is ... “Red Bud Sprig,” which was approved by the council by three votes to one.

# Lafayette Goes Round and Round on Roundabouts

... continued from page A1

Coe detailed all aspects of the design, including how the issue of building a roundabout on such a steep incline would be handled, along with information on land grading, sightlines to ensure adequate visibility on the hill, sidewalks and bicycle paths. He said there would be increased signage, rumble strips and optical markings on the road to warn drivers of the roundabout ahead. Previous feasibility studies showed, he said, that roundabouts would keep the traffic flowing while slowing it down, better than traffic lights.

However, many residents voiced their opinions that there should be no roundabouts, all but one preferring traffic lights.

Michael Griffith said that he would prefer traffic lights which could be timed for heavy volume hours and Rod Ford-Smith, president of the Brown Avenue

Homeowners Association, said that the crosswalks need lighting. He was concerned cars won’t stop and that parents will drop kids off before school along the road. Ron Brown was concerned with the location of the roundabout on a hill, especially in the evening when heading west and the sun is in drivers’ eyes.

However Trevor Page, a Deer Hill Road resident, said he fully supports the roundabouts. He believes a roundabout would keep traffic moving and at a slowed speed. He pointed out that as it is right now, with no sidewalks, people already walk on Deer Hill Road and by providing sidewalks the situation would be safer than it is currently.

Dave Baker, project manager for the Homes at Deer Hill, said that the roundabouts had already been identified as the best solution because of their traffic calm-

ing effect and with consideration for the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists.

Four members of the circulation commission were present. Commissioner Lynn Hiden was very uneasy about the roundabouts and said she could not vote for it. Commission chair Kristina Sturm said the commission had done a good job listening to all concerns and together with Commissioner Adrian Levy and vice chair Elizabeth Johnson, passed the motion to support the design and peer review to go before the city council with comments pertaining to: the need for ample lighting on crosswalks, clarification of the peer review comments regarding truck safety on the adverse slope, and that a list of examples of similar existing roundabouts built on steep grades in other areas to be made available on the city’s website.



**Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 28 - Sept. 10**

- 911 Calls (incl hang-ups)** 6
- Noise complaints** 9
- Traffic stops** 139
- Suspicious Circumstances** 11
- Suspicious Subjects** 27
- Suspicious Vehicles** 22
- Animal Cruelty**  
900 Block Moraga Rd.
- Auto Burglary**  
Oak Hill Rd/EB 24  
10 Block Whitten Ln.  
3400 Block Mt Diablo Bl.
- Battery**  
1000 Block First St.
- DUI Misd.**  
3400 Block Black Hawk Rd.
- Fire/Ems Response**  
3300 Block S Lucille Ln.
- Fireworks**  
3300 Block Mildred Ln.  
1600 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
- Found Property**  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
40 Block Bacon Ct.  
1100 Block Bacon Wy.  
Dyer Dr/Hampton Rd.  
1200 Block Barott Rd.  
900 Block Old Hawthorne Rd.  
Police Department  
Police Department  
Police Department
- Fraud Credit Card**  
1000 Block Via Alta
- Fraud False Pretenses**  
800 Block Birdhaven Ct.
- Harassment**  
1300 Block El Curtola Bl.  
3500 Block Golden Gate Wy.  
Mt Diablo Bl/Moraga Rd.
- Health & Safty Violation**  
First St/Golden Gate Wy.  
500 Block St. Mary’s Rd.
- Hit and Run Misdemeanor**  
3500 Block Plaza Wy.  
Police Department  
School St/Moraga Rd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Identity Theft**  
1200 Block Cambridge Dr.  
1000 Block Brown Ave.
- Juvenile Disturbance**  
500 Block Merriewood
- Lost Property**  
Police Department  
100 Block Lafayette Cr.
- Misc Burglary**  
30 Block Meek Pl.  
1600 Block Springbrook Rd.  
3300 Block Mt Diablo Bl.
- Missing Adult**  
3900 Block Woodside Ct.
- Occupied Stalled Vehicle**  
Martino Rd./Springhill Rd.
- Ordinance Violation**  
3100 Block Stanley Blvd.
- Petty Theft**  
3300 Block Oak Ct.  
3600 Block Chestnut St.

- 3300 Block Oak Ct.
- 900 Block Moraga Rd.
- 1000 Block Brown Ave.
- 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Prowler Heard**  
1000 Block Manzana Pl.
- Public Assembly Check**  
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.
- Public Nuisance**  
1200 Block Del Arroyo Ct.  
1000 Block Sierra Vista Wy.  
Pleasant Hill Rd/Taylor Blvd.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Hilltop Dr/Hastings Ct.  
Ruth Ct/El Curtola Bl.
- Reckless Driving**  
Hwy 24 Eb/Central Laf Exit  
Pleasant Hill Cr./Acalanes Ave.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./reliez Station Rd.  
Mt Diablo Bl./Brown Ave.  
Deer Hill Rd./Oak Hill Rd.  
Moraga Rd./Rimrock Rd.  
EB 24 at Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dolores Dr.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./First St.  
Deer Hill Rd./Oak Hill Rd.  
1200 Blk Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cr.
- Residential Burglary**  
1100 Block Palomares Ct.  
3900 Block Canyon Rd.
- Shoplift**  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Subject Stop**  
Moraga Bl./Moraga Rd.  
Mt Diablo Bl./Golden Gate Wy.  
Moraga Rd./Nephi Ct.
- Suspicious Vehicle Stop**  
Happy Valley Rd.  
Second St./Golden Gate Wy.
- Threats**  
900 Block 4th St.  
700 Block St Mary’s Rd.
- Trespass**  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
50 Block Leslyn Dr.
- Unwanted Guest**  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.  
1000 Block Timothy Ln.
- Vandalism**  
1200 Block Quandt Rd.  
900 Block Dewing Ave.  
20 Block Hartwood Ct.  
4100 Block Canyon Rd.
- Vehicle Theft**  
3500 Block Terrace Wy.
- Verbal Dispute**  
400 Block Helen Ave.
- Warrant Service**  
3500 Block Terrace Wy.  
2100 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.  
3200 Block Lucas Cr.

**Lafayette Nov. 8 Election Coverage Page A10**

**COFFEE TALK**  
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# Arson Suspect Charged in Betty Lane Fire

By Nick Marnell



Firefighters put out the Sept. 9 Betty Lane fire in Lafayette. Photo courtesy ConFire

The Contra Costa County district attorney charged a Lafayette resident with arson and attempted murder after a fire leveled a home in the 3300 block of Betty Lane, injured several of the occupants and sent one elderly resident to the hospital. Multiple units of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District controlled the Sept. 9 blaze and safely evacuated all of the occupants.

Fire and police investigators determined that the fire had been intentionally set by Lisa Stevens, 53, who had been fighting with another one of the home occupants. "She has had contact with the police in the past," said Lafayette Chief of Police Eric Christensen. He indicated that the feud was likely the result of a domestic dispute.

According to the investigators, Stevens tried to break into a locked room that housed an occupant and failing that, she splashed the door with a flammable liquid and lit

the door on fire. The fire quickly spread to the entire home. "The second floor collapsed onto the first," Christensen said.

"I was at Safeway, and I saw smoke in the hills, in the direction of my street," said Betty Lane resident Dorothy Slauson. "Oh no, I thought, and I became real worried about my neighbor." Crews extinguished the fire in 30 minutes and it did not spread to any of the nearby homes.

In addition to arson and attempted murder, the district attorney charged Stevens with false imprisonment, elder abuse and animal cruelty. Two dogs lived inside the home at the time of the fire, Christensen said, but one is still missing and is presumed dead.

Stevens is being held in the Martinez Detention Facility and her bail was set at \$1.9 million.

ConFire representatives contacted the Red Cross, which provided emergency shelter plus food and clothing vouchers for the displaced Betty Lane residents.

# Jonathan 'Ace' Katayanagi – The Face of Fun in Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher



Johnathan "Ace" Katayanagi Photo provided

It's easy to see why Jonathan "Ace" Katayanagi is such a natural for the position of Parks, Trails and Recreation (PTR) director, which he will take over from Jennifer Russell on Oct. 1.

His enthusiasm for the job is obvious. He says it first started when his father drove past some kids playing hockey in the community center parking lot on St. Mary's Road, ... continued on page A14

# Lafayette Again Joins SunShares Program

By Pippa Fisher

Just as it did last year, Lafayette is once again offering residents a chance to join in the Bay Area SunShares program to take advantage of discounts on solar energy.

Different this year, however, is news that the program has been expanded to include discounts on zero emission vehicles (ZEVs), including the all-electric Nissan Leaf and the Toyota Mirai, a hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle, at well below market rates, and even has a program for renters to help them connect with location-specific information about new utility programs that will allow anyone to buy more renewable energy through the grid.

SunShares is a community-wide clean energy program that makes going solar or buying zero-emission vehicles simple and affordable by pooling the buying power of individual participants to get more competitive pricing from solar companies and vehicle manufacturers. The program includes discounts, free workshops, and can even help renters find out more about their clean energy options.

Administered by the Business Council on Climate, SunShares

helps solar and ZEV companies reduce high costs associated with customer education and acquisition, which in turn allows the firms to offer discounted pricing. These so-called "soft costs" are widely seen as one of the primary barriers to accelerating the deployment of clean energy technologies.

As part of its commitment toward its clean energy goals, the city of Lafayette is joining over 30 communities and businesses in the Bay Area SunShares program. This is a limited time program that runs through Nov. 4. Residents can register for the program on the Bay Area SunShares website www.bayareasunshares.org for a free solar evaluation, ZEV discount code, or to learn about renter options by Nov. 4.

Individuals participating in SunShares can get neutral information on their clean energy options at over 20 free workshops being held across the Bay Area. Interested residents need to act quickly, however, by signing a solar contract or purchasing a zero emissions vehicle by Nov. 18. Any questions can be addressed by contacting sunshares@bc3sfbay.org.

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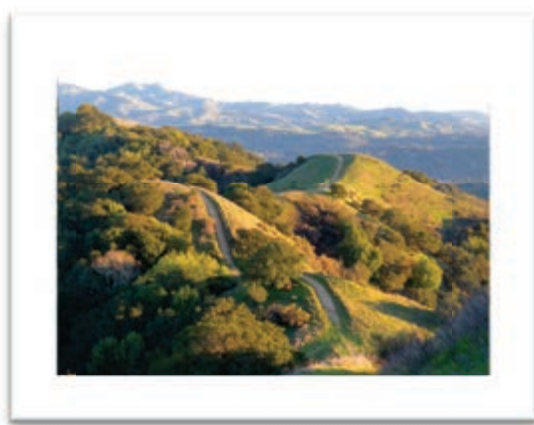
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**You asked for more open space.  
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Two years ago, with the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center completed and the road repair program well-funded, the Council conducted a series of community conversations and surveys to hear peoples' 20-year vision for Lafayette.

More than seven hundred residents participated, and said that their top priorities are to preserve open space, enhance public safety, improve parking and traffic, and revitalize the Park Theater.

And so the Council placed Measure C, a one-cent-sales tax increment, on the November ballot.

If it passes, Measure C could help fund these projects, and all of its proceeds would stay in Lafayette.

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## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Monday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Design Review

Monday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### School Board Meetings

**Moraga School District**  
Thursday, Oct. 13, 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



Aug. 24 to Sept. 6

**Larceny 8/24/16** — Special orders might upset us: A Burger King employee learned the hard way to pay close attention when taking orders; otherwise the customer will steal your iPhone right off the counter in front of you.

**Vandalism 8/25/16** — Moraga's version of crop circles may be three odd symbols carved into tree bark. A resident reported to police she noticed the symbols on a tree on her property, likely inscribed in the middle of August. There are currently no suspects — either cult figures or little green men.

**Court Violation 8/25/16** — Police were called to a Moraga address to intervene after they received a report of a grown man harassing his parents. Since a restraining order had previously been filed, the uncooperative subject was sent not to his room but to Martinez county jail to cool his heels.

**Court Violation 8/26/16** — Again with the unwanted guest: Another son violating a restraining order had his bluff called and endured a police escort to and booking at Martinez county jail. Have we got a cellmate for you.

**Loud Party 8/28/16** — Party of the first part (sidewalk participants) numbered 20; party of the second part (inside and immediately outside the residence): 25 to 30 participants. Add an additional half dozen residents, stir. Yield: one citation for Loud or Unruly Party Warning Notice pursuant to chapter 9.08 of Moraga muni code.

**Loud Party # 2 8/28/16** — Same night, different party. Obviously not as good as the first with only 20 attendees on site. Same warning notice issued; officers remained on scene while host dispersed his party-goers.

**Harassing 8/29/16** — Parking with intent to annoy: A Moraga resident says a neighbor's daughter and friends are abusing their parking privileges at a condo complex. The parent was concerned the resident's verbal harassment would escalate. Reporting party was advised to consult the homeowners' association.

**Sick and fighting 9/1/16** — Police assisted MOFD response to an underage female sick from alcohol consumption. The victim declined hospital transport. While treatment

# Council Acts to Protect the Town's Interests

By Sophie Braccini

It is not that the Moraga Town Council does not care about clean water; it does. But the council clearly has difficulty with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, which imposes regulations and unfunded mandates on municipalities and private property owners.

In 2009 pollution levels were measured in Bay Area jurisdictions and the water board decided to mandate all agencies, whatever their pollution level, whatever their pollution potential — from rural to industrial — to reduce their trash load in the storm drains by 60 percent as of June 2016. Moraga did not meet the target. The two areas that needed improvement were the two shopping centers.

If Moraga does not reduce the amount of trash in the storm drain by 70 percent as of June 2017, then the mandate will escalate to 100

percent by 2020.

The town may have no choice but to adopt the new regulation to protect the public purse, due to potential fines and third party lawsuits, but it wants to make sure that if the water board mandate is challenged in court, the town will be able to reverse the board's impositions on Moraga's property owners.

At the Sept. 14 council meeting Vice Mayor Dave Trotter expressed his concerns. "(The water board is) not democratically elected, not politically accountable, and ignores what jurisdictions have been telling it for years, including the town of Moraga. We are not happy to be in this boat, but we are in it and we have to protect the town's interest." Other council members agreed.

At this time, three counties — Alameda, Santa Clara and San Mateo — are fighting the water board mandate in court. Kennedy and Associ-

ates, the consultant that works with the town on that topic, declared that 21 Bay Area jurisdictions and a state senator addressed the water board to have them amend its mandate, but that no change was made.

Dave Bruzzone, owner of the Moraga Shopping Center, asked the town not to adopt the new rules as formulated by the water board. He opposes this unfunded mandate, which he says will have a huge cost for large property owners. "That board wants to control what every drop of water will look like when it comes out of anybody's property," he said.

The councilmembers said they were sympathetic with the property owner, but that they could not take an unacceptable risk for the town. First, if targets are not met, the water board could fine the town \$25,000 for each day out of compliance and \$10,000 per theoretical

gallon of polluted water. Kennedy and Associates noted that the board has not historically applied such penalties, and a more likely threat was environmental groups suing the town for non-compliance.

The council members agreed that they could not take that risk, but asked the town attorney to add language to the ordinance indicating that if the mandate is modified or called into question, the town could implement the ordinance in compliance with the new requirements. The modified text will come back to council on Sept. 28 for first reading, and on Oct. 24 for adoption. In the meantime, Public Works director Edric Kwan will reach out to property owners with the exact information about their new obligations and possible alternatives for compliance.

## Rotary Launches All-Access Playground Fundraising

The Moraga Rotary has scheduled an event to announce the start of its public fundraising campaign for the all-access playground it wants to donate to the town.

The event will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6 at Moraga Commons. The group will have a few speakers, distribute their new brochures, serve wine and cheese

and show the location of the playground, and the public is invited.

At this time flags in the park represent the footprint of the playground — white flags for the actual

playground, red flags for the perimeter where some grading will be done. — S. Braccini

## The 2016 Pear and Wine Festival is Ready to Roll

By Sophie Braccini



Last year's Moraga Pear and Wine Festival pie-eating contest. Photo provided by political information available, too. Pear pies will be for sale at the

event and a pear pie-eating contest for children will once again be offered. Children will have the opportunity to expend their energy on the bouncies provided by the Moraga Women's Society, and everyone can enjoy food from one of the popular food trucks that came to the Hacienda Nights, El Rancho Food Truck. Community groups, such as the Lyons and the Kiwanis, will offer hot dogs and drinks.

The pear recipe contest is open to all residents. The participation form can be found on the town website at: [www.moraga.ca.us/dept/park-rec/pearfestival](http://www.moraga.ca.us/dept/park-rec/pearfestival).

Always a big attraction for the adult crowd, the wine portion of the festival will feature local wineries,

including Vincenza Ranch, Meadow View Winery, Bullfrog Creek Vineyard, and Captain Vineyards. Attendees can sample their pinot noirs, petite syrahs, cabernet sauvignons, chardonnays, sangiovese, and more.

Several candidates competing in the upcoming elections will have informational booths at the Commons to answer questions.

The last half hour will be devoted to Moraga Request Live, where people can jot down their requests at the DJ booth or email them in advance to [ryan@djryano.com](mailto:ryan@djryano.com).

The festival will continue with a concert by professional band the Tuneriders, provided by the Park Foundation. For information, visit <http://tuneriders.com/>.

## Just Listed in Moraga Country Club



License # 01866771



### 816 Country Club Drive, Moraga

Newly updated townhouse located on a secluded cul-de-sac backing up to a quiet creek. Enjoy living within a close distance to the trail head, pool, driving range, putting green and local café. The local Farmers Market, shopping center and bus stop to BART are only a few short blocks away. Excellent K-8th schools and play areas both inside and outside of Moraga Country Club are just some of the additional benefits of this location. Moraga Country Club amenities include: golf, tennis, swimming, restaurant, bar and social meeting areas.

Offered at \$649,000 | Call us for more details!



**Gary Bernie**

925.200.2222  
gabernie@pacunion.com  
License #: 00686144



**Ken Ryerson**

925.878.9685  
ken@ryersonrealty.com  
License #: 01418309



**Dean Okamura**

925.708.3133  
deanoak@pacunion.com  
License #: 01312720

was ongoing, an unrelated fight broke out. Since officers were already on scene a different female was transported to the hospital.

**Loud Party 9/4/16** — Third time's the charm: 40 or more party-goers got their warning this go-round.

**DUI/Child Endangerment 9/4/16** — Afterhours childcare hint: never leave your Uber ride if you're three times over the DUI limit, don't live where they dropped you off and have a young child in tow. The "adult" in question was arrested; the child released to a family member.

**Let's keep this quiet 9/5/2016** — A man told police his wife was threatening him, but declined to follow up; he said it would only irritate his wife.

#### Thefts:

- Two handbags from a car (\$400)
- Purse smash and grab from car (\$200)
- School supplies from car (\$340)

**Alarm calls:** 6





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# New Chamber of Commerce Office is Ready for Business

By Sophie Braccini



Kathe Nelson in her new office at the Rheem Center. Photo Sophie Braccini

**M**oraga Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathe Nelson is settling into the new location she says the city deserves — its own in the Rheem Center. It represents a new stage for the chamber that over the past 10 years has grown in membership and clout.

The office is located above CAPA, in the part of the shopping center that belongs to U.S. Realty Partners. “They were very generous with us,” says Nelson adding that CEO Jay Kerner is proving his support of the community. When she is in the office, she puts a big chamber sign by CAPA, directing people up the stairs.

The office is not just any space; Nelson says it used to be the office of an FBI agent, before it became vacant some years ago. There was no clue left in the space as what an FBI agent could have been doing in Moraga. “If the walls could talk...” says Nelson with a smile.

The space is not huge, but it is functional and has been decorated and furnished by donations from the business community. The computer is a donation from Lamorinda

Weekly; Sam Clar Office Furniture donated the desk and chair; Jessica Nelson, Kathe Nelson’s granddaughter, gave her the meeting table and chairs; the refrigerator belonged to Andy and Wendy Scheck; a printer/fax/scanner was given by Tony De Venuta from Bullfrog Creek Vineyard; the office chair in the adjacent room was given by Bob Fritzky at Med-Metrix; the pillows and painting are on loan from Nikolene Isely of Staging by Design; and Saint Mary’s College gave some paraphernalia. Nelson bought a few decorations herself.

“We put some sweat equity in this too,” adds Nelson, mentioning cleaning and painting of the space.

Businesses can leave business cards, flyers and resource materials in the new Chamber office. Nelson used to be allowed to use a Hacienda Foundation room at the Hacienda one day a week and was not able to store much chamber of commerce material there. That alone is a big improvement. She works 30 hours a week, from the office or from home and the chamber office is available for meetings when she is there or by appointment.

Nelson shares that second floor with many individual businesses such as an attorney, an insurance company, a senior health care pro-

vider and a CPA. The future is not completely certain because U.S. Partner Realty will have plans down the road to remodel that part of the center.

But, “They definitely will want to continue to have offices here,” assures Nelson.

**Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church**  
1700 SCHOOL STREET, MORAGA, CA



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Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016  
12 Noon - 10:00 p.m.

◆ SARMA ◆ KOBASICE ◆ CEVAPCICI ◆ RAZNICI  
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Move-in ready! Refreshed and remodeled 1888 sq. ft. 4 BR, 2 BA single-level home on nearly quarter-acre lot with swimming pool. Located in desirable Carriage Square, next to Bancroft Elementary School.

**Offered at \$750,000. Call Jim Colhoun at 925.200.2795 for an early tour.**

CalBRE#01029160

**40 Merrill Circle South, Moraga**

**PRICE REDUCED**



Elegant and recently updated Sanders Ranch home offers security and privacy on Moraga’s top street. New kitchen appliances, counters and remodeled master bath make this home move-in ready. Peaceful views across the valley and spacious decks with spa for entertaining and outdoor living. **Offered at \$1,345,000 by Jim Colhoun, 925.200.2795.**

CalBRE#01029160

**319 Pheasant Run Drive, Blackhawk**



Distinctive contemporary home with 5 BR, 2 offices, bonus room and 7 baths. Highest attention to detail, fine stonework and woodwork. Features include designer lighting, 9-zone audio system, media room, 2nd dining area, pebble pool & greenhouse. Backs to Fall Golf Course. **Offered at \$2,750,000 by Larry Jacobs, 925.788.9362, and Kress Hauri, 925.899.5739**

CalBRE#01465617/#01495118

**592 58th Street, Oakland**

**PENDING SALE**



Chic, modern and close to everything! Completely remodeled in 2013, this entertainer’s dream offers a lovely open-spaced concept, big kitchen, beautiful hardwood floors, a private deck, large patio, off street parking and much, much more! **Offered at \$649,000 by Janine Hunt, 510.409.5266.**

CalBRE#01909766

**68 Tara Road, Orinda**

**For Lease**



Contemporary style home with white oak flo. Lease Available 7/1/16. Fabulous SBD/3.5BA, 3726 sq. . mid-century home located in the heart of the Glorietta neighborhood. Set on .41 wooded acres, close to downtown, BART, Highway & top-rated schools. Lease \$8,100/month. **Contact Lisa Shaffer for more informaon at 925.528.9278 or Lisa@LisaShaffer.com.**

CalBRE#00996886

**405 15th Street, Oakland**

**Commercial Lease**



3600sf Retail space available at \$2/sf. Great property in the heart of downtown Oakland, across from Ogawa Plaza and the Awaken Cafe, BART and all transit lines, great restaurants and shops - 99% walk core. **Call Maureen Caldwell-Meurer for details at 510.915.0092.**


CalBRE#01908929

**TIP OF THE WEEK**

Homes are still selling all over the East Bay! If you are considering listing your home and/or buying another one, feel free to give us a call anytime!! Here are some recent buyer-represented sales by our agents:

640 Augustine Lane, Lafayette - \$1,599,000 – Jim Colhoun  
1027 Rispin Dr Oakland - \$1,400,000 – Julie Georgiou  
864 Wood St, Oakland - \$1,125,000 – Janine Hunt  
2232 Arcadia Place, Martinez - \$650,000 – Melody Shahid  
530 Walnut Avenue, Martinez - \$571,900 – Melody Shahid  
823 San Simeon Drive, Concord - \$630,000 – Adam Hamalian

**Meet our Featured Agents ...**



**Tomi Izuno**  
925.890.9785  
CalBRE#00975179

**Dana Fillinger**  
925.588.6409  
CalBRE#01731662

**Melody Shahid**  
925.270.9580  
CalBRE#01922669

**Adam Hamalian**  
925.708.5630  
CalBRE#01917597

**Tania DeGroot**  
510.367.1422  
CalBRE # 01094898

**Maureen Caldwell-Meurer**  
510.915.0092  
CalBRE#01908929

**Regina Englehart, Broker-Manager**  
925.876.9076  
CalBRE# 01308462

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## Orinda

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

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

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 7 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
Orinda Library

#### Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 6 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
Orinda Library

#### School Board Meetings

**Orinda Unified School District**  
Monday, Oct. 10, 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 Aug. 21 to Sept. 3

<b>Alarms</b>	40
<b>Noise complaints</b>	4
<b>911 Calls (includes hang-ups)</b>	3
<b>Traffic stops</b>	100
<b>Suspicious Circumstances</b>	13
<b>Suspicious Subjects</b>	10
<b>Suspicious Vehicles</b>	21
<b>Battery</b>	
20 block Acacia Dr.	
10 block Altarinda Rd.	
<b>Burglary, Auto</b>	
10 block Orinda Way (2)	
60 block Scenic Dr.	
Safeway	
<b>Dependent Child</b>	
Village Gate/Raven Hill Rds.	
<b>Disturbance</b>	
St Stephens Dr./Tahos Rd.	
10 block Kittiwake Rd.	
Location n/a	
Santa Maria Way/Orinda Way	
<b>DUI</b>	
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way	
Tara/Overhill Rds.	
Orinda Way	
Hwy 24/Wilder	
<b>Extortion</b>	
100 block Meadow Ln.	
<b>Hit &amp; Run</b>	
Camino Pablo/Hwy 24	
Safeway	
<b>ID Theft</b>	
600 block Tahos Rd.	
500 block Dalewood Dr.	
Reported to police	
10 block Dalewood Terr.	
<b>Missing Adult</b>	
10 block La Plaza Dr.	
<b>Panhandling</b>	
10 block Theatre Square	
<b>Police/Fire/ EMS</b>	
100 block Crest View Dr.	
200 block Moraga Way	
<b>Possession of controlled substance</b>	
CVS	
<b>Possession of burglary tools</b>	
Camino Pablo/Brockton	
<b>Public Nuisance</b>	
Post Office	
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	
Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd.	
Camino Pablo/Claremont Ave.	
Glorietta Blvd/Moraga Way	
Moraga Via/Glorietta Blvd.	
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr.	
Moraga Way/Stein Way	
Bryant Way/Davis Rd.	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.	
Camino Pablo/Ardilla Rd.	
San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek (2)	
<b>Revoked license</b>	
Hwy 24/St Stephens	
<b>Speeding</b>	
El Toyonal/Loma Vista Dr.	
<b>Theft, Petty</b>	
CVS	
30 block Fallen Leaf Terrace	
10 block Dias Dorados Rd.	
10 block Valley View Dr.	
40 block Via Farallon	
<b>Theft, Vehicle</b>	
Chevron	
<b>Trespass</b>	
Orinda Country Club (2)	
<b>Warrant Service/Arrest</b>	
Camino Pablo/Monte Vista	



Maureen Wilbur

## Newer Orinda Contemporary Mediterranean

**Exceptional Orinda contemporary**  
Mediterranean 4 bedroom 3 bath home with  
peaceful hill views from living spaces has an  
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## Interest in Orinda's Downtown Creek Running High

By Sora O'Doherty

**B**etter restaurants and a gourmet market are popular goals for the revitalization of downtown Orinda, while the issue of downtown housing is more controversial, but everybody seems to agree on the restoration of San Pablo Creek as it runs through downtown.

Orinda citizens packed the hall at the Sept. 6 city council meeting and provided the council some 200 pieces of correspondence, and more than 30 citizens came and spoke during the public forum. Friends of Orinda Creeks presented the council with a petition to include in any downtown development plan the restoration of San Pablo Creek in Orinda Village, signed by over 240 Orinda citizens.

After some robust discussion among the council members, the council asked staff to bring the matter back with further information on the goals of downtown development, creek restoration, and the possibility of grant funding for some parts of the project.

The matter has been tentatively calendared for Oct. 18, at which time the Urban Land Institute (ULI) will offer the council a presentation on what services could be provided by a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP), which is composed of outside experts who do an in-depth study or "charrette," interview key groups such as constituents, stakeholders and staff and offer recommendations. ULI has proposed providing a TAP for \$15,000.

Orinda resident Reg Barrett, a UC Berkeley wildlife and forestry professor, said that he had probably trained some of the expert consultants that the city might hire. He volunteered to serve, free of charge, to help "daylight" San Pablo Creek, which he said is a tremendous opportunity for Orinda.

Bob Stoops, representing Friends of Orinda Creeks, told the council that the John Muir Land Trust will make a permanent commitment to work with the city on the creek project, including assistance with land acquisition and other help. Council member Amy Worth pointed out that Ashland, Oregon, is a great example of how a creek can be revitalized and incorporated into a downtown.

ULI has many supporters in Orinda, including Paul Koenig of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Tom Trowbridge of Orinda Vision, and Orinda resident Ian Baird who urged the council to hire ULI to provide the TAP, which he said is a bargain. Trowbridge told the council that ULI has conducted some 32 TAPs in Northern California, for cities as small as Brisbane, with a population a little over 4,000, and San Jose with a population of a million. Lori Reich argued that staff cannot do this job alone, and urged the council to use ULI as well as Main Street America.

But Vice-Mayor Eve Phillips appeared to be wary of the group, which comprises members of the full spectrum of land use and real estate development disciplines working in private enterprise and public service, and includes developers. Phillips identified

as controversial more downtown residential building and the idea of making Orinda a destination. She was one of several who spoke about the need for economic development planning for downtown.

One issue seemed easily resolved: the scope of downtown development will likely be limited to the downtown commercial zone, as the downtown office zone is doing well and the BART parking lot is being treated separately.

Orinda Planning Department Director Drummond Buckley gave an overview from the staff report of the development of downtown Orinda since the city was incorporated in 1985, describing the several downtown development attempts that were undertaken by the city during the past 30 years. Questions in the report include whether the city include economic development policies or programs, adopt a plan for the restoration of San Pablo Creek, include architectural design guidelines, or streetscape designs. Options available include amending the General Plan and/or the Zoning Ordinance or adopting a downtown specific plan; Orinda is the only city in Contra Costa County

that lacks a downtown specific plan.

One of the final speakers of the evening was Joanna Guidotti, who purchased the Phairs building, which has stood abandoned for 15 years. She said everything the property owners have brought forward has been shot down by the city council, including tearing down the historic building. She thinks that the creek idea is fantastic and is looking for-

ward to working with the city on downtown development.

Council member Dean Orr, however, wants more than just talk. He expressed his frustration about the entire downtown development discussion process, stating that to collect even more information without acting on it would be like "sticking a sewing needle in [his] eye."

Representatives from several organizations spoke at the Sept. 6 council meeting. For further information about the organizations, or to view the Orinda Planning Staff Presentation, visit the following links:

Orinda Planning Staff Presentation 9/06/16:  
<https://cityoforinda.app.box.com/s/rs1elq7ra9347mfj6ke8aqf5t-bmk807>

What's Up Downtown Orinda:  
[www.whatsupdowntownorinda.com](http://www.whatsupdowntownorinda.com)

Orinda Vision:  
[www.orindavision.org](http://www.orindavision.org)

Friends of Orinda Creeks:  
[www.orindacreeks.org](http://www.orindacreeks.org)

John Muir Land Trust:  
[www.jmlt.org/index.html](http://www.jmlt.org/index.html)

Urban Land Institute:  
<http://uli.org/>

Main Street America:  
[www.preservationnation.org/main-street/about-main-street/main-street-america/main-street-america.html](http://www.preservationnation.org/main-street/about-main-street/main-street-america/main-street-america.html)

Orinda Chamber of Commerce:  
<http://orindachamber.org>

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# Historic Nature Gem Hidden in Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Like Brigadoon, once a year the Nature Area at Wagner Ranch becomes visible to the general public at the Annual Olive Festival held by the Friends of The Wagner Ranch Nature Area. The rest of the time, this beautiful 18-acre retreat is available only to students in

the Orinda Union School District. Plans are underway to change that, however, and to expand access to the Nature Area to a much wider segment of the population, including Lafayette and Moraga schools as well as senior citizens.

Nestled in the hills of Orinda

bordering Berkeley, the Nature Area abuts the elementary school. The area is rich in history, as well as nature, having been occupied by native tribes prior to being part of a Mexican land grant.

... continued on page A14

## Re-Elect SARAH BUTLER

for Orinda School Board

**Experienced Leadership in Orinda Schools**

I am proud to have served the past four years on the Orinda School Board! With our new Superintendent in place, it's an exciting time in our district! My experience (Parents Club, EFO, School Site Council, Leg Team, professional experience), and proven leadership, dedication and collaborative approach with all stakeholders will ensure the success of our schools, which contributes to a strong community and maintains our property values.

**Priorities:**

- Providing an exceptional educational environment and a supportive and safe school climate for all students, teachers, and staff;
- Improving communication, transparency, and collaboration among all stakeholders; parents, students, staff, and our community;
- Monitoring our budget process, for fiscal stability and accountability, and to attract and retain quality staff, while ensuring long-term financial health.

**Experience Matters!**

**I respectfully ask for your vote. Sarah Butler**  
SarahGButler@hotmail.com www.SarahGButler.com

Paid for by Sarah Butler for Orinda School Board 2016, FPPC #1389694

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# Coldwell Banker Orinda



**ORINDA \$4,250,000**  
6/5.5 8+ acres w/potential for subdivision. Recently updated with many features. One of a kind!!  
Laura Abrams CalBRE #01272382



**LAFAYETTE \$2,850,000**  
5/4.5 NEW CONSTRUCTION! Coveted Trails neighborhood. Open floor plan, park like setting. A 10!  
The Beaubelle Group CalBRE #00678426



**MORAGA \$2,595,000**  
5/4.5 Exciting & prestigious in Sanders Ranch, 4525 sqft, stunning kitchen, lovely garden w/pool!  
Elena Hood CalBRE #01221247



**MORAGA \$2,099,990**  
5/3 Lovely 3730 sqft, updated kitchen & baths, private master, .30 acre lot w/pool & spa.  
Elena Hood CalBRE #01221247



**BRIONES -MARTINEZ \$1,895,000**  
4/2.5 Magnificent Country Estate Built 2006, the perfect mix: equestrian facility/home/grounds.  
Abrams/Geoffrion CalBRE #01272382



**ORINDA \$1,875,000**  
4/3.5 Fantastic just remodeled ranch home w/valley views. From the kitchen to the Mstr BR. A 10!  
Rick & Nancy Booth CalBRE #01388020

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**Meet Val Durantini:**  
"Val was a great negotiator and was very focused on making the process as pain-free as possible. Her connections in the community helped us identify our house before it even hit the market! I have referred two of my friends, both of whom had the same wonderful experience. I would refer anybody that may be interested in buying or selling a house to Val."  
—Siobhan and Matt, Orinda, Buyer

VAL DURANTINI

**MORAGA \$1,550,000**  
4/2.5 1 story All Updated, Granite Kit, CathCell, Hwd Flrs. Carrera Marble, Pool/Waterfall/Lawn  
Cookie Javinsky CalBRE #00598341



**ORINDA \$1,525,000**  
5/3 Beautiful new construction close to downtown. Spectacular appliances/finishes throughout.  
McAtee/Wilson CalBRE #01349169

**Meet The Holcenberg Team:**  
"I worked with Wendy and Michelle for about a year and a half through a house sale and townhouse purchase. Looking back, we went through a tremendous amount and accomplished so much! The house sale exceeded expectations and set me up nicely to purchase my next home. The transaction went very smoothly, and Wendy and Michelle and their team of experts guided me every step of the way. I wouldn't have done anything differently!"  
—Pamela, Moraga Buyer and Seller

THE HOLCENBERG TEAM

**ORINDA \$1,500,000**  
4/3 Exceptional Mediterranean contemporary with open floor plan designed by Steven Kubitschek  
Maureen Wilbur CalBRE #01268536



**ORINDA \$1,450,000**  
3/2 Elegantly updated & meticulously maintained. Beautiful yard w/ pool, ponds, patio & decks  
Shellie Kirby CalBRE #01251227



**ORINDA \$1,450,000**  
6/3.5 Spacious contemporary home on private lot with wooded views and fenced level area.  
Meredith Linamen CalBRE #01918299



**ORINDA \$1,395,000**  
4/3 Mediterranean style home, fully renovated interior and landscaped gardens.  
Melanie Snow CalBRE #00878893



**ORINDA \$1,385,000**  
3/2.5 Remodeled charming wood shingled traditional! Plus newly constructed 1000 SF Great room.  
Laura Abrams CalBRE #01272382



**ORINDA \$989,000**  
3/2 Fabulous Orinda home in desirable Ivy Dr neighborhood w/updated kitchen & spacious bkyrd.  
Suzi O'Brien CalBRE #01482496

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## Fire Districts

### Public Meetings

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District** Board of Directors  
Wednesday, Sept. 21, 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, Oct. 18, 1:30 p.m.  
Board Chamber room 107,  
Administration Building,  
651 Pine St., Martinez  
For meeting times and agendas,  
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

# ConFire Chief Proposes Additional Revenue Sources

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District board of directors authorized Fire Chief Jeff Carman to contract with Willdan Financial Services to perform an impact fee study, which will include the possibility of forming community facilities districts in areas of new development within the district. In 2005, Lafayette declined to support a Willdan-proposed impact fee program that would have levied a one-time fee on the development of residential and commercial properties in the city.

"Adding additional burden to an already burdened fire system doesn't work," Carman told his board Sept. 13. "Countywide the fire service is experiencing difficulty providing adequate levels of

emergency services with the existing revenues we see from property taxes."

When Carman was hired in 2013, he promised the board that he would seek additional revenue streams for the district. A parcel tax is one way to provide additional district revenue, but the last ConFire parcel tax measure failed at the ballot box in 2012. Instead, the chief proposed to update development impact fees and to establish one or more CFDs.

Revenue provided by an impact fee or from a CFD will be used to supplement ConFire services to add capacity within new developments. Examples of adding capacity include purchasing new equipment and apparatus, replacing equipment

more frequently and increasing staffing. Typically, costs from an impact fee are added onto the price of new housing while CFD fees are charged annually.

Board Chair Candace Andersen cautioned the chief on the pragmatic issues in dealing with the boundary lines of a CFD. "You don't want to have to screech the fire truck when you get to the next block," she said, because the next block may not reside in the CFD, whose residents pay for enhanced fire service.

Carman proposed the supplemental revenue idea at a recent city managers' meeting. "Our goal is to work with all of the managers on what the program will look like and to give them a chance for input," he

said. The chief indicated that Lafayette will be one of the final cities that he approaches on the supplemental revenue topic because the city has little new development on the books. City Manager Steve Falk declined to comment on the possibility of ConFire supplemental development fees in Lafayette.

ConFire collects impact fees on new construction and development only within the unincorporated areas of the district, the city of Pittsburg and the city of Antioch. No CFDs exist in the Moraga-Orinda Fire District but the district does collect impact fees on new development.

"For us to not ask for additional revenue on new development is ludicrous," Carman said.

## Nov. 8 Election Coverage

# Differences Seep Through in High-profile MOFD Race

By Nick Marnell



Craig Jorgens

Distinctions between Victoria Smith and Craig Jorgens, candidates for the Division 5 seat on the Moraga-Orinda Fire District governing board, may not seem as glaring as those between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Still, shades of difference creep into the north Orinda candidates' dialogue, especially regarding the tax disparity between the two district municipalities.

### Property Tax Allocation

Many Orinda residents resent that they pay a higher percentage of their property tax dollar to the fire district than do Moraga residents, and they want those extra tax dollars to remain in Orinda.

"It's time to discuss this again. There's enough of a there, there, that it needs investigating. We need to present the analysis and publicize the conclusions until the community is satisfied," said Jorgens, retired president of a global mobile communications company. "The board represents everybody, but



Victoria Smith

you have to do what is correct."

"If there is an inequity, what can we do?" said Smith, a real estate lawyer, stepping down after serving 12 years on the Orinda City Council, including three terms as mayor. "The rates are set by Proposition 13. Raising the fire flow tax might be one way to fix it, but I don't see that happening." The district bills the fire flow tax at roughly six cents per square foot of a residence. By MOFD policy, Moraga's fire flow tax rate could increase to 30 cents, while Orinda's rate is maxed out.

### Pension Plan

The district reports its net pension liability at more than \$28 million.

"The issue should not be about redirecting funds among the taxpayers," Smith said. "If you have this extra money, I want to see it go toward paying down the unfunded pension liability."

"Not a huge number of things we can do about that figure," Jor-

gens said. "Maybe produce ranges of forecasts, and see what other scenarios present themselves." Both candidates support prefunding of district pension costs into an investment vehicle similar to the trust account MOFD uses to prefund its retiree health care expenses.

### Firefighters' Contract

Not willing to risk having the district impose an unfavorable contract on them, firefighters in 2014 agreed to a four-year contract that, to this day, they regret having signed. Fire Chief Stephen Healy has reported on his struggles to recruit and retain personnel because the MOFD firefighters are not paid comparably to those in other regional fire districts.

"Coming out of the recession, the board had issues to deal with," Smith said. "I give full credit to the union for being willing to go along with the contract." She said MOFD must continue to deliver high-quality emergency medical service, but you have to maintain a solid financial base from which to do it. "You may never be comparable in a small district," she said. "Orinda employees have never led the charge on wages."

"We have terrific firefighters," Jorgens said. "We have a highly trained emergency staff, delivering a high level of service, which people are happy with. We have to do whatever it takes. If retaining staff is an issue, that tells us we have a problem." Stressing the need to improve the recruitment and retention

of firefighters, three times he commented, "We have to do whatever it takes."

### North Orinda Fire Danger

Much of north Orinda lies in a high fire hazard severity zone, and to reduce the chance of a major disaster, Jorgens said that MOFD could do a better job mapping and identifying where the current fire hazards exist. Smith said she favored moving fire station 45 from Orinda Village to Miner Road, closer to the north Orinda hazard zones.

### Something to Think About

Both candidates said it is important that a board question things, and each presented an idea for the MOFD board to consider.

"In Orinda, we have a lot of citizen involvement, with citizens serving on one committee after another. Our finance advisory committee is very helpful. Give a working group at MOFD a chance to see the financial side - where the money comes from, where it goes," proposed Smith.

"Nothing dramatic or preconceived, but maybe some modeling based on 'hot spots' and where to deploy assets," Jorgens said. "For example, we know the hot spots for fire, but do we know them for medical? The tow truck guys know where the accidents will be on the freeways, and they deploy themselves there."

### Candidate Summary

Jorgens said that he wanted to apply some of his engineering and

operational experience to his home, the Orinda community.

"I am skilled in engineering and emergency communications, and I have worked with emergency organizations all over the world in the cellular and satellite business," Jorgens said. "I've worked with regulators and governments and I understand how to get things done with governments. I bring a broad background in finance and in technically oriented businesses and operations. You want to be able to draw on those experiences to help manage a team."

Smith noted that her husband grew up in Orinda, her mother lives there and that the fire district is a critical community enterprise.

"I want to stay in Orinda, and I am not interested in a higher office. Public safety is one of the most important aspects of a community," Smith said. "I know a lot of people from all over. You gain a sense of the whole, and where you fit in the whole. You have to be able to develop relationships outside your district. I know how to foster those relationships and how they work."

The candidates will face off at 7 p.m. Oct. 17 at the Orinda Library auditorium.

John Jex ran unopposed for the MOFD Division 2 seat and will be appointed in lieu of election. Jex declined to be interviewed until his appointment is confirmed by the Board of Supervisors, likely in early December.

# Craig Jorgens

Businessman Engineer

## Fire District - MOFD

- Retired President of an operating satellite company
- BS in Engineering/Economics; MBA
- HOA President (100 acres of open space)
- Former Management Consult and Investment Banker
- Introduced City to new paving method that improves road lifespan by 50% over old method.

"MOFD would benefit from Craig's experience, knowledge, insight, thoughtful vision and action."

Carol and Andy Amstutz

Contact Craig:  
925-386-0040  
[www.VoteJorgens.com](http://www.VoteJorgens.com)  
[craig.jorgens@gmail.com](mailto:craig.jorgens@gmail.com)



*I'm Craig Jorgens and I'd appreciate your vote to represent North Orinda on the Fire District Board (MOFD). As a retired business executive and 24-year Orinda resident, I would be privileged to offer my skills to the community where my wife Lisa and I raised our two daughters. My educational and work background will allow me to bring a fresh perspective and creative insights to aid in solving MOFD's complex pension and logistical issues. Please contact me with questions about my background or to discuss my positions. Thank you!*

— Craig



# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I wanted to express my support for What's Up Downtown and the re-visioning of Downtown Orinda. I was raised in the area and am fortunate to be raising my three children here. As we all know, most of the redevelopment and new commercial investment has headed to Lafayette. I don't know that we want to, or could, mirror Lafayette for a variety of reasons, but Downtown Orinda presents a special opportunity to create a center that brings together a city split by a large highway. With the right balance of housing, retail and open space, we could create a true "community center" that would encourage us to spend meaningful time downtown rather than driving through it or parking to shop for daily needs. I appreciate all of the efforts and look forward to supporting the rebirth of downtown Orinda.

I would also like to encourage others to support Darlene Gee and Inga Miller in their pursuit of seats on the Orinda City Council. It is with their leadership, and that of all the council members, that we can find a path to creating a thriving downtown Orinda.

Drew Mickel  
Orinda

### Gee and Miller for Council

To the Editor,  
When it comes to responsible revitalization for downtown Orinda, Darlene Gee and Inga Miller are the only proven candidates for the Orinda City Council who share a community-focused and action-oriented approach.

As a mother of three young children (ages 4, 9, and 11), a local psychologist — and childhood-native of Orinda — I long for an attractive, pedestrian-friendly downtown that celebrates its history and character, while providing cultural amenities. I wish for fresh produce for my children, locally-made products, and entertainment that connects families. Why do I have to drive to Rockridge, downtown Lafayette, or Fourth Street in Berkeley for shopping and entertainment?

Darlene and Inga also recognize our local environmental treasures like the San Pablo Creek which desperately needs restoration to preserve its native wildlife. Did you know that river otters, salmon, and trout once swam through our creek? Did you know that Orinda boasts the largest number of creeks in our county? Just imagine what a stroll through this natural habitat could offer our children in their educational and social-emotional development. Berkley renovated Strawberry Creek for its residents — it's time we offer our community the same access to our very own under-utilized natural resources.

Vote Inga and Darlene for downtown revitalization and San Pablo Creek Restoration.

Nadine Watters, PsyD  
Orinda CA 94563

Dear Editor,

I am writing in support of Craig Jorgens for Director of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD). Craig and I served together on the Orinda Roads Commission, where I had an opportunity to see him in action. Craig is a businessman and engineer and I have been impressed with his creative management and financial skills. These are skills the MOFD Board needs as it strives to ensure the safety of the public and the financial stability of the District.

Craig's abilities, experience and creativity will be of major assistance to MOFD as it faces a number of complex problems. For example, despite progress in recent years, MOFD's unfunded pension liabilities and the poor emergency response times in much of northern Orinda remain significant and unresolved issues. Importantly, I would expect Craig to seek full understanding of these issues and to seek effective solutions without necessarily being bound to past practice.

Keeping us safe and staying

on the cutting edge of firefighting technology is another area where Craig's skills as a manager and an engineer will help MOFD. Among Craig's many accomplishments, he has led a business whose success depended on effective management of new technology. Craig demonstrated his leadership with regard to new business practices on Orinda's Roads Commission by identifying full depth recycling as a promising technology and asking the City to look into it. We now use full depth recycling and the result is better roads at lower cost.

Craig Jorgens is a non-politician who will search earnestly for and promote the right solutions -- not those with the most immediate political appeal. Most importantly, Craig will listen to everyone, work to bring us together, think "out of the box," and be willing to take the actions required to keep MOFD financially solvent, effective, and on the cutting edge of technology. We need him as a Director. Please join with me in voting for Craig.

Richard Nelson  
Orinda

### Protect Moraga's Outdoor Space

Dear Editor,  
I was astonished by both the size and the composition of the crowd at the Sept. 9 food trucks event at Moraga's Hacienda de Los Flores. The lawn was overflowing with young families, and more were pouring in when we left. The same kind of crowd covers the hill at the summer concerts in the Commons. It is quite a different population from the one I encounter at the shopping centers during the week, when I feel like I'm living in Leisure World. I hope some of those young residents have the interest and can find the time to succeed as older volunteers because this is how Moraga has become the kind of desirable place that caused them to move here.

The event also reminded me of the need to protect the few level, public, open areas that we still have in this hilly town. Looking at the many picnic tables on the Hacienda lawn, I thought about one of the proposals to make the costly Hacienda self-sustaining. A few B&B rooms in the building wouldn't be enough to make that kind of operation feasible, so the consultant as proposed that several units could be built on the far side if the lawn. I believe that we should kill this idea before it gains any traction. The lovely grounds constitute the Hacienda's main attraction, in my judgement. The building was fiddled with for years, and the result is neither historic nor an architectural gem. It is also essentially unusable for recreation purposes. Events such as Oktoberfest, Cinco de Mayo and Hacienda Nights are primarily outdoor activities that require that large, lovely lawn.

I hold the same view with regard to the Commons Master Plan. It is comparatively small to serve as our principal park, and very little of the open land is level enough to be usable for additional facilities. A specialized play structure for the all-abilities is going to be built next to the tot lot, but I believe we should protect the big lawn and the adjacent picnic area under the trees. The housing projects on Moraga Road, Camino Ricardo and Moraga Way are providing us with enough crowding.

Dale Walwark  
Moraga

### Vote Chew for BART board

Dear Editor:  
I have been a Moragan for 30 years. I am very proud to have another Moragan running for District 3 BART Board. I believe Ken Chew, our former member of the council and mayor, will bring refreshing leadership and positive changes to the BART system.

Ken Chew stands for safe, clean and welcoming trains and stations. He stands for more supervision, training and maintenance so trains

run on-time. Distinguishing himself from other candidates, Ken Chew is against the \$3.5 billion bond on the November ballot. He believes the bond issue is untimely since the current board already planned for two upcoming fare increases with BART already operating on an annual deficit. The \$3.5 billion bond will be an additional financial burden to the system. I believe Ken Chew is on the right track. BART must first manage BART's existing assets, improve working relationships with labor and staff, and increase operation efficiency. Only when we see results, then and only then, should BART consider a bond issue.

Dr. Ingrid Kwee  
Moraga

### Rob Sturm and Meredith Meade for Lafayette School Board

Dear Editor:  
People move to Lafayette for the schools. Our high quality schools provide our children with a great education and keep our property values high. We need to protect our investments.

I have served on the Lafayette School Board for the last four years, currently as board president, and I've decided not to seek reelection in November. In addition to my work for the district, I'm highly committed to advocacy for all public school students of all learning levels. With two open seats, I have a keen interest in making sure the most qualified individuals are elected.

Rob Sturm is one of those candidates. As a practicing labor attorney, Rob Sturm is comfortable navigating complex situations and decisions. Rob has a remarkable eye for the budget and I am confident he will quickly work to address the nearly \$1 million deficit in the 2016/17 budget and help restore the district's past practice of fiscal responsibility. I voted against our current budget. Rob also believes that every student should be challenged at every level of learning. I have serious concerns about our math tracks at Stanley as I believe we have limited the potential of our top performers and I've shared the details of my concerns with Rob. I know Rob will work with the district in a respectful, collegial and professional manner. Rob's a very likeable fellow and his integrity is unquestionably impeccable.

I am also supporting Meredith Meade for the Lafayette School Board. As the immediate past two-year president of LPIE that followed a two-year president term on the Lafayette Elementary PTA, Meredith is steeped in knowledge regarding the relationship between LPIE, the parent clubs and the district. She is already familiar with our curricular offerings and would be able to contribute meaningfully from day one. I have worked with Meredith on a number of items over the last seven years and I can personally attest to her unwavering commitment to our students and to our community.

Please join me in supporting Rob Sturm and Meredith Meade for the Lafayette School Board! This is a very important election for our district.

Jean Follmer  
Lafayette

### Wiener, Hoxie for Orinda School Board

Dear Editor:  
I am very proud of what we have achieved since I joined the Orinda School Board. In the past year and a half, we have:

- Hired a new superintendent who has a bold vision for taking our schools from excellent to world class;
- Achieved an increase in our credit rating from AA to AA+;
- Initiated a new policy and program for the Wagner Ranch Nature Area which will open it to educate all of our students in science, conservation, ecology, history and social studies;

- Began a new, strength-based student safety program for all students every year;
- Installed a district wide solar system at no cost to taxpayers which will save \$300,000 per year in utility costs.

This November, we will be voting to fill two seats on the school board. We have made significant progress in these last few years, and we have much more that we want to accomplish for our students. We need to finish the change we have begun.

We need new board members who can work together collaboratively — even in times when we have different visions for the best path forward. We need new members who have a record of positive contribution to and accomplishments for the district. We need new members who thoroughly understand the roles and responsibilities of a board member.

For these reasons, I am supporting and urging you to vote for Cara Hoxie and Hillary Wiener.

Cara Hoxie attended Orinda schools as a child, and her children have as well. For the past 8 years, Cara has served as president of the Orinda Education Foundation. She has worked to create a collaborative fundraising model which will ensure the private funding that our schools depend upon.

Hillary Wiener has served as president of Glorietta Parents Club, and on the Superintendent's Fiscal Advisory Committee. She is on the board of the Educational Foundation of Orinda and is a parks and recreation commissioner for the city of Orinda.

Both these women have the proven ability to make sound fiscal decisions, work collaboratively, and will be the trustees we need on our school board.

Carol Brown  
Orinda

### Korpus' Arguments are Flawed

Dear Editor,  
At recent Moraga Planning Commission meetings addressing the Moraga Town Center Homes Project, Kymberleigh Korpus, who is a planning commissioner and town council candidate, strongly argued to impose changes to previously approved project characteristics. Kymberleigh also submitted similar arguments to the Moraga Town

Council for their Aug. 24 meeting which addressed this project. I personally disagree with Kymberleigh's approach because:

1. Kymberleigh's arguments were counter to counsel from Moraga's town attorneys that the town has no legal standing for changing project characteristics once approved. The town attorneys are trained and experienced in municipal law, and have the resources to substantiate their counsel. I believe that town attorney counsel should not be dismissed without a sound basis.

2. The Municipal Code is subject to interpretation, and Kymberleigh presented her interpretation. Instead of substantiating the credibility of her arguments, Kymberleigh claimed she "had not been proven wrong," and that Moraga staff "had not proven themselves correct" (e.g., see Kymberleigh Korpus' Aug. 18 communication to the town council, which is available via Moraga's town website). While this tactic might be viewed as inferring credibility, in fact, it's fatally flawed and is something that I consider unprofessional.

3. Kymberleigh issued the unsubstantiated arguments via social media.

My personal assessment on the impact of Kymberleigh's actions are:

1. Misrepresentation of the legal status of the project at this stage. In fact, implementation of Kymberleigh's recommendations would have almost certainly subjected Moraga to a losing lawsuit, just as the town lost the Palos Colorados Project court case in 1998 because the Town Council changed already approved project characteristics.

2. Unjustified and inaccurate broad public criticism of town staff.

3. Needless expenditure of town staff resources in both time and costs.

Therefore, I do not recommend Kymberleigh Korpus for Moraga Town Council.

I communicate the above as a private citizen. I have over 14 years of combined experience on the Moraga Design Review Board and Moraga Planning Commission. I offer to meet with individuals and groups to address questions both on this communication and recent development projects in Moraga.

Steve Woehleke  
Moraga

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

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## Nov. 8 Election Coverage

# Two Incumbents, One Newcomer to Fill Lafayette Council

By Pippa Fisher

### Mike Anderson

Uncontested this year, Mike Anderson will be returning to the city council.

He is no stranger to city government, having served as the current vice mayor, elected to the city council in 2004, and as mayor in 2008 and 2013. He was also chair of the planning commission in 2004, appointed to the commission in 2000. Additionally he was a member of the Lafayette General Plan advisory committee from 1993 to 2002.

Anderson has lived with his wife, Courtney, in Lafayette for 25 years. Now retired, during his 32-year career with the East Bay Regional Park District he planned, designed and developed parks and trails, responsible for finding funding for such projects, working with residents to get their input through workshops and surveys.

He sees the increased traffic and congestion in the downtown area due to the use of Mt. Diablo Boulevard as a bypass for the overcrowded Highway 24 as one of the biggest issues in Lafayette. He says that a recent traffic study indicated that making Mt. Diablo Boulevard a less attractive bypass route for Highway 24 traffic by adjusting traffic signal timing is the way for the city to address this issue.

"I feel that upgrading our signal system to allow for the maximum control of signal cycles, linked to the time of day and even the season of the year will help to curtail this issue while facilitating local traffic," he says. "This will take an investment in signal infrastructure and equipment."

Anderson is concerned about lack of parking for retail employees in the downtown area and notes that parking is beginning to migrate into adjacent residential areas. He says that the city must acquire land for conversion into additional public and employee parking such as it is in the process of doing on the corner of First Street and Golden Gate Way.

Maintaining the semi-rural feel of the city in the face of increasing residential density downtown is important to Anderson, who says that with meticulous review of future projects that are required by the state to provide the opportunity to develop a specific number of units, as well as the creation of better bike paths, walkways, parks, public art and trail connections, it should be possible to meet the state required housing growth while maintaining the small-town character of the city.

### Cameron "Cam" Burks

This year, in an uncontested election, is Cameron Burks, who brings a fresh perspective to the table.

Burks is a Bay Area native who worked for many years as a diplomat and Special Agent in Washington, DC and at U.S. embassies around the world. He led U.S. Government counter-terrorism strategy in multiple foreign countries; managed multi-million dollar budgets; oversaw complex public programs;



From left: Cameron Burks, Mark Mitchell and Mike Anderson decided to race each other at Plaza Park  
Photo Gint Federas

and negotiated policies in the best interests of U.S. diplomacy and the national security of the United States. He is now the Deputy Chief Security Officer at Chevron Corporation.

He settled back in the Bay Area six years ago and now lives with his wife and two school-age children in Lafayette. He has been involved coaching youth soccer and is passionate about the trails, which he walks with his dog. He has remained committed to public service, serving on the City Council's Crime Prevention Commission in 2011, and was elected Chair in 2013.

His number-one priority within Lafayette is development and growth and the need for protecting the semi-rural feel of the city. He is for balanced growth and solid planning, including straightforward solutions to improve traffic, congestion and parking, strategies for preserving open space and a strong commitment to maintaining city control of Lafayette, keeping any potential aggressive development from outside in check especially bearing in mind the large projected population growth in the area over the next five to 10 years.

Burks recognizes the importance of public safety as a key factor in the city and will work to ensure police have the resources they need. He values open communication within the community and says paying attention to changes in federal and state enforcement/sentencing guidelines to stay ahead of crime trends is essential. Burks has worked closely with Lafayette's police chief during his involvement with the city council's Crime Prevention Commission and spearheaded the implementation of city cameras that, over the three years in operation, have reduced residential crime by 60 percent.

As a third priority, Burks lists preserving the city's excellent schools and recreation opportunities - the library, parks and recreation and senior services - and will work to find common ways that the city council, school districts and parents can work together to address aging infrastructure and traffic challenges as student population grows.

He recognizes the importance of fiscal accountability in all areas and says he will prioritize spending that maintains Lafayette's semi-rural environment and quality of life when considering "wants" vs. "needs."

Says Burks, "I have a lot of confidence in the existing members of the council and am looking forward to bringing a fresh perspective."

### Mark Mitchell

Mark Mitchell returns to the city council for another term this November.

Raised in Lafayette, he attended local schools. He went through the tunnel for college however, graduating from UC Berkeley in business administration but settled back in Lafayette with his wife to raise their children. He has been very involved with the Boy Scouts and youth sports, coaching for 11

different teams.

Mitchell identifies traffic as being one of the biggest problems facing Lafayette today and says possible road reconfigurations analysis is essential to see what improvements will provide the most benefit. He wants to see if it is possible to work with regional transportation organizations for additional funding. He points out that the city council has instituted two major studies to address traffic in Lafayette, the Downtown Congestion Study (DCS) and the Pleasant Hill Road Corridor Study. The DCS was funded with a \$450,000 grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. The Pleasant Hill Road Corridor Study is funded by the city's general fund. The data gathering process started earlier this year and the recommended improvements should be identified by the end of the year.

As Lafayette's retail and restaurant scenes flourish, Mitchell also sees parking as another big problem and says that the city is gradually adding more parking spaces throughout, such as the 50 spaces added on Moraga Road, the planned 27 spaces at Golden Gate Way and First Street, and is looking forward to adding 16 extra spaces next to Ace Hardware when East Bay Municipal Utility District has completed the new pumping station.

Mitchell values protecting the small-town character and points out that although Lafayette is required to have a Housing Element approved by the state (requiring zoning for very low-income, low-income, moderate and above moderate housing), it can define how potential development will occur. To do this the city created a Downtown Specific Plan. This plan limits the heights and use of buildings. Additionally, Mitchell says that by strictly enforcing existing ordinance the small-town character will be maintained. He intends the city to continue to fund capital projects, park improvements and street landscaping projects in the downtown.

Mitchell says, "It has been an honor to serve as your mayor, council member, and planning commissioner over the past 15 years. Growing up in Lafayette and living here for over 50 years, I share the values of our residents. We require a prudent fiscal plan for our city government. We are proud of our schools. We savor our small-town feel. We want responsible growth that is sensitive to our concerns about traffic, parking, and the protection of the views of our semi-rural community."

### To Meet the Candidates

Mike Anderson and Mark Mitchell will be available for questions at a Candidates & Issues Night at 7 p.m. Sept. 22 at the Lafayette Community Center.

Cam Burks will meet residents and answer questions on issues at an event hosted by Venture Quality Goods, at 7 p.m. at 3571 Mt. Diablo Boulevard on Sunday, Oct. 2. There will be light food and refreshments. Residents should RSVP to [camburks2016@gmail.com](mailto:camburks2016@gmail.com).

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## Nov. 8 Election Coverage

# Four to Grapple for Three Council Seats in Heated Moraga Race

By Sophie Braccini

Four candidates — including one incumbent — are vying for three seats on the Moraga Town Council. Here's what they have to say about Moraga.



### Graig Crossley

Graig Crossley intends to be a Moraga resident for years to come and wants to see Moraga continue as a place where everyone is proud to live. Crossley served on the town council from 1982 to 1992 and was twice mayor, and he believes that his experience during the early years after Moraga's incorporation and his continuing service to the community are giving him a unique perspective to lead the town through the next four years.

He notices that the recent community survey commissioned by the town (Godbe Research) showed that people believe Moraga is a good place to live.

"Unfortunately, less than half of us believe the town is in good fiscal shape," he notes, adding that his has experience "watching the public purse" and will continue to steward the town's public funds to support "the Moraga people care for."

Crossley notes that education was not covered in the town survey, yet, it is a major reason people like Moraga. He says that the Moraga School District and the town recently signed a memorandum of understanding for facilities use. "We need to work closely with the town and schools to provide the best community and education for our families and children," he says.

Crossley says that he has a history of being frugal with other people's money. He believes that this is the kind of fiscal responsibility Moraga needs, particularly when ones consider that the town would have to use Palos Colorado development funds as a fallback to pay for the future repair of the sinkhole. "Were it not for state and federal disaster funds that the town staff has worked wonders to secure, Moraga would have to cover the cost out of our limited funds," he says.

Crossley says that service to the community is a foundation of who he is. Three things stand out.

"First, I was medically retired from the Marine Corps when I was 20. Second, I went on to continue my education and become a teacher at Richmond High School. Finally, I have served the Town of Moraga in a variety of volunteer positions since 1979, and with your vote I will continue to serve the community we care for," he says.



### Jeanette Fritzky

Jeanette Fritzky wants to give back to the town that has given her family so much. She says that if elected, the position will be her full-time job.

"I have and will devote the time to listen, reason and act on behalf of the town," she says. She presently serves on the parks and

recreation commission and the art in public places committee. Fritzky comes from the business world with a wide experience in medical and pharmaceutical marketing and business development.

Fritzky pledges she will make conscientious and transparent decisions to ensure the prosperity of Moraga, financially and environmentally. Referring to the Godbe survey recently commissioned by the town, she notes that over 90 percent of Moragans surveyed rated their overall quality of life (raise a family and live) as Excellent/Good.

It also confirmed that an overwhelming number of people rated the business services as Poor/Fair (70.3 percent). It reinforces the study Fritzky designed, conducted, and analyzed pro bono for the Chamber of Commerce in May for the Rheem Shopping Center that reflected Moragans' dissatisfaction with current shopping and dining.

"This is a double-sided issue — demand and supply — a static population (demand) and very little choice in retail or restaurants (supply)," she says.

"Feedback to property owners informs them of our desires, but business viability depends on dollars spent."

She notes that open space ranks high on importance and reasonably well on satisfaction, but local hillsides and ridgelines need to be protected by refining ordinances. Fritzky wants to commit resources to keep trails, parks and recreation areas well maintained.

Fritzky is aware that storm drains and roads need significant work and that measure K will not cover all road repairs. "We do not have the financial means for storm drain repair (\$25 to \$30 million). I will develop a prioritization process and a plan to complete necessary repairs," she says.

She wants long-term growth impacts on traffic, town services, and overall quality of life to be studied when development is planned.

"I will ensure that we don't trade off quality of life for irrevocable changes in our town," she says. "What do we want to be? Answering this question will drive our choices for decades to come. I will prioritize and allocate the Palos Colorado funds for the next four to eight years, readdress Hacienda use, and reduce speeding."



### Kymberleigh Korpus

Kymberleigh Korpus grew up in Moraga and she says that she loves the town. She came back in 2011. Since being appointed to the planning commission at the beginning of 2016 she has been digging in and learning about land-use law and policy. She says that her experience has led her to conclude that the town needs to conduct a thorough review of its decision-making processes.

Korpus says she shares the same priorities and concerns reflected most strongly in the recent survey results (Godbe Research). She wants Moraga to avoid the pitfalls flowing from overdevelopment, including unlivable traffic congestion, crowded schools and over-burdened public safety services.

"I support private property rights, but also believe we must balance developers' rights with our need to safeguard Moraga

scenic corridors and vistas so essential to the high property values and quality of life all Moragans enjoy," she says. She supports reasonable development restrictions on ridgelines, hillsides, and other open spaces.

Korpus describes herself as a fiscal conservative — supporting balanced budgets, additional streamlining of those budgets where possible, and careful allocation of resources to benefit all Moragans. But she is also very concerned about failing infrastructure, and the town's lack of resources to deal with such situations.

"Though Measure K was a good first step, we must be increasingly proactive so we can build up a town fund to fully and efficiently address this and other infrastructure issues," she adds.

She plans to use her skills as attorney, negotiator and advocate to help ensure the town diligently protects the scenic beauty of semi-rural Moraga while making sound, transparent, and fiscally responsible decisions that: uphold local ordinances and guidelines, support the local economy, reflect the priorities and concerns expressed by the community, put the interests of Moraga residents ahead of political expediency, and consider the long-term impacts of decisions before taking action.

"I'm all about figuring out and then doing what's right for this town — even when it is tough or uncomfortable to do so," she says. As an attorney, she says she is extremely thorough in her research, and tries to consider all relevant facts and alternatives before making decisions. She adds that she is committed to understanding her fellow residents' values and goals.

"I have worked hard for these principles as a Moraga Planning Commissioner, and I hope to continue to do so as a town council member," she says.



### Roger Wykle

Roger Wykle is the only incumbent running for the Moraga Town Council. He has served four years and was mayor in 2015. He says that he has enjoyed public service most of his life, starting as a volunteer firefighter in rural Ohio at age 16, followed by enlistment in the U.S. Coast Guard at 18. He has found "home" here in Moraga with his family. "If reelected I'll keep working to protect Moraga's incredible beauty and outstanding quality of life," he says.

He adds that he wants to finish the job on several key goals, most importantly, to see that Moraga adopts lasting and effective policies to protect remaining hillsides, ridgelines, and open spaces. He notes that the recent poll commissioned by the council (Godbe Research) shows that residents rank protecting ridgelines/hillsides from over-development second only to rapidly responding to 911 emergency calls.

"The current effort to revise hillside and ridgeline policies is a vital opportunity to address this community priority," he says. He believes that this process is well underway and can be completed next year.

Wykle continues to support infill development to revitalize downtown areas but he has seen that recent residential projects show that development standards in the Moraga Center Specific Plan

(MCSP) area must be made stronger.

"While mayor, I supported creation of a subcommittee which is reviewing the MCSP and will soon propose revisions," he says. "Through this process we must strengthen the MCSP to ensure that future in-fill development blends with our surroundings and preserves our semi-rural atmosphere."

Wykle states that the town's financial situation is sound, the operating budget was balanced for many years, and a nearly 50 percent reserve fund was maintained. He acknowledges that this budgetary rectitude was obtained through difficult funding decisions and decades of deferred maintenance on infrastructure including storm

drains. He knows that these systems need replacement, and says that the next Council must identify a way to complete this task. "I want to develop a comprehensive strategy for infrastructure repairs," he says.

With three open seats on a five-person council, Wykle says he will bring needed continuity. He will want to ensure that Measure K funds (a 1 percent sales tax) continue to be properly used only for road-related repairs; keep building on recent successes at Rheem Shopping Center; continue to improve youth programs; and provide ongoing governmental transparency.

"I also do my best to bring calm and civility to Council meetings," he says.

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## Lynn's Top Five

## Don't Overlook Your Family's Life Insurance Needs

By Lynn Ballou

When we ask clients what matters most to them, typically it's a tie between enjoying their life without worry that they'll run out of assets, and making sure that they leave their family and heirs well provided for. An important part of the conversation should include possible life insurance coverage. In this column, let's explore some

reasons that despite the bad rap that life insurance often receives, if well thought through, the right policies in your arsenal of financial tools can make a profound difference to you and your loved ones.

1) **I am still in my earning years.** If that's the case, your biggest asset may be the money you have yet to earn, and the family

commitments and promises that come with that. Paying the taxes, paying the bills, paying for college, paying off the mortgage, having cash on hand to deal with the stress of loss and the rearranging of the family life — these are the primary reasons that working parents purchase life insurance on one or both spouses. Even if one is a stay-at-home parent, replacing all the services that spouse provides to the family while allowing the other to stay focused and continue in their career comes with a price tag. All of this should be taken into account when determining if your family needs this coverage.

2) **I have a blended family.** Typically parents in blended families worry a lot about fairness. For example, what's fair to the biological children of a parent who dies first if the assets are left for the second spouse to use for the rest of his or her life? It's sometimes not practical to leave an inheritance outright when we pass away if our spouse would lose the financial quality of their life. This is a compelling case for purchasing a policy on the first to die. Similarly, if there is a decent age spread between the spouses in any family, the older parent may wish to leave a legacy to the children that comes to them before the other spouse also passes on. Life insurance can provide the liquidity to leave these legacies without giving away assets needed by the surviving spouse.

3) **Long-term Care.** Long-term care insurance has become difficult to find and difficult to afford as stand-alone coverage. Recently we've seen an increase in the number of life insurance policies that include riders which allow insureds to tap into benefits for long-term care needs before death. Hybrid policies such as these are not inexpensive, but the peace of mind that they might provide to those looking for multiple benefits should not be dismissed without consideration.

4) **Charitable Intent.** Many clients have what end up being conflicting estate planning goals: Leaving sizeable inheritances for loved ones and leaving meaningful gifts to favorite charitable organizations. For a variety of reasons, you may not actually leave a large enough estate to solve both goals. Purchasing a life insurance policy for the purpose of funding charitable gifts could be a good solution.

5) **Assets that are hard to split.** We see a lot of clients who have a cherished family vacation home or other illiquid assets that may be impractical to leave to multiple heirs. For example, what if there's one Monet and three heirs? If that represents the bulk of the estate, how do you split it? Life insurance can solve that problem and allow the asset to be donated, the cash to go to the heirs. Or if agreeable to all heirs, one inherits the family vacation home, for example, and the others receive the cash from the insurance proceeds in an equalizing amount. In these cases it's advisable to have family meetings before we pass on to be sure everyone's on board with the plan. Otherwise you can leave future generations in a world of emotional shock, hurt and turmoil.

As well as determining the amount of coverage needed and the most affordable and appropriate way to obtain it, there are three additional issues to think carefully about when purchasing life insurance:

the type (whole life, term, variable are examples), the estate taxation and income tax ramifications, and the term or time of coverage. When including life insurance in your planning, be sure to collaborate with your CFP, your tax advisor and estate planning attorney to be sure these and all aspects are thoroughly considered.



Lynn Ballou is a Certified Financial Planner. Information used in the writing of this column is believed to be factual and up-to-date, but we do not guarantee its accuracy and it should not be regarded as a complete analysis of the subject(s) discussed. All information is derived from sources deemed to be reliable. All expressions of opinion reflect the judgment of the author as of the date of publication and are subject to change.

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## Business Bites

Compiled by Victor Ryerson

**Hurry, hurry!**

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce has announced some tantalizing programs for business owners that are priced right: they're free. But you have to hurry to get on board for a couple of them.

Check your watch or cell phone. You still may have time to attend the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce-sponsored "Social Media Strategies for Local Businesses Workshop – Easy Steps to Create Engaging Social Media Images" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21 at the Lafayette Library Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. This workshop will cover no-cost tools and tips for creating social media images others will notice. Reservations recommended: (925) 284-7404.

Not quite so urgent is your opportunity to attend "Managing Employees in the Restaurant and Retail Industries: Regulations and Best Practices," a seminar hosted by the Wilkerson Law Office with the Alameda County Small Business Development Center to help business owners navigate the maze of federal, state and local regulations while creating a robust and positive working environment. The seminar will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 26 in the Cal State East Bay Montclair Room, 1000 Broadway, Suite 109, Oakland. The registration deadline is 8 a.m. on that date. Contact Lee Lambert, (510) 208-0410.

Finally, the chamber is sponsoring a presentation aimed at helping businesses avoid mistakes once they are established and growing from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13. This program is a follow-up on an earlier presentation on how to start your business. The presentation will be given at the Lafayette Music Theater, 83 Lafayette Circle, and will start at 5:45 p.m. sharp, so arrive early to park. RSVP at www.LafayetteProfessionals.com.

With all these free programs to help you navigate the business world, who needs an MBA?

**Invitations of another sort ...**

For those involved with a later stage of the Great Circle of Life, Merrill Gardens Senior Living at Lafayette will hold an open house from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 29. Meet the new general manager if you drop in. Check www.merrillgardens.com for more information.

Lafayette's Queen of Heaven Cemetery has announced the completion of its funeral center chapel, which allows for more complete services (viewing, eulogies, and formal prayer services) to be held onsite. The chapel will be dedicated at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael Barber, bishop of Oakland, at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 1 at 1965 Reliez Valley Road in Lafayette. The event is open to the public. For more information, call (855) 410-3247.

**Mix it up!**

CAPA and the Lamorinda Arts Council invite the public to sample 20 craft cocktails, eat gourmet finger foods, and enjoy some music in Orinda's Theatre Square at the third annual "Art of Mixology" craft cocktail competition and tasting at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8. More than 20 Bay Area bartenders will be competing for the title of Mixologist of the Year, while amateurs compete for the Home Crafted Award. Tickets for this safe and sane event, which are \$45 apiece and include a souvenir shot glass, can be purchased at www.shoporindaarts.org.

**Chamber Music**

For announcements of more business related events and nonprofit fundraisers, be sure to check the chamber of commerce websites. There is a lot going on in Lamorinda, especially during this busy fall season.

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce  
www.lafayettetchamber.org (925) 284-7404

Moraga Chamber of Commerce  
www.moragachamber.org (925) 323-6524

Orinda Chamber of Commerce  
www.orindachamber.org (925) 254-3909

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



## Nov. 8 Election Coverage

# 4 for 4: Orinda City Council Candidates Answer Questions

By Sora O'Doherty

The Lamorinda Weekly asked the four candidates competing for two seats on the Orinda City Council to answer four questions about themselves and issues facing the city of Orinda. Here are their answers:



**Linda Delehunt**

**1) Why are you running for Orinda City Council?**

I am running for Orinda City Council because I believe my skills can assist Orinda in changing its approach to issues. The processes currently in place do not serve the direction that a majority of Orinda citizens embrace. Orinda has been painfully slow to correct its infrastructure deficits and the current council appears to have little regard for the integrity of the general plan that provides that Orinda embrace and expand its semi-rural character through the renewal process. Orinda's downtown is congested, in desperate need of refreshing, and plagued with traffic gridlock and parking issues. Orinda needs a new approach to decision making to echo the voice of the community.

**2) What special expertise do you think you would bring to the Council?**

I am a CAL alum, and hold a doctorate in educational leadership, a master's degree and several credentials including an administrative credential. I have a long career history of leadership in the public sector, government and school arenas. My area of expertise is assisting entities in targeting and allocating their monetary and physical resources in a fiscally prudent and appropriate manner. I have a track record of personal integrity and can assure the public that their faith and confidence is well placed in my leadership ability.

Orinda residents cherish their excellent schools and I am the only candidate running for City Council that has expertise as an educational leader. I possess the skills to work effectively with the local school districts with the goal of keeping Orinda schools "top notch."

**3) What are the three biggest issues you see facing Orinda?**

My priorities are to improve Orinda by giving downtown a fresh, new look, preserving Orinda's semi-rural character, maintaining local control and obtaining public input; prioritizing public safety, parking and traffic; and ensuring that local businesses thrive.

**4) What are your thoughts about Orinda Downtown Development?**

I believe in encouraging all citizens to be leaders and to engage in open discussion on downtown development and consistency with the general plan. My platform embraces local control, respecting the current 35-foot height limit for new structures, and refreshing downtown while enhancing and retaining Orinda's semi-rural environment.



**Darlene K. Gee**

**1. Why are you running for Orinda City Council?**

I was appointed to the City Council in July 2015, and want to continue my involvement and contributions to our road rehabilitation and be part of the efforts to revitalize downtown. I am a long-term Orinda resident with nearly three decades of community service, perspective, and expertise that will directly benefit Orinda.

**2. What special expertise do you think you would bring to the Council?**

My tenure on the City Council gives me up-to-date understanding of the city's issues. Previously I served four years on the Citizen's Infrastructure Oversight Commission. Five years of city service has given me an excellent understanding of our infrastructure challenges. As a civil engineer with nearly four decades of experience, I bring relevant expertise to roads and other projects. I have an MBA from UC Berkeley, 25 years of executive management experience and financial accountability for teams of up to 150 people. I have a proven track record of consensus building, problem solving, and financial performance.

**3. What are the three biggest issues you see facing Orinda?**

Roads and drainage infrastructure: continuing to deliver real progress on our roads and drainage infrastructure rehabilitation and obtaining the funding for the last two phases of the city's plan; downtown revitalization: deciding what type of downtown revitalization the majority of the community supports and taking the necessary steps to implement this vision; and financial management: maintaining the city's good fiscal condition and protecting against future downturns or emergencies.

**4. What are your thoughts about Orinda Downtown Development?**

I believe we can have so much more to enjoy in downtown without sacrificing our small town charm and beautiful natural environment. At our September 6th council meeting, I supported moving forward with efforts to obtain outside expertise to help us 1) formulate feasible scenarios; 2) define a framework for robust community input; and 3) identify actions needed to modify or augment the city's general plan. Engagement of economic development expertise along with the full participation of our residents, our property owners, city staff and council will put Orinda on a successful path to a more vibrant downtown.



**Bruce London**

**1. Why are you running for Orinda City Council?**

My wife and I have lived in Orinda since 1984. I have been following our city council very closely for the past several years. I attended every council meeting for the past three years, reading every staff report, and have become increasingly concerned that they were making decisions not beneficial to the entire community. Now I want to vote on important issues facing the city about which I care deeply.

**2. What special expertise do you think you would bring to the Council?**

As a retired medical doctor, I spent academic and professional careers reviewing volumes of

complicated information, reaching independent conclusions, and developing strategies. Being a good council member requires the same ability. As chief of the Diagnostic Imaging Department and member of my hospital's Medical Executive Committee – the governance body of the medical staff – for six years, I developed expertise in achieving consensus.

**3. What are the three biggest issues facing Orinda?**

What keeps me up at night is the threat of loss of local control. Municipalities are under constant assault from Sacramento and the increasing power of regional agencies. Orinda's roads continue to be a problem. We've voted to tax ourselves three times in the past four years, but the repair work moves slowly. The emphasis needs to change from raising tax revenue to actually accomplishing the repairs. Downtown parking and traffic are high on the list of grievances. The recent Parking Study yielded very predictable recommendations, which need to be acted upon urgently.

**4. What are your thoughts about Orinda Downtown Development?**

I would use the Orinda Planning Commission's approval of the 25A Orinda Way Project, which will contain five retail/restaurant spaces, office spaces, and its own parking, while complying with the current 35-foot height limit, as a template. The city should invite new retail and restaurant applications and work with them to succeed, not demean such applications like our City Council did when they overturned the Planning Commission's 2013 approval of the Montessori proposal, which would have provided 4,500 square feet of new retail to the abandoned Phairs property.



**Inga Miller**

**1) Why are you running for Orinda City Council?**

Orinda is the best small town in the Bay Area. I am running to preserve its charm and move us

into the future.

**2) What special expertise do you think you would bring to the Council?**

The tenacity, dedication and ability to ask pointed questions that I developed as a journalist focusing on local government matters, coupled with my experience negotiating deals as a transactional real estate attorney provide me with the skillset to ask the right questions, elicit information and lead thoughtful and objective decision making.

**3) What are the three biggest issues you see facing Orinda?**

A) Roads. We have hit important milestones in our journey to fix our Orinda roads but have a few more miles to go. We must finish what we have started by approving the last two phases of our five-phase Road and Drainage Repair Plan. B) Downtown. We need to bring a balanced approach to improve amenities and opportunities to shop and dine in Orinda while retaining our downtown charm. C) Education and public safety. Fiscal accountability and oversight is key to maximizing resources available for public safety and making Orinda a place where art and education thrive.

**4) What are your thoughts about Orinda Downtown Development?**

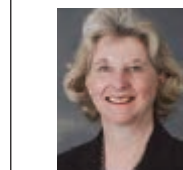
Downtown deserves our attention. The fact that Orinda has the second lowest per capita sales tax revenue in Contra Costa County (only Oakley is lower) is an objective signal that we are falling short of providing opportunities to our residents to stay in Orinda to shop, dine and utilize services. Respected members of our community have pointed to my skills as an active listener and objective thinker to bring a balanced approach to improve amenities and opportunities to shop and dine in Orinda while retaining our downtown charm. Providing direction to property owners while supporting initiatives like expanded access to and visibility of our treasured San Pablo Creek is part of such a balanced approach.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)



## Inga Miller for Orinda City Council

*Orinda is the best community in the Bay Area. I am running to preserve its charm and move us into the future.*



*"As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, and a Native Orindan, Inga loves Orinda and understands the need to preserve our community feeling while increasing amenities and services for our residents. With her volunteer and Board experience, Inga will work together with the Council to move Orinda forward!"*

**– Orinda Mayor Victoria Smith**

*"Inga Miller is a thoughtful, forward looking leader who knows how to listen to opposing views and find common ground. We know she will focus on our schools and the well being of our children. We trust her to help develop our local amenities while keeping the vibrant, small town charm we all love about Orinda."*

**– Julie Athayde and Bob Athayde, Director of Music, Stanley Middle School and Lafayette Summer Music Workshop**



*"In the increasingly politically chaotic world in which we find ourselves, Inga is a beacon of civility, centrism and thoughtfulness. I have lived in Orinda for forty-four years and known Inga for a good portion of that time...I am convinced that Inga's youthfulness and sensitivity to doing what is best for Orinda will make us all better."*

**– Richard Westin, Co-founder and Current Board Member of the Orinda Community Foundation**

*"Inga Miller is my choice for Orinda City Council. As someone who has lived her whole life in Orinda, she understands our town, and will make a very positive difference in its future."*

**– John Goyak, owner of Casa Orinda**

**Selected Endorsements Include:**

**Elected Offices**

Mayor **Victoria Smith**  
Orinda City Councilwoman **Amy Worth**  
Orinda City Councilman **Dean Orr**  
Orinda City Councilwoman **Darlene Gee**  
Orinda School Board Member **Carol Brown**  
Acalanes Union Board Member **Susie Epstein**  
Bart Director Dist. 3 **Rebecca Saltzman**  
Former Mayor **Sue Severson**  
Former Mayor **Bobbie Landers**  
Former Mayor **Bill Judge**  
Former Mayor **Tom McCormick**  
Former Orinda School Board Pres. **Pat Rudebusch**  
Former Orinda School Board Member **Linda Landau**

**Prominent Orinda Citizens**

Sandy and Dave Anderson  
Julie and Bob Athayde  
Ian Baird  
Sandy Barnett  
James Brovelli  
Bruce Burrows  
Karen and Robert Burt  
Darien and Don Destino  
Nancy Dickmeyer  
George Eckard  
Jessica and Ethan Elkind

Jill Fernald  
Monica and Graeme Fitzsimmons  
Cassandra Forth  
Kevin Friedman  
Paul Gilbert  
John Goyak  
Judy and Jud Hammon  
Tish and Steve Harwood  
Peter Hasselman  
Elle Hoffnagel  
Jackie and Bruce Horowitz  
Cara Hoxie  
Leslie Johnson  
Kathleen Kolman  
Larissa and Nick Kosla  
Jim Landau  
Kirsten and Craig Larsen  
Charles Levine  
Peter Locke  
Jennifer and Jason Lurie  
John Markley  
Laura and Josh McDowell  
Liv Milan  
Marilyn and Mark Morris  
Hillary Murphy  
Stefanie and Steve Murphy

Terry Murphy  
Eartha Newsong  
Laura and Nick Pavlovich  
Carol and Mark Penskar  
David Penskar  
Kersti and Bill Peter  
Kit and Allan Prager  
Peggy and Jim Quirk  
Mark Roberts  
Pat and John Robertson  
Ralph Severson  
Pam and Chris Severson  
Kenneth Silbert  
Shauna Simmonds  
Jackie and Gordon Smith  
Wick Smith  
Roger Squier  
Lynn and Tom Trowbridge  
Joanna Truelson  
Rebecca Verity  
Charles Vollmar  
Bill Wadsworth  
Wilson Wendt  
Richard Westin  
John Wilson  
James Phillip Wright  
Scott Yancey

**Find Out More at [www.IngaForOrinda.com](http://www.IngaForOrinda.com)**

Paid for by Inga Miller for Orinda City Council 2016, 61 Avenida de Orinda, Suite E, Orinda, CA 94563 Campaign ID # 1388379





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 Michael Verbrugge,  
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 Moraga Resident

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## Jonathan 'Ace' Katayanagi – The Face of Fun in Lafayette

... continued from page A3

years before the hockey facility was built in 2008, and thought his son, then 14 years old, could play there. Katayanagi, a hockey fan, loved it and would stay to help put the minimal equipment they had back then away. That led to refereeing hockey games and even when he went away to college at U.C. Santa Cruz he continued to work for the summer camp program back here in Lafayette. During term time in Santa Cruz he became involved with youth and adult sports programs there, too.

After college he took a job working as a building attendant in Lafayette, organizing special events. He was responsible for building the Little Kickers soccer program, which in turn led to the Little Hoopsters program for the very young. He created and directed the Camp Awesome program. The nickname "Ace" comes from that time and has stuck with many Lafayette families. His first students are now out of college. In fact, one couple that met while working as camp counselors with Katayanagi are now getting married.

Katayanagi grew up in Martinez and now lives near his parents with his wife, 5-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son.

He is completely familiar with the way the PTR works, including how to keep all the programs thriving; they continue to be self-supporting. He says having worked here so long he knows how to keep it going and pass it forward.

He is humble and credits Russell for building such a great program. "I have worked with Jennifer Russell for 18 of her 37 years. We have a great friendship. It is great to know that I will still be able to turn to her for guidance after her retirement. She is the mother of Parks, Trails and Recreation in Lafayette and will remain a valuable resource for this department." He says Russell, along with Geoff Bellenger, Alison Hill and Carol Singer from the PTR commission have all been hugely influential.

But Katayanagi has ideas of his own, too, and brings a new perspective. He is already exploring ways to engage the downtown, utilizing Plaza Park and the library amphitheater for concerts, working

closely with the youth commission and the library's teen advisory board as well as the Chamber of Commerce.

He explains, "When I created Camp Awesome I wanted to create a program that kids loved because it was fun, exciting and awesome; and parents loved because it was easy, flexible and worked with the enrichment programs they wanted to expose their kids to; and staff and volunteers loved because it was fun and rewarding to be there. I want to take that Camp Awesome philosophy, that energy, and apply it to all of Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation. The city's volunteer-run boards, such as the city council and the PTR commission, are working with staff to make awesome things happen for the community. We have awesome facilities, we have awesome trails, we have awesome programs and I want the community fully engaged with their awesome resources."

At the heart of any vibrant, active community such as Lafayette's are many volunteers and a few key people; Katayanagi is undoubtedly one of them.

## Historic Nature Gem Hidden in Orinda

... continued from page A7

The area carries the name Wagner for Theodore Wagner, who owned the property, built a lavish home on it and improved the grounds in the 19th century.

The property is now home to an historic olive grove and a red-legged frog pond and has been improved by many projects built over the years by Eagle Scouts as well as many improvements provided by The Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, Miramonte High School, Orinda Intermediate School Service Club, Rotary, and individuals. Educational programs are offered to Wagner Ranch students by District Naturalist Toris Jaeger. Jaeger had been employed by the Orinda Unified School District until funding cuts in 2009. She now provides her services for greatly reduced remuneration provided by the Friends.

Previous administrations did not appreciate the Nature Area; one superintendent proposed uprooting the ancient olive trees and using

the Nature Area as a maintenance yard. There is a new spirit abroad, however. Orinda Union School Board Vice President Carol Brown and board member Jason Kaune, who constituted the committee formed to pursue new policies for the Nature Area, told the Lamorinda Weekly, "We look forward to a new and exciting chapter for the Nature Area that both broadens and deepens its use. In order to achieve that goal, we are proposing a new inclusive governance model for oversight and an aggressive search for new funding and grants. Our goal is nothing short of making our beautiful Nature Area a vibrant learning center for teachers, students, community members, and beyond and a model for outdoor education across curricula."



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### Programs currently offered to Orinda students at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area:

- Third Grade**  
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- Fourth Grade**  
 Native American Studies: Two full days of California history with a focus on the cultures of the Ohlone and Bay Miwok tribes.  
 Rancho Days: Two full days of California history.
- Fifth Grade**  
 First Thanksgiving: One full day complete re-enactment of the First Thanksgiving.  
 Pioneer Days: Two full days of California history.

### Orinda Olive Festival

The public will have access to the usually closed Nature Area at Wagner Ranch from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2 when the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area present the 7th Annual Orinda Olive Festival. In addition to strolling through the beautiful 18-acre nature area, the public can enjoy olive oil tastings and cooking demonstrations and docent tours of the historic ranch. Food and live music will be available, and children can participate in native arts and crafts projects, pond and garden activities, and interact with turtles and baby goats. The proceeds of the event go to support the Nature Area, which is located at 350 Camino Pablo, adjoining Wagner Ranch Elementary School in Orinda. – Sora O'Doherty



# The Family History Project Society

By Sophie Braccini



From left, Lynn Trowbridge, Tish Harwood, Helen Hasselman, Evans Wyro and Joan White. Photo Pete Hasselman

Ever think about publishing your family's history? If so, you're not alone.

Three and a half years ago a group of Orinda women with a passion for history and how their family's roots contributed to the American experience formed the Family History Project Society and have been working on their personal family history projects. One of them, Tish Harwood, will participate in a panel discussion about family history research and publication, alongside Linda Harms Okazaki, president of the California Genealogical Society, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6 at Orinda Books.

Harwood – who recently published the book "A Year Apart," which features a collection of letters her parents exchanged and is the completion of years of research – began the Family History Project Society after noticing that several of her friends were dealing with family archives at various levels of expertise.

She invited Evans Wyro, Helen Hasselman, Lynn Trowbridge, Joan White and the late Jane Buchanan, who supported her when she published her first book featuring a collection of her grandfather's letters, to form a support group.

Buchanan was an inspiration to the entire group; she organized material for different family history projects for her children and her own mother, and was able to complete her work while in chemotherapy.

The key to the success of any family history project, Harwood says, is the initial organizational work.

### Sifting through a Sea of Information

Trowbridge received boxes of photos, letters and clippings that her mother gathered, and inherited some 70 letters from the Civil War era that were transcribed over a 20-year period, organized in archival sleeves and ordered chronologically.

She is now in the middle of researching her and her husband's ancestry, the genealogy and stories going back to the late 1700s, including a Nova Scotia sea captain

on her husband's side, and an ancestor fighting in the Revolutionary War. She is giving the original documents to the New England Historic Genealogical Society for preservation, along with a nursing medal her great-grandmother received during the 1853 yellow fever epidemic in Louisiana. Trowbridge contracted with the Newbury Street Press to publish the family book.

Wyro was given five boxes with photos, some of them from the Civil War era. She also has a purple box filled with the correspondence her mother and her best friend wrote to each other during a 10-year period, when Wyro was a child. The group inspired her to go through the box with her sister and make sense of it, and she says that the group's knowledge and support is helping her work on putting a book together.

### Uncovering Mysteries

Sometimes while going through family archives, mysteries are uncovered. One day White was going through crumbling family photos that the group suggested she restore, and discovered a crumbling photo of four brothers with her grandmother – one more brother than she had always been told her grandmother had.

White did some research on ancestry.com and found records from the late 1880s of that forgotten great-uncle who was the first born, but was retarded and placed in an institution where he lived until his early 30s. Her objective is to consolidate the hundreds of photos, the oldest from the 1860s, add letters, postcards, and personal tidbits that will show who these people were, and put it all in a book format.

Hasselman had already published a book about her great-grandmother when the society was formed, but was interested in following the work of her friends. Her genealogy work also uncovered a mystery. She was told that her great-grandmother, Sophie, was born at sea and she wanted to learn more.

When she started 30 years ago, there was no ancestry.com, so she went first to the Mormon archives for data, then the San Francisco main library to search for when

Danish ships came in, and she went to Copenhagen to do research there.

With the help of another Danish-American she found that her great-grandmother was in fact born in Denmark. She learned that her great-great-grandmother was not married when the children were born; the father had gone to the U.S. to dig for gold. It wasn't until 10 years later that the family was united and the parents were finally married.

It took Hasselman over 10 years to gather the data, write the story and publish the book, "Sophie's Secret."

### Opening Windows to the Past

For Harwood, finding the letters her parents exchanged over a yearlong period when her father was in residency away from home gave her a picture into their souls.

Harwood's mother got Alzheimer's about eight years after the letters were written, and for Harwood's six younger siblings, she says the letters were a revelation of who their mother really was and has provided healing in the family. After her father died, while at her parents' historic Ohio farm, she found 350 letters written in 1954 when her father was away while his wife was home with six kids. It tells the story of two people who shared themselves in writing more than their children ever witnessed.

The five women believe that it is important for the younger generation to get a feel of not only their place of origin, but also what times were like when their ancestors lived. They also believe of the importance of putting documents in archives that people can now access through the Internet.

The group meets once a month and shares updates on their work as well as resources and techniques they use.

The friends say that if people are interested in working on their own memorabilia, they should start their own small group. They add that they are happy to help. For more information about the Orinda Books Family History Month Q&A presentation, go to orindabooks.com.

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## Bringing Joy and Motion to Lamorindans of All Ages

By Diane Claytor



Joy in Motion founders Justin Cole and Linda Craig

Photo GenFphoto/Monica Fitzsimmons

Two years ago, Justin Cole dressed as the Energizer Bunny for Halloween. There is unquestionably not a more appropriate costume for this bundle of energy.

Cole, co-founder of Lamorinda's Joy in Motion, is a performer, choreographer, dance and theater instructor, involved parent and enthusiastically committed community member. Believing it is within everyone's reach "to attain what they want," Cole tells each of his students to "work hard, follow your dreams and never say 'I wish I would have ...'" This is the philosophy by which he lives.

The East Bay native knew, as a third-grader, that he wanted to be a professional dancer. And this was despite the fact that he had never taken a dance class, never even danced. "I saw my very first music video – Madonna's 'Lucky Star.' I was mesmerized," Cole fondly remembered. The next time he saw a music video, it was again Madonna. "This one had a little boy, in a hat, dancing. I wanted to be him."

But Cole was involved in other activities, including soccer and Boy Scouts. He performed in school plays, and "loved it," but his energies were focused elsewhere. Until high school, that is, when he landed a role in the school's production of "42nd Street" and learned to tap dance.

"As soon as I put those tap shoes on, it truly, literally, changed the course of my life," he recalled.

And then his high school became a performing arts school. Cole quit soccer and for the next two years, his unbridled energy went into the performing arts (although he did continue with Boy Scouts, earning his Eagle Scout badge). Dance classes followed, as did studying lyrical theater at San Francisco State University. And then, as often happens, Cole was thrown a curve ball. His parents divorced, left the area and, at 21, he suddenly became owner of the family home, meaning financial responsibilities. Working in the mortgage business, Cole suddenly felt stuck. "The money was good, but the job sucked the life out of me," he said.

Continuing with what he loved, Cole kept taking dance classes and performing in local productions. He also began teaching a hip-hop class. "I basically taught myself hip-hop," he said, by going to clubs and watching videos. "I loved being funky, loved Janet Jackson, Britney Spears. I watched those girls and learned every move."

In 2000, Cole's persistence paid off. "I got a call from CAPA (California Academy of Performing Arts), offering me a position teaching tap," he reported. This one class soon evolved into more, until eventually Cole was teaching 18 classes a week at CAPA. As soon as he could afford to, he quit the mortgage business.

Two years ago, Cole and Linda Craig, a CAPA colleague, decided to form their own dance company and the nonprofit Joy in Motion was born.

Cole explained that many dance studios are very regimented and he and Craig wanted to offer dance to those that might not always have the opportunity, including boys, special needs children and adults. "We want kids that have other activities, who may be involved in sports," he said. "Dance is fun, it doesn't have to be so intense. I don't want a student to stress about missing a class because there's a conflict with something else important."

"I've never been happier in my life," Cole stated proudly. A look at Joy in Motion's fall schedule, which includes more than 300 young students, indicates just how popular this program is – almost every class is full.

Cole, with his enormous amount of energy, is also deeply committed to his community. He's on the board of the Lamorinda Arts Council; works with the Peter Pan Foundation; serves

as VP of Family Connections at Orinda's Wagner Ranch Elementary School, where his son, Trenton, is a fourth-grader; teaches an enrichment class in El Sobrante; and still teaches a dance class in El Cerrito, the very studio where he studied dance all those years ago. Next week, Cole, a popular event host, will emcee a dance-a-thon in Orinda, a fundraiser for the Bay Area Crisis Nursery. (See sidebar for details.)

As excited as Cole is for each of these incredible opportunities, one of the "biggest things I've ever done," is happening in November. Dance for Kindness, sponsored by Life Vest Inside, has asked Cole to choreograph its worldwide freeze mob/ flash mob. Last year, 12,000 dancers from 100 cities in 50 countries all danced the same dance to the same song on the same day.

Cole has created the dance and filmed the tutorial.

"This is so overwhelming to me. It's amazing and super exciting," he said. "After all, kindness is what keeps the world afloat and both kindness and dance are universal."

### Dance-a-thon Planned on Sept. 25

Joy in Motion's Justin Cole has joined forces with Orindan Sharon McGinnis Girdlesone, owner of My Sustainable Table, to host a fun and charitable dance-a-thon for kids of all ages. There will be food, games, contests, prizes and a raffle drawing for an incredible basket containing more than \$1,000 worth of goodies. And there will be dancing: disco, hip-hop, breakdancing, limbo, maybe even a cha-cha or samba.

Cole will serve as the afternoon's emcee and dancers from around the area will be leading the various dance sessions. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, a program designed to provide a loving and warm environment for children whose families are facing exceptionally stressful situations.

The Dance-a-thon, open to all kids and their parents, will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25 at the Quarry House at Wilder in Orinda. The cost is \$39 per child; parents get in for free. Tickets at bayareadance-foracause.com.



Justin Cole leads Lamorinda dancers in the 2015 Dance for Kindness freeze mob/flash mob in Lafayette Plaza

Photo Kelly Zheng



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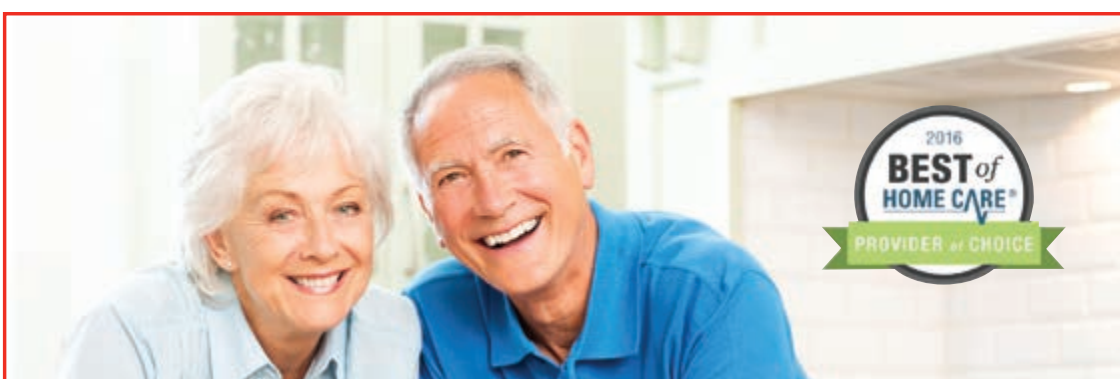
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# Moraga Gallery Exhibit Reveals Stark Contrasts

By Sophie Braccini



George Ehrenhaft stands in front of his paintings; in the forefront are some of David and Reed Bowman's creations. Photo Sophie Braccini



Bracelets by David and Reed Bowman. Photo provided

The Moraga Art Gallery this month presents an exhibition starring George Ehrenhaft, one of the gallery's partners and the featured painter of the exhibition, and metal workers David Bowman and son. The rich contrast in style — hard metal versus tender brushes and paints — creates a vibration that heightens one's senses while visiting the inviting space located in the Rheem Shopping Center.

At the center of the exhibit is Ehrenhaft's portrait of Mount Diablo from Skyline, a beautiful rendering of the famous scenery. Another painting of the local giant features the fog rolling in. The transparency that's proper to watercolor is beautifully suited to this type of scenery and feel. Blackbirds and a cow meander in Ehrenhaft's paintings. A beautiful picture of Yosemite in November delicately shows snow freshly fallen on the ground. Watercolor can also feature strength, such as a Half Dome rendering that includes delicate trees in front of the majestic rock.

Ehrenhaft's landscapes evoke in two dimensions the transparency of water, the translucency of fog, the dreamy feel of clouds, the elegance of the trees and the beauty of nature in pastel colors that speak of serenity.

The work of Bowman and his son Reed contrasts beautifully with Ehrenhaft's light touch. The Bowmans are metal workers, hammering, fusing, sculpting, enameling in their Berkeley studio, in stark contrast to the painter who says he likes nothing more than silence when he paints his delicate and evocative watercolors.

The father and son duo work the metal in elegant and modern lines, creating unique objects in their studio. Their art is not only decorative; it is also functional and even wearable as they create metal bracelets.

A former English teacher, Ehrenhaft moved to Moraga from Westchester County, New York, in 2005 to get closer to his daugh-

ter's family. Ehrenhaft and his wife were fast to make friends in the area. He developed his painting talent after retirement, taking out of storage the watercolor his father, a professional painter, had left him. Ehrenhaft is mostly a self-taught artist who learned through watching others paint. He joined the California Watercolor Association, a large group that has been a great resource for him.

Ehrenhardt, an avid hiker, fell in love with the California landscape, and often during his hikes, takes out his sketch pad and a few colors and creates a draft that will serve as the base for his final product. He says he throws away about half of his watercolors.

"The most common problem is 'mud,'" he says, explaining that the colors of the painting lose their luminescence because too many layers have been applied. He adds that the difficulty comes from the way colors look when they dry, some lighter, some very much lighter, than when they are applied.

David Bowman has worked his trade for more than 45 years. He started out creating silver jewelry, then moved into candlesticks, vases and abstract art. The work shown at the Moraga art gallery is a mix of silver and brass. Reed Bowman says he has worked for his father on his brass designs since he was 4 years old. The younger Bowman has a passion for medieval studies and works in academia, but cannot imagine not working with his hands. He helps with his father's designs when the engineering is challenging and works on his own creations, too.

The Moraga Art Gallery is a 16-year-old cooperative run by a group of 16 member artists. It hosts shows featuring a member artist along with a guest artist several times a year. The gallery is located in the Rheem Shopping Center, at 522 Center Street, Moraga. Hours are noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. For further details, visit [www.moragaartgalley.com](http://www.moragaartgalley.com) or call (925) 376-5407.

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## Campolindo Bestows Service Awards to Students

Submitted by Barbie Bocks



Photo provided

Campolindo High School recognized more than 100 students at the Third Annual Volunteer Service Awards on May 24 in the Performing Art Center. Students received awards for their service to organizations as varied as Bay Area Rescue Mission, Chabot Space & Science Center, Children's Hospital, Global Student Embassy and Harbor House.

Campolindo High School Principal John Walker commended the students during his opening

remarks for "demonstrating civic responsibility at their school, in local communities, and throughout countries all around the world." In total this past year, students volunteered for more than 12,000 combined hours.

Many of these students earned the President's Service Volunteer Award given by the federal government to recognize Americans who by their demonstrated commitment and example inspire others to engage in volunteer service. Bronze,

Silver, and Gold awards are earned by students who volunteer between 25 and 250 hours over a 12-month time period.

One of the event's student speakers, senior Olivia Carver, congratulated the recipients for giving so much and provided encouragement by saying she believes "everyone, no matter how busy or how limited in resources, can serve."

Another student speaker, junior Spencer Giglio remarked, "We all helped people through our work

and that was the intention. But what I want all of you to remember is the feeling you received after your work, whatever you may have done. Remember the sense of accomplishment and the joy that you felt in your service."

Students throughout Lamorinda continue great volunteer work year round and they will be able to apply for these awards again in spring of 2017.

**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.

### Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

## Girl Scouts Help Fifth Graders Prepare for Middle School

Submitted by Molly Wendt



From Left, Girl Scouts Silver Award recipients Maile Broad, Keri Wendt, Madison Price and Jordan Pratt.

Photo provided

Four members of the eighth grade Lafayette Girl Scout Troop #32238 recently completed the work required for their Silver Award.

Maile Broad, Jordan Pratt, Madison Price, and Keri Wendt hosted an event for Stanley Middle School's incoming sixth-grade girls. The eighth-grade girls remembered the feelings of anxiety and confusion that many fifth-grade girls feel when they start middle school and wanted to make the fifth-grade girls feel more comfortable and excited about coming to Stanley.

Their event, held in early May, was the final part of a year-long journey which included many hours of hard work, fundraising and marketing. The girls held a garage sale with the other members of their troop to raise money. They then gathered their ideas for the event and met with Stanley Principal David

Schrag and counselor Tiffany Sullivan, who were enthusiastic about the idea.

The Scouts set a goal of 50 participants and were excited to host 115 girls at their event! The day began by introducing Stanley's Principal Schrag and Counselor Sullivan in addition to four sixth-grade teachers. They then gave the fifth graders a tour of the school before gathering in the gym for their Power Point presentation. They answered multiple questions from the fifth-grade girls, and the event concluded with handing out a "Stanley girl's survival kit" to each participant.

The event was a huge success and the Scouts hope that the incoming sixth-grade girls left feeling more comfortable, prepared and excited about coming to Stanley Middle School this year.

## Campolindo's Leo Club Donates Funds to MEF

Submitted by Bob Murtagh



From left, Director Remy Benner, Associate Principal Jon Drury, President Morgan Scanlan, Secretary Genevieve O'Brien, Leo Advisor Tren Kauzer, and Vice President Brigitte Marinier.

The Moraga Lions Club has sponsored a Leo Club at Campolindo High School for the past 15 years. This is the 10th year the Leo Club has donated \$250 to the Moraga Education Foundation. The Leo Club is a service club which averages over 10,000 hours of community service annually. The

Leo Club motto is "We Serve" and members participate in many local activities, including the Fourth of July celebration, the Wine and Pear Festival and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District pancake breakfast.

For more information about Lions and Leo's contact Bob Murtagh 925-283-1841.

## Moraga Native Venetia Baker Receives Rotary Global Grant

Submitted by Gary Irwin

The Rotary International Foundation recently awarded a Global Grant to Venetia Baker, a Campolindo High School graduate who attended UC Santa Cruz and has been working for an NGO in rural South Africa in the area of maternal and infant health and AIDS research.

The grant provides educational funding at the master's degree level to attend the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in London, U.K. for a degree in Reproductive and Sexual Health Research.

Baker's goals are reducing the mortality and morbidity rate for children under the age of five, reducing the maternal mortality and

morbidity rate, improving access to essential medical services, trained community health leaders and health care providers for mothers and their children in poor countries.

The Rotary Foundation Global Grant is a minimum of \$30,000 up to a maximum of \$200,000. The grant matches a local District Designated Fund scholarship by 100 percent, plus other cash donations by 50 percent. Rotary District 5160 is awarding her a \$15,000 scholarship being matched 100 percent, and Moraga Rotary is providing a \$500 scholarship being matched 50 percent, for a total scholarship to Baker of \$30,750.

She left for London on Sept. 14.

## Kohl Receives Arts Recognition Award from County Commission



Lawrence Kohl

Photo LW archive

Congratulations to Lawrence Kohl, a winner of the 2016 Contra Costa Arts Commission Arts Recognition Awards.

Kohl was president of the Orinda Art Council as well as music director and conductor of the Pacific Chamber Symphony;

which performed in the Lamorinda area and in Livermore. Kohl recently led the expansion of the Orinda Art Council to become the Lamorinda Arts Council and supported the establishment and growth of new programs including the California Independent Film Festival, the Moraga Wine and Pear Festival, the High School Visual Arts Competition, the Lamorinda Short Docs Film Festival and the very popular Lamorinda Poet Laureate program.

He was nominated by Erling Horn, former Lafayette mayor and council member, and member of the Lafayette Art Committee.

A ceremony honoring Kohl and the other winners will take place at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 25 at the Board of Supervisors Meeting, Office of County Administration, 651 Pine Street in Martinez.

## In Memory

### Robert A. Depolo

June 8, 1929 – August 23, 2016

Robert "Bob" Depolo, a 40-year Moraga resident, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 23 in Tracy. He is survived by his wife of 55 years Carol Depolo, his two children, Jim of San Diego, and Laura of Tracy, as well as 4 grandchildren: Dayna, Sean, Mark and Matt. A small family service was held at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lafayette.

Born in Chicago, Bob spent most of his childhood growing up in San Francisco, going to St. Vincent de Paul grammar school, Sacred Heart High School, and USF. He then went to Korea for four years and joined the FBI in Washington D.C. upon returning to the U.S., where he was proud to be a special agent.

He met Carol when he moved back to California while working at Kaiser Steel. He always said asking her out was the best decision of his life. Bob proceeded to get his CPA from Golden Gate University in SF and spent the rest of his career in accounting. He was a partner with Hurdman and Cranston, Vice President at Wells Fargo, and CFO of Monterey Mechanical. Bob will be remembered as a good husband, father and provider for his family, a long time parishioner at St. Monica's in Moraga, his love of tennis, the Golden State Warriors, and his favorite, the San Francisco 49ers. Donations in memory of Bob can be made online to the wonderful people of hospice [www.Aseracarefoundation.org](http://www.Aseracarefoundation.org).



# Yes SIR, There's A Club For You

By Kara Navolio



On left: Spencer Christian (the TV weatherman)

Photo provided

What's a guy to do with all his free time after retirement? If he's interested in staying active, making new friends, and trying new things, he might join Sons in Retirement (SIR). Its mission is to promote independence and dignity in retirement.

The Lamorinda area has two branches of SIR, branches 171 and 174; both meet at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center in Moraga for a monthly lunch and speaker.

There are no fees to pay; members simply pay \$25 for the lunch.

"This is a place to come for new friendships and new activities to try. It's a refuge, in a way, from other demands on your time like community service and fundraising. We just enjoy being together socially," explains Tyler Hunt, a branch 174 member for four years.

In addition to the monthly luncheon, members enjoy a plethora of activities to choose from either on a weekly or monthly basis. Some gather for bridge, poker, dominoes or pinocle. There are groups who like to hike, golf, bowl or play bocce. There is a fishing group, a book club, and wine tasting groups. In addition, there are extended learning opportunities in investments or computer technology. While spouses are not included in the monthly lunch, they are invited to most of the other activities. In December both Lamorinda branches come together for a couples' luncheon and holiday celebration.

SIR was started in 1958 in San Mateo and conceived by Damian L. Reynolds. He gathered three friends together to meet for lunch. From there the idea was born, and the next month they had 18 for lunch and adopted the name Sons in Retirement

along with some rules for membership, including the idea that there would be no dues or fees and that this was a place for men who were retired and semi-retired from full-time employment to enjoy social time together.

There are now 150 branches throughout Northern California. The Lamorinda branch got so big and had a two year waiting list, so another branch was added in 2009. Each branch boasts more than 100 members, ranging in age from mid-50's to over 90 years old.

Jon Leuteneker, Big Sir of Branch 174, serves as chairman for the year. "I enjoy the monthly speakers and the camaraderie of the people I meet doing things I enjoy doing. We welcome new members to join us."

Larry Thompson, a 20-year member of branch 171, adds, "It's a great way to get out of the house and get involved. You form friendships within the activities you choose to be a part of."

For more information or to inquire about membership, visit [www.branch171.sirinc2.org](http://www.branch171.sirinc2.org) or [www.branch174.sirinc2.org](http://www.branch174.sirinc2.org).

## An Artist's Prompt

Local middle schoolers tap talent in annual LYAS writing and photography contest

Submitted by Charlie Keohane



First place LYAS writing category winner John Kalil

Photo provided

Every year, the teenagers who run the Lafayette Youth Arts Society host a writing and photography contest for middle schoolers, arranging prompts, judges, mon-

etary prizes and an awards ceremony. The contest has flourished over the past years, and has attracted hundreds of budding artists to submit entries.

John Kalil is no exception.

After two years of receiving honorable mentions, John, who was an eighth-grader at the time, claimed first place in the writing category of the third annual LYAS Writing and Photography Contest at the Lafayette Library Community Hall on May 15. The hall was filled with proud parents and excited teens gathered to celebrate the winners.

When asked if LYAS sparked his passion for writing, John responded, "I was somewhat interested in writing when I was a lot younger, but when Linnae [former LYAS member] came into my sixth grade English class to talk about a brand new writing contest, I immediately knew I wanted to enter and started my entry that night."

John said it was not only rewarding to win first place after receiving honorable mentions in the first two years of the contest,

but to read his first entry and see how much he has grown as a writer since then.

The winner of the \$250 grand prize and a book shared some insights he gained through his participation in the contest. "Don't be afraid to step outside of your writing comfort zone," John said. "My first two entries were fantasy/adventure stories, but only after I stepped out of the box and wrote more of an emotional piece did I win. Never be afraid to switch things up in your writing."

This was John's last year participating in the contest, as it is only open to middle schoolers. Although he said he is sad, John is grateful for the experiences LYAS has given him and plans on continuing writing in high school.

At the ceremony, other winners read their stories or presented their photos to an audience of peers and parents before claiming prizes of

money, books and other gifts.

"We're really fortunate to live in a town that supports creativity," said Uma Unni, founder of the LYAS. "We have so many supporters and sponsors from the community - for example, some of our main donors are the Sunrise Rotarians, the Lafayette Community Foundation, Lori Legler of Alain Pinel Realtors and The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. On top of that, there are several local businesses who have really supported us over the years, like Pizza Antica and Patxi's and Powell's Sweet Shop."

LYAS plans to release the prompts for the Fourth Annual LYAS Writing and Photography Contest on Nov. 14. Middle schoolers are encouraged to enter, and express their creativity and passion through photos and words. For more information, visit [lyas.org](http://lyas.org).

## Day Trippings

### Sneak in a Carmel-by-the-Sea Weekend

By Fran Endicott Miller



Courtyard at Hotel Carmel

Photos Fran Endicott Miller

Carmel's charm is undeniable. From the storybook quality of each building and storefront, to the ocean views along the coastal walk, a weekend in Carmel refreshes and rejuvenates. At only two hours and 15 minutes driving time south (give or take depending on traffic conditions), it's far enough away from Lamorinda to provide a different environment, yet close enough for even a day trip. Whether for a romantic weekend, a girls or guys getaway or a family vacation, Carmel delivers sights and activities to please everyone.

A great home base for your Carmel weekend is the newly remodeled Hotel Carmel, centrally located and a stone's throw from the shops, galleries, winetasting rooms and restaurants that lure visitors to the area. Formerly the

Dolphin Inn, the freshly refurbished boutique hotel blends classic Carmel-by-the-Sea cottage architecture with modern seaside aesthetics. The area's ever-present coastal fog calls for elements of warmth, which are delivered in spades in the form of a courtyard fire pit and fireplace, a concealed courtyard Jacuzzi and fireplaces in 14 of the 27 rooms, of which one is a one-bedroom suite, and another a two-room suite, each perfect for families. The cozy lobby serves as the hotel's communal gathering spot, where guests can peruse a wall of classic music cassette tapes. Pop your favorite into the vintage cassette player while you enjoy a glass of complimentary wine with fellow travelers after a day of sightseeing. Wind down further with a game of backgammon, or select

a book from the lobby's lending library. Return to the lobby each morning for fresh coffee, bagels, and delicious house made granola.

The hotel's onsite restaurant, Brophy's Tavern, serves possibly the best burger and Cobb salad in town. Vintage beer cans and sports memorabilia line the interior walls, and a refurbished juke box plays classic tunes. The vibe is warm, welcoming and convivial, as it is at most restaurants in town. For breakfast, visit quaint spots like Village Corner, the Carmel Coffee House or Tuck Box. For lunch, consider Little Napoli or the very popular La Bicyclette. A classic Italian dinner at Vesuvio is always festive - be sure to start with a cocktail at their rooftop bar.

Work off your meal with a walk along beautiful and expansive Carmel Beach and its adja-

cent tidepools. Stroll the one-square-mile village streets and explore boutiques, shops and nearly 100 art galleries. Formula One racing fans will love the Light+Shadow Fine Art gallery on Sixth Avenue featuring race-themed works by Thierry Thompson. Make sure to venture into the numerous courtyards that you'll pass. Each is more enchanting than the next, with secret gardens, unique boutiques, and restaurants hidden within.

Carmel Plaza, for instance, looks modest from the street, but inside you'll find A-list stores and gourmet dining spots. Don't miss the Cottage of Sweets on Ocean Avenue, a traditional British style sweet shop with delicious varieties of house made fudge and other goodies sold by the pound. And you don't need to be a kid to appreciate magical Thinker Toys, an old-fashioned

toy store and Carmel institution since 1969. Offering classic educational and imaginative toys for children AND adults, their motto is: "Where play is a way of thinking."

If your wanderlust extends beyond enchanting Carmel Village, visit Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, the crown jewel of the California State Park system, just three miles away. Travel along the 17-Mile Drive for a peek at intriguing mansions, or plan a golf game at the one of the area's iconic courses. Head inland to Carmel Valley and explore the area's pastoral landscape - home to premier wineries and luxury resorts like Carmel Valley Ranch, Quail Lodge, and Bernardus Lodge. You'll never find yourself at a loss for things to see and do in Carmel.



Thinker Toys



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## ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

### ART

**“The American Soldier, A Photographic Tribute,”** an exhibition of 116 photographs, from the Civil War to the War in Iraq, is on display at the Saint Mary’s College Museum of Art. This is a dramatic exhibition of photographs from the Civil War to the War in Iraq that captures the essence of American soldiering over more than 150 years, ever since the birth of photography when the camera became a notebook to history, starting with the Civil War. It will run through Dec. 18. “Social Justice, It Happens to One It Happens To All,” will run through Dec. 11. Curated by Gutfreund Cornett Art, this international exhibition showcases 43 artists on the themes of social justice that examines timely subject matter being debated during this election year. The Saint Mary’s College Museum of Art is open Wednesday-Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$5. Children and military members are admitted free.

**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 featured guest artists, David and Reed Bowman’s brass and copper objects. The exhibit runs through Oct. 22 and includes works by the gallery’s 16 member artists and several guest artists.

**Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery Presents: Off The Wall** through Oct. 1. This tongue in cheek art exhibit will show colorful works of glass, fiberglass, wood, and wire, all 3D art that pops off the wall and can be “off the wall” in character. Artists: Tim Sharman, Karen Olsen-Dunn, Vivien Hart, Tony Zorich, and Dan Rider.

**The City of Lafayette Public Art Committee** invites the public to attend a welcome reception for its newest art exhibit “Art of Lundy Siegriest” featuring oil paintings from the late Lundy Siegriest. The reception will be held at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Library Gallery, from 6 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 26. The exhibit runs through Nov. 20.

**Prelude to Lafayette Art Show at Orinda Library** - Twenty-eight local artists, all members of the Lamorinda Arts Alliance, will display representative examples of their work at the Orinda Library Gallery through the month of October. The first week of the exhibit serves as a prelude to the LAA’s second annual free art show and sale to be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8 in a park-like setting at the Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Drive near the St. Mary’s Road intersection.

**Valley Art Gallery announces their new show “Portfolio 16F.”** Fall means color, and our new fall collection features 300 new works of art as colorful as fall in the Diablo Valley. From abstracts to landscapes to watercolors, the new collection includes works from the best East Bay artists, for sale or rent. Plus, there are beautifully crafted ceramic, wood and glass pieces, and original designer jewelry. There will be a free reception with beverages and light snacks from 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24. The show will continue through Nov. 12.

### MUSIC

**The Moraga Pear and Wine Festival will be held** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24 at the Moraga Commons Park. This is a family friendly event with activities for all ages celebrating Moraga’s Pear history! Join your friends and neighbors for live performances and afternoon concert from 2 to 4 p.m. with the Tuneriders, wine tasting with the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association, pear pies, jumpies, food, local artist booths, community booths, and more.

**In a not-to-be-missed season premiere,** the Gold Coast Chamber Players launch their 2016-17 season with the first of five concerts, Oboe-Centric, at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24, featuring oboist Mingjia Liu, Principal Oboe of San Francisco Opera. Mingjia is one of the leading oboe players in the US and his expressive style and virtuosity has made him one of Gold Coast’s most popular musicians. Ticket price includes complimentary champagne, a pre-concert talk at 7 p.m., and a reception with the musicians following the performance. Tickets and more information are available at [www.gcplayers.org](http://www.gcplayers.org) and by phone at (925) 283-3728. Limited seating, please reserve early.

**Barefoot Chamber Concerts presents “Diversimode Accordata”**: scordatura music of Heinrich Biber from 6 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 30, at Parish Hall of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. The lovely and rarely heard music of Heinrich Biber for scordatura violins and continuo, played by the Bay Area’s finest Biber experts. Cost: \$15. For more info see <http://barefootchamberconcerts.com> or call (510) 220-1195 or email [info@barefootchamberconcerts.com](mailto:info@barefootchamberconcerts.com).

**Pacific Chamber Orchestra begins the new Lamorinda Season** at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 7 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center in the Community Hall. Lawrence Kohl, orchestra founder and conductor for 27 years, presents a musical journey into the world of “Brilliant Baroque” with the music of J.S. Bach, Pachelbel, Couperin, and Frescobaldi. A reception will follow the concert. Tickets are \$10-\$40. Children with paying adult are free. Tickets are available at [www.PacificChamberOrchestra.org](http://www.PacificChamberOrchestra.org) or at the door.

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**Celebrate Family History Month at Orinda Books** at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 6. The evening will include a presentation and Q&A with a panel of people who have pursued different aspects of family history research and publication including Orinda resident Tish Harwood, sharing a book created from a collection of letters written between her parents during the war, and Linda Harms Okazaki, president, California Genealogical Society. For information, visit [www.orindabooks.com](http://www.orindabooks.com).

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**Sewnnow Fall Fashion Open house from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.** on Thursday, Sept. 22. Learn all about the new FashionClub program for teens and teens, visit the new Sewnnow supply store, and talk to professional instructors about your next creative project. Fall color and fashion trends will be on display and there will be a free fashion sketching workshop. Sewnnow is located at 3534 Golden Gate Way in Lafayette.

**The Lafayette Library and Learning Center** presents GIANT Jenga from 4 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28 in the Amphitheater. Play giant Jenga (made out of soda boxes) outside!

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District’s Fall Open House** and Pancake Breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 1, at Station 41 – 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga. Kids and adults can meet their local firefighters, tour the fire trucks, and gather important fire safety and disaster preparedness information from MOFD and other local agencies. Smokey the Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog will make special guest appearances throughout the day. There will be a child ID and fingerprinting station, a bounce house, live demonstrations, raffles, prizes and much more! For more information, please contact the Moraga-Orinda Fire District at (925) 258-4599, or visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org).

**Come spend a day out with the family** at The Gardens at Heather Farm for the annual Harvest Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 9, where you can wander through a patch of vine-growing pumpkins, pick a pumpkin to take home, snap photos of the kids, dance to live music on the lawn, savor a great lunch and festive treats, and learn more about what makes The Gardens tick. Admission: \$6 per person. Pumpkins, food, beverages and professional mini-photo sessions are available for purchase in addition to the entry fee. For more information, visit [www.gardenshf.org](http://www.gardenshf.org) or call (925) 947-1678.

### OTHER

**ElderConsult Geriatric Medicine, a medical practice** that addresses the challenging medical and behavioral issues often facing older patients and their families, will be hosting a conference for families and elder care professionals on overcoming the challenges of early dementia. The conference will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 22 at the Orinda Masonic Center at 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda. The fee is \$25 for general admissions and \$45 for CEU units for selected professionals: Nurses, RCFE Administrators, Nursing Home Administrators, CNA/HHA, Geriatric Care Managers. Registration is required. Go to [elderconsult.com](http://elderconsult.com) to register.

**Announcing Dementia Conference: Living in the Moment,** Person Centered Dementia Care for Families and Elder Care Professionals from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 22 at the Orinda Masonic Center, 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda. The fee is \$25 for general admissions and \$45 for CEU units for selected professionals: Nurses, RCFE Administrators, Nursing Home Administrators, CNA/HHA, Geriatric Care Managers. Registration is required. Go to [elderconsult.com](http://elderconsult.com) to register. A Continental breakfast and conference materials will be provided.

**Lafayette Homeowners Council will present** a “Candidates and Issues Night” at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 22 at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary’s Rd. in Lafayette. For more information go to [www.lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org](http://www.lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org).

**Las Trampas invites you to a fun event for the entire family** that also supports a good cause. You can walk, roll or run at the seventh annual Walk n’ Roll one-mile or 5K from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 24, on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail at 3460 Lana Lane. Registration fee of \$25 includes T-shirt, raffle, Whole Foods bag, games by KKDV and Backyard Carnivals, refreshments and entertainment by the KKDV van and Bread & Roses. You can register online at [www.lastrampas.org](http://www.lastrampas.org).

**Nights can be nippy without a cozy kitty to cuddle with.** Find your snuggle bug at Community Concern for Cats adoption event from 1 to 4 p.m. this Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 24 and 25, at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see [www.communityconcernforcats.org](http://www.communityconcernforcats.org).

**Join the National Park Service for a free campfire** program at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24 at John Muir National Historic Site (NHS) in Martinez. Step back into early California when the Martinez Adobe was the heart of Rancho Pinole. The musical group Los Arribeños de San Francisco led by Lance Beeson – a descendant of the Anza Expedition’s Second in Command Jose Joaquin Moraga – will share the songs, dances and games of the Spanish and Mexican eras of Alta California. No reservations are required.

## Lamorinda’s Religious Services

### ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

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

**Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am**  
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 11 - 2

[www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)



Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church

**mvpc**

Sundays, 9 & 10:30am

10 Moraga Valley Lane | [www.mvpc.today.org](http://www.mvpc.today.org) | 925.376.4800

### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 [www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)



8:30 a.m. Traditions Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. Education for all ages  
10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship Service  
Coffee Fellowship at 9:30 and 11:45 a.m.  
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

### SAINT GILES’ EPISCOPAL CHURCH

9am Sunday School &  
Communion Service  
in the SMC Chapel



[stgiles-moraga.org](http://stgiles-moraga.org)  
(925) 376-5770  
traditional liturgy +  
inclusive theology



### St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda  
254-3770. [www.ststephensorinda.org](http://www.ststephensorinda.org)  
Sunday 8am, 10am



10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | [www.orindachurch.org](http://www.orindachurch.org)  
“No matter who you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!”  
Join us Sundays at 10 a.m. | Sunday School 10 a.m.



### Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 [thelumc.org](http://thelumc.org)  
Sunday 10am Worship and Faith Formation for all ages  
Opportunities to Love God, Love Others,  
and Serve the World

### St. Anselm’s Episcopal Church A Loving Community

**Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM**

In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare  
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)

### LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**MOVIE REVIEW**

**Film Clips**  
**She's Back**

By Derek Zemrak



**B**ridget Jones hit theaters nationwide this past week with the third installment: "Bridget Jones's Baby." We all remember the hopelessly romantic Bridget Jones (Renee Zellweger) in the 2001 box office hit, "Bridget Jones's Diary" – the movie that made Zellweger a household name and the girl next door that everyone loved. The original grossed over \$254 million worldwide. The sequel, "Bridget Jones's The Edge of Reason" was released in 2004 generating \$228 million around the world.

This time, Bridget's life is once again interrupted when she discovers she is pregnant but is not sure who the daddy is. Well it's a 50-50 chance between two men: Mark, once again portrayed by Colin Firth, and newcomer to the film franchise, Jack (Patrick Dempsey). Hugh Grant

does not appear in the film but the story begins with Hugh Grant's character Daniel's funeral. The movie has several funny moments throughout the two hours and two minutes, although at times it appears like the "Who's the Dad" theme is stretched. But all is saved with the appearance of two-time Oscar recipient Emma Thompson in her role as Dr. Rawlings. She delivers much more than a baby in the delivery room.

"Bridget Jones's Baby" is a fun date night movie that is directed by Sharon Maguire, who also directed the first installment of this film franchise.

**Love Is In the Air!**

R&R Stage and Screen will be presenting the award winning play "Love Letters" written by A.R. Gurney, for three performances: at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, and at 2 and 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9 at the Rheem Theatre. "Love Letters" will be directed by Adam Reeves and performed by Tony Dow (Leave It to Beaver) and Beverly Washburn (Old Yeller).

"Love Letters" is a unique and imaginative theater comprised of letters exchanged over a lifetime between two people who grew up together, went their separate ways, but continued to share confidences.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at [www.lamorindatheatres.com](http://www.lamorindatheatres.com).

**◆ Not to be missed**

**OTHER ... continued**

**The Frank Lloyd Wright Estate in Orinda is hosting** a First Responders Appreciation Day from 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24 at 6 Great Oak Circle, Orinda. You are invited to tour the five buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and the beautiful four-acre grounds landscaped by Henry Matsutani. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served. For information, visit [www.FrankLloydWrightEstate.com](http://www.FrankLloydWrightEstate.com).

**The Middle Eastern Festival is from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.** Saturday, Sept 24, and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25 at 501 Moraga Way, Orinda. Enjoy fabulous food, entertainment, folk dancing, a craft bazaar, plus fun and games for children of all ages. Sponsored by St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church. Visit [www.stjohnorinda.org](http://www.stjohnorinda.org) or call (925) 258-4255.

**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.

**St. Mark's United Methodist Church will be hosting** "The Harmony Gathering" at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28. This is a come as you are celebration of community and connection. We will begin with a spaghetti dinner (provided) and transition to time for live music (secular and sacred), dramatic arts and storytelling as we explore our connection with the Divine and with each other. All are welcome to join us for this lively multigenerational, one room, sometimes messy celebration. 451 Moraga Way, Orinda.

**BrightStar Care is hosting an event around** non-pharmacologic strategies for responding to the challenging behaviors exhibited by persons with dementia at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial building. This session will be beneficial to family members of those experiencing dementia, as well as those attempting to care for their loved ones. This seminar will count towards free continuing education units for any certified nursing assistants or nurses who would like to attend, they need not be an employee of BrightStar. RSVP by Monday, Sept. 26: Call 925 284 8888 or email [lafayette@brightstarcare.com](mailto:lafayette@brightstarcare.com)

**The Many Faces of Prostate Cancer from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** on Thursday, Sept. 29 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Room, 3491 Mt Diablo Blvd. Come and experience an event focusing on the unique issues of prostate cancer patients. Join an engaging panel of medical experts who will discuss the latest information regarding ongoing screening, risk factors, and advances in treatment. Q&A session to follow the presentation. To register, please call (925) 677-5041 x272.

**Serbian Food Festival from noon to 10 p.m.** on Saturday, Oct. 1 at the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, 1700 School St., Moraga. Enjoy Sarma, kobasice, cevapci, raznici, pork and lamb and other favorites. Live music and delicious homemade pastries too.

**Walnut Creek Walk to End Alzheimer's is at 10 a.m.** on Saturday, Oct. 1 at Heather Farm Park, 1301 North San Carlos Drive, Walnut Creek. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. Walkers can register individually or start teams with friends, family or coworkers. Register online at [www.act.alz.org/WalnutCreek2016](http://www.act.alz.org/WalnutCreek2016).

**The Lamorinda Arts Council presents its third annual Art of Mixology.** Come sample 20 craft cocktails in a safe and sane fashion, eat gourmet finger foods, and enjoy some music in Orinda Theatre Square at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 8. Tickets are \$45. <https://shop.orindaarts.org/shop/tickets/tasting-ticket-art-mixology-craft-cocktail-competition>

**Please join us at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 8 for** the Blessing of the Animals event in honor of St. Francis of Assisi at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Way, Orinda. We would be honored to bless your animal or, if your child has a beloved stuffed animal, we would love to bless them as well. The Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) will be represented. Contact Pastor Joshua Serrano (925)254-3422 ext. 104 with any questions.

**"Home Composting for Busy People" workshop from 10:30 a.m. to noon** on Sunday, Oct. 9 at McDonnell Nursery in Orinda. Learn how to compost at home and reduce your garbage significantly in less than 15 minutes per week. Finished compost improves the earth's soil and adds valuable nutrients to keep your plants healthy. Call (925) 254-3713 or email [info@mcdonnellnursery.com](mailto:info@mcdonnellnursery.com) to reserve a seat.

**Welcome to Medicare is a free class presented** by the Contra Costa Health Insurance Counseling and

Advocacy Program (HICAP) from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 12 at John Muir Medical Center, Walnut Creek. You will learn when and how to enroll, about Medicare costs and benefits, prescription coverage, Medicare Advantage plans (HMOs), Medicare Supplements and how Medicare coordinates with other coverage. See [www.cchicap.org](http://www.cchicap.org) or call (925) 602-4163 for more information. Materials provided. No products sold or endorsed.

**A gigantic book sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Saturday, Oct. 15 at the Moraga Library. Books of every category will be sold at prices ranging from 25 cents to \$4. Beginning at 1 p.m. a bag can be purchased for \$5 which can be filled with all the books it can hold. Come to what is one of the biggest bargain sales in Lamorinda!

**Berkeley Chamber presents Crush and Craft Festival** on Sunday, Oct. 16 at Hotel Durant: 2600 Durant Ave, Berkeley. Crush and Craft is an exciting and much anticipated annual event celebrating local artisanal food, fine wine and craft beer. This year we will feature 20 food vendors and 20 beverage vendors offering delicious samples for all attendees. Tickets are \$40 for unlimited samples.

**A Taste of Walnut Creek 2016 19th Annual Restaurant Walk** - The Original Walking Tour of Downtown Walnut Creek Restaurants from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 18. Buy your ticket books from AAUW OML and join your friends for a delightful evening tasting food from over 20 Downtown Walnut Creek Restaurants. Ticket Books will be available for purchase for \$30 per person before Oct. 10 from Jan Cushman, 143 Meadow View Road, Orinda. For more info, email [jancushman@comcast.net](mailto:jancushman@comcast.net).

**John Muir presents Breast Cancer Awareness Month** information and screenings from 5 to 7 p.m. every Thursday in October at John Muir Health Medical Imaging Breast Health Services, Suite 120, 133 La Casa Via Walnut Creek. RSVP by calling (925) 952-2701.

**GARDEN**

**Explore the Natural Beauty of the Pease Family Trail**, from 3 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 25 at the Lafayette Community Garden, 3932 Mt Diablo Blvd. (Across from and just west of Lafayette Reservoir.) Join science teacher Janet Thomas for a talk and a short walk along the Pease Family Nature Trail, located at the back of the Lafayette Community Garden along Lafayette Creek. This event is open to all ages and the

**Service Clubs Announcements**

**LAMORINDA SUNRISE Rotary**  
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We meet Friday mornings at 7:00 am at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. For more info, please email us at [lamorindasunrise@gmail.com](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com)

**September 23**  
**Walter Schafer speaks about Rotary water projects in Africa**

**September 30**  
**Ernie Furtado does the Exposure honors this fine morning**

At last week's Arts and Wine Festival, you had a bold peek How an artisan **Teardrop Trailer** will become homey and sleek

**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.

**September 22: Dr. Joyce Martin & Angie Bailie with Contra Costa Health Services: "Peer Counseling for Seniors"**

**September 29: Bob Shusta: "Some Interesting police cases from Concord Police Dept"**

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**SOROPTIMIST OF 24/680**

**Please join us for our next meeting:**

**WHEN:** Wednesday, October 5th  
Social 5:30-6:00 p.m.  
Meeting 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Buttercup Grill  
660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek.

Soroptimist 24-680 says "No More"

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Regina Englehart @925-876-9076  
or go to: [soroptimist24-680.org](http://soroptimist24-680.org)

walk is not strenuous. To register for classes please visit [www.lafayette-communitygarden.org](http://www.lafayette-communitygarden.org).

**The Gardens at Heather Farm present Leading** a "Garden Revolution" from Your Own Backyard - Larry Weaner's Revolutionary Landscapes: A Lecture and Book-Signing at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 29. Join celebrated landscape designer, author and horticultural icon, Larry Weaner, in Walnut Creek to share his insights on how to change your garden – and the environment – for the better. Tickets: \$25 general public; \$20 members of The Garden Conservancy and The Gardens at Heather Farm. For more information and to register, visit [www.gardenshf.org](http://www.gardenshf.org) or call (925) 947-1678.

**The Walnut Creek Garden Club's monthly meeting** will be at 10 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 10 in the Camellia Room at Heather Farm located at 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek. We invite you to attend a meeting and consider becoming a member. Program: Florists will show how to create floral arrangements using items commonly found in a grocery store.

**Lafayette Garden Club is excited**

**to present** "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Monarch Butterflies" from 9:45 a.m. to noon on Oct. 13 in the Lafayette Veteran's Building. Our presenter is Susie Vanderlip, naturalist, author, and educator. Monarch butterflies are the icon of all butterflies and are critical pollinators along with bees. Susie will also share how we can raise them in our own backyards. Books available for sale. Visitors are welcome! Please email Carolyn Poetzsch [cpoetzsch@gmail.com](mailto:cpoetzsch@gmail.com)

**The Montelindo Garden Club is excited to have** as our October speaker Andrea Wulf, a British award-winning, New York Times bestselling author and historian focusing on the role of nature and gardens over time. Wulf's talk, based on her book "The Founding Gardeners," will provide a unique perspective on America's creation: how the passion for plants and agriculture of our founding fathers helped shape the nation. Our October meeting will begin at 9 a.m., speaker at 10:30 a.m., on Oct. 21 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. No charge, everyone welcome, reservations required: [montelindogarden@aol.com](mailto:montelindogarden@aol.com).

**Lamorinda Weekly**

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## Thoughtful Food

# There's Nothing Fishy About This Red Snapper

By Susie Iventosch



Pistachio-crust Red Snapper

Photo Susie Iventosch

We haven't traditionally been huge red snapper fans at our house, rather loving salmon and swordfish. But, my son and I discovered this dish at Lenoir, a delightful "small plate" restaurant in Austin, Texas, where he attends school.

When I tried to replicate the dish, which was simply called "Pistachio-crust Red Fish," my first goal was to find out what exactly is meant by "red fish," because we couldn't get that exact information from our waiter. The fish markets I spoke with told me that it would

most likely have been either some sort of rock fish, or a red snapper. I went with snapper, since my local market had just brought in a fresh catch. I was so surprised at the mild price tag on red snapper, after buying wild salmon most of the summer. When I made this dish for my husband and me, the fish cost totaled \$4.45 for three-quarters of a pound, almost exactly the same price I paid for the pistachios used to make the crust.

The red snapper turned out to be the perfect complement for the pistachio crust and we added the touch of the browned butter-shallot-wine sauce. All in all, this dish is a real crowd pleaser. We have served it again, as part of a surf and turf dinner, and it did not disappoint. It is kind of difficult to get around the fact that pistachios are an amazing nut, and when paired with browned butter, the combination is delectable.

## Pistachio-crust Red Snapper

(Serve 2-3)

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. red snapper fillet (we use roughly 1/3 pound per person)
- 1 cup finely chopped roasted, salted pistachios
- 6 Tbsp. unsalted, browned butter, divided for crust and sauce (see directions below)

### Sauce

- 2 Tbsp. browned butter from above ingredients
- 1 shallot, finely diced
- 1/4 cup dry white wine

Heat shallots in browned butter over medium-low heat and cook until translucent. Add white wine and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for a few more minutes. Season to taste with sea salt and white pepper. Set aside until ready to serve, and reheat just before serving. Spoon sauce over fish (and rice if you serve rice with this dish).

### DIRECTIONS —Fish

Preheat gas grill to medium-high heat.\*

Rinse fish fillet and place on a piece of foil that has been sprayed with PAM or other cooking spray. Set aside or refrigerate until ready to cook.

Meanwhile, heat butter in a saucepan over medium-high heat until butter begins to foam, brown, and form crystals. Remove from heat, once the butter is browned and has a nutty aroma. Cool to room temperature.

Mix 4 Tbsp. of the browned butter with 1 cup chopped pistachios and mix well. Set the other 2 Tbsp. of browned butter aside for the sauce (see above). Pat nut mixture on top side of fish fillet, covering the entire top side of the fillet. Transfer to grill on foil and cook for approximately 7 minutes, or until fish is cooked and crust is browned and crunchy. No need to turn fish.

Serve with rice and drizzle a tablespoon or so of the sauce over each fish/rice serving.

\*Can bake fish in the oven, too, at 400 degrees for approximately 5-7 minutes, depending upon thickness of fillet, until desired doneness.

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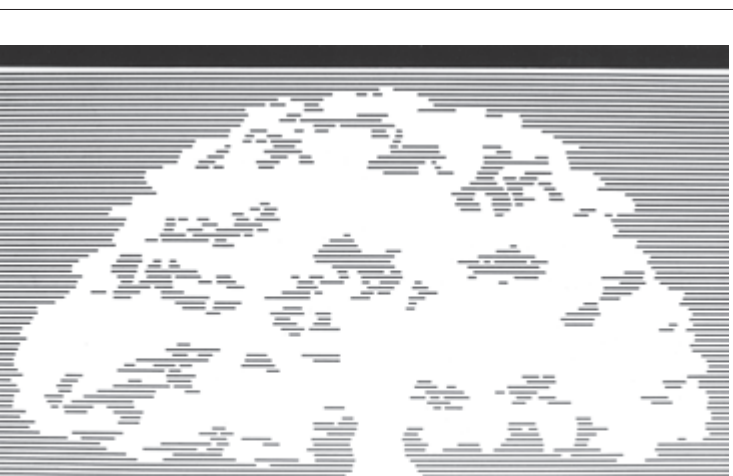
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Civic Life Sports Schools Business Food Our Homes Letters/Opinions Calendar Obituaries

**Lafayette Man Walks Lake Tahoe to Support Vets**  
By Cathy Daughan  
Ted Gallagher's boots are pure Marine, from his closely cropped hair to his sturdy build. His firm handshake and impeccable manners belie a humble and somewhat private demeanor. Gallagher's privacy, however, may be a thing of the past after he completes an eight-day loop.

**More on Tap at Art & Wine in '16**  
By Anna Fisher  
Now in its 23rd year, the Lafayette Art, Wine and Music Festival, which takes place annually in downtown Lafayette on the third weekend of September, will be

**Local Boys Water Polo Teams Get Set for League Play and Beyond**  
By Miriam...  
As Miriam... prepares to play in the Dublin Athletic League - one of the strongest conferences in NCS - the Mats don't know exactly where they stand. Soon enough, they will.

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- New Local Dads Group Focuses on Giving Back to Others
- Volleyball Teams Prepare to Battle in Competitive League
- Picturing the Paw-fect Pet Photo
- Moraga Native Hits it Out of the Park as MLB Network Host
- Local Boys Water Polo Teams Get Set for League Play and Beyond
- More on Tap at Art and Wine in '16
- Miramonte and Campo Girls Water Polo Make Division I Jump
- Lafayette Teen Will Represent U.S. at Tap Olympics in Germany
- Rainbow Flag Flies Proudly Again after Theft from St. Mark's
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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Football Heavyweights Prepare for League Action

By Karl Buscheck



Tim Tague

Thanks to a talented nucleus of seniors and a rising crop of juniors, the Miramonte football team has rolled out to a 4-0 record in the opening weeks of the 2016 season.

“Two really solid classes have joined together and (players at) some of the key positions like quarterback have returned,” explained head coach Jack Schram. “That made it easy for us to hit the ground running and do the same stuff we were doing last year.”

Senior signal-caller Tim Tague has led the way, throwing for 16 touchdowns in his first four games – even though the Mats have often opted to rest him in the second half of blowouts. The most encouraging sign for Schram, whose Mats have

already topped Vanden, St. Mary’s, Mt. Diablo and Alameda, is that a so many players have emerged on the offense.

“Guys have really stepped up,” Schram said. “Peter Stehr at the running back position – running the ball and catching (has really helped the offense).”

Then there’s the Mats’ impressive stable of aerial options. Six different players – Nolan Brown, Will Cassriel, Enzo Jiannalone, Ethan Fischler, Nick Foster and Stehr – have already caught multiple touchdowns.

“For us to be able to spread the whole field like that, you can’t focus on trying to shut one or two kids down,” Schram said.

The defense has also been causing fits for opponents, with Schram singling out Cassriel, Foster, Casey McGonigle, Caleb Cashmere and Ryan Walker as some of the best of the bunch.

The Mats will need to excel on both sides of the ball when the Diablo Athletic League season begins because after hosting Alhambra on Sept. 23, the Mats begin conference play with meeting with powerhouses Clayton Valley Charter and Campolindo on Oct. 7 and 14, respectively.

Kevin Macy – the head coach of the reigning NCS-champion Cougars – can’t be bothered to look ahead to the DAL portion of the calendar just yet.

“We’re just in a brutal pre-season schedule before we even get to the league,” said Macy, who’s cougars are 2-2. “We’re not trying to think too big or too far down the road. For us, it’s just what level of health we can keep from one week to the next.”

The Cougars, who have already lost key lineman Chris Brahney and two-way star Kyle Leuteneker to season-ending injuries, are navigating a daunting early run of games.

Campolindo lost to Valley Christian, who MaxPreps ranks as the No. 36 team in the state, in the season opener before rebounding with wins against St. Ignatius and Deer Valley. They lost their second game on Sept. 16, falling 28-21 to Oakdale.

In the 27-7 win over Deer Valley on Sept. 9 in Antioch, quarterback Jacob Westphal and receivers Vince Mossotti and Kannah Cruickshank carried the day for the Cougars.

“Those two sort of came alive as the two [key] receivers,” Macy said. “They came alive, which helped and Jacob, we say might have had his best game as a varsity player.”

Macy pointed to Justin Ehrenberger and Brandon Bocobo as the anchors of his unheralded defense.

“Defensively, we’re just a little bit of a no-name team,” Macy said. “It’s hard to pinpoint [standouts]. We’re just rotating so many different bodies.”

As Macy explained, Bocobo’s rise at the center of the defense is especially noteworthy.

“The fact that we’re using one of the smallest guys on the team as a middle [line]backer [is telling],” Macy said. “He’s hanging in there.”

Like the Cougars, the Dons have also faced their share of early-season challenges. Including a Sept. 23 trip to De Aza in El Sobrante, four of the team’s first five games are away from home.

So far, head coach Floyd Burnsed’s Dons have held their own on the road posting a 2-2 record. Acalanes beat Alhambra and Skyline in the first two weeks of the season before falling to Heritage in Brentwood on Sept. 9, 28-14, and dropping a 49-30 contest to Analy on Sept. 16 in Sebastopol.

“We’re trying to get ready for our league season, which is the important part of our schedule,” Burnsed explained. “So, each game we’re trying to get a little bit better. Each week you face a different opponent and different schemes – different defenses – the whole works. So, it gives you a whole gamut of preparation for [upcoming] games.”

For the Dons, quarterback Robby Rowell and receiver Matt Burns have stood out on the offensive side of the ball, while Nick Henderson and Will Rembec have shone defensively.

“We have a very difficult schedule,” Burnsed said. “So, every game we play is tough. There’s no easy games on the schedule.”

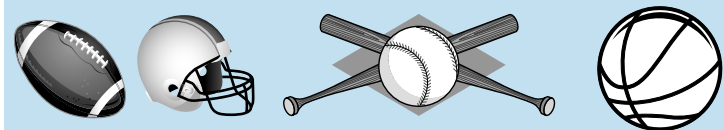


Kannah Cruickshank



Robby Rowell

## Youth Sports Registration



### Lamorinda Lacrosse Club



Registration for the Spring 2017 season will open on **Sept. 15** to returning players. **New player registration will open Oct. 1.** Please go to [www.lamorindalacrosse.com](http://www.lamorindalacrosse.com) for more information and details regarding spring registration and fall ball clinics. Contact Jin Peavey at [lamorindalaxops@gmail.com](mailto:lamorindalaxops@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

### Lamorinda Rugby Football Club



On-line Registration opens Oct 1st for the 2017 rugby season! Season runs December through March for youth, and through April for High School. Teams for girls and guys ages 6-19. No prior rugby experience necessary. Practices are located at the Wilder Fields in Orinda.

Find out more about our team and how to register online at [www.lamorugby.com](http://www.lamorugby.com). For questions, contact Doug Pearson at [dpearson@lee-associates.com](mailto:dpearson@lee-associates.com).



When I say “good,” you say “neighbor.”



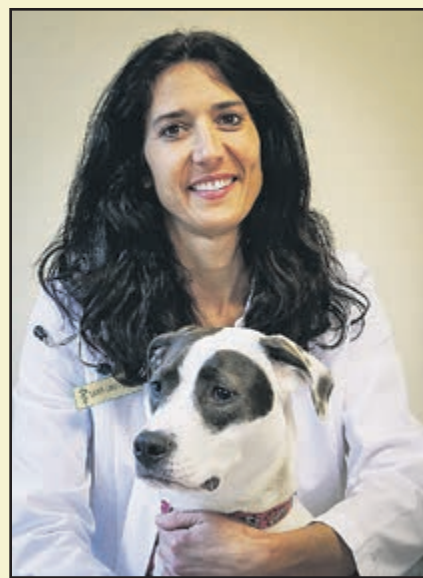
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## Cross County Squads Star in Early-Season Action

By Karl Buscheck



Jonathan Fierro Photos Gint Federas



Jared Yabu



Christian Lyons

Running in a new division, the Miramonte cross country team will garner some extra attention this fall.

"The boys immediately went to having the target on their backs because it's D IV instead of D III," explained head coach Brian Henderson. "We do have some high expectations because of that."

Senior Jonathan Fierro is the leader of the bunch. At the Monte Vista Invitational on Sept. 6, Fierro ran the ninth-fastest time in course history.

"He's kind of established himself as being one of the top front-runners in the area," Henderson said.

"That was pretty cool," Henderson added. "We knew he was fit, but he just stepped up and decided he wanted to be with the big boys."

Junior James Bull, who is currently working his way back from a concussion, is the No. 2 runner on the deep squad.

"We have a huge pack. The strength of the boys is that our three through seven will probably be finishing 10 to 20 seconds of each other every meet," Henderson said. "The pack is what's going to take us to greater heights."

The shift to Division IV has also raised the expectations for the girls' team.

"[That] makes a huge difference for us because immediately makes our girls' team one of the top three teams at NCS," Henderson said.

Like the boys, the girls have also hit some early-season injury speed bumps. When they return to full health, the group – headlined by Cassy Haskell, Hannah Fishlow and Rosie Cruz – will also be one of the most talented in its new division.

At the De La Salle/Carondelet Nike Invitational at Newhall Park in Concord on Sept. 17, the Mats' No. 1 runner Haskell finished second overall.

"We have one of the best front-two (runners) of any girls' team in Division IV – possibly the best one, two three potentially," Henderson said. "We're missing Fishlow right now because she's had a little tweak of her knee but we're hoping things are coming together here and she'll start racing pretty soon."

Like their neighbors at Mira-

monte, the Campolindo boys' and girls squads have big plans for the fall.

On Sept. 10, the Cougars hosted the Ed Sias Invitational at Hidden Valley Park in Martinez. The meet – one of the largest cross country invitationals in Northern California – featured 2,900 athletes from 55 programs.

At the meet, the boys' claimed first place in the small school race, with senior Jared Yabu running in fifth and the team's top five runners all finishing in the top 37.

"The expectations for the varsity boys this season are to win their ninth consecutive league championship and to win their fourth consecutive North Coast Section Division III championship," said assistant coach Andy Lindquist.

The girls' team landed in fifth place in the small school race, with juniors Hannah Ruane and Emma Overell finishing in fifth and 24th place, respectively.

"For the varsity girls, they will look to win another league championship and place in the top four in the North Coast Section and to make it to the state championship meet," Lindquist said.

The Acalanes girls' team, which finished 19th at Hidden Valley Park, are running under the guidance of first-year co-head coach Micahel Maloney.

"That's kind of been a transition period," explained Maloney, who leads the team along with co-head coach Nate Beach. "But I think a lot of the kids have responded to it and taken it as, 'Oh, okay. Well I'm going to step up now and really be as good as I can.'"

Junior Annie Klopstock and freshman Samantha Swan are the two runners who will lead the way for the Dons.

"I definitely would want to shout out our female captain Annie Klopstock," Maloney said. "She's a junior and she's really stepping things up and putting more focus in this season."

Maloney added that Swan, who had the second best time among freshmen at Ed Sias, is a runner "that has really excited us early on."

On the boys' side, Maloney is calling on Christian Lyons – his junior captain – to set the tone for the rest of the squad.



Cassy Haskell



Samanta Swan



Hannah Ruane

"The kid's a rock star, great attitude, good leader, all the right intentions everything like that," Maloney said. "But he's also one of our top performers to boot. He's really the full package from that standpoint."

Junior Ethan Frigon, who led

the Dons at Ed Sias running in 48th place, is the X-factor for the team.

"That kid's like a sports car," Maloney said. "When he's on, he's the one that I really look out for and I say, 'Man, if it all came together at one meet, he could really take on the load.'"

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# Lamorinda Soccer Club Rounds out Successful Year

Submitted by Keven Guillory



Lamorinda representing the U.S. in Sweden!

Picture courtesy of Lamorinda Soccer Club

Lamorinda's 17 year olds began their summer at the Davis Legacy College Showcase, where they dominated the top flight G19 Super Group and took the podium as champions for the 3rd straight year. To achieve their "3-peat" the U-98s went undefeated throughout the tournament with a goal differential of 15-4, and delivered a shutout in the finals.

No time to rest on their laurels, the U98s quickly packed their bags and headed to The Gothia Cup in Gotenburg, Sweden. The

U-98s were invited to compete for the prestigious Gothia Tipselit Trophy against eight elite teams from Sweden and eight international teams specially selected and invited by the Gothia Cup.

Lamorinda U98 was one of only two teams from the United States selected, the other being an "all star" team composed of East Coast club elite players.

Lamorinda U98 played teams from Sweden, Denmark and Germany; amassing a record of 5-1 overall to take the trophy, on 10-1

goal differential in the playoffs and delivering another shutout in the final. Seemingly no sooner than they landed back in the US, the U98s packed up again and headed down to the Superloco Surf Cup in Oceanside. Although exhausted, the U98s once again did battle in the highest level G19 Super Black division, where they went undefeated until falling on a late goal in the Semi-Finals. Lamorinda again demonstrated their superior skills on offense and defense, going 10-5 (2 to 1) on goal differential.



Lamorinda wins the Davis Legacy Cup in 3-peat fashion!



Lamorinda's U98 reaches semi-finals at the prestigious Surf Cup.

# Local Girls' Tennis Teams Set for League Play

By Karl Buscheck



Photo Gint Federas

Typically, Steve Robinson – the head coach of the Campolindo girls' tennis team – has one or two freshmen in his squad. This fall, the number of newcomers is much higher than that.

"It's kind of a young team," Robinson explained. "We have six freshmen that are in the mix in our starting 12 players. So, that's kind of unusual."

For the Cougars, who have already played a nonconference home match against Cal High and traveled to the Logan Tournament at James Logan High School in Union City, the youth movement was brought about by the fact that eight students graduated last year.

Robinson has relied on a pair of junior standouts to guide his young collection of players.

"Returning from last year we have two all-conference players Jessalyn Simon-Parker and Hannah McDonnell," Robinson said. "[Hannah] was all-conference in doubles and Jessalyn was all-conference in singles."

Simon-Parker had been in line to be Campo's top singles player, but she's been sidelined with an injury.

"Senior Vivian McGwan has been playing in the No. 1 position," Robinson said. "And she has been playing very strong tennis for us."

With the Cougars set to begin play in the newly formed Diablo Athletic League with a home match against Las Lomas on Sept. 22, Robinson views his team as a challenger for the top spot in the conference.

"I expect us to contend for the league championship – probably with Acalanes, Las Lomas and Miramonte – but I think we'll do well," Robinson said.

Like his counterpart at Campolindo, Miramonte head coach Michael McCollum will be trying to steer a youthful team to the top of the DAL standings.

"I think right now we're a team that's in transition," McCollum said. "We've got a solid group of seniors that will contribute, but mostly I'm looking at younger kids right now trying to work toward the future."

McCollum said he had 64 players combined on the junior varsity and varsity rosters after a record turnout at the program's August tryouts.

"I'm just getting my feet on

the ground from the tryouts and all the administrative stuff related to establishing a team that big," McCollum said. "So, the enthusiasm level at Miramonte is really high."

In that crowd, juniors Allison Burkhalter and Olivia Kudszus have emerged as the stars on the singles and doubles ladders, respectively.

"Olivia and Allison have both done a really good job in both leadership and in play," McCollum said.

The Mats played a preseason match against Freedom High, had nonconference meetings with Monte Vista and Piedmont and also joined the Cougars at the Logan Tournament. The team's first DAL action comes on Sept. 22 when they face College Park in a non-division match in Orinda.

"I think the competition in the Valley (Division of the DAL) is going to be between – as usual – Campo, Acalanes and us fighting to do well," McCollum said.

While Acalanes didn't begin its DAL slate until hosting Bercean Christian in a non-division match on Sept. 20, the Dons have already played a busy preseason schedule.

"We hope to this year exhibit a new foundation in the sense that we're taking tennis seriously and that we're focused," head coach Stephanie Lawrence said. "We hope to give the best shot at being the champions of our new league."

Beginning Aug. 22 with a scrimmage against Benicia in Lafayette, the Dons made seven different stops in a three-week stretch, capped off with a trip to the Fresno Invitational from Sept. 8 to 10.

"We have two great senior captains," Lawrence said of her established leaders. "I have Skylar Jeveli and for singles and I have Quinn Harrington for doubles."

Lawrence will be counting on the pair of seniors both on the court and off it.

"They've both been playing well," Lawrence said. "And they're leading the girls just to take a sense of accountability and responsibility for working hard at practice and learning and getting coaching and being the best they can – kind of a new esprit de corps, if you will."

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 10 Issue 15 Wednesday, September 21, 2016



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

*...read on page D16*

## Saving Seeds - The Full Circle of Gardening

By Sophie Braccini



*Seed extraction*

*Photo Sophie Braccini*

The Lafayette Community Garden was established five years ago and has now reached such a level of maturity and stability that the members have decided to start saving its seeds.

Organizers invited master gardener Trish Clifford to teach a class on this topic. The very experienced Clifford showed needed techniques, including the most important of them all: preventing propagating hybrids. She also explained that saving seeds is about reproducing what works, about thriftiness and also about preserving a biological diversity that has shrunk over the past 100 years.

"It's taken us five years to build up our soil, to learn what crops best work here in Lafayette, so it seems to be the right time for us to learn how to save our seeds," says garden cofounder Beth Ferree. "Our hope is

that next spring we will have a seed swap here, where people bring some of their favorite seeds."

### Importance of Saving Seeds

The eager gardeners who took the class were there for different reasons. Some said that they wanted to replant vegetables that had been good producers in their own garden next year. Students from Berkeley in charge of a school garden were motivated by their limited budget.

"Intellectual property and seeds are becoming a big problem. This practice (saving and sharing seeds) needs to be cherished," said one participant. Clifford said that the "seed-movement" is growing. She added that gardening gets communities together and seed saving brings community resilience.

In the last 100 years there has been a staggering loss of food plant varieties, she said. For example there were 408 varieties of tomatoes available at the beginning of the 20th century and only 79 are left today. Ten companies own 75 percent of all commercially available seeds.

"And when a big company buys a small one, it keeps those seeds that store and ship well, not necessarily those that produce the most interesting vegetable," said Clifford.

### Collecting Seeds

The class focused on seeds that are easy, or rather easy to save. The first thing to learn is how to grow a plant to collect the seeds, which is not necessarily the same as growing a plant to eat it. Lettuces, for example, have to be allowed to grow their center until it spikes long green flowering stems, then the stems have to completely dry on the plant so the seeds are ripe to be collected.

The process is the same with beans. "The pods themselves have to be developed and completely dried out on the plant before it is harvested," said Clifford, before passing around the dried growths.

... continued on page D4





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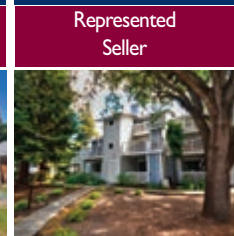
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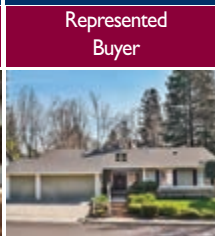
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LAFAYETTE	21	\$659,000	\$2,875,000
MORAGA	11	\$430,000	\$1,350,000
ORINDA	16	\$1,055,000	\$2,600,000

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

- 1140 Bacon Way, \$1,040,000, 4 Bdrms, 1640 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 8-31-16;  
Previous Sale: \$652,500, 07-31-09
- 3626 Brook Street #A, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3425 SqFt, 2006 YrBl, 8-19-16;  
Previous Sale: \$1,475,000, 08-15-08
- 1036 Brown Avenue, \$815,000, 1536 SqFt, 1934 YrBl, 8-31-16
- 3716 Crestmont Place, \$2,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 4291 SqFt, 2000 YrBl, 8-16-16;  
Previous Sale: \$2,755,000, 07-31-15
- 3 Dead Horse Canyon Road, \$1,995,000, 4 Bdrms, 4030 SqFt, 2002 YrBl, 8-24-16
- 3455 Goyak Drive, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 2403 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 8-25-16;  
Previous Sale: \$405,000, 06-20-91
- 3252 Greenhills Drive, \$1,680,000, 3 Bdrms, 3531 SqFt, 1986 YrBl, 8-24-16;  
Previous Sale: \$145,000, 11-21-89
- 984 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,054,000, 4 Bdrms, 1900 SqFt, 1942 YrBl, 8-31-16;  
Previous Sale: \$620,000, 08-21-01
- 3319 Helen Lane, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2001 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 8-19-16;  
Previous Sale: \$280,000, 11-17-94
- 860 Hope Lane, \$1,409,000, 4 Bdrms, 1689 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 8-26-16;  
Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 02-25-14
- 4146 Los Arabis Drive, \$2,530,000, 5 Bdrms, 3475 SqFt, 2015 YrBl, 8-26-16;  
Previous Sale: \$1,625,000, 01-29-16
- 3279 Mt. Diablo Court #1, \$659,000, 2 Bdrms, 1332 SqFt, 1987 YrBl, 8-17-16;  
Previous Sale: \$597,500, 06-22-06
- 1119 Oak Hill Road, \$1,176,000, 4 Bdrms, 2531 SqFt, 1969 YrBl, 8-31-16
- 949 Oak View Circle, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1904 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 8-17-16
- 958 Oak Vista Court, \$1,320,000, 4 Bdrms, 3372 SqFt, 1995 YrBl, 8-24-16;  
Previous Sale: \$925,000, 01-17-01
- 3180 Somerset Drive, \$1,508,000, 4 Bdrms, 2440 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 8-25-16;  
Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 03-21-07
- 1402 Sunset Loop, \$910,000, 3 Bdrms, 1023 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 8-16-16;  
Previous Sale: \$510,000, 05-22-12
- 3370 Sweet Drive, \$834,000, 3 Bdrms, 1291 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 8-22-16;  
Previous Sale: \$525,000, 10-22-08
- 5 West Creek Court, \$770,000, 3 Bdrms, 1448 SqFt, 1975 YrBl, 8-29-16;  
Previous Sale: \$58,000, 02-27-76
- 1003 Woodbury Road, \$1,250,000, 2 Bdrms, 1638 SqFt, 2015 YrBl, 8-30-16;  
Previous Sale: \$914,000, 08-25-16
- 1004 Woodbury Road #102, \$1,199,000, 2 Bdrms, 1495 SqFt, 2015 YrBl, 8-15-16

### MORAGA

- 1967 Ascot Drive #B, \$430,000, 2 Bdrms, 964 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 8-30-16;  
Previous Sale: \$209,000, 11-15-00
- 122 Brookfield Drive, \$1,260,000, 4 Bdrms, 2450 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 8-17-16
- 1400 Camino Peral, \$665,000, 3 Bdrms, 1360 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 8-16-16;  
Previous Sale: \$485,000, 11-04-04
- 1451 Camino Peral, \$625,000, 2 Bdrms, 1116 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 8-12-16
- 3700 Campolindo Drive, \$1,350,000, 5 Bdrms, 2297 SqFt, 1977 YrBl, 8-30-16;  
Previous Sale: \$345,000, 05-15-87
- 6 Doral Drive, \$785,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 8-19-16

...continued on page D12



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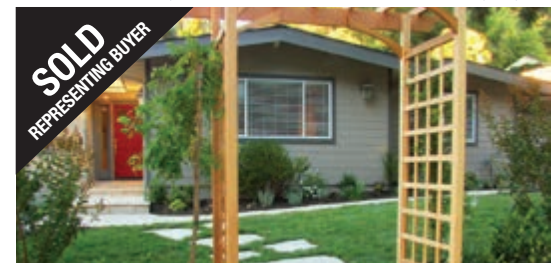


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# Saving Seeds - The Full Circle of Gardening

... continued from page D1



Trish Clifford

Photo Sophie Braccini

For tomatoes, the rule is different, as one just needs to pick up a very nice and ripe fruit. For zucchinis, Clifford explained that the vegetable has to be left to grow to its full extent, and then allowed to start yellowing before it's ready to be picked up for seeds.

But before teaching how to save and store seeds, Clifford introduced what she feels is the most complex and important topic about saving seeds: how to avoid cross-pollination and creation of hybrids.

Different species of plants cannot cross-pollinate, but different varieties of one species can. Depending how flowers get pollinated, contamination may be very hard to avoid. Clifford first reminded the audience that there are two types of flowers, perfect and imperfect.

Perfect flowers hold both male pollen and female stigma on the same flower, while incomplete ones do not. To get pollinated and produce vegetables, those need to be pollinated by either insects such as bees, or wind. Perfect flowers have less risks of being hybridized, while it is more difficult to control the process for imperfect flowers.

Clifford took the example of zucchini. The male flower holds the pollen and the female flower has the stigma with a small bowl shape. Only those bare fruits. According to Clifford, and to avoid pollination of the zucchini with another member of the same species such as a pumpkin from your garden or that of your neighbor down the street, the best technique is to hand-pollinate the female flower just as it opens.

Vegetables such as beans, tomatoes, lettuces or peas are self-pollinated which reduces the risk of cross-pollination, but not completely. To be sure, there are distances that are recommended between varieties to avoid hybridization. You can also limit yourself to one variety of each species.

## Storage

Seeds can be stored in a glass container when the plant has dried up. For tomatoes, you will want to pick up a fully ripe fruit, and remove seeds — the fruit can still be eaten.

"You have to get rid of the little gel pack the seeds are in," says Clifford. "You put it in a little jar with a little bit of distilled water and you will want it to ferment a bit for a few days to break down the gel pack and give the seeds a little bit of disease resistance." The seeds have then to be dried out on paper in a cool aerated place before they are stored.

"Never plant all your seeds in one year," warns Clifford, because if it is a bad year you might lose it all. If seeds are kept at cool temperature and low moisture, they can last years.

Clifford said that the seed saving class was developed with the Richmond's seeds lending library, part of the Richmond library. In this project, people get free seeds and return some a year later after they've grown the vegetable and saved some for the seeds. For more information visit [www.richmondgrowsseeds.org](http://www.richmondgrowsseeds.org). She added that more than 300 seed-lending-libraries have used their process to set-up their own groups, all participating in the full circle of gardening.

The Lafayette Community Garden, located at 3932 Mt Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, is managed by 50 family volunteers who sign up for one year. The location and signup period is now open and all information can be found on the garden's website at [www.Lafayettecommunitygarden.org](http://www.Lafayettecommunitygarden.org). Classes open to the public are offered year round.



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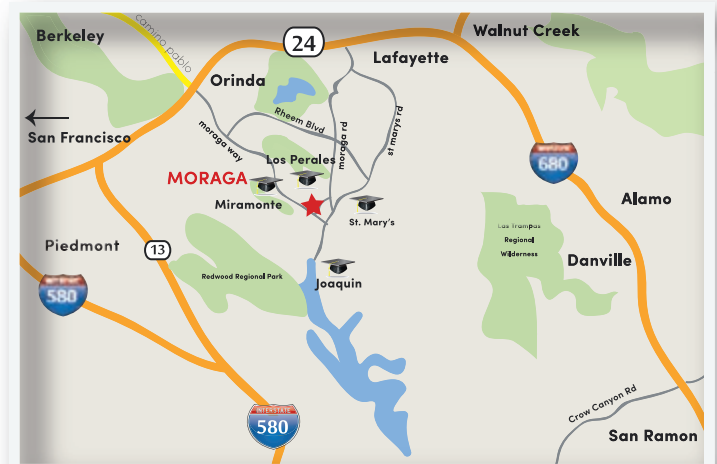
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## Stylish Solutions

# Finding the Whimsy in Fall Décor

By Ann McDonald



*Expensive version of a feather and velvet pumpkin; other options are available online from Target to Etsy.*

*Photos Courtesy of Couture Chateau*

Can you feel the shift in the air? It's subtle, but so wonderful! There are mornings in the fall, I will just go out back and breathe in the beauty of a cool, crisp morning. Something about our natural resources draws out the natural decorator in me, as there is so much beauty to work with.

This month my hope is to share some decorating tips you can put into effect right now, inspired by our beloved Lamorinda. In past articles, I have shared budgets and seasonal updates, how you can plan to spend, and where to spend depending on dollar amounts, (see past articles/archives) however this fall I want to have some fun embracing seasonal accessories, not just the big picture design elements.

Who doesn't want to update an accessory or pillow every now and then with those seasonal and yes, sometimes kitsch pieces we start to see every September. And yes, we are even talking pieces or arrangements that have been crafted.

I am not normally a "pumpkin-applique pillow or faux-floral arrangement type of gal," as my team can attest. But even I have to admit there are occasions where these items work well.

Here are a few tips to help navigate the pumpkin pillows, harvest baskets and faux flowers out there. Be forewarned, this is not for the faint of heart!

**First, look for glue, and if you see it, avoid!** I know it sounds silly, but in pre-made or even custom ordered from your favorite craft-store items, one of the 'tells' of poor craftsmanship or a rush job is dried glue. It can appear wax-like or opaque, even clear at times. If you find an item you love and know it will work well, but you see glue, ask to see if there is another like it. Your home is precious and should be filled with the best you can afford, as a testament to the value of you and your family, so filling it with poorly made items sends the wrong message to the space.

This season, we are seeing well-made crafted accessories. I am particularly liking the feather and velvet thing, as our very own Couture Chateau Custom Holiday Collection features feathers and velvets as well.

**Second, purchase with an eye toward flow.** One-off items are OK, but you want to be able to weave a story into your décor, especially seasonally. That does not mean overpowering your year-round design, but it does mean visual data points for spaces, being especially mindful of traffic patterns within your home.

Do you walk from the front hall, to the kitchen, to the family room? Then plan for three visual data points with similar aesthetics. They don't have to match perfectly, but the elements should be similar, so your eye doesn't have to readjust to every room. This avoids the "bombardment" syndrome of design, where every room is a shockingly different vignette. Department stores are designed to bombard you, but our homes should not be. One simple thing you can do is a walk through with a camera – I've shared this tip several times, but a camera really is your truth teller.

**And finally, consider sticking with fewer than five elements.** If you are loving feathers and velvets this season as I am (hint: they work in both contemporary and traditional settings) then stick with those elements, adding in other textural items that blend. Don't add in harvest baskets and pillows, sparklers and straw. Stick to a few, well-executed items. Next year will come around soon enough, and you can arrange items differently then.

Have some fun with the season change, experiment, and as always, set the timer. No seasonal holiday décor regime should take you more than one or two days to execute. Bring the items in, arrange and put the boxes away. If you have a large home, or addition-



*A simple branch like this from Crate and Barrel or from your own Lamorinda backyard may be all you need for the fall seasonal update.*

al items and it will take longer than that to install or display, sign up for our course on [www.stressfreeholidayhome.com](http://www.stressfreeholidayhome.com), which teaches you how to manage the process and develop a story, so it can still be executed in a series of days instead of weeks. The information, while geared toward the December holiday season, works for any vignette.

If you are interested in Couture Chateau's Custom Holiday Collection, email me at [ann@couturechateau.com](mailto:ann@couturechateau.com).



Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. For a complete blog post including other design ideas, visit [www.couturechateau.com/blog](http://www.couturechateau.com/blog).



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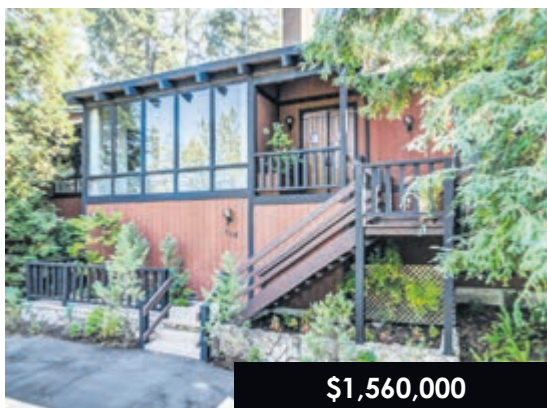


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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded ... continued from page D2

### MORAGA ... continued

- 107 Miramonte Drive, \$700,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 8-19-16;  
Previous Sale: \$430,000, 09-15-11
- 149 Miramonte Drive, \$715,000, 2 Bdrms, 1525 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 8-15-16;  
Previous Sale: \$555,000, 06-01-15
- 101 Oxford Drive, \$1,035,000, 4 Bdrms, 2195 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 8-19-16
- 140 Paseo Del Rio, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2415 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 8-19-16
- 137 Tharp Drive, \$1,140,000, 4 Bdrms, 1857 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 8-29-16

### ORINDA

- 6 Abbott Court, \$2,220,000, 4 Bdrms, 2436 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 8-30-16;  
Previous Sale: \$2,300,000, 03-27-15
- 66 California Avenue, \$1,115,000, 4 Bdrms, 2368 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 8-24-16;  
Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 03-22-05
- 224 Camino Sobrante, \$2,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 3597 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 8-17-16;  
Previous Sale: \$400,000, 11-10-88
- 30 Charles Hill Circle, \$1,460,000, 4 Bdrms, 2077 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 8-30-16;  
Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 06-05-15
- 83 Coral Drive, \$1,265,000, 5 Bdrms, 2283 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 8-17-16;  
Previous Sale: \$975,000, 07-22-10
- 56 Davis Road, \$1,471,500, 3 Bdrms, 1852 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 8-23-16
- 31 Daryl Drive, \$2,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 2870 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 8-30-16;  
Previous Sale: \$415,000, 10-16-97
- 9 Fleetwood Court, \$1,327,500, 5 Bdrms, 3075 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 8-26-16;  
Previous Sale: \$635,000, 01-09-92
- 201 Orchard Road, \$1,320,000, 3 Bdrms, 2304 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 8-31-16;  
Previous Sale: \$763,000, 11-30-07
- 245 Overhill Road, \$1,487,000, 5 Bdrms, 2491 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 8-30-16;  
Previous Sale: \$361,500, 07-15-88
- 11 Southwood Court, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 2432 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 8-29-16;  
Previous Sale: \$960,000, 11-17-09
- 61 St. Stephens Drive, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 3058 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 8-24-16;  
Previous Sale: \$1,635,000, 03-15-07
- 578 Tahos Road, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 2456 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 8-25-16
- 89 Van Ripper Lane, \$1,773,000, 2 Bdrms, 2513 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 8-23-16;  
Previous Sale: \$1,230,000, 10-04-13
- 31 Whitehall Drive, \$1,055,000, 3 Bdrms, 1745 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 8-23-16
- 27 Wilder Road, \$2,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 4920 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 8-31-16



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# Baker's Bill Helps Consumers Find Contractors

Submitted by Nanette Farag

It will now be easier for consumers to find and check for a licensed contractor thanks to legislation authored by Assemblywoman Catharine Baker.

Under current law, California consumers are required to use a licensed contractor for construction projects costing more than \$500. When an unlicensed contractor is used, consumers risk suffering financial loss, costly lawsuits, and shoddy workmanship with little recourse. Regrettably, the Contractor's State License Board website only allows consumers to search for contractors by name or license number. As a result, consumers cannot utilize the board's website to find a licensed contractor. Instead, they can only look up a contractor for whom they already have a name or license number.

Governor Brown recently signed Baker's bill, AB 2486, which fixes this problem and requires the board

to update its website to allow consumers to search for licensed contractors by zip code. This important feature will help make it easier for individuals to find contractors working in their community and prevent consumers from falling victim to the underground economy and unlicensed contractor scams.

"Although it only makes a small change to the Contractor's State License Board website, AB 2486 will have a significant impact on improving consumer protection and access to important information," said Baker. "At the four Senior Fraud Seminars we've hosted throughout the district, constituents made it loud and clear that they want easier ways to search for and screen contractors in order to avoid and detect scams from unlicensed contractors. Making government serve more efficiently is what I'm about, and I'm so pleased that this bill has been signed."

When unlicensed contractors are used, they provide increased risk to consumers, undercut lawful employers, and contribute to the state's unsafe and unlawful underground economy. The Franchise Tax Board estimates that the underground economy costs the state \$10 billion annually in uncollected tax revenue. AB 2263 will help combat the use of unlicensed contractors in the underground economy by making it easier for consumers to get information about licensed contractors in their area.

Prior to being signed by the Governor, AB 2486 received unanimous, bipartisan support in both the senate and assembly.

[www2.cslb.ca.gov/onlineservices/CheckLicenseII/checklicense.aspx](http://www2.cslb.ca.gov/onlineservices/CheckLicenseII/checklicense.aspx).

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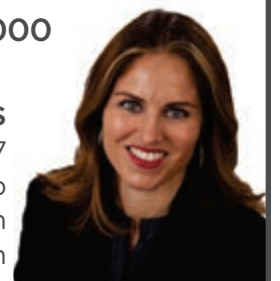
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## Digging Deep

# Embrace the Colors and Bounty of Fall

By Cynthia Brian

*Autumn is the hush before winter. ~French Proverb*



Add colorful coleus to your indoor and outdoor fall displays.



Continue to deadhead roses through January for continuous blooms.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Having spent autumns in France, I attribute a portion of this year's love for fall to my past travel experiences of quiet beauty in the yellowing vineyards, the crisp, cool mornings walking through fields, sipping a café au lait, and smelling the warming scents of seasoned firewood burning in evening hearths, beckoning me to dine on the produce of the day.

Autumn is harvest time here in California with the bounty of grapes, walnuts, apples and pears ripe and ready. The last bushels of tomatoes, corn, eggplant, peppers and summer squash are making their way to kitchen tables and to outdoor grills as we all enjoy the final hours of sunshine and patio parties. The days are shortening, the nights are lengthening, leaves are turning amber, umber and orange as we herald in the hush before winter. Nature is in harmony as gardens begin

to settle in for their long winter's nap.

It's time to start pondering our spring gardens by rotating crops so as not to deplete the nutrients for a healthy production next season. Cover crops, peas, and legumes are nitrogen fixers. Mix up the heavy feeders such as tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, brassicas, and corn with root vegetables of beets, onions, carrots, and sweet potatoes.

If you live on a hillside, consider planting fire and drought resistant ice plant as a ground cover. Boasting an array of hues, ice plant will also keep the soil from eroding during the rains. Fall is the best time to scatter wild flower seeds, giving them time to germinate before spring. Mixes that include poppies, bachelor buttons, clarkia, lupine, marigold, aster, penstemon, dianthus, coneflower and sweet William are available in packets as well as containers. Wild flowers attract

pollinators and will keep the hummingbirds, butterflies and bees buzzing around your property instead of your neighbors'.

Sunflowers have been prolific and extra large this summer. As their heads droop, make sure to collect the seeds both for feeding the birds and also for saving for new towers.

When the weather cools, mosquitoes and other bugs tend to disappear. Enjoy the trickling of your fall fountain as you invite friends over for a final barbecue and outdoor meal as we wave goodbye to the summer sun.

The luster in the sky is a kaleidoscope of brilliance, a forerunner to the quiet before the storm. Bienvenue d'automne!

... continued on page D17-D19





Grapes are ripe, delicious, and nutritious straight from the vine.



The prayer plant is a hardy specimen to send off to college with your student.

## To Dual or Not to Dual

By Andi Peterson Brown

**D**ual Agency. I am frequently asked by clients what this term actually means. While the definition is simple enough, the implications for home buyers and sellers can be complex and confusing.

The term “dual agent” actually has two definitions. It refers to when a brokerage firm represents both buyer and seller in a real estate transaction. It also refers to when an individual agent represents both buyer and seller in a real estate transaction. In Lamorinda, where a handful of brokerages represent most buyers and sellers, the first scenario is common and not stigmatized.

Where things have the potential to get sticky is when an individual agent represents both buyer and seller. A buyer and seller in this scenario may wonder if the agent is truly their advocate. How can the agent negotiate what’s best for one when they are also negotiating what’s best for the other? Are they going to go champion a cause or simply act as liaison? These are valid concerns.

Now if an agent is a local expert and gets many buyer inquiries, it could be to a seller’s benefit to enter into a dual agency agreement. Their agent has a high likelihood of bringing a ready, willing, and able buyer to the table due to their reputation.

There are pros and cons to a dual agency situation, and it is important to ensure that you are properly represented as a buyer or seller. You should have a clear understanding of your relationship with your agent and of what their policy is on dual agency so that your expectations are correctly set.



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## Cynthia Brian's Beginning of Fall Gardening Tips

**WATCH** for aphids on plants, especially mandevilla. Mix 2 tablespoons of dishwashing liquid with water into a spray bottle. Spray affected plants daily. The dishwashing liquid smothers the aphids.

**MAKE** applesauce or apple butter with the apples that fall from your trees. This year boasts a big crop of apples. You don't need to peel the apples. Wash, slice away any brown spots, cut into chunks, add to a pot filled with a small amount of water, boil, then add cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, and honey for a delicious, healthy treat alone or with meats, over ice cream or yogurt.

**START** to think about covering crops to add maximum benefits to your soil over the winter. Fall mixes can include seeds of legumes, grass, grains, broadleaf, and brassica, vetch, rye, clover and radish. These will suppress weeds, add aeration and increase soil aggregation.

**PROTECT** your heart by eating more leeks, keep diabetes at bay with more Swiss chard, fight colds with dandelion greens and build stronger bones with bok choy. Yes, these leafy greens can do all of that! Plant some.

**SEND** a plant off to college with your student to keep the indoor air clean while offering memory and concentration improvement. Prayer plants, peace lilies, pothos and snake plants are just a few of the easy to grow specimens that will acclimate well to dorm rooms.

**PLANT** shallots in well-amended beds with plenty of compost in full sun. The greens can be harvested young or wait until they die back to harvest a cluster of shallots.



Cynthia is saving the seeds of this spectacular sunflower.

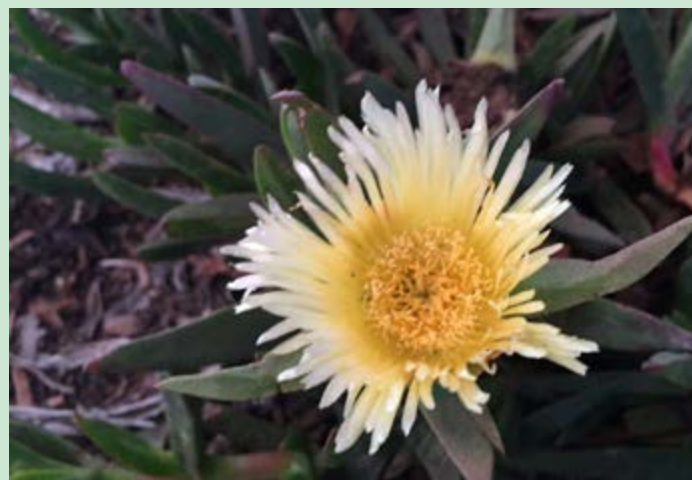
Photo Cynthia Brian

**MUNCH** on grapes straight from the vines or buy California grapes at your favorite market.

**SAVE** seeds from your favorite open-pollinated or heirloom tomato plants in Mason jars topped with water. Cover the jar, but don't seal. Stir daily until seeds sink to the bottom. Rinse through a sieve and let the seeds dry on a paper towel until thoroughly dry. Fill a small jar with seeds, add a silica gel pack, store in the refrigerator until spring planting. Hybrid seeds will not provide tomatoes true to the mother.

**DEADHEAD** roses for several more flurries of blooms before January. It is wonderful to have cut flowers from your garden when December rolls along.

**OVER-SEED** lawns before the cold sets in. Pearl's Premium is proving to be a drought resistant alternative to regular seed grass. It sets deep 14-20 inch roots and with two seasons of seeding should be hardy and fuller next summer. [www.PearlsPremium.com](http://www.PearlsPremium.com)



Ice plant is fire and drought resistant and excellent on hillsides.



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### CALL AN ARBORIST

The most common reason a tree owner calls an arborist is concern that something is wrong with a tree. It may be that some of the leaves are discolored, a branch has died, or perhaps the entire tree has been dropping leaves. Sometimes the cause of the concern is a minor problem that is easily explained and corrected. Other times the problem is more complex-with several underlining causes and a remedy that requires treatments extending over several years. Unfortunately, there are instances in which the problem has gone undetected for so long that the tree cannot be helped, and the only option is removal. If an arborist had been called earlier, perhaps the tree could have been saved.

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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The Sweet Potato Plant with its fluorescent chartreuse leaves shines in the dark.

**INCLUDE** colorful coleus in both indoor and outdoor fall displays. The leaves are the flowers and the designs and patterns are endless.

**SELECT** tulip bulbs for November planting. Tulips need to be refrigerated for six weeks.

**ATTEND** the Pear and Wine Festival at Moraga Commons from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24. Pick up complimentary potpourri and a new children's book from the Be the Star You Are! booth sponsored by MB Jesse Painting, Starstyle Productions, llc, Lamorinda Weekly, Children's Success Unlimited, and Michael VerBrugge Construction. Click on events at [www.BetheStarYouAre.org](http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org)

Hello Fall!  
Happy Gardening!  
Happy Growing!



Cynthia Brian at an outdoor September celebration.

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New Listing

**205 Holly Lane** Stunning contemporary on cul de sac with breathtaking views. Soaring ceilings, skylights, stainless steel & granite kitchen, 3 spacious bedrooms including gorgeous master suite. Lovely garden retreat. **\$1,150,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**99 Donna Maria Way** 4 bedroom 2 bath, mid century modern home in desirable Del Rey neighborhood. Meticulously maintained, radiant heat, walls of windows. Private yard, close to school. **\$1,295,000**

## ORINDA



**244 El Toyonal** Forever views across Orinda to Mt. Diablo. Delightful living spaces on 2 levels w/modern remodeled kitchen; living rm & dining rm open to outside w/extensive decking/ views. Bonus offices. **\$1,299,000**

## ORINDA



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

## ORINDA



New Listing

**516 Miner Road** Well maintained home with exceptional living spaces, formal living & dining rooms, kitchen with adjoining family room opens to patio/ pool. Abundance of windows view beautiful setting.

**\$1,560,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**73 El Gavilan Road** Elegantly rebuilt Mid Century Modern. Spacious rooms, attention to detail, walls of windows, sparkling pool and amazing hill top views.

**\$2,750,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**24 Moraga Via** Custom-built European villa built in highly desirable Lamorinda. From its geometric, double hexagonal footprint to its Mediterranean tile roof, this home typifies unique quality & design from top to bottom.

**\$2,750,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**143 Donald Drive** Cul-de-sac setting convenient to schools & shopping. Charming updated single level with hardwood floors & double-paned windows throughout. Granite kitchen counters & loads of storage. Great yard!

**\$1,035,000**

## MORAGA



**735 Augusta Drive** Detached, desirable Moraga Country Club plan 13 on large .42 acre lot w/huge yard setback from street! Pool, hot tub & flagstone patio. Large master suite upstairs w/deck, walk in closet & views.

**\$1,195,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**76 Lynwood Place** Desirable Corliss neighborhood. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with sparkling pool. Close to schools, shopping and trails.

**\$1,695,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**3369 Mildred Lane** Family popular Laf. Valley Estates one level easy living traditional w/large family room off kitchen. All main rooms open to front or back grassy yards on exceptionally quiet street. A true gem!

**\$949,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**3 Dollis Park Road** Large 4bd/3.5ba, 4090 sq. ft. home w/ideal functional floor plan. Lovely kitchen/ family rm + bonus rec. rm. Luxurious master suite. Great guest bedroom w/bath is ideal for separation of space.

**\$1,595,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**3913 Happy Valley Road** Incredible 3.5 acre property in Lafayette Happy Valley! Mid-Century classic by Wm Wurster, 2900+ sq ft, 5bd/4ba w/huge pool, pool house & large lawns plus orchard! Don't miss this one!

**\$2,100,000**

## DANVILLE



**1701 Liahona Lane** Tranquil .77 flat acre setting with indoor/ outdoor living at its best! Rebuilt in 2005 w/open flr plan 4 beds + den, vaulted ceilings, hwd flrs, 4+ car gar, park like backyd. Near 12yrs of school!

**\$1,750,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

**118 Las Juntas Way** Charming home on 1/3 flat acre w/park-like yard. Great commute location; walk to BART, close to freeway & bike trails. Tons of upgrades- double & triple paned windows, new furnace, A/C & more!

**\$699,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



**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 floor plan & large .92 acre lot at end of cul de sac.

**\$1,849,000**



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