

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

925-377-0977

www.lamorindaweekly.com



The Campolindo 50th Reunion committee, from left: Don Schrader, Sandy Ivy Landin, Valerie Smith Brousseau, Bill Smedley, Gwen Reid Lundmark, Bruce Van Voorhis and Judi Steen Carmona. Campo 1966 yearbook photos courtesy Peggy Hoffman

Campo '66: Seniors for Four Years

By Cathy Dausman

A lawyer, a doctor and an IRS agent walk into a room...50 years later. In June 1966 those people were members of the first graduating class of Campolindo High School. The class marks its 50th reunion Oct. 14 and 15 in a special celebration. It's been a long time. In 1966 Lyndon Johnson sat in the White House, Cassius Clay had just become Muhammad Ali

and gas cost 32 cents a gallon. "Bonanza," Red Skelton and Andy Griffith were on TV. Governor Brown — the present governor's father — occupied the governor's mansion in Sacramento. But California teens then were more likely focused on Mustangs and Camaros than gas prices or politics. Pear and walnut trees were nearly as common as homes, roads and businesses in the Moraga of 1966. Campolindo was

the third Lamorinda high school to open its doors (Acalanes High School opened in 1940, Miramonte in 1955), welcoming 180 freshmen onto its campus in September 1962. "Everybody knew everybody," said Bruce Van Voorhis. The campus was small, too, originally containing just two buildings and a gym.

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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HAPPY FALL!

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Recent Crimes Rattle Towns Around the Hwy. 24 Corridor

By Victor Ryerson

Two local robberies last week, one resulting in the shooting of Orinda School Board member Carol Brown, have aroused concerns in Lafayette and Orinda about whether residents are increasingly being targeted by criminals from out of the area. After Brown was robbed and shot, and her husband pistol-whipped, in their driveway Sept. 26, a group of Orinda residents immediately called for a town hall meeting with Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel. And on Sept. 29 Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen published a Crime Bulletin for its residents relating the details of a police chase the previous night after two men stole a Danville resident's car at gunpoint and fled through the Caldecott tunnel. The suspects in both cases are still at large. While there is no evidence yet that the Brown shooting was committed by non-locals, both Nagel and Christensen believe that the proximity to BART and Highway 24 make the two cities attractive targets for crime. Brown, 70, had picked up her husband, Tom Spalding, also 70, at the Orinda BART

station, and then stopped at the Orinda Safeway on the way home. The robbery and shooting occurred while they unloaded groceries after they reached their house on Claremont Avenue. The assailants, who wore full-sized Halloween face masks, fled by automobile, according to witnesses who heard shots and squealing tires. The couple is recovering from their injuries and the matter is still under investigation, and Orinda police are hoping to obtain better descriptions of the suspects and their car from them and from neighbors' security cameras. Early police reports indicate that the police believed the two men may have followed the couple home, either from BART or from the Safeway parking lot. Although this theory has not yet been confirmed, "the (videos) are coming in (from security cameras), and there is no indication to look inward (in Orinda)" for the culprits, Nagel said. The Lafayette bulletin reports that there were three other armed robberies in the Brentwood, Antioch and Pittsburg areas shortly before last Thursday's chase.

"While we are unaware of anything that specifically connects these incidents, a relationship could exist between all (of them) — which may include the Highway 24 corridor," it concludes. Indeed, Nagel confirms that much of the crime in Orinda these days is committed by people who come from elsewhere, "even drunk-in-public." With the ease of access to the two cities by BART, and especially by freeway, Orinda is the logical first stop for those with bad intentions who come from outside the area, he says. This is backed up by the history of pursuits, he points out. Orinda's recent crime statistics seem to support the theory that many of Orinda's robberies and thefts are committed by outsiders — about half, in fact. So far this year, one robbery and three residential burglaries were committed by known suspects with addresses

outside of Orinda. In 2014 and 2015, three burglaries were committed by suspects who were outsiders. In Orinda and Lafayette the suspects tend to come from the East Bay. By contrast, in Walnut Creek and the 680 corridor, they generally come from East County, Nagel said. In the aftermath of the Orinda incident, 60 families from the Claremont Hills neighborhood promptly sought a town meeting with Nagel to discuss their public safety situation. Although it was scheduled for Friday, Oct. 7, when word got out other residents called for a city-sponsored meeting that would be open to all. This will require compliance with public notice laws, so it is likely to be held on a later date, and Friday's meeting is likely to be cancelled.

... continued on page A11

Election 2016
Schools and civic enhancements are featured in this issue's Lamorinda Weekly election coverage. We look at Lafayette's Measure C (page A2) and Moraga's Measure V (A5). We also highlight the school district races in Lafayette (A10), Moraga (A4) and Orinda (A6), as well as the Acalanes Union High School District board's unopposed contest (A10).

Civic News	A1-A16	Life in Lamorinda	B1-B8	Sports	C1-C4	Our Homes	D1-D16
Moraga lays groundwork for public art — page A5.		Town Hall kills it in 'Liberty Valance' — page B2.		Girls Golf takes a swing at the title. — page C3.		Harvest Court opens in Moraga — page D1.	
Fire Districts	A8						
MOFD restores medical benefits — page A8.							



Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, Oct. 5, 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:

www.lafayettechamber.org



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Sept. 11 - Sept. 17

Alarms	33
911 Calls (incl hang-ups)	2
Noise complaints	3
Traffic stops	107
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subjects	14
Suspicious Vehicles	12
Abandoned Vehicle	
Acalanes Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Moon Ct./Crescent Dr.	
Disturbance-domestic	
Dewing Ave./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Disturbing The Peace	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.	
Drunk In Public	
3500 Blook Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Forgery	
900 Block Dewing Ave.	
Found Property	
School St./Moraga Rd.	
La Caminita/Reliez Valley Rd.	
2nd St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1100 Block Crestmont Dr.	
Police Department	
H&S Violation	
3600 Block Bickerstaff St.	
Hailed By Citizen	
Mt. Diablo/Lafayette Cir.	
Harassment	
3600 Block Bickerstaff St.	
3600 Block Walnut St.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
50 Block Lafayette Cir.	
3600 Blook Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
1000 Block 2nd St.	
Identity Theft	
3700 Block Happy Valley Rd.	
900 Block Dewing Ave.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Police Department	
In Custody Theft	
3500 Blook Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Juvenile Disturbance	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	
200 Block Lafayette Cir.	
1200 Blook Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Litter	
3200 Block Stanley Blvd.	
Lost Property	
3500 Blook Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Blook Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Downtown	
Motorist Assist	
1000 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Ordinance Violation	
3200 Block Withers Ave.	
Panhandling	
3500 Blook Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Blook Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Patrol Request	
1100 Block Orchard Rd.	
Petty Theft	
1200 Block Quandt Rd.	
Burton Ct./Burton Dr.	
Downtown	

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Measure C Supporters Want Money to Stay in Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher

It seems all the controversy for the November election is not just the terrain of Hillary and Donald. Feelings are running high right here in Lafayette, specifically regarding tax Measure C.

It is a 1 percent sales tax for a period of 29 years, expected to provide \$3 million annually and, according to supporters, will fund general city services, prioritize the protection of open space, reduce downtown traffic congestion, enhance public safety, add downtown parking, acquire land for downtown parks and revitalize the historic Park Theater, with the money monitored by a citizens' oversight committee.

Lafayette's current sales tax is at 8.5 percent. The additional one percent would bring Lafayette in line with Moraga and Orinda, whose sales taxes are 9.5 percent and 9 percent respectively.

The measure is the result of two years of community surveys, both online and by mail, as well as "Community Conversations" initiated by city council member and former mayor, Brandt Andersson. In those meetings, close to 1,000 people identified areas of spending priority within the city.

In the fall of 2015 a Sales Tax Revenue Study subcommittee was set up to review the current budget sources and uses, to coordinate a public conversation regarding citizens' willingness to pay a sales tax increment and to advise the council. A sample of 436 likely voters suggested that 64 percent would support a sales tax increase if the funds were guaranteed to stay in Lafayette.

"The 'Citizens Vision' that grew out of the Community Conversations is surprising in some respects, but it both addresses concerns and identifies improvements," Andersson says. "Measure C can make that Citizens' Vision happen."

Although the current financial health of the city is excellent, the priorities identified through polling cannot be achieved as it stands, Andersson says. Vice mayor Mike Anderson agrees, pointing out that, "If the state's 10 percent cap on sales

tax is filled up by regional or state measures that are on the ballot, the city will lose the opportunity to increase the city sales tax, and with it the ability to keep those tax revenues in Lafayette."

Notably, local businesses represented by the Chamber of Commerce are backing this measure, after years of opposing a local sales tax increase. Jay Lifson, executive director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, says, "Our board voted to support for a few important reasons: There is an opportunity to raise the sales tax now or lose the chance if other agencies bring the sales tax over the cap. Our residents clearly support it and we want the voters to have a chance to vote on an increase."

Measure C requires a majority vote for passage. It is considered a general tax so the language of the measure can't specify or restrict the use of funds generated to specific projects.

And that is troubling for some. At a recent candidates and issues meeting hosted by the Lafayette Homeowners Council, Scott Sommer, a local resident and attorney, said that the city is hiding information from the voters. He accused the city government of raising the

money with intent to build new city offices, something vehemently denied by former Lafayette mayor Anne Grodin who spoke in favor of the tax. She said that there is already a separate budget for a new city hall building.

Michael Griffith, founder of Save Lafayette which is strongly against Measure C, accused the government of having an alternative agenda and asked why this was not a measure requiring 66 percent approval to pass. "Fifty percent is a carte blanche for the city," he said.

Sommer pointed out that if money were borrowed against the projected sales tax revenue, for example to buy open space as it becomes available from private owners, then the money would not stay in Lafayette, as interest would be paid to out-of-town lenders.

He also cites several memos which he forwarded to the Lamorinda Weekly that indicated that the city was considering borrowing money against the (sales tax measure) to fund a "Civic Building."

"City memos dated Feb. 8 and July 11, 2016, state that the city is actively studying a 'Scenario 2 — Completely bonded; 30 year bond against 100 of the annual rev-

enue stream' to borrow \$58 Million in principal, and using 'Bond Proceeds from Sales Tax Measure \$13,000,000' to acquire a site for a Civic Building," he said. "A major borrowing for buying or building a city hall is not disclosed in the sales tax measure," Sommer said.

He also cites an email exchange of July 13 and 14, also provided to the Lamorinda Weekly, between a site owner and Lafayette officials that ends with the statement, "better for us to wait to see if the sales tax measure passes on the November 2016 ballot."

"Clearly, acquisition of this civic building site is under consideration," Sommer says. "Legally, nothing stops this or a future city council from using the money for a 'borrowing' and a city hall."

Andersson called Sommer's comments "scare tactics."

"The Lafayette City Council has a long history of thoughtful, frugal decision-making, and has indicated, unanimously, that it will reserve Measure C funds to preserve open space, address traffic congestion, add downtown parking, support police services, and help revitalize the Park Theater," he said.

... continued on page A11

"The [current sizable structural deficit spending] projections highlight that deficit spending will erode reserves significantly by 2018-19. Absent increase in revenues, the District needs to reduce expenditures to remain fiscally viable and financially solvent." -Lafayette School District Financial Report, June 2016



"If elected, I will work tirelessly to eliminate nonproductive spending before we entertain new parcel taxes. That is the responsible approach."

Rob Sturm

I am committed to:

- Excellent Lafayette schools and teachers
- Programs that fully engage all children academically
- Student character and well-being
- Skilled support for special education
- Fiscal Responsibility.

I have nearly 25-years of experience as a successful labor/employment attorney, corporate leader and negotiator and a long unblemished record of 8-figure balanced budget oversight and leadership.

Broadly Endorsed:

- Only candidate endorsed by every current and incoming Lafayette City Council Member
- Both incumbent (non-returning) Lafayette School Board Members: Jean Follmer (President); Nancy Wallace (Clerk)
- A great many other elected and appointed community leaders and engaged community members

For more information please visit www.robsturm.com or contact Rob at c_robert_sturm@hotmail.com. 415.913.8995

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Rob Sturm for Lafayette School Board (2016)

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	3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Reckless Driving	Moraga Rd./School St.
	3600 Blook Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	Silverado Dr./Rohrer Dr.
Residential Burglary	900 Block Janet Ln.
Shoplift	3500 Blook Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	3500 Blook Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Subject Stop	Mt. Diablo Blvd./1st St.
Threats	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	3300 Blook Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Trespass W/ Vehicle	3400 Block Hamlin Rd.
Unwanted Guest	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	3500 Blook Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Warrant Advise	1300 Block El Curtola Blvd.
Welfare Check	Golden Gate Way/1st St.
	Upper Happy Valley Rd./Rancho Rd.
	1st St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

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- Expansive windows and Andersen glass doors create light filled environment
- Superb floor plan with spacious living areas that flow together
- Convenient area of Orinda with easy commute access and 12 years of top rated schools nearby

*per Public Records

Woodbury Highlands to Offer 99 Housing Units

By Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette Planning Commission offered feedback to the developer on the revised plans of the Woodbury Highlands project but warned of concerns over the landscaping, noise and increased traffic on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Developer Matt Branagh and architect Scott Thomson presented the plan Sept. 19 to construct 99 dwelling units on the 6.5-acre plateau above the existing Woodbury Homes development in the west end of Lafayette, replacing two existing office buildings. The plan proposes to lessen the impact of increased traffic to downtown by providing pedestrian and bike access from the elevated location of the project down to the East Bay Municipal Utility District aqueduct right-of-way connecting to the Lennar Project via a pathway that the developer will build.

Branagh explained the development is designed to create a thriving multi-generational community featuring a range of dwellings, from two- and three-story row houses, to interlocked town houses and condos. Thomsen outlined the proposed community spaces, including a large two-story clubhouse and Vista Park where the developer will provide community gardens, lounge chairs, picnic

benches and bocce ball. The plans include the planting of local trees and about five acres of open space.

Following the presentation the commissioners all gave feedback, with the main concerns being the aesthetics and the number and types of trees required to hide the development from the main road, the potential for bounce-back noise off the wall separating the homes from Highway 24 and increased traffic on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Commissioner Will Lovitt said that he was happy to see design improvements that avoid the imposing straight lines that design review chair Gordon Chong observed in Woodbury I. Commissioner Kathryn Lyddan wondered about the effect of losing office space and the cumulative effect on traffic of all the housing while commission chair Patricia Curtin said she is supportive of the project, pointing out that existing office buildings have gone past their active life with more people working from home. She said it was a great site, tucked away and having less visual impact, and that she is grateful for the mix of housing.

The plans will go before other city commissions before eventually coming back to the Planning Commission.

Lafayette Pool Dives into Dispute With Neighbors

By Cathy Dausman

What are the acceptable sight and sound parameters for a Lafayette swim pool? That is the question being asked and answered as Sun Valley Swimming Pool applies for a land use permit to allow what board members say will insure the

pool's continued fiscal health. At issue is satisfactorily balancing a proposed membership increase and expanded operation of the six-lane pool on Leland Drive with neighborhood concerns over increased crowds, noise levels and parking. ... continued on page A11

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You spoke. The City Council listened. We endorsed.

Two years ago, with the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center completed and the road repair program funded, the Lafayette City Council conducted a series of community conversations and surveys to hear from families about their 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 its proceeds would all stay in Lafayette.

Vote YES on Measure C. It's the best way to keep our money local, pay for the projects we want, and further enhance this beautiful place we call home.

We endorse Measure C!

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
Candace Anderson, Contra Costa County Supervisor
Mark Mitchell, Mayor of Lafayette
Mike Anderson, Vice-Mayor of Lafayette
Brandt Andersson, City Council Member
Traci Reilly, City Council Member
Don Tatzin, City Council Member
Carl Anduri, Past Mayor of Lafayette
Carol Federighi, Past Mayor of Lafayette
Anne Grodin, Past Mayor, 1999 Citizen of the Year
Erling Horn, Past Mayor of Lafayette
Ann Appert, Former Lafayette School Board Member
Jeanne Ateljevich, Planning Commissioner
Larry Blodgett, 2008 Businessperson of the Year
Cameron Burks, Chair, Crime Prevention Commission
Caity Meaney Burrows, Lafayette Library Foundation
Judy Carney, 2009 Citizen of the Year
Tom Chastain, Planning Commissioner
John Coleman, EBMUD Director
Kristin Connelly, Lafayette Library Foundation
Marechal Duncan, 2015 Citizen of the Year
Roger Falcone, Former Lafayette School Board Member

Nancy Falk, Former President, LPIE / LASF
Dennis Garrison, President, Chamber of Commerce
Teresa Gerring, Member, Lafayette School Board
Seth Hamalian, President, Lafayette Library Foundation
Lynn Hiden, Circulation Commissioner
Alison Hill, Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commissioner
Maurice Levich, 2007 Businessperson of the Year
Budd MacKenzie, 2004 Citizen of the Year
Karen Maggio, Former Planning Commissioner
Mary McCosker, Former Laf. School Board Member
Toni McShane, 2014 Citizen of the Year
Karen Mulvaney, 2011 Citizen of the Year
Tom Mulvaney, Former AUHSD Board Member
Suzy Pak, Member, Lafayette School Board
Caesar Perales, Treasurer, Chamber of Commerce
Carol Singer, Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commissioner
Tom Steuber, 2016 Lafayette Citizen of the Year
Kristina Sturm, Chair, Circulation Commission
Richard Whitmore, President, AUHSD Board
Cathy and Fred Abbott
Julia Ackley
Brian Aiello

Sharon Anduri
Forrest and Nicole Arakawa
Ruth Bailey
Don and Joan Beerline
Geoff and Sally Bellenger
Karen Blodgett
Dan Bosshart
Arne Brock-Utne
Larry and Cathy Chalacombe
Matt Chaney
Renee Chow
Sereta Churchill
Connie Collier
Grace Dixon
Bob and Cheryl Doud
Joe and Cindy Dougherty
Ben Douglas
Doris Duncan
Dennis Erokas
Norma Evans
Pat Falcone
Paul and Glenda Fillingner

Brian and Teri Fournier
Tammy Gaylord
Jeff Gilman
Julia Goddard
Dana Green
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Mike Heller
Mark and Lissa Heptig
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John Kiefer
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Dino Riggio
Roger and Jeane Samuelsen
Todd Skinner
Glenn Smith
Jim and Amy Smith
Virginia Steuber
Rob Sturm
Janet and Ramsay Thomas
Arliss Ungar
Doug and Suzanne Warrick
Heidi Yodowitz
Mike Zampa

Love Lafayette: Vote YES on Measure C.

Paid for by Lafayette Yes on Measure C Committee | www.LafayetteYesOnMeasureC.com



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 12, canceled

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Oct. 11, 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



Sept 7 to 12

Medical assist 9/6/16

The Moraga Police Department was notified that someone was having a bad reaction to a controlled substance (i.e. illegal drug). Upon arrival, officers found two folks quite obviously under the influence. They had to be physically restrained before getting a lift from the MPD. That must have been quite a headache for everyone (aspirin, anyone?).

Drunkeness 9/7/16

Dude! Where's my Car? The subject couldn't find his car, but he wasn't drinking and driving; he was drinking and not thinking. Police found him wandering along Camino Pablo one afternoon, clueless about being publicly intoxicated or where he'd parked his car. The good news: he got a free ride from Moraga police. The bad news: the ride was to jail.

TGIF 9/9/16

Party? What party? Police investigating an anonymous noise tip observed a large collection of college-age students leaving an apartment complex, halos intact. The group was advised about the inadvisability of being unruly, even on a Friday.

Second verse...same as the first 9/9/16

Saturday's party in the same general neighborhood proved a bit more wild, as police caught 18 folks with alcoholic beverages in the act of being loud. The party was disbanded at police request; the residents were warned not to do this again.

Santa Barbara Rental Scam 9/10/16

Driving to Santa Barbara over Labor Day weekend is probably bad enough to begin with, but when the vacation property you think you rented from Craigslist turns out to be (legally) rented to someone else it's a real drag. Sadly, the victim's email request to return her \$965 has gone unanswered.

Signed, crashed, delivered 9/10/16

A Moraga resident thinks his mailbox was knocked over by a Fed Ex driver. Damage estimate was \$250. When it absolutely, positively has to get there — watch out for the truck!

Other calls:

• 8 police calls, two of which left police unable to fully inspect the

MSD Candidates Want to Keep Moraga Schools on Track

By Sophie Braccini

Four names will be listed on the ballots for the Moraga School District governing this November: one person, Jim Obsitnik, is running unopposed for the two-year term, while three are running for two four-year terms on the board: incumbent Richard Severy, David Harrison and Jim Obsitnik.



Jim Obsitnik

Jim Obsitnik says he was initially appointed for a two-year term back in 2014.

"Assuming I win (given that I'm unopposed), this would result in an effective total four-year term," he says to explain why he chose that option. He says he thinks it is good that board members continually reevaluate their commitment to improving children's education every four years, to make sure that the board is made of the right people.

For the past two years, Obsitnik says that he has focused on successful implementation of innovative curriculum programs that support the Common Core standards in English-language arts and mathematics, shepherd children's safety as a charter member of the Student Safety Committee, and ensured that the district is prudent in its fiscal management. He is especially proud that the board made the right decision regarding the start time at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, prioritizing sleep for that age group to improve educational outcomes.

The candidate says he is invested in the district's efforts to develop the "Whole Child" for lifelong learning, with curricula including music and arts, enabling students to be successful global citizens in the 21st Century.

"As a technology executive, I am excited about the strides the District has made to weave technology into our children's educational experiences and look forward to driving further innovation in this area," he says. He adds that if he is elected for a second term he will also empower teachers in their implementation efforts of the Common Core Standards, and support improving the facilities to create a 21st-Century learning environment for collaboration, innovation, and interactivity.

Obsitnik is the father of two girls currently in the MSD.



David Harrison

David Harrison has two children in Moraga elementary schools and feels his family is a direct beneficiary of the quality education the MSD provides.

"I wanted to give back, serve, and help improve the district as well," he says.

premises because of dogs in the yard.

- Outstanding warrant (9/11/16)
- \$900 damage to a 2011 Jeep; tires slashed, paint scratched. (9/12/16)
- \$1100 in goods stolen from a possibly unlocked 2014 Toyota. (9/12/16)
- Police asked a visiting family member to leave after he argued with a resident teen. (9/12/16)

Harrison, who says he is passionate about education, would want to support extra-curricular chances to volunteer and to compete in both academics and athletics. He believes this type of engagement is not only good for developing well-rounded citizens who have compelling stories to tell on college applications, but also helps ignite children's passion for intellectual engagement and life-long learning.

Harrison says he has worked closely with public sector entities as a private sector executive in both entrepreneurial start-ups and larger well-established companies, and that the board position would be his first role within the public sector. He believes that his background as a chief financial officer will help him assist with maintaining sound fiscal discipline without sacrificing programs that help children thrive.

"With strong budgeting, planning, financial analysis and negotiation we can get the most out of our limited resources," he says, adding that he is also very comfortable reviewing contracts and diving deeply into the details so potential concerns are proactively addressed while still staying focused on the big picture.

Harrison says he started being passionate about education when he discovered, while tutoring in college, different ways in which individuals learn. He says he even briefly started a company that sought to hire tutors who could not only teach tailored to individual learning styles, but who could also begin to aggregate these insights about different types of learners to help develop targeted products and services based on them. Since then, his involvement in education has primarily been through volunteer activities such as teaching the BizWorld program in elementary school classrooms, coaching youth sports and leading a Cub Scout Den. He says he regularly attends school board meetings, has provided input for achieving small class sizes while still achieving a sound

budget plan, and has advocated for the district to host programs like Math Kangaroo and other extra-curricular opportunities to increase student engagement. He supports measure V.



Joe Rosenbaum

Joe Rosenbaum says that he is running for the MSD position to assist administrators, teachers and staff to maintain the current high level of excellence of education in Moraga schools.

"The MSD schools are continually recognized among the best in the state, and this in turn benefits our community and home values," he says.

Rosenbaum is a longtime resident of Moraga who has been involved in community and youth sports activities for much of the last 20-plus years. His two sons attended and benefitted from the education received from the MSD. He believes that since he no longer has children in the MSD system, he will bring an objective viewpoint to the board.

Rosenbaum has been quite active supporting the community and youth activities including acting as chair of the ad hoc "Field of Dreams Committee," the joint committee of the Moraga Town Council and the Moraga School District that ultimately resulted in the renovation of the recreational fields at Camino Pablo Elementary.

"I have also served as President of Moraga Baseball Association, president of Moraga Sports Alliance, president of Campolindo Cougar Club, and board member of Lamorinda Rugby Football Club. I have also assisted with Moraga

Boy Scout Troop 212," he says.

Professionally, Rosenbaum has worked as a certified public accountant for over 30 years, with leadership positions at large international firms. He currently serves as the chair of the California Board of Accountancy's Enforcement Advisory Committee and on the California Society of CPA's Forensic Services Steering Committee.

"I would bring valuable accounting, financial and leadership skills to the board," he says. Rosenbaum supports Measure V.

"The recent Facilities Master Plan revealed numerous repairs that need to be made in our schools including leaky roofs, deteriorating plumbing, heating and ventilation systems, improvements for seismic safety and upgrades to the electrical systems," he says. He is confident that the monies raised by this bond will be locally controlled and would only benefit Moraga schools, and will also have oversight and audits.

"The MSD could also become eligible for state matching funds. All in all, it is an investment in our local schools and our local community," he says.

Besides providing valuable insight and support to the administrators, teachers and staff, and making sure the needed upgrades are financed, Rosenbaum wants to strengthen ties to the community at large, especially those without children in the MSD.



Richard Severy

Richard Severy is an incumbent who was appointed to the board at the beginning of the 2016 when Parker Colvin moved out of Moraga. ... continued on next page

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Measure V in Moraga Slated for Safety and Technology at Schools

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga voters will decide on the November ballot for or against giving about \$30 per \$100,000 of their home's assessed value to the Moraga School District (MSD).

The school board decided to put to the vote the \$35 million package known as Measure V after the school completed a facilities master plan listing the needed improvements to the learning environment. The plan includes such things as seismic upgrade for some classrooms, storm drains replacement, double pane windows installation, and also upgrade of telecommunication networks and purchase of mobile furniture, what Superintendent Bruce Burns calls a safe environment for 21st-century learning.

MSD is financed mostly by state money allocated per the number of students.

... continued on page A12

Bob Priebe Appointed Town Manager

By Sophie Braccini



Bob Priebe

LW archive

Moraga's former chief of police who has been serving as interim town manager since Feb. 1 is now the official town manager.

On Sept. 21 when the resolution to appoint him was passed, Bob Priebe expressed his gratitude to his family for their support, to his predecessor and mentor Jill Keimach, to the town council and to the town staff, saying, "Staff is the greatest asset this town has, everyone goes way and beyond what is required of them. They are caring, smart people that make good decisions."

Mayor Mike Metcalf explained after the meeting that the reasons to appoint Priebe were multiple. "He's been in this town for 33 years, people trust him, he knows how the town operates," he said. Metcalf added that the former chief is very bright and picks up things very fast, that his peers and his staff respect him.

Priebe announced that Jon King, who was serving as interim chief for police, would become the department head on Oct. 1.

Town Allocates \$45K for All-access Playground

By Sophie Braccini

In keeping with its August 24 decision to fund site preparation costs for an all-access playground otherwise funded by Moraga Rotary, the Moraga town council agreed to immediately allocate \$45,000 for preliminary engineering and environmental work on the project.

Council members Teresa Onoda and Phil Arth voted against the funding, because the overall cost to the town has increased according to the latest estimate, and because there are talks of Lafayette envisioning the building of an even larger all-access playground in the Deer Hill housing development.

It is primarily budgetary considerations that weakened Onoda's and Arth's initial enthusiastic support of the proposed Rotary-town partnership. Both reaffirmed their complete support of the project, but added that the over \$200,000 that the town will now have to spend to prepare the site, instead of the \$145,000 originally approved, was too much.

"We are agreeing to spend \$45,000 (for preliminary engineer-

ing work) and if Lafayette does (an all access park), we've spent \$45,000 for nothing?" asked Onoda as she stated her opposition at the Sept. 28 council meeting.

Mayor Mike Metcalf, vice mayor Trotter and councilmember Roger Wykle supported the project saying that the town's contribution will come from development impact fees that can only be used for recreation projects, and that a \$200,000 town investment will result in a \$460,000 asset for the town, thanks to a pledged \$260,000 donation from the Moraga Rotary.

Kick-off to All-access Playground

Moraga Rotary invites the community to the official start to the fundraising campaign for the All-access Playground, at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 6 at the Moraga Commons. A few people will speak at the event, and wine and cheese will be served.

MSD Candidates

He is the co-chair of the Measure V committee.

Severy is an attorney who worked in Washington D.C. for a Supreme Court Justice before moving to California and working in the telecommunication industry, specifically in in policy-making where he built consensus with different stakeholders.

He says he's always had an interest in local education, following his two children as they went through all the local schools. Severy says that his experience with public policy making has allowed him to jump in quickly in the thick of things with the district. Besides Measure V, he represents Moraga on the Contra Costa County School Board Association, he is on the legislative committee, meeting federal representatives and advocating policies that would benefit Moraga. He also participated in the California Schools Association leadership conference for Moraga.

He says he enjoys working with Superintendent Bruce Burns and his staff and is immersing himself in different aspects of the life of the MSD.

"Being retired, I have had the time to do it, as well as the passion and the interest," he says. He highlights that the results of this year's test scores show the excellence of the Moraga schools, scoring twice the state average. He believes that the challenge is to maintain that excellence for everyone, in an environment where accountability metrics are changing for schools, and curriculum is changing as well, "which means for example that teachers need to be re-trained in an effective and cost effective manners," he says.

Finance is another priority for him. He says that the budget is balanced for now, but is dependent on state allocations, a source

... continued from page A4

of funding that cannot be guaranteed moving forward, while salaries and benefits increasing as prescribed by state regulations. Severy thinks that the MSD can look creatively at different sources of funding, like going after federal funds for special education that would free some district money for other general education purposes.

His goal is to support developing an environment where students can develop creative and critical thinking skills, maybe with smaller classrooms, and professional development so teachers are made aware of new teaching practices such as flexible classrooms where students work in groups.

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 7 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
Orinda Library

Parks and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 7 p.m.
Orinda Community Center, Room 7
28 Orinda Way, Orinda

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 Sept 4-10

Alarms	26
Noise complaints	1
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	1
Traffic stops	32
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subjects	3
Suspicious Vehicles	11
Abandoned Vehicle	
70 block Barbara Rd.	
Kite Hill Rd./Crossridge Terr.	
Burglary, Residential	
20 block Wildwood Rd.	
Civil	
Miramonte High	
Disturbance	
Donald Dr./Alice Ln.	
Glorietta Elementary	
Dispute	
Camino Pablo/El Toyonal	
20 block El Verano	
Reported to police	
Health & Safety (possession)	
Hidden Valley Rd./St	
Stephen's Dr.	
ID Theft	
90 block Estates Dr.	
20 block Cedar Ln.	
Motorist assist	
Hwy 24/Wilder	
Police/Fire/ EMS	
Glorietta Blvd./Orchard Rd.	
Safeway	
Public Nuisance	
20 block Southwood Dr.	
Southwood Ct./Southwood	
70 block Camino Encinas	
Reckless Driving	
20 block Overhill Rd.	
San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek	
Bear Creek/Camino Pablo	
Moraga Way/Stein Way	
Orinda Way/Camino Pablo	
Miramonte High	
Theft, Grand	
10 block Poppy Ln	
Warrant Service/Arrest	
location n/a	



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OUSD Candidates Tout Need for More Transparency

By Sora O'Doherty

Three candidates are running for two positions on the Orinda Union School District board of trustees. Below each candidate answers five questions put to them by the Lamorinda Weekly. For more information regarding the candidates, see links to their websites, below.

What makes you the best candidate for OUSD?



Sarah G. Butler, Incumbent Board Member

I am the best candidate since I am the only candidate who is an incumbent, and experience matters on a school board! During my four-year term, I have taken professional development courses for board members including: Effective Governance, Student Learning and Achievement, Policy and Judicial Review, School Finance, Human Resources, and Collective Bargaining. My strengths include a strong knowledge of the district budget and fiscal outlook for state funding. Past experience: Parent Club, EFO board member, and School Site Council Member.



Cara Rubinstein Hoxie, Retired CEO

My experience makes me the best candidate for OUSD. I have served as the co-president of the Educational Foundation of Orinda for the past three years. As EFO co-president, I worked to increase the total amount EFO donates to each school, I worked with all of the Parent Clubs in Orinda to collaborate on joint messaging which

resulted in the It Takes Both campaign. As the president and CEO of Rehabilitation Services of Northern California, I have had the real world experience of running an organization with multiple campuses. I understand our community. I went to Orinda Schools, my kids went to Orinda schools and my Mom taught at Orinda Union.



Hillary Weiner, Community Volunteer

As the only candidate with children currently attending OUSD schools (my children are in second, fourth and sixth grades), I have a current pulse on our schools and the issues faced daily by teachers and students. I was a litigator in San Francisco for 12 years, before stepping back to focus on my family and community. I served as Parent Club president for Glorietta, board member for EFO, commissioner on the Orinda Parks & Rec Commission, K-5 parent representative on the OUSD Fiscal Advisory Committee, and auction chair for Children's Health Guild. I am a critical thinker, great listener and collaborative leader.

What accomplishments in the field of education are you most proud of?

Butler
Leg Team co-chair, district level committees: Strategic Planning Committee, Parcel Tax Oversight, District Budget Committee, and Site Council Member, three schools.

Hoxie
I am very honored to have been selected as the Su Stafford Award for Friends of Education recipient in 2016 given by AUHSD. I was honored as the Volunteer of the Month by OUSD in November 2015. I was asked to participate in the selection process for our new Superintendent of Schools, Carolyn Seaton. I have been asked to participate in the Funding Task Force recently established by Seaton to review all of the fundraising in the Orinda schools.

Weiner

I am an active volunteer and community leader. I helped found the Got Shabbat program for preschool families at Temple Isaiah. As Parent Club president, I helped develop a technology plan during the pilot year of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress system testing, oversaw playground and outdoor classroom initiatives, and collaborated with teachers on fundraising and program development on the school site council. I'm an active participant on OUSD's fiscal advisory committee and drove conversations to restore programming and positions cut during the downturn.

Are there any changes you think are required for OUSD?

Butler
More transparency, better communication and incorporating all stakeholders' input into the decision making process.

Hoxie
I think OUSD needs to engage in a districtwide strategic planning process involving all of its stakeholders to develop a vision for the future of our schools. I think we need to continually review curriculum to make sure that it is meeting the needs of all Orinda students.

Weiner
Innovation. OUSD must have a clear plan to enhance our schools and classrooms, across facilities, technology and the classroom experience. Fiscal responsibility. OUSD receives significant local funding to fill gaps between state funds and district needs. We need to prioritize fiscal responsibility and smart, transparent use of financial resources. Strong community partnership. OUSD must be a trusted neighbor, engaging in an open communication process with the entire community.

What are the biggest challenges you foresee for OUSD?

Butler
Fiscal Challenge – The lack of adequate state funding that OUSD receives is almost at the bottom of the funding chart. That creates a big challenge to continue to offer the best education, and to continue to attract and retain quality employees. We will need to continue to monitor our budget process for fiscal stability. As a current OUSD board member, I have the fiscal and legislative experience needed to guide our district through the next several years. I have served on the district level budget committee in the Acalanes Union High School District, which has given me a very good understanding of the school district budget process. I also currently serve on the Contra Costa County School Boards Association as the vice president of legislation and as the OUSD board representative to our local Las Trampas Creek Council legislative team.

Facilities – Another challenge is our aging school facilities, which need improvements and upgrades to provide the best learning environment, including updated technology infrastructure. We need to update our Master Facilities Plan. My degree in environmental planning and management and my past professional experience makes me

an asset to our district in this area.

Other challenges – 1. Need for Strategic Plan, 2. Improving communication, transparency and collaboration among all stakeholders.

Hoxie
Funding is and will continue to be the biggest challenge for our district. OUSD receives the second lowest amount of funding of any district in the state of California. Because of this, 33 percent of our funds come from private donations (Parent Clubs, EFO and parcel taxes). In order to maintain this amazing community support, our school district needs to communicate openly and honestly with our community. In addition, we need to continue to focus on hiring and retaining the best teachers.

Weiner
Funding: OUSD remains one of the lowest funded districts in a low funded state. We rely on the community to fill financial gaps and provide supplemental programming, technology and services. Facilities: Orinda facilities are aging. OUSD needs a financial plan, created with community and teacher input, for upgrades to each school site. Technology: OUSD needs to establish a long-term plan for technology upgrades, funding and professional development. Curriculum: Successful implementation of Common Core and Next Generation Science curriculum standards requires increased professional development and other resources for teachers, as well as improved parent education.

How, if at all, do you think that OUSD should interact with other school districts?

Butler
OUSD staff currently meet for articulation with the AUHSD staff since our eighth-grade students continue at Miramonte for high school. The superintendents, principals and staff meet on a regular basis, and this will likely need to increase, to coordinate Common Core Math and Next Generation Science Standards. I also think it is beneficial for the school board members from Lamorinda and other districts to meet occasionally as I currently do with CCCSBA and the LTCC legislative team.

Hoxie
It is so important that OUSD coordinate with the Acalanes District, as most of our students matriculate from Orinda Intermediate School to Miramonte. As EFO co-president I supported funding to allow teachers from OIS and Miramonte to meet and discuss curriculum, expectations, and the transition from middle school to high school. It is imperative that we continue to develop well defined pathways that allow students to excel in math, language and science.

Weiner
As a K-8 school district, OUSD needs to interact with AUHSD to prepare our students for high school. OUSD should engage with neighboring districts to ensure that our teacher salaries are competitive and that local fundraising is effective. OUSD should consider partnering with neighboring districts for district staff positions in technology, human resources, and special education.

The ONLY candidate with children currently attending OUSD schools.



HILLARY WEINER



Thank you to the following individuals for their endorsements of my candidacy.

<p>CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE* Steve Glazer <i>Senator for the 7th Senate District</i></p> <p>Acalanes Union High School District* Susie Epstein <i>Board Member</i> Craig Cheslog <i>Member Elect</i></p>	<p>ORINDA CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS* Victoria Robinson Smith <i>Mayor</i> Eve Phillips <i>Vice Mayor</i> Dean Orr <i>Mayor</i> Amy Worth <i>Darlene Gee</i> Sue Severson <i>(former)</i> Bobbie Landers <i>(former)</i></p>	<p>ORINDA SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS* Julie Rossiter <i>President</i> Carol Brown <i>Vice President</i> Jason Kaune <i>Matt Moran</i> Pat Rudebusch <i>(former)</i> Linda Landau <i>(former)</i> Riki Sorenson <i>(former)</i></p>
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For additional endorsements and other information, please visit

HillaryWeiner.com

Paid for by Hillary Weiner for Orinda School Board 2016. PFPCC Committee #1386751

Candidates' Websites

Sarah Genn Butler: www.SarahGButler.com
Cara Rubenstein Hoxie: www.cara4orinda.com
Hillary Weiner: <http://www.hillaryweiner.com>

www.cara4orinda.com



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Brisbane's Loss is Orinda's Gain as Sheri Spediacci is Hired as City Clerk

By Sora O'Doherty



Sheri Spediacci Photo Sora O'Doherty

Spediacci recently moved to Orinda from Burlingame, but for years she has been spending a lot of weekends in Orinda and loves the city. Brisbane considers its loss to be Orinda's gain.

"Sheri has been a constant source of support for me and the city of Brisbane organization and will be sorely missed," remarked Brisbane city manager Clay Holstine. "The residents and community (of Orinda) will soon find they have found a true gem in Sheri."

Spediacci confirms that she is very excited to be here. Like Olsen, she says she loves helping people and making them feel welcome when they come to the city's offices. Sheri replaces Sherry Kelly who served as Interim City Clerk during the search for Olsen's replacement. While welcoming Spediacci, the city council has expressed its deep appreciation to Kelly for filling in so ably.

Other Personnel Changes

There have been a number of recent personnel changes in Orinda. Charles Swanson retired as Public Works Director after seven years in Orinda, and whisked off to live in Reno, Nevada. Larry Theis, Senior Engineer, is now the Acting Public Works Director. Following the departure of Michelle Lacey, Todd Trimble is serving as Interim Parks and Recreation Director. The city conducted an open recruitment for the position, and is now in the process of interviewing candidates for the post.

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for Orinda School Board

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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.

Endorsements, partial list:

- Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Joan Buchanan, former CA Assembly Member, District 16,
- Orinda Education Association (Orinda Teachers)
- California School Employees Association, Orinda Chapter

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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Lynn Molloy CalBRE #01910108



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The Beauvelle Group CalBRE #00678426



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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
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-JQJQ, Orinda Buyer

Meet Steve Stahle:

"My wife and I retained Steve to locate a home in the Orinda area in 2015. Within weeks, he located and secured a single family residence for us in Orindawoods. Needless to say, we were delighted! Due to his diligent and timely work, we were able to close the purchase of the residence within 30 days. We found Steve to be thorough and timely with great follow up. We have recommended Steve to our friends and business acquaintances who were in need of a residential REALTOR®."
-David, Orinda Buyer



PETER LIU



STEVE STAHL



ORINDA \$1,875,000
6/6 Exquisite Orinda Country Club retreat w/private au-pair/in-law quarters. Spacious thru-out
Laura Abrams CalBRE #01272382



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



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



ORINDA \$1,395,000
6/3.5 Spacious contemporary home on private lot with wooded views and fenced level area.
Meredith Linamen CalBRE #01918299



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



ORINDA \$1,349,000
4/3 Mediterranean style home, fully renovated interior and landscaped gardens.
Melanie Snow CalBRE #00878893



MORAGA \$749,000
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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors
Wednesday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors
Tuesday, Oct. 25, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez
For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

MOFD Board Restores Firefighter Medical Benefits

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District moved to bring firefighter compensation in line with neighboring districts Sept. 21 by approving an increase in employer-paid health care premiums, which had been capped at 2010 levels. The motion passed 4-0, with director Brad Barber absent.

The premium increases range from approximately \$100 a month for a single employee up to \$300 for an employee with a family. The hikes, which will cost the district \$229,000, kick in Jan. 1 and run through the end of the labor contract in June 2018.

The action comes at the behest of Fire Chief Stephen Healy, who told the board that the current firefighters' contract, which included

a first year pay cut and was signed reluctantly by the union in 2014, had lowered morale and frustrated his ability to retain and recruit firefighters. After the new contract took force, MOFD lost firefighters to Contra Costa, Santa Clara and Alameda county fire agencies. The district recently filled its last openings and will send two probationary firefighters to a training academy in mid-October.

Once the employer-paid premium increases take effect, district medical benefits will more closely align with those of neighboring fire agencies, but salaries will still lag behind. According to published documents, MOFD firefighter-paramedics at the highest grade earn a salary of \$99,348 a year, not

including overtime or benefits. The same position at the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District pays \$104,845; the Alameda County Fire Department, \$110,040; and the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, \$112,572.

Increasing the employee medical benefit was not the board's first attempt to mollify the firefighters' union. In December, with its financial picture having improved, the district agreed to a 2.5 percent wage increase for the firefighters seven months earlier than outlined in the original contract. But the union complained that the original pay cut was unnecessary and that the increase still left the firefighters with the same pay they made in 2008.

Board president Steve Anderson not only voted against the 2.5 percent increase last year, he also voted against the original contract because he objected to the automatic pay increases it provided. This time around Anderson changed his approach. "I know that they took a hit, and this gives the firefighters some recognition for the sacrifice they made," Anderson said later. He stressed that the premium increase will not impact the district long-term, and that it will have no effect on future labor negotiations.

"It's a step in the right direction toward bringing our salary and benefit package on par with similar fire districts in our job market," said Mark DeWeese, MOFD Local 1230 representative.

Motiva Cultivates A Culture of Wellness at Work and at Home

By Sophie Braccini



Matt McCormack with his wife and new daughter stand in front of the Moraga office of Motiva.

Photo Sophie Braccini

With his business Motiva, chiropractor Matt McCormack wants to become a part of the Lamorinda community, and to raise his family here. He recently opened a part-time health and chiropractic practice in Moraga.

With a partner he developed a business service that specializes in addressing another company's musculoskeletal burden and creating a culture of wellness.

McCormack explains that Motiva works with employees in their work environment, addressing the workstation and more, preventing repetitive stress injuries and chronic conditions.

"If we can treat people in the office, we can decrease their pain, while increasing job satisfaction and productivity," says the therapist. Motiva uses chiropractic care, in conjunction with ergonomics,

nutrition and fitness to help each employee with whatever they may need.

Theravance Biopharma, Runway and GSvlabs are some of the companies that have hired Motiva over the last year and a half and where the lucky employees know that some days a week, the Motiva health practitioners will be on site and available to them free of charge.

"We encourage a standing desk," says McCormack. He believes that standing is way better for the back and neck than sitting. If people have pain standing, he will look at arch support and sometimes can recommend an anti-fatigue mat. The practitioner also recognizes the problem of the common head-bent, shoulders rounded and hands together posture of people who spend too much time on their cell phone or at a monitor, where the eye level is not in line with the top of the monitor, and the keyboard below the elbow level.

Motiva addresses more than the workstation. It recommends walking meetings to increase the physical activity during the day. "I also recommend people to stand up every 30 minutes, even if they seat down immediately afterward," says McCormack.

The health practitioner says Motiva adds nutrition, exercise and fitness to the core of his chiropractic services, and for companies he creates a physical culture of wellness. Working with all dietary needs, Motiva makes sure people get all the nutrients they need for optimal health.

McCormack believes that the

services Motiva offers are now expected for companies who want to take a more active role in providing a healthy work environment for their employees, with Facebook and Google setting the standards. Companies who pay for the service see a nice return on investment in term of less days missed, and great feedback in employee satisfaction. It is also certainly good also for recruiting and retention.

When a client visits the Moraga office, the same comprehensive approach is engaged and the first visit lasts 60 minutes, giving McCormack the chance to fully understand each person's individual symptoms and possible triggers. He adds that he treats the whole person, not just their pain.

"I take a comprehensive approach to health and address people's function with the goal of getting them better faster so they can stay out of my office," he says. It

means that he will address any musculoskeletal imbalances with chiropractic care in addition to education regarding diet, exercise and lifestyle. He loves to treat shoulders, ankles, backs and necks, working with older and younger people, and athletes in a holistic way.

"I am excited to also offer care to the Lamorinda community and make this the headquarters for Motiva Health & Chiropractic as we expand and grow," he says. At this time, McCormack is in Moraga once a week and plans to expand to twice a day.

More information is available at www.motivahealth.com. The Moraga office is located at 1605 School Street, Suite #1, (650) 332-4748.

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

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Business Bites

Compiled by Victor Ryerson

The Greenest Guys in Town
Kudos to a trio of local businesses for winning 2016 recycling awards from Recycle Smart, which recognizes businesses that have demonstrated excellence in reducing and recycling their waste. In the Restaurant category, Orinda's Baan Thai is the gold medal winner for recycling nearly 100% of food waste and other recyclables. In Moraga, Saint Mary's College and its hospitality provider, Sodexo, won the bronze in the Large Food Services category. And back in Orinda, Parker Thatch won the bronze in the Retail category.

New Nightlife in Lafayette -- Provided by You
The Coffee Shop, downtown Lafayette's new addition at 50 Lafayette Circle, now offers local musicians, comedians, poets and guitarists an opportunity to strut their stuff every Thursday from 6 to 10 p.m. at its Open Mic Night. The Coffee Shop's own house band, Two Little Birds, is also there to provide music and backup, and even offers a guitar to play in case your act is impromptu. "No need to bring your own," emphasizes owner Kristopher Shinn. And if you need something to fortify your resolve (or enjoy the show), beer, wine and food are available.

Happy Birthday!
AAAAA Rent-A-Space, better known locally as "5A," is celebrating its 45th year in business, and its 21st year in Moraga. The company started with its first location in Alameda in 1971, and became something of a cause celebre when it established its facility at 455 Moraga Road next to the old Rheem Bowling Alley. The facility was promptly embraced by overburdened homeowners, apartment dwellers, and

summering Saint Mary's students, and the company enlarged its facility to the current 1180 storage units in 2001. "We think it's the most beautiful storage facility anywhere in the western states," says owner H. James Knappe. Party favors are available if you drop by for a look, and if you happen to need a storage space in Maui, they can take care of that, too.

Fastframe of Lafayette is celebrating its 25th anniversary, and owner Anthony Ruiz says he is very grateful to the Lamorinda community for its years of support. The store at 1020 Brown Ave. offers complete framing services, including conservation, restoration and design assistance. Ruiz started framing as a hobby long ago, which then morphed into a home-based business, stints at galleries in San Francisco, and finally the Lafayette Fastframe store. Fastframe supports local artists and school art programs by donating supplies and framed artwork. "We are proud to be a part of the Lamorinda community," says Ruiz, "and we look forward to the next 25 years of service."

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.lafayettechamber.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

Catharine Baker Makes Her Reelection Case to Lamorinda Voters

By Nick Marnell



Catharine Baker Photo provided
[Editor's Note: This article was intended as a Lamorinda campaign forum for both incumbent Catharine Baker and challenger Cheryl Cook-Kallio, candidates to represent the 16th district in the state assembly. Questions were sent to Cook-Kallio's campaign manager but the challenger declined to answer them.]

"I am honored to represent the Lamorinda community and to support education, transportation, accountable state government, and local control for the good of our area," said Catharine Baker, a Republican. In addition to her appointment of Lamorinda residents to all of her advisory councils, including councils on education and public safety, she noted the six town halls in Lamorinda she held in the last 20 months, two in each town, all unscripted and open to all constituents. Four of those town halls were conducted jointly with Senator Steve Glazer, a Democrat.

Proposition 55

Baker opposes Proposition 55, a ballot measure that looks to slap those earning \$250,000-plus with a tax to support K-12 schools and community colleges. The tax increase would disproportionately

affect Lamorinda, which has a high percentage of wealthy residents.

"Prop. 30, passed in 2012, imposed the highest tax increases in California history. When voters passed Prop. 30, they were promised that the tax increases would be temporary and would phase out by 2019, and the funds would primarily go to help education during the budget shortfall. Prop. 55 breaks this promise to voters," Baker said. She noted that the extreme budget conditions that predated passage of Proposition 30 have passed, with the state recording a \$6.7 billion reserve in its Rainy Day Fund. What's more, billions of Proposition 55 dollars would go toward expanded Medical benefits, not education, she said.

Teacher Tenure and Seniority Rules

Many residents of Lamorinda live in the area because of the schools, but some residents are concerned about the tenure rules that can prevent dismissal of incompetent educators, which can negatively affect those schools. With the recent ruling on the Vergara lawsuit, the courts for all practical purposes threw the tenure problem back to the legislature.

The parent of school-age children, daughter of an award-winning public school teacher and former preschool board member, Baker said she believes everyone owes it to the teachers and kids to reform the rigid, antiquated teacher tenure and seniority rules that are a disservice to both the teachers and children.

"Current law also effectively puts most teachers up for tenure, or 'permanent status,' 18 months or so into their career, after which it is virtually impossible to dismiss

an ineffective teacher. This policy harms teachers and kids," Baker said. She pointed to a bill she authored, AB 1044, that would have allowed school districts not only to consider seniority, but also to consider the needs of the schools and students, when having to institute layoffs.

"I have three advisory councils comprised of local teachers, school board members, and principals from our area," she said. "All three advisory councils have confirmed we need to reform the seniority and tenure rules, and provide more meaningful professional development and feedback for both principals and teachers. I will continue to fight for those reforms."

Proposition 13

Some residents of Orinda resent that they are taxed at a higher rate than residents of Moraga to fund the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. The district's hands are tied, because the property tax allocation percentage is set by Proposition 13. Only the state legislature can correct an inequity like this.

"The state imposes mandates on our local communities for decisions that most affect our local lives and neighborhoods, such as housing – where it is built, how much is built, with what local input, and what type of housing is built. How the fire district distributes its funds within the district should best be left to the residents of the local district, who better know (the) area and its service needs, response times for emergencies, and geography, and not left to legislators in Sacramento," Baker said.

She did point out that there needs to be unanimity among the affected jurisdictions on whether to change the property tax alloca-

tions, how, and under what circumstances and criteria, before any state legislation would be appropriate to consider.

BART

Baker pulled no punches over the Bay Area Rapid Transit system, on which many Lamorindans rely but are equally frustrated with.

"BART is in great need of complete reform and long-term, responsible financial and capital planning. Its labor costs are grossly too high, while capital improvements and planning suffer. That is one reason that the very first bill I introduced as your assemblywoman was AB 528, a bill that would bring an end to BART strikes that have contributed to unsustainable labor costs and capital deficiencies," she said. Baker explained that if BART workers already agreed to a no-strike clause in their contract, and the contract expires, and they continue to be paid during the expiration period while negotiations continue, BART workers cannot strike. They have to honor the no-strike clause and cannot cherry-pick what provisions of the expired contract apply.

Though Baker said she does not take official positions on local measures, she did say that she will vote no on Measure RR, BART's \$3.5 billion request for infrastructure money. "Measure RR is not the right way to support BART funding, in no small part because the money that is supposed to be used for capital improvements of the train system itself can be used to back-fill the very generous labor costs that are unsustainable," she said.

Candidate Summary

"I am grateful to have the bipartisan endorsements of the en-

tire Lafayette and Moraga town councils, and both Democrats and Republicans on the Orinda City Council, as well as bipartisan school board members and law enforcement leaders from all across the Lamorinda community," Baker said. "I adore Orinda, love Lafayette, and amore Moraga, and am honored to represent these great communities. I would be grateful for your vote, and will work hard every single day to deserve it."

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Darlene K. Gee Orinda City Council



Darlene's Top Priorities

1. Complete Orinda's roads and drainage rehabilitation
2. Define a funding plan for ongoing road maintenance
3. Continue Orinda's excellent fiscal management
4. Plan a vibrant downtown while preserving our small town feel and beautiful natural environment

"Darlene's professional engineering background and financial management experience are essential assets in the ongoing effort to help Orinda successfully complete our roads program and maintain our strong fiscal standing."

— Amy Worth, Orinda City Councilmember

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Partial List of Endorsements

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ✓ Steve Glazer, California State Senator, District 7 | ✓ Cara Hoxie, Candidate, OUSD Board | ✓ Brad Barber, Director, MOFD |
| ✓ Victoria Smith, Mayor of Orinda | ✓ Hillary Weiner, Candidate, OUSD Board | ✓ Alex Evans, Director, MOFD |
| ✓ Amy Worth, Orinda Councilmember | ✓ Susie Epstein, Board Member, Acalanes Union High School District | ✓ Robert Burt, Member, Orinda Finance Advisory Committee |
| ✓ Dean Orr, Orinda Councilmember | ✓ Steve Harwood, Lamorinda Arts Council Former President, Educational Foundation of Orinda | ✓ Carol Penskar, Member/Former Chair, Orinda Finance Advisory Committee |
| ✓ Bobbie Landers, Former Mayor of Orinda | ✓ Joan Kiekhaefer, Former President, Educational Foundation of Orinda | ✓ Julie Whitsitt, Former Commissioner, Orinda Parks and Recreation |
| ✓ Sue Severson, Former Mayor of Orinda | ✓ Cindy Powell, President, Orinda Association | ✓ Cassandra Forth, Campaign Co-chair, Orinda Measure L |
| ✓ Tom McCormick, Former Mayor of Orinda | ✓ Kate Wiley, Former President, Orinda Association | ✓ Stephanie Davis, Former President, Orinda Junior Women's Club |
| ✓ Terry Murphy, Chair, Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission | ✓ Mark Roberts, Former President, Orinda Association | ✓ Tom Trowbridge, <i>Orinda Vision</i> |
| ✓ Richard Nelson, Vice-Chair, Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission | ✓ Richard Westin, Co-Founder, Orinda Community Foundation | ✓ <i>What's Up Downtown Orinda?</i> |
| ✓ Linda Landau, Former President, OUSD Board and Orinda Association | | |
| ✓ Pat Rudebusch, Former President, OUSD Board | | |
| ✓ Inga Miller, Candidate, Orinda Council | | |

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VOTE DARLENE

Nov. 8 Election Coverage

Three Candidates Battle for Two Seats on the LUSD Board

By Pippa Fisher



Mark Kindhouse

Mark Kindhouse lives in Lafayette with his wife and two sons who attend Burton Valley School. His background is in engineering and he currently serves on the Capital Projects Assessment Committee, the Government Relations Committee for the American Society of Civil Engineers, and participated in the "Measure C" bond campaign. He works as capital projects manager at Pricewaterhouse Coopers in San Francisco.

Kindhouse is running for the Lafayette School District governing board because he says he can make a difference in the future of this community. "One of the biggest issues facing our district currently is the management of the \$70 million 'Measure C' bond. As a seasoned capital projects manager at an international firm, I have spent my career collaborating with boards, executives, and staff to make sure projects are built on time and under budget. Citizens can breathe easier with someone on the board familiar with responsible management," Kindhouse said.

As an engineer, Kindhouse says that STEM education (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) is increasingly important. "Parents I've talked to want to integrate more STEM into the overall school

experience. This will rely heavily on improving our aging and insufficient infrastructure," he says. "Wise financial planning and timely management are crucial."

The Lafayette dad says his family has had a wonderful experience with teachers and staff in Burton Valley. However, budget projections for the school district show a shortfall requiring use of money from the reserve fund. He says that the district is still trying to catch up from the 2008 cuts, but that it is a high functioning district. "We may never receive the same dollars per pupil that other districts receive. Like any family knows, this means we raise revenues and/or cut expenses. The challenge is to do that while continuing to attract and keep the best teaching talent."

When people know they can truly help in a situation, the candidate says it's their duty to do so. "I would be honored to be of service on the board. I'm a civil engineer by trade, a Cub Scout dad, and a taxpayer who wants the best for our children and this community," Kindhouse said.



Meredith Meade

Meredith Meade is a lifelong Californian who attended U.C. Berkeley and has lived in Lafayette for 17 years with her husband and three children who have all gone through or are still in Lafayette's

public schools. Since 2006, when her oldest was a kindergartner, she has been actively involved in Lafayette schools. Meade has volunteered in many ways, including as a two-term PTA president at Lafayette Elementary and for the past two years as president of Lafayette Partners in Education (LPIE). She also served for six years on Report, the districtwide stakeholders committee composed of representatives from all five schools, parent education reps, LPIE reps, a teacher rep and district administration. "This experience makes me uniquely qualified to serve on the Lafayette School Board, as I have an in-depth knowledge of how the district works, the opportunities that it seeks and the challenges that it faces."

Meade points out that California still lags behind most states in funding for schools, which is a contributing factor, she says, in the district's passing an unbalanced budget this year. "Our community has made up for this lack of adequate funding by passing local parcel taxes and supporting the schools through donations to LPIE. I hope to use the advocacy skills I have learned to continue to work with state legislators for better funding for our schools, and also to help the district devise new sources of revenue, while helping to identify areas for saving—without affecting our students' educational experience."

Meade says the second issue facing Lafayette schools is ensuring that the district is focused on educating the "whole child." Lafayette schools are admired for their use of the workshop model, she says, and the district has done a great job in transitioning to the Common Core, providing professional development for teachers with strategies to delve deeper into subjects, encouraging more collaboration and critical thinking in the classroom. But, she says, "I see students still struggling. We can do so much more through our partnerships with Challenge Success and Character Counts, as well as other expert sources, to ensure that we are also meeting the emotional needs of all of our students."

Finally, Meade points out that the district's five-year strategic plan is up for renewal next year

which she sees as "a unique opportunity for the board to get community input on key areas of focus for educating and preparing our students to become healthy and happy citizens who contribute to make our world a better place!"



Rob Sturm

Rob Sturm and his wife, Kristina, moved to Lafayette from San Francisco in 2009, drawn by the community's small-town feel, access to nature and, most importantly, preeminent schools. Their oldest son attends Burton Valley Elementary School and his brother and sister will soon join him, assuring family enrollment in the Lafayette School District for almost the next two decades.

Sturm is an attorney with 25 years' experience, much of it in labor and employment law specializing in identifying and implementing solutions to benefit both the employees and company. He joined CSAA Insurance Group (AAA) in 2008. As Vice President and Associate General Counsel, he oversees the Employment Law, Corporate Litigation and Legal Operations practice groups, including short- and long-term operational planning. Sturm says, "I've consistently been recognized for successfully identifying and implementing cost-efficient solutions that have literally saved millions and millions of dollars. I have never had a budget deficit, not once." Additionally, Sturm has served on volunteer boards such as CASA and Northern California Employment Round Table, and is a volunteer for youth causes.

Sturm says that most importantly, the district needs fiscal stability. With a massive deficit spending of almost \$1 million dollars he says, "Our ability to main-

tain a rich curriculum and class sizes urgently requires improved cost-efficiency."

Upwards of 85 percent of the Lafayette School District's budget is allocated toward compensation, employee benefits and litigation expenses, the attorney says, so his distinct background makes him uniquely able to identify and promote cost efficiencies to enhance academic excellence and bring imminently needed fiscal stability. Sturm touts his long and unblemished track record of doing exactly that. Referring to a passage from the district 2016-17 budget report stating that the projections highlight that deficit spending will erode reserves significantly by 2018-19 and that absent increase in revenues, the district needs to reduce expenditures to remain fiscally viable and financially solvent, Sturm says "It confirms my view that this particular school board election is especially important and that we must address this fundamental problem with particular care, skill and time urgency."

Secondly, Sturm says that all students should be intellectually engaged to their fullest so learning is enriching and instruction promotes character development, integrity and ready pursuit of academic interests. To this end he would like to see the Lafayette School District more actively consider accelerated academic offerings (e.g., math) as other model school districts do, and mindfully encourage both girls and boys to pursue their interests in science, technology, teaching or other professions that have historically been underrepresented.

Sturm also says there is a need for an improved approach to support special needs children. He says that the district has made progress and more is needed. "We must apply the district's scarce resources toward the children, not costly legal expenses".

"As an attorney with almost 25-years' experience providing equal opportunity counseling, training and formal instruction, I am exceptionally capable of adding value. Not only will our special needs community benefit but so too will our district's long-term financial stability by avoiding particularly costly legal fees and litigation and settlement expenses," Sturm said.



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Cheslog to be New Face on AUSD Board

By Pippa Fisher



Craig Cheslog

Two people will be taking their places for a new term on the Acalanes Union High School District board this fall. One face needing no introduction after many years on the board is Kathy Coppersmith, the incumbent running unopposed.

The other unopposed candidate is Craig Cheslog, who may be the new face on the board, but is no stranger to education-related issues.

Living in Lafayette with his wife and two sons who attend Stanely Middle School and Acalanes High School, he currently serves as vice president for California Policy and Advocacy at Common Sense Kids Action, the advocacy arm of Common Sense Media. In this role, Cheslog helps

fight for children's rights, takes action to improve education policy, and provides parents with the resources they need to enrich their kids' lives.

From 2011 to 2015, Cheslog served as principal advisor to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. In that role, he served as the department's liaison to external stakeholders and organizations. He coordinated major initiatives to revitalize science, technology, engineering, art, music, civics and math in school. Cheslog also managed the state's awards programs that recognize schools, teachers and staff from around California.

Cheslog says that he believes his time working for the Department of Education and Common Sense Kids Action has "provided me with a rare perspective on our schools and the transformations that have taken place in our state's education system over the past five years. I look forward to channeling this experience to better serve my community on the Acalanes Union High School District Governing Board."

He says the biggest issue facing our schools and our students right now is the need to ensure every child receives the high-quality

education they deserve while providing them with the strong support they need to navigate the stresses they face every day as teenagers.

He recognizes the need to work hard to keep the district financially sustainable by working with board members, community leaders and statewide advocates to ensure funding for schools to adequately meet students' 21st-century needs.

"We must ensure that the AUHSD successfully implements the state's new academic standards, the district's newly adopted graduation requirements and our schools' new block schedule in ways that serve the best interests of all students," Cheslog says.

Regarding these issues he points out that the Mental Health Task Force is reporting to the board but says that there is more work to be done. He plans to listen closely and work with his fellow board members, students, parents, teachers, administrators and community leaders to discuss how these issues impact schools and students.

"I also want to work with the leaders of each of the elementary districts that send their students to our high schools to ensure we do everything possible to help our students succeed in school and in life," he says.

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Measure C Supporters Want Money to Stay in Lafayette

... continued from page A2

"If Measure C passes, the city may have the opportunity to obtain a large downtown park site near the library, consistent with developing downtown parks," another use of Measure C funds included in the ballot language, he said. While the council has studied the option of a civic building for that site, the city already has more than \$5 million

in notes and assets reserved for its construction, he said.

"So, to be crystal clear: no Measure C funds are necessary for the construction of a city office building."

As controversial as the opponents are finding Measure C, the Contra Costa Taxpayers' Association has decided to take no position on this tax. President Jack Weir

says, "During our board discussion, and my own conversations around the Lafayette community, there are clearly mixed feelings about the measure."

"In general, (we) feel Lafayette is one of the better-governed and managed cities in the county," Weir says. "Their policies on fiscal matters are generally frugal and pru-

dent. Their contract with the sheriff's department for police services is smart; they have largely avoided the unfunded pension obligation that is now crippling so many municipalities."

The process in which the tax measure came about is also getting positive reviews. "Although the city council can't promise the

money raised by the sales tax be used for specifics, the city has done a great job of giving the community a chance to tell them what they want to see in Lafayette's future," Lifson says. "And they are willing to pay for it. Our city council has demonstrated in the past that they take a responsible and conservative approach to keeping the city fiscally sound."

Lafayette Pool Dives into Dispute With Neighbors

... continued from page A3



The Sun Valley Swimming Pool club. Photo Cathy Dausman

Additional concerns about handling garbage and light pollution were also raised.

SVSP club president T.J. Grossi says the city was alerted to the pool's increased use "mostly when we began playing amplified music at our meets, and the neighbors of our pool were affected by this enhancement." Cheering crowd noise and electronic starting beeps are different than the loud amplified pop music SVSP has requested; Grossi says; "one is tenable (to the neighbors), the other is not."

The city of Lafayette and SVSP neighbors responded with concerns about noise and limited onsite parking. Pool grounds have only six parking spots; overflow parking uses a nearby daycare center and a church by agreement. Grossi said the pool funded an environmental review "at great expense" and the board hosted a series of four outreach meetings to bring pool leadership, neighbors and the city together.

"We found that there was intense organized opposition to our permit as applied for by a very small number of adjacent neighbors," Grossi said, and the largest and most complex issue was noise. The city received three written comments about the matter from individuals who suggested the city apply "reasonable parameters" to any changes. The fourth letter (unsigned) from "adjacent neighbors of Sun Valley Pool" opposed the land use permit "entirely," raising concerns about excess traffic, pedestrian safety, buildings not to code, potential alcohol abuse, sanitation deficits and excess noise resulting from a proposed membership increase.

SVSP members themselves have complained to Grossi about other pools being able to use amplified music when they can't. Grossi says even their pool attorneys cannot find a legal argument favoring its use, but adds "as far as I know, no other (Lamorinda)

pool permit lists amplified music as a condition of operation."

Grossi says he has been working closely and amicably with Lafayette city project planner Adam

Foster. At the Sept. 19 planning commission meeting, the pair was

in and out in a matter of minutes when the item was granted a continuance to the Oct. 3 meeting. Foster

says the city wants details about just when the pool would use amplified sound. Grossi hopes to make the end result "better for the neighbors and more enjoyable for the swim team."

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Monica Fitzsimmons

Author of the "Keep Orinda Moving" petition on Change.org

Recent Crimes Stir Concern About Corridor's Safety

... continued from page A1

The local police departments have a great deal of informational material with suggestions for protecting residents against becoming victims of robberies, car thefts, burglaries and associated acts of violence. As far as what communities can do to solve crimes and prevent their occurrence, they agree that one solution stands out: more cameras. After the city's recently installed surveillance camera system captured images of a car involved in an Orinda home invasion and assault last year, the suspect was quickly tracked to Oakland and arrested within days.

By comparison, solving the Brown crime will require old-fashioned police work, Nagel says, because there are no surveillance

camera images. This means looking for home surveillance videos and eyewitnesses, a much slower and less reliable process.

As for prevention, after cameras were installed in Orinda, the number of auto burglaries committed by outsiders dropped from 12 last year to 0 so far in 2016.

Residents may also be able to do more to prevent crime from happening. "If you see something, say something," the Lafayette crime bulletin reminded residents.

"When we moved here at the time of cityhood more than 30 years ago, Neighborhood Watch was big," agrees one Orinda resident, who preferred not to give his name. "We ought to revive that."

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Inga Miller

for Orinda City Council

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Measure V in Moraga

That allocation is not sufficient to subsidize capital improvement.

“We have enough to pay for our teachers and programs and to allocate 3 percent of our budget for current maintenance,” says Burns. But the Moraga district, like many others, does not have the means to save for long-term capital projects. Burns adds that he and his team went to Sacramento to find other funding sources and found out that the MSD was not eligible for capital grants. If the bond passes, though, this will change and the district will apply for grants that require matching funding and that could extend the impact of Measure V, he said.

In 1995 Moraga voters approved a \$12 million bond that residents will pay off until 2021. Burns says that this measure had allowed the reopening of Los Perales, the renovation of the two other elementary schools, the addition of the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate pavilion, and the addition of new technology. “This bond

is still benefiting students today,” says Burns, “like Measure V bond will benefit students tomorrow.” Richard Severy, board member and co-chair of the bond committee, adds that bond money is for facilities and equipment only, not salary or programs.

Measure V will probably fund a series of very much needed improvements. A little over a year ago, MSD, which manages three elementary schools and one middle school, entrusted a consulting group to study its facilities. The report shows 50-year-old schools that have ongoing issues like leaking roofs, outdated plumbing, heating and air-conditioning issues, or faulty sewer systems. The report details and itemizes everything, including the seismic upgrades needed in some buildings. Severy says that these are not gold-plated additions, but items on a massive laundry list that need to be done. “The district has been able to do some maintenance over the years,

... continued from page A5

but the needs far exceed its resources,” he says.

Severy also indicates that the bond measure can be used to configure a more flexible study environment, improve the network infrastructure, and acquire additional tablets, for example. “The state cannot take that money away, and it will be used only for Moraga, only for the schools, only for the students.

Seniors will not be exempt of the bond, if passed. A citizens’ oversight committee will control the way the funds will be used, and the committee will be audited independently. The committee will also determine the priority of the projects’ completion. Measure V needs a 55 percent rate to pass.

A survey done by the school district shows that it should be approved, but Burns says he will not be comfortable until after the election.

There is currently no organized opposition to the bond measure.

Letters to the Editor

Because of the high amount of election-related letters received this issue, they will appear on pages A12, A13, A14 and A15, organized by category.

Please note that because of the volume of election-related letters we receive, deadline for the Oct. 19 issue will be Wednesday, Oct. 12.

Lafayette Measure C

No on Measure C
 Dear Editor,
 Lafayette has a \$130 million city council chamber/library complex. The astronomical price is because of incredibly bad judgement and borrowing money. Now they want to borrow up to \$58 million more on the anticipated earnings from Measure C, the 1 percent sales tax that will affect vehicle purchases, wherever they are purchased. We can’t escape this tax, like we can with other taxable products.

The number one goal of the city of Lafayette’s government is to borrow money to purchase the Golden Gate Plaza, a.k.a. The Lincoln Buildings, evict the poor tenants who will never find comparable rent in this area, demolish the buildings, then build an overpriced office building for their best friends, a.k.a. the city of Lafayette’s administrators and police. They already have given this project the fictitious name of “The Library Park.” They

even mentioned turning the deep concrete flood control channel into a “natural” creek. In all appearances, this is impossible. Not merely a bad idea.

Purchasing the “Bridge” parking lot was the first step in this plan. The politicians deny this is their plan. This reminds me of the old story about the snake that convinced someone to put him in their pocket. Then the snake bit the sweet, gullible person, then said; “You knew I was a snake.”

Be sure to vote No on Measure C.

Bruce R. Peterson
 Lafayette

Invest in Lafayette – It’s Good for Business

Dear Editor,
 The Board of Directors of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce has endorsed Lafayette’s Measure C on the November ballot. We support the city council’s effort to fund the Citizens’ Vision for Lafayette for the coming decades. The Chamber has opposed sales tax increases in prior years when we did not feel that the economy or circumstances were right. There are several reasons this year’s proposal makes sense.

First, the city council has made clear that they are committed to investing the incremental sales taxes on improvements to make Lafayette a better place to live, dine and shop. Investing in efforts to reduce traffic congestion and improve parking downtown are both critical to the happiness of our customers and the continued success of our businesses. Finding land for new downtown parks and helping to revitalize the Park Theater will bring more pedestrians and bicycles to the downtown and increase the clientele at Lafayette businesses. Providing additional resources for police services will improve public safety for businesses and residents.

Second, the state has set a 10 percent cap on the sales tax for each community. We believe that if Lafayette does not act now, regional agencies will fill that cap space. Lafayette is best served if the additional sales tax money raised in Lafayette stays in Lafayette and is invested in projects that fulfill our Citizens’ Vision.

Finally, other cities are working on their own sales tax increments. More than half of the cities in Contra Costa County, including Orinda and Moraga, have already passed sales tax increments. We don’t believe that Measure C would create a competitive disadvantage for the

businesses in Lafayette.

Measure C will make the Citizens’ Vision for Lafayette possible. We believe that it is good for the residents and it is good for businesses.

Invest in Lafayette – Vote Yes on Measure C.

Dennis Garrison
 President-Board of Directors
 Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
 Lafayette

Love Lafayette – A City that Listens

Dear Editor,
 A positive measure -- Measure C -- is on the ballot in Lafayette to enable the Citizens’ Vision of Lafayette’s future. For the last year and a half, the city council reached out in open meetings and two rounds of polling to listen to the vision residents have for Lafayette over the coming decades.

While citizens expressed interest in many things, several priorities received very broad citizen support in each survey and community conversation. Those key elements of the Citizens’ Vision for the future of Lafayette include:

- Protecting open space from development
- Reducing downtown congestion
- Enhancing police protection
- Improving downtown parking
- Acquiring land for downtown parks
- Revitalizing the historic Park Theater

The revenue from Measure C will enable the city to invest in these priorities, and do so in smart ways that will help the city’s money go farther. As Chair of the Circulation Commission, a past member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Chair of the Sales Tax Revenue Study Committee, and a member of the Lafayette Downtown Congestion Study Steering Committee, I have seen the city listen to what citizens want and then get the most for its citizens by leveraging its funds to obtain additional grants, and taking advantage of opportunities for public/private partnerships.

A positive measure -- Measure C -- is inspired by the Citizens’ Vision for Lafayette. If citizens approve the measure, the city will have the revenue to help fulfill the Citizens’ Vision for the city we all love.

Love Lafayette – Vote “Yes” on Measure C.

Kristina Sturm
 Lafayette

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Letters to the Editor ... continued

Lafayette School Board

Mark Kindhouse for LUSD

Dear Editor,
I don't write letters to the editor often, but I wanted to express publicly my confidence in Mark Kindhouse for Lafayette School Board. It's rare to have an opportunity to elect someone with a technical background to local office. This is especially important this term as the Lafayette School District begins spending the \$70 million from its recent bond measure.

Mark is a civil engineer who has managed multi-million dollar projects, and has a deep understanding of infrastructure. He also has years of experience with governance and oversight having worked closely with executives and corporate boards. These particular skills – combined with his knowledge of the challenges our school district faces – are a rare find.

I saw Mark speak at the Lafayette Homeowners Council "Candidates and Issues" night on Sept. 22. There I heard Mark's story, and I believe he understands what makes Lafayette so special. He strikes me as having both the mind and the heart for the job.

As a resident of our community for 25 years, I ask my fellow citizens to vote for Mark Kindhouse for Lafayette School Board on Nov. 8. Take the time to visit his website, or reach out to him by email. Get to know him. I think you'll see the exceptional School Board member that I see.

Mike Anderson,
Vice Mayor, City of Lafayette
Lafayette

dents serving on the Lafayette Elementary School District Board. This election year is unusual as neither of the incumbents whose term is ending seeks re-election. Jean Follmer and Nancy Wallace have served us well and I thank them. Fortunately, three candidates are vying to take their place. I know that I will vote for Rob Sturm and encourage you to do the same.

I endorse Rob because I believe he fully embraces a commitment to continued academic excellence. Rob knows that maintaining educational preeminence requires careful fiscal management. Fortunately, residents approved school taxes to offset the declines of \$1,100 per year in state support per student since 2008, despite increases in operating costs. However, the district's current 2016-2017 budget includes structural deficit spending that is not sustainable and will require prompt, focused and thoughtful attention by the school board and school district to avoid future reductions that affect students.

Rob is an experienced attorney who successfully manages a large budget. We can count on him to ensure that unnecessary expense that does not benefit our children, the school district, teachers and our community is identified, analyzed, and, when possible, eliminated before the option of asking residents to approve new taxes is proposed.

Please join me in voting for Rob Sturm for the Lafayette School District Governing Board.

Don Tatzin
Lafayette

Orinda City Council

London for Orinda City Council

Dear Editor:
Dr. Bruce London, a candidate for the Orinda City Council, merits enthusiastic voter support because of his concern for Orinda's future.

"What keeps me up at night is

the threat of loss of local control," Dr. London told the Lamorinda Weekly (Sept. 21, 2016). He added, "Municipalities are under constant assault from Sacramento and the increasing power of regional agencies."

From 2004 to the present time, Orinda has experienced a lost decade. Unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats have been telling Orinda, a city that is fully developed, that hundreds of new homes have to be built within the city's borders. Two regional governmental agencies, the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, voted, in July 2013 to impose high-density, high-rise construction on Orinda and nearby communities. The directors of ABAG and MTC are not directly elected by voters.

Orinda faces the loss of its semi-rural, village-like charm if real estate interests and their cronies continue to push for more development in Orinda. If these special interests have their way, Orinda's excellent schools will face overcrowding. Parking and traffic, already intolerable in Orinda, will become worse.

Dr. London, a 32-year resident of Orinda, deserves praise for his courage to oppose the special interests that wish to turn Orinda into a version of Tokyo or New York City. He also supports a refreshed look for the city's downtown.

Time is running out for Orinda's ability to remain a pleasant place to live. By electing Dr. London to the city council, Orinda's voters will be selecting a candidate who will do what is necessary to preserve Orinda's cherished environment.

Richard S. Colman
Orinda

Smith for MOFD; Gee and Miller for Orinda

Dear Editor,
Orinda is very fortunate to have three highly qualified candidates

for the MOFD board and for Orinda City Council on the ballot this fall.

Victoria Smith (MOFD board), Darlene Gee and Inga Miller (Orinda City Council) are all very experienced, with years in leadership roles in Orinda government and civic activities. All are open-minded, dedicated to the ongoing enhancement of Orinda, and emphasize fiscal soundness.

Victoria Smith has been on city council for 12 years, and served as mayor three times. These 12 years were highly productive. Every city budget in that time was balanced while strong reserve balances were built up to protect Orinda from the kind of disaster that recently befall Moraga. Several hundred more housing units, from low to high end, were completed. Finally, after 35 years, Orinda has a roads repair program well on its way to completion.

Darlene Gee, also a current city council member, is a rare combination: both a civil engineer and a Berkeley MBA. Gee has served for decades on such vital boards as the Orinda infrastructure committee and on the Acalanes bond oversight committee. She chaired the successful 2012 campaign for roads funding, and held many other

positions in local schools and charitable organizations. Gee was and remains a driving force behind the design, financing and implementation of Orinda's sorely needed roads repair program. She is dedicated to finishing this program and to a positive action plan for revitalizing our downtown.

Inga Miller is a third generation Orindan, and an attorney specializing in real estate with a practice here in Orinda. She attended Orinda schools from nursery school through 12th grade. Miller was a local newspaper reporter for nine years, covering Orinda. She was an Orinda Parks Commissioner and is on the board of Las Trampas School. Her deep understanding of Orinda is without parallel.

Please join me in voting for these dedicated, experienced and talented women: Victoria Smith (MOFD board), Darlene Gee and Inga Miller (Orinda City Council). Orinda needs them for continued progress with our roads, our drab downtown and fiscal soundness!

Carol Penskar
Orinda



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Lafayette City Council (R)



Michael Metcalf
Mayor of Moraga (R)



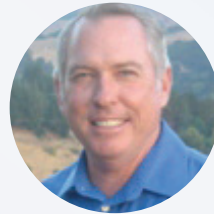
Dave Trotter
Vice Mayor of Moraga (R)



Phil Arth
Moraga Town Council (DS)



Teresa Onoda
Moraga Town Council (D)



Roger Wykle
Moraga Town Council (R)



Eve Phillips
Vice Mayor of Orinda (R)



Darlene Gee
Orinda City Council (D)



Dean Orr
Orinda City Council (D)



Jean Follmer
Lafayette School Board District President (I)



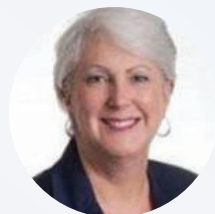
Suzy Pak
Lafayette School Board (D)



Bruce Burns
Moraga School District Superintendent (R)



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Letters to the Editor ... continued

Orinda City Council ... continued

Vote Gee, Miller, Hoxie, Weiner and Smith

Dear Editor,
Orinda is fortunate to have several very capable and great candidates for local offices that will continue the tradition of excellence in our community. I wholeheartedly endorse Darlene Gee and Inga Miller for City Council; Cara Hoxie and Hillary Weiner for OUSD; and Victoria Smith for MOFD.

Sue Severson
Orinda

WUDO Endorses Gee and Miller

Dear Editor,
Consensus at the Sept. 6 Orinda City Council meeting was that something needs to be done about the state of Orinda's downtown. Both the written correspondence sent to the city council and the speakers in the room were overwhelmingly in favor of downtown revitalization being a key priority moving forward. Orindans don't want talk, they want a real actionable plan.

A promising presentation from our new planning director Drummond Buckley showed that he is established in his new role, and that he and his staff are ready to lead the effort.

With this in mind, What's Up Downtown Orinda (WUDO) is officially endorsing two candidates for the open city council seats who have confirmed that the downtown issue will be a high priority should they win: Darlene Gee and Inga Miller. Through questionnaires and conversations with WUDO, both candidates have made it clear that they will work to see Orinda's downtown reach its full potential and become a town that is vibrant, charming and a place of pride.

Appointed to the city council in July 2015 to fill Steve Glazer's vacant seat, Gee will continue the current momentum in a "results-oriented way and with a fairly aggressive schedule" as she has stated. Miller represents the next generation of Orinda and will bring a fresh perspective and open mind to the position, and can use her legal expertise to help us, as she says, "chart a course for the future."

WUDO asks that Orindans who would like to see thoughtful progress Downtown cast their votes for these two worthy candidates on Nov. 8. The alternative is to let fear of change keep our downtown stuck in the past.

Laura McDowell, Ali Drasin, Laura Pavlovich, Emily Stoddard, Trudi Loscotoff, Darien Destino and Kirsten Larsen
WUDO Steering Committee
Orinda

The Real Differentiator in Orinda

Dear Editor,
There are four candidates for the two contested seats on the Orinda City Council. What are the real differentiators? Who matches your values?

All candidates want to see the road and storm drain rehabilitation completed expeditiously and frugally. All candidates would like to see a refreshed commercial downtown. All candidates appreciate the ardor and energy of the Friends of Orinda Creeks. All candidates support financial responsibility, excellent schools and airtight public safety. Don't be fooled. These are not significant points of differentiation.

But this is. Which candidates are publicly committed to maximizing the Orinda experience for its existing citizens? In contrast, which candidates advocate a high density, downtown residential component for hypothetical future residents as part of their "vision" for Orinda? Who would waive the 35 feet maximum downtown building height, and/or waive the maximum downtown building density of 10 units per acre? Who would allow new downtown development to provide fewer on-site parking spaces?

Who seems oblivious to the potential impact of downtown residential development on school class size,

increased traffic, public safety, and an exacerbated downtown parking squeeze? Who is unwilling to poke at Orinda's unbalanced funding of the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department?

Voters who don't hear a particular candidate's position on such matters, should flat-out ask, and keep asking, until they get a definitive answer.

Dr. Bruce London and education administrator, Linda Delehunt, the only two candidates without conflict-of-interest ties to the real estate and development special interests, are also the only two who seem to understand whom they would serve and where to draw the line. Existing Orinda voters don't have to guess exactly where they stand on such matters. There is indeed a clear choice in this election.

Owen Murphy
Orinda

Inga Miller for City Council

Dear Editor,
I strongly urge voters to elect Inga Miller to the Orinda City Council. My wife and I are 30-year residents of our village and are concerned with getting young people into city government to address the bewildering cast of problems that must be addressed to keep Orinda the unique and delightful place it is. Inga is a third generation Orindan who went to Orinda schools and now practices law here.

Inga is exceptionally intelligent and her service on the Orinda Parks and Recreation Commission has shown a devotion to Orinda and a marked ability to work in a cooperative setting and solve knotty municipal problems. Most importantly, she has the ability to listen and consider problems, an ability rare in anyone, but particularly in one so young. Inga has an excellent grasp of land use processing and procedures from her time as a journalist, reporting on municipal events. She is even handed and has no dogma or predetermined approach to land use issues or any other issues that may come before her.

National politics are so strident and divisive that it is refreshing to find a young person with a collegial, cooperative approach to problem solving. My wife and I have known Inga since she was a baby and have watched her grow and mature into an intelligent, extremely impressive young woman. If you have a chance to talk with her, I'm sure you will agree that she is an extraordinary candidate for the Orinda City Council. She is a problem-solver who looks for the things that unite us, not those that divide us. Inga's deep affection for Orinda and her willingness to take up the difficult task of city leadership presents us with the rare and exciting opportunity to vote for her and enhance the council with a tireless advocate and an exceptional leader. We urge all of you to vote for Inga for Orinda.

Wilson F. Wendt
Orinda

Leadership Needed for Thriving Downtown

Dear Editor,
Like a lot of young families in Orinda, my wife and I moved from San Francisco seeking a tight-knit community with great public schools and beautiful open spaces. We haven't been disappointed – Orinda is an amazing town in so many ways. But looking back, I'm reminded that we looked past its tired downtown and pot-hole riddled roads, believing it to be just a matter of time before common sense would prevail and a thriving downtown (and retail tax base) would finally take shape.

Having grown up Lafayette and witnessed the gradual improvements to its downtown, with improved markets, dining, streetscapes, and high-quality housing for all ages, surely Orinda would capitalize on its own obvious opportunities — albeit in a way befitting of its own small town charm. However, six years later, it's clear to me that nothing is going to improve in Downtown Orinda without strong new leadership at city council.

Darlene Gee and Inga Miller represent that opportunity for thoughtful, results-oriented change. Both of these candidates recognize that a thriving downtown which caters to its existing residents does not equate to traffic, congestion and certain doom – it equates to better community. It means frequent encounters with neighbors, a better tax base for roads, parks, and schools. It means a town that we can be even more proud to call home. Darlene and Inga understand that serving on the Orinda City Council requires an ability to listen and respect all of its residents.

For too long, Orinda has listened only to those that choose to look backward for fear of change, all the while ignoring the voices of a large, engaged base of residents and families that represent the future of this town. If you agree, please get out and vote this election for Darlene Gee and Inga Miller – Downtown Orinda will not improve on its own.

Alex Waterbury
Orinda

Gee, Miller for Orinda

Dear Editor,
Orinda is very fortunate that Darlene Gee and Inga Miller have stepped forward as candidates for the two open seats on the city council this November. Both have the professional backgrounds and experience that will enable them to be significant contributors at this level, especially at a time when the community is about to embark on a process of planning for the future of its downtown.

Darlene is a graduate civil engineer with an MBA degree. She has had a successful 30 year career as an engineering consultant. She heads the San Francisco office of the global engineering firm HNTB Corporation. Inga is a real estate law specialist with her own practice in Orinda. This has given her valuable insight into the process by which commercial real estate is improved and leased. Both women are quite familiar with how to get things done in the city work environment, having served on important Orinda Commissions in the past.

Both Darlene and Inga look forward to the challenge of shaping the process of renewal that downtown Orinda needs. Importantly, each is convinced that Orinda's small town feel can and should be preserved in whatever is done to improve its commercial districts. If both are elected to the city council, the community would benefit in major ways from the talents of these experienced, capable professionals.

Tom Trowbridge
Orinda

MOFD Board of Directors

Smith Has Experience for MOFD

Dear Editor,
I am compelled to express my support for Victoria Smith, who is running for Director, Division 5 with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. Her experience, and success, as a councilmember and mayor of Orinda has positioned her well to continue those achievements with the MOFD.

During my tenure in that same seat, I worked on several challenging issues with Victoria and found her to be well informed or a quick study on the critical issues facing the department. While serving the city of Orinda, Victoria was a valuable contributor and facilitator for the creation of the Lamorinda Emergency Preparedness Program, which helps strengthen our first responder network and leverage existing community resources.

Another important collaboration I'd like to highlight is a thorough and lengthy examination of the so-called funding inequity between Orinda and Moraga relative to the funding of the fire district. Her challenger for the seat has chosen this same issue as a focal point of his campaign. His mistaken focus threatens to waste even more staff time and district funds by revisiting this misleading issue that three independent elected bodies has long ago proven as completely unfound-

ed, and possibly illegal.

The district cannot afford this loss of institutional memory and experience it needs to move ahead and focus on future challenges and pressing needs. Please join me in voting for Victoria and moving the MOFD towards a strong future.

Brook Mancinelli
Orinda

Smith for Fire District

Dear Editor,
This November, my colleague Victoria Smith will run for election to the Moraga Orinda Fire District Board of Directors. I hope my neighbors in District 5 (North Orinda) will join me in supporting her in this effort.

It has been a pleasure to serve on the city council with Victoria and work together on many of the issues facing our community. Emergency services and preparedness have always been a priority for Victoria and she understands the importance our citizens place on these efforts. It is a natural transition for Victoria to move her dedication to public service to the MOFD Board. Her leadership and focus on fiscal stability will be welcome attributes to the board. Victoria is a consensus builder and her experience balancing our city budget and prioritizing our capital projects will serve her well in this next endeavor.

Victoria's efforts and dedication to Orinda go far beyond her three terms of service on the council. Victoria has also served on our planning commission, volunteered in scout troops, and served in our school communities. We are fortunate to continue to have her leadership in Orinda.

Please help to make sure Victoria is successful in November.

Dean Orr
Orinda

Craig Jorgens for the MOFD Board

Dear Editor,
After spending considerable time over the past decade understanding the workings of MOFD, the services it provides to Orinda residents and the money those residents pay for those services, I consider Craig Jorgens to be the superior choice of candidates for the position of MOFD Director representing North Orinda. His experience in managing large organizations and his background in finance and engineering make him the stronger of the two candidates by far. More information can be found at www.VoteJorgens.com.

His opponent, Victoria Smith, is a real estate attorney and would be the third attorney out of five board members if elected. Her experience includes 12 years on the Orinda City Council which she is leaving with a partially repaired road system and an undefined downtown plan, despite at least three citizen groups clamoring for action for several years. She is a weak second choice. More details on how the two candidates compare can be found at www.OrindaTaskForce.org/Craig_Jorgens_Endorsement

Steve Cohn
Orinda

Orinda School Board

NO on Butler for OUSD

Dear Editor,
A "No" vote on Sarah Butler is a "Yes" vote for our Orinda schools and kids. While a nice person in many ways, Sarah lacks the key qualities that make for an effective leader. Two of the four years I served on the OUSD board coincided with Sarah and I witnessed up close the deficiencies.

Many of those who have worked closely with Sarah and no longer support her candidacy include former and current OUSD board members. Sarah has difficulties making decisions with routine efforts to push votes down the road or abstaining all together. This is compounded by being late (22 times and counting according to official board minutes) and on a few

occasions yelling and abruptly leaving meetings.

One of the big decisions that we faced during my time on the board was how to best use the multi-million dollar facilities money that came from the sale of property. I, and all of the other board members, felt a task force to really study all the options, visit the school sites, and meet with parents and staff would yield important recommendations. Sarah voted no on the formation of the task force which, ultimately, helped to prioritize how to best utilize the one-time funds.

I actually endorsed and voted for Sarah when she first ran for election but, after seeing her on the board, I feel it's important to let other Orinda voters know some of what I now know and to say enough is enough. Sarah has already served on the OUSD board for the past four years and our Orinda schools don't need another four. Please join me in voting for the very qualified alternatives.

Christopher Severson,
OUSD Board of Trustees 2010-2014
Orinda

Butler for OUSD Board

Dear Editor,
Elections are hard, especially this one. Luckily, this year I have one easy choice – reelecting Sarah Butler to the Orinda School Board.

I don't go to as many school meetings as I should; somehow, work, parenting and plain old tiredness get in the way. And yet, when I do go, I often see Sarah Butler there, whether it's at my Parents Club meeting, or EFO and occasionally, at my School Site Council. I think to myself: she doesn't have kids in Orinda's schools anymore, and yet, she is working harder than I am for a job that doesn't pay a dime.

At the meetings, I see Sarah listening carefully to everyone, and occasionally asking probing questions or explaining school board policy. She is intelligent and empathetic. She genuinely cares about the interests of all the stakeholders of Orinda schools. She is the only candidate to receive the Orinda Education Association's endorsement; our teachers support her!

Both of Sarah's children went to Orinda schools and they are now in college. She is free to advocate for every child, including mine. When I talk to her, I feel she understands the concerns and worries of someone like me. I have also seen her voice principled dissent with honesty and courage. I trust her to look out for my daughter's interests and to protect the school district from being blindsided by inadvertent mistakes.

She listens, thinks deeply and works hard. I hope you will join me in voting for Sarah Butler for Orinda School Board.

Amy T. Chen
Orinda

Teachers Association Supports Butler

Dear Editor,
The Orinda Education Association, an organization representing all of the teachers in the Orinda Union School District, is pleased to announce its endorsement of incumbent, Sarah Butler, for the office of School Board Trustee.

The term, Trustee, is particularly applicable to Ms. Butler, who views positions on the board as a public trust and whose actions demonstrate her awareness of this responsibility. In making its endorsement decision OEA closely examined Ms. Butler's experience, past record with regard to support of the interests of teachers, and other endorsements received by the candidate. The teachers of Orinda feel confident that Ms. Butler will continue to champion the inclusion of our voices in the community of stakeholders that strives to provide a truly exceptional education for the students of Orinda.

Katherine Palmer-Collins
OEA Vice President
Orinda

Letters to the Editor ... continued

Moraga Town Council

Korpus for Town Council

Dear Editor:

I have known Planning Commissioner Kymberleigh Korpus since she was born. I knew her as a child of energy, impatient to take on the world. I knew her as an Honor Roll and CSF Campolindo student working at Nation's in Moraga, and passionately playing varsity volleyball from her sophomore year to graduation. I knew her as, dare I say, a formidable opponent when negotiating for privileges and latitude as a teenager. I always knew her to be a strong advocate for herself in her callow youth. And now that she has educated herself, matured and gained experience in her chosen career, I know her as a passionate advocate for whatever she loves.

I remember when Kymberleigh could not wait to go to college and get out of "Bor-aga." I laughed to myself knowing that someday her youth in Moraga would be a grounding and beautiful memory. In 2011 her Moraga memories propelled her home to its golden hills with cows, its quiet streets, its excellent schools and its neighborhood safety. This year Kymberleigh's love for Moraga has propelled her to serve Moraga, first on the planning commission and now on the town council, to better protect Moraga's peaceful nature for everyone who loves it. Everything she offers her family and clients she now offers to Moraga residents: her ability to retain, organize, and analyze copious quantities of data, derive a thorough and cohesive understanding of how it all logically fits together, or identify contradictions within; her ability to simplify, explain and teach clearly what she understands; her integrity.

In her careers as attorney/advocate and wife/mother, Kymberleigh long ago learned how to treat everyone with respect, rationality and honesty. I've watched her skillful approach in public planning commission discussions regarding the controversial developments near the Moraga Way fire station and Rheem Boulevard. Her arguments persuaded more than one member of the commission. She never stoops to intimidate or browbeat. She works, simply and indefatigably, to convince. I think Kymberleigh is perfect for Moraga. Please join me in voting for her.

Roberta Thomas
(Kymberleigh's mom)
Moraga

Wykle Will Preserve Open Space

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to express my strong support for Roger Wykle for Mor-

aga Town Council.

Over the past six years, Wykle has championed the principles of the Moraga Open Space Ordinance (referred to as 'MOSO') as a planning commissioner, council member and mayor. We need his voice on the town council to continue.

For example, as a Planning Commissioner, he was the lone vote against the Hetfield Estates subdivision which will require nearly 200,000 cubic yards of grading and landslide repairs to build houses in MOSO open space.

Two years ago, thanks in part to Wykle's support, the town began revisiting Moraga's open space development policies. In a few months, the council will decide whether to approve new regulations that will close the loopholes that have allowed damaging hillside and ridgeline developments like Hetfield to be approved, contrary to the General Plan's many policies discouraging such projects.

Wykle's support for open space preservation is urgently needed during this process to preserve what remains of Moraga's scenic open spaces. We need his continued good judgment and thoughtful consideration of all issues that have come before him.

Please vote for Roger Wykle on Nov. 8.

Tim Meltzer
Moraga

Elect Crossley, Wykle and Fritzy to Town Council

Dear Editor,

I have worked, participated and served in various capacities with all four of the candidates for Moraga Town Council. I strongly endorse Graig Crossley, Roger Wykle and Jeanette Fritzy for Moraga Town Council.

Craig Crossley's service to our nation, his students and the Town of Moraga (once Mayor) is without parallel and his record speaks for itself — plus he has great common sense, is moderate in his views, listens well and has unfailing good judgment.

Roger Wykle similarly has a lifetime of service to his nation and has served Moraga well on the Town Council. I usually agree with his positions on matters before the town and when I don't his reasoning is always sound and he clearly has Moraga's best interests up front. His thoughtful approach is needed!

Jeanette Fritzy's efforts as member and chair of the Moraga Planning and Recreation Commission has been exemplary. Her business experience has already contributed to Moraga's progress through her efforts with the Chamber of Commerce. Jeanette's great

outlook and ease of working with make her ideal for our town council.

I have worked with Kimberleigh Korpus and do not believe she would be a good candidate for town council.

Tom Marnane
Moraga

Reelect Roger Wykle

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to ask Moraga voters who value our town's hillsides, ridgelines and scenic corridors to re-elect Roger Wykle to the Moraga Town Council. Wykle has a proven track record on these issues.

As a Moraga Planning Commissioner, he was a committed defender of the Moraga Open Space Ordinance (MOSO). He was the only commissioner to vote against the Hetfield Estates development (now approved but not yet built in open space land off Sanders Drive), citing the fact that its massive grading in "high risk" land was contrary to MOSO and the General Plan.

When the town council tried in 2012 to sell town-owned open space to developers to generate revenue, commissioner Wykle objected, pointing to the General Plan's directive to "preserve open space to the maximum extent possible." His leadership on that issue helped persuade the council not to move forward with the sale.

As a town councilmember, Wykle voted against the new housing project currently under construction on Moraga Road across from Starbucks. He was in the minority, unfortunately. While not an open space development per se, this project's two-story homes so close to the road have now negatively impacted that scenic corridor and

obscured views of Rheem Ridge.

As a councilmember, Wykle has strongly supported the "Hillside Ridgeline Project," an effort to review and amend Moraga's open space development regulations. For the past two years, the town has gathered public comment regarding open space development and drafted revised regulations to reflect those comments. Not surprisingly, the feedback has overwhelmingly supported less development and greater protection. The council will soon vote on more restrictive regulations, and we need Wykle's voice and vote on that issue, as the pressure from developers to water down the new rules will be tremendous.

If you support preservation of Moraga's scenic beauty, open space, and semi-rural character, please vote for Roger Wykle.

Peter Bennett
Moraga

Clarifying Korpus' Points

Dear Editor,

In your last issue, you published a Letter to the Editor penned by Mr. Woehleke, chair of the Moraga Planning Commission. I write to put his disparaging comments about planning commissioner Kymberleigh Korpus' conduct (in connection with the highly controversial City Ventures project) into perspective, and to explain why I strongly support Kymberleigh's candidacy for the Moraga Town Council.

Perhaps Mr. Woehleke has forgotten why Moraga residents created the Planning Commission in the first place. The town asserts Planning Commissioners "are responsible for reviewing, evaluating and deciding land use applications in accordance with the Town's policies and regulations." Isn't that ex-

actly what Kymberleigh was doing (rather than meekly adopting the unsupported opinions of others for political expediency)?

Kymberleigh is a practicing attorney herself, and she invested a lot of time to research a complex situation and reduce her analyses to writing so others could benefit from her work. Even Mayor Metcalf acknowledged the accuracy of her core point (that the town was not following the review process set forth in the Municipal Code) when he stated at the Aug. 24 town council meeting that the town had "corrupted its own processes." The CV project was opposed by the Fire Department, and it created such conflict within the community that 1,500 residents signed a referendum to challenge the project by ballot. Mr. Woehleke mentioned none of this.

As most people who have listened to her speak on the subject (or read her open letters) know, Kymberleigh has always discussed her concerns about the CV project in a thoughtful, logical and respectful manner — despite commissioners Woehleke's and Marnane's repeated efforts to shut her down. Her arguments persuaded two other commissioners, and Mr. Woehleke's motion to approve the CV project failed. It makes one seriously question whether his letter was objectively written with pure motives, does it not?

I personally think the Planning Commission should be more than a rubber stamp for the town council, and I say "Bravo!" to Kymberleigh. She is a breath of fresh air, and we need more people in government like her.

Stephen J. Huxley
Moraga



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.

Over 200 people have endorsed Inga for Orinda



"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:

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

Prominent Orindans:

- Sandy and Dave Anderson
- Julie and Bob Athayde
- Ian Baird
- Sandy Barnett
- Jordan and Lindsay Beck
- Doris and Bob Bergman
- John Bower
- James Brovelli
- Bruce Burrows
- Karen and Robert Burt
- Sylvia and Tim Carter
- Shoshana Chazan
- Susan and Richard Curry
- Darien and Don Destino
- Nancy Dickmeyer
- Linda Doran
- Alison and Eric Drasan
- Hap and Diane Eames
- George Eckard
- Jessica and Ethan Elkind
- Jill Fernald
- Graeme Fitzsimmons
- Monica Fitzsimmons
- Cassandra Forth
- Kevin Friedman
- Kellyn and Glen Gagon
- Dennis Gee
- Paul Gilbert

- Brent and Laurie Goetzl
- John Goyak
- Haydee Gustetick
- Judy and Jud Hammon
- Tish and Steve Harwood
- Helen and Peter Hasselman
- Darlene Hattersley
- Peter Hattersly
- John Henstrand
- Elle Hoffnagel
- Ben and Sarah Holzemev
- Jackie and Bruce Horowitz
- Cara Hoxie
- Phyllis and Gilbert Jay
- Leslie Johnson
- Kathleen Kolman
- Larissa and Nick Kosla
- Jim Landau
- Kirsten and Craig Larsen
- Dana Leahy
- Charles Levine
- Peter Locke
- Jennifer and Jason Lurie
- Anthony Malutta
- Audrey Mao
- John Markley
- Lindsay Mauceli
- David and Pam McDowell
- Laura and Josh McDowell
- Gengxin Miao
- Justin Michaels
- Drew and Hadley Mickel
- Liv and Bruce Milan
- Larry Mishkin
- Marilyn and Mark Morris
- Stefanie and Steve Murphy
- Terry Murphy
- Michael Nevitt
- Eileen Nevitt
- Eartha Newsong
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- Laura and Nick Pavlovich
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- Peggy and Jim Quirk
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- Kathie Rupert
- Steve and Gena Schwartz
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- Pam and Chris Severson
- Kenneth Silbert
- Shauna Simmonds
- Jackie and Gordon Smith
- Wick Smith
- Jay Solmonson
- Martin and Noelle Spittler
- Roger Squier
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- Carol and Tom Sueoka
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- Rich Thompson
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- Alex and Emily Waterbury
- Bill Wadsworth
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- Richard Westin
- John and Bobbie Wilson
- James Phillip Wright
- Scott Yancey
- Molly and Ben Young
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Find Out More at 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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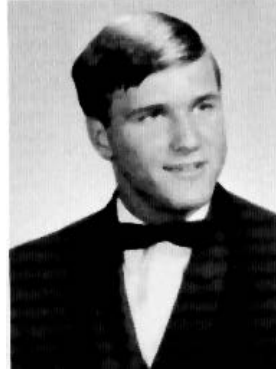
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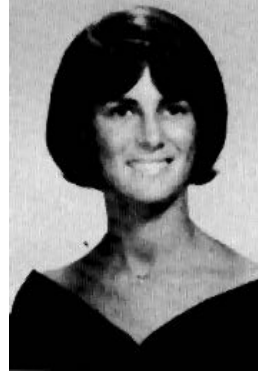
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Campo '66: Seniors for Four Years

... continued from page A1



Roger Ganse



Sally (Hartman) Gordon

A science-art building was completed the following year and the cafeteria opened in 1964 (before then students ate in the library).

The first senior class clearly had their work cut out for them. Don Schrader says as a new school they established everything — student government, the school mascot and colors, sports teams, band, orchestra, a newspaper, a yearbook, and clubs and social events.

By fall 1965, student enrollment had reached 1,000. In 1966 students could shop at Jo-Ev's, Charles Drugs, or Moraga Camera and Record Shop, eat at

K's Carousel or Loard's Ice Cream Parlour, bowl at Rheem Valley Bowl or watch James Bond movies at Rheem Theater. They might tune in to KFRC-AM to hear the Rolling Stones, the Beatles or Johnny Rivers' "Secret Agent Man."

Loard's Ice Cream and the Rheem Theatre survive today, as does the "oldies" music of the Stones and Beatles; Rheem Bowl and KFRC are gone.

Graduate Judi (Steen) Carmona is "really excited about reconnecting with people" she hasn't seen in years, although she readily admits "there's been no reunion diet. I don't look very much like I looked then."

Sally (Hartman) Gordon says she hasn't returned since the 15th reunion, not because she missed other reunions, but because there weren't any others. Despite that, Roger Ganse says he and his classmates have remained friends for 50 years, having become "the next closest to family."

Gordon, Van Voorhis and Ganse each chose the same word to describe Campo '66 members: unique. Being the top class gave Campo '66 a certain blend of confidence and a sense of responsibility toward the others, Ganse said.

"There were no upperclassmen; we were seniors for four years," said Gordon.

50th Reunion Events for Campolindo Class of 1966:

Friday Oct 14

- Panel discussion (11:45 a.m.), guided school tour (3:15 p.m.) both at Campolindo.
- Football vs. Miramonte or no-host reception at Embassy Suites, Walnut Creek (both at 7 p.m.)

Saturday Oct 15:

- 10 a.m. to noon. Moraga Commons Park picnic
- 5-9 p.m., Reunion at Back Forty Texas BBQ Roadhouse & Saloon, \$66/classmate \$33/guest

Details online at www.campolindoreunion1966.com.

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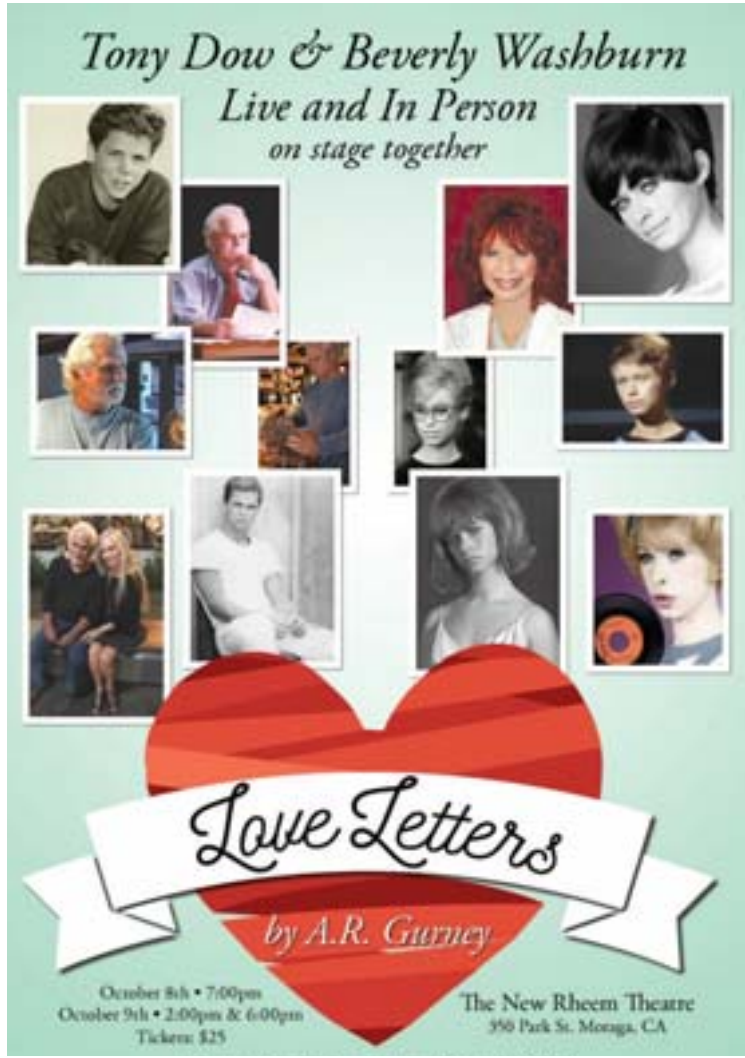
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'Love Letters' is From the Heart

Tony Dow, Beverly Washburn in live performance at Rheem Theater

By Diane Claytor



sharing the happy and sad times experienced in lives well lived. The play has become one of theater's biggest successes and some of the country's most famous and well-known actors have taken on the roles Dow and Washburn will perform this weekend.

Dow, who describes the show as "fabulously well written," has performed it several times already and says it's a very emotional play, "able to bring tears as well as make you laugh." Ali MacGraw and Ryan O'Neal have recently been starring in the show; other performers have included Elizabeth Taylor and James Earl Jones, Sigourney Weaver and Jeff Daniels, Carol Burnett, Alan Alda, Martin Sheen, Brian Dennehy and Mia Farrow. Dennehy called "Love Letters" an "extraordinary piece. You cannot stage a play more simply than this, and yet it's about everything in life. First love, loss of opportunities, loss of life, loss of love...it's a beautiful play..."

The idea of staging this show in Moraga is the brainchild of Adam Reeves, a local director and passionate believer of bringing the arts into the community. He and his company, R&R Stage and Screen, completed their first full feature film, "My Brother's Shoes," written and directed by Reeves; it has been picked up by a major studio and is expected to be released next year. Reeves had been working with both Dow and Washburn on another project when Dow, "out of the blue, asked me if I had ever heard of 'Love Letters,'" Reeves said.

"Tony said it was a great play and suggested that he and Beverly perform it. And now, we're hoping that people will come to the Rheem Theater to see this well-known and well-reviewed play and enjoy the opportunity of seeing these celebrities 'up close and personal,'" Reeves continued.

The live show will be performed at 7 p.m. on Sat., Oct. 8 and 2 and 6 p.m. Sun., Oct. 9 at Moraga's Rheem Theater. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased by going to www.randstageandscreen.com/LoveLetters.

Image and photos provided also enjoyed a longterm friendship and both are equally excited about once again performing together.

"Tony and I go way back," Washburn explained. Meeting on a "Leave it to Beaver" episode, Washburn acknowledged that, "like every other teenage girl in America at the time, I had a major crush on 'Wally.'" Dow admitted that he also liked Washburn from the beginning, but "was too shy to actually ask her out." They did go on a few studio-arranged dates and have remained good friends ever since.

Longtime Careers in Showbiz

Dow starred in 234 episodes of the iconic situation comedy "Leave it to Beaver" from 1957-1963; one reviewer called his "Wally" the "older brother we all wish we had." In 1984, Dow reprised his role as Wally, only this time as an adult with his own family, in "The New Leave it to Beaver," which had a five-year run. Over the years, Dow has made guest appearances in numerous TV shows, done visual effects work for several movies, and enjoyed a 20-year directing career. He still occasionally performs in theater productions and is a successful sculptor, having had two pieces exhibited in the Louvre in Paris.

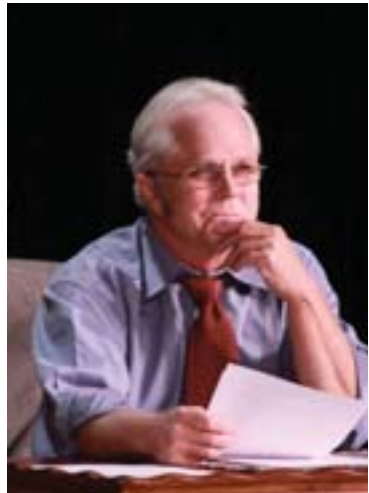
Over her long career, Washburn has been seen in numerous movies and TV shows, including Cecil B. DeMille's "The Greatest Show on Earth," "Here Comes the Groom," "The Lone Ranger," "Father Knows Best," "The Streets of San Francisco," "Star Trek," and as a series regular on "The New Loretta Young Show." She also had a hit record in the 1960s and has authored two books.

Simple Love

Called "deceptively simple" by The Hollywood Reporter, "Love Letters" was written in 1988 by A.R. Gurney and was a Pulitzer Prize for Drama finalist. The characters, Ladd and Gardner, are childhood friends whose life-long correspondence begins with a child's birthday thank you note and continues for the next 50 years,



Beverly Washburn



Tony Dow

As a young man, he played Wally Cleaver, older brother to "the Beav" on the hit TV show, "Leave it to Beaver." As a much more mature, white-haired man, Tony Dow is now playing conservative Andrew Makepeace Ladd, III, in a live production of "Love Letters," coming to Moraga's Rheem Theater Oct. 8 and 9.

He is joined by Beverly Washburn, who, as a child, was featured in Disney's classic film, "Old Yeller," the emotional story of a beloved dog. In "Love Letters," she plays the spontaneous Melissa Gardner.

"Love Letters" is a two-person play about a 50-year relationship between a man and a woman, told through the letters and cards they wrote each other over the years sharing their hopes, dreams, victories and defeats. As life often imitates art, Dow and Washburn have

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Town Hall Theater Reins In 'The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance'

By Sophie Braccini



From left, Jim (Terrance Smith), Ransome (Nate Smith), and Hallie (Heather Kellogg).

Photo provided

Town Hall Theater's latest show opened on Oct. 1, a unique animal of a play that surprises, and masterfully carries out its audience to a different plain.

Forget the namesake James Stewart and John Wayne movie. The characters here are talking of a different time but with overtones that ring strangely familiar. The bad guy is uncomfortably seductive, the tough cowboy is vulnerable, and the white knight has its own ambiguities. And let's not forget the central lady, a very strong female character who has enough love for two men at the same time.

The play is an intimate Western drama. It opens with the burial of Bert Barricune in the small Western village of Two-Tree, with Senator Ransome Foster in attendance. Everyone wonders why this Washington politician has come to say farewell to this old cowboy. The second scene takes us years back, when Foster first came to Two-Tree, when Barricune saved his life and, in his own words, made him the man he is today.

The story is, of course, a traditional plot of good against evil, of courage and self-sacrifice. It also tells us what libertarianism pushed to the extreme can breed, what is the power of education and why

those who feed on ignorance would kill those who dare start to learn and dream. It also speaks about the Western frontier at the end of the 19th century when Eastern lawmakers and administrators tried to rein in behaviors. Interestingly, it can leave the spectator wondering about the real morality of the characters. The ones who cheat most in the play may not be the bad guys.

Dennis Markam, the managing director at Lafayette's Town Hall, directs the play. He explains that it was first a 1953 short story by Dorothy M. Johnson, an early and mid-20th century writer known for her Western-fiction stories, often inspired by interviews with Western old-timers and Native Americans (Montanawomenhistory.org). Markham adds that the play is closer to the original text than the 1962 John Ford movie.

"From the start, people familiar with the movie will notice the differences in the characters, and it is for the best," explains Markam.

Westerns often evoke large spaces and horse cavalcades. On stage it isn't possible, but the spirit of adventure is instead carried over by the actors' charisma that at times takes the play to epic intensity.

Markam says he was able to assemble a really interesting cast that could bring characters to life and fill it in very interesting ways. "There are some familiar faces like Heather Kellogg who plays Hallie Jackson, but for most everyone else it is their first time here," says Markam.

Markam directs the play with a very clear vision of moments that he wants to see, but if actors are not comfortable with it, he gets their feedback. He adds that there are moments in the play at Town Hall that are not necessarily in the script but that the actors pulled apart and formed themselves. "These are some of my favorite moments," he adds, such as when Liberty Valance appears in the show, at the end of the first act and toward the middle of the second.

Indeed the character of Liberty Valance is one of the most seductive in the play. He is ruthless and cynical, but also smart, logical and very human. Kyle Goldman makes a superb Valance full of stage presence, the perfect dark angel.

He is not the only very solid actor of the play. All give a rich palette of emotions. Kellogg is a rough blunt country girl, with a powerful voice. There is no taming of the shrew in this play. She is a dragon at the beginning of the play and stays that way, even if love softens her, there is no submission or surrendering.

The opposition between the cowboys' ways represented by Erin Gould as Bert Barricune and Nathaniel Smith as Ransome Foster has a good balance of force. They present a very believable male dynamic where rivalry is tempered by respect, and finally sealed by a common lie.

The play will run through Oct. 22. Tickets and more information are available at townhalltheater.org.

Actresses in Alameda Play

By Cathy Dausman



From left, Sally Hogarty and Kathy Ferber are Lamorinda actresses in an upcoming presentation of "Our Town" in Alameda. Photo Cathy Dausman

Two Lamorinda actresses will perform in an upcoming presentation of "Our Town" at Alameda's Altarena Theater. Kathy Ferber, of Moraga takes on a shared role as one of three Stage Managers; Sally Hogarty, of Canyon, plays Mrs. Webb.

The two have performed in a variety of live theater presentations; they met on the set of a late

1990s' performance of "My Fair Lady" in Walnut Creek. Our Town, Thornton Wilder's American drama classic spans 13 years in the mythical turn-of-the 19th century town of Grover's Corners. This version, directed by Clay David includes period music. For tickets or details, call (510) 523-1553 or visit www.altarena.org online.

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Maya Kobashigawa's Bold Aesthetics Highlight Exhibit

By Sophie Braccini



Maya Kobashigawa in front of one of her paintings. Photo Sophie Braccini

Maya Kobashigawa is the featured painter of the month of October exhibition at the Orinda Art Gallery. An abstract artist, she creates often large lyric pieces that evoke emotions and are highly decorative. Kobashigawa's striking style art has an aesthetic that fits very well with modern interiors.

The Kobashigawa family represents an eclectic mix that's perfectly at home in Lafayette. Her husband is American of Japanese ancestry (fourth generation) while Kobashigawa herself has an Indian father and a Bostonian mother of European ancestry.

She says that the love of art was instilled in her since her youngest years, even though everyone in her family works in the medical field. She majored in art history with the idea of becoming an art curator, but in fact joined a television news network as a writer, then producer.

As a young professional she wanted to decorate her first apartment but could not afford the art she loved, like large abstract paintings by Jackson Pollock or Wassili Kandinsky, so she started painting it herself. Of course all her life she had been taking art classes but had never envisioned it could become her profession. When her friends started asking where she got her art, and then asked for her to paint for them, she dared to give painting a chance.

"A lot of time in my work, I can

see a space, and I create a piece for that space," says the artist. Kobashigawa is sometimes commissioned or creates from her own desire. "The subject is not as important, it is more about the colors, the lighting, to transcribe an emotion," she says. She can start with spots of different acrylic colors, then she uses Pollock's technique of a wooden stick dipped in paint to create drip painting, or streaks of colors that she lets flow freely. The streaks create a rhythm and an ensemble with the color spots that are very harmonious and visually satisfying, creating a sense of balance.

Some of the pieces incorporate other material to the canvas. The creation called "Waterfall" is almost a 3D sculpture. On the canvas Kobashigawa has crunched a piece of fabric and added fragments of cellophane. She painted on the whole surface, mostly with streaks of greens, yellows and blues. She says that when she starts, she knows mostly where the painting is going to go, what colors are going to be used, but that things can evolve as the process unfolds. In an archival interview (SFMOMA.org), Pollock said that painting has a life of its own and that he tries to let it live. Kobashigawa seems to have that same sentiment.

Kobashigawa can make small paintings but is often drawn to the more dramatic sense of larger pieces. The series of processes

she needs take time, often several weeks, which gives her the time to think.

Besides the Orinda Library Art Gallery, Kobashigawa shows at Valley Art Gallery in Walnut Creek and in Allison McCrady's aMFA gallery in Theater Square in Orinda.

The Orinda Gallery in the library building is curated by the Lamorinda Arts Council. More information can be found at www.lamorindaarts.org.



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This Harvest Season, Crush it in Paso Robles

By A.K. Carroll



Photo A.K. Carroll

Fall has arrived and harvest is on its way. While many Lamorindans will trek north for the long-standing traditions and overpriced accommodations of California's Napa Valley, consider heading the opposite direction.

An autumn weekend in Napa will get you sunny hills and trendy tasting rooms, as well hours of bumper-to-bumper traffic as you crawl up the freeway, eager for the moment you'll have a glass in hand. But take a turn south on California's scenic coastal highway, and head for the equally lovely but far less audacious wine country of the central coast. For small town charm

and abundant harvest festivities at a fraction of the price, set your sights toward Paso Robles.

The trip down to Paso can be a long one — roughly six hours if you take the scenic route and go by way of Big Sur — so take your time traveling and plan for plenty of snapshots as you meander down California's breathtakingly beautiful Highway 1, less crowded as of late on account of recent fires. Though most parks are closed, epic views remain unobstructed. (For a quicker trip, trek inland on highway 101. You'll miss the ocean, but you'll make it in a fraction of the time.) ... continued on page B8

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DAR Helps to Retire American Flags Respectfully

On Tuesday Oct. 11, the Acalanes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will collect used and worn flags appropriate for retirement. The Acalanes Chapter will deliver the flags to the Veterans Center in Lafayette where the American Legion will retire them in a respectful ceremony. Volunteers from the group will be collecting the flags from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lafayette Safeway. Look for their table near the front door to the Safeway.

Teens and Tweens Showcase Talents

Submitted by Susan Goldie



Young sewing enthusiasts show off their creations at the sewnow! fashion show.

Photo provided

Sewnow hosted its 10th anniversary end-of-summer fashion show on Sunday, Aug. 21 in the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Thirty-seven tweens and teens modeled their custom clothing designs created at Summer Camp 2016. The free event also included a quilt draw for an group quilt created by summer camp attendees. Proceeds from the drawing will be used to create a camp scholarship for Summer Camp 2017. The lucky winner of the quilt was Sabrina Kabatchnik.

Local Youth Celebrate National 4-H Week

Submitted by Sean Hogan



Local youth show some of their 4-H work in honor of National 4-H Week.

Photo provided

More than six million young people across the country will be celebrating National 4-H Week, which takes place annually during the first full week of October. Contra Costa County 4-H leverages National 4-H Week to celebrate the great things that the 4-H youth development program offers young people and highlights the incredible 4-H young people who each day work to make a positive impact on their community. The members of Lamorinda 4-H will be supporting National 4-H week by wearing their tee-shirts to school, hanging posters around town, sending pictures and updates to social media, and engaging others in dialogue about 4-H. 4-H is a nonprofit organization for 5-19 year old youth. Projects include sewing, cooking, rocketry, photography, market animals, poultry, vineyard, dogs, horses, shooting sports, and cake decorating, to name a few. In Lamorinda, rabbits are one of the most popular areas of focus. Each spring, many boys and girls bring the rabbits they have raised and bred to the Contra Costa County Fair to compete in showmanship and Best of Breed events. A local youth said just this week about her experience in 4-H, "4-H has helped me become a better listener and reader. It has given me the courage to stand up for myself and participate in drama activities that I'm normally too shy to be in." Lamorinda 4-H meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at St. Perpetua School in Lafayette. For more information, or to become a member, please contact our local registrar, Lauren Cox, laurenecox@gmail.com.

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The Moraga Lions recently awarded Lions' Pride Awards to young scholars in the area. Award recipients for the 2015-16 school year from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School are, from left, eighth-graders Sheila Teker, nominated by JM core teacher Suzanne Tom, and Jean-Luc Axelrode, nominated by JM history teacher Jessica McDevitt. The students are shown with their families, principal Joan Danilson and Moraga Lions member Dan Hagen, at center.

Correction:
In the Sept. 7 issue of the Lamorinda Weekly, Orinda Intermediate School Lions' Pride award recipient Malayna Chang's name was misspelled.

Wright Estate Celebrates First Responders

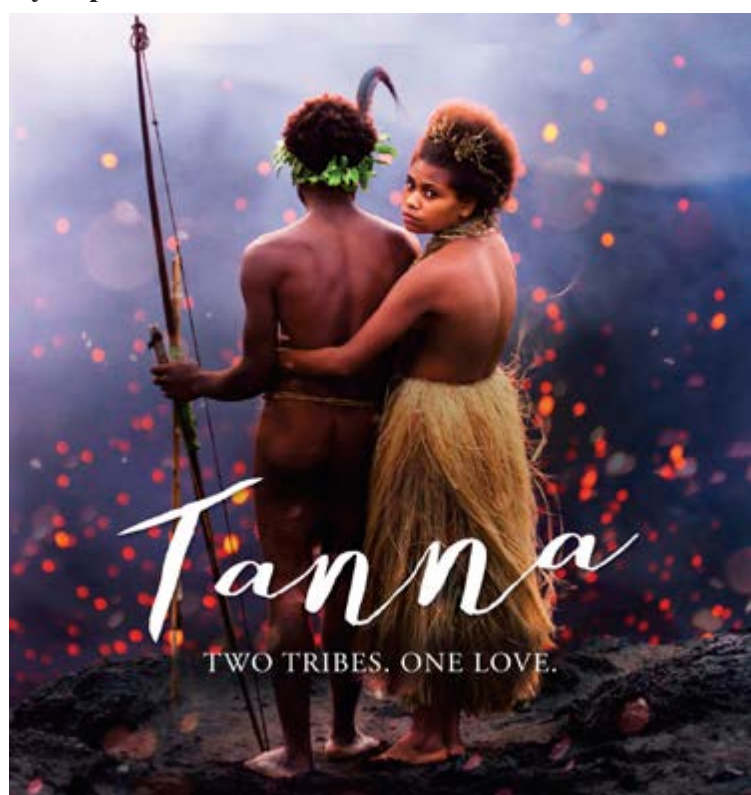
By Sora O'Doherty



From left, from MOFD, Anthony Stephens, firefighter-paramedic, Andrew Leach, firefighter-paramedic, Daniel Elbanna, engineer, Steve Gehling, Fire Captain-paramedic and Felipe Barreto, Battalion Chief. Photo S. O'Doherty
First responders enjoyed "First Responders Appreciation Day" for Lamorinda police and fire employees on Saturday, Sept. 24 at the Buehler House in Orinda. The house was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and the four-acre grounds were landscaped by Henry Matsutani, chief designer of Golden Gate Park.

'Tanna' is a Genuine Story Of Love Among The People Of Vanuatu

By Sophie Braccini



Tanna Photo provided

“Tanna,” is a movie and a voyage to the small South Pacific island of Vanuatu; rarely has a fiction been so close to reality. It is a geographical exploration, and even more importantly, an ethnological voyage; it is a love story; it also shows the challenges faced by a self-governing people almost

overtaken by those who conquered them. In this movie, the people of Tanna show us how to stay true to one’s traditions while continuing to be relevant as the world changes around them.

“Tanna” will play at the Orinda Theater for a week starting on Oct. 7, part of the International

Film Showcase that, almost every month, shows a foreign movie not yet released locally.

“Tanna” recounts a true story that took place there in 1987, told and played by the children of those who lived it. According to ancestral ways, it is the parents that decide who marries whom. Marriage is a way to create peace and to mix the different tribes. This rule was never challenged until a young couple fell in love and tried to change the “kastom” (custom).

The story is simple and has been told many times, in many different ways, by many different cultures. But the questions that are asked here are not trivial. First we are curious about these people who run around wearing grass skirts or penis sheaths. We suffer for them when we see that this small number of humans, living on an island of only 210 square miles kill each other over old grudges that do not make any sense to us. We wonder with them about the nature of love, of attachment, of belonging and identity. And we want them to be able to preserve their island of uniqueness in our ocean of conformity.

It is a drama, of course, with

moments of lightness and joy. The people of Tanna teach us a lesson as they gain heightened awareness and understand the futility of their disputes.

One of the most remarkable features of this movie, and why it is an absolute must-see, is that it is as close as it could ever be to real life. The two Australian directors, Martin Butler and Bentley Dean, came from the documentary field. They decided together to create a fiction on Tanna, they went there with that desire but no real storyline. What inspired them was that this group of people living so close to our civilization and its facilities have deliberately decided to live without it.

While living on the island they were told the love story and decided this would be their movie.

The film is performed entirely by the Yakel tribe on Tanna. As Butler explains it the chief plays the chief, the medicine man plays the medicine man, etc. The only person not from the Yakel tribe is Wawa, the young girl, because all the girls from the village were too shy and would never look the young man in the eye or get close to him. The young girl who plays

Wawa is from a village close to the coast.

When the two directors arrived on Tanna, the villagers, who live without electricity, had never seen a movie before. After seeing one on the laptop of the two producers, they decided to go along.

There was no script to the movie. Every day, the directors would gather with the villagers and discuss what they wanted to achieve.

Butler and Dean came back to the island in 2015 to show the movie to the islanders. The devastating cyclone Pam had killed many, and even if there was no casualty in the Yakel village, all the habitations and many trees had been destroyed. They nonetheless gathered to see the movie.

Dean says that the next morning they gave the two men the best review ever. “The chief of the village came to us and said, ‘We know you and Martin came here with your idea to make a film with your equipment and stuff, but we just want to inform you that we consider this our film.’”

More information at www.lamorindatheatres.com.

A Full Baroque Experience Opens Pacific Chamber Orchestra’s Season

By Sophie Braccini



The Pacific Chamber Orchestra. Photo provided

The Pacific Chamber Orchestra is coming back to Lamorinda this season with Brilliant Baroque, a full experience with Bach and those that influenced him.

“The purpose is to come away with an idea of how all these creations interacted with each other,” says director and conductor Lawrence Kohl. The Moraga-based maestro founded the orchestra over 20 years ago and is gradually building its audience in Lamorinda. This 2016/17 season is opening on Oct. 7 at the Lafayette Community Center.

Kohl composes his programs to deepen his audience’s understanding of music and therefore its pleasure. This one is no different, taking the epitome of Baroque art, Johann Sebastian Bach, and presenting along with his work, some of the music of those who preceded him.

“Bach was such a complete composer and absorbed everything that came before him,” says Kohl who acknowledges that he could not present all the influences, but chose three composers from the Italian, French and German schools to give a flavor of the roots of Bach’s music.

The first part of the concert will feature Girolamo Frescobaldi’s Toccata, Johann Pachelbel’s Canon and Gigue, and François Couperin’s La Sultane. The second part will be the performance of Bach’s brilliant Orchestra Suite No. 3. The second movement of that suite was later arranged by Bach for violin as the famous and deeply moving Air on the G String.

Kohl says that Frescobaldi was really known for exploring the motives and emotion in instrumental music. “His work tried to bring out emotions with harmonies and melodies, what is mostly done with choral work,” he explains.

Couperin is quite intricate, something that can be seen in Bach with complicated counter-

point and his interest in compositional architecture. Pachelbel is in a way quite simple, not as dense as a Couperin would be, with an economy of notes in order to achieve what needs to be achieved, within a precise musical form.

“This power with simplicity influenced him too,” says Kohl.

He states that Bach’s works are not intricate to be intricate, that they have a gestalt about them where everything fits within. “That is one of the elements that makes his music so powerful,” says Kohl. The notes serve the architecture and the architecture serve the notes.

The concert will also feature a harpsichord concerto by Johann Christian Bach, Bach’s youngest son. “It will be interesting to have both the juxtaposition of the late Renaissance-early Baroque influence on the family, then the son who was already moving on toward the Classical period,” says Kohl.

Bay Area virtuoso harpsichordist Michael Peterson will be playing in Lafayette. Many of his current and most recent projects are based on music from the high Baroque period. He says that he draws inspiration from historical sources and uses them to help connect the music with his audience. All the musicians of the Pacific Chamber Orchestra are professionals and recording artists performing on the most prestigious stages.

This season’s program includes three other concerts. The February concert is called Global Gem, a string program with diverse composers spanning continents and areas: Shostakovich, Piazzola, Caliendo and Mozart. The April program will perform Brahms’ breathtaking Symphony No.1 and Elgar’s Cello Concerto with Bay Area virtuoso cellist Nina Flyer.

Kohl and his musicians have also conducted interactive music classes in the Bay Area

schools, specifically in Lamorinda at Wagner Ranch Elementary School in Orinda. To continue to develop this presence, the or-

chestra is looking for more members to join the orchestra’s board.

The Oct. 7 concert is at 7:30 p.m. and will be repeated in

Livermore on Sunday the 9th at 2 p.m. More information and tickets are available at www.pacificchamberorchestra.org.

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Not to be missed

ART

The Moraga Art Gallery announces Creative Contrasts, a new exhibit featuring George Ehrenhaft's serene watercolor paintings inspired by California's incomparable outdoor world, and 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. The Moraga art Gallery is located at The Park in Rheem Valley, 522 Center St. Moraga. (925) 376-5407.

The Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery is proud to present Everything Just Happens, a solo exhibition of abstract paintings by Adam Shaw. This work is preoccupied with the question of what anything means — what we believe, why we believe it, what the world is, what the self is. The exhibit runs from Oct. 8 through Nov. 5, with a reception for the artist from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday Oct. 8. 3620 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, (925) 284-1485.

Enjoy 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. The show will continue through Nov. 12. 1661 Botelho Dr # 110, Walnut Creek, (925) 935-4311.

MUSIC

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 or at the door. See page XX for more information.

Crowden Music Center presents Community Music Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 23 at Crowden Music Center, 1475 Rose Street, Berkeley. Crowden's Community Music Day is a FREE musical carnival, with Instrument Petting Zoos, San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, face painting, prizes & more! Cost: Free. For more info see www.crowden.org/concerts-and-events/community-music-day, call (510) 559-6910 or email concerts@crowden.org.

THEATER

DVC Drama opens its 2016-17 season with the smash musical hit "Hairspray." The show runs Oct. 21-Nov. 6. Shows are at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. For tickets, call (925) 969-2358 or go to our website at www.dvcdrama.net. DVC Drama is located at 321 Golf Club Rd, Pleasant Hill, with free parking for all performances.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Saint Mary's College Creative Writing Reading Series presents

Tracy K. Smith at 7:45 p.m. on Oct. 5 at the Lafayette Library. Tracy K. Smith is the author of the critically acclaimed memoir Ordinary Light (Knopf, 2015) and three books of poetry. \$15 General Admission, Free with Student ID.

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. 276 Village Square, Orinda, (925) 254-7606. For more information, visit www.orinda-books.com.

KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents author Chris Hedges from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 19, at First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. Hedges discusses his new book, Unspeakable: On the Most Forbidden Topics in America, answers questions & signs books. Cost: \$15 advance, \$18 door. For more info see www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2592355 or call (510) 967-4495.

Don't miss Stories of Human Migration Today — A Forum at Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall with a panel of Migration Experts from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Oct. 23. This forum will be followed by Q&A and lunch will be provided. Open to the public. 10 Irwin Way, Orinda, (925) 254-4906.

Come to "A Mysterious Author Affair." Project Second Chance invites the public to join them for a fundraising event with mystery authors Cara Black, David Corbett and Sophie Littlefield from 6 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 26 at the Walnut Creek Library Oak Room at 1644 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek. The evening will feature a lively discussion with the authors including Q&A; book sales and signings; a delicious array of desserts; and a raffle. Tickets are \$20 each, and are advance purchase only. Go to www.pscfundraising.org or to pay via cash or check, or for more information, call PSC at (925) 927-3250 or email psc@ccclib.org.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

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 or call (925) 947-1678. 1540 Marchbanks Dr, Walnut Creek.

Check out the Year of STEAM technology event. Experience technology firsthand with programmable robots, virtual reality, flying drones, video game programming and more! With presenters from the tech field, drone experts, tech toys, crafts and prizes. Join the Rad-Tech Exploration Station at the Orinda Library from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Oct. 22. This event is free. No reservation or tickets required. The library is located at 26 Orinda Way.

M. Sarah Klise, illustrator of the popular books, "Regarding the Fountain," "43 Old Cemetery Road," and "The Meanest Mother in the World," will at the Orinda Library Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 24. She will be drawing and discussing her latest book, "Secrets of the Circus." This program is free and open to the public. The library is located at 26 Orinda Way.

Celebrate Discover & Go Month in October. Visit a participating Contra Costa County Library branch in October and take part in this year's Discover & Go Month, which celebrates the library's ongoing partnership with Bay Area museums and cultural venues. Enter drawings for some great prizes, and help give back to the community at the same time. Details are available at www.ccclib.org.

OTHER

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. For more information visit www.orindaarts.org/shop/tickets/tasting-ticket-art-mixology-craft-cocktail-competition

Saturday, Oct. 8 is the Blessing of the Animals event in honor of St. Francis of Assisi at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Way, Orinda. The church will bless your animal or, if your child has a beloved stuffed animal, they would love to bless them as well. The Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) will be represented. Contact Pastor Joshua Serano (925)254-3422 ext. 104 with any questions.

The Acalanes Chapter of the DAR will collect used and worn USA flags appropriate for retirement from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 11 at the Safeway in Lafayette. Acalanes Chapter will deliver your flags to the Veterans Center in Lafayette where the American Legion will retire them in a respectful ceremony.

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, 1601 Ygnacio Valley Rd, 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 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. 1500 St Mary's Rd, Moraga.

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 it will feature 20 food vendors and 20 beverage vendors offering delicious samples for all attendees. Tickets are \$40 for unlimited samples.

The Alcohol and Other Drugs Prevention Team (ADAPT) Lamorinda presents "HOW will the Legalization of Recreational Marijuana Affect your Community? Be informed from 7 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 20 at Orinda City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, in the Sarge Littlefield Community Room.

Eldercare services Speaker Series presents "Legal Tools for Families," with Kathy Schofield, elder law attorney, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 21, 1808 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Discussion Includes: What Legal Tools do you need? How to approach/communicate with family members regarding legal planning? What is Medi-Cal? Why do I need to think about it? and Conservatorships — when do you need them? 866-760-1808, www.eldercareAnswers.com.

... continued on next page

MOVIE REVIEW

Film Clips

Many Treats are Scared Up at the Lamorinda Theatres in October

By Derek Zemrak



Well, the baskets of treats are plentiful this month at the Rheem and Orinda theaters. Let's take a look at the amazing lineup:

7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8 – Live theatre returns to the Rheem Theatre with the award-winning play from A. R. Gurney, "Love Letters" starring Tony Dow ("Leave It to Beaver") and Beverly Washburn ("Old Yeller") and is produced by R and R Stage and Screen. Two repeat performances will take place on Oct. 9: a matinee at 2 p.m. and a final performance at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25.

ORINDA THEATRE EVENTS

7 p.m. Wednesday Oct. 12– A special screening of "Some Like It Hot" starring Tony Curtis, Jack Lemon and Marilyn Monroe, with wine tasting from Marilyn Wines at the theatre and Ciné Cuvée. Tickets are \$10, which includes the wine tasting.

7 p.m. Thursday Oct. 13 – Free Movie Night at the Orinda Theatre with the original 1978 classic "Halloween," directed by John Carpenter and starring Jamie Lee Curtis. On a cold Halloween night in 1963, 6-year-old Michael Myers brutally murdered his 17-year-old sister, Judith. He was sentenced and locked away for 15 years. But on Oct. 30, 1978, while being transferred for a court date, a 21-year-old Myers steals a car and escapes Smith's Grove. He returns to his quiet hometown of Haddonfield, Illinois, where he looks for his next victims.

RHEEM THEATRE EVENTS

7 p.m. Friday Oct. 14 – The Psychotronix film festival will present a Halloween Spooktacular,

screening monster movies, crazy cartoons, trailers and commercials all projected on 16MM film. You'll Quake N' Shiver and Shake N' Quiver! Tickets are \$10.

7 p.m. Friday Oct. 15 – In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Sherilynn Mai Gordon presents "To Dance in My Shoes," an autobiographical one-woman show. This poignant, redeeming love story is set to music accompaniment by Patti Liedecker. Tickets are \$20 and partial proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

Saturday Oct. 22 – Lord Blood-Rah, everyone's favorite Horror Host, will be showcasing a day-long Halloween Festival and Bazaar at the Rheem Theatre with his Halloween picks: "Lord Blood-Rah's Tricks & Treats," Vincent Price's Horror Hall of Fame," "The Brain That Wouldn't Die" and "Spider Baby." The Rheem lobby will be filled with collectibles dealers selling vintage toys, posters and movie memorabilia. Individual movie tickets are \$10 and an all-day pass is only \$25.

7 p.m. Saturday Oct. 29 – Come see the original "Phantom of the Opera" from 1925, starring Lon Chaney on the big screen with a live musical score from Patti Liedecker on the baby grand piano. The film will be introduced by Derek Zemrak. Join the Halloween fun, as there will be games and prizes! Tickets are \$15. Tickets to any of the Rheem and Orinda Theatre events can be purchased at the theaters box offices or online at www.lamorindatheatres.com. See you at all these events if you dare!

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

Daughters of the Goddess Womyn's Temple presents Women's Spiral Dance - A Multi-Cultural Celebration of Our Beloved Ancestors and Crones from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. on Oct. 21 at the Orinda Masonic Temple, 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda. During this multicultural ritual, led by Kahuna Leilani, and accompanied by spiritual elders of different traditions, attendees come together to honor and celebrate loved ones who have passed on. Please bring your drums and rattles, as well as pictures of your loved ones that have passed, to be placed on the Ancestor Altar. Tickets: \$23 in advance, \$29 at the door. For more information email Leilani@DaughtersoftheGoddess.com.

Volunteers are needed to prune the Fire Blight—damaged branches from the 102-year-old pear orchard adjacent to Joaquin Moraga School in Moraga. The Fire Blight infection threatens to kill this historic orchard, which is a source of great local pride and the last remaining public orchard of the original Del Monte orchard. Volunteers will be pruning from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Oct. 22 at 1000 Camino Pablo, Moraga. Bring pole pruners, loppers and hand pruners, water, gloves, hat and sunscreen. Wear STURDY shoes. If you have them, tarps and orchard ladders are very helpful. Rain cancels. Reply to barbarampreston@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.

Orinda Community Foundation is now accepting grant applications until Oct. 31. Send in application form found on website www.orindafoundation.org.

All dollars raised during the year are committed to benefiting the Orinda community through the OCF mission to "enhance the quality of life in Orinda by encouraging philanthropy, building partnerships and providing financial assistance to support community activities, beautification and the arts."

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

If you strive to be an informed voter, join the AAUW at 9:30 a.m. on Oct. 18 at Orinda Community Fellowship Hall, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda, as representatives from the League of Women Voters present the Pros and Cons of the propositions on this year's ballot. They will provide materials with more specific information about each issue so voters can make an informed choice at the polls. Attendees will be able to participate in lively small group discussions and clarify (or change!) their opinion. This meeting is open to the public. www.oml-ca.aauw.net.

SENIORS

Free Peer Counseling — **Contra Costa Health Services** offers free one-to-one counseling with trained senior counselors who use their life experiences to help other older adults (55+) cope with life changes, problems, crises and challenges. Confidentiality is strictly observed. Appointment required. Please call Lafayette Senior Services to sign up for one of the 60-minute appointments: 284-5050. 10 a.m. to noon, second Tuesday monthly, Alder Room, Lafayette Community Center, 500 St Mary's Rd., Lafayette.

GARDEN

"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 for directions and to reserve a seat.

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. The presenter is Susie Vanderlip, naturalist, author, and educator. Monarch butterflies are the icon of all butterflies and are critical pollinators along with bees. Vanderlip will also share how people can raise them in their own backyards. Books available for sale. Visitors are welcome! Please email Carolyn Poetzsch cpoetzsch@gmail.com

The Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center invites you to the fifth annual Fall Harvest Celebration from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Oct. 16 at the garden. Garden Tours, games, displays, refreshments, Music, raffle, Native American Dwelling and Artifacts, scarecrow and gall doll making. All ages are welcome and there is no charge. 3932 Mt. Diablo Blvd., across from the reservoir. www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org.

The Montelindo Garden Club will present as its 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. The October meeting will begin at 9 a.m., with a 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.

Service Clubs Announcements



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

October 7
DNA Hacking,
David Gilbert,
Joint Genome Institute

October 14
Brexit, the election
and beyond,
Tom Del Barraro

Our Teardrop thanks you, from the bottom of its heart, For the raffle tickets you bought, at the Wines and Art!

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.

October 6: Mark Mitchell and Cameron Burks: City Council Member/ Member elect -Getting to Know Them plus Q&A session

October 13: Don Tatzin: 30 years of Civic leadership in Lafayette

www.rotarylafayette.org
www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366



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Thoughtful Food

Savor These Spinach or Cauliflower Patties

By Susie Iventosch



Spinach and Cauliflower patties

Photo Susie Iventosch

Here is a fun way to eat your vegetables and feel as though you are eating something really hearty at the same time! These patties are sort of like having your burger, bun, cheese and lettuce all in one neat package. These are two

slightly different recipes, but both use the same potatoes and onions; just the vegetables and cheese are different. At first, I thought I liked the spinach patties better, but then I preferred the cauliflower, before I went back to the spinach and ended

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



up at cauliflower! It's really tough to decide, so why not make both?

These are also great for a vegetarian or gluten-free entrée. Serve plain, or with your favorite mustard or dipping sauce.

Spinach and Feta Patties

(Makes 4 large patties)

INGREDIENTS

2 medium-sized Russet potatoes
6 cups of fresh spinach leaves
1 medium yellow onion, finely chopped
½ cup crumbled feta cheese
Olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
Scrub potatoes and remove any bad spots. Spear through the skin with a fork in one or two places. Rub potatoes all over with a light coating of olive oil. Place potatoes directly on oven rack and bake in preheated 425-degree oven for about 45 minutes, or until tender when speared with a knife. Remove from heat and cool.

When able to handle, scoop the pulp out from the skin and place in a bowl. Smash with fork or potato masher. (Reserve skins for another use ... they are really delicious with a little cheese melted on top!)

Meanwhile, heat 2 Tbsp. of olive oil in a large frying pan and cook onions until translucent. Add spinach and cook until wilted. The spinach will reduce significantly in volume.

Add spinach-onion mixture to smashed potatoes along with feta cheese and mix well. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Form into patties. If you feel this mixture is too dry, add a dash of milk at a time until you can form a patty.

Place oil in frying pan (can use the same pan) and place patties in pan. Cook over medium to medium-high heat until browned on both sides, and heated all the way through. Flip patties partway through to make sure both sides have a nicely browned color.
Serve hot!

Cauliflower, Gruyere Patties

(Makes 4 large patties)

INGREDIENTS

2 medium-sized Russet potatoes
1 head cauliflower
1 medium yellow onion, finely chopped
½ cup grated Gruyere cheese
Olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

Scrub potatoes and remove any bad spots. Spear through the skin with a fork in one or two places. Rub potatoes all over with a light coating of olive oil. Place potatoes directly on oven rack and bake in preheated 425-degree oven for about 45 minutes, or until tender when speared with a knife. Remove from heat and cool. When able to handle, scoop the pulp out from the skin and place in a bowl. Smash with fork or potato masher. (Reserve skins for another use ... they are really delicious chopped and sautéed with onions and herbs for a side dish.)

Meanwhile prepare the cauliflower by removing outer leaves and stem, and cut cauliflower into smaller chunks or florets. Using a French steamer, cook until tender when pierced with a knife. (I actually used the Trader Joe's microwaveable cauliflower, which was super easy for this part.) Allow to cool, and chop cauliflower into roughly ¼-inch pieces with a chef's knife. Set aside.

Cook onions in oil over medium heat until tender and translucent.

Mix all ingredients together: smashed potatoes, cooked cauliflower, sautéed onions and Gruyere cheese. Form into patties. If you feel this mixture is too dry, add a dash of milk at a time until you can form a patty.

Heat 2 Tbsp. olive oil in frying pan (can use same pan as onions) and cook over medium to medium-high heat until browned and heated through on both sides.
Serve hot!

Paso Robles

A morning departure will land you in Monterey or Carmel just in time for lunch. If you leave the evening before, consider staying the night at the classic Cypress Inn.

Owned by cinema star Doris Day, the dog-friendly Cypress was the original place to overnight with your pooch. Grab a bite at Monterey's Poke Lab, a fast-casual concept that is the Chipotle of this fishy specialty, or check out Carmel's Cultura, an authentic Oaxacan-inspired restaurant and bar that boasts fresh, innovative dishes, Old World ambiance, and an exclusive selection of smoky mezcals. If you're itching to set foot in a state park, pack a picnic and make a detour through ruggedly lovely Point Lobos.

Continue down Highway 1, stopping at Big Sur bakery on your way. A second pit stop at San Simeon will give you the opportunity to spy some elephant seals and allow for a late-afternoon arrival in the quaint central square of Paso. This year's annual Harvest Wine Weekend is slated for Oct. 14-16 and will include over 140 activities, from ceremonial grape stomping and on-site barrel tastings to food-pairing events, live music, and a CABs of Distinction grand tasting showcasing Cabernet Sauvignon and Bordeaux varietals from over 75 local vineyards.

Whether or not you make it for the harvest festivities, you'll want to snag a reservation at Villa Creek, where San Luis Obispo County culinary icon Maegan Loring has recently taken over the kitchen. A winemakers' hangout with farm-to-table practice and their own in-house winery, the spacious patio and indoor dining rooms provide a casu-

ally elegant space where thoughtful food, like basil risotto topped with apple fennel slaw, is served alongside a comprehensive wine list that leans heavily toward Paso.

Taste the latest vintages from Paso's 200-plus wineries by way of vineyard tours, tasting rooms, or one of nine pre-planned wine trails. Many Paso vineyards are SIP (Sustainability in Practice) certified, with some, like boutique winery Jada, implementing biodynamic farming practices. Sample sips at Calcareous, a spacious hilltop winery on the western edge of the AVA (American Viticultural Area). Overlooking the Salinas Valley and the Santa Lucia mountain range, Calcareous is named for the shale abundant in the soil on which the vineyard is situated. Its estate vintages uniquely evidence the limestone and shale of the terroir.

Also worth a visit is Oso Libre, a 90-acre ranch where farming grapes and raising livestock is a lifestyle as well as an occupation. Eat tasty Angus burgers on the grounds where the cattle were raised and watch Olde English baby doll sheep play beside alpacas during Saturday burger events.

When you've had your fill of big reds and estate blends, mosey over toward Templeton and grab a pint at Firestone Walker or Barrelhouse Brewing Company, a local microbrewery with a 10-tap tasting room and spacious outdoor beer garden (cornhole included). Next, check out downtown Paso for a small town feel and slower pace. Hit up Spearhead Coffee for the best third-wave coffee in the region, stop in at Brown Butter Cookie Company to sample one of their six scrumptious varieties, and peruse the shelves of the

... continued from page B3

General Store, a specialty store and gift shop that was first established as a mercantile 100 years ago. Sample their famous almond-brittle, custom blend local olive oil and signature Pasotastic ice cream, a sheep's milk delicacy made by Negranti Creamery. You can also make or pick up custom gift baskets and bring a little Paso home.

After two or three days of sun-filled afternoons and jacket-clad evenings, drive back to Lamorinda refreshed rather than frazzled, taking a bit of Paso's homespun hospitality with you.

Possibilities for Paso Fun:

Paso Robles Wine Weekend:
www.pasowine.com/events/harvest

Villa Creek:
1144 Pine St., Paso Robles
www.villacreek.com

Jada:
5620 Vineyard Dr., Paso Robles
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Unbeaten Miramonte Football Charges Into League Season

By Karl Buscheck



Tim Tague

Photos Gint Federas



Vincent Mossotti



Brian Merken

The Miramonte football team powered its way through the nonleague portion of the schedule with a perfect 5-0 record. Now, the real test begins for the Mats.

"We knew that once we hit league we've got two defending NorCal champions – that represented Northern California in the state bowl last year – right off the bat," said head coach Jack Schram.

The Mats open up DAL play by hosting Clayton Valley and Campolindo on back-to-back Fridays, beginning Oct. 7.

"We've got tough teams coming up," Schram said. "But we've got (time) now to clean up all the little things to see if we can get better and see what we can do."

The team's last meeting with Clayton Valley, who MaxPreps ranks as the No. 38 team in the state, came back in 2013, when the Mats surprised the heavyweights with an upset win in the NCS playoffs.

"We did beat them last time we played them, which is definitely fresh on their coach's mind," Schram said. "They're not going to overlook us at all."

A week later, the Mats will welcome in the Cougars for a matchup that Schram described as the "biggest game of the season, probably." With the challenging games looming, the Mats will be relying heavily on quarterback Tim Tague. The senior has aired out 19 touchdowns in five games.

"The numbers probably could have been doubled – had we wanted to," Schram said, pointing out that Tague has only played about two-and-half quarters of football thanks to all the early-season blowouts.

Senior Nick Foster has been the No. 1 option for Tague – hauling in five touchdowns – but he's one of just six players with multiple touchdown catches.

Before meeting the Mats in the second game of the DAL season, Campolindo visits Las Lomas for the opener on Oct. 7. For head coach Kevin Macy and the Cougars, the top priority is simply trying to get as healthy as possible after navigating a loaded preseason schedule with a 3-2 record.

"We're just so patchwork as we're trying to manage all the injuries and we're going to see what we can do to piece something together for league play," Macy said.

With a depleted running back corps and an inexperienced offensive line, the Cougars will be looking to their most consistent player – senior quarterback Jacob Westphal – to lead the way. Macy singled out seniors Matt Ringquist and Vince Mossotti as Westphal's most important receivers – especially with their rivalry game against the Mats approaching.

"That's always a big one – regardless," Macy said. "But I imagine with the turn of events it's just gotten bigger."

"We're both going in two different directions," Macy added. "They're rolling and healthy and we're limping and beaten up. That will be one of those games where if we can just find enough able bodies that's the goal."

Acalanes, who doesn't see either of their neighbors until the final two weeks of the season, hosts Concord on Oct. 7 to begin their DAL slate. The Dons went 3-2 in nonconference action despite playing four of those five games on the road.

"I think (that experience) will make us a better team throughout our league schedule by playing tough teams and playing the way we did," explained head coach Floyd Burnsed.

For the Dons, junior quarterback Robby Rowell has excelled behind a young, but rapidly improving offensive line. During the nonleague schedule, senior Matt Burns and junior Brian Merken were Rowell's favorite targets, as both upperclassman hauled in four touchdown catches a piece.

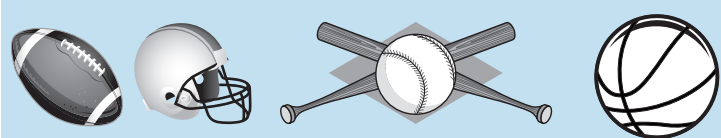
Burnsed explained that his team spent much of its pre-league bye week working on fundamentals and making sure they don't get too far ahead of themselves, with a tricky DAL schedule out on the horizon.

"I think you look at one game at a time," Burnsed said. "It's not looking at Clayton or Campo or Miramonte. It's looking at Concord. That's what our main focus will be – getting ready for Concord."

Nonetheless, Burnsed knows just how enjoyable it will be to end the season with a run of games against the Dons' most-familiar opponents.

"There's a lot of rivals in there in Miramonte, Campolindo and Las Lomas," Burnsed said. "So, playing our district schools is a lot of fun because there's a lot of interest in it and a lot of people come to see those games."

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Although LMYA Soccer has just begun, LMYA is already gearing up and registering for the next sport on the *Calendar*, BASKETBALL which begins in November. It is for boys and girls in 1st grade thru 8th grade. Introductory clinics are offered for the youngest age groups and then skills and strategy sessions for the older, more experienced players. For more information go to: www.lmyasports.com

Watch for other, coming LMYA sports* Teeball, Baseball, Softball and Volleyball, which begin registering, January 10, 2017



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Local Girls' Golf Teams Have High Hopes for Postseason Play

By Karl Buscheck



Emily Attiyeh



Kaydee Tu



Haleigh Goett Photos Gint Federas

With nearly 50 seasons of experience, Tim Scott has seen more Lamorinda high school golf than just about anyone. This fall is Scott's 16th in charge of the Acalanes' girls' team and next spring will be his 30th guiding the boys.

With the DAL tournament set to begin on Oct. 17 at the Delta View Golf course in Pittsburg, Scott's Dons have posted a 2-4 record. The star of Acalanes' lineup is senior Emily Attiyeh.

"The way she's playing this year, she's definitely stepped it up a notch," Scott said. "Her game is just better this year than it's been any other year – just more consistent."

Acalanes No. 1 player, who finished fourth overall at the Poppy Ridge Tournament in Livermore on Sept. 19, figures to advance deep into the NCS playoffs. She's also helped anchor a youthful Dons lineup.

"We've got a young team and

we will lose Emily at the end of this season, but we've got three sophomores that are really improving and serious about their game," Scott said. "We'll be even better next year, as a team because one person does not make a team."

The Dons lost 249-240 to Campolindo on Sept. 28 at Moraga Country Club and fell a day later to Northgate, 201-160, at Boundary Oak in Walnut Creek.

Like the Dons, the Cougars have been playing an unusually

young team this fall, as five freshmen have made it into the lineup.

"I jokingly tell them that the freshmen don't play in varsity matches until the end of the season – if at all," head coach Gary O'Neill said with a chuckle. "And I was playing them right from the beginning."

Despite the influx of young players, Campolindo also has a quartet of senior leaders. Valerie Rockwell, who won all-league honors during her sophomore season, is one of the team's two senior captains, along with Stephanie Alderete.

Paris Thomas and Haleigh Goett are the other two seniors on the team. Goett, who first emerged last fall, posted the team's best score of the season – four-over par – at Boundary Oak on Sept. 22.

"She is a testament to working hard, developing your game and having the results come accordingly," O'Neill said. "It's been fun to watch her."

The group – heavy on first-year players – has compiled a 2-4 league record (2-6 overall) record after beating Acalanes on Sept. 28

in Moraga.

Miramonte also has five freshmen on its team this year. The roster includes 17 players overall, which is the largest in program history, according to co-head coach Bob Riddell.

With the postseason approaching, seniors Tori James and Franny Caronna, and junior Tiffany Shinn have been the Mats' leading players while freshmen Katie Ingrey and Kaydee Tu have also impressed.

After losing to Northgate 207-232 on Sept. 27, Miramonte has a 3-2 record in DAL play and a 5-2 record overall. Both of the Mats' losses have come against Northgate – the conference powerhouse.

With matches against Las Lomas and Acalanes still on the schedule, the Mats are aiming to catch Northgate for the top spot in the Foothill Division of the DAL.

"We hope to finish the season with a strong showing in the league and NCS tournaments and to continue to improve our play," Riddell said.

Campolindo Volleyball Has Big Plans as DAL Play Begins and Playoffs Await

By Karl Buscheck



Sabrina Smith

Photo Gint Federas

Before beginning the Diablo Athletic League season, Campolindo girls' volleyball head coach John Vuong gave his team the biggest challenge possible: a trip to the Durango Fall Classic.

Hosted in Las Vegas on Sept. 16 and 17, the tournament is one of the premier high school volleyball competitions in the nation – featuring 63 programs, including the No. 3 and No. 6 teams in the country.

"That's why I schedule very tough preseason matches," Vuong explained. "The speed of the game and level of the game is such a fast pace that when we get to league, if we maintain the speed of the game and the level of playing, then I like we'll have a good chance (to succeed)."

After advancing to the NCS title match last fall, the Cougars are led by a trio of veteran players. Senior captain Sabrina Smith will play for UCLA next fall, fellow senior captain Janelle Gong

will join the team at the University of Hawaii and junior Cameron Blakely is back in the lineup after an ACL injury wrecked her 2015 season.

"Our goal never changes," Vuong said. "We try to push to get an opportunity to participate in the postseason."

The competition does as well.

"This year, they moved us up to Division II – instead of Division III," Vuong said. "It's all new teams for us in NCS that we've never played in the postseason in the last six or seven years. Our goal never changes: try to get an opportunity to make the postseason."

The Cougars played their first DAL match at home against Las Lomas on Sept. 27, winning 3-0. Two days later, Campolindo dropped Acalanes – also by a score of 3-0 – to improve to 2-0 in league and 9-6 overall.

Following that defeat to the Cougars, Acalanes owns a 1-1 mark in DAL play and an 11-5

mark overall.

"Our goal this year for the season is to absolutely finish as high as we can," head coach Ernie Rodriguez said before warning: "Campo's going to be a tough opponent just like every school is."

"This year's league – it is a tough league," Rodriguez added. "You look at up and down (at the standings)."

With seniors Parker Jones, Alex Matson, Devin Grobeck and Melissa Elliott setting the tone, the Dons began their league schedule by taking care of Miramonte 3-1 in Orinda on Sept. 27. Acalanes will get another look at the Mats on Oct. 13 – that time at their home gym in Lafayette – and then host Campolindo a week later.

Like the Cougars, Miramonte played a rigorous nonleague schedule in order to launch the team into DAL play.

... continued on page C3

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Eclipse Soccer Team Takes First Place at Tourney

Submitted by Lora Easley



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Eclipse soccer club's U13 Lunar girls came home with a first place trophy on Sept. 26. The girls won the Sunnyvale Medina Fall Classic tournament held in Morgan Hill. Stellar defense and consistent offense lead the girls to 2-1, 4-0, 1-0 and 2-0 victories over their opponents.

Cal Magic Girls Soccer Team Wins Title

Submitted by Jon Zuber



Photo provided

The California Magic 04 Girls soccer team won the prestigious Davis Legacy Tournament in the Champions Division. With great ball movement, stingy defense and relentless attacking, the girls took down three different teams before beating the host team, Davis Legacy, 1-0 in a hard-fought final match. The girls played hard in the 100-degree weather both days to bring home the title.

Campolindo Volleyball

... continued from page D2



Parker Jones

Photo Gint Federas

"With competitive games and tournaments, we believe we have put ourselves in a good place moving forward when competing against tough teams," said head coach Lisa Bachtold, whose Mats defeated Bishop O'Dowd - last year's NCS Division II champs - in the fourth match of the year.

"The competition is always high in our league and division," Bachtold said. "But we think we are prepared and progressing towards those goals."

After beginning league play with their home loss to the Dons on Sept. 27, the Mats topped College Park 3-0 in a road match on Sept. 27. As Miramonte moves through the schedule, the team will be counting on three senior captains - Caroline Schafer, Blake Sharp and Layne Estes - to anchor the squad.

"The whole team has made contributions in one way or another both on the court and off the court," Bachtold said. "We have a lot of trust in our captains to help lead this team off the court. But they have also made a huge impact on the court as well."

For the Mats, the focus is on battling with their local competitors through the end of the month for top spot in the DAL before making run at yet another postseason run in November.

"There will always be challenges in our league as there are some really tough teams," Bachtold said. "If we can stay consistent and play to our potential, we believe we can do well and hopefully meet our goals."



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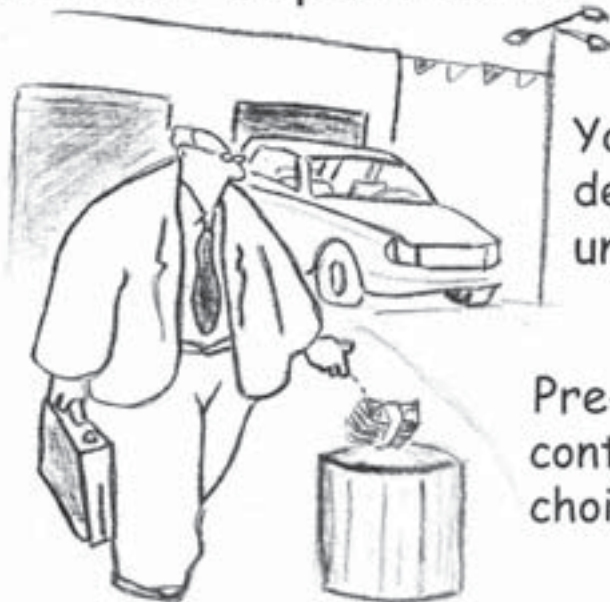


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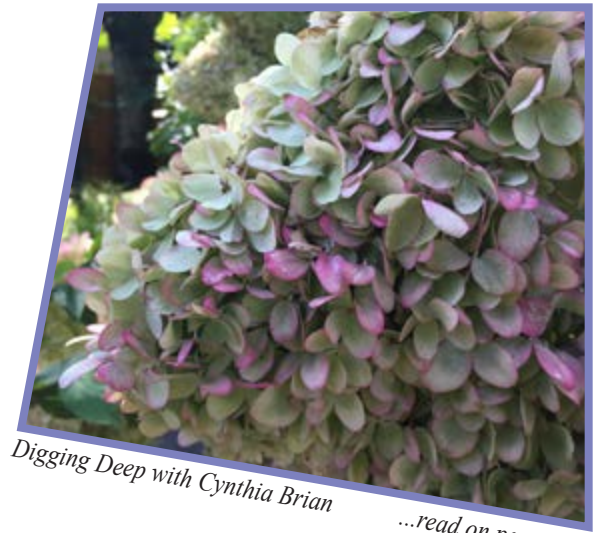
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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 10 Issue 16 Wednesday, October 5, 2016



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D10

Harvest Court is an Abundance of Beauty

By Diane Claytor



The backyard of one the first homes at Harvest Court in Moraga offers lovely views. Photo provided

“We have found there is a strong demand for new homes in Moraga.” So said Moraga resident Chris Leimbach, vice president, sales and marketing, for SummerHill Homes. He should know since he is overseeing the sales for Moraga’s newest housing development, Harvest Court, off Camino Ricardo. Since mid-July, when the sales office opened, nine of the 26

homes have been sold, and several more are just waiting for final signatures.

“Sales are going really well,” Leimbach said. “Many people seem to want to either stay in Moraga and find something new or return to the area they love.”

Initially proposed in 2012 as the first piece of land to be developed under the Moraga Center Specific Plan, Harvest Court is a beautiful

development of high-end, quality homes, ranging in size from 3,000-3,400 square feet and from \$1.8 –\$ 2.2 million. There are 24 two-story homes and, up the hill at the end of the cul-de-sac, sit two single-story houses. All have three or four bedrooms and most have at least three bathrooms. There are three distinct models, each bringing its own flair and charm. Windows abound, bringing natural light into every room and each house offers at least a 180 degree view of the beautiful Moraga hills. Different styles, colors, roofs, siding, window frames and driveways individualize each property.

“You won’t see two of the same homes next to each other,” Leimbach explained. “Some may have brick accents on the front while others may have stacked stones. A lot of thought went into every detail of this development to make sure each home feels like ‘your’ home, not just one more cookie-cutter house down the line.”

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... continued on page D4

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	13	\$650,000	\$2,875,000
MORAGA	8	\$339,000	\$2,625,000
ORINDA	8	\$1,205,000	\$1,925,000

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

- 640 Augustine Lane, \$1,599,000, 5 Bdrms, 2705 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 9-1-16;
Previous Sale: \$411,500, 06-19-96
- 34 Diablo Circle, \$950,000, 2 Bdrms, 1528 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-7-16;
Previous Sale: \$355,000, 12-16-94
- 3132 Diablo View Road, \$900,000, 2 Bdrms, 1621 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 9-1-16;
Previous Sale: \$255,000, 12-23-94
- 420 Donegal Way, \$650,000, 3 Bdrms, 2025 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 9-9-16
- 3253 Driftwood Drive, \$1,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 2203 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-13-16
- 917 Hough Avenue #3, \$708,000, 2 Bdrms, 1038 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 9-13-16;
Previous Sale: \$458,000, 11-15-04
- 808 Las Trampas Road, \$1,408,000, 3 Bdrms, 1752 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 9-2-16;
Previous Sale: \$735,000, 03-31-16
- 3312 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,330,000, 3 Bdrms, 2017 SqFt, 1944 YrBlt, 9-7-16
- 3644 Mosswood Drive, \$1,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 2068 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 9-9-16
- 1137 Vallecito Court, \$2,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 4021 SqFt, 2003 YrBlt, 9-9-16;
Previous Sale: \$2,600,000, 06-16-14
- 501 Winchester Court, \$1,925,000, 5 Bdrms, 3798 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 9-7-16;
Previous Sale: \$1,949,000, 06-06-14
- 1003 Woodbury Road #207, \$890,500, 2 Bdrms, 1110 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 9-7-16
- 1003 Woodbury Road #304, \$1,235,000, 2 Bdrms, 1638 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 9-9-16

MORAGA

- 118 Ascot Court #D, \$339,000, 1 Bdrms, 858 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 9-13-16;
Previous Sale: \$161,500, 10-23-09
- 2051 Ascot Drive #203, \$450,000, 2 Bdrms, 1154 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 9-9-16;
Previous Sale: \$463,000, 08-08-06
- 3912 Campolindo Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1808 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 9-2-16;
Previous Sale: \$711,000, 03-27-08
- 435 Donald Drive, \$1,080,000, 4 Bdrms, 2300 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 9-7-16;
Previous Sale: \$1,068,000, 02-24-16
- 324 Draeger Drive, \$1,337,500, 4 Bdrms, 2853 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 9-1-16
- 1062 Larch Avenue, \$2,625,000, 5 Bdrms, 3986 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 9-8-16;
Previous Sale: \$885,000, 02-22-00
- 80 Miramonte Drive, \$715,000, 2 Bdrms, 1742 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-13-16;
Previous Sale: \$635,000, 03-24-06
- 479 Woodminster Drive, \$695,000, 3 Bdrms, 1572 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 9-1-16;
Previous Sale: \$576,000, 11-13-13

ORINDA

- 1 Altarinda Circle, \$1,280,000, 4 Bdrms, 2845 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 9-6-16;
Previous Sale: \$1,195,000, 12-11-14
- 192 Crestview Drive, \$1,250,000, 2 Bdrms, 2522 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-13-16
- 667 Cross Ridge Place, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2205 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 9-1-16
- 352 Dalewood Drive, \$1,705,000, 4 Bdrms, 3979 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 9-2-16;
Previous Sale: \$620,000, 06-19-87
- 14 Hall Drive, \$1,280,000, 4 Bdrms, 2879 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 9-9-16;
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 11-09-04
- 23 Ivy Drive, \$1,238,500, 5 Bdrms, 3205 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 9-13-16;
Previous Sale: \$720,000, 11-19-03
- 3 La Cuesta Road, \$1,205,000, 3 Bdrms, 1976 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-6-16;
Previous Sale: \$133,000, - -
- 749 Miner Road, \$1,925,000, 3 Bdrms, 2918 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 9-2-16;
Previous Sale: \$658,000, 01-03-94

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Harvest Court is an Abundance of Beauty

... continued from page D1



Harvest Court's kitchens are built for entertaining. At right, the grand staircase. Photos Provided

Additionally, each home's garage – some for two cars and some for three – is wired for an electric plug-in car. There are numerous optional features, including a solar energy package and home monitoring system.


Adjacent to the Harvest Court development will be a two-plus acre passive park, with native plantings, two bridges and benches for sitting and relaxing. A meandering trail will lead from the homes to the popular Moraga Commons and skatepark. A landscaped outlook area, with benches and covered trellis, is also planned, where residents and non-residents can simply sit and take in the area's natural beauty.

Developed by SummerHill Homes, Harvest Court is one of two SummerHill developments in Moraga; the other, the 27-home Bellavista, is just beginning construction. SummerHill, founded in 1976, is a private-

ly-owned builder of quality homes. According to Leimbach, "SummerHill's goal is to thoughtfully enhance the communities in which we build. We build luxury homes, paying attention to every detail." Other SummerHill projects currently under construction are in Pleasanton, Mountain View, Los Gatos and Saratoga.


Harvest Court's first six families are expected to move in before the end of 2016; it is anticipated that the community will be fully occupied before the end of next year.







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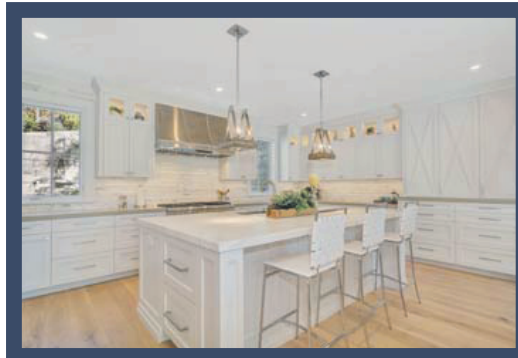
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Feng Shui

The Five Elements of Feng Shui

By Michele Duffy



Fall colors as seen from Mulholland Ridge off Donald Drive. Autumn is the Metal Element in Feng Shui.

Photo Andy Scheck

Fall is here and along with it the shift away from the Fire Element of summer and movement towards the Metal Element that dominates autumn.

Let's review the Five Element Theory that dominates and is at the core of Feng Shui, Chinese Medicine and much of Asian culture.

The Five Elements Theory is a very vast and complicated subject and so what I will share will relate mostly to Feng Shui.

The Five Elements can be used to describe the movement and the relationship between different elements and phenomena in nature. This cycle is explained most easily by a simple metaphor. The relationship is the same as a mother and child relationship, where the child is dependent upon the mother for nourishment and therefore growth and well-being.

In Feng Shui, practitioners all base their art and system on the five phases, or the Five Elements (Wu Xing). All of these phases are represented within the trigrams of the Bagua, or map, used in Feng Shui. Associated with these phases are colors, seasons and shapes, all of which interact, change and flow with

each other.

Based on a particular directional energy flow from one phase to the next, the interaction can be expansive, destructive or exhaustive. A proper knowledge of each aspect of energy flow enables the Feng Shui practitioner to apply certain cures or rearrangement of energy in a beneficial way for the receiver of the Feng Shui recommendations.

How do the Five Elements integrate into our spaces to assist creating our desired results?

The Feng Shui Bagua contains all five of the Five Elements and so we begin by first asking: What do I want to create more of in my life? What do I want less of? How do the elements represent the change we wish to create in our environments? What Bagua areas must we analyze and adjust in our homes, master bedrooms and yards?

Creative Five Elements Cycles

The classical five Chinese elements are represented by wood, earth, metal, fire and water:

- Wood feeds fire (fire burns wood for fuel)
- Fire makes earth (fire makes ashes or earth)
- Earth creates metal (deposits in earth)

- Metal holds water (condensation on can)
- Water nurtures wood (plants drink water)

The wood element represents growth and progress. Wood encourages upward personal growth. The earth element helps to ground and stabilize. Earth is the most peaceful, calming and stable of all the five elements. The metal element is related to intelligence, mental power and sharpness and letting things go. The fire element represents transformation, expansion, passion and volatility. The water element is very useful for creating life force, deep renewal and restoration. Use this element for greater intuition and relaxation.

In Feng Shui we use the Five Elements qualities and Bagua areas to bring balance and the awesome life force of nature into our homes and offices; to replicate the life force, rejuvenation, calm and peace we feel standing in front of the ocean or hiking through someplace like Muir Woods. In Feng Shui, we recreate the Five Elements we find in nature using color, shapes and the actual element we wish to incorporate into our environments.

... continued on page D9



The Five Elements of the Feng Shui BAGUA

- The Water Bagua area rules career, life path and money, and is associated with winter;
- The Wood Bagua areas rule family, new beginnings and abundance/wealth, and is associated with spring;
- The Fire Bagua area rules fame/reputation and respect, and is associated with summer.
- The Earth Bagua areas rule health, wisdom and relationships, and is associated with late summer;
- The Metal Bagua areas rule completion/harvest, children, joy and helpful people, and is associated with fall.

To integrate the Five Elements into each home and room, the Feng Shui design includes color, shapes, and the actual element itself which help to strengthen the overall Feng Shui of each space. Activating the Five Elements may include the paint colors we choose for the walls, what colors we choose for furniture, draperies, bedding and decorative accents. Shapes also represent the Five Elements and may be incorporated through shape of furniture, sculpture, and accents, like mirrors. The following represents the shapes that represent each of the Five Elements.

Water — Wavy

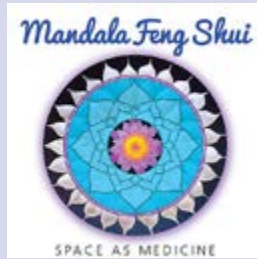
Wood — Rectangular

Fire — Triangular

Earth — Square

Metal — Round

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2015 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.



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

The Bagua Map: Front Door

Next Column: Michele has more on the Five Elements and how you can incorporate them into your home and life.

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A massive two level deck surrounding the home, great room with cathedral beamed ceilings, floor to ceiling stone fireplace, enormous gourmet kitchen, 8 sets of sliders to the outside decks, huge island, 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 car garage, stunning views, approximately 3100 sq. ft., located in the hills of Orinda!

*Not yet Listed- If you'd like to see more details about this property visit: www.86laespiral.com



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Gardening Guide for October

Autumn Awakenings in a Healing Garden

By Cynthia Brian

"Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens." ~ Carl Jung



The beauty of the Hydrangea awakens the soul.

Photos Cynthia Brian

We celebrate joyous occasions such as weddings, childbirths and career moves with flowers. In sadder times or with the death of a loved one, plants and bouquets offer hope to meet the challenges.

Since the beginning of time nature has been the secret weapon of humans to combat disease. From the ancient Chinese with their medicinal herbs, to the Greeks and Romans with their gardens set amongst mineral pools, green has been a sacred color. The Quakers in Colonial America believed that gardens were a place of creativity and relaxation for the body, mind and spirit. At Philadelphia's Friends Hospital in 1879 a program to use plants as therapy was established after a physician noticed that his psychiatric patients who worked in the fields were calmer. The gardens were curative.

If you are feeling burned out from all the emails in your inbox, a quick boost of energy awaits you with a brisk walk in nature. Scientific studies now back up what gardeners have known forever — spending time outdoors is therapeutic! Since the 1980s, the Forest Agency of Japan has been encouraging citizens to indulge in what's called "forest bathing" or shinrin-yoku to lower stress and increase well-being. Researchers at the Nippon Medical School in Tokyo believe that technological distractions, city noises, pollution and crowding lead to anxiety and ill health, whereas the quiet atmosphere, aromatic smells, fresh clean air, and beautiful surroundings of nature provide relief for heart disease, cancer, anxiety, depression, attention deficit and other disorders. A University of Michigan study discovered that individuals improved their short-term memory by 20 percent after a nature walk but those who walked on city streets had no improvement.

Although our Indian summer is in full swing with sometimes three-digit daytime temperatures (and the possibility of being the warmest October in our history), the evenings are temperate, perfect for a stroll. The medicine of nature awakens our five senses allowing us to decompress. Bringing the natural world into your indoor environment is equally critical to good health.

... continued on page D12



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The front porch is filled with the hope of tomorrow after a funeral celebration.



A restorative garden featuring ultra green Baby's breath with a Japanese Temple

Gardening Guide for October

Autumn Awakenings in a Healing Garden

... continued from page D10

Begin to create your own garden of healing and inspiration by incorporating these simple elements. Dream, awaken and heal this autumn.

- Make the choice for clean, healthy living. We have the ability to grow our own food no matter how small our living space. For indoor gardening experiment with grow lights or hydroponic measures.
- Plant an herb garden that is easily accessible to your kitchen. Not only do herbs flavor food, herbs are healers. Their natural medicine can be used to increase energy, fight colds, relieve pain and quiet the mind. Herbs can be grown on windowsills, too. Lavender will help you sleep, peppermint curbs an appetite, rosemary increases cognitive skills, chamomile soothes upset tummies and basil is a disinfectant.
- Encourage your children to join in garden activities that relate to healthy eating. Gardening lures children away from a sedentary lifestyle while they are learning about biology and nutrition. Let them plant, pick and plate.
- Minimize the harmful effects of UV rays by enjoying the shade of a tree. According to the University of Purdue, sitting under the umbrella of a tree is the equivalent of slathering yourself with SPF 10. Make sure your property has a tree or two as sun protectors.
- Bring plants to your office to create a healthier happier workspace. Plants have been proven to increase productivity.
- Create boundaries and define personal spaces with plants and hedges. We all need downtime to rejuvenate.
- To maximize a small space, grow low-maintenance, compact blueberry bushes with multiple herbs and leafy greens in one large container for a continuous harvest. As a bonus, basil, thyme, sage, rosemary, chives, lavender, lemon balm, mint, and other fragrant herbs repel insects.
- Clean, healthy gardening means no pesticides, insecticides, synthetic fertilizers, nor GMO seeds. We want to ensure the health of people, pets, and our planet.
- Take a class or workshop to help you grow your knowledge about living in nature.
- Encourage lizards and bats to take up residence. The western fence lizard carries a protein that destroys the Borrelia bacteria that resides in the stomachs of ticks carrying Lyme disease, and bats eat 6,000-8,000 mosquitoes nightly. Other pluses are that lizards eat lots of unwanted garden insects and bats are pollinators.
- Install a water feature. Moving water contains high levels of negative ions thought to reduce depression and other anxiety disorders.

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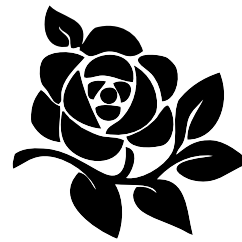


- Grow plants that make you happy. If you like lots of color, consider annuals like zinnias and sunflowers. If you like blooming shrubs, hydrangeas, azaleas, rhododendrons are winning choices.
- Include a place to sit and retreat in a private place. Installing a hammock is a rocking way to enjoy the beauty beneath the trees.
- Add a focal point for healing. This could be a sculpture, a rock or the fountain.
- Stimulate all the senses with scented plants along a walkway for smell, a wind chime under an awning to listen, leaves to taste, textural plants to feel and birds to watch.
- Attract the pollinators — birds, bees, butterflies, and other insects for their remedial energy. Hang feeders, houses, and water sources, and, of course, add nectar supplying plants including Echinacea, butterfly bush, salvias, dill and parsley.
- Eat an apple a day, hopefully one from your own tree. Apple's are a super food filled with fiber, antioxidants, and flavanoids. Research suggests prevention of or improvement from numerous conditions including diabetes, stroke, dementia, obesity, cancer and heart disease.
- Save the seeds of your best producing flowers and herbs. Drying them and storing them in a dark, cool place is the easiest way, although with tomatoes and some other "juicy" specimens, you will need to access specialized information for seed preserving.
- Prune heart risk by lowering blood pressure and cholesterol and grow bones with 30 minutes exercising and weight training in your backyard. You'll clip calories with the pruning, weeding, lifting, mowing, blowing and planting.

Finally, no matter how busy your everyday life is, do some of the garden work yourself. In our neighborhoods, people tend to hire outside help for everything, but if you really want to indulge in the free wellness program designed by Mother Nature, it's in your best interest to get out there and dig deeply.

Take a cue from Ralph Waldo Emerson:

"When I go into my garden with a spade, and dig a bed, I feel such an exhilaration and health that I discover that I have been defrauding myself all this time in letting others do for me what I should have done with my own hands."



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October Garden Thoughts from Cynthia Brian



Arugula, also known as rocket lettuce, boasts restorative and revitalizing properties. Dry the seeds on a plate. Plant in any season.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Fennel seeds are being dried on a cookie sheet. The seeds aid in digestion.

- **MIMIC** Mother Nature by scattering wildflower seeds in fall for a spring showcase.
- **PRE-COOL** tulip bulbs for a minimum of four weeks and preferably ten weeks before planting. Make sure to cool in a refrigerator at 38-45 degrees Fahrenheit without any fruit or vegetables that emit ethylene gas, such as apples. Other bulbs like to be stored in an area with good air circulation, low humidity, and away from sunlight with temperatures in the 50-70-degree range.
- **DID** you know that sunflowers track the sun? Mature sunflowers will tip their heads toward the east warming the flowers more quickly bringing five times the number of pollinators. Save those seeds! (UC Davis study)
- **OVER SEED** lawns right before the rains come. I am using Pearl's Premium organic seed and am very happy with the results. Follow directions on the package. www.PearlsPremium.com.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



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The flowers of the bolting basil plant are edible and good for you.



Cynthia Brian reenergizes by a cascading waterfall and soothing pond

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Cynthia Brian

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ORINDA



New Listing

90 Hillcrest Drive Opportunity awaits in the heart of Orinda's desirable Glorietta neighborhood! Residing on .37acre this home has tremendous potential & views. 1 mile to downtown & commute. Walk to school, swim & tennis club. **\$799,000**

ORINDA



90 Muth Drive Great potential – small house, ridgetop .57 acres, huge western views! Bring your imagination! Refresh, expand, or start new. Pine trees already removed! **\$849,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

144 Las Vegas Road Special one level living in popular Country Club area. Charming appeal in/outside with many quality enhancements of new kitchen + baths. Courtyard entry, delightful back patio/ pool. **\$1,145,000**

ORINDA



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



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



New Listing

220 Camino Sobrante Special location on the lake. Classic, wood crafted 4bd/4ba home has great use of space on 2 levels, ideal for comfortable living & entertaining. Bonus sports court. Alluring setting of beauty & privacy. **\$1,695,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

135 Amber Valley Drive Meticulously maintained custom single level 5bd/3.5ba traditional in prestigious Orinda Downs. Formal dining room, media room, updated kitchen, private guest suite. Tranquil oasis w/gorgeous gardens & pool. **\$1,895,000**

ORINDA



5 Oak Arbor Road Prime Oak Arbor living at it's best! Traditional European spectacular home w/quality features in/outside w/grand-scale rms of exceptional space, light + access outdoors. Gorgeous setting! **\$2,799,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

1382 Camino Peral Beautiful townhouse w/1360sf, 3bd/2.5ba & 2 car garage. Formal living & dining, kitchen w/granite counters & eat-in dining nook overlooking patio. Additional back patio w/remote control awning. **\$660,000**

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



9 Shannon Court Sanders Ranch estate property over 1.5 acres, 4966 sq. ft., Chef's kitchen, hardwood, new carpet, fresh paint, pool, ideal indoor/ outdoor living spaces. **\$3,125,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

905 Acalanes Road Located in Hidden Valley, this 4bd/2.5ba home has it all. Close to Hwy 24 & downtown Lafayette & Reservoir. Updated kitchen, dining rm & high ceiling family rm. Large master suite, remodeled baths. **\$1,249,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3415 Sweet Drive Beautiful design integrity both inside & outside. Gourmet kitchen, light-filled rooms, media room, views. Quality craftsmanship & incredible attention to detail throughout. **\$1,345,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Price

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. **\$1,489,000**

DANVILLE



New Price

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! **\$1,650,000**

WALNUT CREEK



New Price

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. **\$1,749,000**



THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

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