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This attractive young lady is one of the Orinda Garden Club's scarecrows that show up in the community this time of year. Photo Sora O'Doherty

Thefts Darken Orinda's Cheerful Scarecrows Scene

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda's colorful scarecrows are back, thanks to the Orinda Garden Club. But no sooner were the whimsical decorations put in place around Orinda by Nita Roethe and her husband Jim than two of them were stolen. The scarecrow project was started about three years ago

by Marty De Jonghe. A retired Orinda teacher, she made a scarecrow to brighten the Orinda freeway offramp three years ago. People liked it so much that last year she was determined to make more. Her friend, an elderly gentleman named Ray Horton, had a jigsaw and cut out the round pieces of wood

for the heads. Then the members of the Orinda Garden Club decorated them and constructed the imaginative scarecrows and placed them around Orinda to remind folks it was autumn and bring a smile to residents' faces.

... continued on page A16

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Letters to the Editor	A13
Community Service	B4
Not to be Missed	B6-B7
HOW TO CONTACT US	B7
Classified	C2
Loce Lafayette	C4

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Plenty for Lamorindans to Consider in the BART District 3 Race

By Nick Marnell



Ken Chew

It is hard to imagine a race that features a more disparate mix of candidates than the contest for the Bay Area Rapid Transit system board seat for District 3, which includes nearly all of Lamorinda. The incumbent faces challenges from a former public official, a web programmer and a health care consultant, each with a unique perspective on how to improve the system. Candidate summaries are listed alphabetically.



Worth Freeman

Ken Chew
 Ken Chew sees his role as BART director as the enforcer of fiscal accountability. It disturbs him that Lamorinda contributes an enormous amount of money to BART through property taxes, sales taxes, fares and parking fees and he thinks its residents deserve much better. "Your incumbent BART director has not voted to protect your interests during her term," he said, referring to director Rebecca



Varun Paul Saltzman

Chew promises better on-time performance on the Pittsburg-Bay Point line, improved parking and seating availability at the Orinda and Lafayette stations and, working with private companies, shuttles and ride-shares to and from the stations. The former Moraga mayor is the only candidate who opposes Measure RR, the \$3.5 billion bond measure dedicated to improving the BART infrastructure. "\$3.5



Rebecca Saltzman

billion and over two decades of tax liability should come with a responsible investment plan and be guided by a governing body that practices consistent fiscal discipline. But I don't see it," Chew said. He will develop a well-defined and accountable infrastructure plan of his own and present it to taxpayers, and it will include peer reviews and project controls. Relying on his experience on the Moraga Town Council and as a transportation engineer, Chew promises to

work with labor unions and all levels of government to prevent service disruptions and to demand that BART leadership work within its budget to keep stations and facilities in good operating condition. "I will streamline the organization and make every new hiring and benefit change transparent to taxpayers," Chew said.

... continued on page A12

Election 2016

This issue we take a look at some significant regional races facing Lamorinda voters. Besides the District 3 BART Director race featured here on A1, we look at the BART District 1 candidates (A9) as well as candidates for the East Bay Regional Parks District Board. (A9). Next issue, look for an overview of BART Measure RR, as well as Lamorindans' take on Prop. 64, the marijuana legalization initiative.

Civic News	A1-A16	Life in Lamorinda	B1-B8	Sports	C1-C4	Our Homes	D1-D16
<p>Lafayette puts Park Theater on fast-track – page A2.</p> <p>Fire Districts A8</p> <p>MOFD unveils bids for new firehouse – page A8.</p>	<p>Orinda Artisan Faire showcases unique arts and crafts – page B3.</p> 	<p>Boys and girls water polo get ready for post-season play – page C2.</p> 	<p>Would you buy a house where a death occurred? – page D1.</p> 				



Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Oct. 24, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

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

Design Review

Monday, Oct. 24, 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. 19, 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. 25 - Oct. 1

Table with 2 columns: Incident Type and Count. Includes categories like Alarms (39), 911 Calls (3), Noise complaints (5), Traffic stops (62), Suspicious Circumstances (4), Suspicious Subjects (9), Suspicious Vehicles (15), Abandoned Vehicle (3400 Block Moraga Blvd.), Animal Cruelty (4000 Blk Mt. Diablo Blvd.), Auto Burglary (3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.), Civil Disturbance (3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.), Civil Problem (900 Block Hawthorn Dr.), Commercial Burglary (200 Block Lafayette Cr.), Death Notification (3200 Block Withers Ave.), Dependent Child (800 Block Birdhaven Ct.), Dui Misdemeanor (3300 Block Springhill Rd.), Fire/EMS Response (3100 Block Lucas Dr.), Fireworks (Stanley Intermediate School), Found Property (Meadow Ln./Franklin Ln.), Fraud Credit Card (1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.), H&S Violation (3600 Block Bickerstaff St.), Harassment (3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.), Hit and Run Misdemeanor (500 Block Merriewood Mt. Diablo Blvd.), Identity Theft (3400 Block Woodview Dr.), Intoxicated Subject (Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.), Juvenile Disturbance (3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.), Lost Property (Lafayette PD), Missing Adult (800 Block Santa Maria Way), Occupied Stalled Vehicle (Pleasant Hill Rd./Rancho View Dr.), Patrol Request (Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.), Petty Theft (Not Available)

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Lafayette Moves a Step Closer to Park Theater Reuse

By Victor Ryerson



Lafayette's Park Theater.

Photo Victor Ryerson

A trio of local investors, who envision reusing Lafayette's Park Theater as an art film cinema, performing arts venue and community center, moved a step closer to their dream when the Lafayette City Council agreed to form a sub-

committee to cut through the red tape of including the historic building in the Plaza Way Overlay. The action was sought by the investor group so they could determine the financial feasibility of buying the theater by Dec. 16, when their option expires.

The building, as well as its small parking lot and an adjacent fourplex, are within the city's Plaza Way Overlay District, a zone that was created to preserve the historic character of the area. Lafayette zoning law requires a property owner opting into the district to enter into an agreement with the city governing architectural features such as the façade, as well as parking and other requirements. Knowing the prospective agreement's requirements in detail is essential to the investor group's ability to decide whether to go forward with the deal, so they sought the creation of the council subcommittee to expedite the process.

The theater closed 11 years ago, a victim of changing times. Its last operator, Renaissance Rialto Theaters, could not compete with the burgeoning multiplexes in the area or make repairs and improvements needed to meet accessibility and other requirements. The building has been sitting unused ever since, while the neighboring downtown plaza area has been transformed into a vibrant district of new shops and restaurants. A recent plan to reopen the old theater as a Fenton's Creamery fell through, and

developers started showing interest in the theater and associated property with the prospect of demolishing the structure and constructing something new on the strategic site.

Enter the investor trio, Cathy Abbott, her husband Fred, and Alex McDonald, who developed a business plan they see as the last and best chance to save the old movie house. Their plan is to redevelop the theater as a multiuse facility that will not only serve as an arts cinema, but will also be used by Lafayette schools, Town Hall Theatre and other entities. Collectively, the investor group believes, the the income from these multiple sources will suffice to keep the theater afloat and preserve the historic structure as part of the quaint plaza district.

At its Oct. 11 meeting the council voted unanimously to grant the request to form the subcommittee, which will consist of two council members and two members of the planning commission yet to be determined. It is expected to work out the details of the agreement and bring it back to the council for approval at a later date. Assuming the council approves it, the plan will then proceed to design review.

Lafayette's Walk/Bike to School Day: Teachable Fun

By Pippa Fisher

Despite a chilly start to the morning of Walk/Bike to School Day, the atmosphere in the Plaza at Lafayette Elementary School was warm and welcoming as children and families arrived at school and enjoyed bagels and coffee to celebrate walking, biking and in many cases, even scooter riding to school.

School parent and Walk/Bike to School chair Emily Pietrzak arranged the gathering as part of an International Walk to School Day on Oct. 5, the focus of which is aimed primarily at decreasing

ing traffic, safety education and physical activity.

"I think it's so important to get the word out about this, particularly given that our school is

in the heart of downtown," she said. "There's a lot we all can do to cut down on our car dependency." She said that most school families live within walking dis-

tance. Roughly 35 percent of the school's students currently walk or bike to school.

... continued on page A8



More good guys = fewer bad guys.

It's math.

You spoke, the City Council listened.

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

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

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

If it passes, Measure C could help fund these projects — including more police — and all of its proceeds would 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 enhance this beautiful place we call home.



Love Lafayette: Vote YES on Measure C. Paid for by Lafayette Yes on Measure C Committee | www.LafayetteYesOnMeasureC.com

6 Reasons Runners and Local Spectators Love the Lafayette Reservoir Run

A Choice of Race and Fun for All – Oct. 30, 2016. Races start 8 a.m.



Grace Paolini stands with a quilt she made using the artwork and tee-shirts from previous Res Runs. Photo provided

The annual Lafayette Reservoir Run, scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 30, attracts upwards of 4,000 people of all ages and athletic ability each year, including hundreds who enjoy just cheering on the runners, seeing friends and neighbors, and dining on the Rotary pancake breakfast.

Now in its 24th year, this community fitness event also attracts serious runners from across the Bay Area because of the event's unique combination of small town feel, beautiful scenery and challenging 5-K competition and 10-K course.

Here are the top 6 reasons so many love the Lafayette Reservoir Run:

1. Location. The Lafayette Reservoir Run is held in the heart of beautiful downtown Lafayette, with all runners coursing through the tree-lined Mt. Diablo Boulevard in full fall leaf grandeur. Mid-race, the 10-K course circles Lafayette Reservoir along a paved path within view of the water and wildlife.

2. One Event, Choice of Races. 2mile Fun Run (8am start), Fast Paced 5-K (8:30am) and Beautiful 10-K with a challenging "heartbreak" hill (8:45am start).

All races start and end at the same spot, which makes it easy to enjoy the event with all your friends and family, whether they're competitors or spectators.

3. Community Event Fun. Pre-race warm-up exercises, music, food, health expo – and lots of friendly people. This year, with the

race so close to Halloween, there's a costume contest, too!

4. Easy – and FREE – Parking. Held on a Sunday morning, there is easy access to both street parking and plenty of BART parking in the upper lot, close to the race check-in.

5. Easy to Enter.

a. Register online through 1pm Thursday, October 27, at <http://bit.ly/resrun2016>

b. Register in person at A Runner's Mind, 3541 Plaza Dr., Lafayette, during regular store hours, 10am-7pm on Friday, October 28, and Saturday, October 30

c. Same Day Registration Desk Opens at 6:30 a.m. (corner of Mt Diablo Blvd and Lafayette Circle)

6. A Healthy Local Fundraiser! The Lafayette Reservoir Run benefits local schools and helps support the Chamber's other community programs.

The Lafayette Reservoir Run is presented by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by A Runner's Mind, BMW of Concord, Lafayette Rotary, EBMUD, Cobain Orthodontics, Dudum Real Estate Group, Minuteman Press, Swim & Company Realtor Team.

Full Res Run details: <http://bit.ly/resrun>. –P. Spear

BART Path Closure to Last to End of November

By Pippa Fisher



Allow a little extra time if you usually use the pedestrian and bike path that connects Lafayette's Town Center retail parking lot to BART's southern parking lot. The existing pathway along the creek will be closed through Nov. 30 to

allow pathway widening and improvements, including the installation of a storm drain pipe.

There will be signs re-directing the public along Mt. Diablo Boulevard via Happy Valley Road to BART.

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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Oct. 24, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Thursday, Nov. 8, 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 20 to 26

ID Theft, Sept. 20

Moraga police responded to a resident's report that person or persons unknown had opened up bank accounts using her personal information. What are the chances it was a nationally known and recently embarrassed bank?

Suspicious vehicle, Sept. 22

Moraga police investigated the report of a man... in pajamas... sleeping in a (wait for it...) truck bed. Non-compliant subject (perhaps from being suddenly awakened), was handcuffed while a DMV check was run on his (foreign) plates. No reports the vehicle was stolen. Subject was cited and released. What a nightmare!

City Ordinance Violation, Sept. 23

Moraga PD determined that six adults and one parking lot BBQ does not a loud or unruly party make. Party on (quietly), dudes!

Loud Party, Sept. 24

One hundred participants, however, almost always ensures a racket. Having alcohol beverages in plain view probably doesn't help either. The resident hosts (there were three) were made to stop the party and were issued a warning for Loud and Unruly Party.

ID Theft, Sept. 24

An anonymous tip led police to investigate a woman who said she had been locked out of her car. Circumstances were fishy enough that police concluded it was actually a case of theft and identity theft. The case has been referred to the District Attorney's office.

Auto Burglary, Sept. 24

After an auto smash-and-grab on Moraga Way, the car's owner was out a \$200 leather satchel, plus a couple personal checks from his clients and \$150 in damage to the left rear passenger window.

ID Theft Sept. 26

Poor guy told police his personal info was used twice by someone attempting to open credit accounts; first through Chase (denied), and then Citibank (approved), but cancelled before any transactions). If the thief/thieves are working their way through the banking alphabet it will be quite a while before they get to Wells Fargo.

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Gary Bernie



Ken Ryerson

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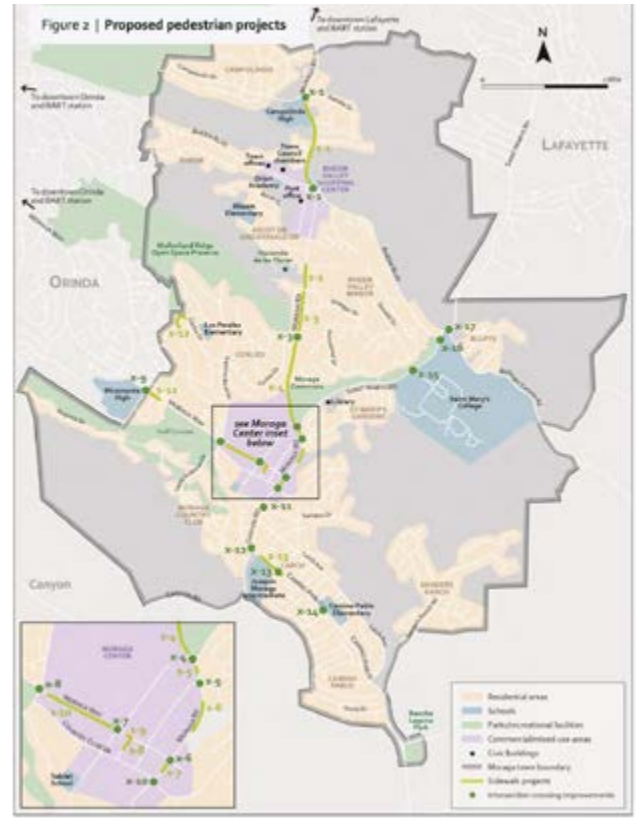


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Gary Bernie & Ken Ryerson

Planning Commission Gets Walk-Bike Plan Rolling

By Sophie Braccini



The Moraga Walk-Bike Plan has been completed after 18 months of public outreach and study.

The plan lists improvement projects and actions to develop ease and safety for walkers and bikers in town. The planning commission supports the 15-year plan that has been established with a lot of public input, but the commissioners made sure in their approved language to note that this plan is mostly, inspirational, since it does not include a traffic study, a cost analysis, or other impact studies. As the planning director puts it, it is a signal that the town wants to go in the direction of more pedestrian and bicycle use.

The Moraga Walk-Bike plan proposes measures for pedestrians and bikers: to fill sidewalk gaps on the arterials, to make 17 intersections safer to cross near schools or shopping centers for pedestrians, to create on-street bike lanes

and routes (stencils on all vehicles lanes), to improve intersections for bicycles and to increase bike parking. The plan outlines implementation over the next 15 years, with an annual budget of \$230,000. It is the product of several outreaches, study sessions, surveys and committee work; the report includes over 100 pages of public comments.

The plan was reviewed on October 3 by the planning commission. Commissioner Kymberleigh Korpus started the discussion by wondering whether the plan was just purely inspirational, or a binding statement of goals. She said that she would not want to tie future planners' hands since in her opinion several aspects were missing in the study. Commission Chair Steve Woehleke agreed that a traffic study would be necessary, and that making intersections safer, for example, could have an impact on traffic.

Associate planner Coleman Frick explained that the measures would not remove any traffic lane, would make circulation safer for all users and was not designed to slow down traffic. But Korpus, citing a recent experience in San Francisco, commented that bicycles in very large numbers can become a problem for the flow of traffic. Planning director Ellen Clark added that this was a high-level plan and that all these projects would require additional review before completion.

The commissioners also indicated that a cost-benefit analysis would be necessary before deciding on these projects. They regretted that priorities to develop these units of work had not been proposed.

The town does not have the capital resources to maintain its current assets, so funding for the new projects will have to be found elsewhere. The consultant who

worked on this plan, Nico Letunic, listed possible grant sources in the report. He said that several of the projects just needed restriping and would not be too onerous. The consultant also noted that several measures desired by residents had not made it into the plan because of their high cost. Included were such demands as sidewalks on Larch Avenue or Bollinger Canyon Road, or streetlights.

The commissioners finally approved the plan, but added a supplemental condition: that the implementation of the proposed bicycle and pedestrian improvements be subjected to future considerations of funding priorities, environmental constraints, safety, traffic, parking, etc.

The town council is tentatively scheduled to consider the plan at its October 26 meeting.

Public Weighs in on Moraga Commons Master Plan

By Sophie Braccini

Why change something that everybody loves?

Moraga Commons Park is one of those rare, non-controversial assets that most everybody in town uses, enjoys and appreciates. A master plan for the Commons is almost an oxymoron, but improvements have to be made — if only to comply with regulations on kids park fencing and Americans with Disabilities Act requirements — and residents have pent-up recreation desires that the Commons could release.

Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram therefore set up community workshops to untangle his community's dreams. Guided by consultant and landscape architect RHAA, participants talked about more bocce courts, tree swings, more picnic areas, Frisbee golf and overwhelmingly asked to not overdevelop the park and protect its beauty.

The 30 or so residents who came to the second meeting represented the bocce ball group, the Frisbee or disc golf practitioners, the garden club, the Moraga Juniors, different sports group such as LMYA or CYO, and the parks and recreation commission or foundation. Several residents, representing just themselves, came, including neighbors to the park that did not want to see increased parking and activities.

Ingram started by saying that this plan would create a vision for the following 10 years. The consultant acknowledged that the Commons is Moraga's main park, with a lot of community focus, events and desires, but with limited space — it is a 40-acre property constrained by steep slopes and riparian corridor. Only 18 acres are available, of which only 4.5 are flat-ish.

Participants at the Oct. 3 workshop brainstormed in groups what could be done at the park, especially in the area known as the Back-40 — a mystery name for one acre of almost flat land located at the eastern limit of the park. At this time its only use consists in two baskets of the disc-golf course.

With so many competing needs with so few public properties, there is pressure to take advantage of every parcel of land. RHAA asked the residents to discuss the possibility



The Back-40 at Moraga Commons

Photo Andy Schreck

of adding a low-cost gym in the Back-40. Since there is no parking adjacent to this part of the park, the consultant proposed carving some along St. Mary's Road and removing some of the trees there. Almost no one else supported the idea of adding a gym in the Commons in spite of the need for more sports facilities. A resident even said that adding a low-cost facility there would distract from building a real gym and community center in a more accessible part of town.

Other suggestions for the Back-40 included a bike station, a community garden and a picnic area.

The residents of the workshop and the previous one listed their desires: better lighting for night events, more bocce courts, getting the playgrounds close to each

other, improved accessibility and existing pathways' rehabilitation. Other ideas included tennis courts, an adventure course, a sports field, more parking and a cyclist gathering point with water and tools.

Consensus formed over maintaining the present balance of organized activities and un-programmed space in the park; some residents added that the park should just be better maintained and otherwise left alone.

The consultant also met with several community groups in town to get feedback. Its 10-year plan will be reviewed by the parks and recreation commission and should be approved by the town council before the end of the year. During these discussions, public input will also be heard.

Additional calls:

Alarms:

- Birchwood Drive
- Paseo Grande
- Thune Ave
- Walford Drive

Warrant served: Miramonte Dr

Drug possession: Miramonte High School

Domestic Dispute: reported via phone call

Public Art Installation Begins in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Radar man by David Mudgett at the Moraga library Photo Sophie Braccini

Since May, the Moraga Arts in Public Spaces Committee has been meeting monthly to craft a policy and select sculptures that will adorn Moraga public space. The sculptures the members selected will be on loan at no cost to the town for one or two years.

The installation of the first seven pieces last week on the Moraga Library grounds at 1500 St. Mary's Rd. and in front of the town council chambers and community meeting room at 335 Rheem Boulevard.

The town council put its final seal of approval on the project at its Sept. 21 meeting. Under the leadership of council member Teresa Onoda, the council approved the creation of a seven-member committee at the beginning of the year, entrusted with a \$5,000 yearly budget.

The group visited with and discussed with Orinda officials the nature of the project. That city implemented a public art policy years ago that has led to tens of sculptures being installed and rotated all over the city.

The Moraga committee selected seven pieces by three local artists that the council approved: "Ardennais Appaloosa" and "Ardennais Stallion" by Amy Evans McClure; "Drain II," "Grasp," "Radar Man" and "Shell" by David Mudgett; and "Asymmetric Loveseat" by Colin Selig.

Council members asked that one element be changed in the contract that binds the town with the artist: that the town would be able to terminate the engagement at will, and remove the sculpture from public space before its term. Mayor Mike Metcalf led that discussion, saying that in Moraga even the greatest ideas can create uproar. His fellow council members followed him and agreed that this removal clause be added.

The two horse sculptures by Evans McClure will arrive later than the rest of the art, as they are still in Orinda on display at the parking level of the city offices. These two horse sculptures will be set in the landscaping of the library along with the "Radar Man" and Selig's bench. The two other statues by Mudgett, will be set in the community room front garden.

Onoda, who is a plein air painter, said after the meeting that art in public spaces is a way to remind residents that art is a vibrant part of life in Moraga.

"Just as bike lanes, trails, sports fields, golf courses and the skateboarding facility make us aware of sports as a key aspect of our community, the sculptures signal that singing, dancing, playing musical instruments, writing, painting and other creative activities are also a big part of what we do here," she said.

The council member says she sees this program as a "way to encourage the amazing talent and experience in our community that makes all of our lives much richer."

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Key Differences Emerge At Candidates Forum

By Sophie Braccini



Photo Andy Scheck

Close to 200 residents crowded into the Serbian Church in Moraga last week for a debate between candidates running for the contested town council race.

It was civil, the candidates sometimes noting common standpoints as they responded to the eight questions they were asked. But significant differences emerged regarding whether the Moraga Center Specific Plan should be reconsidered, whether the plan for a private/public partnership for the Hacienda should be pursued, and about new traffic impacts in town.

Graig Crossley, Jeanette Fritzky, Kimberleigh Korpus and Roger Wykle, who are competing for three town council positions, displayed very different ways of addressing the issues even when they agreed. Incumbent Wykle drew on his record on the council, Korpus passionately advocated for what she believes in, Fritzky stressed her willingness to act in accord with consensus opinion, and Crossley relied on his past experience with town's affairs and the tenets of common sense.

The most burning questions revolved around the Moraga Center Specific Plan

(MCSP) and the City Ventures development on Moraga Road next to the fire station. Wykle explained that he had asked since the beginning of the project for smaller units, set back further from the road. He added that he had supported the latest appeal (opposing the project). He also explained that the council is working on the zoning of the MCSP. He expects this process will define a type of semi-rural downtown that should combine revitalization with preserving Moraga's character.

Fritzky echoed the view of the other candidates that the City Ventures development is now a done deal. While not articulating a direct opinion on this topic, she said that for future developments she was opened to looking into new planning processes that would make it easier to visualize what the developers are proposing, and would seek to build a town-wide consensus. She said that surveys show that the people want to preserve ridgelines and hillsides, but that there is no consensus on what to do with the MCSP.

Crossley stated that the City Ventures project, as now approved, was not appropriate on the scenic corridor.

... continued on page A11



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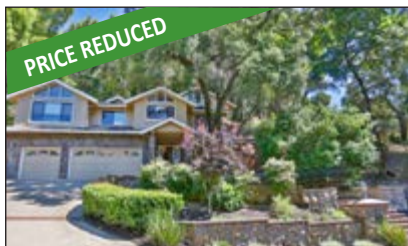
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TIP OF THE WEEK

More Americans are buying houses and taking on mortgage debt at a time when higher home prices are also boosting their ownership stakes. The trends, revealed in a Federal Reserve report, reflect the healing of the U.S. housing market nearly a decade after the real estate bubble burst.

Home prices began to rebound in 2012, which has increased housing wealth. Ownership equity now equals 57.1 percent of the value of Americans' homes, the highest level since 2006.

The overall increase in household wealth documented by the Fed's report has likely been a boost of confidence. When Americans feel wealthier, they are likely to spend more, thereby providing a lift to the economy.

Will the election change this? We can't be sure, but mortgage interest rates are likely to rise, so now is a great time to buy and sell!

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CalBRE#00996886



Julie Georgiou
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CalBRE#01043977



Kress Hauri/Larry Jacobs
925.899.5739/925.788.1362
CalBRE#01465617/#01495118



Jim Colhoun
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CalBRE#01029160



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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 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

Citizens' Infrastructure

Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda

School Board Meetings

Orinda Unified School District

Monday, Nov. 14, 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 18-24

Alarms	30
Noise complaints	5
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	0
Traffic stops	21
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subjects	6
Suspicious Vehicles	4
Abandoned Vehicle	

Meadow View Rd./Glorietta Blvd.

Barking Dog
Orinda Way/Santa Maria Way
10 block Tara Rd.

Burglary, Auto
70 block Muth Dr.
Casa Orinda

Burglary, Residential
10 block Loma Vista Dr.

Death, non-criminal
10 block Estates Court

Disturbance
Miramonte High

Dispute
reported to police
Safeway

Drunk in Public
Rite Aid
Safeway
Starbucks

DUI
El Toyonal/Camino Pablo
300 block Tahos Rd.

Intoxicated Subject
3900 block Happy Valley Rd.

ID Theft
70 block Tarry Ln.
10 block North Ln.

Panhandling
Safeway

Police/Fire/ EMS
80 block La Espiral
10 block Theater Square
10 block Ridge Ln.
200 block Monte Vista Ridge
40 block Cedar Terrace

Public Nuisance
Lucille Way/Spring Rd.
40 block Longridge Rd.
Altarinda Rd./Orindawoods

Reckless Driving
Moraga Way/Hall Dr.
Loma Vista Dr./El Toyonal



Maureen Wilbur

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5 Bedrooms 3 Bath Cape Cod style home sits back on a large lot in the Orinda Country Club neighborhood and near Sleepy Hollow Elementary School. The home features large living areas including: formal living and dining rooms, sunny eat-in kitchen, spacious family room, bedroom and full bath on the main floor and fenced yard. Lease is \$5500 per month and includes gardener. www.534Miner.com



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Orinda Parking Reform—It's All Or Nothing, But Nothing Yet

By Sora O'Doherty

A consultant presented findings of a citywide parking study to the Orinda City Council recently but the solutions proposed to ease the crunch were, at best, ambivalent. Chris Kinzel of TJKM, a Pleasanton engineering consulting firm, suggested five action items Oct. 4 including updating signage and time limits, increasing enforcement, removing casual carpooling, forming a public-private partnership and instituting a residential permit program.

The first two action items would include posting stricter parking time limitations and employing an additional parking enforcement officer, as well as making "fringe areas" less attractive for long term parking. But there was no credible suggestion of alternative parking space from the consultant, other than recommending that the city explore public-private cooperation to perhaps make private parking spaces available at some times to the public.

Orindans prize their semi-rural environment of narrow twisty streets with no sidewalks and no parking and lots of hills and trees. They also love taking BART or casual carpooling across the San Francisco Bay Bridge. But resi-

dents have no way to get to BART or casual carpooling except to drive, and when they do, parking and leaving cars all day is causing a parking nightmare in Orinda. To the question of where to relocate the casual carpool pick-up area, Kinzel replied that he did not know. Councilmember Dean Orr suggested that the various approaches had to be adopted at the same time, including, for example, parking permits issued to residents.

Last November Orinda hired TJKM to study the city's parking problems for an amount not to exceed \$49,955, and TJKM presented its findings first at a community meeting last June. Kinzel stated that an inventory of parking stalls in Orinda showed 574 available spaces, comprising limited and unlimited parking. He admitted that TJKM's study did not count the number of private parking places in Orinda that, it is hoped, might become subject to a public-private cooperation to provide all-day parking relief for Orinda employees and BART commuters, nor did they approach private owners to see if there was any interest in such cooperation. In response to a question from Orr, Kinzel stated that TJKM did not review the parking

plan prepared by Orinda staff.

The report did suggest a number of private areas that might be appropriate for public-private cooperation, either with or without the need for a shuttle, and a member of the public added that, as the California Shakespeare Theater already runs a BART shuttle for its performances, it might be added to the list of potential BART park and ride venues. Other areas suggested requiring a shuttle include Holy Shepherd Church, Saint Mark's Church and the Orinda Community Church. No shuttle would be required from Safeway, Rite Aid or Bank of America.

Councilmember Darlene Gee asked if the consultants had actually talked to BART staff. They had not. However, a representative of BART, Nicole Foletta, Principal Planner, attended the meeting. While BART is interested in collaborating with the city, she said, they aren't looking at providing more parking, but rather wish to encourage other modes of access to the station. She noted that BART is looking into the possibility of designating some parking spaces for carpool parking. They have applied for a grant and expect to hear whether they have secured it in a month. Mayor Victoria Smith

wondered where BART parkers would be pushed to, if the suggested shorter parking periods and greater enforcement are implemented, recalling that most live in Orinda.

Residents on Brookwood Drive have been having unpleasant interactions with drivers pushing their cars into the bushes in front of the residents' homes, leaving the residents and their invited guests no place to park on their own street. And parking for the disabled? Forget it. Police Chief Mark Nagel explained that parking enforcement has fallen markedly because the sole Orinda parking enforcement officer has been pulled to perform other duties. He agreed that he would like another parking enforcement officer and that revenue is not the goal of parking enforcement. To hire a parking officer, the department would have to budget around \$85,000 to cover salary and benefits; fines from greater enforcement are estimated at approximately \$70,000. City Manager Janet Keeter noted that the normal time to add an employee position is midyear or at the beginning of a new budget cycle in February.

The council will reconvene to consider action on the parking issue at a date to be announced.

Council Grants Oak Tree Unique Protection on Appeal

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

- Camino Pablo/North Ln.
- Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante
- San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek Rd.
- El Toyonal/Camino Pablo
- Orinda Intermediate School
- Theft, Petty**
- 500 block Tahos Rd.
- 10 block El Patio
- 20 block Robert Rd.
- Uncontrollable Juvenile**
- 10 block Owl Hill Rd.
- Warrant Service/Arrest**
- 10 block James Ct.
- 60 block Oak Dr.

The life of an heritage coastal live oak tree prompted the Orinda city council to put in place extraordinary protective measures while denying an appeal of planning approval for a new home at 51 Camino del Diablo.

The perceived threat to the tree brought out neighbors in numbers, who found it impossible to contain their anxiety, shouting out to the council even after the public comment period had closed.

At the following meeting, 30 neighbors turned out to protest the

approval of a large home remodel at 412 Camino Sobrante. Although the council had many complimentary things to say about the proposed remodel, the appeal was granted by a 3-to-1 vote, with councilmember Dean Orr casting the negative vote; councilmember Amy Worth recused herself as she lives near the project. The basis for the denial was that the proposed home exceeded the recommended maximum floor area-to-lot size ratio.

The council unanimously denied the Camino del Diablo appeal, but added language to the conditions of approval for the project that mean that a city-chosen arborist will be hired to review the totality of the project plans, including grading, construction and landscaping, and make recommendations that the developer must follow to protect the heritage oak tree.

This appeal was brought by Leila Schlein. Schlein's home adjoins the subject property, and the oak tree stands on the edge of her property, just at the property line. According to Schlein, the value of the tree, which she says is well over 100 years old, adds to her property

is between \$75,000 to \$150,000.

According to the appellant, the lot was separated off from neighbor's lot as a legally buildable lot, but at just over 8,000 square feet is a very small lot in a neighborhood of 20,000 square-foot lots. Schlein alleged that there is "every indication that my tree will be irreparably damaged and I will suffer huge financial harm," and noted that the city attorney has rejected adding a condition whereby the developer would have financial responsibility for the tree.

Developer Tim Jones of Burk Holdings LLC vigorously defended the planned development. He noted that products developed by his company sell within an hour. He added that he is very familiar with building next to oak trees.

In response to concerns raised about the potential negative effect of the project on the oak, he discussed the changes made to the plans to protect the tree. He stated that the company has listened to the community, and as a result, all digging will be done under the supervision of an arborist.

... continued on page A12

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- Susie Epstein
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- Vice Mayor
- Dean Orr
- Amy Worth
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Orinda Association Celebrates 70 Years



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Orinda City Council delivers a proclamation honoring the Orinda Association on its 70th Anniversary. Back row, from left, Dean Orr (City Council), Tom Romanek (OA Board), Darlene Gee (City Council), Eve Philips (Vice Mayor), Bill Waterman (OA past president). Front row, from left, Cindy Powell (OA President), Chris Laszcz-Davis (OA Board Member), Kate Wiley (OA Past President), Joe Garvey (OA Vice-President), Joe Haughin (OA Board member).

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for Orinda School Board

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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

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SarahGButler@hotmail.com www.SarahGButler.com

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

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ORINDA \$2,775,000
4/3.5 Exquisite 4095sf Mediterranean estate w/750sf 1bd 1bth guest cottage built in 2008.
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LAFAYETTE \$2,750,000
5/4.5 NEW CONSTRUCTION! Coveted Trails neighborhood. Open floor plan, park like setting. A 10!
The Beauvelle Group CalBRE #00678426



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



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



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—John H., Orinda Seller

Meet Sheryl Kortright:

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—Rachel & Keith Walsh, Moraga Buyer



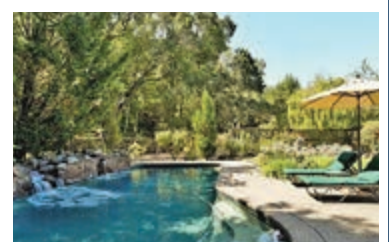
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6/6 Exquisite Orinda Country Club retreat w/private au-pair/in-law quarters. Spacious thru-out
Laura Abrams CalBRE #01272382



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



ORINDA \$1,525,000
5/3 Beautiful new construction close to downtown. Spectacular appliances/finishes throughout.
McAtee|Wilson CalBRE #01349169|01809247



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 with updates throughout & au pair unit. Level yard area.
Meredith Linamen CalBRE #01918299



LAFAYETTE \$1,249,000
3/2 1+ acre lot w/stately oaks, this location showcases a property that is sunny & quiet
McAtee|Wilson CalBRE #01349169|01809247



MORAGA \$675,000
3/2.5 Convenient location, close to high school, 1800 sf, attached 2 car gar. & steps to pool.
Elena Hood CalBRE #01221247

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors
Wednesday, Oct. 19, 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>.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District To Award Station Contract; ConFire Moves Forward on Station 16

By Nick Marnell



The remnants of old station 43.

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District board plans to award the contract for reconstruction of fire station 43 in north Orinda at its Oct. 19 meeting. The district unsealed bids for the project Oct. 4 and out

Courtesy of MOFD of eight entries, the \$2,660,129 bid submitted by Pacific Mountain Contractors beat the next competitor's by more than \$150,000. Pacific Mountain Contractors recently won the construction bid for

San Ramon Valley Fire Prevention District station 32 in Alamo.

Fire Chief Stephen Healy said he expects the rebuild of the Via Las Cruces station to be completed in one year and to finish under its \$4.5 million budget, which includes demolition, construction, temporary living quarters for the firefighters and soft costs incurred since 2011, when the board first authorized the project.

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District filed its application with the Lafayette design review commission Sept. 30 to rebuild fire station 16 on Los Arabis Drive. "We don't expect any issues, thanks to a lot of citizen input," said Deputy Chief Lewis Broschard. "The station will be consistent with the neighborhood and with the de-

sires of the community."

Broschard said he hopes to receive design approval in December, and then architectural plans can go out to bid by the first of the year. ConFire expects to complete the project in early 2018.

Contra Costa County closed uninhabitable fire station 16 in 2012 and placed its engine company out of service, while MOFD had long planned to rebuild badly deteriorated station 43. Sensing an opportunity to improve service and to save a significant amount of operational revenue, the two districts proposed to jointly build fire station 46 on the Orinda-Lafayette border to replace the two stations, but the deal unraveled last year.

Home Radios Make Lamorinda Communication Safe

By Cathy Dausman

First responders and volunteer communicators in Lamorinda now have a standardized communication plan for Family Radio Service (FRS) and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) use, says Lamorinda emergency preparedness coordinator Dennis Rein.

The plan was a collaboration between Rein and the Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group technical committee and is for use by Lamorinda CERT and the general public. The plan assigns one radio frequency to generalized neighborhood zones (as designated by police and fire) in Lamorinda. Lafayette has 17 zones; Moraga has 23, Orinda 25. LARIG has already developed a more complex standardized radio plan for use on amateur frequencies.

FRS radios, or walkie-talkies as they are more familiarly known, and their big brother GMRS radios, are used for short distance, two-way communications.

CERT members rely on FRS and GMRS frequencies to relay information in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

"Every neighborhood in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda has been assigned a certain FRS radio channel, which should minimize confusion and cross-talk on the radios," said Lamorinda CERT Program Manager Duncan Seibert. Seibert said each nine-week CERT training course includes emergency radio communications training. Rein said several Lamorinda neighborhoods already hold monthly "radio nets" during a set time and night and check in to stay in practice.

While FRS radio operators are unlicensed, GMRS operators are required to obtain a license from the Federal Communications Commission. One licensed family member over 18 insures that all other family members, regardless of age, can operate on the GMRS band. Licenses are good for five years and are renewable.

FRS and GMRS signals travel a straight path until an obstacle (hill or building) blocks signal reception. With the use of a strategically placed repeater, GMRS radio signals can skip over obstacles and relay the signal even farther.

LARIG volunteers recently completed the construction of three GMRS radio repeaters — one each in Lafayette, Moraga and on the hills above Orinda. "We paid attention to the hill and valley nature of Lamorinda when the (channel) assignments were made. However, we are open to modifying the assignments if they prove unworkable," said

Fred Lothrop of Lafayette.

Lothrop, Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission chair, is also on the LARIG technical committee. He said the Lafayette GMRS repeater was put to a major test when it was used for radio dispatch during September's Lafayette Art & Wine Festival. Lothrop calls the GMRS repeaters "mirrors in the sky," and said "operation was flawless to all parts of the festival, and throughout the city."

The Great California Shakeout (10:20 a.m. Oct. 20.; www.shakeout.org/california) is the perfect time to test your neighborhood's emergency communications plan, said Dennis Rein. "But don't just use your (Family Radio Service/General Mobile Radio Service) radio once and put it away; keep it handy — and charged—all the time."

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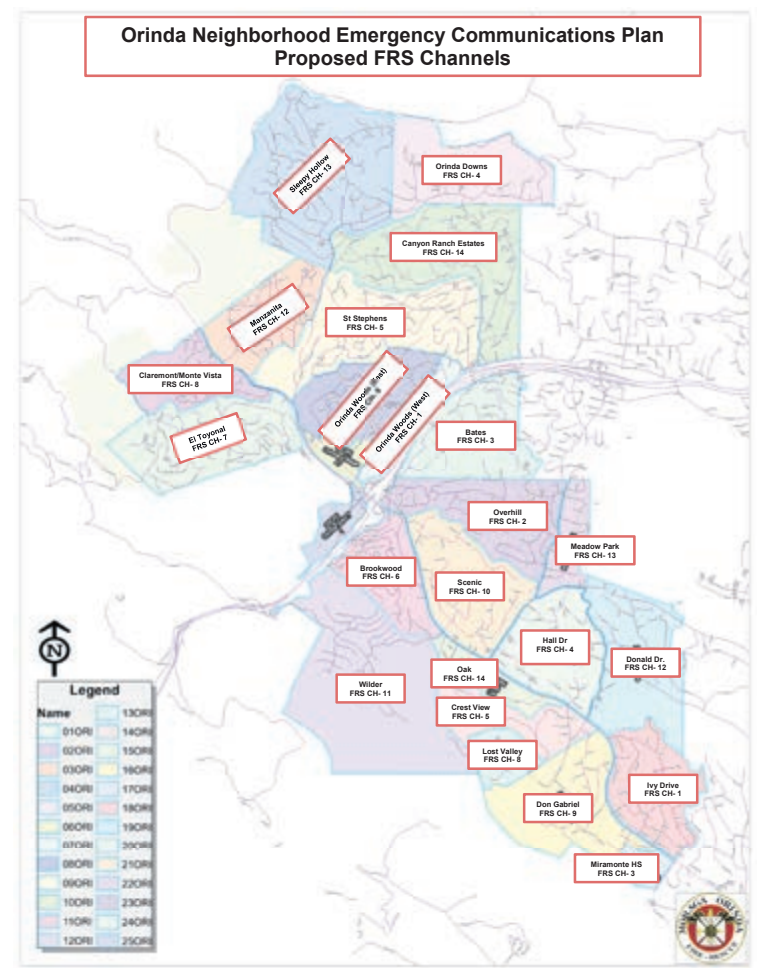
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Walk/Bike to School Day ... continued from page A2

But as Piertzak points out, although Lafayette Elementary is the city's most "walkable" school, it is situated in the most congested area, which raises safety concerns.

Mayor Mark Mitchell attended and explained that it is the city's wish to work closely with the schools to improve sidewalks and safety.

School Principal Ann Kim said, "We are proud that our community places such a high value on coming together to encourage a healthy and active lifestyle for our children. Our school district is working with the city and the police department to reduce traffic congestion by promoting safe walking and biking routes to school for our students."

She made the point that, "Activities such as Walk/Bike to School Day also encourage our parents to get to know one another better and meet neighbors."

And certainly to the children enjoying snacks and socializing before school on that chilly morning, it was all about fun. PTA President Christina Tibbals pointed out that it is another example of how such events add to the sense of community.

Stefania Kaplanes, parent of a third-grader and kindergartener,



From left, Mayor Mark Mitchell, Jonathan Winter and Emily Piertzak. Photo Pippa Fisher

rode bikes with her children on that morning. She said that in her work in the trauma department at Highlands Hospital she sees many injuries that are the result of disregarding safety. For her, she said that it is all about helmet safety, crosswalk safety and wearing protective and reflective gear.

The enthusiasm for walking or biking to school continued in the classroom with activities such as graphing in first grade through the day. Stickers were being handed out and worn with pride by those who did not arrive by car.

At least one of the teachers cy-

pled in. The science teacher, Jonathan Winter, setting an excellent example in his protective clothing, was quite the celebrity in the Plaza as the children spotted him. He says he cycles in quite often.

The Walk to School organization claims that a one-time event such as this one can increase the number of students who walk or bike to school even weeks after the day of the event.

So keep an eagle eye out for diminutive scholars heading into school and give them plenty of room — they are keeping fit AND reducing congestion downtown.

Nov. 8 Election Coverage

East Bay Park District Candidates Make a Play in Lamorinda

By Nick Marnell

Four candidates look to succeed retiring East Bay Regional Park District board member John Sutter of Ward 2, which includes all of Lamorinda. The candidates, listed alphabetically, present their case to Lamorinda voters.



Kent Fickett

Fickett has lived in the Lamorinda area for over 25 years with his wife Beckee Beemer and his two children, Daniel and Ellena. "Our family loves all of our regional parks and trails. We have biked, hiked, and walked our dogs in most of the 65 regional parks and numerous connecting trails," he said.

Fickett plans to work with Moraga officials and local land owners to connect the trail from Moraga Commons to Country Club Road along the creek north of School Street and the Ranch House. He would install electric car charging stations at all regional park parking lots where power is available. Fickett proposes to pursue existing funds from Sacramento for a BART to Parks program, offering reduced Bay Area Rapid Transit system weekend family round trip

fares to the new Concord Hills Regional Park. He would institute a pilot program from the Ward 2 stations in the Oakland and Lamorinda areas, and then expand the program to other East Bay BART stations.

Fickett said he will continue current conservative budget practices to make sure taxpayer funds are properly balanced between parks, trails and park employees. "I do not want to see a BART-labor type problem at our Regional Park District," he said.



Audree Jones-Taylor

The former superintendent for the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, Jones-Taylor recently retired as director for Oakland Parks and Recreation, where she managed nearly 1,400 employees and supervised park assets, including 2,500 acres of open space. She became the first female director of the department in its more than 100-year history.

Jones-Taylor, with a master's degree in leadership from Saint Mary's College, said she has dedicated her 40-year professional life to managing parks and recreation,

with an emphasis on serving the most vulnerable populations of the community, and has demonstrated leadership as a steward of natural resources including preservation and expansion of open spaces and parkland, urban creeks, trails and shoreline.

"What I will bring to the Lamorinda community is the commitment to be involved, engaged and an advocate for protecting the remaining hillside and ridgelines," said Jones-Taylor. "I have been on your trails, walked in your parks and have listened to your concerns. I want to be your voice on the board of directors to ensure there is an awareness of the value of preserving and protecting open space in addition to providing safe and enjoyable spaces for children and seniors."



John Roberts

A federal bank regulator, Roberts plans to bring regulatory tools to the board to help lower the costs of running the park district. For example, he would have the financial auditor report directly to the board rather than to a chief financial of-

ficer, who reports to the general manager. Roberts also favors an independent body to oversee fiscal performance and he endorses a bottom-up approach to district management operations. "This would be in coordination with the park supervisor whose performance evaluation would be based in part on cooperation with park users and the community," Roberts said.

"Park visitors should get a sense of ownership of our parks, not a sense of dread from its many rules and restrictive policies," Roberts said. He plans to improve park trailhead accessibility, making it easier to connect with the local trail network either through trail development or by purchasing or partnering for greenbelt access points.

Roberts would allow mountain bikes on trails suitable for multi-use, adding suggestion boxes with names of park supervisors at each park trailhead, and the elimination of park fees. "The government should focus on collecting taxes and treating everyone fairly, not on maximizing profit, which is a private sector focus," Roberts said.



Dee Rosario

An East Bay Regional Park District retiree, whose 37-year career included stints as park ranger, park supervisor and firefighter, Rosario would bring to the board a perspective borne of district experience. He will push for better public access to the board through evening meetings, and will commit to personal meetings with constituents on a regular basis. To provide the public with unbiased access to the district financial data, the candidate will advocate that the chief financial officer report directly to the board.

Rosario will work to reduce the use of herbicides, making parks safer for the public and the environment.

He does not foresee major changes in trail use. Multi-use trails form the backbone of the park district, he said, allowing shared use and access for maintenance and emergency vehicles, but for safety, bikes should be restricted from single-track trails, except where designated. Dogs are required to be on leash in public use areas and resource protection areas and should be allowed off leash, under voice control, in other areas, he said.

"I want to see the park district become not only the largest land owner in the East Bay, but an environmental leader, protecting natural resources, incorporating alternative energy sources, and maximizing educational opportunities."

EBRP directors earn \$100 for each meeting they attend, capped at \$1000 per month. They also receive a parks district lifetime pass.

Debora Allen, Gail Murray Square Off in District 1 BART Race

By Nick Marnell



Debora Allen Photos provided
A large portion of Lamorinda resides in District 3 of the Bay Area Rapid Transit system, with only a sliver of Lafayette included in District 1. But within that sliver lies the Lafayette BART station. The two candidates for the District



Gail Murray
1 board seat explain what they will do for the system's Lafayette customers.

"The Lafayette BART station will see a transformation next year with contracts for two projects now being finalized," said incumbent

Gail Murray, who outlined her accomplishments. The parking lots will be repaved, new shade trees will be planted in the larger lot and along an improved sidewalk, and access will be reconfigured to better improve routing for all vehicles. Solar panels will be installed in more than 400 spaces in the northeast parking lot, Murray said, providing shaded parking and saving energy.

One of the first projects Murray promoted when she was first elected to the BART board was construction of the ramp that connects the south entrance to the Lafayette station with downtown Lafayette. "At that time, people with mobility challenges had to travel out of their way from downtown along Mt. Diablo Boulevard to Happy Valley Road to the north entrance to

BART, roughly twice the distance they now do," Murray said.

New train cars will be soon arriving to the Pittsburg-Bay Point line, Murray said. The cars will be put into service next spring.

Debora Allen, a director with the Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association, made her case as the challenger.

"The poor condition of our stations, the filthy trains and escalators that continually break down and lack of adequate public safety protection are a direct result of many years of financial mismanagement of the BART agency by its board of directors," said Allen, who referenced a projected \$477 million deficit in the district operating budget over the next 10 years.

She stressed her experience

in financial management and as a business owner to bring the discipline and expertise needed to demand fiscal accountability of the BART management, "something my opponent has failed to do over her last 12 years in office," Allen said. "I will make the tough decisions, independent of the construction and employee unions' influence. Once the financial picture improves, the satisfaction of riders with the experience on BART will improve."

Allen listed public safety, increased parking and equipment maintenance among her top priorities for improvement as District 1 director.

BART directors earn \$1,525 per month and enjoy free transportation on the system.



Inga Miller for Orinda City Council

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"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 and 2012 Citizen of The Year

"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

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

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- Shoshana Chazan
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- John and Bobbie Wilson
- James Phillip Wright
- Scott Yancey
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- Mani Jeh Zarif Zadeh
- George and Marie Zizer

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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

Lafayette Institution is the Place to Find Scary Seasonal Novelties

By Victor Ryerson



Left to right, assistant store manager Susan Saltzmann, Orinda college student Tanya Salmeron, and Dalton Boswell, grandson of the store's founder, demonstrate some of the season's offerings -- including a very creepy clown.

Whether looking for a frightening Halloween mask or perhaps an even scarier cutout of a presidential candidate, Lamorindans in the know visit Boswell's Party Supplies, an unassuming concrete building on Mt. Diablo Boulevard that is filled with every manner of novelty items and party supplies.

"We have everything," says co-owner Mary Ellen Boswell of the

eponymous mom-and-pop store. And, it seems, generations of partygoers and party-throwers know it. It is a rare resident that hasn't outfitted a birthday party, holiday party, or special occasion celebration at Boswell's. The fact that the mere mention of the store's name generally elicits immediate recognition from any child or adult qualifies it as a local institution, particularly during the holiday season.

Right now, of course, Halloween items are hot. Oh yes, and political novelties. "Halloween during an election year is always a little more fun because people like to make fun of candidates," says Mary Ellen's husband, Luke. Donald Trump is an easy target, he says. "We have been selling paper masks of Trump, as well as cardboard stand-ups."

The store started as an outgrowth of a business run by Luke Boswell's mother, Paula, out of her basement in the late 1970s. A German teacher, Paula needed supplies for an Oktoberfest. When she found them, she and her husband also invested \$500 in an inventory of carnival supplies to sell from their home. The couple attended trade shows and picked up more carnival supplies -- those little favors you win in the games at the midway, for example -- as well as doll house furniture, and the eclectic business was born.

Luke and Mary Ellen joined the business after graduating from college, and eventually bought Paula out. In the meantime, they started their first store in Lafayette in 1979, and then others in Danville, Pacheco and Pleasanton. Party supplies

were added later, and continue to be the mainstay of the business.

The recession was not kind to the business, and the Pacheco and Pleasanton stores closed, leaving the Lafayette and Danville stores to soldier on in the face of competition from big corporate party supply stores and online businesses. One thing that differentiates Boswell's from those competitors is that it still sells the carnival items, and bins of them are stacked from floor to ceiling on the back wall of the store. The Boswells attend trade shows and buy their stock from some 300 individual suppliers, Mary Ellen emphasizes, whereas their big corporate competitors get their inventory from a single source.

She is also quick to point out that they hire "a lot of local kids," not merely to staff the store, but also to give them an opportunity to work in the retail world and pick up useful business knowledge. The store is a colorful place, and the kids seem to have a lot more fun working there than they do behind a fast food counter.

The Boswells have made an effort to hire a significant number of youngsters with disabilities such as

mild autism, so they can learn social and business skills under close supervision. Many young workers have gone on to start their own businesses, according to Mary Ellen, who also expressed great pride in the diversity of their staff.

Whatever you might need to celebrate the season's events, you will probably be able to find it in the store's jumbled stock. "What we have seen over the years is that the sale of complete costumes is limited mainly to younger children, and adults who are willing to spend a lot of money," Luke says. "What that leaves is costume accessories, such as wigs, glasses, beards, hats, boas, etc. We have also seen people decorating their homes with Halloween yard decorations to the same degree as Christmas, and some people going crazy with scary scenes in their yard."

And if you want a full-size cardboard cutout of either presidential candidate to round out the scene in your yard standing next to a ghoulish zombie, you can find it there. Nobody says you can't have a little fun this season.

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

Business Bites

Compiled by Victor Ryerson

From left: Wendy Scheck, Fire Chief Stephen Healy, Captain Dan Dick and Kevin Reneau
Photo provided

First Responder gets Moraga's Employee of the Month Nod
Dan Dick, a fire captain for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for September. Captain Dick has been serving Moraga for nine years, and an asset to the department since he began as a reserve volunteer firefighter in 2006. He is responsible for overseeing the fire station, crew and apparatus, as well as serving as the chair of the unit's Administrative Committee.

"Dan is a calm, thoughtful, mature and highly intelligent leader," said Fire Chief Stephen Healy. "He ... handles difficult situations with a thoughtful, big picture approach. We're lucky to have him in the community."

In winning the award, the Moraga Rotary and Chamber of Commerce will award Dick a gift card to Safeway and a gift card to Ristorante Amarama in Moraga. He will be presented with his award and gifts at an upcoming Moraga Rotary lunch at Saint Mary's College.

Snapspot is a Family Affair
Snapspot.co is a new company formed by the energetic Gonzales family, recently featured in this newspaper as Family Feud participants. Patriarch Ed and his wife Girlynda formed the company to teach their daughters how to start and operate a small business, Ed says, and the young women, ages 17 and 25, have been involved in every step from initial market research to website development.

The company, SNAPSPOT, LLC d.b.a. snapspot.co, utilizes the Selfie Station platform to enable a guest to take his or her own photograph with a high-quality professional camera, and then print, text, email or share it instantly by uploading it to social media accounts like Facebook and Twitter. Want to know more about how it works? Check it out online at the website, www.snapspot.co.

Wellness for the Ages
Home Care Assistance has recently opened an office near Whole Foods at 3518 Mount Diablo Blvd., Suite P in Lafayette to better serve the Lamorinda community. An Open House from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 10 will address the importance of bringing the Lamorinda community together to support the needs of the area's aging population. Educational talks from the Home Care Assistance team and Eileen Nevitt, LCSW, ACSW, CMC will focus on how each senior, their families and care teams can communicate effectively so the individual can reach optimal levels of safety, health and wellness. The event will also include a ribbon cutting with the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and a silent auction with the proceeds going to support Mobility Matters. Please RSVP to Francesca Vogel, 925-989-6877.

Chamber Music
Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
www.lafayettechamber.org (925) 284-7404
Social Media Workshop, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19, Lafayette Library Homework Center.
Mixer at Byron Park, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26, 1700 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek.

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.

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Nov. 8 Election Coverage

Key Differences Emerge At Candidates Forum

... continued from page A5

He further expressed that the whole MCSP needed to be re-examined by the whole community. He added that the needs of the property owners have to be taken into account and that to build a downtown that will be attractive, it has to make sense to all parties.

Korpus, who has been on the planning commission since the beginning of the year, is most passionate about this issue. She was active in opposing the City Venture project arguing that it was not compliant with the fundamental principles set in the General Plan. She believes that it is true of the whole MCSP and that it should be reconsidered. She said she was not anti-development, but that new projects should not compromise Moraga's semi-rural character.

The candidates did not agree on the future of the Hacienda de

las Flores. Crossley sees it as a successful public venue, as demonstrated during the recent Hacienda nights. He added that recreation is a public service provided by the town to residents and does not have to be a profit center. Korpus did not agree and said that she would rather stop the losses. She also agreed with Wykle that the exploration of a public-private partnership the town started should be completed and all possibilities explored. Fritzy noted that there was no consensus in town on what to do with the Hacienda, and that it was up to the community to decide what it wants done with the town's asset.

Management of infrastructure and transit was also a topic of differentiation among the candidates. Wykle and Crossley see that Moraga has a traffic problem mostly linked to schools' commute. Wykle men-

tioned opening of negotiations with both high schools, Campolindo and Miramonte, and also the Moraga Livable Roads plan that will make walking and biking to school safer.

Crossley noted that storm drain issues were also an infrastructure issue.

To address commute time, Fritzy proposed staging school times and having people adjust their schedules. She also noted that with more development would come more traffic.

Korpus took the topic a step further saying that traffic patterns have changed in recent years, that people coming from Oakland now find their way east through Moraga thanks to mobile apps such as Waze, and that the traffic studies that were done six or seven years ago should be redone. She mentioned security risks linked to increased numbers

of cars and said that new ways to enter and exit Moraga should be considered, maybe at the end of Camino Pablo or through Bollinger Canyon.

For those who were not able to attend the meeting, Lamorinda Weekly recorded it and it is online at lamorindaweekly.com and www.moragacitizensnetwork.org.

The recording is divided in chapters according to the questions that were asked. Moraga Citizens Network (MCN) organizes this forum in keeping with its mission to promote civic awareness. MCN had asked for questions to its 1,500 members and selected eight for the candidates.

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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

"The City Council is so fortunate to have Darlene bring her professional expertise to the rehabilitation of Orinda's roads and infrastructure. As a consensus-builder and committed City and school volunteer, Darlene will continue to provide the leadership that Orinda needs!"

— Victoria Smith, Mayor of Orinda

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Partial List of Endorsements

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

Paid for by Committee to Elect Darlene Gee for City Council 2016, FPPC 1387114

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Oak Tree Appeal ... continued from page A6

They have eliminated all landscaping near the oak tree. The driveway on the project will be constructed of permeable pavers, which he said are recommended for use beneath trees. He noted that the appellant has an asphalt driveway in the drip line area under tree. Further, the construction has been changed to pier and beam construction, with only two or three piers within the tree's drip line.

Jones also defended himself against claims that the project is being developed by an out-of-town developer, saying that he lives on the border of Orinda in Lafayette. "I'm not walking away," he said, "I'm very local."

He also noted that they have never indicated that they are going to sell this property. But as far as the health of the tree, he explained that there are no guarantees with living trees. "Before I ever set foot on the property," he said, "a tree on a neighboring property just died." There are many reasons unrelated to construction why trees die, he explained.

During the public comment period, neighbors lined up to speak against the proposed development. Bruce Jet, a licensed landscape architect with offices in Orinda that employ 12 landscape architects, stated he was dismayed by the project. He noted that he had recently completed a project protecting 29 heritage oaks during the development of 200,000 square feet of retail property in Walnut Creek, only losing one tree. Jet accused Jones of

doing everything he can to protect the trees on his property and doing everything he can to harm the tree on his neighbor's property, a comment to which Jones later took exception as defamatory. Jet talked about two oak trees in the neighborhood that have died, one on his property, the death of which he attributes absolutely to bad development.

Jet continued, "these oak trees are one of the most important parts of Orinda and this community, they're valuable, they mean stuff to people, and when someone comes in and says, 'I'm going to build a house as close to this tree as I can build it, and it's going to be what it is; planning commission, staff: accept it,' I think we have not done our job as city leaders and member of our community."

He concluded, "there is a high probability this tree will die as a result. The developer needs to take the hit with his tree and not to the neighbor's tree." Nevertheless, he stated that there are things that can be done to protect the tree, but it will take a lot of care and cost a lot of money.

Several neighbors contradicted the city's conclusions regarding water on the property. The city found no evidence of a natural spring on the property, but seasonal ponding only. Senior Planner Derek Farmer commented that the site drains down from hillside above it, which might account for a lot of the moisture, but that there was no report that has any evidence of a spring. Eileen Fitz-Faulkner lives right across the street

and alleged that no one is aware of how much water comes through. She also pointed out that the development will have no guest parking that is not on a neighbor's property.

Council member Orr led off the comments by the council, and noted the unique nature of the appeal, which focuses on a neighbor's tree rather than the design elements of the house. Orr and the other council members present, Darlene Gee and vice mayor Eve Phillips, agreed that the house was well-designed and a good size for the lot, although some neighbors complained that it was too large. In amending the conditions, Orr felt that it was unlikely that any recommendations from the third-party consulting arborist will affect the actual house on the lot, but rather elements of grading or landscaping only.

Reached following the council's decision, appellant Schlein said that she was quite disappointed with the city's decision and felt that the matter should have been sent back to the planning commission for the independent arborist's report before approval. She feels that the developer's arborist's report totally lacks credibility and was torn to shreds at the hearing. However she was glad that an independent arborist will review the site and the builders plans. Hopefully, she said, the new report will say whether that house can be built on that lot without destroying the tree. "That is all I want," she said.

Jones had no comment on the council's action.

Nov. 8 Election Coverage

BART District 3 Race

Worth Freeman

Worth Freeman insists on more transparency from BART, and using the San Francisco Municipal Transit Authority as his model he will push for publication of post-event summaries for incidents like the service disruption on the Pittsburg-Bay Point line in March. The Fresno State graduate says that when a delay occurs, system agents should tell passengers what is happening and explain to them their options. "I personally hate that Twitter is the first resource to go to when there is a delay on BART," Freeman said.

Freeman will work with local transportation agencies, such as County Connection and AC Transit, to coordinate timed transfers and express buses so that BART riders can get to their destinations more reliably. He also promises to create initiatives to upgrade BART stations, reaching out to local artists to help redesign the stations so they match the character of the communities they represent.

Although Freeman is in favor of Measure RR, he said he wished it had gone even further to address the \$10 billion the system needs to complete its reconstruction. He promises to begin negotiations early with labor unions and to get deeply involved in the process.

"The 2013 strikes did not occur because of greedy BART unions but they occurred because the board was negligent in following the negotiations and missed key details," Freeman said. "As a web programmer I'm very hands-on with projects and I couldn't fathom just being a third party to such an important negotiation."

Varun Paul

Varun Paul intends to be the

voice of the ridership. He promises to take no compensation as a director, and he also plans to fight for and implement a system fare freeze. "I question any board member or candidate that has accepted compensation or will, during these difficult financial times at BART," Paul said.

To improve system performance, the UC Berkeley graduate plans to gather, analyze and publish financial and operational data and report the results live and online, achieving efficiencies and transparency similar to the way operations are managed in the private sector. A health care consultant, Paul intends to create a BART medical unit to better handle medical emergencies, again reducing delays and improving performance. And Paul favors more police visibility throughout the system, suggesting that BART police move from the police station to the BART stations.

Paul reserved his harshest criticism for BART management. "I will push for the removal of the current general manager whose gross compensation and terrible tactics in negotiation and management led to breakdowns and a strike," he said. Paul said he will begin the next set of labor negotiations his first day on the job, creating a diverse team of labor leaders, BART workers, community groups, business leaders and passengers to negotiate and earn the trust of all citizens.

"BART lacks a bridge between labor and management, including a transparent and public negotiating process," Paul said. "I will work to fix that and Lamorinda citizens can help achieve that by voting for me."

Rebecca Saltzman

The incumbent stressed her accomplishments. She listed her top priority as keeping the system

... continued from page A1

running reliably and sustainably, emphasizing her support for doubling the percentage of the capital budget spent on system reinvestment. Saltzman said she helped secure district funding for the BART-Orinda Downtown Access Ramp and Lighting Project, as well as for improved signage at the Orinda station. "In my second term I plan to work on further upgrades to the Orinda station, including the restoration of the station murals."

She strongly supports Measure RR, insisting that BART cannot use the bond funds for anything but acquisition or improvement of real property. "Of interest to Lamorinda voters, Measure RR will also help ensure rider safety in the Berkeley Hills Tunnel, which connects to Orinda, by funding the repair of tracks in the tunnel that have been misaligned by creeping earthquake faults," Saltzman said.

Saltzman serves on the district Strategic Finance Committee. She pointed out that the committee gained board approval to increase the district reserve fund from 5 percent to 15 percent of annual operating expenses, approximating one month of BART expenses. She also chairs a BART committee charged with improving future labor negotiations; the group commissioned a report that listed 63 recommendations on how not to repeat what happened in 2013.

"Still, there is much work to be done, and we plan to continue the work of the committee, along with union leadership and BART management, in the coming years," Saltzman said.

BART directors earn \$1,525 per month and enjoy free transportation on the system. One hundred dollars is deducted from their pay for every meeting they miss.

Letters to the Editor

Don't Forget to Register to Vote

Dear Editor,
This election year in particular I am reminded of the importance of the voice of the people. I've seen some of my fellow citizens become very politically active with a deep desire for change. I've also seen many so exasperated they want to throw their hands up and forget about this election season altogether.

Fellow citizens, do not to give up. Your voice matters in the presidential election and in our local elections, where you have the possibility of seeing the most immediate change.

Oct. 24 is the last day for voter registration. If you have not already, please visit www.cocovote.us/voter-registration/register-to-vote, or obtain a form at an elections office, public library, post office or DMV. By boosting voter turnout we boost our democracy.

Registering not only gives you a voice, but it is a vehicle for knowledge on the issues. The public data you provide when you register not only allows for information on California Propositions to be sent to you, but it also allows you to interface with your candidates. Each candidate can communicate her or his ideas with you through mailers, phone calls or email. Without this ability for a candidate to speak directly to voters, only those who shout the loudest or have the most money would be empowered. Our democracy would be skewed and would not allow for equality among candidates.

Registering to vote creates a two-way line of communication directly between voters and candidates! Democracy is in your hands. Register and then take the time to look at that mailer or door hanger. Take the time to open that email. Empower yourselves.

The Lamorinda community is truly a special one. People are involved. People care. Let's keep it that way. See you at the polls.

Mark Kindhouse
Lafayette

Lafayette School Board

Sturm Has Right Qualities to Lead Lafayette Schools

Dear Editor,
People, schools, and the Lafayette community are ingredients to our dynamic culture creating a common thread binding each Lafayette resident. Rob Sturm's experience as a leader, exposure to our schools and education establish a foundation I believe we can count on to favorably impact how Lafayette has been touted over the years and could continue to count on - preminent schools.

Children and our Lafayette schools directly and/or indirectly contribute to the community we have come to love and envision far into the future. Ensuring financial viability and solvency of our school district require leadership with intent and purpose to influence and drive lasting behaviors. It requires understanding actions that are "for" the community.

I have been a Lafayette resident for over 25 years, raising four sons who attended all levels of Lafayette schools. I am an Emeritus Trustee and inaugural Board of Trustee for the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation.

The integration of professional and personal connections illuminate my exposure and experience with Rob. In everyday as well as specific situations, opportunities, or challenges he has demonstrated the ability to sustain focus on a clear vision aligning actions along the way. Whether many, a few, or no people are watching or listening, he has shown up and performed doing the right things to realize that vision.

I offer this endorsement of Rob considering my professional experience as a leadership consultant enabling development and growth of leaders to realize individual, team and organization results - and perennial nationally awarded leadership program. And personally, as the leader of multi award-winning non-profit organization (The Nicholas Colby Fund) helping uplift the

spirits of children with cancer or other life-threatening illnesses via personalized events and experiences. The experiences afforded children are encamped around my heart!

Rob has a clear set of values including diversity and inclusion, fundamental fairness, financial stewardship as well as cultural/community stewardship. President John F. Kennedy said, "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." Rob's experiences and continuous learning enable increased insights and innovative approaches that should favorably impact people, schools and the Lafayette community.

Lamont Gilbert
Lafayette

Kindhouse for Lafayette School Board

Dear Editor,
My name is Kathleen Rose Crenshaw. I'm a retired K-12 school educator who has lived in Lafayette for my entire life. When my grandchildren were born, they made our family a fifth-generation Lafayette family. We have been, are, and will be Lafayette residents through and through.

I'm writing to endorse Mark Kindhouse for Lafayette School Board. Yes, he is extremely qualified to serve by using his engineering and management background to provide good governance for the recently passed Bond Measure C. But more than that, I'm writing because of his good character. I urge you to vote for him not only because of the unique qualifications you can read about on his website, but because he is a true, invested member of this community.

Mark is a leader within our local Cub Scout pack. He has also served for two years on Lafayette's Capital Projects and Assessments Committee. He has taken the time to get to know our teachers, our special needs parents and our PTA. He was even out at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival shaking hands and connecting with people.

I have seen board members come and go. I have seen concern over the school district budget. I have seen various figures endorse candidates they barely knew simply for politics. I'm not a politician. I'm not interested in alliances. I'm interested in Lafayette.

Mark is growing roots here for his two young boys, just like my family did 100 years ago. I have witnessed his honest desire to serve this community.

When you open your ballot, select the first name on the ticket for Lafayette School Board: Mark Kindhouse. He's good for our school district, and he's good for our community. I trust him.

I have too much invested in Lafayette to want it any other way.
Kathleen Crenshaw
Lafayette

Meredith Meade for Lafayette School Board

Dear Editor,
When my wife and I enrolled the first of our three children at Lafayette Elementary School ten years ago, we were greeted warmly by Meredith Meade from Lafayette Elementary School's PTA Executive Board. Understanding that Lafayette's schools were highly regarded due in no small part to the involvement of dedicated parents, we knew immediately that - with Meredith at the helm - Lafayette Elementary was in good hands. I am thrilled she is now running for the Lafayette School Board. I support her candidacy unequivocally.

Meredith knows Lafayette schools, and is uniquely qualified to serve on the School Board. Her experience is unmatched. She was a member of the Lafayette Elementary School PTA Executive Board for five years, including its president in 2011-2013. She was the president of Lafayette Partners in Education (LPIE), Lafayette's education foundation which raises millions of dollars for Lafayette's schools. She was a member, and former chair, of Rapport, Lafayette's district-wide education advisory committee. She

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

has volunteered tirelessly for recent parcel tax campaigns and the bond measure in support of our schools. Indeed, having worked with Lafayette schools at every level, Meredith has the experience and perspective to represent us as the District embarks on the Prop C \$70 million upgrade and retrofit.

In addition to her devotion to Lafayette's schools, Meredith has deep ties to the Lafayette community, and has worked with families from all over Lafayette in her role on the Rancho Colorados Swim Team and Tennis Club Board of Directors, and as secretary of the Lafayette Swim Conference.

As the President of Lamorinda Rugby Club and a member of the MOL Flag Football Board of Directors, I understand the need for a leader with a proven track record and a commitment to our children so that our schools maintain their reputation as one of the best in the state. I recognize that leader in Meredith. Please join me in voting for Meredith Meade for the Lafayette School District Governing School Board.
Doug Pearson
Lafayette

... continued on page A14

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

ROB STURM - THE RESPONSIBLE CHOICE

The Only Lafayette School Board Candidate Endorsed by Every Current and Incoming Lafayette City Council Member



"I will vote for Rob Sturm and encourage you to do the same." **Don Tatzin, Lafayette City Council**

"I cannot think of a better Lafayette School Board candidate than Rob Sturm." **Jean Follmer, Current Lafayette School Board President**

"Our District opens with almost \$1 million in deficit spending and forecasts 'financial insolvency' by 2018 on our current fiscal trajectory. That's alarming." **Rob Sturm, attorney, teacher and volunteer on behalf of children**

- Family: Wife, Kristina; Alden (kindergarten); Grant (age 3); and Hallie (3 months)
- 25-year accomplished labor/employment attorney & corporate leader
- Extensive non-profit volunteer board experience
- Nearly a decade of unblemished 8-figure budgetary management - NO DEFICITS, surpluses every year
- Longstanding success implementing cost-saving best practices and ridding wasteful spending to productively redeploy millions in saved dollars
- Has identified material opportunities to end wasteful District spending to eliminate deficits, enhance academic excellence, further support special education and invest in teacher pay increases. Additional parcel taxes should be an option of last resort
- Widespread current and former local School Board support, including non-returning Lafayette School Board Members Jean Follmer and Nancy Wallace; Ann Appert; Craig Cheslog; Roger Falcone; Art Kapoor; Tom Mulvaney; Shayne Silva, Scott Sommer; Stephenie Teichman
- Endorsed by numerous other civic 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)

VOTE "NO" ON LAFAYETTE SALES TAX MEASURE C

East Bay Times Editorial agrees with us, says "No" to Measure C - September 21, 2016
Vote No on Measure C, the Sales Tax Increase proposed for Lafayette

- It's a \$100 Million **blank check**, because the City is not obligated to spend the money on any of the six items listed in Measure C
- At staff's recommendation, the City **removed the language about their real intentions for the money** - a new \$30 million civic building, because "it doesn't poll well" (City memos February-July 2016)
- **More taxes are not needed** to fund any of the six items in Measure C
- **All the money raised will not stay in Lafayette**, despite what the measure claims
- Even if Measure C fails, the City has a great deal of cash available, its coffers are growing and it can always seek a sales tax increase of up to 1%, if needed, in the future.
- This is the same administration that took away our right to vote on a major land project, is being investigated for wrongdoing by the California Fair Political Practices Commission, has already had one City Commissioner fined by the State and is not enforcing its own General Plan and Ordinances.

Dear fellow residents

We are members of the community, who are opposed to the upcoming Measure C

Please take a few moments to learn more...

Vote NO on Measure C, the Sales Tax Increase Proposal for Lafayette

The City of Lafayette is proposing to increase the sales tax from 8.5% to 9.5%, purportedly to fund a wish list of six priorities defined by the community. If passed, the increase in the sales tax would raise about \$3 million annually and would be for a 29-year period, or over \$100 million in total dollars, assuming an annual increase in the sales tax during this period.

The Reality of the Situation

In recent years our City administration has repeatedly failed to significantly protect or improve most of the six items in Measure C, despite having funds available. The city is not obligated to spend any of the money from Measure C on such improvements - Measure C was carefully fashioned to LEGALLY NOT REQUIRE the City to do so.

GUY ATWOOD

FORMER LAFAYETTE PLANNING COMMISSIONER AND CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

CHAD FOLLMER
LAFAYETTE RESIDENT

SUSAN CANDELL
LAFAYETTE RESIDENT

SCOTT SOMMER
FORMER LAFAYETTE SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT



Paid for by Save Lafayette # C3814447 www.savelafayette.org

Letters to the Editor ... continued

Measure C Lafayette

Apology for 'No on C' Typo

Dear Editor,
I would like to apologize for my typo on the No on Measure C flyer sponsored by Save Lafayette distributed with the Oct. 5 Lamorinda Weekly. Scott Sommer, a former Lafayette School Board member and longterm Lafayette resident, graciously agreed to add his name to the opposition to Measure C, the Lafayette 1 percent sales tax measure. When the flyer came out, the word "Former" was missing — my mistake.

I apologize to both Mr. Sommer and to Jean Follmer, the current Lafayette School Board President, for the mistake.

Mike Griffiths,
Save Lafayette
Lafayette

No on Measure C

Dear Editor,
Lafayette voters are being asked to approve a sales tax increase by Measure

C. There are three simple reasons voters should vote No:

- 1) The city doesn't need the money;
- 2) I feel the hidden agenda is to build fancy new city offices;
- 3) These are the same people who REFUSED to put the Deer Hill homes

project before the voters!

Conclusion: The city government can't be trusted. Vote No.

James P. Tuthill
Lafayette

Vote No on Measure C

I am a finance professional, and like to delve into the numbers. I am voting against the massive sales tax increase that is Measure C, and urge other taxpayers to do so as well. The reason is very simple - Lafayette clearly does not need the money. Looking at the city's own budget projections, they show zero need for new funds, in spite of ongoing large increases in personnel costs of between 4-6% each year. The city is healthy and not in need of taking more money from residents. Higher taxes should only occur when there is a clear need for revenues after cost efficiencies have been exhausted, and that is just not the case here. A tax increase would also hurt our city's businesses, making shopping in Lafayette more costly than in many other local towns. 'Love Lafayette' is not a reason to pass a tax increase. It is patronizing. Vote no on Measure C. Richard Cohen
Lafayette

Vote No on Measure C

The premise and justification to increase sales tax is to fund the projects that were determined to be priorities for the citizens of Lafayette by survey. There are just under 16,000 registered voters in Lafayette. How many people actually submitted this survey? 724, seven hundred and twenty four people, that sample size is statistically irrelevant yet they are going to tax and borrow against that tax? Vote No. They suspended negotiations to buy the land for the new civic buildings until after the tax measure passes. (source: city memo) They were advised to remove that language from the ballot because it doesn't poll well. In other words if you tell people what you are really going to spend the money on you might not get it. So they pulled the language. (source: http://lafayette.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=3&clip_id=3022&meta_id=60639) Vote No. My suggestion is to come back to the table with a real proposal to address the real concerns of the people of Lafayette in an honest and transparent manner. 1% is too much, for too long, it's bad for local business, the people of Lafayette generally agree we don't need or want it. Vote No on Measure C. Andres Caicedo
Lafayette

No on Measure C

Dear Editor,
Lafayette Measure C is an unnecessary tax premised on dubious claims. Given the absence of any requirements how the funds it will raise must be spent, Measure C is an irresponsible effort to give the City wide latitude to spend \$100 million dollars. The City staff have not put the best interest of Lafayette's citizens ahead of their career enhancement priorities. If the way they've handled the Homes at Deer Hill debacle is any indication, they're more interested in having growth "achievements" they can cite than managing pressures that regional growth puts on the quality of life in Lafayette. Were the City to bring forth a tax measure with clear requirements on how the money were to be spent and the spending made sense, I could get behind it. But Measure C does not meet that criteria of accountability. I hope my Lafayette neighbors will join me in voting against Measure C.

Ian Kallen
Lafayette

Reject Measure C

Dear Editor,

- Lack of transparency
- Use of a General Tax to avoid a two-thirds vote; which the City Council knows would not pass
- Hidden plan to subsidize the building of a new city services offices
- No proven need for the six items listed in the ballot; based only on a wish list of a few citizens

The Lafayette City sponsored Measure C to increase our sales tax rate for 29 years should be rejected. Future City Councils could spend this huge amount of money; perhaps as much as \$100 million on anything they want including:

- Operating expenses for the City
- Increasing further salary shortfall for City staff
- Increasing the City Manager's salary and benefits, which are already \$350,000 annually

Join us and our neighbors as well as the editor of the East Bay Times in opposing this tax increase for the many reasons listed above.

Please Vote No on Measure C
Paul and Roni Melmed
Lafayette

Help Preserve Lafayette Open Space

Dear Editor,
Lafayette has long enjoyed its beautiful open hills and ridgelines. But with land becoming scarcer, there is more pressure to develop our hills and ridges. Much land that we have long taken for granted as open space is in fact privately owned, with private rights to develop the land. One needs to merely drive the freeways of Los Angeles to witness what happens to hills and ridges that aren't publicly protected.

We have the means to preserve our open space around and above Lafayette. Land can be purchased, scenic or conservation easements can be negotiated, or partnerships can be formed with park districts, foundations or other cities. It is a simple fact that all of these means of permanently preserving open space require money, and often not small amounts.

In Lafayette's "Community Conversations" and community survey taken to understand the Citizen's Vision for Lafayette, preservation of open space has been the top priority for that vision. However, although Lafayette has balanced its budgets for many years, current City revenues are inadequate to make major investments in open space, or even to act as seed money for such action.

Measure C proposes a 1% local sales tax increment. The proceeds will be used only in Lafayette, monitored by a Citizen Oversight Committee. All members of the City Council have pledged to make the elements of the Citizens' Vision

for Lafayette the priority use of the new revenues, and open space is the first of those priorities. If we want our children and grandchildren to continue to enjoy our green and golden hills and ridges, Measure C is our chance to do it.

Please vote Yes on Measure C.
Janet Thomas
Lafayette

I Expect Better from City and Staff

Dear Editor,
I Love Lafayette. But I'm voting NO on Measure C, the proposed 1 percent sales tax for Lafayette. Why? Our city is currently experiencing unprecedented growth in housing, retail and new restaurants. Adding new housing, especially senior housing and new housing near BART, is good policy as well as being required by our regional and state housing quotas.

What is NOT good policy is how our city and staff has repeatedly failed to address even the basic increases in infrastructure needed to handle this new growth. In fact, they have done the opposite of this, and on purpose. On multiple occasions, they have intentionally slowed down traffic ("traffic calming," numerous medians, not implementing improvements suggested by traffic consultants), reduced the amount of parking spots (reduced the number of parking spaces required per housing unit, taking the stance of "the city is not responsible for parking"), and refused to implement even the simplest of solutions for many of these problems. We now have gridlock and no parking. Why? Our city and staff is adopting policy AS IF we were a larger city, with goals and ideals meant for an urban environment, considered "popular" and "forward-thinking." However, we are still the semi-rural community that we boast about in our city correspondences.

Until our city and staff start to even consider that unfortunately our citizens still need our cars for the foreseeable future, and urban solutions are not appropriate probably for the next 10+ years, I will not support them. We need these cars to navigate a city that is semi-rural, sprawling and hilly. I especially will not give them money without forcing them to spend on money on infrastructure that they have so glaringly ignored. Our city and staff blame the gridlock and no parking on our "recent successes" in growing businesses and restaurants, but they need to look in the mirror and blame themselves. The analogy of "living on an all-sugar diet" is appropriate — all growth and no infrastructure.

I expect better from our city and staff. I'm voting NO on Measure C.

Susan Candell
Lafayette

Orinda Council and School Board

Weiner, Hoxie for OUSD

Dear Editor,
As a current Orinda school board member, I know the qualities that are important in a trustee: the ability to listen to all viewpoints, to work together collaboratively and without a personal agenda, and to always keep in mind the best interests of the students. Hillary Weiner and Cara Hoxie embody these qualities and deserve your vote in November.

Both Hillary and Cara have volunteered in our community on behalf of children for years. Hillary has served as a parents' club president, is currently on the board of the Educational Foundation of Orinda, and has served as the auction chair for the Children's Health Guild. Cara was co-president of EFO and has years of experience leading a non-profit. Both Hillary and Cara are level-headed, fair and thought-

ful, and are strong believers in the importance of a quality education for all children. They know the importance of working as a team, and of keeping the focus of the board where it belongs: on teaching and learning.

Hillary and Cara are committed to maintaining and improving upon the excellent education our schools provide. I urge you to vote for them for the Orinda School Board of Trustees.

Julie Rossiter
Orinda

Vote Weiner, Hoxie, Miller and Gee for Orinda

Dear Editor,
Every time we have a local election, friends and acquaintances ask for my opinion on the candidates. I take these elections seriously and do research to determine which candidates I think are best.

My criteria include a lack of a personal agenda (that is, having an open mind and no connection with groups that push a specific agenda), previous relevant volunteer service, professional backgrounds that provide a specific skill set, the candidates' public statements, and what I know about them personally, if I've met them or know people who know them well.

I also take into account that school boards and city councils need both longer-serving individuals with institutional memory, and a periodic influx of new people with fresh insight and different skills. Ability to get along well with other board or council members and be a productive member of the group is also important.

Based on these criteria, I am voting for Hillary Weiner (whom I know personally) and Cara Hoxie (who comes highly recommended) for the Orinda school board. They are both long-term volunteers with the Educational Foundation of Orinda and in Orinda schools. The district has a new superintendent, and dedicated, thoughtful board members are important.

For Orinda City Council, I am voting for Inga Miller (whom I have met and talked with) and Darlene Gee (whom I have also talked with). Darlene is currently an appointed councilmember filling out Steve Glazer's term after he was elected to the State Senate. They both have good backgrounds and, important to me, have been strong supporters of the city's road improvement program. They are both balanced, thoughtful candidates and will work well with the other city council members.

Local elections are extremely important to our community. Please vote!

Linda Landau
Orinda

Darlene Gee for City Council

Dear Editor,
I am writing in support of Darlene Gee for the Orinda City Council. Darlene is the only person running for the city council who has an engineering background and fully understands how to keep us on track in fixing our roads. Although Darlene has served on the city council for about a year since she was appointed last July, Darlene represents the new generation of leadership which Orinda needs.

Darlene is truly an impressive person. She has been willing to take time from a very successful and high-profile career in engineering management to devote to public service, serving as a role model for others to get involved. Importantly, she is an excellent listener, values the contributions of others, is open-minded, integrates new learning with her existing knowledge to find effective solutions that work, and really believes in effective communication. She is a very clear thinker and is always disciplined in her approach to problem solving. These are all skills that the city badly needs to bring us together as a community and make Orinda an

even better place to live.

I came to know Darlene through her work on the Orinda Roads Commission. Darlene made very significant contributions there, both as a member of the commission and as its Chair. Please join me in voting for Darlene for the Orinda City Council.

Richard Nelson
Orinda

Opinions Are Fine --- False Statements Are Not

Dear Editor,
As one of the candidates for the Orinda City Council in this November's election, I take serious exception to Mr. Owen Murphy's comments in the 10/5 edition.

While Mr. Murphy has every right to endorse and support the candidates of his choice, he does not have the right to put forth false information with no basis in fact.

While I don't agree with how he portrays my thoughts for the future of Orinda, my serious objection is his implication that I have a conflict of interest in regards to downtown development.

No such conflict exists. The only property I own in Orinda is my own home where I have lived for 27 years. My employer has never done business in Orinda and has no interest in doing so. I have absolutely no business or personal ties to any developers or real estate interests that have current positions or future interests in Orinda's downtown. None of my campaign contributions are from development interests. If anything changes in downtown Orinda, I will not realize any financial or material gain.

If Mr. Murphy believes he has evidence to the contrary he should produce it rather than making misleading statements to the residents of Orinda.

Darlene K. Gee
Orinda City Councilmember and Candidate

Miller, Gee for Council

Dear Editor,
We have been residents of Orinda for 42 years. In that time, other than Theater Square and the Library, few of Orinda's commercial buildings have been renovated. But time marches on and our city's commercial streetscape has aged greatly. Meanwhile, neighboring cities in the county, including Lafayette, Walnut Creek and Danville, have seen investment capital flow into their commercial buildings. The resulting charm and vibrancy in those cities' downtowns is palpable. So, why is Orinda lagging behind? First and foremost, Orinda needs a new General Plan; the current Plan is over 25 years old. Developers and investors are not drawn to a city where to do virtually anything significant they have to seek a General Plan amendment. This is costly, time consuming and full of uncertainty, which developers abhor. The city does not currently have the money to update the General Plan. Effective leadership is needed to resolve this dilemma. Inga Miller and Darlene Gee are forward looking and possess the skills and commitment to help Orinda reach its potential. Both are listening to the citizens of Orinda, What's Up Downtown Orinda and OrindaVision. Inga and Darlene understand that it's possible to create an Orinda for the future that will capitalize on its wonderful location, climate, schools and people while retaining its small town charm. We encourage you to vote for Inga Miller and Darlene Gee for Orinda City Council on November 8, 2016.

Bill and Nath Schmicker
Orinda

... continued on page A15

Letters to the Editor ... continued

Orinda Council and School Board ... continued

Hillary Weiner for OUSD Board

Hillary Weiner has demonstrated a strong commitment to school and broader community volunteerism. Among her many volunteer commitments: Co-President of the Glorietta Parents' Club; EFO board member; parent representative on the Fiscal Advisory Board of OUSD; Orinda Parks and Rec Commissioner; and chair of the annual auction for the organization Children's Health Guild. Hillary has stepped up as a leader in our community in a big way, and she has done it all while balancing the demands of raising three OUSD students along with her husband Brett.

Hillary is a steady and thoughtful person. As an OUSD Trustee she will do her homework and understand the issues. She will be objective and analytical. She understands that effective leadership requires an inclusive approach to building relationships with the school community and its many partners. She will respect and value the views of her fellow board members and the governance process. She will be guided by the best interests of all OUSD students.

Please join us in voting for Hillary. She's an excellent choice for OUSD Trustee.

Jennifer and Jason Lurie
Orinda

Moraga Council

Don't be fooled. Check the record
Dear Editor,

In previous editions, this column received letters from two concerned individuals serving on the Moraga Planning Commission. The count is now up to three.

A newly appointed Planning Commissioner has made a name for herself and appears to be carving out a niche for her Town Council Campaign by giving false hope to individuals opposed to the Moraga Town Center Homes (MICH) Project.

This project was one of the first medium density projects in the Moraga Center Specific Plan (MCSP) area. It is being considered under the three-step Planned Development approval process in MMC 8.48, requiring Conceptual, General and Precise Development Plan approvals. On June 6 and July 18, Public Hearings were held by the Planning Commission on the second step, the General Development Plan.

According to this commissioner, two substantive issues existed. One, was an "overdeveloped" Conceptual Development Plan approval binding? And, two, were the correct development standards applied? This commissioner is astute and these issues were very good points for consideration. However, all comments, both substantive and procedural, were considered, including the thirty minute "public record" she created at the 7/18 Planning Commission meeting (see July 18 PC meeting livestream video, 2:47-3:17).

What is her real motive? Is she, as she says, "simply trying to do (her) due diligence?" Possibly, but her insistence on continuing to argue points that have been refuted by staff and the town's legal counsel go far beyond her role as a Planning Commissioner. This has contributed in large part to the \$50K in legal fees incurred for this application. In her 18-page Aug. 18, letter to the Town Council she repeatedly questions why the Planning Department will no longer answer her questions, though even she concedes "my activities may well be viewed as disrespectful, insubordinate, presumptuous, and otherwise offensive."

I have served a combined 11 years on the Moraga Planning Commission and Design Review Board. I offer this commentary as a private citizen.

If, after reading this and checking the record, you still support such a candidate, then and only then does she deserve your vote.

Christine Kuckuk
Moraga

Correcting "Clarifying Korpuz's Points"

Dear Editor,
This corrects several inaccuracies in Stephen Huxley's Letter published in the October 5 Lamorinda Weekly (LW) issue.

I support the democratic and town government processes, and respect the right of all to express their opinions. I provide this input as a private citizen.

The Huxley letter wrongly states that at the Aug. 24 Town Council (TC) meeting, Mayor Metcalf acknowledged the accuracy of Kymberleigh Korpuz' core point that the Municipal Code (MC) was violated by early definition of project characteristics. In-fact, Huxley took a small piece of Mayor Metcalf's remarks and misrepresented the complete communication (see Moraga web site Aug. 24 TC meeting live stream video, timing starts at 02:17:30). Reality is that the MC does not prohibit earlier definition of project characteristics, and environmental permitting requirements and public desires can drive such. Mayor Metcalf has confirmed that the Huxley letter misrepresents his communication.

The Huxley letter wrongly states that I repeatedly tried to "shut her down" at the July 18 Planning Commission (PC) meeting. Kymberleigh's input was atypical, and she did not inform the PC ahead-of-time of her intentions. As Chair of the PC, I appropriately did a process check and later a time check. Kymberleigh was allowed to complete her 30 min. of input (see Moraga web site July 18 PC meeting live stream video, timing starts at 02:47:00).

The Huxley letter wrongly states that I made the motion to approve the Moraga Town Center Homes Project (motion made by Tom Mar-nane, see July 18 meeting live stream video, timing starts at 03:24:40), and wrongly infers that my Sept. 21 letter was driven by the motion failing. My motive for the Sept. 21 letter is clearly evident in that letter (available at the LW web site with other Sept. 21 letters-to-the-editor).

I choose to not address other inaccuracies in the Huxley letter.

I commend and value Kymberleigh's participation as one of seven diverse Moraga Planning Commissioners, and she and I are usually aligned on PC actions.

I again offer to meet with any individual or group about the Sept. 21 letter, which I fully stand behind.

Steve Woehleke
Moraga

[Editor's Note: Lamorinda Weekly received confirmation from both Mayor Mike Metcalf and Tom Mar-nane that they agreed with the facts as presented in this letter.]

Korpuz for Town Council

Dear Editor,
On Nov. 8 I will be voting to elect Kymberleigh Korpuz to the Moraga Town Council. Why? Because the Planning Process in our Town of Moraga has gone badly off-track. As a direct result, the Semi-rural character of Moraga and the scenic vistas that originally drew our family here 44 years ago are at serious risk of being irretrievably lost. Kymberleigh is committed to preventing that outcome. Her actions as a recently appointed member of our town's Planning Commission offer clear proof of her intent, her talent and her ability to follow through on that commitment.

Evidence of the growing threat to our community's character is readily visible. You see it in the densely packed, oversized houses being built across from Starbuck's on Moraga Road. You can see the threat in the massive homes under construction off Camino Ricardo that are completely out-of-scale with the adjoining neighborhood and in the scarring that project's extensive grading inflicted on the adjoining hillside. You see the risk to our community's future in the City Ventures Townhomes project next to the firehouse that will seriously encroach on the Moraga Way Scenic Corridor. After that project's story poles went up, over 1,500 Moragans signed a Referendum Petition requesting a public vote on that project. Instead, a majority of the current Town Council approved it. Be assured: Kymberleigh would not have approved the designs of those projects.

The preceding examples are only "tips of the iceberg." Coming next is implementation of the Moraga Center Specific Plan. It envisions up to 630 additional units in the

very heart of Moraga with densely packed buildings up to 45 feet tall and zero setbacks. The mass of those structures would render the Moraga we know and love unrecognizable. It would also further exacerbate the severe commute hours congestion we already experience on Moraga's roadways. Kymberleigh wants the Town to reevaluate the MCSP before it is ever implemented.

If you love Moraga as I do and want to see our community's Semi-rural character and beautiful vistas preserved, our best hope is to elect Kymberleigh Korpuz to the Moraga Town Council.

Dick Olsen
Moraga

Wykle, Korpuz, Fritzy for Town Council

Dear Editor,
Moragans who want to protect remaining open space are urged vote for Wykle, Korpuz, and Fritzy for Town Council.

This election comes at a key moment for Moraga: the council will soon decide on new development regulations that will determine the fate of vulnerable hills and ridgelines for decades. Adopting robust new protection measures requires a council able to act decisively despite strong developer opposition. Three candidates appear prepared for this task.

Councilmember Roger Wykle, seeking re-election, has a well established pro-open space record. He voted against the Hetfield Estates development citing inconsistency with the Moraga Open Space Ordinance; he voted against Via Moraga (now under construction across from Starbucks) because its two-story houses so close to Moraga Road block views of Rheem Ridge and mar the scenic corridor; and he voted against Harvest Court, currently being built off Camino Ricardo overlooking Moraga Center, citing environmental impacts. In addition, he has proven highly competent on budgetary, infrastructure, and governance matters as well.

As a Planning Commissioner, Kymberleigh Korpuz has been dedicated to the faithful implementation of Moraga's regulations, including those aimed at preserving its scenic beauty and semi-rural character. She said "no" to a massive proposed home that would have dwarfed existing homes in the neighborhood while obstructing public views of Campolindo Ridge, and she pushed the town to rethink the controversial Moraga Town Center Homes development, offering detailed analysis arguing that its approval process lacked the rigor required by the Municipal Code.

Jeanette Fritzy chairs the Parks and Recreation Commission, and although it doesn't handle land-use decisions, she has expressed her commitment to preserving open space and her sense of responsibility to the majority of Moragans who have repeatedly stressed that core value. As a candidate, she has studied open space issues thoroughly so she may effectively fulfill that responsibility as a Councilmember.

For 15 years I've attended public hearings, advocating meaningful protection for Moraga's remaining open spaces. I strongly recommend Wykle, Korpuz, and Fritzy as the best candidates to ensure that Moraga's hillsides, ridgelines and scenic beauty are preserved for the benefit of generations of Moragans to come.
Suzanne Jones
Founder, Preserve Lamorinda Open Space
Moraga

Three Candidates Support Open Space

Dear Editor,
Of the four candidates running for three Moraga Town Council seats, three—Roger Wykle, Kimberleigh Korpuz and Jeanette Fritzy—either have strong track records or have expressed firm support on the open space and hillside preservation measures so vital to Moraga's future as a semi-rural community. The exception is Graig Crossley.

Crossley is a throwback to the old days and the old ways in Moraga, when the town was run by a clique of hand-picked politicians who thought they knew best — and

lost touch with the community. He was a council member for 10 years during which time he consistently favored what he calls property owner rights over community rights. For example, back in 1985, Crossley's own Rheem Valley neighborhood was threatened by a plan to build 110 hillside houses. Massive grading would have carved up Mulholland and Campolindo Ridges, destroyed the contiguous Scofield, Rheem and LaSalle neighborhoods, and opened the floodgates to similar ridge destruction across Moraga. A group of us met with councilman Crossley, our Scofield neighbor, asking for his help to stop or at least significantly modify this development abomination. He turned us down flat; as he left the meeting I remember vividly his parting words: "You'll think of something."

Well, we did think of something. We mounted a town-wide, grassroots initiative to help protect ALL of Moraga's remaining open space. It was a hard fought campaign that was vigorously opposed by every member of the town council, including Crossley. But it passed and we now know it as MOSO.

Today, 30 years later, Crossley's vision for Moraga is unclear. He remains reluctant to support open space and hillside preservation. In a July interview in this paper, he conceded that MOSO "probably was a good thing," but his campaign statements are silent on Moraga's vital look-and-feel issues. Nov. 8 we have a choice of returning to the past with Crossley, or choosing three fresh, energetic, forward-looking candidates: Wykle, Korpuz and Fritzy.

Richard Immel
Moraga

Moraga School Board

Severy for Moraga School Board

Dear Editor,
I enthusiastically support Richard Severy's election to the Moraga School District's Governing Board on Nov. 8.

Last January, the MSD Governing Board voted to appoint Richard Severy to an open position. Since then, he has proved himself to be an extremely important board member. As a former school board member, I can see how his strong commitment to promoting the district's mission is improving the learning experience for our children.

Richard immediately grasped the importance of improving and upgrading Moraga's school facilities and creating an enhanced learning environment. He volunteered to co-chair the Yes on Measure V campaign committee, and is working diligently to secure voter approval of this critical school improvement bond that will fund necessary repairs.

Richard also understands that, as Moraga continues to roll out new curricula and programs for our students, it is important that our teachers are provided meaningful professional development opportunities so that they can provide our students with the best classroom experience.

And Richard is committed to addressing the educational needs of our students in a holistic sense. He supports programs that promote safety and focus on students' social and emotional well-being.

Public schools in California continually face financial challenges and Richard is committed to managing Moraga's finances in a prudent manner. Significantly, he has explored means of leveraging other funding sources, such as matching state funds and additional federal special education funding, to enhance the district's financial posture.

Richard brings his extensive professional public policy experience, and a long record of working collaboratively with others to achieve common goals, to his participation on the Moraga School Board. He is committed to impartially representing the interests of the entire community -- most of all, the needs of students -- in a positive, collegial manner.

Moraga schools need Richard Severy for four more years. Please join me in voting for him on Nov. 8.
Kathy Ranstrom
Moraga

Severy and Rosenbaum for Moraga Schools

Dear Editor,
Please join me in supporting and voting for two candidates for Moraga's School Board: Richard Severy and Joe Rosenbaum.

Both Richard and Joe are long-term residents with a proven track record in our community. Involved Moraga citizens, they have repeatedly demonstrated the capacity for intelligent and thoughtful decision-making, the ability to serve the interests of our community fairly and judiciously, and the facility to bring initiatives to fruition through collaborative work — all critical skills for a School Board Member.

It is my strong opinion that our schools and our community will be best-served and poised for the future if Richard Severy and Joe Rosenbaum receive your vote.

Richard joined the School Board in January, bringing with him a passion for education, years of community service and a strong legal mind. His judgment, reasoning abilities, and capacity to understand the intricacies of the education code, coupled with his strong commitment to serve our community, have already made Richard a stellar school board member. Our designee to the Contra Costa County School Boards Association, Richard has worked to ensure that the needs of our students and our community are heard within this broader context. As one of the co-leaders of the Measure V campaign, we have seen Richard quickly and credibly establish relationships throughout the community.

Joe has served the Moraga Community in a multitude of leadership positions. Working with the town, the school board, and representing the Moraga Sports Alliance, Joe played a key role in upgrading the Camino Pablo fields and improving the recreational space currently enjoyed by our students and families. His strong financial background (CPA, MBA, JD), proven leadership in our community, and professional commitment (Joe serves as the Chair of the California Board of Accountancy's Enforcement Advisory Committee) will make Joe an excellent addition to our School Board.

Our schools are one of our town's greatest assets. Who we elect to steward their continued success is a very important decision. It is with first-hand knowledge of their character and motivation that I wholeheartedly endorse Richard Severy and Joe Rosenbaum for the Moraga School Board.

Shari Simon
Moraga School Board President
Moraga

MOFD Board

Jorgens Will Protect Orinda

Dear Editor,
I support Craig Jorgens for MOFD Director. I have talked to him about his concerns for undertaking mitigation efforts in Orinda to reduce our risk of a catastrophic firestorm. He is aware of the dangers we face living in the wildland-urban interface and is ready to take action with regards to vegetation management. We need proactive people like Craig helping direct our fire protection.
John Radke
Orinda

Jorgens for MOFD

Dear Editor,
I strongly support Craig Jorgens for the MOFD board. I worked with Craig for over 10 years, most recently as the head of Strategy and Development for ICO Global Communications. I know Craig to be a quick learner, who makes well informed, fact-based decisions and uses his broad background in finance, engineering and operations to develop fiscally responsible, creative solutions to complex problems. Craig does a great job of seeing both sides of an issue and applies strong cost / benefit analysis to his decisions. He was a pleasure to work with and is well respected by both his former employees and the managing board. Craig will make an excellent MOFD Board member.
Sincerely,
David Bagley
Moraga



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 Michael VerBrugge,
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Orinda's Cheerful Scarecrows Scene

... continued from page A1

De Jonghe died suddenly at the end of February at age 77, and Roethe stepped forward to take up the scarecrow project. She didn't know Horton, but ran into a friend at De Jonghe's memorial service who did. Horton, who lives in an assisted living facility, was contacted and cut out 30 scarecrow heads for the club.

This year the club assembled 17 scarecrows to display around Orinda, including five that remained from last year. In front of Morri-

sons Jewelers they placed a scarecrow decorated with lots of bling and some vivid make-up. They jokingly called her "Dolly Parton." Close by was "Dolly's Little Sister." But not for long. The Roethes put her up on Saturday evening, but by Sunday morning, she was gone, one of the two scarecrows stolen this year. The other, more ominously, was dressed in a clown costume. Roethe has contacted the police about the thefts, and also to ascertain that the clown costume from

the missing scarecrow has not been used in any subsequent crimes.

If anyone has any information concerning the stolen scarecrows, they should contact the Orinda police. There is a reward for the return of the scarecrows.

In other Garden Club related news, three sycamore trees taken down by PG&E under high tension lines at the triangle in Orinda will soon be replaced by three flowering plums.

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Scaring Up Some Fun This Halloween

All three Lamorinda communities will be helping little ghouls and goblins with trick-or-treating this year.

In Lafayette: Take a stroll down Trick or Treat Street, 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28, in Downtown Lafayette (First Street to Dewing Ave.). Children and their parents are invited to Trick-or-Treat on Mt. Diablo Blvd. from Oak Hill Rd. to Dewing Ave. and in La Fiesta Square. All participating businesses will display a "Trick-or-Treat Poster" and balloons. Please come in costume to receive a special treat. Don't forget to bring a Trick-or-Treat bag. Sponsored by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

In Moraga: Costumed children are invited to Trick-or-Treat at the businesses of the Rheem Center from 3 to 5 p.m. on Halloween, Monday, Oct. 31. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by the Rheem Valley businesses. Located at Rheem Boulevard at Moraga Road.

In Orinda: From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, Orinda Theatre Square and Lamorinda Moms are partnering this year to bring a Trick-or-Treat walk to Theatre Square. The event is open to the public, for kids 12 and under, and kids do need to be accompanied by an adult. In addition to participating businesses handing out candy and Halloween treats, there will be free face-painting and food and drink specials at participating restaurants.

Paid for by Catharine Baker for Assembly 2016, ID # 1373797

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"Her bipartisan, independent approach to solving problems is refreshing and very welcome."
 — Steve Glazer, State Senator, 2/3/2016

Building a Case for Sustainable Energy In Simple Terms

By Sophie Braccini



Jim Leach

Photo Sophie Braccini

After Lafayette resident Jim Leach retired from Epicor Software, he decided he would learn more about a topic that interested him: global warming. His quest led him to fill a gap that he perceives existed in the literature on that topic: explaining in 50 pages and in everyday English the catastrophic consequences, causes and remedy to climate change. The result is his book "The Sustainable Way" and his goal is to equip everyone with the knowledge base to spread the word and change the world in the time we have left.

"What really sparked my passion is that we are facing a catastrophe and that there are solutions available at our fingertips today," he says. His diagnosis is that the most powerful interest in the world, the fossil fuel industry, has successfully fought off the efforts to bring forth those solutions. He also realized that the information out there was complete and exhaustive and has been doing a good job preaching to the choir.

"But if you go to the working class group I grew up with in Indiana, they are not educated on the subject, and there is no information easily accessible to them," he says.

He looked for books available to the average consumer, but found nothing that was an efficient communication tool. "There was nothing that was to the point, straight forward without confusing science," he said. He started an outline and got to a point where he thought it could write that missing book in under 100 pages and get it down below 50.

"Where else can you get a quick, accurate and thoughtful summary of the climate crisis and its solutions in less than 40 pages for under \$6? Right in this gem of a book," says Wei-Tai Kwok, chief operating officer of Amber Kinetics, volunteer public speaker on climate change for the Climate Reality Project, and Sustainable Lafayette board member. Kwok says that Leach excels at taking a complicated issue and simplifying it for the average reader to understand in lay terms.

"Climate change is happening, but there are solutions available that we must quickly embrace. If you want to get a quick but solid understanding of the key issues, key barriers to change, and key paths forward, this book will save you a lot of time," says Kwok.

The first chapter opens with a dramatic futuristic view of the world. "Most books soft-pedal the consequences, or if they do not, they get so long to get there that readers never reach it," says Leach. In his book, he describes the possibility of two scenarios: the one we are on, and the one we could be on.

The second chapter explains what causes global warming with layman vocabulary and no acronyms. He explains feedback loops, tipping points and interactions using simple terms, but still explaining accurately complex phenomenon. What he says is simplified to make it easily understood and memorized. The book also includes a list of scientific reference work for those who want to dig further.

The third chapter is called the forces of denial. It explains that there are people

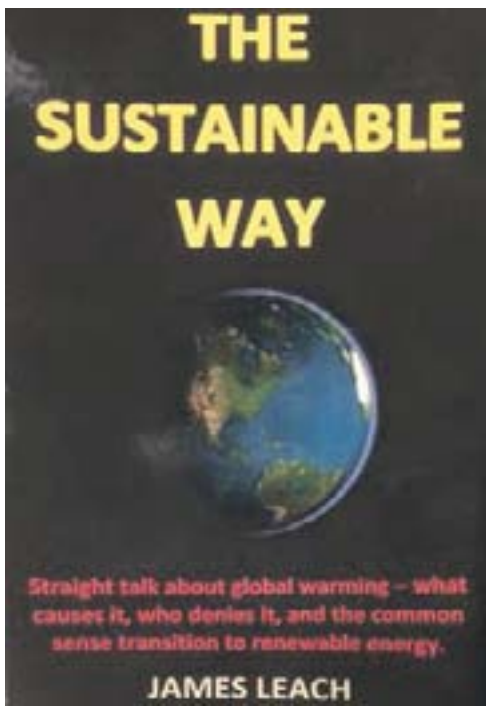
who do not have the scientific knowledge to grasp the magnitude of the forces playing in the environment, or that others deny global warming because of their religious ideology is resisting science. He gives the example of Senator James Inhofe from Oklahoma, who is still the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Leach believes that the fossil fuel industry has successfully politicized the issues, moving it from a scientific debate to becoming a polarized irrational topic.

The last part of the book shows the paths to sustainability, with the possible solutions that exist today and should be enacted now.

Leach says that doing the research has led him and his family to change some elements of their lifestyle, such as their red meat consumption. He is also very happy that Lafayette joined Marin Choice Energy (community choice energy). "The transition to renewable energy will also move the ownership of energy from world-level players to the local level," he says.

Leach does not know if in his readership are people who changed their mind because of his explanations. "But I heard that the book gave (my readers) some tools to communicate with people who are questioning global warming," he says. He would like the people of Lamorinda to take more of an informed interest in the issue and share it with their families and friends all over the country.

Leach's book can be found on Amazon.



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Orinda Native Pens a Delightful Book of Short Stories on 'Deceit and Other Possibilities'

By Sophie Braccini



Vanessa Hua poses with her book of short stories at Orinda Books.

Photo Sophie Braccini

There is something very exciting about a well-written book of short stories. Within a few lines it immerses the reader in an intense atmosphere, takes them away on a journey that leaves them breathless and thrilled on arrival, still surprised to have been taken so far, so fast. Then again, the next story is right there for the next thrill.

For her first book at that game of surprise and rapid immersion, Vanessa Hua shows punchy skills from the get go. "Deceit And Other Possibilities" show struggling liars, hopeful dreamers and other all too-real characters of contemporary America. A very fun and pleasant read, it is impregnated with Hua's Asian ancestry.

They are Asian-American fresh-from-the-boat or here for several generations, more or less mixed-blood-mixed-up. Their sto-

ries are touching, funny, scary and ring true. Hua's construction is often intricate. She delights in moving the reader back and forth along the space and time continuum, and she enjoys not giving all the secrets at once, lightly cueing the reader. Her style is raw and lively, contemporary and energetic.

Hua started writing the 10 stories of this first book in 2000. She's always been a writer; while at Miramonte High School she won the Poul Anderson creative writing contest. She says today that the early encouragements she received were key to her development as a writer. She grew up in Orinda the daughter of two Chinese parents who came to the States in the 1960s as graduate students. She says about growing up in the '80s and '90s here that she was made to feel different. Her first published book

naturally explores issues of immigration and identity.

Hua started her career as a journalist, working for the Los Angeles Times after college, then as a staff writer for the San Francisco Chronicle, where she still has a column as she raises her family in Orinda. But the need to write fiction lingered over reporting and she started taking workshops, going to writing conferences, belonging to fiction writing groups, and in the evening or during weekends she would spin her prose. "I see the world in stories," she says.

Hua paints situations where her characters are facing extreme challenges, often of their own making. The fact that there is something "foreign" about them is at the crux of the dynamic that puts them where they are. Pulled by conflicting traditions, pressured by high expectations, they do their best to fit in and please everyone, while struggling also to be themselves. Hua writes about what she calls hyphenated-Americans, trying to balance their life on the tiny thread of the hyphen.

You never completely know how inspired by true stories her tales are, it is just another possibility. Hua takes her characters and their surrounding under a microscope. Every detail is laid out, vividly. She does not judge, she just dissects with compassion, giving these people, in spite of their inadequacies, their humanity.

Hua will be at Orinda Books from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 22 to talk about her stories. Her book is available there and online. She is in the final stage of releasing two novels, one of them a historic fiction set in Mao's Cultural Revolution China. Orinda books is located at 276 Village Square in Orinda.

Family Focus

Identifying and Treating Teens With Anxiety and Depression

By Margie Ryerson

Cara's family physician referred her for therapy because she was feeling that no one liked her or cared about her. Cara, age 13, was having difficulty getting along with her family and her peers, and her grades in school were suffering.

I assessed Cara for depression and also found there was a history

of alcoholism and depression in her family. When I see evidence of possible depression, I refer an individual to one of several psychiatrists whom I trust to perform a comprehensive evaluation.

Cara was diagnosed with moderate to severe clinical depression. First she participated solely in individual and family psychotherapy because her family was reluctant to put her on medication. But as time went on, it became evident to all of us that Cara would benefit from a low dose of an anti-depressant as well. Happily, Cara is a senior in college this year and is doing well. She continues to see a therapist occasionally and to take medication for depression. Cara understands that at some point she can try to go off her medication — under a doctor's supervision — to see how she does without it, but she is comfortable with her regimen for now.

It is difficult to see children suffer needlessly, as they too often do when their depressive symptoms go untreated. In my psychotherapy practice I have worked with many teens and adults who say they first experienced symptoms of depression as children, but unfortunately they never received help at that time.

It is understandable that parents might want to wait to see if symptoms will subside. After all, children grow and change so much that we often need to take a wait-and-see approach. And depression in children isn't always easy to identify. Often, symptoms of anxiety precede actual depression. By the time some children are in their teen years they may have a combination of anxiety and depression.

Anxiety:

Childhood anxiety disorders fall into three categories:

***Separation anxiety.** A child may fear something bad will hap-

pen to himself or a member of his family. Being apart from his family is very upsetting.

***Social phobia.** A child may experience extreme discomfort with social aspects of school or after-school activities. She may refuse to go to school or continuously complain of physical illness to avoid school.

***Generalized anxiety disorder.** A child will worry excessively about the future. I once worked with a third-grade boy who was extremely worried about getting into Stanford when he was ready for college. His mother had attended Stanford and had mentioned to her son that she hoped he would be able to go there as well. (A parent who discusses this kind of topic with an eight-year old may well have a great deal of anxiety herself.) The child already had a tendency to worry and began to fixate on this issue at an early age.

If any of these anxieties are strong and persistent, it is important to address them with your physician and a mental health professional. Often, treatment of anxiety at an early stage can help ward off future depression or at least reduce its severity.

Depression:

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, in 2014 an estimated 11.4 percent of children ages 12 to 17 had at least one major depressive episode in the past year.

Here are some symptoms of childhood depression to watch for from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry:

- Frequent sadness or crying;
- Hopelessness;
- Decreased interest in activities or inability to enjoy previously favorite activities;
- Persistent boredom and low energy;

... continued on next page

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Kick off the Holidays at Orinda Artisan Faire

Submitted by Barbara Duff

The 10th annual Artisan Faire will be held from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 3 at the Orinda Country Club. Meet talented local artists, who will be displaying and selling their distinctive work in jewelry, ceramics, painting,

glass, fiber art, clothing, wood-work and more.

Also featured will be culinary products, cosmetics, bath and body items as well as representatives from Orinda's Sanvitalia Home and Garden Shop, Orinda

Books, and several local authors.

Come for a festive evening to kick off the holidays and enjoy free tequilas plus wine tasting. OCC is located at 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda.



Old mexican papaya



Olga Jusidman

Family Focus

Identifying Teens

... continued from page B2

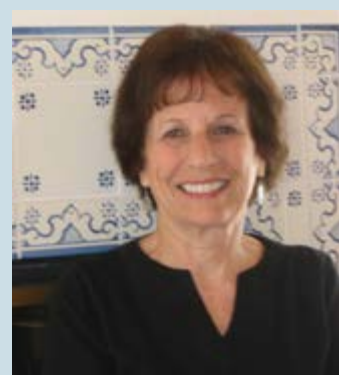
- Social isolation and poor communication;
- Low self-esteem and guilt;
- Extreme sensitivity to rejection or failure;
- Increased irritability, anger or hostility;
- Difficulty with relationships;
- Frequent complaints of physical illnesses such as headaches or stomachaches;
- Poor performance in school;
- Poor concentration;
- A major change in eating and/or sleeping habits;
- Talk of, or efforts to, run away from home;
- Thoughts or expressions of suicide or self-destructive behavior. Self-destructive behavior includes substance abuse, eating disorders, cutting and other methods of self-harm.

If your child exhibits signs of anxiety or depression over time, it will be important to have him diagnosed. Then you can work together with your physician and a therapist and psychiatrist to determine what the course of treatment should be. It is recommended that a child have not only individual therapy, but also family therapy, since the family has a major influence and impact on the child. Although some parents are reluctant to have their child take pharmacological remedies, the combination of therapy and medication has proven to be the most successful treatment for depression. At the same time, unless the child is suffering with severe depressive symptoms, there is nothing wrong with trying only psychotherapy first to see if that can suffice.

Research has shown that cognitive behavioral therapy, or CBT, is the best type of psychotherapy in treating depression. A therapist who uses CBT helps the child identify and change irrational and self-sabotaging thoughts, behaviors and feelings.

Even if a child with symptoms protests that he or she doesn't want to or need to see a therapist, parents must use their own good judgment and may have to insist. I encourage parents to let their child have a choice of whom to see, not whether or not he or she will see someone. They can visit a therapist and then decide if they want to work with that person or look for someone else. Even though this really is a forced choice, the child will be slightly empowered in the process.

Remember, even though it may be somewhat of an ordeal at first to have your child diagnosed and treated, you may be saving him years of unnecessary suffering.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a marriage and family therapist and author in Orinda and Walnut Creek. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com.

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Correction

In the Oct. 5 story, "Town Hall Theater Reins In 'The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance'" the wrong web address was published. Tickets and information can be obtained at www.townhalltheatre.com.

Local Girl Wins Rising Star Award

Submitted by Kimberly Lamb

Sierra Warshawsky, a junior at Campolindo High School in Moraga, was honored Sept. 21 with The Rising Star (under 18) award at the eighth annual Contra Costa Leadership in Sustainability & Green Building Awards, presented by Sustainable Contra Costa (SCO-CO). About 240 people gathered at

the Hilton Concord for this award, fundraising, and community event.

Sierra actively volunteers in various charity events and organizations, including Rotary and the organization One Million Lights, which provides solar power to third-world countries without electricity.

Local Girl Scout Builds Garden in Oakland, Earns Gold Award

Submitted by Erica Stephan



This garden at Oakland's Fruitvale Head start is thriving thanks to an Orinda Girl Scout.

Just a couple of months ago, a dirt patch with a few withering plants sat in the Fruitvale Head Start garden in Oakland. Now, a vibrant garden and mural stand in the same area.

Erica Stephan, a member of Girl Scout Troop 3219, Orinda Moraga Service Unit, created this garden and mural for her Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action project. The Gold Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn.

She was assisted by the nonprofit group, Unity Council, which helps revitalize areas in Oakland and the East Bay. Stephan also collected 178 gently used children's books for the Fruitvale Head Start program.

The mural was created by her and a fellow Girl Scout, Antonia Giles. Erica has been a Girl Scout since kindergarten and is a senior at Miramonte High School in Orinda.

Local Boy Scout Hopes to 'Pop' His Own Fundraising Record

Submitted by Caroline Tsuyuki



Declan Tsuyuki Photo provided

Declan Tsuyuki is a typical eighth-grader who is also a Troop 200 Boy Scout on a mission. In 2015, Declan raised over \$8,000 in sales in the annual Pop-

corn Fundraiser sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America. He had the highest sales in the Mount Diablo Silverado Council, which includes Contra Costa, Lake, Napa and Solano Counties and portions of Alameda County. Declan earned enough in "campership" awards from the council and his troop to fund his 2016 summer camps.

This year, he is once again focused on doing his best and urges all scouts to always keep their eyes on their mission of raising money to benefit all youth in our community and beyond. The Popcorn Fundraiser will go until Oct. 24 and purchases can also be made online.

Seventy percent of funds raised by the Popcorn Fundraiser go towards supporting troop activities, local scouting programs, purchasing new equipment and providing financial support for scouts in need or in underserved communities.

California Magic Soccer Helps Donate Uniforms Needy Teams

Submitted by Greg Davis



California Magic Soccer Club's '99 Boys players, Ben Nash (Bentley HS '17) and Oliver Feigin (Acalanes HS '18), collected soccer gear donations from the Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga communities to assist the nonprofit, Oakland-based Soccer Without Borders

(SWB). This organization funds and operates a community soccer program for refugees ages 5-21.

Families from California Magic SC, Acalanes and Bentley high schools, and local business Soccer Post, in Lafayette, all generously contributed to the uniform drive. As a result of several local efforts in the Lamorinda community, SWB has been able to establish its soccer library for players to check out, and ultimately own, soccer uniforms for practices and games.

Ben and Oliver also trained as volunteer coaches and participated in the SWB 10th Annual Refugee Community Soccer Camp. For more information about Soccer Without Borders, and its mission to "harness the power of soccer as a universal language," please visit www.soccerwithoutborders.org/oakland.

Seven New Local Eagle Scouts Make Life Better in Orinda

Submitted by Marta Wallace



The seven new Eagle Scouts from Troop 57 created unique projects in and around Orinda.

Boy Scout Troop 57, chartered by St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Orinda, honored seven new Eagle Scouts this past May. Each Eagle Scout must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 12 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and scout spirit, and perform a service project for the community.

These scouts, all of whom are current or former Miramonte High School students, include Daniel

Campbell, Nick Campbell, Dylan Hoff, Aidan Kohr, Sean McFeely, Allan Rosso and James Wallace.

For his Eagle Scout project, Danny posted signs on the nature trail James Wallace created and added a comfortable bench at the top. Nick constructed planter boxes for the preschool at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Orinda.

Dylan created two planting areas near the parking lot for Holy Shepherd.

Aidan created a wheelchair accessible path at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. Sean created four planter boxes at St Mark's Church and refurbished the watering system so it would serve each. Allan designed, built and installed display cases for both the band and choir programs at Miramonte. James recovered and recreated a nature path he used to hike with his father in Oak Park in Orinda.

OIS Drama Presents Wacky 'Night at the Wax Museum'

Submitted by Jeanette Lipp



The Cowboy cast and crew prepare for "Night at the Wax Museum" at OIS.

Photo provided

Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater presents its fall play, "Night at the Wax Museum" Nov. 3-5 at OIS. The hysterical meets the historical in this comic romp through the wackiest wax museum in history. This

performance lasts approximately 90 minutes, with one intermission. For show time information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.showtix4u.com. Tickets are also available at OIS Theater one half hour prior to show times.

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

In Memory

Neil Hansen



Neil Hansen, 80, of Moraga, died peacefully on Sept. 27 after a short illness.

Neil is survived by his wife, Louise, their children Wendy Hansen, John Hansen, and Jennifer Koziel, and their six grandchildren.

At Neil's request, no services will be held. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to his favorite charity, Smile Train (www.smiletrain.org).

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

DayTripping

A Bit of Paris in the Heart of Silicon Valley

By Fran Endicott Miller



Photos Fran Endicott Miller in the Napoléon Bonaparte-themed Campagne One Main bistro, and the chandeliers. And don't miss the Napoléon memorabilia housed behind glass in the dining room, including an authentic Napoleonic-era bicorne military hat which Ahrens picked-up at the Paris flea market. "I was told it was actually his," says Ahrens with a dubious smile. One will never know, but it's fun to imagine.

Each of Enchanté's gorgeously appointed rooms is unique, and each is lavishly and authentically decorated in a different French theme: Marie Antoinette, Musique de l'Opera, Tour de France, Cheval du Course, Château Du Chien and Chambre Romantique, to name a few. Many of Enchanté's regulars (of which there are several during the business week) request varied rooms during their stays, so as to experience Ahren's entertaining, and sometimes tongue-in-cheek, themed décor. Most have gas fireplaces; all have Carrera marble bathrooms (some with free standing tubs), monogrammed robes, top quality Amish-made mattresses, beautiful and sumptuously detailed curtains and linens, and windows that actually open. And if you simply can't leave home without your pooch, Enchanté provides your pet an equally luxurious getaway with pet beds, organic homemade biscuits, filtered water, food and water bowls.

Guests are also treated to a glass of wine and an appetizer plate each evening, and a full, made-to-order breakfast each morning — to be enjoyed on the outdoor patio or in the sunny dining room that features 200 year-old French timbers, a period fireplace, and limestone floors. The bistro is also open to the public, and many locals were seen there enjoying dinner and weekend brunch.

Even the most welcoming of hotels requires that you get out for a bit and walk, and the small, charming town of Los Altos begs to be explored. Both sophisticated and

homespun, the few blocks of non-metered, ample parking harken to a simpler time. High-end boutiques, kitchen goods, and an old fashioned stationery store are interspersed with a 40-year-old classic deli and gourmet restaurant choices, such as the wonderful Cetrella at the corner of First and Main. Like sister restaurant Cetrella Half Moon Bay, this outpost serves flavorful Mediterranean-rim and California coastal dishes sourced from regional farms and artisanal purveyors. Dishes are dictated by the seasons and what is found at the local farmer's market, such as roasted baby beets, corn bisque, and Happy Boy Farms fritto misto. House made pastas include Bellwether Farms jersey cow's milk ricotta agnolotti, whole grain mustard fettuccine, or vegetable risotto. Entrée selections include Ora King salmon, roasted Pitman Farms duck breast, bacon wrapped pork tenderloin, or braised short rib pot roast. And don't miss the craft cocktails, specifically their Manhattan.

Be sure to stop at Manresa Bread to grab some loaves or baguettes to take home. Located at 271 State Street, this bakery — from the acclaimed Manresa team out of Los Gatos — offers amazing breads and pastries. Get there early as they often sell out.

It's likely that Los Altos has never crossed your mind as a weekend getaway local. Let Enchanté make you a convert, as it did me. C'est tres magnifique.



When enjoying a weekend getaway, I typically explore an entire locale with the intention of providing tips and activity ideas. I usually recommend a home base hotel and a few restaurants. And so it was that I embarked on a "Silicon Valley" weekend stay; I studied the surrounding area in preparation for recommending hiking and biking, museums, and gardens. But after checking in to my quaint, independently owned boutique hotel in Los Altos, it was clear that Enchanté was itself the destination.

The French chateau-inspired, 19 room Enchanté inn is a relatively new gem, and is alone worthy of the approximately 75-minute drive from Lamorinda. Primarily welcoming Silicon Valley high rollers during the week, Enchanté relaxes a bit on the weekends, as do the rates. It's a fantastic retreat at which to unwind and be pampered. Owner and Francophile Abigail Ahrens has created a place so elegant, so unique, and so under-the-radar, you won't believe it exists in tiny, and tony, downtown Los Altos. And you might not believe that you're not actually in France.

Ahrens, well-known and highly regarded in the area as a top Realtor and designer of exquisite homes, spared no expense in planning, designing and decorating this French jewel in which she resides on the top floor. Many of the furnishings and décor are from her personal collection: the antique French hutch in the lobby, the dining table

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The American Soldier, A Photographic Tribute, an exhibition of 116 photographs, from the Civil War to the War in Iraq, is on display at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art. This dramatic exhibition covers war since the birth of photography when the camera became a notebook to history, starting with the Civil War. It will run through Dec. 18.

Also at Saint Mary's College Museum of Art is Social Justice, It Happens to One It Happens To All. It showcases 43 artists on the themes of social justice that examines timely subject matter being debated during this election year. These artworks can say what words cannot and are the catalyst to empower social change. Through Dec. 11.

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

The Bedford Gallery brings together the best of the Bay Area crafters and artisans for the ninth annual Bg Craft Fest Nov. 5 and 6 at 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. This curated festival is a celebration of handmade gifts, featuring an array of unique items from jewelry to home goods. Held inside the gallery, visitors can shop the Craft Fest and see the current exhibitions, Re-Tooled: Highlights from the Hechinger Collection and Blade Runner: ReTooling the Saw as Art. This year includes a new feature – hands-on workshops in block printing on fabric, hand lettering, and making seasonal wreaths and festive felt garlands. www.bedfordgallery.org

Moraga Art Gallery's new exhibit Beauty Near and Far features oil landscapes by Walnut Creek artist Kerima Swain, whose vibrant colors and sun-dappled landscapes transport viewers to sites around the world, from Saint Mary's College and the Golden Gate to the Greek isle of Hydra and beyond. Also featured is a boldly-hued collection of pit and saggar-fired ceramics by guest artist Lesley Jensen. The show, which includes a wide variety of work by the gallery's 15 member artists and several guest artists, runs from Oct. 26 to Jan. 7. The public is invited to a free opening reception 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29. The gallery is located in the Rheem Shopping Center, at 522 Center Street, Moraga. For more information, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

MUSIC

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 and 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.

Temple Isaiah is pleased to present a free concert featuring the Makhelat Hashachar choir from Japan at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 27 in

the Temple Isaiah Sanctuary, sponsored by Cantor Korn's Music Fund. Founded in 1946, the Makhelat Hashachar choir will perform a stirring concert that will include Japanese traditional music, Jewish liturgical pieces and Israeli folk songs. This event is free and open to the public. Temple Isaiah is located at 945 Risa Rd, Lafayette. (925) 283-8575.

Gold Coast Chamber Players present a concert at 7 p.m. on Oct. 29 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Tickets: gcplayers.org (925) 283-3728. veronaquartet.com

The fourth annual Teen Battle of the Bands will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5 at the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library & Learning Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. The five chosen bands will have 10-15 minutes to perform their set. The deadline to submit audition videos is Sunday, Oct. 23. Register at tinyurl.com/laftbotb2016.

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 the website at www.dvcdrama.net. DVC Drama is located at 321 Golf Club Rd, Pleasant Hill, with free parking for all performances.

Role Players Ensemble presents Woody Allen's cold war era comedy "Don't Drink the Water," Oct. 28 through Nov. 12 at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets: \$20-28, available online at www.RolePlayersEnsemble.com; at Danville Community Center, 420 Front St, Danville; or by calling (925) 314-3400.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents "Chris Hedges: Unspeakable: On the Most Forbidden Topics in America" from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 19, at First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. Chris Hedges discusses his new book, "Unspeakable: On the Most Forbidden Topics in America," answers questions and signs books. Cost: \$15 advance, \$18 door. For more info visit www.brownpaper-tickets.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

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 be 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.

The Halloween Harvest Festival takes place Sunday, Oct. 30 at the Moraga Certified Farmers' Market. Festivities include a kid's costume contest and parade at 11 a.m. Prizes will be given for the best and most creative costumes. Family fun also includes a "Guess the Weight of the GIANT Pumpkin with a \$50 prize, face-painting, and mini-pumpkin decorating!"

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.

Halloween Fun from 7 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 31 at 12 Lynwood Place, Moraga. "Neverland" Show and treats!

Lamorinda Moms' 19th Annual Preschool Fair from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Nov. 10 at Oakwood Athletic Club, Lafayette. Gather preschool information from over 40 local preschools at one time, in one place. For more information go to www.lamorindamoms.org/activities/preschool_fair

OTHER

Alcohol and Other Drugs Prevention Team (ADAPT) Lamorinda - 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 Sarge Littlefield Community Room.

Cities Partnering with Business to Meet SB32 & Community-wide Climate Action Plan Goals from 8 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Oct. 20 at the Lafayette Library with Generation Green / Contra Costa Climate Leaders. Attendees will hear about how Lafayette launched a city-wide green business program. RSVP or for more details: info@cccclimate-leaders.org or (925) 631-0597.

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

... continued on next page

Please...



...thanks

MOVIE REVIEW

Film Clips

The 'Accountant' Doesn't Use A Beautiful Mind

By Derek Zemrak



Image provided

The opening scene of the movie "The Accountant" has a young autistic boy struggling to find the last piece of a puzzle, which is creating frustration and confusion in the child. Was this a foreshadowing the director, Gavin O'Conner ("Tumbleweeds") was trying to create? I think not but the film is missing a few pieces.

The movie continues with a family torn apart by autism and the departure of the young boy's mom from the family. The dad, who is serving in the army, must take control the best way he can.

Fast forward in time – the young boy, Christian Wolf (Ben Affleck) is now grown up and is a high-functioning autistic accountant who is laundering money for crime cartels. The Treasury Department Director Raymond King (J.K. Simmons) makes learning the accountant's

identity his highest priority before his planned retirement. The discovery of a series of photographs leads Director King and his assistant, Marybeth (Cynthia Addai-Robison) in the right direction.

When Wolf is hired to administer a forensic accounting audit on a robotics company, everything begins to unravel. When he discovers the fraud he is quickly terminated by the partner of the company, Lamar Black (John Lithgow), who then hires a hit man to kill Wolf and the researcher (Anna Kendrick), his assistant in the audit. The movie quickly changes from "A Beautiful Mind" to a Jason Bourne film. This piece of the puzzle just did not fit.

I feel the filmmaker had the opportunity to educate society on the negative assumptions of autism and the spectrum of functionality. There is a line in the film that has stayed with me – "People have different gifts. What is normal?" This is the missing piece of the puzzle. I wanted more, not just an action thriller.

Overall, the film tries to be too much in the two hours and eight minutes. "The Accountant" is rated R for strong violence and language. If you are expecting "A Beautiful Mind," you will be disappointed. If the Jason Bourne style is more to your liking, you will enjoy this thriller.

Upcoming Special Events at the Rheem Theatre:

Saturday, Oct. 22 – Lord Blood-Rah's Halloween Festival and Bazaar: A day long festival of Halloween theme movies and buckets of fun!

7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29 – "Phantom of the Opera" (1925) with live musical score, lecture, games and prizes.

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 21

Dr. Brian Seeley, Electric Airplanes???

October 28

Alumni Reunion. Mayhem expected.

The Teardrop Trailer will remain out of view Devoting full energy for spectacular debut!

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 20: Ken McKormick: Retired Asst. DA for Contra Costa County specializing in Prosecuting Fraud

October 27: Presentation of funds raised by **Concert at the Res to Music and Theatre** Recipients

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

SOROPTIMIST OF 24/680



"Improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment"

Please join us for our next meeting:

WHEN: Wednesday, November 2nd Social 5:30-6:00 p.m. Meeting 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

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

Soroptimist 24-680 says "No More"

For more information, contact: Regina Englehart @925-876-9076 or go to: soroptimist24-680.org

Not to be missed

OTHER ... continued

Vote the kitty ticket! See the best candidates for your love at Community Concern for Cats adoption event this Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 22-23, at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. Hours are 1-4 pm. For more information, see www.communityconcernforcats.org.

Friends Corner Book Shop is having a half-price sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29. Shop sponsored by Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center and all proceeds benefit the Library. Only cash or checks are accepted.

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.

Lafayette Reservoir Run begins 8 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 30 in downtown Lafayette. Registration opens at 6:30 a.m. There will be staggered start times for a 2 mile run/walk at 8 a.m., 5k certified run at 8:30 a.m. and a 10k certified run at 8:45 a.m. The courses run through the heart of the downtown, around the reservoir and back. Sprinters, walkers, strollers and dogs are all welcome. For registration information go to www.lafayettechamber.org.

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."

Burton Valley Elementary PTA is hosting their annual Blood & Bone Marrow Drive from 8:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., Friday Nov. 4 561 Merriewood Dr, Lafayette. To schedule your appointment or for more information visit redcrossblood.org

Lafayette Juniors 23rd Annual Rummage Sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5. Special Early Bird Entrance fee \$5 per adult from 7 a.m.–8 a.m. Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette. Pre-loved designer clothes, baby and kid clothes, toys, children's gear, furniture, household goods, and much more. Visit www.lafayettejuniors.org.

Puzzled By Ballot Propositions? The League of Women Voters will present "The Pros and Cons of California Ballot Propositions" 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26 at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, in Orinda. The language on several propositions is ambiguous, making it difficult to determine what a "yes" or "no" vote means. Come to understand the implications of your vote on important changes in California laws regarding: the death penalty, background checks on guns and ammunition, legalization of recreational use of marijuana, limits on drug costs, and taxes to fund education and health care. You may also check www.VotersEdge.org/CA and www.votesmart.org.

The American Association of University Women have Catharine B. Baker as their keynote speaker at 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 15 in the Orinda Community Church Hall, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Assemblywoman Baker will discuss how the AAUW Fund impacts the lives of women and girls throughout the world through education, research, advocacy and philanthropy. You'll also be able to enjoy Marketplace, your once-a-year chance to see hand-crafted creations by local members and get an early start on holiday shopping. oml-ca.aauw.net.

SENIORS

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.

Not to be missed

Healthy Aging in Lamorinda Coffee Chat "What's all the Talk about Palliative Care and does my Loved One Qualify?" presented by quest speaker Kathy Fitterer, NP, GNP-BC, AHPCN, Palliative care specialist/HEB 9:30 - 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 25 at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Multi use room, 433 Moraga Way in Orinda. Coffee and Pastries will be served. RSVP preferred, but not required, to Ana Blaj at (925) 899-7012; ablaj@age-modern.com.

It's Medicare Open Enrollment time. Do you have questions about your Medicare plan for 2017? This is the time to understand your coverage. Contra Costa Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) will be at the Moraga library at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 27 to talk about what's new with Medicare for 2017 and how to optimize your coverage. Detailed handouts about Medicare health and drug plans for 2017 will be provided.

Building Your Own Safety Net - Do you want to "age in place"? Will you need long term care? What is aging in place and what is long-term care? Who pays for it and how much does it cost? California Health Advocates, www.cahealthadvocates.org, will discuss these topics as well as health-care costs in retirement from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 3 at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Bl. Contra Costa HICAP will also be there to provide information on their counseling services.

Smart Driver 8-Hour Course - Offered through AARP. Refine your driving skills, develop safe, defensive techniques, and possibly lower your insurance premium. Max: 25 paid registrants. First come, first served, by date check is received. Send check, made payable to AARP, to Lafayette Senior Services, 500 Saint Mary's Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549. Important: Prior to sending check, please call 284-5050 to determine space availability. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 8 and 10 in the Elderberry Room, Lafayette Community Center. \$15 AARP members, \$20 non-members of AARP

Not to be missed

GARDEN

The Moraga Garden Club Monthly Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 20, at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Guest speaker will be Ruby Blume, Founder, Urban Homesteading. The topic of her presentation will be "Put a Bee in Your Bonnet." Interested parties are welcome for the 9:30 a.m. social time and 10 a.m. meeting, with the presentation by Ruby Blume to follow.

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.

Drought-Tolerant Landscapes – Presented by UC Master Gardener of Contra Costa County Dawn Kooyumjian, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 25 at the Moraga Public Library. Whether or not we are in a drought, California receives little to no rain in the summer, which is typical of Mediterranean climates. Come learn from Master Gardener Kooyumjian about our unique climate, and how plants in many parts of the world have adapted to their growing region's with little to no summer rain. Bring your questions.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda Weekly

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Thoughtful Food

Winning Pear Recipe an Appetizing Delight

By Susie Iventosch



Kelly Clancy



Pear Puffs

Photos provided

Recipe contests are fun and creative endeavors, encouraging contestants to come up with novel uses of this or that ingredient. This year's Moraga Pear Recipe Contest was no exception and provided some interesting and delicious recipes.

This year's top choice was awarded to Kelly Clancy, an eight-year veteran of the Town of Moraga planning department, for her Pear Puffs. These little treats won both the appetizer and the overall division and Clancy was very pleased about the outcome.

"When I found out that I'd won, I was really excited, because I'm super competitive and really wanted to win!" Clancy declared. "My boss and I both entered the contest, but vowed not to submit for the same category."

When Clancy was deciding

what dish to submit, she originally thought about a pear and brie pie, but then realized she's not much of a baker.

"It's too restrictive," she said. "So, instead I decided to do these pear puffs."

Known as the "go-to" appetizer person among her friends, Clancy often makes puff pastry hors d'oeuvres either with sautéed mushrooms or with brie and dried cranberries. For this contest, she thought that pears would go well with Cambozola cheese. And, the judges must have agreed!

Clancy loves to cook and makes dinner for her family and friends every Sunday night at her parents' house. They have a nice big kitchen with all the necessary tools and equipment. While she is there, she often prepares meals for her friends to pick up for the remainder of the

week.

She is just the kind of relative or friend we all would love to have in our lives. I thought maybe she could adopt me for a few years.

Clancy is already thinking about next year, and also looking for other recipe contests to enter, perhaps the Alameda County Fair. In the meantime, she's planning a trip to Crate & Barrel to spend her winning gift certificate.

"I've been looking online, and think I'd like to get a cute baking dish," she mused.

Other winners include Olivia House, Youth Division, for her Pear Cream Chocolates; Elaine Cable for her Savory Pear Pasties with Sausage and Leeks; and Lindsay Carr, for her Gluten-Free Pear Almond Cake. All of these recipes can be found on our website at www.lamorindaweekly.com.

Pear Puffs

Kelly Clancy, 2016 Adult Appetizer Winner

INGREDIENTS

- 1 package frozen puff pastry, thawed
- ½ lb. Cambozola Cheese (one wedge)
- 2 pears, diced

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees
2. Use a rolling pin to roll out one sheet of the pastry dough, just a little thinner
3. Use a knife to cut dough into squares or a biscuit cutter to make rounds (I've also used a pint glass)
4. Spray mini muffin tin with cooking spray, press each square or circle into muffin cups
5. Cube the Cambazola into pieces that will fit inside the pastry cups
6. Top cheese with diced pears
7. Sprinkle pears with a little Himalayan pink sea salt
8. Bake 15-20 minutes until golden brown
9. Let cool before removing from tray
10. Enjoy!

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



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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Rivalry Matches Set to Determine DAL Girls Tennis Title Race

By Karl Buscheck



From left, Quinn Harrington and Lauren Ladrech

Photo Gint Federas

With a 6-1 record in league play, the Miramonte girl's tennis team is tied atop the league standings with Acalanes as the final days of DAL play await.

For the Mats to secure the top spot, they'll have to get past Northgate at home on Oct. 20 and Acalanes, who they host on Oct. 25 in the final match of the league season.

"In the DAL, it's literally going to come down to who beats who at what total," head coach Michael McCollom said of the close race.

The Mats find themselves in a strong position thanks to a broad array of contributors. McCollom highlighted the play of junior Allison Burkhalter – the team's No. 2 singles player – and a whole collection of doubles standouts.

The No. 1 doubles team consists of senior Lucy Stenovc and sophomore Michelle Tang, juniors Annie Heckler and Kiki Immel make up the second pairing, and seniors Taylor Geary and Tana Tasker are third on the ladder.

"I'm really proud of my girls," said McCollom. "And I'm really looking forward to the challenge of trying to beat these other rock stars (who play for our rivals)."

More than a few of those rock stars are on Acalanes' roster. Like the Mats, Dons (6-1 in league) have been relying on a slew of players.

"It was just amazing how brave and gutsy they are," said head coach Stephanie Lawrence. "And I'm really proud of all of my girls."

Lawrence fired off a long list when asked to name her top players. Freshman Skylar Jeveli, sophomore Sydney Bell, junior Sasha Schein and senior Maddie Bakar have all stepped up as singles players. As for doubles teams, juniors Maddie McDonagh and Meagan Cardiff have excelled as a pairing, along with seniors Quinn Harrington and Lauren Ladrech.

That group leads the Dons against Campolindo at home in the second-to-last league match on Oct. 20. Then Acalanes will turn its attention to the Mats in the final match on Oct. 25. The last time the team met was on Oct. 6, when Miramonte won 5-4.

Lawrence recalled the scene following the narrow defeat.

"All the girls came up to me, which is a big contrast – they've grown so much over the last year – and said, 'Coach, we're going to get them next time,'" Lawrence said. "That's the kind of girls they are."

In the final week of the league season, Campolindo will also be looking to avenge a couple of close losses to its neighbors.

"It's very much a very even (league so far)," said head coach Steve Robinson. "In our first five matches, four of them were determined by a 5-4 score, which is as close as you can get."

The Cougars won two of those 5-4 matches. The two losses came against Miramonte and Acalanes.

"Essentially all those matches

come down to a few points here and there to determine what happens," Robinson added.

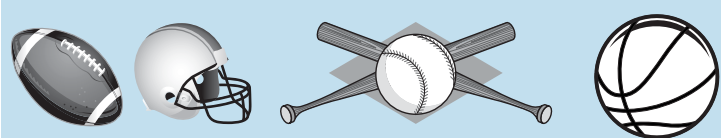
Robinson described senior Vivian McGowan as his leading singles player, while crediting senior Sierra Ramer and junior Hannah McDonnell for forming the top doubles team for the Cougars. But the coach also pointed out how important the squad's depth has been to the Cougars' success in league.

"We're fairly level throughout the lineup," Robinson said. "There's not like a superstar and then there's some big huge drop-off."

With matches at Acalanes on Oct. 20 and at College Park on Oct. 25 to close out the season, Robinson looked to the fall of 2015 to draw inspiration for his team.

"Last year, we played our best tennis at the end of the year and into the North Coast section," Robinson said. "And we're hopeful that we can do the same this year. It did work out nicely to be playing our rivals at the end of the season."

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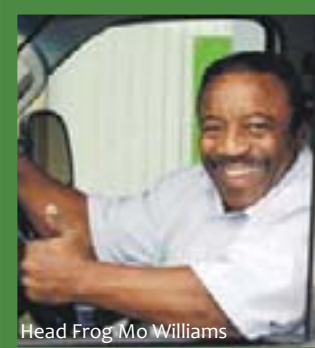
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Postseason Right Around the Corner for Boys' Water Polo Teams

By Karl Buscheck



Bennet Winther



Peter Brassinga

Photos Gint Federas

Playing one of the most challenging schedules not just in Northern California but in the entire state, the Miramonte water polo team isn't overly concerned with its win-loss record.

Instead, it's all about making sure the team is playing at the highest possible level with the NCS postseason opening up on Nov. 3.

"For lack of a better way to say it, there's just a good vibe with the team," said head coach James Lathrop.

The Mats (11-6 overall, 2-0 in league) close out the DAL calendar with clashes against Campolindo on Oct. 19 at the Soda Center and against Acalanes at home on Oct. 26. In between, Miramonte will take part in the Memorial Cup Tournament – the final prestigious showcase on their crowded schedule.

Miramonte has navigated the difficult slate of games by building a roster where a new star is born on any given day.

"The other teams are going to scout us, obviously, and know where certain guys are and concentrate on taking away certain players at certain times. So, we really do rely on everybody to step up," Lathrop explained. "And if they're taking somebody away, that means somebody else should be open and should be in a good spot to score."

The principle was in full effect on Oct. 12 when seven different Mats scored in 15-11 win over Las Lomas.

"It's definitely a fun time and a really busy time and we're playing a lot of games," Lathrop said. "We're hoping will really spring us into a good spot in North Coast and we'll be playing our best water polo in the next weeks."

Campolindo, who hosts the Mats in the second-to-last game of the league season, has endured an up-and-down fall.

"This year, like every year, has been a roller coaster," head coach Miles Price said.

"We got off to a rough start as far as a winning percentage goes but the three games that we lost were all within one or two goals. Since then we've been on a good streak but some of the games have been really tight.

Price called junior goalie Ben Miller the "backbone" of the team, which has a 15-4 record overall (2-0 in league), but he's far from the only Cougar who has excelled.

"(Senior) Peter Brassinga, Wayne and Tommy Hawkins and (junior) Michael Wheeler have been key upper classmen," Price said. "(Freshman) Soren Jensen, (sophomores) Beck Jurasius, Giorgio Allesandrio, Garrett Dunn and Marcus Longton have stepped up as younger guys."

"I could really list all of the guys on our team and expect as much as the year progresses," he added. "Our depth is what will make or break us."

With so many young players on the roster and a series of crucial games looming – including the meeting with the neighboring Mats – Price knows that the key for the squad will be to stay relaxed and composed.

"I think we can be really successful in league this year and beyond," Price said. "But if our guys let emotions take them out of playing their game, it could get away from us real quick. That's the beauty of it."

Acalanes closes out the DAL season by hosting Northgate on Oct. 19, visiting the Mats on Oct. 26 and traveling to Carmichael on Oct. 29 to face off against Jesuit. The Dons have posted a 12-8 record overall (1-1 in league) as they angle for a NCS postseason spot.

Aside from the success in the pool, the team has also impressed in the classroom. Senior captains Casey Conrad and Brad Robinson have both been named Outstanding Academic All-Americans (4.0 GPA and above), while senior Kai Mills and junior Bennett Winther earned Academic All-American honors (3.6 GPA and above).

Girls Water Polo Teams in Top Form as NCS Action Awaits

By Karl Buscheck



Kari Jensen



Ella Maisano

Photos Gint Federas

There's a simple expression that explains the success of the Campolindo girls water polo squad.

"This team has done an all-around great job of (being) 'team first, self-last,'" said head coach Kim Everist, whose Cougars own a 13-3 record overall (2-0 in league). "I have been very proud of all of the players on this team."

Campolindo, which hosts the Mats on Oct. 19 at the Soda Center in Moraga, counts on a host of players both in and out of the pool.

"As with any team we have our standouts," Everist said. "(Senior) Olivia Price has had a tremendous year, along with (senior) Kari Jensen and (junior) Katie Klein. (Senior) Becca Buck is the backbone of our defense."

Everist pointed to senior Charlie Crumbaugh and sophomore Christina Crum as players who have stepped into bigger roles for the Cougars, while describing junior Erin Neustrom as the team's "vocal leader" and applauding sophomore Jessica Henningsen and junior Karina Nugent for their leadership skills.

As Campolindo battles for the top position in the DAL standings and prepares for NCS play, which begins on Nov. 3, the Mats stand out as one of their fiercest competitors.

"I would say we're right on track to where we want to be," said head coach Noel Murphy, who went out of his way to praise the program's JV team, which won the Crusher Classic in Napa. "We're improving every game and everyone's getting involved."

Senior captains Charlotte Curran and Kylie Morrison have been instrumental for the Mats, as they roll through the schedule with a 13-3 record (2-0 in league).

"It's a team sport. We win as a team and we lose as a team," Murphy said. "And those two captains are providing very good leadership and the end result is a very cohesive, well-producing machine."

Co-coach John Felix has also been indispensable for the Mats.

"He's been doing a stupendous job getting these girls ready for the arduous season," Murphy said.

That season ends – at least the league portion – with the showdown at Campo on Oct. 19 and then the home game against Acalanes on Oct. 26.

"Anything can happen in rivalry games," Murphy warned. "I mean, really. You might have a superior team and all of a sudden that rivalry comes into play and it changes the dynamics of everything."

"It's like the Dodger-Giants rivalry – everything's out the door," he added.

With that matchup looming, Acalanes head coach Misha Buchel has been impressed by the growth of his youthful team over the course of the season.

"We were super young but I think we've made a lot of progress," Buchel said of his Dons team, which has a 10-7 record (0-2 in league).

For Acalanes, the greatest strength has been the team's spine. Junior goalie Ella Maisano has been a steady force, making a habit of bailing out the defense and making big defensive stops. Maisano has received plenty of support from junior center defender Bella Wentzel, whose strong play takes pressure off the rest of the back line.

On the offensive end, sophomore Lexi Rowell has been the star, consistently drawing double teams from the opposition and opening up space for the rest of the attack.

With that trio setting the tone, the Dons are moving in the right direction as the league season

"We're competitive, we're in the game," Buchel said. "We're (still improving) on the offensive end, but defensively, we're pretty tough."

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Orinda Tennis Talent Claims Prestigious NorCal Sectional Title

Submitted by Drew Diefenbach



From left, Monica Stratakos, Saratoga and Amber Lee, all of Orinda Photo provided

Amber Lee, an eighth-grader from the Orinda Intermediate School, went undefeated to win the Girls' singles title in the U16 division at the 2016 Northern California Fall Sectional Championship held at Broadstone Racquet Club in Folsom on Oct. 2.

Turning 14 on Oct. 7 this month and unseeded for the tournament, Lee won six consecutive matches in a draw of 64 advance-level players and defeated five seeded players en route to her championship run. After her first round victory, Lee defeated the highly regarded fourth-seeded Klara Kosan of Carmichael 6-3, 6-4 in the second round. Lee then defeated two more seeded opponents in the round of 16 and quarter final in straight sets. In the semi-final on Saturday afternoon, Lee upset first seeded Katherine Duong of Cupertino by a score of 6-2, 6-4. Then on Sunday morning with a chair umpire and a sizable crowd, Lee handled the moment professionally and capped off her great run by defeating fifth seeded Monica Stratakos of Saratoga in straight sets 6-2, 6-3. Lee did not drop one set during the entire tournament.

"I was extremely nervous before the final, but once I started playing a few games, I settled into a good rhythm and was able to stay composed and play solid tennis for the rest of the match," said Lee. "My performance in the last few weeks has been very good. Earlier in the year, I had been struggling with my tennis game, but with the hard work I put in over the summer, things are starting to come together and my confidence at the moment is very high. Hopefully, I can keep up my good form and finish the rest of the tennis season on a high note."

Coached by Andrew Lee (former junior Davis Cup team coach from Hong Kong) and Alex Poorta (current WTA coach and former nationally ranked collegiate standout from Saint Mary's College), Lee headed south to Orange County for the National Level 2 tournament (U14 division) at Costa Mesa on Columbus Day weekend.

As an outstanding athlete and student, Amber looks to attend Miramonte High School next year.

MAAC Charity Golf Tournament a Winner

Submitted by Sharron Sue



The 16th annual MAAC Charity Golf Tournament winners are, from left, George Yano, Ron Tanaka, Craig Oki, Steve Kobayashi

The 16th annual Moraga Asian American Club Charity Golf Tournament was held Sept. 25 at Chuck Corica Golf Complex. Tournament Chair Ron Tanaka declared, "We gratefully thank our golfers and generous major supporters."

Moraga Asian American Club (MAAC)

began in 1998 in recognition that Lamorinda is a culturally diverse community. MAAC formed to provide a forum for common issues as well as to promote civic involvement, inclusion and respect for differences. MAAC celebrates Lamorinda's diversity.

Moraga Students Win Rocky-Ridge Half-Marathon

Submitted by Marni Ellery



From left, Douglas and Justine Ellery

Justine Ellery (13) and Douglas Ellery (11) took each took first place in their respective age groups in the Rocky Ridge Half-Marathon 10K and 5K on Oct. 1.

The race took place at the Las Trampas Wilderness, part of the East Bay Regional Parks in San Ramon and included parts of the Rocky Ridge View Trail, Bollinger Canyon Loop Trail and Elderberry Trail.

The course is considered the toughest trail course in the entire Brazen Racing series. Douglas competed in the half-marathon, and Justine ran the 10K.

Photo Michael Ellery



OLLIE—Has an Honors Degree in Sports Coaching. Has been coaching youth players and youth professionals for 7 years



MARK T—An elementary school teacher from Ireland, he has coached community youth soccer programs for the past 5 years.



NICOLA—An elementary school teacher in Scotland who plays amateur soccer. She uses her motivational and inspiring coaching style to teach 4-8 year olds.



NEIL—Has a sports coaching degree. He coaches full time with professional youth players in Scotland.



DANNY G—Has a sport coaching degree and coaches both community and youth professional teams in Scotland.



DARRAGH—An elementary school teacher from Ireland, he has coached community youth soccer programs for the past 5 years.



AARON—Has a sports coaching degree and coaches full-time with professional youth players in Scotland.



DANNY—Has coached Youth Professionals and set-up a community soccer program in Scotland. He has coached in California for 5 years.



AMY—Plays for a professional ladies team in Scotland. She has been coaching Youth Players from age 5-16 for five years.



MARK R—Is currently completing his degree in sports coaching in Scotland. He has been coaching youth, ages 5-16, for 4 years.



CHLOE—Has a Bachelor's Degree in sport coaching. She coaches young soccer players while playing professionally, herself.



JOHNNY—Has a sports coaching degree and coaches full time with professional youth players in Scotland



SAMANTHA—Plays for a professional ladies team in Scotland. She has been coaching Youth Players from ages 5-16 for five years.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 10 Issue 17 Wednesday, October 19, 2016



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D12

Buying the Haunted House of Your Dreams

By Sora O'Doherty



It's nearly Halloween, and some people are searching for an entertaining haunted house, but . . . would you want to buy one? No, we don't have one for sale, but we have been collect-

ing some stories about what can happen when you want to buy — or sell — a house where someone has died.

Local Realtor Shiva Jafarzadeh has some ex-

perience in this area. If selling real estate is a science, selling homes where someone has died is an art, one that includes science and law. In the state of California, there are mandatory disclosures that must be made by a house vendor to the potential purchaser. For example, if someone has died in a house within three years, it must be disclosed, and by "in a house" we mean literally in the house, not just while living there, and the somebody means anybody, whether owner, visitor, repair person, even trespassers.

That's the basic legal requirement, but the art of real estate means that seventh sense a good real estate agent possesses understands that a potential purchaser might not be okay with a home where a death occurred, even if it was outside the legally required disclosure period. And that art extends to a sensitivity about the kind of death: was it the natural death of a person who had lived a long, full life? The death of a child? Or, so much worse, did a violent death occur in the property?

Let's assume that you want to sell a house where a death occurred more than three years ago. So you don't have to disclose, right? Legally, that might be true. But, trust us, you want to disclose. If you don't, do you know who will? Your neighbors. Remember, if the potential buyer comes out and asks about a death specifically, even longer than three years ago, the law requires you to disclose what you know.

... continued on page D6



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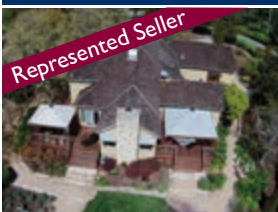
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MORAGA	5	\$700,000	\$1,270,000
ORINDA	6	\$1,112,000	\$1,725,000

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.

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608 Burton Drive, \$1,775,000, 3 Bdrms, 3097 SqFt, 1989 YrBl, 9-15-16;

Previous Sale: \$475,000, 02-27-91

3949 Canyon Road, \$2,465,000, 4 Bdrms, 4897 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 9-22-16;

Previous Sale: \$2,100,000, 02-16-06

3336 Hillside Terrace, \$1,430,000, 4 Bdrms, 2754 SqFt, 1976 YrBl, 9-20-16;

Previous Sale: \$804,000, 06-17-02

609 Laird Lane, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2122 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 9-15-16;

Previous Sale: \$835,000, 03-10-05

1185 Monticello Road, \$1,850,000, 3 Bdrms, 2298 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 9-20-16;

Previous Sale: \$136,364, 06-29-07

1455 Purson Lane, \$1,015,000, 3 Bdrms, 3378 SqFt, 1997 YrBl, 9-15-16;

Previous Sale: \$359,000, 05-16-97

1268 Redwood Lane, \$3,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 5034 SqFt, 2012 YrBl, 9-20-16;

Previous Sale: \$1,120,000, 06-15-11

1255 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,415,000, 4 Bdrms, 2970 SqFt, 1999 YrBl, 9-23-16;

Previous Sale: \$1,360,000, 05-29-15

3283 Theresa Lane, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2630 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 9-21-16;

Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 09-21-16

MORAGA

1997 Ascot Drive #D, \$700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1728 SqFt, 1975 YrBl, 9-22-16;

Previous Sale: \$585,000, 10-31-14

140 Calle La Montana, \$775,000, 4 Bdrms, 2585 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 9-15-16;

Previous Sale: \$1,332,000, 08-08-14

1419 Camino Pablo, \$1,270,000, 3 Bdrms, 2509 SqFt, 1975 YrBl, 9-22-16;

Previous Sale: \$745,500, 12-19-03

4 Dolores Court, \$760,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1984 YrBl, 9-23-16;

Previous Sale: \$435,000, 06-22-12

262 Rheem Boulevard, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1644 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 9-15-16;

Previous Sale: \$525,000, 10-18-10

ORINDA

112 Ardith Drive, \$1,390,000, 4 Bdrms, 2258 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 9-16-16

4 Crestview Court, \$1,112,000, 3 Bdrms, 1631 SqFt, 1972 YrBl, 9-14-16;

Previous Sale: \$641,000, 05-02-02

16 El Verano, \$1,725,000, 5 Bdrms, 2882 SqFt, 1938 YrBl, 9-16-16;

Previous Sale: \$985,000, 05-24-02

33 Overhill Road, \$1,140,000, 1 Bdrms, 1502 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 9-16-16;

Previous Sale: \$659,000, 09-09-03

7 Santa Lucia Road, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 2471 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 9-23-16;

Previous Sale: \$735,000, 09-25-97

25 Zander Drive, \$1,455,000, 4 Bdrms, 2387 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 9-22-16;

Previous Sale: \$1,455,000, 09-22-16

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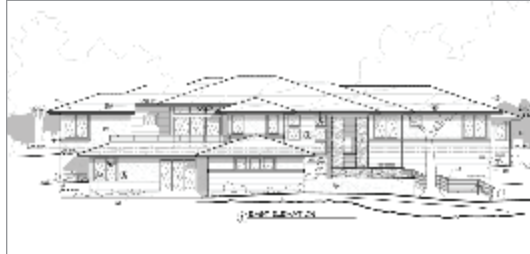
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The Early Bird Gets the Worm

By Andi Peterson Brown

Are you contemplating selling your home next spring? Believe it or not, it's not too early to begin your preparations. In fact, many Realtors use the slower winter months as exactly that: a time to help their spring sellers plan ahead. Below are some tips to be well-prepared and well-positioned if a 2017 spring sale is in your future.

- **Connect with a Realtor early.** As mentioned above, Realtors oftentimes use the winter months to prepare homes for the spring. If you get on our radar early, we have ample time to create the best sales and marketing strategy specific for your property.

- **Get a handle on any repair work.** If budget allows, it is common for sellers to make repairs on their home before it hits the MLS. Contractors book up fast and it can be stressful to try and get squeezed into their calendar. Get scheduled early and eliminate unnecessary stress.

- **Know your title.** Your Realtor can open up what's called a pre-sale escrow and pull a preliminary title report to ensure there are no red flags that could delay your sale. By looking at this document early, you have more time to address a potential issue and stay on schedule.

- **Get out and about.** It always pays to know what's going on in your neighborhood. Pick a few Sunday afternoons this winter and leisurely check out other homes for sale. Keep your finger on the pulse of your local market by seeing what prospective buyers are seeing.



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Buying the Haunted House of Your Dreams

... continued from page D1

Some houses may be considered "stigmatized," and subject to more stringent requirements. In a landmark case on stigmatized houses, the California Court of Appeals found that a "seller of real property has a duty to disclose: 'where the seller knows of facts materially affecting the value or desirability of the property which are known or accessible only to him and also knows that such facts are not known to, or within the reach of the diligent attention and observation of the buyer . . .'" *Reed v. King* 145 Cal. App. 3d 261, 193 Cal. Rptr. 130 (Cal. Ct. App. 1983).

Are you ready for the scary stories? OK, we've got em! Here's one: Purchasers move into the home they've just bought. After a little while, they call their Realtor and ask, we know that no death in this house was disclosed, but are you sure? Because, they say, we hear noises in the garage at night, and we are convinced that it is a ghost. This case went to court. It turned out that a young man had committed suicide in the garage over 25 years earlier. His father discovered him in the morning, in the car with the motor running. But, was the garage haunted? Nope. The new owners heard the story from a neighbor and, being superstitious, they were looking for a way out of the deal. When all was revealed, they lost that case.

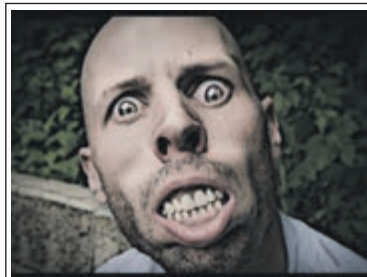
On the other hand, there actually is a niche market for haunted houses. So, while some people may eschew a house where a death has occurred, others are actively seeking a real haunted house, and might be willing to pay a premium for actual or suspected ghosts. On the other hand, a death in the house also makes a home a target for bargain hunters. Investment purchasers are not sentimental, and will try to snap up a hard-to-sell property cheaply and rent it for a few years, then sell it after the disclosure period has passed.

And disclosure is not the only legal hurdle you

may face. Jafarzadeh tells a story of a couple who found a beautiful, vacant house in an East Bay neighborhood. The house appeared to be totally remodeled and was vacant, but there were many personal belongings deposited in the backyard. There was a For Sale sign in front of the house. The price that the selling agent quoted was low. Shortly after their initial inquiry, the purchasers received a telephone call from a man who said he had inherited the house from his mother, but that the paperwork was not completed. The purchasers entered into a rent-to-buy agreement, sold their home and moved in.

Six months later, the "vendor" disappeared, and the purchasers, unable to find him, ceased making payments. Then they received a letter from an attorney. It turned out that the vendor had actually not inherited the house from his mother. He was one of seven siblings. His mother had died in a house fire at the property. The other siblings had not been notified of her death, but the purported vendor had used the insurance money to repair and remodel the house and place it on the market. The matter went to the probate court, where the rent-to-buy agreement was upheld for the purchaser, who bought the house, but that wasn't the end of their trouble. For example, on one occasion the vendor's sister showed up in the middle of the night with a shovel, removing the landscaping from the front yard, and that was not the last of her visits, which were never friendly and she was sometimes under the influence.

The takeaway? If you are the vendor, disclose everything! If you are a purchaser, make sure you ask outright about the things that are significant to you, including whether or not there has been a death or violent crime in the property. If all goes well, you might just find the haunted house of your dreams.



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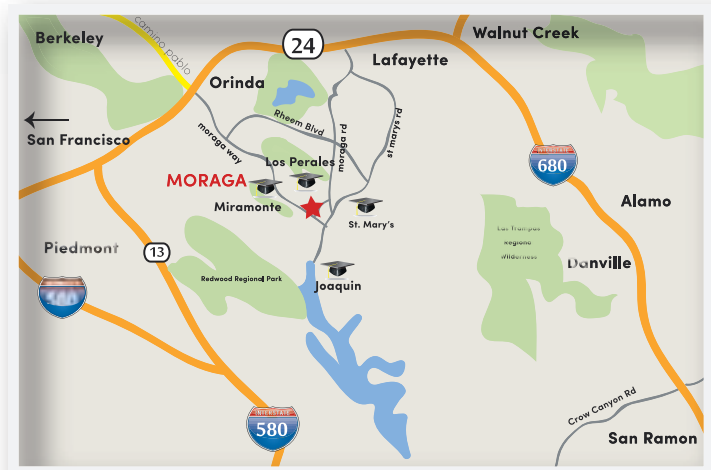


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The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS

The third quarter of 2016 showed slowing activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate versus the year ago quarter. This slowdown in activity is based more upon a shorter supply of available properties than on a significant change in the market.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from July 1 through Sept.30, here's what single-family home activity looked like in Lamorinda's three cities.

Lafayette

Homes closed	2015	2014	Price range	Days on Market	'15	'14
71	92	50	\$635,000 to \$3,700,000	30	24	22

The average sales price was \$1,565,394. In the same period of 2015 it was \$1,462,872 versus \$1,310,790 in 2014. The average 3Q 2013 sale price was \$1,204,739. In 3Q 2012 the average was \$1,001,291. Average prices have increased over 49 percent in the last four years!

Moraga

Homes closed	2015	2014	Price range	Days on Market	'15	'14
21	49	50	\$1,015,000 to \$1,870,000	24	14	

The average sale price was \$1,245,605, which was actually below the \$1,281,936 in the third quarter of 2015. It was \$1,178,956 in the same quarter in 2014. In 3Q 2012 the average was \$1,049,408. The average increase in the last four years has been around 19 percent.

Orinda

Homes closed	2015	2014	Price range	Days on Market
73	69	90	\$750,000 to \$3,205,000	24

The average sale price was \$1,558,244, a slight increase from a year ago when it was \$1,520,904. In 2014, it was \$1,420,663. In 3Q 2012, the average was \$1,109,094. The four-year average increase in Orinda values has been about 40 percent.

In the third quarter of this year, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$585.96. A year ago it was \$573.91. Moraga homes sold for \$540.27 up from \$526.77 a year ago. In Orinda it was \$599.67 ... again an increase over the prior year third quarter of \$566.29.

... continued on page D11

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The Real Estate Quarter in Review

... continued from page D8

In Lafayette, the average sales price was right at 100% of the final asking price. In Moraga it was also a fraction above 100 percent and in Orinda it was 102.4 percent. In many cases, there were multiple offers on homes and the result was a closing price above the asking price.

In Lafayette, 39 of the 71 closings sold at the list price or above. In Moraga, 11 of the 23 sold at or above asking and in Orinda it was 44 of 73.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had five resale closings. They were priced from \$601,000 and \$1,100,000; Moraga had 25, down from 40 a year ago. Sales prices ranged from \$305,000 to \$1,100,000. Moraga Country Club had only two attached home sales — \$825,000 to \$1,100,000. Orinda had one condominium sale on Brookwood at \$319,000 and one townhome — in Orindawoods — at \$1,090,000.

As of Oct. 10, there were 65 pending sales in the three communities combined. A year ago there were 67 pending sales per the MLS. The asking prices for the pending single family detached homes range from \$719,000 to \$3,195,000. It should be pointed out that there are no “Potential Short Sales” that are currently pending and subject to lender approval. One of the pending sales is an REO (bank owned property).

It is interesting to point out that of the 65 pending sales in the area, 51 have received acceptable offers since Sept. 1. That is an average of nearly two per day. Usually many of the sales are completed prior to the start of school. Depending upon how many of the homes are being purchased by families with children who are new to Lamorinda, it may impact certain grades at the elementary level.

Inventory, however, continues to remain low although increasing when looking at the available homes. In Lafayette there were 45 on the market as of Oct. 10 and there were 32 at this time one year ago.

In Moraga buyers have their choice of only 25 properties, still way up from 10 properties a year ago.

Orinda inventory has increased to 46 currently available from 37 one year ago.

Current asking prices range from \$405,000 for a condominium in Moraga to \$22.5 million for an Orinda property.

At the high end, 26 homes closed above \$2 million in the three communities combined during the quarter. In the year ago period there were 29.

There are 47 currently available above this amount — 17 in Lafayette, 23 in Orinda, and seven in Moraga.

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Digging Deep for October

A Howling Harvest and Halloween

By Cynthia Brian

"Tickle it with a hoe and it will laugh into a harvest." English Saying



Time to pick the pumpkins and cut the corn stalks for the Halloween décor.

Photos Cynthia Brian

October proclaims two main events: harvest and Halloween.

It's been several decades since I've worked in our vineyards picking grapes. As a child I drove a tractor, plowed fields and watered the new vineyards vine by vine, driving a refitted vintage fire truck with one sibling opening the water valve as we slowly rolled through the rows. Once September and October arrived, the grape harvest began. Crews of eight workers, including myself, combed every vine with our specially curved knife quickly dropping bunches of ripe berries into the lugs which would be dumped into big bins on the grape trailer. When the truck and trailer had a full load, we'd ride with my dad to the wineries for the delivery. We all loved being with our dad hauling the grapes to their wine destination.



Beautiful bunches of grapes are ripe and ready.

Although we worked on numerous neighboring farms harvesting, culling or cutting peaches, apricots and pears, none of us were fans of the grape picking process.

Because of the dearth of available pickers, a couple of years ago my brother invested in a mechanical harvester. This week, on the final night of the cabernet sauvignon harvest, I rode along with my brother and nephew as the huge harvester and four men did the work of six crews with precision and speed. (Instead of picking during the heat of the day, the harvester allows harvesting at night into the early morning hours when it is cooler.) Although we still have several acres that are hand picked, I hollered "hallelujah" to this happy mechanical harvesting experience.

Lamorinda boasts a rich grape growing precedent with a 130-year-old history. The Lamorinda Wine Growers Association, (www.LamorindaWineGrowers.com) dedicated to sustainable farming and community building, is re-establishing the area's love of the vine and wine along with our pleasant pear past. Lamorinda is now a recognized wine region with its own viticulture appellation thanks to the hard work of the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association. The varietals grown throughout Lafayette, Orinda and Moraga span the French Bordeaux area with Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Merlot to the Rhone regions' Syrah, Petite Sirah, Grenache, Mourvèdre and Viognier.

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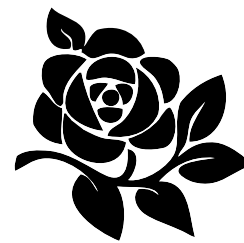
Autumn hosta and heuchera accent a corner with a copper grasshopper.



Burgundy is represented by the Pinot Noir grape and Lamorindans also grow small amounts of Sangiovese and Chardonnay. Because the plots are small, grapes are hand picked. A mechanical harvester has not become a necessary piece of equipment...yet. I'm hoping that 2016 will be heralded as a prime vintage year.

Preparing for Halloween, it's time to harvest the pumpkins, gourds and winter squash. If you don't grow your own, you'll find funky as well as colorful pumpkins at the local farmers market and even many of the grocery stores. Apples and Asian pears are still hanging from the trees awaiting their reaper. Find a recipe for making caramel or candied apples to enjoy an old-fashioned treat. Cut your corn stalks to use in decorations and buy a hay bale to add to the décor. You can later use the hay to cover your newly planted vegetable patch. The hay mulch will keep most weeds from emerging as the ghosts, ghouls and goblins begin their rampage.

It's time to howl at the moon with a glass of Lamorinda produced wine! Enjoy a grape adventure!



MORAGA GARDEN CENTER

Annual Fall Sale
Up to 50% off
Through October 31st

Free Plants with Purchase

Moraga Garden Center
located at the Moraga Shopping Center
925-376-1810

9am-5pm
7 days a week

Mid Month Gardening Tips from Cynthia Brian

The next two months are busy ones in the garden as we prepare our beds for a winter's sleep. Chrysanthemums will be displaying their full glory soon, a certain beacon of the blazing fall colors to follow. Get out there and get it done now.

FERTILIZE lawns during the rain for faster absorption. Don't forget to re-seed during these wet days as well.

PULL any weeds you find in your garden before they develop seed heads.

CREATE a sunflower arch for a festive October wine fest.

PLANT a variety of lettuces in a window box or container kept close to your kitchen to keep your salads fresh all season. Clip the micro greens as they sprout for delicate, delicious delights.

REPAIR birdhouses so that overwintering birds such as bluebirds, chickadees, and nuthatches will have a warm, safe, cozy place to rest during the upcoming cold nights.

INCREASE bird feeders in your yard as birds consume more food in fall and winter.

TUNE up your garden by pruning back overgrown shrubs and adding three or five New Zealand flax for their spiky form and variegated colors.

DIG and divide iris rhizomes now. Make sure to keep a few inches of the leaves on the stems and bury the roots two inches deep, 18 to 20 inches apart.

WATCH the antics of the lizards as they sun themselves on rocks during these final days of warmth.



Although fall is usually sienna-hued, Chorisia silk floss tree is spectacularly pink!



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Moraga since 1987



Your friendly neighborhood
arborists Darren and Lew Edwards

PRUNING NOW PAYS LATER

The type of pruning your tree gets is critical to the health, longevity, safety and appearance. Proper care for your tree is important and pruning a healthy strong tree now will help with the prevention of storm damage.

So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by your local ISA Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service for all your tree care needs.

Advance Tree Service
Your Authority on Trees.



925-376-6528

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STOP watering remaining summer crops to force your final produce to ripen.

PRUNE your berry bushes, including summer raspberries, blackberries and blueberries by removing dead canes. Thin any new forming canes.

AMEND your hard clay soil with large amounts of compost.

MULCH with wood chips to prevent erosion and maintain temperate soil temperatures.

MAKE a beautiful arrangement of fall flowers and foliage snipped from your trees and bushes.

FREEZE or can your vine tomatoes before the rains rot them.

ENROLL in a course on edible gardening, native plants or composting.

PROPOGATE perennials through root cuttings.

INDULGE in forest bathing... or just take a walk in nature.

SAVE seeds from your favorite annuals, herbs, and vegetables by gathering, drying, labeling and storing.

HARVEST the remainder of ripe produce before the end of the month-apples, Asian Pears, peppers, Swiss chard.

IMPROVE your health by enjoying grapes, apples, pears, pumpkins and squash.

ROAST seeds from squash and pumpkins by first cleaning, drying, soaking in salted water, then, baking at 375 degrees until golden brown. What a healthy snack!

TIE dried corn stalks together to add to your front door fall décor.

Happy Gardening, Happy Growing, Happy Harvested Halloween!





Variegated New Zealand flax flaunts its spiky fall colors.



Cynthia Brian joins her nephew, Alfred III and her brother, Alfred II for the grape harvest.

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Cynthia Brian

The Goddess Gardener

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Tune into Cynthia's Radio show at

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I am available as a speaker, designer, and consultant.

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ORINDA



New Listing

5 Darnby Court Classic Orinda ranch home! 3bd/2.5ba, 1,942 sq ft. Formal living & dining, eat-in kitchen, sunny yard, family room could be 4th bedroom. Cul-de-sac location & walk to top schools! **\$1,090,000**

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

31 Parkway Court Incredible Location! This 1797 sq. ft. 4bd/3ba charmer sits at the end of a cul-de-sac on a large .56 acre lot. Updated throughout, open floor plan, walk to Glorietta Elementary! **\$1,375,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

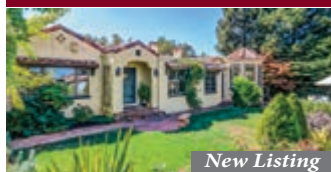
114 Hillcrest Drive Glorietta neighborhood stylish Craftsman 4bd/3ba all rebuilt to perfection in 2008. Beaut. design highest quality, great room w/gourmet kitchen, Anderson doors, views, level lawns. Great schools. **\$1,495,000**

ORINDA



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

ORINDA



New Listing

147 Camino Don Miguel Set on private, lush .32ac overlooking 4th fairway of OCC. 3bd/2.5ba w/apx. 3223sf, hdwd flrs, main flr master ste, ofc/den, sun porch. Near top-rated schools, Orinda Village & commute. Views! **\$1,850,000**

ORINDA



New Price

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! **\$2,695,000**

ORINDA



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

ORINDA



160 Camino Don Miguel Spectacular Spanish Mediterranean 5bd/5.5ba 5851sf home overlooks the 4th hole of OCC. Rebuilt from ground up in 1996. Resort quality pool & spa, gardens & views. **\$4,795,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

670 Augusta Drive Updated & ready to move in! Kitchen w/cherry cabinets, granite & Brazilian cherry flrs thruout main flr. Gardens, private patio. Rare 3 BR+ bonus rm. Close to clubhouse, facilities. Walk to town! **\$1,149,000**

MORAGA



New Price

735 Augusta Drive Detached desirable Moraga Country Club plan 13 home on large .42 acre lot with pool, hot tub & flagstone patio. Large master suite upstairs with deck, walk-in closet & views! **\$1,149,000**

MORAGA



76 Lynwood Place Desirable Corliss neighborhood. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with sparkling pool. Close to schools, shopping and trails. **\$1,695,000**

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



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**

OAKLAND



New Listing

6430 Colby Street Charming 3bd/2ba craftsman home + bonus studio apt. on quiet block in prime Rockridge area. Hardwood floors, skylights, built-in bookcases. Private yard. Walk to shops & restaurants. **\$1,065,000**

WALNUT CREEK



Pending

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. **\$1,699,000**



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