

LAMORINDA WEEKLY



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 Tuesday, May 16, 2017
 5:30pm - 9:00pm
 Wine Reception w/ Music
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 Dessert & Coffee
<http://bit.ly/Taste17>
NEW meeting spot
 corner Mt Diablo Blvd/Lafayette Circle

Lafayette's Earth Day Festival targets 'Sustainable Youth'

By Pippa Fisher



With a very "hands-on" approach this year, Lafayette's 12th annual Earth Day Festival will showcase local youth groups as well as exhibitors.

The fun will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 23 on Golden Gate Way behind the Lafayette Library and Learning Center and at the plaza of the library.

Hosted by nonprofit organization Sustainable Lafayette,

together with the LL&LC, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lafayette, this year's festival has plenty of educational fun for everyone.

Lamorinda 4-H will have a petting zoo featuring their livestock projects. Global Student Embassy will demonstrate how to create a garden in a small space. The Lafayette Community Garden will bring vegetables and display chickens.

Imperfect Produce representatives will talk about food waste and encourage purchasing of "cosmetically challenged" produce. White Pony Express will educate festival-goers on their food rescue program and Sustainable Lafayette will host a "Repair Café" where volunteers will repair household items onsite to prevent them ending up in a landfill.

... continued on page A10

Advertising

LAMORINDA WEEKLY	
Letters to the Editor	A8
Community Service	B4
Not to be Missed	B6-B7
HOW TO CONTACT US	B7
Classified	C2
Shop Orinda	C4

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Town Hall Theatre continues to lead by 'green' example in Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher



Tom Stack wants to eliminate plastic water bottles at THT. Photo A. Scheck

Joining forces with Sustainable Lafayette for an educational movie night, Town Hall Theatre continues to be a leader in "going green."

Sustainable Lafayette will

be presenting a special showing of "A Plastic Ocean," a visually stunning 90-minute movie about our global disposable lifestyle, the impact plastic is having on the oceans and how it affects

marine life, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 28.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. A discussion will follow the screening. Money raised through ticket sales and donations will be used to help eliminate the use of plastic water bottles at the theater.

Town Hall Theatre Board Vice President Tom Stack explained the endeavor. He estimates that more than 4,000 bottles of water are sold at the theater each year and it is his goal that patrons will bring reusable bottles which they will be able to refill from a brand new water bottle filling station to be installed by Kevin Burke of Valley Plumbing, paid for from the proceeds of this special movie night. Refillable bottles will also be available for purchase at the theater.

... continued on page A11



Local school districts anticipate possible budget deficits

By John T. Miller

The Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga school districts will be looking at ways to make ends meet as they face possible deficits in funding for the upcoming year.

While budgets may not actually be cut, difficulties may arise due to increased costs without additional money to cover those expenses.

For example, Superintendent Bruce Burns of Moraga School District points to increased costs of funding the State Teachers Retirement System and the Public Employee Retirement System.

"The increased pension costs have no revenue stream," says Burns, "and may require districts such as MSD to plan to reduce expenditures."

The lack of reimbursement for certain mandated costs, such as for special education, has put a stranglehold on the districts. Lafayette School District Superintendent Rachel Zinn said that the federal government originally promised to reimburse 40 cents on the dollar for those costs, but now pays only 18 cents.

... continued on page A12

Civic News	A1-A12	Life in Lamorinda	B1-B8	Sports	C1-C4	Our Homes	D1-D20
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Moraga schools to change kindergarten to all-day – page A4.

Fire Districts **A8**
 Lower insurance rates for MOFD residents? – page A8.

Saint Mary's students take on Miranda's "In the Heights" – page B1



Local golf teams take a swing at the DAL title – page C2.



Orinda Garden Tour focuses on outdoor living – page D1.





Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission

Monday, May 1, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, April 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, April 19, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, April 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

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Lafayette's Downtown Creeks Plan continues to flow

By Pippa Fisher



A map of the creeks in downtown Lafayette.

While it continues to tweak the wording of the Downtown Creeks Preservation, Restoration

and Development Plan, Lafayette's Creeks Committee will be moving the draft to the Planning Commission with the recommendation to have a committee workshop to allow for more input.

The creeks are recognized as an asset for Lafayette in the Downtown Specific Plan, which recommended the formation of the creeks

committee to help protect and enhance the downtown creeks. The creeks committee has been seeking feedback and comments from all the city commissions over the past months.

The Design Review Commission heard a presentation from Will Elder, creeks committee chairman, on Monday, April 10. He shared

how the committee has addressed the DRC's concerns but recognized the need to sit down for a work session to refine some of the wording, so as not to be too prescriptive in the plan. He recognizes that much of the creekside property is privately owned and private projects will have to meet substantial compliance.

Image provided



Lafayette Police Department

Incident Summary Report

March 26 - April 8

- Alarms 89
- 911 Calls (incl hang-ups) 14
- Noise complaints 5
- Traffic stops 182
- Suspicious Circumstances 12
- Suspicious Subjects 31
- Suspicious Vehicles 34
- Supplemental Report 5
- Abandoned Vehicle 7
- Animal Cruelty
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dewing Ave.
- Auto Burglary
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1200 Block Vacation Dr.
3300 Block Moraga Blvd.
1000 Block Brown Ave.
3700 Block Highland Rd.
800 Block Avalon Ct.
El Nido Ranch Rd./Upper Happy Valley Rd.
3500 Block Brook St.
- Beat Info
Upper Happy Valley Rd/
Los Arabis Dr.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
- Civil Disturbance
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Civil Problem
1700 Block Toyon Rd.
3200 Block Ameno Dr.
1000 Block 2nd St.
3600 Block Happy Valley Ln.
- Civil Standby
1000 Block Aileen St.
- Computer Fraud
10 Block Lincolnshire Ct.
- Defraud Innkeeper
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Disturbing The Peace
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Drunk In Public
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Elder Abuse
3400 Block S Silver Springs Rd.
- Forgery
600 Block Huntleigh Dr.
- Found Adult
3400 Block Golden Gate Way
- Found Property
Moraga Rd. and Happy Valley Rd
Police Department
Acalanes Rd./Valente Ct.
3400 Block Monroe Ave.
900 Block Camino Del Rio
- Fraud Credit Card
4100 Block Los Arabis Dr.
900 Block Hawthorn Dr.
- Fraud False Pretenses
4100 Block Los Arabis Dr.
- Hailed By Citizen
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Hit And Run Misdemeanor
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. (2)
900 Block Dewing Ave.
3700 Block Mosswood Dr.
50 Block Lafayette Cr.
3700 Block Mosswood Dr. (2)
- Identity Theft
3900 Block Happy Valley Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3300 Block Kim Rd.
1000 Block 1st St. (2)
20 Block Tiana Terrace
- Juvenile Disturbance
Moraga Blvd./Carol Ln.
1700 Block Springbrook Rd.

- Loitering
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Lost Property
Lafayette Car Wash
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Ordinance Violation
900 Block Moraga Rd.
3300 Block Moraga Blvd.
- Patrol Request
Reliez Station Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Petty Theft
4100 Block Happy Valley Rd.
3200 Block Elvia St.
3100 Block Old Tunnel Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
4100 Block Happy Valley Rd.
1000 Block 2nd St.
100 Block Castle Ct.
- Phone Harass
800 Block Acampo Dr.
- Prom Shoot
Silver Springs Rd./S. Silver Springs Rd.
- Public Nuisance
Hastings Ct./Hilltop Dr.
900 Block Moraga Rd.
Lancaster Dr./Lucas Dr.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
St Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.
- Reckless Driving
3400 Block Black Hawk Rd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.
School St./Topper Ln.
Dewing Ave./Bickerstaff St.
- Residential Burglary
1100 Block Brown Ave.
- Shoplift
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Stolen Recovery
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Stolen Vehicle / Recovery
El Nido Ranch Rd./St. Stephens Dr.
- Theft Access Card
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Threats
1000 Block Carol Ln.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Traffic Hazard
St. Marys Rd./Glenside Dr.
Knox Dr./Hidden Valley Rd.
3100 Block Camino Colorados
3700 Block Highland Rd.
3400 Block Golden Gate Way
Megraw Ln.
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Moraga Rd./Moraga Blvd.
800 Block Reliez Station Rd.
10 Block White Oak Dr.
4000 Block Los Arabis Dr.
Acalanes Rd. Off-ramp / WB 24
- Trespass
1200 Block Monticello Rd.
200 Block Lafayette Cr.
- Unwanted Guest
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3200 Block Quandt Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block 1st St.
- Vandalism
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
Camino Diablo/Stanley Blvd.
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block Windsor Dr.
- Vehicle Theft
900 Block Dewing Ave.
- Verbal Dispute
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block Acalanes Rd.
900 Block Janet Ln.
- Welfare Check
Moraga Blvd./4th St.

Judge rules in favor of city's position in lawsuit on Deer Hill housing development

By Pippa Fisher

A San Francisco-based housing advocate group suffered a setback in a recent Contra Costa Superior Court ruling regarding the potential development at Deer Hill in Lafayette.

Judge Judith Craddick denied the writ of mandate requested by Sonja Trauss on behalf of the San Francisco Bay Area Renters Federation (SFBARF), an organization

that seeks to increase the amount of rental housing across the Bay Area, in a lawsuit accusing the city of violating the state Housing Accountability Act.

The lawsuit concerning the 22-acres at Deer Hill claimed that by approving the lesser development of 44 single-family homes, down from the original plans for 315 multifamily units known as the

Terraces, the city was in violation of the HAA and had coerced the developer to scale back the scope of the plans.

However the judge found that "...the fact that the developer has maintained that the decision to suspend the Terraces and move forward with Deer Hill was voluntary, the petition is denied."

... continued on page A9

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Every dog can have his day at Dogtown Downtown in Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher



Is the city council in the doghouse again?

Photo provided

All the coolest Lamorinda dogs are currently planning to attend Dogtown Downtown from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, April 29.

The annual event, now in its fourth year, welcomes all well-behaved, leashed doggy participants, kicking off with a grand parade from the Lafayette Library and Learning Center to the Lafayette Plaza Park where all the activities and contests will be taking place.

The free event will include working dog and canine agility demonstrations by the Lafayette Police and Canine Companions.

For those dogs who don't have to take their canine professionalism to that sort of degree in their working career, there are more attainable

goals in the friendly competitions such as Best Dog-Owner Team Trick, Dog who can "Stay" the Longest, Best Costume and Best of Show.

In addition to the fun dog competitions there will be creative canine crafts and other activities for dog lovers of all ages.

Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation and Contra Costa County Animal Services will also be present and available for pet adoptions. The fun event will have plenty of dog-related vendors.

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Lafayette Library and Learning Center and the City of Lafayette host the annual community event.

Lafayette wins Great Place in California award

By Pippa Fisher



Preserving its hillsides was a plus for Lafayette.

Photo provided

As residents of Lafayette have long suspected, they are living in a pretty great city. Now the California Chapter of the America Planning Association has made that official with its "Great Places in California" award going to Lafayette.

The APA hands the award annually to only three locations in the state that exemplify character, quality and excellent planning regardless of whether it be a small town, a suburb, a public park or preserved open

space. The APA says, "It must be a place where people want to be!"

According to the notification, "The jury was highly impressed with the city's efforts to concentrate growth in its increasingly vibrant downtown area and to preserve the city's natural hillsides as a sustainable, multipurpose resource that defines the character of the city."

The city will receive the award at the APA Annual Awards Gala on June 2 at Preservation Park in Oakland.

Residents can take steps to deter crime, says Lafayette Police Chief

By Pippa Fisher

Crime tends to go in waves and Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen said that despite the perception that burglaries are up, in fact so far this year, residential burglaries in Lafayette are down from the same period last year.

That was one of the messages Lafayette's top cop told several Lafayette residents who recently braved the stormy elements and turned out for an informal style meeting to hear Christensen update them on the latest crime trends within the community.

Furthermore, Christensen made the point that of the seven residential burglaries so far in Lafayette, all seven have been solved. He at-

tributes this in part to their practice of collecting DNA at every crime scene to build a database, which he says is far superior to fingerprinting. He said that most criminals who have reached the level of attempting residential burglary are repeat offenders.

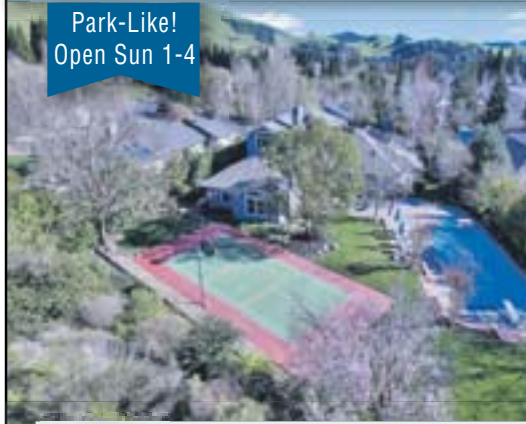
City-installed cameras have made catching criminals as they attempt to flee much easier, Christensen said.

He believes in keeping crime out of his city by being hard on those who attempt it here. He pointed out, "You will never correct the behavior but you can affect where they shop."

... continued on page A9

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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission

Joint meeting with DRB:
Monday, April 24, 6 p.m.
Monday, May 1, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

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

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Thursday, May 9, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Library
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



March 22 to April 11 Alarms

March 23 location n/a
March 24 100 block Shuey Dr.
March 24 100 block Walford Dr
March 25 location n/a
March 27 300 block Birchwood Dr.
April 4 10s block Laird Dr.
April 6 location n/a
April 7 200 block Scofield Dr.
April 10 1900 block Ascot Dr.
April 10 400 block Woodminster Dr.
April 11 400 block Fernwood Dr.
April 11 400 block Calle La Montana

March 23 Miscellaneous

A jarring discovery: the contents of which appeared to be prescription medication was discovered outside the police department. Police took control of the item until it could be properly disposed of.

March 24 Miscellaneous

Forty subjects doth a party make on Miramonte Drive. The resident was found in violation; subjects were instructed to party less heartily.

March 25 Simple assault

A party went from bad to worse when officers responded to reports of unwanted guests at a residence. Revelers asked to leave turned violent, lobbing bottles and attacking party-goers. They fled but were identified and detained by a neighboring police force. The Fight Club mentality persisted though, as another fight broke out. No one was seriously injured, all declined medical assistance and strangely, no one wanted to be prosecuted for battery or vandalism.

March 25 Lost property

A Dollar Tree trip cost one resident a lost wallet containing Saint Mary's College ID card, bank card and petty cash.

March 27 Suspicious Circumstances

Someone who accessed a man's email address list sent unwanted emails to family.

March 28 Threats

Anonymous internet threats were reported to police.

March 28 Auto collision

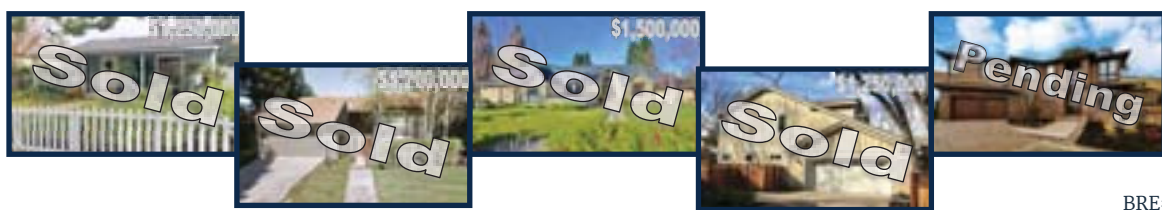
When an on-duty emergency vehicle collides with another vehicle does a second emergency vehicle respond? Probably not, if the damage was minor and both involved vehicles were driveable.

April 4 Vehicular Vandalism/Larceny

- A Beemer owner's black car extensively vandalized parked curbside on Tharp Drive.
- A black Mercedes Benz had tires slashed and door and bumper scratched.

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Town of Moraga mulls tax for storm drain repair

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga has started preliminary work to propose a new tax of some form to fund its storm drain network repair and maintenance.

The gaping hole in the middle of town is the perfect catalyst for staff and council to garner sufficient public support. One set of figures says it all according to Public Works Director Edric Kwan: Fixing the sinkhole before it failed would have cost \$1.7 million to the town, repairing it will total \$3.4 million. This time federal money will bail Moraga out of the hole, but the funding was first denied in the face of the town's lack of maintenance, and would not probably be extended again if the town does not take the bull by the horns and fix its drains.

Storm drains have been extensively studied by the public works department and in the report that was presented in 2015. The total

cost for repairing the high priority spots totals over \$9 million; the medium priority is \$11 million, and the low priority is over \$6 million for a total close to \$27 million to fully fix storm drains.

To these infrastructure expenditures Moraga needs to add a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit to control the water quality that will ultimately be discharged in its water drinking system. Staff estimates that another \$155,000 per year is required to be compliant with its NPDES permit.

Addressing the audit and finance committee on April 10, Kwan explained that there would be different options to ask residents to fund part or all of the needed work.

Proposition 218, The Right to Vote on Taxes Act, allows cities to charge property owners a fee to finance property-related services, such as storm drains, subject to voter approval. The fee isn't the

same for each property. For example a small lot with few nonpermeable surfaces would be charged less than a large property with a lot of concrete, because it would impact the storm drain system differently. Very large owners such as the school district would have more than one vote on the tax, while renters do not vote. This process requires a 50 percent majority to be approved.

Other options, including a special tax and a general obligation bond, require a two-thirds majority of voters for approval. In Moraga where the percentage of homeowner occupied houses is over 80 percent, the two groups voting on the tax, residents and homeowners, are not very different.

Staff, commissions and committees have a long road in front of them, probably a year or more of study and public outreach to inform and convince the residents that this new tax is a necessity. The town

will also have to gauge public support and decide the level of taxing that will be asked.

Funding all the needs would require an annual fee of about \$312 per parcel. SCI Consulting Group that is consulting with Moraga on this topic warns that a \$312 levy would be high. Vice mayor Roger Wykle, who sits on the audit and finance committee, said that if \$312 was what is needed to do things right, then it should be the amount asked to property owners.

SCI ultimately weighed in favor of the vice mayor adding, that recent trends show that when residents are presented with real facts and precise action plans, rather than vague marketing phrases, they respond positively to taxing.

The town council will discuss this topic shortly and an information campaign will start in the wake of the council's approval of the process. A measure is envisioned to be on the ballot in mid-2018.

Full-day kindergarten to start in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

Beginning next fall, Moraga School District will implement a full-day kindergarten, probably with the present first-grade schedule.

Carolyn Parker, MSD's director of curriculum and instruction, stressed that the additional minutes will allow for a more balanced day, with more instructional time, but also more social and emotional time.

"It's about creating the best teaching environment for the students," said kindergarten teacher Amanda Lorie.

Parker presented to the MSD board on April 13 the results of months of studies, other districts visits, parents' surveys and teachers' discussions. She said that so many reports, including large-scale national ones, say longer kindergarten days have shown gains in math and literacy, as well as better first-grade readiness and less need for intervention, which she equated to a cost savings for the district in the long run.

The director added that studies and visits made to the Palo Alto School District, which implement-

ed the full-day kindergarten last year, showed that students adjust well to the full-day program, and often flourish academically as well as emotionally and socially.

Lorie said that this was exactly the benefits teachers were looking for when they asked the MSD to look into the longer day. She said that she and her colleagues were looking for the best learning environment for their classrooms, where conversation and engagement can take place, where students are able to let down their guard and take risks. She said that the extended day was a gift of time.

"We are working so hard to create this optimal environment, and for doing so we have to cut things, cut lessons or strategy short, so we can go through the whole curriculum, and we also have to cut on their playtime and socialization time," she said.

The teacher stressed that the purpose was not to teach more but to give time for students to try new skill sets, and still have time to be five-or six-year-olds.

The program is not that avant-garde; in 2012 76 percent of kin-

dergartens in the U.S. were full-day programs, 46 percent in California. In the neighboring districts of Orinda and Lafayette, the students can stay for lunch, but no additional instructional time is provided.

Parker said she looked at studies about possible downsides. One argument that came out through the parents' survey that was done prior to the decision was fatigue, that the day would be too long for the children. The director explained that according to her research, as long as the day is balanced and includes enough playtime that would not be the case.

The increased day will add 55 of instructional minutes and 40 minutes for lunch and recess.

The transitional kindergarten program is not included in the extended day and will remain morning only. The new kindergarten day will start next fall at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. The next steps this year will be giving time to kindergarten teachers for collaboration and discussion of best practices, finalizing the new schedule and communicating with parents.

Group holds anti-war protest at Moraga Commons



Members of Indivisible Moraga braved a chilly north wind at the Moraga Commons April 13 and held a protest in tandem with nationwide vigils called by the organizers of the Women's March for the people of Syria. "We stand with their suffering," said protester Dolores Stratford.

President Donald Trump announced April 6 a cruise missile strike against a Syrian air base in retaliation for the regime's alleged use of chemical weapons against its people. "We are vehemently anti-war," said Megan Kinney, founder of Indivisible Moraga. "Doing nothing was being complicit with the Trump administration." Kinney's group favors diplomacy and the use of international criminal courts over military force.

Indivisible Moraga is part of the larger Indivisible movement, of which there are more than 6,000 groups fighting the Trump agenda. — Nick Marnell

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EBMUD, parks district under town scrutiny regarding Moraga landslide

By Sophie Braccini

Every month the Moraga Town Council reviews the status of the landslide that formed below Augusta Drive last year that resulted in three families having to leave their homes and the closure of a portion of the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail.

At the April 12 council meeting Moraga resident Dennis Martel, whose home is affected by the landslide, brought to the town's attention a geotechnical study that was done in January of 2016 when the first land movements occurred. The subsequent collapse of the hillside that destabilized the uphill homes happened two months later. Martel alleges that the agency did nothing to prevent the further degradation of the situation.

The three affected property owners initiated a lawsuit against EBMUD and East Bay Regional Parks District after EBMUD denied responsibility.

Moraga town manager Bob Priebe, who received a copy of the geotechnical study a few weeks ago from Martel, explained to the

council that in the "Conclusions and Recommendations" section of the report the consultant describes the active landslide area as appearing to be part of a larger landslide that predates the residential development in the area. The report also states that if true, failure of the slopes below the trail have essentially reduced the restraining forces on the landslide, which could potentially lead to additional landslide movement further upslope. The report adds that additional and potentially more significant movements could occur if the landslide is not stabilized, particularly if the region continues to experience significant rainfall.

Several precise recommendations were included in the report including borings of the active slide area and development of a slope stabilization repair scheme. The report recommends these activities be carried out as soon as possible, to prevent additional and potentially more significant slope movements from occurring.

In March of 2016 three families

had to leave their homes because of worsening conditions.

During the council meeting Priebe said that the two parties — the residents and the agencies — have shown interest in speeding up the litigation and that a meeting is being scheduled and will likely occur in May.

The town manager added that next month, EBMUD will be asked to come to the council to report on their efforts to resolve the more than a year old situation.

Council Member Dave Trotter indicated that he had been appointed to the East Bay Regional Park Advisory Committee last January and had asked that the park district present at its June 26 meeting its plan to deal with various segments of trails damaged by storms, including the Moraga one.

Priebe said that staff has created a page on the Town's website at www.moraga.ca.us/Augusta_Drive_Landslide to provide all staff reports and related attachments for the public to view.

Rheem Center Study Session



The Moraga Planning Commission and Design Review Board will hold a joint study session on the Rheem Valley Shopping Center from 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, April 24 in the council chambers and community meeting room, 335 Rheem Blvd. in Moraga.

This special joint meeting will look at US Realty Partners's plans for renovating their portion of center, which they purchased in December 2015.

The public is invited and will have the opportunity to give feedback. The agenda with architectural drawings will be available on the town website under "Planning Commission, agenda" before the meeting.

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, May 2, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, April 25, 7 p.m.
Special Joint Meeting with City Council
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, April 26, 6 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
Orinda Library

School Board Meetings

Orinda Union School District
Monday, May 8, 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



March 19 to April 1

- Alarms** 64
- Noise complaints** 3
- 911 Calls (includes hang-ups)** 7
- Traffic stops** 76
- Suspicious Circumstances** 20
- Suspicious Subjects** 7
- Suspicious Vehicles** 15
- Armed robbery**
20 block Indian Wells, Moraga
- Battery**
Wagner Ranch
10 block Irwin Way
- Burglary**
300 block El Toyonal
100 block Alice Ln.
- Burglary, Auto**
10 block Westwood Ct.
- Burglary, Commercial**
50 block Tomcat Way
- Burglary, Residential**
30 block Overhill Rd.
30 block Marston Rd.
10 block Crest View Dr.
10 block Rustic Way
- Civil**
200 block Hall Dr. (4)
10 block Yosemite Rd.
Miramonte High School
10 block Ardilla Rd
- Death, non-criminal**
Orinda Convalescent
- Disturbance**
Orinda Senior Village
Donald/Hall Drives
100 block Crest View Dr.
Orinda Theater
- Dispute**
10 block Crest View Dr.
- DUI**
Camino Pablo/North Ln.
- Elder abuse**
100 block Camino Sobrante
- Excessive speed**
Charles Hill Rd/El Nido
- Fraud**
reported to police
- Hit & Run**
Courtney Ln./Donald Dr.
- ID Theft**
100 block Via Floreado (2)
20 block Camino Encinas
- Grand Theft**
10 block Chelton Ct.
- Police/Fire/ EMS**
10 block Lost Valley
Safeway
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.
Camino Don Miguel/Vista del
- Public Nuisance**
10 block Donald Dr.
Silver Oak Terraces/Sundown
10 block Harran Cr.
Library
Sleepy Hollow Ln./Lombardy Ln.
- Reckless Driving**
St Stephen's/Hwy 24
Via Hermosa/La Espiral
Brookbank/Miner Roads
Moraga Way/Whitehall Dr.
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.
Safeway (2)
Camino Pablo/Monte Vista
San Pablo Dam Road/Wildcat
Theatre Square
Overhill/Tara Rd.
Camino Sobrante/La Espiral

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Orindans eager to hear Urban Land Institute's initial thoughts on city's downtown development plans

By Sora O'Doherty

An overflow crowd of about 150 came to hear a presentation on downtown development by the Urban Land Institute's Technical Assistance Panel at a joint meeting of Orinda's city council and planning commission.

At the end of two days of interviewing interested citizens, the TAP group — made up of eight professionals who volunteered their time to the Orinda project — already had a 63-page presentation chock full of information and ideas. While some ideas, such as downtown housing, continue to be controversial, many other suggestions, such as opening Orinda Community Park to the street, received apparent widespread approval. The presentation, which was limited to one hour, sparked a vigorous exchange of ideas on the future of downtown.

The TAP was given four tasks:

1. Based on the TAP interviews, what is the collective vision for downtown Orinda? Provide a draft a mission statement for downtown.
2. Based on the community's vision for downtown Orinda, what streetscape design concepts, if any, are recommended?
3. Based on the community's vision for downtown Orinda, what are the restoration and planning recommendations, if any, for San Pablo Creek?
4. Based on the community's vision for downtown Orinda, what changes, if any, are recommended to downtown development standards and allowable land uses?

The TAP found that Orinda possesses an impressive civic realm, consisting of the library, community center, and community park. ... continued on page A9



Opening the Orinda Community Park to the street was one idea of the TAP. Photo Andy Scheck

For more information

The following links provide access to information on Orinda downtown development. The TAP's members and mission, notes of their interviews, and their findings and suggestions can be found in their slides; residents can watch the video of the entire joint meeting of the city council and the Planning Commission online, and also access the briefing book prepared for the TAP by Orinda city staff.

ULI Slides:
<https://cityoforinda.app.box.com/s/xk9gps5hxtizlp7p18wcpw4y4yf2qhnq5>
 Video of ULI Presentation to Joint City Council/Planning Commission:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1REIMHXsO3a-rGRZHOTQUdpOOP1fusv4tR7i7wjFqknU/edit>
 Briefing Book prepared by Orinda Planning Department for ULI:
<http://orindaca.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1049&MinutesID=1231&Format=Minutes&MediaFileFormat=ismv>

Orinda police chief says crime is down, more solved

By Sora O'Doherty

Residential burglaries are down in Orinda, perhaps owing to security cameras, and the solve rate for crimes has jumped by double digits from five percent to 28 percent. In other good news, there is no "blue flu" in Orinda as the Orinda Police Department completed 2016 with a total of zero sick days. Police Chief Mark Nagel announced these statistics in his annual report to the council on crime on March 21. Although crime reports were down from 103 in 2012 to 36 in 2016, and eight in 2017 to date, Nagel did mention that violent crime is up, notably with two assaults with a deadly weapon, one attempted homicide, and six reported cases of domestic violence,

resulting in the injury of a spouse. Although the percentage increases may appear high, it is because the actual numbers are very small. The 100 percent increase in assaults with deadly weapons means that in 2016 there were two assaults, up from one in 2015. Nagel praised the use of cameras and the department plans to make further improvements, using funding already budgeted. The council agreed to a change in record keeping that will save the city staff time and money. Currently the data cards are collected from the cameras and stored for 90 days. However, the data is only used when a crime is reported. The council agreed that the cards could be left in place. The information

stored on the cards will be saved for one week, and then overwritten, unless a crime is reported, in which case the relevant camera card can be pulled and the data saved. The police department currently has two patrol cars with automated license plate readers, a fixed license plate reader at Wilder and 16 Reconyx security cameras at heavily travelled intersections and freeway access points. Chief Nagel recommends phasing in more automated license plate readers and solar-powered security cameras on entry/exit points and main intersections in Orinda. The number of cameras purchased will be based on available funding in the police department budget, and the types of camera chosen will depend on

power availability and location requirements. Solar-powered cameras cost about \$12,000 each but can be used where there is no power source. With infrared lenses, they provide useful data even at night. Cheaper cameras can be used where there is an existing power source. For example, the entrance to Wilder has a power source and is one-way in and out, so an automatic license plate recognition camera would be suitable, while more powerful security cameras are better suited to freeway on and off ramps, according to the chief. Any additional expenditure on security cameras will be funded from the budget already allocated to the police department.

Orinda sinkhole repair clears high hurdle, work to begin this week

By Sora O'Doherty

For the first time, the Orinda City council used an exception to the Brown Act to add an urgent item to its agenda that came to light in order to quickly begin repairs on the Miner Road sinkhole: permits. The item came to the council's attention after the agenda notice had been given to the public. Having provided the Army Corps of Engineers with additional justification of the continued state of emergency caused by the sinkhole, Orinda was deemed qualified for renewal of emergency permits. The Corps was convinced by the narrow nature of the roads be-

ing used as detours around Miner Road, as well as the continuing storms. Once the permits are issued, Orinda must begin the repairs within seven days. That clock started when the permits were issued on April 13, according to Jason Chen, Orinda's senior civil engineer. Although welcome, this also presents a potential problem for Orinda: it may have to start the work before qualifying for federal reimbursement, which, in theory, could jeopardize the possibility of qualifying for reimbursement of

the money they will spend. Director of Public Works and Engineering Services Larry Theis updated the council and the public on the current state of sinkhole repair plans. Further compromises have been reached concerning the design of the culvert for Miner Road. In order to provide a better design for passage of fish through the culvert, the city agreed to add another six inches of depth to the culvert, which will be buried in the channel bottom, with the addition of a concrete "curb" on the culvert that fish will be able to navigate. ... continued on page A8

- Camino Pablo/Hwy 24
- Wilder Rd./Windy Cr. Way
- Theft, Petty**
10 block Theatre Square
CVS
- Threats**
Miramonte High School
100 block Crest View Dr
- Tresspass**
Edgewood Rd/Lost Valley Dr.
10 block Quarry Hill Dr.
- Unauthorized possession**
10 block Theatre Square
- Vandalism**
100 block Camino Don Miguel
- Vehicle Theft**
Fingleaf Rd./Wilder
- Warrant**
500 block Moraga Way
Wanda Ln/Tahos Rd.

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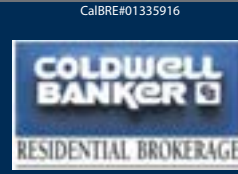


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New website debuts with announcement of photo contest winners

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda launched its new and improved website in April, and announced the winners of the Adore Orinda photo contest. A slideshow of the photos is available on the website, which can be found at www.cityoforinda.org.

The city says that the new website was designed with the user in mind and features intuitive navigation, directing users to the information they most need. City departments are listed on the navigation menu, commonly used services are listed by function under the "Services" menu, and most commonly asked questions and sought after information are located under the "How Do I" menu.

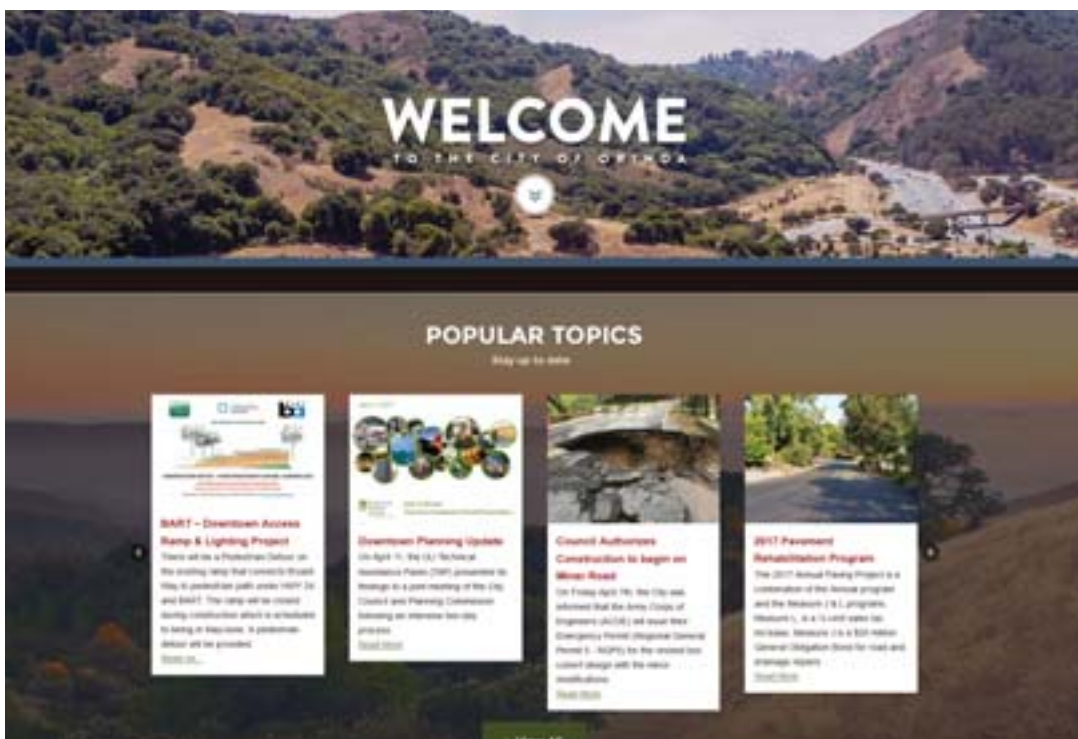
The new website includes improved functionality to boost the ability of visitors to interact with city offices. The enhanced functionality includes a "Notify Me" system where users can sign up for a number of updates including emergency alerts, news, and upcoming city council, committee and commission meetings and an Archive Center featuring council and commission agendas and minutes.

The City of Orinda partnered with government website specialist CivicPlus to create the new site. CivicPlus has developed more than 2,000 government websites across the country, and its content management system allows the staff to quickly and easily update the website.

Site users can also save favorite pages within MyDashboard, encouraging more-frequent visits and making important information even easier to find. Check out MyDashboard and customize your own page at www.cityoforinda.org/MyDashboard.

The city's website was last updated more than eight years ago. "Modernization of our city's website was long overdue," said Mayor Eve Phillips. "We are excited to offer our citizens a more professional website utilizing better technology to enhance civic engagement and provide a mobile website for easier accessibility and use."

The website debuted with winners of the Adore Orinda photo contest. They are:



A screen shot of Orinda's new website. Below is a list of the Adore Orinda photo contest winners.

Photo Category	Entrant Name	Photo Title/Description
18+	Built Environment	Sue Clark Severson Welcome to Orinda
18+	Community Life	Bruce Van Voorhis Classic Car Show
18+	Digitally Altered	Jane Bordalo Orinda Downtown at Dawn
18+	Parks and Open Space	Bruce Van Voorhis Overlooking Orinda
17 & Under	Built Environment	Kolton Tang Theater Square
17 & Under	Community Life	Cole Stieglitz Peacock in Early Morning Light
17 & Under	Parks and Open Space	Kolton Tang Orindawood's Woodhall

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5 OWL HILL CT | ORINDA
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Lynn Molloy | CalBRE#01910108



94 SANDERS RANCH RD | MORAGA
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Elena Hood | CalBRE#01221247



15 MERRILL DR | MORAGA
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5 BR | 4.5 BA | 4525 Sq. Ft.
Elena Hood | CalBRE#01221247



18 LAS PIEDRAS | ORINDA
\$2,199,000
6 BR | 5.5 BA | 5684 Sq. Ft.
Meredith Linamen | CalBRE#01918299



369 READ DRIVE | LAFAYETTE
\$2,050,000
5 BR | 3 BA | 3578 Sq. Ft.
Susan Schlicher | CalBRE#01395579



19 FIELDBROOK PL | MORAGA
\$1,650,000
4 BR | 2.5 BA | 2691 Sq. Ft.
Kirsten Buckley | CalBRE#01922658



117 BROOKLINE | MORAGA
\$1,395,000
4 BR | 2.5 BA | 3424 Sq. Ft.
Scott Winburne | CalBRE#00466182



7 CARR DRIVE | MORAGA
\$1,050,000
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Valerie Durantini | CalBRE#01376796

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors
Wednesday, April 19, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors
Tuesday, May 9, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez
For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

MOFD fire suppression rating improves, and lower insurance rates may follow for residents

By Nick Marnell



Courtesy MOFD

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Stephen Healy announced that the district achieved an improved rating from the Insurance Services Office for its fire suppression efforts, and that improved rating may help lower fire insurance rates for many district residents.

The ISO is a privately owned assessment company that collects statistical data on how effectively fire departments put out fires.

Through its Public Protection Classification program the company rates a community's effort to provide adequate fire service on a scale of 1 to 10, the lower number equating better fire protection. MOFD had registered a 3 rating since its inception in 1997, but effective April 1, the district rating improved to 2, a score attained by fewer than 3 percent of all fire districts nationwide.

According to the ISO, 10 per-

cent of its rating reflects the community's emergency communications capabilities, including 911 telephone and dispatching systems, for which MOFD contracts with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. Fifty percent of the rating reflects the quality of the fire department, including its equipment, staffing, level of training and the geographic distribution of fire stations. Evaluation of the water supply constitutes the remaining 40 percent of the ISO rating. The company looks at the condition and maintenance of the EBMUD hydrants, existence of alternative water sources, and the amount of available water, both in terms of volume and pressure, compared with the amount needed to suppress fires.

"We received extra credit for our reserve ladder truck, keeping better training records and our fire season staffing levels," Healy said.

ConFire will undergo its ISO review this year. "We have a split rating of 3/8B," said Deputy Fire Chief Lewis Broschard. "The rating of 3 exists within all the cities we serve and many of the unincor-

porated areas. The 8B rating is applicable only in those rural and remote areas, such as Briones, where a fire hydrant supplied by a municipal water system is more than 1,000 feet from a structure." Unincorporated areas of MOFD with no hydrants received a 2X rating.

In 2015 structure fires caused \$10.3 billion in damage, according to the National Fire Protection Association. It therefore behooves insurance companies to encourage communities to lower their ISO rating, generally resulting in lower premiums for communities with better protection. Representatives of the Farmers Insurance Group and State Farm Insurance — the country's leading property-casualty insurance company — would not comment on any specific correlation between an ISO rating and insurance premiums for Lamorinda homeowners.

The ISO rates only structure fire suppression efforts. The company does not consider vegetation fires in its rating, nor does it review emergency medical service procedures.

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Former Moraga firefighter takes on a massive challenge as East Contra Costa County chief

By Nick Marnell

Brian Helmick, the interim Fire Chief of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, never imagined that he would work in fire service.

Helmick starred in football, baseball and wrestling at Miramonte High School but the three-sport athlete blew out his left knee at a football scrimmage before his senior year. It was the last day Helmick ever played organized sports.

A potential sports career derailed, Helmick struggled to find his life's purpose. He traveled to Mexico as a volunteer with

the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church on a homebuilding mission. Through the church he met firefighters from the Moraga Fire District. He ate dinner with them. He hung out at the fire house. He began to feel similarities between sports and firefighting.

One day the captain asked Helmick to ride along on a Glorietta Boulevard vehicle accident call. He sat in the engine and observed. On the ride back to the station, the answer Helmick had sought since his football injury finally hit him. "I found it. This is it!" Helmick said of firefighting. "The camaraderie, like among teammates. The accident call itself was the game."

Helmick told the captain that he wanted to be a firefighter and the captain helped him land a reserve job right out of high school. Helmick stayed with what became the Moraga-Orinda Fire District for three years until 1998.

He left to join the Oakley-Knighten Fire District, which merged with two other districts to form ECCFPD in 2002. "I wanted to work where there was more volume and a wider diversity of calls," Helmick said. "I wanted to learn, to make an impact and then go back to MOFD. 'Tell them I'll be right back,' I said. Almost 20 years later, here I am."

Helmick felt a calling to the East County community. He loved its rural feel. He became union president and worked through the ranks to serve 10 years as a battalion chief. "I have had opportunities



Chief Brian Helmick poses with his family.

Courtesy of ECCFPD

to leave but I stayed here," he said, remaining with one of the most troubled fire districts in the Bay Area. "Our officers are expected to do a lot with a little. It's one of the reasons I came to this area," Helmick said.

It will take a leader with that perspective to handle the challenges in the district. As a result of Proposition 13, East County Fire receives an average of 7 percent of property tax allocation, unlike 12 percent for ConFire or 20 percent for MOFD. In the past five years voters have said no to two district parcel taxes, in effect telling lawmakers that it's up to them to figure out how to distribute the 1 percent that residents pay in property tax. As the region's

population has grown, fire stations have closed, leaving the district with three, though officials hope to reopen a fourth station in May.

"The situation is overwhelming and complex," the chief said. "Everything is on the table, including adjusting strategy and tactics to mitigate whatever problems we have safely and effectively."

As passionate as Helmick, 40, comes across, he made clear that his career does not define him. "My identity is Christ," he said. "My success in life is determined by my bride and my three children."

Nor has Helmick forgotten his roots. "No way would I be here if I hadn't been molded by the men at the Moraga Fire District," he said.

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Letters to the Editor

Happy Chase is coming to Moraga

Dear Editor

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We don't know why Orinda refused to have Chase Bank there.

(We citizens do not ALL do our banking "online" as there are too many hackers around, as we have found out the hard way!)

Bob's Christmas Tree lot will find a good home in Moraga.

Johnette Perry
Orinda

Orinda sinkhole

Further complications may be caused by EBMUD regarding the waterline that passes through the sinkhole work site. The latest hydraulic study agreed with the box culvert design and found that the overflow pipes are not necessary. This probably means that those pipes will be regarded as a "betterment" — intentional city improve-

ments — and therefore they may be ineligible for federal reimbursement. Other elements of the repairs may also be considered betterments.

The actions taken by the city council on April 10 included adoption of a resolution extending the state of emergency, approval of the latest plans for the repair, and au-

... continued from page A6

thorizing staff to negotiate a revised contact with Bay Cities for the construction work. The cost of the renegotiated construction contract is now estimated to be \$2.2 million, with another half million dollars for emergency work, bringing the total to \$2.7 million. The city now hopes that the repairs will be completed and the road reopened by the end of June.

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

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More Lafayette News

Water pumping station gets a roof, but installing it may be noisy

By Pippa Fisher



Photo provided

Residents on the east end of Mount Diablo Boulevard might be hearing loud "popping" noises as EBMUD installs the new metal roof to the new Diablo Vista Pumping Plant.

The roof deck installation, which was scheduled to start April 17, is the next stage of work on the new building that has been seen emerging next to Blodgett's.

EBMUD is constructing the new station, which, once com-

plete and electrical and mechanical systems have been tested, will replace the old pumping plant on Mount Diablo Boulevard near Carol Lane. Construction is set to continue through fall 2017.

So far, below ground drainage, electrical conduits and water lines have been installed and soil has been placed to backfill and level the ground. Inside the new pump house, water pump and piping installation is nearing completion and roofing is now

underway.

EBMUD says it will be working on Saturdays through the summer to complete on time as a result of the wet winter. Saturday work hours will be from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. with any louder activities starting after 8 a.m. Regular weekday work hours are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Once the new plant is online and pumping water to the community the old plant will be taken out of service and demolished.

Garden Club helps Lafayette bloom at Oak Hill Road off ramp

By Pippa Fisher



Photos provided by Wendi Shively



On a recent gorgeous Saturday morning, about 10 volunteers from the Lafayette Garden Club spent roughly an hour and a half beautifying a spot next to the City of Lafayette sign at the entrance to Oak Hill Road.

Garden club member Wendi Shively came up with the idea for the project after noticing the area had been an "eyesore" for so long. The club asked the Lafayette Rotary to donate half the funds so they could purchase five-gallon plants rather than smaller ones. They also

received a commitment from the city for watering the plants.

Shively explained that the planting is all Mediterranean, deer resistant, drought tolerant and should require very little maintenance. Through the hard work of all volunteers they quickly planted over 100 plants and used 50 bags of soil amendment and compost.

Right now they are planning on providing three maintenance days per year and have plans to plant several hundred daffodil bulbs in the fall.

Judge rules

... continued from page A2

"We're extremely pleased with the judge's decision," said Lafayette City Manager Steven Falk. "Lafayette supports smart growth, not indiscriminate growth. In this case, the city and the developer agreed to work together on a more suitable plan for that parcel. That's good government."

Trauss said that the HAA doesn't exist to protect developers; that it's meant to protect the larger number of renters that are excluded from living in Lafayette. "We still have another course of action we may pursue," she said. "By excluding 700 renters in favor of 44 homeowners, Lafayette vio-

lated Californians Fair Housing and Employment Act."

They have 20 days in which to appeal Craddick's decision.

Falk says that the city is doing its fair share to address the region's housing shortage. He points out that more than 500 multifamily units have been developed in the past seven years or are in the planning stages with more than a quarter of Lafayette's housing in rental units. "SFBARF is intent on 'suing the suburbs' over the housing crunch. In this case, they sued the wrong suburb."

Lafayette Police Chief

... continued from page A3

As a result of stiff penalties, he hopes to get word out through the criminal community that Lafayette is tough on crime.

His style is friendly and approachable but he wants to get his message across: that residents can take steps to help make themselves less of a target.

He stressed the importance of simply locking doors and windows. He said that five of the seven break-ins so far this year involved unlocked doors or windows. The same applies to side gates. He said most criminals

enter through a back door or window.

Christensen said that an alarm – the louder the better – is a good investment and that residents should advertise that they have one with stickers visible from outside. As another form of alarm, he said, a dog makes an excellent deterrent.

Cameras, both externally and internally, have allowed police to solve many recent crimes and he thoroughly encouraged their use.

He was particularly clear on one point – that residents should

avoid confronting a criminal.

The chief suggested that if residents will be away, they should not cancel their newspapers to avoid getting on a "vacation list" which can fall into the wrong hands. It is better to tell neighbors, who can then keep an eye on the house.

Lastly, he reminded all present that the Lafayette police offer an additional service of checking in on vacationing residents' homes.

Orinda

Downtown Development

They were enamored of the creek, and saw it as a surmountable challenge. They understood Orinda's tricky relationship with BART. Most cities would love to have a BART station right in town, said the TAP Chair, David Cropper, director of development for TMG, but acknowledged that it created parking problems for Orinda.

The TAP found Orinda teens to be outstanding in their engagement, and made suggestions for methods to keep teens connected. Jessica von Borck, assistant city manager in Fremont, suggested making Orinda Way a "living street" to en-

hance the pedestrian experience. A living street is a street primarily designed for pedestrians and cyclists and a social space where people can meet and children can play safely and legally and where vehicular access is secondary or even closed for pedestrian use.

The idea of focusing on San Pablo Creek remains popular, but ULI's suggestion that funding could come from developers of 240 units of housing downtown was met with conflicting views. While some expressed a desire for smaller living units downtown for residents wishing to downsize or perhaps for

... continued from page A6

adult children wanted to come back to Orinda and get started in the housing market, others were opposed to the idea.

One of the ideas that seemed to be met favorably was arranging a direct entrance to Theatre Square from BART near the Fourth Bore restaurant. The TAP also suggested turning Bryant Street into a parking area, but residents pointed out that the area is used for casual carpooling. Although parking was not within the TAP's scope, they recognized it as a problem, and mentioned the possibility of providing parking for employees.

Speakers in the public forum included representatives of What's Up Downtown Orinda, Orinda Vision, Orinda Watch, the Chamber of Commerce, and many individual Orinda residents.

Marty De Laveaga Stewart, an ancestor of the De Laveaga family who were formative in the development of Orinda, urged the city to go ahead with development, noting that downtown hasn't changed since the 1950s.

Andrew Van Wye favored the development of new housing units, opining that "housing delayed is housing denied."

Michael Kaplin also expressed interest in housing on Orinda Village, noting that some residents may want to downsize and their big houses, once sold, would increase the city's tax revenue.

Several speakers focused on the question, who is downtown development supposed to serve? Hillary Murphy, representing What's Up Downtown Orinda, liked that there were a lot of ideas that could be implemented in the short term, an opinion echoed by Mayor Eve Phillips.

Designing woman: Local entrepreneur opens new shop in Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini



Leslie Price in front of her new store.

Leslie Price began her design career 17 years ago, while raising her two sons in Moraga. She started in real estate staging houses. Wanting to work with her hands, she developed an upholstery and a cushion making enterprise in her garage, before embarking in the next phase of her business life just a few weeks ago as she opened her first store front: Price Style & Design in Lafayette.

Price explains how as she staged homes, buyers would sometimes ask her to create their newly purchased home's décor. Word of mouth was all it took to grow her interior design practice.

Remi Vranesh hired the interior designer for the front of her home,

kitchen, living room and dining room, and says that she could not imagine hiring anyone else. Vranesh believes that hiring a professional saves you from making mistakes, and ends up not adding to the final cost since professionals get wholesale prices. She qualifies the quality of Price's service as unprecedented.

Maura Richards, another client, adds that Price worked within their budget to redo all their painting, window treatment and furnishings. Both she and Vranesh say that Price has created beautiful spaces that their whole family, children included, enjoy everyday.

Price says that the passing of her mother was a turning point

in her life. Her mom had been a painter all her life as well as an art collector. When she died, Price and her brothers spent time together going through their mother's work and collections, reminiscing and sharing their joyful childhood memories, with art all around them. Price says that this was a defining moment for her, when all her professional experiences came into perspective and gave her a clear focus for what would be next for her: creating happy places for people around the art that inspires them.

When the opportunity to get a space to show her designs and work on clients' proposals appeared, she decided to take the plunge.

The intimate showroom-atelier is an upbeat yet peaceful and inviting space that the businesswoman created as an inspiring workspace for herself and her clients. Furniture, light features, objects and of course art create an engaging sense of place.

She displays paintings by Bridgette Thornton, a young local artist. Thornton now lives and works in Los Angeles, but it is on the walls of Campolindo High School that Price first spotted her work. She saw it again on Serena & Lily's website — a well-known site focusing on home décor and original art — and she reached out to the young woman.

"Her work is so happy," says Price. She showed Thornton schemes for her space and the young artist painted the pieces now in Price's space. The businesswoman adds that Thornton also does commission art if people want different color schemes.

Price also displays in her space couches by Robin Bruce, an American manufacturer that Price considers a well-priced quality manu-

facturer. She wanted to have a line people could get a feel for on the floor.

The designer has surrounded herself with orange and pink because those are the colors that make her happy, but when she works with clients she starts with what appeals to them, with the art and the colors that inspire them and their family.

Price finds the Lafayette location convenient to reach her clients who are located all over Lamorinda and in Walnut Creek. She says that she loves to work in a space that is

not her own house, that she appreciates being able to invite clients in, and also being able to have space to store her inventory of designs.

On top of interior design, Price does paint color consultation, upholstery, art curation and styling services. She loves working with people in the middle of a remodel. Price Style & Design is located at 3439 Mt Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette.

More information at www.pricestyleanddesign.com. More on Thornton's art is available at www.bridgettethornton.com.



Earth Day Festival

... continued from page A1

With youth specifically in mind, there will be an environmentally themed scavenger hunt and a "Safe Moves Bike Rodeo" where participants can learn about bike safety and Boy Scouts can work towards a biking merit badge.

For Lafayette's creative youth, there will be an adventure playground where children can use their imaginations to make their own creations using recycled materials. Global Student Embassy will lead a community participation art project using plastic straws collected locally to educate community members about waste created by single-use plastic straws.

Additionally attendees have the opportunity to help Orinda artist Lara Dutto finish an art piece that will feature a functioning rain barrel,

created with discarded materials collected by students at Stanley Middle School. The six-foot by six-foot structure will ultimately be placed in the Lafayette community garden.

Plenty of healthy food choices will be available along with live music and screening of environmentally themed films produced by local youth.

The annual Lafayette Awards of Environmental Excellence will be announced at the festival.

Attendees are encouraged to find alternative modes of transportation to the festival since there is limited parking. Those driving to the event are encouraged to park at Stanley Middle School. For those who bike to the festival, there will be a free bicycle valet hosted by a local Cub Scout troop.

Take action on Earth Day in Orinda



From 9:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday April 22, the City of Orinda will be beautified and cleaned during the ninth annual Orinda Action Day of Community Service by residents and friends of all ages.

Check-in time is 9:30 a.m. at the Orinda Library Plaza on 26 Orinda Way in Orinda. The first 300 volunteers will receive a free tee-shirt, snacks and coffee upon registration. The town's D.J. and "Voice of Orinda" Steve Harwood will be presenting prizes for unusual "finds" and pizza is served.

For more information regarding the event and those interested in being a project manager, please visit the OCF website, orindafoundation.org, or inquire at orindafoundation@gmail.com.

Lynn's Top Five

Realistic Steps for a Successful Career Change

By Lynn Ballou

Sometimes making a career change makes sense, and sometimes it's financially reckless. Whether starting on a new career path or starting your own business, how do you know if this is the right move for you financially? And of course what's really at stake is not just your financial stability — it's your lifetime happiness.

In writing this column I turned to local Orinda Certified Business Coach Paul Wildrick for his wisdom and inspiration. Now a very successful business coach with ActionCOACH, he knows and shares a lot about this topic, having made successful and strategic career moves himself multiple times, including as an entrepreneur. Here are a few important ideas for your consideration.

1) Study and research: Don't just jump into something on a whim. Be real about the new professional path you are contemplating including the time involved to be a success. "Re-tooling yourself can often take several years, whether it involves taking courses, getting certifications or degrees or even researching ideas for new companies," Paul advises. He notes that the internet is an unlimited resource of free information. Everything from who is currently engaged in the business you are interested in to what they charge, their customer base and your own potential earning power in this field, will help you think through your options.

2) Informational interviews: Paul and I are both big believers in the power of the informational interview. Don't be shy about sending an email to someone you feel could really help you narrow the scope of your business ideas to what's workable for you. The right influ-

ences can save you time, allowing you to learn and explore what works and what might not from those who have been there and done that. Sometimes you might even find a mentor in this person. There's no greater joy than to be a mentor and a supporter of someone who is interested in moving their life forward, so know that mentors abound!

3) Understand the accounting, tax and legal issues: Even if you have a brilliant business vision, you will need help from a qualified tax and accounting professional to decipher the accounting and tax matters involved. And if you are starting a business, your need for experienced legal counsel is paramount. How are you funding your career change or business start-up? What are the tax and accounting rules and choices? Which entity makes the most sense? Need capital? Do you borrow from others or use your own resources? You should do your own preliminary research, but when the time comes to make the move, you should already have retained an expert team as you begin first steps.

4) Can I afford to make this change? Working with your financial advisor, create a few forecasting models that illustrate several different approaches and strategies. For example, if your business plan could take several years to start paying off, maybe you think about phasing in vs. a cliff approach. Also pay attention to your capital burn rate. How much asset base can you afford to use and what happens to you and your future financially if your new path doesn't provide a successful business outcome? And although we all wish for a financially successful result, make the tough choices before you launch to be sure you can weather possible financial adversity you might

face.

5) Keep it real and stay on track with professional coaching: I definitely owe much of my business success to excellent coaching. Whether you need someone upfront to bounce ideas off of to be sure you have a viable idea and business plan or you are already successful but want to take it to the next level, the power of a great coaching relationship can be your key to unlocking new horizons.

It's scary to embark on new career and business paths, but don't let fear stymie you. Paul reminded me of a great proverb about motivation and moving your idea forward: "When is the best time to plant a tree? 20 years ago. Second best time? Right now!" Put in the time, do your homework, and maybe we'll all be enjoying that forest you create! If you have any questions for this column's guest, Paul Wildrick, you can reach him via email at paulwildrick@actioncoach.com or by phone, 925-963-9665.



Lynn Ballou is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ Professional and Regional Director with EP Wealth Advisors, a Registered Investment Advisory Firm in Lafayette. Information used in the writing of this column is believed to be factual and up-to-date, however, we do not guarantee its accuracy. This column does not involve the rendering of personalized investment advice and is not intended to supplement individualized professional advice. A financial, tax and/or legal professional should be consulted before implementing any of the strategies directly or indirectly suggested and discussed. All investment strategies have the potential for profit or loss.



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Transportation tax, Trump highlight Glazer-Baker Lafayette Town Hall

By Nick Marnell



Lafayette Mayor Mike Anderson introduces Sen. Steve Glazer at the April Lafayette Town Hall. Photo Nick Marnell

California's new \$52 billion transportation funding bill cast a large shadow over the Steve Glazer-Catharine Baker Lafayette Town Hall April 3 as demonstrators waved signs demanding its passage, speakers questioned Glazer over his stance and the cohost missed the meeting entirely as she was delayed at a state committee hearing over that very transportation bill.

Gov. Jerry Brown pushed hard for the April 6 passage of Senate Bill 1, a long-term transportation funding package that includes new revenue to repair local streets, highways, bridges and overpasses. The money will come mainly from a 12-cent-per-gallon gasoline tax increase and higher vehicle registration fees.

The first Town Hall speaker, a representative of the Bay Area Council, urged Sen. Glazer to vote for passage of the bill. Glazer, a Democrat, appeared unmoved.

"I have supported three tax increases," Glazer said, speaking of the local road repair measures he backed as a member of the Orinda City Council and the proposed countywide transportation tax increase in 2016. "I'm not sure I see the accountability here," he said. Glazer voted against the bill, having lobbied unsuccessfully for a BART no-strike provision.

Lafayette Council Member Ivor Samson later said that he wanted more specifics from Glazer. "I wanted to hear about changes he would suggest. What would he like to have seen in SB1?"

Other topics broached by the public extended from the lack of state funding for schools to universal health care for California. "Where would the money come from?" said Glazer, who noted that the best answer to the health care crisis is to save the federal Affordable Care Act.

No 2017 Town Hall seems complete without shots at the new administration in Washington. "We need a law to demand the release of tax returns for anyone who runs for president in California," posed an attendee, and Glazer said he supported the thrust of that concept.

Then came a question on what the state can do to protect the public from the actions of President Donald Trump. "There is a lot to worry about, and with good reason," the senator told the largely approving audience at the Stanley Middle School gymnasium. "It keeps me up at night."

Glazer said that the state has retained former attorney general Eric Holder to protect the rights of Californians from federal overreach.

Baker and Glazer conduct the joint town halls to foster bipartisanship in a state whose leaders Glazer said are twice as polarized as the U.S. Congress. "In 2016, Catharine and I agreed on state bills 88 percent of the time," said Glazer, who later commented that he and Baker work together to present a model of civil behavior which he believes makes everyone stronger.

Congressman rips Donald Trump and his policies at Lafayette Town Hall

By Nick Marnell



Congressman Mark DeSaulnier Photo Nick Marnell

From his opening remarks through the questions he took from the audience, Democratic U.S. Congressman Mark DeSaulnier pounded President Donald Trump unmercifully at the Lafayette Town Hall April 12. "The most dangerous person in the world is not a terrorist, but the president of the United States," he said to the attendees who packed the Stanley Middle School gymnasium.

The congressman told the cheering crowd that Trump must remove Steve Bannon as his chief strategist, publicize his tax returns and halt what he termed a Muslim travel ban. DeSaulnier touted his efforts to extend federal conflict of interest laws to include the

president and the vice president.

His response to a question about the proposed border wall evoked the biggest applause of the evening. "Never murder a political opponent who is committing suicide," said DeSaulnier, who has coauthored legislation to override the wall and safeguard sanctuary cities.

He told the crowd that he backs an independent investigation into Trump's Russian connections and he suggested that the crisis in Syria will not be solved solely by the military. "You need a mix of soft diplomacy," the congressman said.

A cancer survivor, DeSaulnier said that money for medical research must not be slashed out of the federal budget. "There's nothing like the National Institutes of Health in the world," he said. "It's crazy to suggest that we would cut this investment."

Trump's failed health care proposal was nothing more than "a tax cut for the top 1 percent of the country," DeSaulnier said, and the audience roared its approval when the congressman said that he favors universal health care.

DeSaulnier assured a questioner that he will vote against HR 610, a bill that calls for sending all federal education dollars to the states in the forms of federal grants so that the states can then distribute the money as vouchers.

The congressman has conducted two Town Halls in Orinda and one in Lafayette since he assumed office. "It's not a slight," he said about Moraga, where he said he will hold a future Town Hall but did not commit to a time frame.

"I am sure Congressman DeSaulnier knows that the people of Moraga are a very engaged segment of his constituency and all of us here would welcome his taking the time to engage with us," said Moraga Mayor Teresa Onoda.

Town Hall Theatre 'green'

Stack recognizes that there will be loss of revenue for the theater but says that this is too important. He says that Town Hall Theatre wants to lead, to dare other local businesses to follow.

"In the current climate, it is easy to feel overwhelmed by dark news. But you can't quit. You have to do something. For our part, Town Hall realizes that we can effect change locally, by doing our part and more, to move things along...whether that is via education, action or exposure."

He points out that the following night is the seventh annual Lafayette Community Music Festival, when local musicians donate their talents for the benefit of the theater. "We are an arts community, and that is our focus, but we can also help on an environmental level.

We are the Town Hall, we want to be the place that the community comes to for multiple resources and experiences."

The popular music festival will feature such musicians as Carroompas Room, Harrison Flynn, Way Fatt Reunion, (a tribute to Steve Sage & Steve Swan), Katy Lawrence Acoustic Trio and Meg Merry & The Locust Street Band.

Sustainable Lafayette Board Member Brad Crane says that by partnering up with THT, they have tapped into a wider group. He says it is about "Pushing the conversation."

"Americans use 135 million plastic water bottles and 500 million plastic straws every day. Only a fraction of that gets recycled. Much of it ends up in our water-

ways and ultimately our oceans."

He explains that this is the second event at THT. Their January screening of the film on global warming "Before the Flood" was so successful that THT was able to go "deep green," effectively allowing the theater to use all renewable energy for the next three years.

"Sustainable Lafayette is thrilled to partner again with Town Hall Theatre for another inspiring and educational film," Crane says. "'A Plastic Ocean' documents what our addiction to single-use plastic is doing to our marine ecosystems. Come and learn what we can do locally to have a positive impact."

Tickets are \$10 and \$5 for seniors and youth. Further details are available on the THT website, www.townhalltheatre.com.

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Local school budget

... continued from page A1

"With rising special education costs and very little funding coming from the State and federal government to support special education," Zinn said, "we are working with neighboring districts to determine if there are particular types of services that can be shared."

Carolyn Seaton, who is just finishing her first full year as superintendent of Orinda Schools, reports, "Orinda's budget demonstrates that we will be deficit spending by 2018. Cuts will be required if additional revenue sources are not identified."

Seaton added, "The state has reneged on several of its increases to funding, such as additional monies to cover cost of living increases. Additionally, the federal government has threatened cuts to education funding which would also impact our schools."

Another factor contributing to decreased revenue is the California Department of Education Local Control Funding Formula, implemented in 2013-14, which redistributes significant state funding to districts that serve high needs students. For example, in 2014-15, Orinda received less than \$7,000 per pupil, compared to a California average of \$9,200 per pupil. In New York, an average of \$22,000 was spent per pupil. The funding per pupil in the local districts is still below the 2007-08 figure.

One way the districts are looking to cut expenses is through reduction of staff. In Moraga, Burns noted that layoffs would be an outcome of declining enrollment. "We have a uniquely large outgoing eighth grade class with fewer incoming transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students. Fewer students mean fewer staff."

In Lafayette, Zinn and the district are looking at attrition to take care of reduction of positions, with reconfiguring of staff to provide needed support. She speaks for all

three districts when she says, "We are trying to make reductions as far away from direct daily classroom instruction with students."

Seaton foresees minimal staff reductions for the 2017-18 school year, but a lack of new revenue may force more drastic cuts for 2018-19.

Districts annually brace for the uncertainty of Proposition 98, which mandates education funding in California. But Burns cautions that "state revenue numbers between January (on which districts begin building budgets) and May could increase or decrease, providing more or less funding for schools."

In fact, the Sacramento Legislative Analyst's Office report published in February predicts that by May, "Revenue in 2017 18 could be significantly higher than assumed in January, with a resulting increase in the minimum guarantee." This would lead to significantly higher state funding for schools.

Lafayette School Board President David Gerson expressed the frustration of trying to run a budget without clarity for how you're go-

ing to get funded. "Every year we have to wait until the governor's budget is announced to know what we have."

Budget woes could be a lot worse for the Lamorinda schools if not for the support of the community. Lafayette Partners in Education invested \$2.8 million last year; the Moraga Education Fund granted \$975,000 for the TK-5th grade programs and \$525,000 to Joaquin Intermediate; while the Educational Foundation of Orinda gave approximately \$1.1 million to the schools, with another \$3.7 million coming from the Parents Clubs of all five OUSD schools.

In addition, generous parcel taxes in each of the cities contribute millions more to the schools. Gerson points out that senior citizens in Lafayette can opt out of the parcel tax. "We are in the process of making an appeal to our seniors to consider foregoing their senior exemption, if they can afford to do so. If even half the seniors who take the exemption would forego it, it could bring almost \$500,000 in revenue back into the district's budget," Zinn said.

No program cuts at Acalanes

At the secondary level, the Acalanes Union High School District faces many similar problems as the other school districts in Lamorinda.

Julie Bautista, the Chief Business Official for AUHSD, estimates that the funding for 2017-18 will not cover costs. "We are projected to deficit fund our programs and operations by \$560,000 due to inadequate state funding." She adds that the initial federal budget proposal would cut about \$100,000.

The district has done some minor trimming of positions, but otherwise does not anticipate any program cuts.







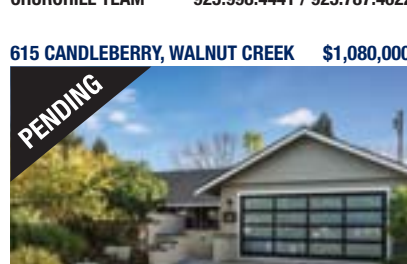
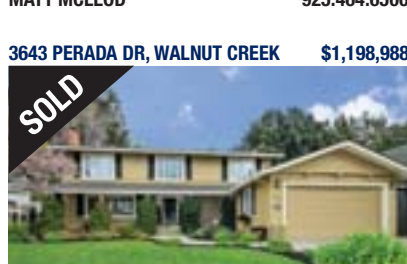
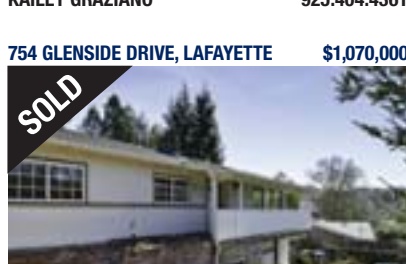
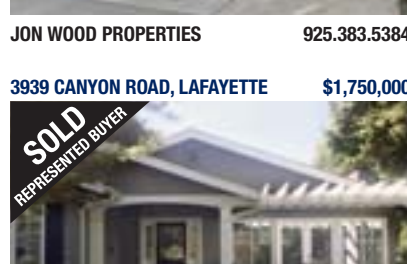
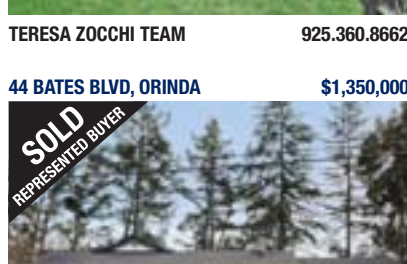
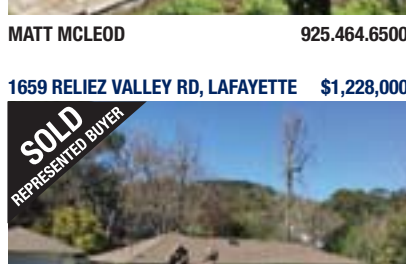
Bautista bemoaned the new state funding program, which shifts more funding to districts with higher percentage of low-wealth, English learner, and foster youth students. "The base funding amount in the new formula is absolutely inadequate for districts and creates an ongoing fiscal challenge for the AUHSD," Bautista said.

She expressed gratitude for the community's value for high quality education through their contributions to the education foundation and the parcel tax funds. "In total," she said, "local funding comprises 21 percent of the district's annual budget."

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SMC performs 'In the Heights', a slice-of-life play From Lin-Manuel Miranda

By A.K. Carroll



Saint Mary's students perform "In the Heights," by Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Photos Matthew Cohen

These days it's hard to scroll through social media without seeing a photo or post about a recent performance of "Hamilton." The rap-happy musical about U.S. founding father Alexander Hamilton won a Pulitzer Prize, Grammy Award, and 11 of its 16 Tony nominations in 2016. It's still a hot ticket, with premium seats going for over \$1,300 in San Francisco and hitting \$1,900 a pop in New York City. But while "Hamilton" may be the best-known of Lin-Manuel Miranda's creations, it isn't his first award-winning work.

When Miranda was a college sophomore at Wesleyan University, he punched out a first draft of "In the Heights," a slice-of-life story that hit Off-Broadway in 2007 and went on to win four of 13 Tony nominations in 2008. Though the show left New York in 2011, it's about to hit the stage of the LeFevre Theatre at Saint Mary's College, thanks to a dedicated cast of students and the expert guidance of guest director Nick Gabriel, artist and educator at San Francisco's American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.).

"I remember admiring (Lin-Manuel Miranda) even before he broke through with 'In the Heights,'" said Gabriel, who saw the show when it first hit Broadway. "It felt as significant as any landmark piece that defines an art form."

Although Gabriel was impressed by Miranda's fresh and innovative approach to the musical format, what really drew him in was the show's depiction of community. "All of the characters have a little moment, but it's largely about their relationships with one another despite their different aspirations and goals," said Gabriel. "They're all trying to connect with one another."

Choreographer Deb Leamy describes Miranda's "In the Heights" as a modern-day "West Side Story."

Set in the Manhattan neighborhood of Washington Heights and told from the perspective of Usnavi, a young Dominican-American bodega owner (originally played by Miranda), the story unfolds over the course of three days, during which the audience is privy to the joys and struggles of Usnavi's Latino community.

"I was so thrilled to come on board," said Leamy, who joined SMC's production team at the invitation of Gabriel, and who boasts a substantial Broadway career. "I have a personal connection to the original choreographer, Andy Blankenbuehler; we worked together on 'Fosse.'"

Bringing her high-caliber training to the undergraduates of SMC was both a challenge and an opportunity, for the students as well as for Leamy. "Anytime you work with young people as opposed to professionals it's at a different level, but that doesn't mean they're not as capable," she said. "It's just different. Their caliber has been quite high, and it has risen through the process, which has delighted us. They're young and still quite green in a lot of ways, but knowing in a lot of ways too."

"We worked really hard to find students with a passion for the material and who love performing," said Gabriel, noting that most of the cast is comprised of nontheater majors. "Theater is not their life the way it is for a lot of aspiring actors. But they're so committed to getting it right and to authenticity. The caliber of the work is kind of extraordinary."

The 16-member cast includes freshmen to seniors who are studying psychology, sociology, political science and other subjects. "They have really stepped up to meet the level of the musical theater majors in very surprising ways," said Leamy. "It wasn't easy, but I think they have all risen to the occasion."

During the performance, at-

tendees can expect to see music, song, dance, and spoken word via rap. The form is akin to that of "Hamilton," but the story is one that is far more familiar — a story of home and identity and community.

"It's not based on source material," said Gabriel. "It's based on personal experience, which seems to be really important to the students."

While the story is riveting and the music and lyrics are Tony-award-winning, what really sets this performance apart, according to Gabriel, is the cast. "In the end they really understood the importance of being present and available and expressing themselves with compassion and generosity and flexibility," he said. "It's been one of the more exciting directorial experiences I've had."

Performances of "In the Heights" take place April 27-30. Tickets are \$8-18, and can be purchased at the box office or online at www.stmarys-ca.edu/in-the-heights. Information only: 925-631-4670.

The public is invited to a free pre-show event on Friday, April 28, during which Professors José Feito and Raina León will reflect on growing up in immigrant families from the Caribbean. The conversation starts at 7 p.m. in the Delphine Intercultural Center, and will end prior to the 9 p.m. performance.



"In the Heights" is a modern "West Side Story."

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'Frantz': Love, lies and secrets during WWI

By Sophie Braccini



"Frantz" will be screened at the Orinda Theatre.

Photo provided

Dramatic and sentimental are two of the many adjectives that characterize this month international film presented in Orinda Theatre, "Frantz."

The French/German film touches on many themes such as betrayal, remorse, redemption, forgiveness, courage and the intense absurdity of war. It is also, and perhaps foremost, a compassionate and beautiful portrait of a woman who finds the strength to live in war-torn Europe at the beginning of the 20th century.

French director François Ozon chose to reinvent 1930 Ernst Lubitsch black and white silent film "Broken Lullaby." The movie starts in a small German town just after World War I. Every day Anna goes to the grave of her betrothed, Frantz, who died during the war. One day she sees there Adrien, a young Frenchman depositing roses

on his friend's grave. For Frantz' family and for the Germans in the small town, the presence of the Frenchman in the wake of a bitter defeat provokes passionate reactions. War has created deep scars that even the youth's hopes and dreams will not heal. Anna will grow and transcend her condition, opening a door for hope, even if we all know what will happen 15 years later.

Most of the time the historical movie is filmed in black and white, with elegance, slow but endearing timing, and with a lot more surprises that expected at first. It is the first time that a French film addresses German people's feelings after the first world war. It is done with subtlety and compassion, with mirror effect between the French and German perspectives, highlighting the complete inanity of war.

Ozon explained in interviews

for French magazines that he wanted to explore the themes of secrets and lies and that he believed that these themes would carry more strength told in a dramatic time of grief and terrible loss such as WWI in Europe, when millions were killed on all sides. Lubitsch's film was made in 1930, and the director had not, of course, anticipated the World War II. It ended with a new hope of French-German friendship that Lubitsch, a German pacifist that immigrated to the U.S., believed in. Ozon has a different perspective; he shows in his movies the rancor and humiliation created by the Versailles' treaty and, with no desire to judge, points out the emerging signs of revenge.

The character of Adrien, the Army private that survived the war, has been deeply wounded; he suffers what we would call PTSD today. Anna has suffered a great loss, but she has more strength and a fiercer desire to continue to live. The two main characters have a difficulty in explaining their emotions and their inner struggles. Ozon shows that it is through art that they best communicate, via poetry, music or painting. He shows that when people exchange through culture, an understanding is born and bridges are created. Art is a door to enter into the soul of another person, of another people.

The movie is filmed sometimes in German and sometimes in French, with English subtitles of course for American distribution. Ozon said that German was the first foreign language he learned in school and that he had great pleasure filming with German actors. German actress Paula Beer, as Anna, is a classic beauty, full of charm and appropriate self-restraint who dominates the cast, even if Pierre Niney, who plays Adrien, is also completely believable and touching.

"Frantz" will play for a week at the Orinda Theater, starting April 21. More information and tickets at lamorindatheatres.com.



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Project Empathy: opening young minds

By Sophie Braccini



JM students participate in Project Empathy.

Photo Sophie Braccini

In the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School large gym on March 16, sixth-graders with blindfolds over their eyes sat divided into seven groups, each led by two or three eighth-graders. One group clumsily try to spread jam, mustard or ketchup on a piece of bread. Another group attempted to navigate a small obstacle course with the help of a cane. A third group struggled to pour liquid in cups of different sizes without spilling, while a fourth group tried to put on clothes with their eyes shut.

The idea to teach these sixth-graders what it might feel like to be visually impaired came from Campolindo High School junior Audrey Moore, who started her search for heightened empathy when she was just 13.

Three summers ago, Moore was a precocious and inventive teen who was bored. Her mother asked her to do something productive with her time, so she decided to invent her own camp, creating a series of experiences, living the

lives of people very different from herself. One example was when she confined herself to a wheelchair for a few days. Her cousin sometimes pushed her when she went downtown, and Moore remembered how shocked she was when people addressed her cousin, instead of talking to Moore directly. She remembered how she felt somewhat invisible, and that it had a profound impact on her.

The next summer she designed a camp for younger kids to experience what it was like to live a much less privileged life. They had to live on a few dollars a day, collect and sell refuse, and live for a day with very little water.

This year Moore created an entire empathy experience for middle school students as part of the Campolindo Interact Club.

Moore worked with her club's classmates to design experiments for the 27 eighth-grade leadership class students. The idea was to train them first, and then have them meet with all the JM sixth-graders and

have them experience some of the challenges faced by blind people.

Moore explained that the blindfolding part of the activity helped develop empathy for a person adjusting to a visual impairment. It was followed by a discussion with station leaders emphasizing the capabilities of the blind and how they adapted to their situation. The JM eighth-graders created their own experiments for the sixth-graders and conducted the discussion groups afterward.

Moore's objective was not to have the students pity visually impaired people, but to open the doors of empathy in their hearts and minds. While the stations did focus solely on the blind, Moore believes that empathy, once developed, is not limited to just one group of people. She thinks that when we become aware of the lives and feelings of others, our empathy grows.

Her experience inspired her to show empathy toward others, and to spread empathy to even more people until it reaches a critical mass, creating a positive impact and spreading compassion. She hopes other Interact students will continue this new program after she goes on to college, and adds that she and her classmates could expand the program to other middle schools in the area.

Moore says that she grew up with the message of understanding in her family, but that it was only when she started her experiments that those messages became her reality.

Moore, who has always been attracted to studying the sciences, is thinking of studying neuroscience and exploring how empathy happens and impacts the brain. She says that now is the perfect time for more empathy; it's something that the world needs.

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Pacific Chamber Orchestra's spring concert offers breathtaking Brahms

By Sophie Braccini

Pacific Chamber Orchestra's last concert of the season will be its largest, with 36 musicians playing brass, winds, and string instruments, interpreting works by Ludwig van Beethoven, Edward Elgar and Johannes Brahms. Once again Maestro Lawrence Kohl proposes a unique yet accessible program that combines a deep understanding of musical history, filiation and structure.

The three proposed pieces will offer a voyage from the classical form to the more romantic, from the more noticeably structured to deepest undercurrents, and will showcase international musical talents such as cellist Nina Flyer.

The concert will start with Beethoven's Leonore Overture #3 from his opera "Fidelio." The opera tells the story of the efforts of Fidelio's wife Leonore to free him from prison. Kohl says that although the great musician was not a natural opera writer, this overture – Beethoven went through four versions — is a complete work of its own, a beautiful rendition of the drama throughout this opera. "Some of the traits of Beethoven that come out in this work are his passion for liberty, the heroic, and his hatred of tyranny. It is a stirring work," says Kohl.

The next piece is Elgar's Cello concerto, written after World War I. Kohl says that it carries a special fervent passion. He is proud to present Flyer, the Pacific Chamber Orchestra's principal cellist, as the featured soloist. Flyer is a lecturer in cello and chamber music at the University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music. Her UOP in-residence ensemble, Trio 180, performs and tours all over the world. She was also a lecturer in Cello at Cal State East Bay and taught at the Reykjavik School of Music.

The maestro adds that both Elgar and Brahms were influenced by Dvorak's incredible sense of the natural-sounding folk-like melodic line. "Indeed Brahms used to humorously note that one could write entire symphonies based upon melodies that Dvorak discarded," says Kohl. The maestro adds that Elgar also has this sense of expressive long melodic lines that intertwine with each other's without the listener perceiving any seam.

It took Brahms 10 to 21 years –depending on his own depiction— to write his first symphony. Kohl explains that this work is sometimes called Beethoven



Cellist Nina Flyer will perform with the PCO.

Photo provided

10th because Brahms uses some of Beethoven notes, not as plagiarism, but as an homage to his predecessor. However, in contrast to how Beethoven utilizes powerful small chunks, or discrete blocks to build his works, Brahms creates undercurrents and layers going on at the same time, creating a rich texture.

Where Beethoven would utilize the sound of a shepherd horn on a hill to create a panoramic impression of nature, Brahms will appeal to the senses and render the feeling of pleasure in nature felt by the shepherd on a hill, overlooking the immense panorama so that we feel the shepherd's joy. "That is what makes it a romantic work," says Kohl. He adds that Brahms still has a sense of restraint and contained emotions that makes him the most classic of the romantics.

Breathtaking Brahms will be played at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 22. Tickets are available at www.pacific-chamberorchestra.org.

Pet Projects

Tell Puddles to stay out of the rain puddles

By Mona Miller, DVM

Our wet winter this year has brought many benefits to parched California, and more specifically the Bay Area. However, one negative consequence might be an increase in the number of animals exposed to a potentially fatal disease called Leptospirosis — or Lepto, for short.

Although rare, one veterinary specialty hospital in San Francisco had already seen five cases from December through mid-February — which is more than those veterinarians have seen in a typical 12-month period. In part, this increase is due to more puddles of water and marshy areas, which harbor this deadly bacterium. Lepto is rare, but worth discussing — especially since it causes very serious illness. It can be transmitted to humans, and a canine vaccine is available that can help protect against the disease in dogs.

Lepto is a bacteria transmitted in the urine of almost any mammal, but not birds or reptiles. It can cause a fatal liver or kidney infection, as well as bleeding into the lungs. It is most often acquired when an infected mammal urinates, and another mammal comes along and drinks from the puddle of water that contains the infected urine, or absorbs it directly through a cut in the skin or paw pad.

In the East Bay, a common scenario is an infected deer or rat urinates in an area of marshy puddles or slow-moving creeks in one of the many open spaces that we enjoy. Animals that can carry Lepto

include deer, fox, coyote, skunk, raccoon, cattle and rodents. Additionally there is a population of sea lions on the northern California coast, north of Jenner, that carries Lepto — so pet owners who take their dogs to Mendocino County have a potential higher risk level. Likewise, properties with a large number of rats may be at higher risk. Thus, we often need high-level rodent control when bird feeders are used, or when we keep backyard chickens. Hunting dogs are also at higher risk.

Symptoms occur within several days of exposure to the bacteria, and are nonspecific for any particular illness: general malaise, lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea and sometimes fever, excessive thirst or jaundice.

Diagnosis can be difficult. The veterinarian needs to know to check for Lepto. General blood tests will show kidney or liver disease. More specific (and expensive) blood and urine tests are needed to show either antibodies or Lepto antigen.

The good news is that this is a treatable disease, and the prognosis is fair to excellent with early diagnosis AND aggressive treatment with appropriate antibiotics, intravenous fluids and stomach medication support. An infected dog might require 24-hour hospitalization care for three to five days.

There are vaccines available, and these are considered optional (or noncore vaccines). There are different strains of Lepto bacteria (called serovars), and the commercially available vaccines protect against some of these strains, but not all. Vaccine can alter diagnosis test results, so it's important to know if your dog has been vaccinated for Lepto. I recommend giving the vaccine if your dog is at all at risk — for instance, if they go hunting, camping, hiking in open spaces, or go to the beaches north of Jenner.

Lepto is a zoonotic disease, transmissible to humans — in the same way that dogs acquire it, and it causes the same severe kidney or liver infection. According to the Centers for Disease Control, about one-third of reported human cases

are acquired from contact with infected dogs, and another third through contact with infected rats. Thus, the canine vaccine provides some protection for both dogs and their owners.

Further information can be found at www.veterinarypartner.com and at Centers for Disease Control, www.cdc.gov.



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Dr. Mona Miller lives in Lafayette with her son, two cats and yellow Labrador. She attended UC Berkeley as an undergraduate, and received her DVM from UC Davis. She

has been happy to call Lafayette home since 2001. She can be reached via email at MonaSDVM@aol.com. She welcomes questions from readers that may get incorporated into a column.

JM to host pancake dinner

Submitted by Brett Lorie



Photo provided

The fourth annual Peace, Love and Pancake Dinner, to benefit the JBFC Schools in Tanzania, will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, April 21 at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School.

Dinner, made by the students, staff, and parents of JM, will be pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit and more. Student art, specially

made for this night, will be for sale. T-shirts will be available to be tie-dyed. And at 6:30 p.m., this year's movie, "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," will begin playing in the gymnasium. More information can be found, and tickets (\$10 each) can be purchased, at <http://peaceloveandpancakes.squarespace.com>.

Orinda Boy Scout Troop 57 Honors Record Eight New Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Steve Tennant



Troop 57's Newest Eagle Scouts (left to right): Steven Rein, Matthew Przekop, Robbie Tennant, Kevin Pease, Zach Peterson, Kyle Finger, Sean Kosteck, and Max Fleming. Photo provided

On both a memorable and historic day, Troop 57 of Orinda formally acknowledged the achievements of Kyle Finger, Maxwell Fleming, Sean Kosteck, Kevin Pease, Zachary Peterson, Matthew Przekop, Steven Rein and Robert Tennant at the Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony held on Sunday, March 19.

The Scouts' all had earned Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout which was celebrated before a standing-room-only gathering of friends and family at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Moraga. Life Scout Brendan McFeely ably served as Master of Ceremony for the event. After an invocation from Bishop Michael Delange, and opening from Unit Commissioner Herb Lederman, each Scout was presented their

Eagle award by Troop 57 Scoutmaster Jim McFeely. Each Scout spoke in response to a challenge from Scoutmaster David Finger to live by the obligations of the Eagle Scout and continue to live by the Scout Oath and Law.

The Eagle Scouts received proclamations from State Assemblywoman Catharine Baker, Orinda Mayor Eve Phillips, and Ryan Brown from Congressman's Mark DeSaulnier's office. Troop Committee Chair Steve Tennant presented congratulatory letters from elected officials including Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Diane Feinstein, Vice President Joe Biden and President and Mrs. Barack Obama. Senator Feinstein also sent U.S. flags which were flown over the U.S. Capital in honor of each scout.

Lafayette Rotary support planting

Submitted Matt Pease



From left, Norma Evans, Wendi Shively, Matt Pease, and Laurie Callaway Photo provided

The Lafayette Rotary Club presented a donation for \$1,500 to the Lafayette Garden Club to support their recent work in landscaping the Oak Hill off ramp on Highway 24. The Lafayette Garden Club teamed with the City of Lafayette and Lafayette Rotary to replant this area and refresh the soil and will work with the city to maintain these drought and deer resistant plants. "Lafayette Rotary is proud to support the Lafayette Garden Club to help upgrade one of the entrances to Lafayette, and it is consistent with our efforts to serve communities locally and globally," according to Norma Evans, President of Lafayette Rotary. "We are delighted

to use these funds to purchase plants and other materials for our project and believe everyone will be pleased with the work that has been completed" said Wendi Shively, a past president of the Lafayette Garden Club.

Lafayette Rotary meets every Thursday from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. at the Oakwood Athletic Club at 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Visitors are welcome to join them for lunch and you can get more information by emailing info@rotarylafayette.org. The Lafayette Garden Club (www.lafayettegardenclub.com) meets from 9:30 until 11 a.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Five Lamorinda Odyssey of the Mind Teams Advance to World Finals

Submitted by Keum Roberge



Moraga Rotary Team (Division I). Back row, from left, Coaches Jason Akel and Thomas Wang; middle row from left: Beatrice Roberge, Nicholas Aiken, Jordan Rodino, and Benjamin Wang; front row from left: Tyler Akel, Sophia King, and Joseph Pak. Photo by Mary Pat Aiken

Ten teams from Orinda, Lafayette, and Moraga competed in the Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament at Heritage High School in Brentwood on March 25, where they joined just under 200 teams from all over California. By placing first or second place in their respective divisions and categories, five Lamorinda teams have advanced to the World Finals. Three Moraga Rotary teams, one Orinda Rotary team, as well as the Glorietta Elementary School Blue Team will represent California at the Odyssey of the Mind 2017 World Finals on May 24-27 at Michigan State University.

A Division I team, sponsored by the Moraga Rotary and coached by Jason Akel and Thomas Wang, took second place for their solution to "Ready, Set, Balsa, Build." The problem includes building a balsa wood structure of no more than 15 grams that must hold as much weight as it can. The team, composed of fifth graders from Glorietta Elementary and St. Perpetua School, also placed first in the "Spontaneous" category, for their creative solution to an impromptu problem-solving challenge.

Another Division I team representing the Glorietta Elementary Blue Team took first place in "Catch Us If You Can," a problem that requires designing, building, and operating three vehicles that travel from a multi-

level parking garage to a secret meeting place while creating distractions to avoid being followed. The Glorietta team also earned the highly coveted Ranatra Fusca Award, named for the water strider insect, that is given to teams or individuals who display outstanding creativity during competition.

A Division II team, also sponsored by the Moraga Rotary and coached by Jenny Clare and Zunilda Ramos, won first place in the "Spontaneous" category and took second place for "Odd-A-Bot," a problem that involves designing, building, and operating an original robot that demonstrates human characteristics when performing tasks.

Two veteran Division III teams will compete in the World Finals. A Moraga Rotary Division III team, coached by Lydia Oxendine and composed of seven Campolindo High School students, won second place at the State Finals for "It's Time, Omer." The team, which also competed in the World Finals last year, has been together throughout their high school years.

Last but not least, a Division III team representing the Orinda Rotary and coached by Michael Kim, took first place in the "Ready, Set, Balsa, Build" challenge. Over the years, this accomplished team has represented California at State Tournaments and World Finals.



Moraga Rotary Team (Division II). Back row from left, Zac Yu, Sebastian Fojut; front row (from left): Ryan Erickson-King, Alex Clare, Vishal Lashkari, Jack Erickson-King. Photo Zunilda Ramos



Moraga Rotary Team (Division III). Back row from left, Stone Mao, Jake Oxendine, Michael DaRodda, Maria Wong; front row, from left, Kendall Schmidt, Andrea Calderon (Bennett Coates not pictured). Photo Lydia Oxendine

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Campolindo team shines at state Academic Decathlon finals

Submitted by Jonathan Lance



The entire Campolindo Academic Decathlon team.

The recently crowned Contra Costa County High School Academic Decathlon Champions, Campolindo High School, successfully represented Contra Costa County during the weekend of March 23-26, at the 2017 California Academic Decathlon, held in Sacramento.

Campolindo's coach Paul Verbanszky reported that the team represented their county very well at the state competition. The team took sixth place, overall, in Division 2 (medium-size school), and picked up a number of individual awards:

Zoe Portnoff, First Place (Gold), Overall Scores; Scholastic Division; First Place (Gold) in the Interview Competition, Scholastic

Division; Third Place (Bronze) in the subject of Literature, Scholastic Division; First Place (Gold) in the subject of Music, Scholastic Division; First Place (Gold) in the subject of Social Science, Scholastic Division; Third Place (Bronze) in the subject of Art, Scholastic Division.

Ashley Zhang, Seventh Place, Highest Scoring Student by a School; Overall; Second Place (Silver) in the subject of Art, Honors Division.

Mikhail Vasilyev, First Place (Gold) in the Essay Competition, Scholastic Division; Second Place (Silver) in the subject of Social Science, Scholastic Division.

Athya Uthayakumar, First Place (Gold) in the subject of Sci-

ence, Scholastic Division.

Bennett Coates, Second Place (Silver) in the subject of Science, Scholastic Division.

Verbanszky teaches AP psychology and government/economics, and has been Campolindo's Academic Decathlon coach since 2005. They have won the county's Academic Decathlon title for the past seven consecutive years. His Academic Decathlon is an after-school club with funding coming from donations and fundraising.

"It is a tremendous accomplishment to compete in the State Competition, says Verbanszky.

"I am very proud of my students."

OIS presents "Madagascar JR"

Submitted by Jeanette Lipp



The young performers in OIS's "Madagascar – A Musical Adventure JR."

Photo provided

Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater presents its spring musical, "Madagascar – A Musical Adventure JR.," April 27-29 at OIS.

Join Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, Gloria the hip hip Hippo and, of course, those hilarious, plotting penguins as they bound onto the OIS stage in this musical adventure. Based on the smash DreamWorks animated

motion picture, "Madagascar – A Musical Adventure JR." follows all of your favorite crack-a-lackin' friends as they escape from their home in New York's Central Park Zoo and find themselves on an unexpected journey to the madcap world of King Julien's Madagascar. Filled with outlandish characters and an upbeat score, the OIS production of Madagascar JR. will leave the audience with no choice

but to "Move It, Move It!"

There are two casts, comprised of approximately 70 OIS students along with additional 14 OIS students serving on tech crew. The 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.

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.

Submit stories to
storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Wagner Ranch Nature Area opens its gates for a day of fun and learning

By Sora O'Doherty

On Sunday, April 23, the public will have the rare opportunity to enjoy the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, adjacent to Wagner Ranch Elementary School.

Once a year the historic ranch and 18-acre nature preserve is open to the public for a wildlife festival. From 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. families and children can join in a variety of activities for all ages. Visitors can enjoy wildlife fun at the pond (red-legged frogs and the resident western pond turtle, Mr. T), meet animals in the garden (goats and beautiful parrots from the Contra Costa Avian Society), try DIY gardening projects, hands-on nature arts and crafts, and play

Earth Day games. There will be a rare docent tour of the meadows, woodland, ponds and streams, and the historic home site of Theodore Wagner, California's first Surveyor General.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase, or visitors may bring picnics to enjoy at the many available picnic tables. Several community organizations will present earth-friendly endeavors and there will also be a silent auction table. Children can get their Wildlife Guides stamped at 10 stations and receive a free honey stick at the Bee Station.

The Nature Area is located at 350 Camino Pablo in Orinda.

Film Clips

Silent Movie Star 'Baby Peggy' to make a rare appearance at the Rheem

By Derek Zemrak



Baby Peggy

Photo provided

Diana Serra Cary ("Baby Peggy") will be inducted into the Classic Film Hall of Fame in The Rheem Theatre at 7 p.m. on April 22.

Cary, 98, the only living silent screen movie star, will be making a rare appearance at the Classic Film Hall of Fame where the documentary "Baby Peggy: The Elephant in the Room" will be shown along with a few of her short films. Patti Leidecker will be performing the live musical score on the baby grand piano.

One of the silent era's most popular child stars, Baby Peggy was born Margaret ("Peggy Jean") Montgomery on October 26, 1918 in Merced, to a show business family. Her father, Jack Montgomery, was a cowboy and a stuntman in early films, and was the double for cowboy star Tom Mix.

Between 1920 and 1923 Baby Peggy appeared in nearly 150 short films and nine feature films. When Peggy was three the Century Film Corporation signed her to appear in their shorts and feature films, although she was occasionally loaned out for other productions, such as "Penrod" and "Fools First" (both 1922), or to Universal in the successful feature "The Darling of New York" (1923). Baby Peggy was the silent star precursor to sound era child star Shirley Temple of the 1930s. Peggy made the first film version of "Captain January" in 1924, and Shirley appeared in the remake a decade later. Many of Baby Peggy's popular comedies were parodies of movies in which she imaginatively imitated famous screen actresses Mary Pickford and Pola Negri. After the advent of sound, Peggy appeared in smaller roles during the 1930s, and retired from the screen in 1939. She earned several million dollars in her short career.

According to an article published in the 1923 edition of "The Blue Book of the Screen," Peggy celebrated her fourth birthday by purchasing a new home in Beverly Hills, where Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks, Charles Chaplin and others lived at the time.

Baby Peggy, who is known today as Diana Serra Cary, is a grandmother, silent film historian and respected author of several books about Hollywood including "Hollywood Posse" and "Whatever Happened to Baby Peggy?"

The local community can pay tribute to a living legend, Diana "Baby Peggy" Serra Cary.

Admission: \$10 for California International Film Festival members and \$15 for non-CAIFF members



Thoughtful Food

Environmentally sound sandwiches in Lafayette

By Susie Iventosch



A new favorite chicken salad. There's a new sandwich in Lamorinda! Well, make that a new sandwich shop in town with plenty of fun and interesting sandwiches, salads, soups and grain bowls and it is called Homegrown Sustainable Sandwiches.

Founded in the Seattle area by Brad Gillis and Ben Friedman, Homegrown was born from the co-founders' belief that "if we thoughtfully curate everything about our sandwiches — which grains go into our breads, how the animals behind our meats and cheeses are raised, what chemicals we're keeping off our produce -- each sandwich will be a little bit healthier for the planet

and the people who enjoy eating them," according to their menu.

Gillis and Friedman are often referred to as "sandwich environmentalists" and the stores are designed and built with an eye toward the environment using reclaimed building materials. From top to bottom, these guys are all about leaving a positive impact on the environment and happy, satisfied customers.

Toward that end, in 2014 Homegrown also started its own dedicated certified organic farm, Homegrown Sprouting Farms, in order to supply the restaurants with their own produce. Now that they

have entered the Bay Area market with stores in San Francisco, Danville and a brand new store in Lafayette (their 13th, which opened on April 11), they have also started an organic farm in Discovery Bay to supply their Bay Area restaurants with their own seasonal, organic "hyper local" produce. The new Lafayette store is located at 3597 Mt. Diablo Blvd. right where La Boulange used to be situated.

When I visited the Danville Homegrown location, I had one of the daily specials, which was a grilled Brie and apple sandwich, but I'll have to admit, there were so many choices it was tough to choose just one thing. The chicken and avocado grain bowl may have my name on it for my next visit.

Friedman has kindly shared for our readers their recipe for Chicken Cherry Pecan Chicken Salad, which is used in the Chicken Cherry Chicken Pecan Sandwich. I made this at home and it is superb.

"We love this chicken salad," Friedman said. "We wanted to create something that was fresh and bright enough for all seasons, but had rich, deep flavors that made it hearty and craveable. The herbs and roasted garlic cloves mix with the sweet tartness of the cherries and spice of the pecans to create an amazing umami mouthful."

Homegrown Sustainable Sandwiches
3597 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette, CA. 94549
www.eathomegrown.com

Homegrown's Chicken Cherry Pecan Chicken Salad

INGREDIENTS

1 lb. roasted or grilled chicken, chopped into bite size pieces
1 cup Just Mayo or your favorite mayonnaise (I used the Best Foods Olive Oil Mayo)
¼ cup dried tart cherries
¼ cup pecans, chopped (we slightly candy and spice ours with our favorite autumnal seasonings)
2 Tbsp. parsley, chopped fine
1 ½ Tbsp. roasted garlic cloves, chopped fine
1 ½ Tbsp. fresh sage, chopped fine
1 tsp. sea salt
1 tsp. black pepper, ground

DIRECTIONS

Mix all ingredients and serve on a bed of lettuce or as a sandwich filling. If using as a salad, garnish with a little extra parsley. For the pecans, I browned them slightly in a tiny bit of olive oil, sprinkled sugar over the top and cooked just long enough for the sugar to melt, stirring a few times. Remove from stove and toss with a mixture of 1/2 tsp. cardamom, 1/2 tsp. cinnamon, 1/2 tsp. cumin, and 1/2 tsp. sea salt.

Cooking Term of the Week

Deglaze

Deglazing is the method of using liquid, usually wine or broth, to remove stuck bits of food (meats or veggies) from the bottom of a pan after cooking and using that as a base for a sauce.

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.



Orinda Restaurant Tour: One more bite for the roads

By Sora O'Doherty

Food, wine, art and music will be the stars of the 2017 Orinda Restaurant Tour, which kicks off at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2.

With several innovations, this year will see more involvement by restaurants from Orinda Village and, for the first time, a street fair will feature Orinda merchants, so it will be possible to also pick up a gift for Mothers' Day.

Participants will gather at 51 Moraga Way, next to Peet's Coffee in a large parking area, to collect their ticket booklets. For a half hour they can enjoy a complimentary glass of fine wine from the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association and appetizers offered by the restaurants from the village side, including newcomers Genuine Goodness and Baja Cali. (Latecomers can also enjoy the wine and appetizers, supplies permitting.)

Then, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. guests can use their tickets at the 16 participating Orinda restaurants who will be offering samples. Among the restaurants participating are Casa Orinda, La Piazza, Shelby's, Sushi Island, Piccolo Napoli, Lava Pit Hawaiian Grill, Petra Café, and Europa Hof Brau, with dessert being provided by Republic of Cake, including Peet's coffee. Also returning to the tour are Cine Cuvée, Taverna Pellegrini, and Fourth Bore, restaurants that opened last year. New participants include Wild Magnolia and Reem's Steaks (change of ownership).

Last year the event was capped at 150 tickets, which sold out. This

year the Chamber of Commerce hopes to offer at least 200 tickets. But, according to Sophie Braccini, executive director of the chamber, the number of tickets will need to be capped about a week before the event so that the restaurants know how many guests to expect.

Another first for this year is an invitation from the Orinda Chamber of Commerce to local artists to showcase their art. Sanvitalia will be open, and Hilton House will be among the shops offering wares for sale. In addition some Orinda nonprofit organizations will participate, including CalShakes, whose 2017 season will open on May 24 with Shakespeare's "As You Like It."

There will also be live music to kick off the festivities and throughout the tour, with four live performing locations. The chamber of commerce is partnering with Orinda Schools who are selling tickets to the tour and the Educational Foundation of Orinda that is also supporting the event.

Oh, and why one for the road? Because Orinda restaurants top the list of sales tax revenue contributors, and that includes the half-cent tax that funds Orinda's road repairs, so when you dine in Orinda, you also contribute to improving the community and building better roads.

Tickets are \$40 and are available online at www.orindachamber.org. If there are any available, tickets may also be purchased on-site at the beginning of the tour.



Last year's Taste of Lafayette

Photo A. Scheck

Tickle your taste buds at annual Taste of Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher

Orinda isn't the only community celebrating its culinary delights. Lafayette's downtown area will be transformed into a large, strolling, community dinner party on May 16 when the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce once again hosts the Taste of Lafayette.

The popular culinary event offers a chance to meander through downtown Lafayette while sampling signature dishes from the city's popular Restaurant Row restaurants and local caterers.

"It's that one spring night where the sidewalks of Lafayette are filled with hundreds of smiling people, everyone enjoying conversation with friends and neighbors," says Lafayette Chamber's Executive Director Jay Lifson.

The evening kicks off at 5:30 p.m. in the Taste Pavilion on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Lafayette Circle, near Bank of the West when participants will check in, enjoy a complimentary glass of wine or beer, sample appetizers and enjoy live music.

At 6:30 p.m. ticket holders start their stroll at

their own pace, stopping at any or all of the more than 25 participating restaurants. There is a two-hour limit allowing all to enjoy at their leisure although, if required, there are two free shuttle buses available.

Diners will meet back at the taste pavilion for dessert, coffee and to hear the winner of the evening's raffle to benefit the Lafayette Community Foundation.

The annual event, which has sold out in previous years, is now in its 15th year. It promotes Lafayette's downtown and raises money to support the Lafayette Chamber and the Lafayette Community Foundation, a longstanding local nonprofit that invests in programs and projects which promote and enhance the civic, cultural, educational and environmental health of Lafayette.

Tickets are \$45 and are available from the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce's office located at 100 Lafayette Circle or through the website www.lafayettechamber.org until May 1. After that they will cost \$50.

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All 3 Lamorinda girls' lacrosse teams in mix for Diablo Athletic League crown

By Karl Buscheck



The Don's Anna De Roque.

Photos Gint Federas

As the second half of the Diablo Athletic League girls' lacrosse season rolls along, all three Lamorinda programs are making bids to secure the top spot in the standings.

Miramonte commands the lead, sitting at perfect 10-0, while Campolindo is second at 10-1 and Acalanes occupies third place with a 9-2 mark (9-6 record overall).

"I think things are going awesome," said Dons head coach Courtney Neff. "I'm super proud of them. They are really starting to believe that they belong and can beat those top teams."

Acalanes' two league losses came against the Mats and Cougars on March 17 and 24, respectively. The former was an especially frustrating setback for the Dons.

"We had a heart-breaking loss against Miramonte – a one-goal difference – and we were ahead for most of the game," Neff said. "Campo was tough, but I think (we) really do believe that (we) can hang with those teams and beat them So, I still sense of unfinished business that we want to take care of."

The Dons' second go-around against Miramonte comes on April 25 in Orinda and round two against Campolindo arrives on May 2 in Moraga in the final matchup of the DAL season.

While Neff credited senior captains Julia Mueller and Anna De Roque for winning the respect of the entire roster and pointed to

sophomores Marcy Morse and Claire Gallagher as the bosses of the midfield, the key for the Cougars has been the club's depth.

"Everyone brings something different to the table and it's awesome," Neff said. "We have so many different forms of talent."

For the second-place Cougars, the contributions have also been coming from players up and down the roster.

"The credit for our success thus far this season is attributable predominantly to the tremendous group of girls we have this year," head coach Dave Parker. "They've really bonded together as a team, they're unwaveringly unselfish – always willing to make the extra pass to an open player if they have a better shot."

Asked to highlight stars from this year's roster, Parker simply couldn't whittle down the list for a team whose only loss (13-1 overall) came against the Mats on March 14.

"I honestly believe that we have 10-11 girls that deserve all-league recognition at one level or another," Parker said. "We are really fortunate to have a lot of talent at each position."

At the beginning of the season, the Cougars set out to become the best team in program history as measured by setting season records for most total wins, most goals scored, fewest goals allowed, achieving the greatest post-season success, and earning the most vic-

tories over their chief rivals.

The next clash with one of those rivals comes against Miramonte on April 21 in Moraga.

"Friday's game against Miramonte is one that we're really looking forward to – it should be an epic battle between two pretty evenly-matched teams that could very possibly end up determining the league champion," Parker said.

Both the Cougars and the Mats are among the most respected set-ups in the state. MaxPreps ranks Campo as No. 29 in California and tabs Miramonte as the No. 38 squad.

"We cannot wait for this matchup," Mats' head coach Jackie Pelletier said of the upcoming dual. "Local rivalries like this get more than the team psyched to play. The school and community rally behind (us) as well. Games like this are a great test for us to see how far we've come this season."

For the title-hopeful Mats, a trio of seniors – Taylor Geary, Lucy Stenovec and Morgan Johnson – have shepherded a group that features 10 varsity newcomers.

"They have done a great job of paving the way for the younger players and it is a true testament to how well good leadership can translate into success," Pelletier said. "I think all of our players are learning that this leadership is important for growth not only on but off the field. They are three very talented ladies and have bright futures ahead of them."



Acalanes' Julia Mueller (9) and Susie Bush (11).

Cougar Football

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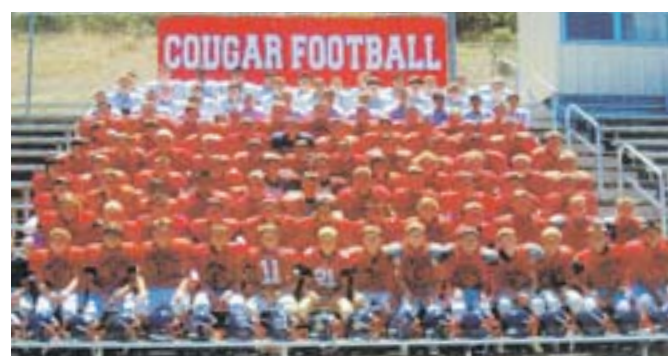
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 next to the Post Office)

Local divers compete at Greg Louganis Invitational Meet

Submitted by Patricia Cetrone



Brenna Cetrone (Moraga), Audrey Lundgren (Lafayette) and Hailey Tang (Moraga) traveled to Irvine to compete in the fifth annual Greg Louganis Invitational dive meet March 25-26. Cetrone, a junior at Miramonte High School, placed third on 3M and sixth on 1M, medaling on both boards. Lundgren, a sophomore at Acalanes High School, placed 17th on 1M. Tang, a freshman at Campolindo High School, placed 14th on 3M and 18th on 1M. All three are members of the Sherman Divers competitive team and were coached by Brianna Nicholson.

From left: Brenna Cetrone, Hailey Tang, Audrey Lundgren and coach Brianna Nicholson. Photo Trish Cetrone

Panfli named All-Star MVP

Submitted by Justin O'Bryant



Brooke Panfli (Acalanes) was selected to play in the GST/Passthaball Senior All-Star game recently in San Leandro along with some other very good Division 1-bound players, including Limari Thomas, Haley Vice Neat and Namiko Adams. Brooke's team won an exciting and close game and she took home the MVP trophy with her game-high 24 points, including five 3-pointers.

Brooke Panfli

Photo Gint Federas

DAL All-League – Foothill Division Boys 2016-2017

Boys Cross Country – 2016-17



Jared Yabu Jonathan Fierro

- 1st Team All-League – Foothill Division**
- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|--------|
| Jared Yabu | Campolindo | Senior |
| Jonathan Fierro | Miramonte | Senior |
| Raymond Diaz | Campolindo | Senior |
| Richard Gong | Campolindo | Senior |
- 2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division**
- | | | |
|------------------|------------|--------|
| Niki Moore | Campolindo | Senior |
| James Bull | Miramonte | Junior |
| Kyle Flett | Campolindo | Senior |
| Ethan Sauerberg | Campolindo | Junior |
| Navid Boozarpour | Campolindo | Senior |
- Honorable Mention – Foothill Division**
- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|--------|
| JJ Young | Miramonte | Junior |
| Zach Woodworth | Acalanes | Senior |
| Grant Churchill | Miramonte | Senior |

Boy's Water Polo – 2016-17

- Most Valuable Player – Foothill Division**
- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|--------|
| Tyler Abramson | Miramonte | Senior |
|----------------|-----------|--------|
- Outstanding Goalie – Foothill Division**
- | | | |
|------------|------------|--------|
| Ben Miller | Campolindo | Junior |
|------------|------------|--------|
- 1st Team All-League – Foothill Division**
- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|
| Peter Brassinga | Campolindo | Senior |
| Duncan Creed | Miramonte | Junior |
| Mikey Dakis | Miramonte | Junior |
| Beck Jurasius | Campolindo | Sophomore |
| Brad Robison | Acalanes | Senior |
| Christian Schillinger | Miramonte | Senior |
| Jake Stone | Acalanes | Sophomore |
| Michael Wheeler | Campolindo | Junior |
- 2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division**
- | | | |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|
| Giorgio Alessandria | Campolindo | Sophomore |
| Casey Conrad | Acalanes | Senior |
| Tommy Hawkins | Campolindo | Junior |
| Jackson Painter | Miramonte | Freshman |
| Stephen Schmidt | Miramonte | Senior |
| Bennett Winther | Acalanes | Junior |
- Honorable Mention – Foothill Division**
- | | | |
|---------------|------------|--------|
| Nate Welcomes | Acalanes | Senior |
| Wayne Hawkins | Campolindo | Senior |
| Will Clark | Miramonte | Junior |

Second Team – All-League – Foothill Division

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----|--------|
| Robbie Rowell | Acalanes | QB | Junior |
| Teddy Hoxie | Miramonte | OL | Junior |
| Tomie Vega | Campolindo | OL | Senior |
| Nick Rovetti | Miramonte | OL | Senior |
| Vince Mossotti | Campolindo | WR | Junior |
| Brian Merken | Acalanes | WR | Junior |
| Jake Hassard | Miramonte | DB | Junior |
| John Torchio | Campolindo | DB | Junior |
| Michael Hooper | Campolindo | DB | Senior |
| Casey McGonigle | Miramonte | LB | Senior |
| Enzo Gravino | Las Lomas | LB | Junior |

Boys Soccer – 2016-17

- Most Valuable Offensive Player – Valley Division**
- | | | |
|------------------|----------|--------|
| Drew Wondolowski | Acalanes | Senior |
|------------------|----------|--------|
- Co-Most Valuable Defensive Player – Valley Division**
- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Sam Pinto | Miramonte | Junior |
|-----------|-----------|--------|
- 1st Team All-League – Foothill Division**
- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|--------|
| Rupert Dusauzay | Campolindo | Senior |
| Seppi Ortman | Campolindo | Junior |
- 1st Team All-League – Valley Division**
- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Gabe Singer | Acalanes | Senior |
| Bryan Bamford | Acalanes | Senior |
| Chris Rogers | Acalanes | Sophomore |
| Ben Hodder | Miramonte | Senior |
| Michael Ramirez | Miramonte | Sophomore |

Boys Basketball – 2016-17



Jesse Marlow Charlie Hocking Hunter Clarke

- 1st Team All-League – Foothill Division**
- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------|
| Jesse Marlow | Acalanes | Senior |
| Charlie Hocking | Miramonte | Senior |
| Hunter Clarke | Campolindo | Freshman |
- 2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division**
- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| Chris Wright | Campolindo | Senior |
| Mitchell Smith | Acalanes | Junior |
| Will Cummins | Campolindo | Junior |
| Miles Beaubelle | Miramonte | Sophomore |
- Honorable Mention – Foothill Division**
- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|--------|
| Ryan Nall | Acalanes | Junior |
| Nick Foster | Miramonte | Senior |

Football - 2016-17



Tim Tague Jacob Westphal Nick Foster

- | Name | School | Position | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|--------|
| Tim Tague | Miramonte | QB | Senior |
- First Team – All-League – Foothill Division**
- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| Jacob Westphal | Campolindo | QB | Senior |
| Nick Foster | Miramonte | WR, DB | Senior |
| Ethan Fischler | Miramonte | WR | Junior |
| Matt Ringuist | Campolindo | WR | Senior |
| Kannah Cruickshank | Campolindo | WR | Senior |
| Joey Berzins | Campolindo | TE | Senior |
| Ryan Nall | Acalanes | DL | Junior |
| Lev Garcia | Campolindo | DB | Senior |
| Alex Cruz | Concord | LB | Senior |
| Ryan Walker | Miramonte | LB | Senior |
| Branden Bocobo | Campolindo | LB | Senior |
| Sterling Butler | Acalanes | LB | Senior |

2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|--------|
| Matty Ringquist | Campolindo | Senior |
| Kai Weyland | Campolindo | Senior |
- 2nd Team All-League – Valley Division**
- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|--------|
| Payson Newman | Acalanes | Senior |
| Alex Topping | Acalanes | Junior |
| Mark Von Hacht | Acalanes | Senior |
| William Knox | Miramonte | Senior |
| William Stenzel | Miramonte | Senior |
- Honorable Mention – Foothill Division**
- | | | |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| Jose Carra Hernandez | Campolindo | Sophomore |
| Vivek Lashkari | Campolindo | Sophomore |
| Solomon Dusauzay | Campolindo | Senior |
- Honorable Mention – Valley Division**
- | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Oliver Feigin | Acalanes | Junior |
| Luke Denham | Acalanes | Junior |
| Brody Quinn | Acalanes | Senior |
| Luca Argast | Miramonte | Sophomore |
| Conor Roemer | Miramonte | Sophomore |
| Nicholas Rovetti | Miramonte | Senior |

Wrestling – 2016-17

- 1st Team All-League**
- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----------|
| 132 | Tai White | Acalanes |
| 145 | Jeremy Ridge | Acalanes |
| 152 | Skylar Wright | Miramonte |
| 160 | Axel Jurgens | Acalanes |
| 170 | Maxwell Fleming | Miramonte |
- 2nd Team All-League**
- | | | |
|-----|-------------|-----------|
| 138 | Owen Madaus | Miramonte |
|-----|-------------|-----------|

We will publish the Girls list in our May 3rd issue.

www.Lamorindaweekly.com

Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:

- BART improvements coming to Lafayette spring 2017
- Fire Chief Paige Meyer: the Joe Montana of fire service
- A scaled-back Saranap Village moves to the Planning Commission
- Many local parents continue to support 5th-grade teacher in 'Duct Tape' case
- After 4 years, Moraga approves new Chase building
- PG&E to remove trees in Lafayette
- Wright reaches state finals for academically-gifted Mats wrestling team
- How Lamorindans dispose of an unwanted gun
- Togo's sandwich chain looks to Lafayette for expansion
- Acalanes students will work for college

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 4 Wednesday, April 19, 2017



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D16

Orinda Garden Tour highlights outdoor living

By Sophie Braccini



A Lafayette garden on the tour seen through an arbor.

Photo provided

Five Orinda and Lafayette gardens have been selected this year to showcase the best in elegant Californian suburban outside living in the biannual Orinda Garden Club Tour May 11.

This chance to see professionally landscaped private estates and the associated social events returns every other year. The tour is first an eye-pleaser and an opportunity for inspiration, and it also includes a fundraiser that supports the club's many

local programs.

This year the tour focuses on gardens that showcase outside living and entertainment. Orinda residents Shari Bashin-Sullivan and Richard Sullivan of Enchanting Planting designed three of the gardens featured on the tour. Bashin-Sullivan, a club member, encourages garden enthusiasts to tour all of the gardens to enjoy the many flowering plants and to also "appreciate the many interesting

textures, colors and structures provided by the evergreen shrubs, the backbone of a strong planting composition." Nature in these gardens is never very far, but it has been domesticated and magnified.

The very spectacular gardens present an interesting mix of formality, with some grandiose designs that take advantage of large spaces, mixed with the abundance and more carefree California spirit. Visitors will appreciate the variety of plants such as dwarf mondo grass, mature Japanese maples, wisteria, camellia and weeping bamboo, mixed with stunning architectural details such as a fire pit set into a large boulder.

The mix of colors, atmospheres and types of features is particularly appealing in one of the Lafayette gardens that completely wraps around the house. Another garden features interesting textures and shades of green from a combination of evergreen shrubs, annuals and ferns. The attention to detail and the careful maintenance of these gardens will certainly impress and inspire.

Water features and lawns are incorporated in several gardens along with arbors and terraces, surrounded by flowers, shrubs and trees that create an enchanting oasis for the homeowners and their guests.

The event is also a fundraiser for the club, along with other events that are happening simultaneously. The cocktail party is one of them (tickets are sold separately) and the club is organizing a silent auction as well as a unique plant sale. Club member Vanessa Crews explains that all the hundreds of plants sold are the result of club members' gardening talents.

... continued on page D4

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	12	\$728,000	\$2,725,000
MORAGA	8	\$745,000	\$1,607,000
ORINDA	10	\$1,200,000	\$2,425,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal RSource, 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 RSource. Neither Cal RSource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

- 3975 Canyon Road, \$2,725,000, 4 Bdrms, 5221 SqFt, 2002 YrBlt, 3-21-17;
Previous Sale: \$340,000, 01-04-01
- 918 Dewing Avenue #A, \$790,000, 2 Bdrms, 1245 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 3-23-17;
Previous Sale: \$588,000, 08-08-13
- 3958 Franke Lane, \$1,655,000, 3 Bdrms, 2040 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 3-27-17;
Previous Sale: \$170,000, 05-23-79
- 917 Hough Avenue #7, \$728,000, 2 Bdrms, 1038 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 3-24-17;
Previous Sale: \$418,000, 03-10-04
- 7 Lincolnshire Court, \$1,855,000, 3 Bdrms, 2595 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 3-15-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,520,000, 03-07-14
- 3507 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1381 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 3-23-17;
Previous Sale: \$785,000, 12-23-04
- 1155 Pleasant Hill Circle, \$1,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 2340 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 3-14-17;
Previous Sale: \$315,000, 08-29-97
- 3518 Rowe Place, \$1,700,000, 2 Bdrms, 1877 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 3-24-17
- 3943 South Peardale Drive, \$1,570,000, 3 Bdrms, 1579 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt,
3-16-17; Previous Sale: \$1,211,500, 07-20-07
- 1648 Springbrook Road, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1124 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 3-23-17;
Previous Sale: \$121,000, 01-15-80
- 4064 Valente Court, \$1,678,000, 4 Bdrms, 2927 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 3-16-17;
Previous Sale: \$435,000, 05-22-97
- 4038 Valente Drive, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 2512 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 3-17-17;
Previous Sale: \$399,000, 09-26-97

MORAGA

- 335 Calle La Mesa, \$745,000, 3 Bdrms, 1790 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 3-20-17
- 1100 Country Club Drive, \$1,483,000, 3 Bdrms, 2051 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt,
3-16-17; Previous Sale: \$1,130,000, 04-24-13
- 746 Crossbrook Drive, \$1,607,000, 4 Bdrms, 2654 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 3-17-17;
Previous Sale: \$770,000, 05-01-02
- 370 Donald Drive, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2214 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 3-16-17;
Previous Sale: \$191,500, 10-20-78
- 2 Carnoustie, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 3-24-17;
Previous Sale: \$575,000, 02-26-91
- 24 Corte Encina, \$1,530,000, 5 Bdrms, 2649 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 3-24-17;
Previous Sale: \$580,000, 08-07-98
- 1063 Del Rio Way, \$1,460,000, 5 Bdrms, 2820 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 3-24-17;
Previous Sale: \$915,000, 09-12-12
- 23 Winslow Place, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2062 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 3-24-17;
Previous Sale: \$335,000, 08-16-88

... continued on page D12

Correction:

A story in the April 5 issue of the Lamorinda Weekly's Our Homes section, "Changing your garden, changing your life," incorrectly identified the occupation of Orinda's Robert Sorenson. He is an ophthalmologist.

Coming Soon | Active | Pending | Sold 2017

Coming Soon



28 Dos Encinas, Orinda
Price to be determined

Coming Soon



989 Carol Ln, Lafayette
Listed at \$1,195,000

Active



1982 Reliez Valley Rd, Lafayette
Listed at \$3,300,000

Pending



3451 Echo Springs, Lafayette
Listed at \$1,390,000

Pending



514 Silverado Dr, Lafayette
Listed at \$1,379,000

Pending



3268 Ameno Dr, Lafayette
Listed at \$1,265,000

Pending



626 Moraga Way, Orinda
Listed at \$1,099,000

Pending



454 Turrin Dr, Pleasant Hill
Listed at \$915,000

Sold



1414 Eagle Point, Lafayette
Listed \$1,595,000 | Sold \$1,750,000

Sold



550 Merriewood Dr, Lafayette
Listed \$1,368,000 | Sold \$1,424,000

Sold



104 Hodges Dr, Moraga
Listed \$1,195,000 | Sold \$1,261,600

Sold



754 Glenside Dr, Lafayette
Listed \$995,000 | Sold \$1,070,000

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Orinda Garden Tour highlights outdoor living

... continued from page D1

Members have contributed herbs such as lemon verbena and pineapple sage, as well as perennials and succulents. There will also be orchids and some unusual scented leaf pelargoniums.

Crews adds that the club is particularly proud of the tomato plant sale that is offered thanks to the expertise of club member Sue Berger-Anderson. "She is an heirloom tomato guru and she is nurturing about 300 hard-to-find plants for the sale," says Crews with pride. Berger-Anderson grows multiple varieties in her Orinda garden, so these are almost sure to be successful for local gardeners. Crews says that every kitchen gardener will want to visit this sale. The purchase of a tour ticket is required to access the sale.

... continued on page D6



A Lafayette wrap-around garden.

Photo provided

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Web Id: WHY6TP, CalBRE #01738517



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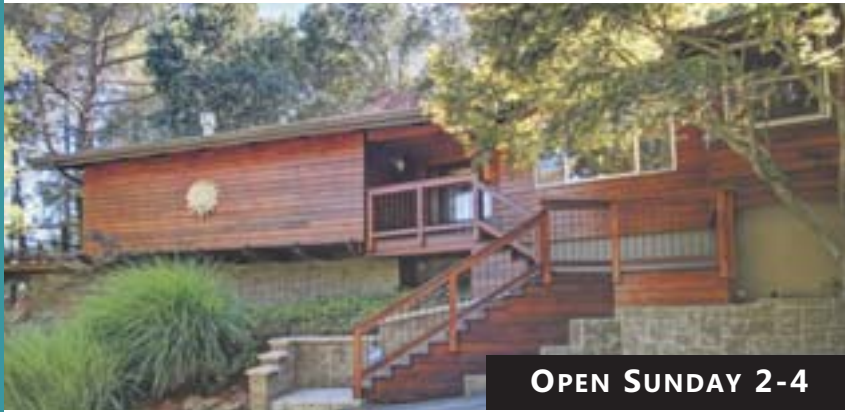
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Orinda Garden Tour

... continued from page D4



A beautiful Orinda garden with a pool

Photos provided

Club president Margie Murphy says that all the proceeds from the tour and its various events go to fund the club's different charitable projects. The club is one of the oldest in the area; it has been operating since 1937 with a mission to beautify Orinda. The ongoing projects include the restoration of the cork oaks (*Quercus suber*) around Lake Cascade and the installation of a memorial rock and bench, placing holiday wreaths around town as well as the beloved fall scarecrows and pumpkins, maintenance of several public spaces such as the Highway 24 off-ramp and the triangle at Orinda Way and Camino Sobrante.

The club extends its reach beyond Orinda with projects such as the monthly offering of Orinda Garden Club's bouquets for patients at Contra Costa Medical Center in Martinez, a project that has been going on for 52 years; participation in Partners 4 Plants at the Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline Restoration Area in Oakland; maintaining the David Austin Roses at The Gardens at Heather Farm in Walnut Creek; and scholarships to local students studying horticulture.

For more information and tickets visit www.orindagc.org/tour2017.



An elegant side garden on the tour.



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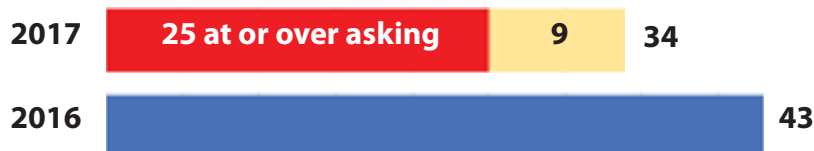


The Real Estate Quarter in Review

Homes continue to sell at a fast pace in Lamorinda

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS-T

Homes sold in Lafayette



Homes sold in Moraga



Homes sold in Orinda



The first quarter of 2017 showed a continued fast pace in activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate. Supply remains very low so the resulting sales quantities remain low. The average sales price continues to increase in Lafayette and Moraga but not in Orinda versus the year ago period. The days on market remain short and the homes that have multiple offers are increasing.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from January 1 through March 31, 2017, 34 single-family homes closed in Lafayette down from 43 that closed in the same quarter of 2016 and 49 in 2015. Sales prices ranged from \$835,000 to \$5,082,388 and the average number of days on market was 21. The average sales price was \$1,622,848 up from the year ago same period of \$1,570,712, up from \$1,411,281 in 2015 and \$1,323,841 in the same quarter of 2014. It was \$1,283,618 in the first quarter of 2013 and continuing the upward trend from the \$971,889 in the first quarter of 2012.

In Moraga the number of single-family closings was up to 28 from 20 in the first quarter of 2016. Prices so far this year ranged from \$745,000 to \$2,750,000. The average sale price was \$1,381,452, up over \$100,000 from \$1,278,575 a year ago. In the first quarter of 2015 it was \$1,195,451; in the first quarter of 2014 it was \$1,151,360, a slight increase from the \$1,137,226 in the first quarter of 2013, and a huge increase from the same quarter in 2012 when it was \$959,857 and the \$823,931 in the first quarter of 2011. The average marketing time was 36 days; much of this average coming from two homes that took seven months to sell. A year ago it was only 13 days.

... continued on page D14



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Don't miss this rare Glorietta contemporary home exquisitely remodeled in 2015 and boasts breathtaking views, ideal open floor plan with 4 bed, 3.5 baths, office, in-law/au-pair setup, and a separate 1650 sq ft detached 7 car garage with endless possibilities (guest house, office space, gym/play space). The home features a gorgeous custom chef's kitchen, private master suite with large walk in closet and spa bathroom, gorgeous hickory hardwood floors and amazing redwood clad soaring ceilings. Enjoy indoor/outdoor living at it finest with retracting Fleetwood window walls that open to batu decks, beautifully designed gardens, private fire pit, built-in BBQ with Green Egg smoker. Minutes from downtown, BART, trails, restaurants and top-rated Orinda schools!

Call me for details.
925.890.7807

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JUST LISTED: 12 Calvin Court, Walnut Creek



MICHELLE AND WENDY HOLCENBERG PRESENT:

South Walnut Creek.
North of your Expectations.

Bedrooms	Bathrooms	Price
3	2	\$975,000

Located on a storybook Saranap cul-de-sac close to downtown Walnut Creek sits a 3 bedroom, 2 bath house ready for you to call home. It features hardwood flooring, updated bathrooms, an expanded master, vaulted ceilings, dual-pane windows, air conditioning, new paint inside and out, and a spacious, level yard with lawn, decking, hot tub and a garden/play area.

Close to top-rated Parkmead and Tice Creek Schools, Las Lomas High School, Dewing Park Swim Club and restaurants, shops and entertainment. 3D tour at www.12Calvin.com

Open 4/23 1-4pm.



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Walk to 12 Years of School in Popular Del Rey Neighborhood!

4 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 2342 SQ. FT. ACRE



Natural Beauty in Orinda Downs

3 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS | 3291 SQ. FT. | .93 ACRE | \$1,550,000



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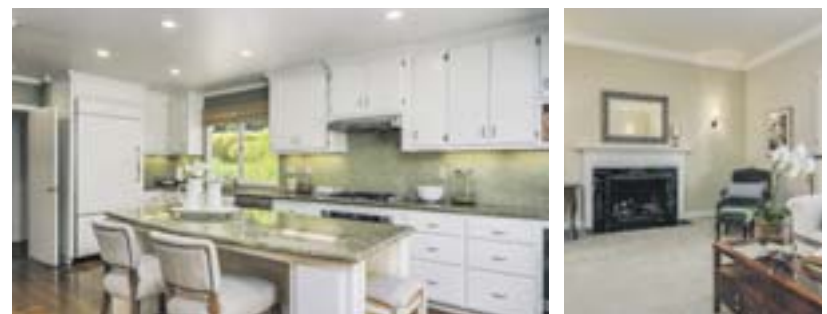


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All information herein deemed reliable but not guaranteed.





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16 Diablo Circle, Lafayette | 3BD/2BA, 1,730+/- sq. ft., .24+/- acre
16DiabloCircle.com | Offered at \$1,325,000

SOLD WITH MULTIPLE OFFERS!



Silver Dell Gem

16 Fallen Leaf Court, Lafayette | 4BD/2.5BA, 2,581+/- sq. ft., .55+/- acre
16FallenLeafCourt.com | Offered at \$1,775,000

Custom Las Huertas Paradise

Nestled in the sought after "Trail Neighborhood" pocket of Lafayette sits this beautifully crafted 5BD/4.5BA custom gem that was rebuilt to perfection in 2005. With an open floorplan, this 4,260+/- sq. ft. mostly single level home offers wonderful design elements,

COMING SOON



top-of-the-line finishes, expansive rooms and indoor/outdoor appeal. Situated on a .48+/- flat acre lot, the backyard is an entertainer's paradise with outdoor kitchen, gas fire-pit with surround seating, sun-swept dining area, saltwater pool, 10-person hot tub and large level grass area. Easy access to the Lafayette bike trail, top rated schools and downtown.

[Call for more information](#)

Lisa Brydon 925.285.8336 | Kristi Ives 925.788.8345

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

ORINDA

26 Alder Walk, \$1,329,000, 4 Bdrms, 2394 SqFt, 2014 YrBl, 3-17-17

44 Bates Boulevard, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2060 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 3-23-17

175 Camino Don Miguel, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2213 SqFt,
1955 YrBl, 3-16-17

220 Camino Sobrante, \$1,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 2886 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 3-23-17

5 De Soto Court, \$1,430,000, 4 Bdrms, 3113 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 3-22-17

86 La Espiral, \$1,728,000, 3 Bdrms, 2800 SqFt, 1977 YrBl, 3-27-17;

Previous Sale: \$975,000, 02-05-16

5 La Sombra Court, \$1,435,000, 4 Bdrms, 2191 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 3-24-17

18 Rabble Road, \$2,425,000, 6 Bdrms, 5817 SqFt, 2014 YrBl, 3-21-17;

Previous Sale: \$2,750,000, 12-01-14

8 Snow Court, \$1,700,000, 6 Bdrms, 3857 SqFt, 1986 YrBl, 3-17-17;

Previous Sale: \$1,042,000, 03-07-01

109 Van Ripper Lane, \$2,304,000, 4 Bdrms, 2952 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 3-21-17;

Previous Sale: \$1,700,000, 11-19-13

1560 Rancho Del Hambre, Lafayette

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Enchanting Custom Lafayette Estate property in Reliez Valley. Impeccably maintained with an ideal floorplan, high ceilings, and great spaces throughout. Features include an updated kitchen/family room, formal dining and living rooms, and 4+BR/4.5BA in 5200± sq.ft. The serene 3.12± acre estate features a Pebbletec pool, patio with barbecue, and boasts expansive views of Mt. Diablo, Briones Regional Park & Heritage Oaks. Away from it all yet close to town, FWY, Bart and top rated Lafayette schools.

Open Sunday 1:00-4:00 | Call for Price and Details | 1560RanchoDelHambre.com



Nancy Rothman

510.701.0230
nrothman@pacunion.com
nancyrothman.com

Dan Walner

510.205.7159
dan.walner@pacunion.com
danwalnerhomes.com



Coming Soon in Orinda!



87 Bates Blvd, Orinda

4+BR, 2.5BA, 2769± sq.ft., on a .48± acre lot,
3-car garage, traditional style with modern updating
First open houses | April 29th & 30th

Offered at \$1,649,000

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The Real Estate Quarter in Review

Homes continue to sell at a fast pace in Lamorinda

... continued from page D8

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was 28 versus a year ago when there were 23. Sales prices ranged from \$725,000 to \$3,150,000 with an average price of \$1,523,767. In the year ago first quarter it was \$1,634,327. This reduction in average is not based upon any signs of a decline in the market — just a sample size without many high end sales. In 2015 it was \$1,511,044. The average price in the first quarter of 2014 was \$1,128,161. In the first quarter of 2013 it was \$1,151,882. In the first 90 days of 2012 it was \$934,541. In 2011 it was \$894,857. It took an average of just 24 days on the market to sell a home, almost the same as the first quarter of last year when it took 22 days.

In the first quarter of 2016, Lafayette homes sold at an average of \$645.43 per square foot up from \$615.46 per square foot in 2016, a huge increase from 2015 when the average was at \$524.42 per square foot; Moraga came in at \$552.98 per square foot, down from a year ago when it was \$601.28 a square foot versus \$509.81 in 2015. Again, the price drop is based upon the size of the homes that sold, not a change in the marketplace. Orinda was at \$625.23 up from \$581.86 in 2016 and \$563.91 in 2015. To this point in 2014, the average price per square foot in Lafayette homes was \$542 per square foot, Moraga was \$462 and Orinda was at \$495.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had nine closings reported to the MLS and all were resales They ranged from \$525,000 to \$950,000. Moraga had 10 ranging from \$445,000 to \$1,015,000 with the highest four all being in Moraga Country Club, and Orinda had two — both on Brookwood Drive at \$490,000 and \$533,000.

As of April 10, 2017, there were 96 homes under contract per the MLS in the three combined communities (a year ago there were 65) with asking prices of \$389,000 to \$3,650,000. It should be pointed out that there is only one pending “Potential Short Sale” and one bank-owned property. This should lead to a much larger quantity of closings in the second quarter.

Inventory is at 96 as of April 10, 2017. A year ago it was 105 on the same date.

There are 39 Lafayette properties currently on the market versus 47 properties on the market in April, 2016. Asking prices in Lafayette currently range from \$844,044 to \$4,100,000. In Moraga, buyers have their choice of 16 homes, down from 18 homes at this time in 2016. They are listed between \$879,000 and \$2,699,500. There are no

distressed sales available in Lamorinda.

In Orinda there are 42 homes on the market. A year ago there were 40. The list prices range from \$920,000 to \$5,750,000.

As is the case nearly every quarter, the most active price range is in the more “affordable” price ranges. At the high end, 13 homes sold above \$2,000,000 in the three communities combined. A year ago there were 17. There are 39 currently available above this amount in the three communities combined.

Interest rates continue to be attractive and many corporations continue to relocate families both in to and out of the area. The real estate markets in San Francisco, the Peninsula, and the other side of the hill in Oakland and Piedmont have been even more active so there has been some spillover effect where buyers are willing to make longer commutes in order to find more “affordable housing.” Of course, Lamorinda and affordable housing are seldom mentioned in the same breath.

Lastly, it is important to look at what homes are selling for versus their list prices. Often homes come on the market at unrealistic prices and they do not sell. We also are seeing more homes listed well below true values so that it may encourage bidding wars that might generate a higher overall sales price. In the first quarter of this year many homes have had multiple offers and have sold at or above the list price.

Of the 34 single-family home sales that closed in Lafayette in the first quarter of 2017, 25 sold at or above the list price. In Moraga, 18 of the 28 sales were at or above the asking price and in Orinda, 24 of the 28 sold at or above the final listing price.

This will typically happen when a house goes pending in the first two weeks on the market. Of the 96 currently pending sales in the three Lamorinda communities combined, 64 went pending in 21 days or less. The actual average days on the market would be markedly lower but many agents are setting up marketing plans where they hold the home open to the public and to brokers and follow with an offer date in a week or so after exposing the property to the market—pointing to a high likelihood of a continued trend in homes selling above the asking price.

In the detached home category in the first quarter of 2017, the average sale price in Lafayette was just under 104 percent of the asking price. In Moraga it was 101.4 percent and in Orinda it was 103 percent of the final asking price.





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JUST LISTED IN HAPPY VALLEY GLEN!

1205 Monticello Road, Lafayette

Incredible .75 Acre* Single Level

5 Bedrooms 2.5 Baths 2370 Sq Ft*

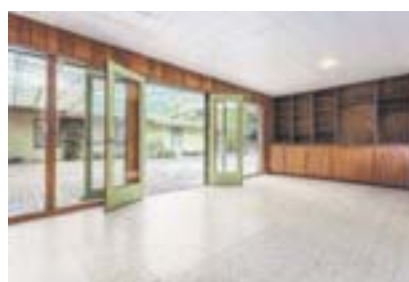
- Traditional ranch style home on a fabulous large level lot in the heart of Happy Valley Glen, one on Lafayette's most sought after neighborhoods
- Offered for the first time by the original owner/family, it was built in the fifties, a time when walls of glass to enhance California indoor-outdoor living were the order of the day
- Huge private yard in a beautiful .75 acre private setting with mature plantings and a giant redwood tree, this property was enjoyed over the years and is an inspirational palate for a creative landscape design and great venue for entertaining and daily living
- This is a Fixer - a Rare Opportunity in Happy Valley Glen, so bring your contractor and envision your dream!

Empty pool and spa in backyard are DANGEROUS. Children MUST have adult supervision at all times. Please NO viewing without a Real Estate Agent.

A wonderful neighborhood in a premium Lafayette location, a short distance to downtown Lafayette, and easy access to freeways and BART for commuting to San Francisco and other regional business centers.

Top Rated Lafayette Schools: Happy Valley Elementary, Stanley Intermediate, Acalanes High School District (please check with districts for school availability)

*per Public Records



*Digging Deep***Color me purple**

By Cynthia Brian

"God gets mad if you walk by the color purple in a field somewhere and don't notice it." — Alice Walker, "The Color Purple"*Fragrant French lilac.*

Photos Cynthia Brian

As I amble through my April garden, I know that God is very happy. Purple, the color of royalty, wisdom and luxury is favored in the majority of my botanical blooms. The nobility of the season is highlighted with the elegantly perfumed lilac, the scented grace of cascading wisteria, and the pride of the dark and handsome hellebore as it changes from its deep shaded amethyst of winter to the violet and chartreuse of spring. Bees are swarming, sucking the sweet nectar from the fragrant flowers of lavender, freesia and the Chinese fringe. Shades of indigo, mauve, and sangria pepper the landscape offering a powerful presence yet calming expression.

*Chinese Fringe with its plum colored flowers.*

Purple bearded iris and Dutch iris tender their brilliance in the middle of the weed-filled hillside where Jerusalem star, also known as goat's beard, thrive. Bulbs and rhizomes are the ultimate VIPs of my garden. Once planted, I forget about them until they burst into bloom, a welcome surprise especially when other plants are failing. If you are a beginner gardener, I highly recommend indulging in bulbs for all seasons. Most require little maintenance and effort with minimal water while providing maximum results. Some of my perennial favorites that are available in hues of purple include calla lily, gladiolus, oriental lily, bearded iris, Asiatic lily, dahlia, anemone and naked lady. ... continued on page D17

I love the color purple and have dedicated this month to everything purple. If you'd like to bring a bit more of the richness of purple into your outdoors, I recommend checking out a few of these favorite cultivars:

Agastache Violet Vision	Liatrix
Aquilegia Swan Lavender	Lantana
Aster Kickin' Purple	Lavender
Astilbe Purple Candles	Lilac
Azalea	Monarda Purple Rooster
Buddleia Miss Violet	Nepeta Little Trudy
Campanula Milan Lilac	Purple Potato Vine
Chinese Fringe Plant	Phlox Laura
Clematis Jackmanii	Prunella Purple Daze
Delphinium Pagan Purples	Rose Angel Face
Digitalis Sugar Plum	Rhododendron
Echinacea Magnus	Salvia May Night
Freesia	Society Garlic
Hellebore Dark and Handsome	Sea Foam Statice
Hemerocallis Black Stockings	Tulips (Black Parrot or Victoria's Secret)
Heuchera Fire Alarm	Veronica Hocus Pocus
Hollyhock Crème de Cassis	Wisteria
Hydrangea Let's Dance Rave	
Iris Superstition	

Ask your nursery if they carry inventory from Bluestone Perennials, Brent and Becky's, White Flower Farm or Proven Winners. While perusing the gardens, buy petunias, pansies, zinnias and other annuals in the hues that will brighten your landscape.

*"Purple haze, all in my brain
Lately things they don't seem the same
Actin' funny, but I don't know why
Excuse me while I kiss the sky!"— Jimi Hendrix*

I am kissing the sky with joy for spring. Get your purple haze on!

... continued on page D18



Jerusalem star, also known as goat's beard.



Close-up of violet-hued wisteria.

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for April

SPLASH your barbecue grill with white vinegar then scrub with half an onion to clean the grates and get ready for outside dining.

BUFF your garden tools by plunging them in a five-gallon bucket of sand mixed with a cup of vegetable oil. The sand will keep them sharper and the oil wards off rust. Small hand tools can be stored in the sand bucket.

PLANT frost tender plants as the weather warms towards the end of the month. Ground covers, citrus, bougainvillea, and summer annuals are available for purchase.

SOW seeds of scarlet runner bean, sweet peas, or morning glories to climb on fences and wire.

RESIST cutting back the dying leaves of narcissi and daffodils. The fronds are gathering their nutrition for next year's blooms. Cut them back only when as dry as potato chips.

BAIT the snails and slugs, pick them off by hand, use copper barriers, or bowls of beer. These slimy crawlers will devour new seedlings.

BUY ladybugs from your nursery or garden center if you see aphids or other pests on your plants. Remember ladybugs fly to infested gardens.

VISIT the Be the Star You Are! booth at the Moraga Faire 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 13 to get a bag of complimentary spring potpourri. Bring your gardening questions and I'll be there to answer them. www.BetheStarYouAre.org/events.

SELECT appropriate plants in one- or two-gallon pots for your shade garden. Smaller sizes don't root as quickly. Hostas, ferns, vinca minor, anemones, begonias and impatiens mingle beautifully without much sunlight.

PLANT purple anything this spring and be delighted all year.

WEED, weed, weed. Because of the heavy rains this year, weeds are ubiquitous, yet easy to pull. If they don't have seed heads, add to your compost pile.

PREORDER my forthcoming garden book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener," Book I in the Garden Shorts Series. All preorders will receive extra goodies such as heirloom seeds, bookmarks and more. Email me for details, Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds benefit the 501c3 Be the Star You Are! charity.

Win \$50,000 for your Garden: As a judge in America's Best Gardener Contest, I encourage you to enter your best garden photo. The top prize is \$50,000. www.americas-bestgardener.com.

BUY a beautiful potted purple lavender plant to show your love for your mother or anyone's mom's on Mother's Day.

A heartfelt shout out to every mom! You are the nurturers and our teachers. Happy Mother's Day! Let it rain purple.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



Lantana and lavender comingle in rock garden.



Purple vetch is a nitrogen-rich cover crop.



Deep purple bearded iris.



Cynthia Brian in shades of purple.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is a New York Times best selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's Radio show at www.StarStyleRadio.com Available for hire for any project. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com 925-377-STAR

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ORINDA



New Listing

282 Glorietta Blvd

Stylish architect's home less than .25 miles from Glorietta Elementary! Hardwood floors, fresh paint & additional updates. This home is move-in ready.

\$995,000

ORINDA



New Listing

38 Whitehall Drive

Charming completely updated home in fabulous neighborhood. Dual panes windows, hardwoods, light & bright inside. Incredible entertaining areas inside & out. Close to K-12 excellent Orinda schools, shopping.

\$1,295,000

ORINDA



New Listing

51 Valencia Road A magical home & setting w/stylish updates, spacious & open floor-plan & wonderful in/out living. Enjoy the wood floors, updated kitchen & baths, walls of glass & numerous upgrades. Conv. to town, schools, BART.

\$1,398,000

ORINDA



New Listing

32 Coachwood Terrace

Special setting, custom modern design with oversized rooms + high ceilings. Ideal floor plan with family room off kitchen + bonus recreation room. A well valued home in the DOWNS.

\$1,550,000

ORINDA



New Listing

10 Oak Drive

Stunning traditional w/ classic finishes! 5 bed, 3.5 baths, apx. 4,907 sqft. Grand spaces in beautiful condition. Huge master retreat. .89 acres w/ sport court. Close to town and schools.

\$1,880,000

ORINDA



New Listing

24 La Campana

Old World Charm in the heart of the OCC. A 1930's jewel with architectural interests that sets the stage for this special home. Beautifully updated inside & out with gorgeous English gardens & views.

\$2,195,000

ORINDA



176 Camino Don Miguel

New to market! Magnificent custom built classic traditional 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath home located on the 5th fairway of Orinda Country Club.

\$2,350,000

ORINDA



572 Dalewood Drive

Stunning executive 5bd/4.5ba, apx. 5211sf home in Orinda Downs. High ceilings & hwd flrs; large family room & rec/game room opens to deck w/outdoor kitchen & gazebo w/views.

\$2,350,000

ORINDA



New Listing

20 Red Coach Lane

Rare opportunity in Orinda Downs, 5 beds, 3.5 baths w/updated kitchen, walls of windows w/views & new decks surrounding home. Beautiful gardens, pool, spa, outdoor kitchen & apx. 600sf guest home.

\$2,495,000

ORINDA



3 Gardiner Court

Fabulous 5156sf executive retreat nestled on gorgeous 1.2 acre w/sparkling pool, sport court, lawns, & views. Kitchen adjoining family room w/French doors open to veranda. Luxurious master suite.

\$2,950,000

ORINDA



160 Camino Don Miguel

One of a kind estate overlooking OCC. Rebuilt from the ground up in 1996 by the finest craftsmen to preserve the original elements of the home. Resort quality pool & spa, gardens, views & guest house.

\$4,950,000

MORAGA



217 Corliss Drive

Complete home remodel in desirable Corliss area. New kitchen, wood floors, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 remodeled baths, a large flat lot and plenty more updates.

\$1,465,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

881 Mountain View Drive

Exceptional home in close proximity to downtown Lafayette, shops, restaurants & BART. Gorgeous pano. views from all 5 bedrms! Open concept kitchen/family rm opens to level lawn in scenic backyard.

\$1,495,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

561 Morecroft Road

This is gorgeous! 5 beds/ 4 baths, over 3700 sq.ft. of beauty and great spaces. 2 master suites, 2 family rooms, granite kitchen, hardwood floors and sports court.

\$1,795,000

DANVILLE



10 Creekledge Court Danville estate home located at the end of a landmark Colonial street! 5 bedroom, 4 & 1/2 bathroom, apx. 5600 sq. ft. home on 1/3 acre park-like yard with pool, pond, BBQ, fireplace & more!

\$2,388,000

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

473 Beacon Ridge Lane

Level-In and Remodeled with Views in Beacon Ridge. Lafayette Schools. 3bd/2.5ba +bonus. Chef's Kitchen with granite and stainless. Vaulted Ceilings. California Closets.

\$1,039,000

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