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A landslide reached and damaged the Canyon Bridge foundation.

Photo provided

## Canyon bridge closed indefinitely

By Sophie Braccini

When the Canyon bridge closed quickly and surprisingly on the evening of April 18, it impacted more than just drivers in local communities. Currently, not even pedestrians or bicyclists are authorized to cross the bridge that commands one of the only five exits out of the town of Moraga, prompting the town to declare a state of emergency. The situation is particularly frustrating for the neighboring

community of Canyon (see story below), and it presents several important challenges for Moraga: How unstable is the upslope hill which movement destabilized the bridge, what is needed to permanently stabilize it, should a temporary bridge be installed, how much will it cost, and is someone to be blamed for the closure? The town says its first priority is to reopen a passage between the communities. The bridge is closed indefinitely.

Moraga Town Manager Robert Priebe said that on Monday, April 17 his staff was contacted by EBMUD engineers who were placing instrumentation on the landslide that started in January of last year. "They noticed some visible movements (closer to the bridge) and called us," Priebe said. ... continued on page A11

Advertising

**LAMORINDA WEEKLY**

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## School access is the No. 1 concern for Canyon residents

By Nick Marnell



Everyone is welcome, but they'll have a tough time getting there. Photo Nick Marnell

The closure of the Canyon bridge may present an inconvenience to Moragans seeking a traffic-free route to Oakland, but to Canyon residents, the closure poses a serious life safety issue. "On April 18, the town of Moraga precipitously closed the Canyon Road bridge, endangering the Canyon community and especially the Canyon school students," Canyon Elementary School board member Brian Coyle told the county Board of Supervisors, his statement an allusion to the opening sentence of Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Bridge of San Luis Rey." He said that Moraga has demonstrated engineering incompetence by not providing a temporary walkway, and he asked the supervisors to assume authority of the project. Moraga closed the bridge indefinitely after it determined earth movement had compromised the structural integrity of the bridge. School Principal Lucia Sullivan also requested that the county step in. ... continued on page A12

## Local experts try to predict Lamorinda's retail future

By Victor Ryerson



The panelists from left, Steve Falk, Irene Chen, Tomas Gomez-Arias, Steve Salomon and Larry Tessler. Photo Amer Budayr  
Restaurants, along with spas and salons, may be the key to Lamorinda's retail success in the future because they are "internet proof" and inherently require the presence of the customer. That was the consensus of five local business, government, and academic experts who offered their perspectives on the future of Lamorinda's retail business community at The Lamorinda Business Forum program, "The Future of Retail: What Will Downtown Look Like 10 Years from Now?" ... continued on page A10

<p><b>Civic News</b> A1-A12</p> <p>Moraga decides to join MCE – page A5.</p> <p><b>Fire Districts</b> A8</p> <p>MOFD disputes Station 43 cost overruns – page A8.</p>	<p><b>Life in Lamorinda</b> B1-B8</p> <p>Moms' groups still play together – page B1</p>	<p><b>Sports</b> C1-C4</p> <p>Young Acalanes softball team scores big – page C1.</p>	<p><b>Our Homes</b> D1-D20</p> <p>Kitchen tour reveals some delicious designs – page D1.</p>
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**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Monday, May 8, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

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

**Design Review**

Monday, May 8, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, May 3, 7 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

**Lafayette School District**

Wednesday, May 10, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
District Office Board Room  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting  
notes and announcements

**City of Lafayette:**

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

**Chamber of Commerce:**

www.lafayettechamber.org



**Lafayette Police Department  
Incident Summary Report**

April 9 - April 22

<b>Alarms</b>	97
<b>911 Calls (incl hang-ups)</b>	15
<b>Noise complaints</b>	9
<b>Traffic stops</b>	188
<b>Suspicious Circumstances</b>	13
<b>Suspicious Subjects</b>	30
<b>Suspicious Vehicles</b>	29
<b>Supplemental Report</b>	5
<b>Abandoned Vehicle</b>	7

**Auto Burglary**  
Circle Creek Dr./Circle Creek Ln.  
Candy Ct./Quandt Rd.  
1000 Block Circle Creek Dr.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
20 Block Diablo Cr.

**Beat Info**  
Upper Happy Valley/Los Arabis

**Civil Disturbance**  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Civil Problem**  
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
500 Block Hunsaker Canyon Rd.

**Commercial Burglary**  
3500 Block Plaza Way

**Disturbance-fight**  
Carol Ln./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Disturbing The Peace**  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24  
1000 Block Aileen St.

**Dui Misdemeanor**  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Fire/Ems Response Info**  
Glenside Dr./St. Marys Rd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Fireworks**  
Moraga Blvd./3rd St.

**Forgery**  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)

**Found Property**  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./moraga Rd.  
Police Department (2)  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Fraud Credit Card**  
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.

**Fraud False Pretenses**  
1000 Block Dyer Dr.  
3300 Block N Lucille Ln.

**Grand Theft**  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dewing Ave.

**H&S Violation**  
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.  
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Moraga Rd./School St.

**Hailed By Citizen**  
3400 Block Golden Gate Way

**Harassment**  
3400 Block Golden Gate Way  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
800 Block Solana Dr.

**Hit and Run Misdemeanor**  
50 Block Lafayette Cr  
Glenside Dr./St. Marys Rd.

**Identity Theft**  
200 Block Lafayette Cr.  
1000 Block Rahara Dr.

**Juvenile Disturbance**  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cr

**Loitering**  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
El Curtola Blvd./Old Tunnel Rd.

**Lost Property**

Police Department  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Occupied Stalled Vehicle**  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.

**Ordinance Violation**  
Rohrer Dr./St. Marys Rd.

**Panhandling**  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Patrol Request**  
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
900 Block Moraga Rd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Petty Theft**  
3600 Block Sundale Rd.  
3400 Block Golden Gate Way  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
600 Block Glorietta Blvd.  
600 Block Glorietta Blvd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1000 Block Rahara Dr.  
100 Block Secluded Pl  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3300 Block Beechwood Dr.  
3300 Block Victoria Ave.  
60 Block Bacon Ct.  
4000 Block Natasha Dr.  
3600 Block Nordstrom Ln.

**Petty Theft Coin Machine**  
3100 Block Camino Diablo

**Petty Theft From Vehicle**  
1000 Block Dolores Dr.  
1000 Block Via Alta  
1100 Block Via Media  
1000 Block Via Media

**Phone Harass**  
600 Block Sweet Ct.

**Prom Shoot**  
1800 Block Reliez Valley Rd.

**Public Assembly Check**  
900 Block Risa Rd.  
3300 Block Springhill Rd.

**Public Nuisance**  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Topper Ct./School St.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
3400 Block Golden Gate Way  
900 Block Moraga Rd.  
3500 Block Terrace Way  
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.  
St. Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.  
Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd.

**Reckless Driving**  
Taylor Blvd./Withers Ave.  
Happy Valley Rd./Deer Hill Rd.  
3400 Block Hamlin Rd.  
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Moraga Rd./Rimrock Rd.  
Vacation Dr./Stanley Blvd.  
Reliez Valley Rd./Pleasant Pl.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Taylor Blvd.  
900 Block Moraga Rd.  
Moraga Rd./Brook St.  
St. Marys Rd./S. Lucille Ln.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Village Center  
Windsor Dr./Old Tunnel Rd.

**Security Check**  
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Shoplift**  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Stolen Recovery**  
3500 Block Brook St.

**Throw Moving Vehicle**  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Stanley Blvd.

**Trespass**  
900 Block Foye Dr.

**Trespass with Vehicle**  
3400 Block Black Hawk Rd.

**Unwanted Guest**  
1000 Block Carol Ln.

**Vandalism**  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3500 Block Wilkinson Ln.  
3900 Block Leroy Way  
900 Block Moraga Rd.  
900 Block Acalanes Rd.

**Vehicle Theft**  
3500 Block Brook St.

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**Residents petition to save trees in Lafayette**

By Pippa Fisher

The tree debate in Lafayette is branching out as residents are adding their support to a fast-growing petition demanding the protection of the 272 Lafayette trees currently slated for removal by PG&E under their Community Pipeline Safety Initiative.

The CPSI is PG&E's initiative designed to improve the safety and reliability of natural gas transmission systems across Northern and Central California, following the deadly San Bruno explosion in 2010 when a 30-inch diameter pipeline failed. The initiative helps to ensure the pipeline is operating

safely by looking at the area above and around the pipes to be certain that first responders and emergency response crews have critical access to the pipelines in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.

In March, after two years of back and forth and after the total number of trees to be removed was reduced from 1,000 to 272, the city council gave PG&E the go-ahead to remove those trees identified as potentially blocking access for maintenance and first responders.

PG&E spokesperson Jeff Smith said that over the past two years the utility has met with and partnered with local first responders to identify which trees need to be removed to provide emergency access. The company's initial assessment of 1,000 trees came from its aerial GPS search. However a subsequent walking tour resulted in fewer trees being identified.

Smith says they are contacting homeowners currently and aim to meet to an agreement on how to meet their needs. He stressed there would be no work on any trees until an agreement is reached with the individual homeowner.

"We recognize how important trees are to the Lafayette community and the environment, and are working with the city, East Bay Regional Parks District, EBMUD and local residents to plant new trees to help preserve the local canopy," Smith said. "The important public safety concern is ensuring that first responders like firefighters have necessary access to our gas transmission lines in the event of an emergency or

natural disaster."

The petition, started by Lafayette resident Michael Dawson, gathered more than 500 signatures in three days. It requests that PG&E release a map showing locations of trees in question, that they publicly tag the trees to be removed and that the city should notify residents that they are under no legal obligation to sign removal agreements with PG&E per California state law.

They dispute PG&E's claim that some trees need to be removed to allow access, particularly along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail, where they say access is not an issue and therefore additionally they want the city of Lafayette, PG&E and the EBRPD to come up with a plan to shield the pipeline along the trail or, ideally, move the pipeline five feet further into the trail, eliminating the need for tree removal.

He makes the point that there have been no cases of gas explosions caused by tree roots in California but rather instead by bad PG&E welding. In fact he points to evidence that trees could even decrease pipeline failure by supporting soil structure.

Dawson addressed his concerns to the city council at their meeting on April 24. Lafayette resident Rob Sturm also spoke, echoing the sentiment. Both respectfully acknowledged the council's efforts to bring the total number of trees in jeopardy down, but said these efforts fall short of their mission to preserve Lafayette's semirural feel. Mayor Mike

Anderson agreed to invite PG&E to come back and discuss the tree removal further.

"The city council approved the request by PG&E to remove 272 of the more than 1,000 trees originally proposed for removal, due to the insistence by the utility that this significant change in the ambience and character of the city was necessary to assure the proper access for the maintenance of the gas transmission line," Anderson said.

He continued, "As the purveyor of gas service for our community, the city regards PG&E as the expert in the operation of this critical infrastructure and therefore defers to their position that there are no less damaging way to provide this access."

He noted that the city has asked that PG&E make a publicly noticed presentation on the project and explain the need and rationale for this large tree removal project. "A date for this has not been confirmed, but is expected to occur in May," Anderson said.

Dawson commented, "I've contacted the city managers in the neighboring towns, and Lafayette is the hardest hit. PG&E will take down only one tree in Danville. Walnut Creek had 734 originally planned for removal, and is now reduced to six public trees and only two private trees more than 10-inches in diameter."

Dawson, who has set up a website at savelafayettetrees.org, reflected, "This issue seems to have touched a nerve in people. Everyone loves our city's trees," he said.

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# Hills come alive at 2017 Concert at the Res

By Pippa Fisher



The Concert at the Res is Saturday, May 13.

Photo provided

It is almost that time of year again when the sound of music echoes around the beautiful Lafayette Reservoir and residents enjoy a free concert hosted by the Lafayette Rotary.

The concert this year takes place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 13.

For over 20 years the Rotarians have put on the spring concert that features local bands including Acalanes High School, Stanley Middle School, Bentley School and the Big Band of Rossmoor.

Joining them this year will be Westlake Middle School from Oakland plus the dancers from the Lamorinda Theatre Academy and the Town Hall Education performers.

The free concert will have food and beverages available and raffle

tickets may be purchased with great prizes including weekend getaways. Proceeds benefit local school music programs and Rotary Club public service projects.

The annual concert was initially the idea of local Rotarian and Lafayette Citizen of the Year Dick Holt, whose goal was to raise money to support local school music programs. More recently, and with the help of the Lafayette Community Foundation, he raised money to fund the community stage.

The stage sits about 150 feet to the east (the left) of the parking lot in a shady spot near the children's playground with picnic areas and public restrooms available. Golf cart transportation will be provided to and from the stage area if required.

# Two-legged and four-legged fun in Lafayette



Paul, Matthew and Maddie Bacon with their dog Roscoe.

Photo P. Fisher

Two beautiful sunny weekends recently provided the perfect backdrop for both the Earth Day Festival and Dogtown Downtown.

The Earth Day Festival was well attended with approximately 1,000 people enjoying all the activities. The chicken sculpture/water catcher, created at the Festival, is now installed in the

community garden.

The Dogtown event was equally popular. "It is definitely my favorite Chamber event of the year," said one Lafayette dog, or at least that's most likely what he said.

Both events bring out the community to mingle and have fun. — Pippa Fisher

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## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Wednesday, May 10, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Monday, May 15, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Design Review

Monday, May 8, 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



### April 11 to 25 Alarms

4/11 400 block Fernwood  
4/11 300 block Calle La Montana  
4/12 location n/a  
4/12 location n/a  
4/13 1000 block Wickham Dr.  
4/14 350 block Rheem Blvd.  
4/14 3900 block Campolindo Dr.  
4/15 location n/a  
4/18 100 block Corliss

### 4/13 Weapons

Police responded to 300 block of Moraga Road report of someone in possession of a knife on school property. Teachable moment for those involved.

### 4/13 Welfare check

Police responded to 400 block of Rheem Boulevard where it was reported a 30-something female threatened to harm herself. Subject was transported to local hospital.

### 4/14 Suspicious circumstances

An unknown 40-something male found hiding in a Rheem Boulevard backyard claimed to be hiding from unknown person/people from Oakland. No unusual activity was discovered, and the subject seemed free from the influence of drugs or alcohol, so police let the matter go.

### 4/14 Fraud

A man told police someone tried to apply for a Sprint cell phone in his name. Had the crook applied for a Samsung instead, the matter might have fizzled...

### 4/15 Suspicious circumstances

When someone tried...apparently unsuccessfully...to gain access to a resident's home, she asked police to advise her about securing her house a bit better.

### 4/15 Warrant arrest

Person calls police to report a theft. Person meets cops in front yard. Cops discover person has not one, but two outstanding warrants. Person taken into custody, when cops discover a "substantial" amount of methamphetamine on his/her person. Not the brightest thief in Moraga...

### 4/17 Suspicious circumstances

A dutiful son reported the possible theft of eight Chinese antiques from his mother's residence, valued at \$400,000. Turns out the mother had just hidden the items away. They were all found, safe and sound.

### 4/17 ID theft

Someone filed a false tax return using the victim's social security number. Victim was advised to place a fraud alert on credit cards.

### 4/18 Suspicious circumstances

Campolindo High School staff

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## Rheem center renovation: cosmetic changes could go a long way

By Sophie Braccini

In a time where brick-and-mortar retail is hurting and traditional downtowns are suffering, Jay Kerner, owner of Moraga's Rheem Valley Shopping Center, will invest in and renovate a mall that has been left untouched for 30 years.

The plan does not call for redevelopment or additions, but a refacing of the center as well as the addition of tower structures for unification of the look and better signage. The architects who are working with Kerner also envision the creation and update of gathering areas and more landscaped spaces.

Residents packed an April 24 study session held at 335 Rheem Blvd, the town community meeting room, filling it to standing-room only. The Planning Commission and design review board sat together to publicly review the plans and allowed residents to give their first reactions.

The architects' 3-D presentation strikingly showed how resurfacing the buildings with woodlike material would unify and modernize the look of the dated center. They also presented a new feature that they think would have multiple functions in the center: tall towers interspersed along the linear mall. The towers would create rhythm, verticality, be a way to channel west and south natural light, and be an ideal place to hold seasonal banners as well as new merchant signs.

The proposal also included the development of two gathering spaces: one in front of Mountain Mike's and New Delhi Bistro, and the second one would be the redesign of the space already existing by Tangelo and Graze. The spaces would have green areas for play, and plenty of sitting. Kerner confirmed that these spaces would be opened to everybody, patrons



The proposed plaza by China Moon restaurant.

Graphic provided

and passers-by.

The public in attendance shared mostly very positive comments, thanking the owner for his desire to renovate and update the center. Some asked to think about dog friendly signs and areas, others to think in term of water-smart landscaping. Parents noted that thinking about outdoor activity for young children would be a great magnet. Several residents of the new Via Moraga development across Moraga Road shared both their enthusiasm about renovation and concerns about impacts during redevelopment.

The only really dampening comment during the presentation came from one of the current tenants, Ravi Singh, owner of Rheem Valley Automotive, who said that before making cosmetic upgrades the owner should be thinking about resurfacing the pavement and parking areas and upgrading the night lighting. Singh added his concern

that if the center would be disrupted during construction it might jeopardize the survival of some of the most precarious businesses.

Planning commissioner Steve Woehleke asked Kerner if he had considered redeveloping the center and creating a mixed-use area that would incorporate housing and retail. Kerner responded that the economic feasibility was not there for his company.

The members of the Planning Commission and design review board said the new proposed design did not have enough elements inspired by Moraga. This lack of connection to the community look was one of the most important comments of the two consultative bodies. The members felt that this center as proposed could be located anywhere in the country. One resident had also asked the property owner to add at least one element of Moraga's Spanish heritage, such as a fountain. The members of the

committees also wondered if the contemporary look that was envisioned would not be dated rather quickly and asked the architect to work on something a bit more timeless. Some noted that the towers proposed looked like guard towers, but both bodies liked the concept, but maybe not as tall.

The study session also included the discussion of adopting an easier process for approval for the center, or even for other commercial areas in town. This aspect will be discussed further, as well as the signage at the center. A commissioner proposed that a subcommittee be formed to study the signage itself so it would not slow down the process.

The next step for the property owner is now to refine the proposal in keeping with the input that was received that evening, and submit a formal application that will be discussed during more public sessions.

## Fore Our Schools celebrates 10th anniversary

By Sophie Braccini



This photo is from the first year of the tournament. The 2008 FOS Board is, from left, Mike Isola, Jim Schmidt, Patrick Artiaga, Dave Miller, Ted Yuen and Rick Schaffel.

Photo provided

It has been 10 years since Patrick Artiaga, together with a group of other Moraga dads, created "Fore Our Schools," a father-driven golf tournament that would benefit the Moraga school district. The event was an immediate success and has grown over the years, for the main reason that it's fun. The 10th anniversary golf tournament will be held on Monday, May 22.

Moraga Superintendent of Schools Bruce Burns says that Fore has become a signature event, bringing the district community together. "It's a day on the greens to support the education of the students through long drives, short putts and for some of us, the need to have a few extra golf balls in our bags," he says with a smile.

Artiaga remembers that he had contacted five other fathers whom he knew from the days their children were in preschool. They saw how much effort the mothers were putting into fundraising and they wanted to do their part. The Moraga Country Club was an easy partner to convince, and the first Fore was born.

That first year the event raised \$20,000 for the school district; Artiaga adds that it now averages more than \$40,000. The event starts at 11 a.m. and includes lunch on the greens and a reception/buffet event at the clubhouse in the evening with a silent auction. The reception is opened to non-golfers, whether they are members of the club or not.

Burns adds that it is all about the experience. On the day of the event, school site administrators take a vacation day to join in on the tournament. "Several of us spend more time looking for golf balls than actually playing the game of golf," confesses Burns. He explains that the district's foursome has been nonetheless competitive, "with Rheem School principal Elaine Frank, whose smooth golf swing lines up easier chips and putts for those of us who save our golfing magic for this one and only time we play each year," he adds. The administrators are also known for reveling in the banter between holes with other parent and community foursomes, recognizing a day off from work will directly

benefit district's students.

Artiaga believes that it is that fun yet competitive spirit that gets people coming back year after year. He adds that the event is supported by the community with about 20 volunteers, food donations from vendors such as Bonehead's Texas BBQ, or John Reyna and his food truck.

Frank, who is retiring this year, is the Fore Our Schools honorary chairperson this year. The limit of participants is 144, so the event does not take too long, and Artiaga adds that the average has been 30 teams of 4 players.

Artiaga says that of the six original founding members, five are still involved today; besides himself they are Mike Isola, Dave Miller, Rick Schaffel, and Jim Schmidt. Their children, who were in the second grade 10 years ago are now approaching graduation; Artiaga thinks that it is time to pass the baton to a younger generation of parents.

Registration fee is \$250 per person, and information and registration is available at www.foreourschools.org.



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## Moraga Town Council votes to join MCE

By Sophie Braccini



In 2018 all of Moraga residents can choose to get up to 100 percent of their electricity from renewable sources.

The town council decided on April 26 to pursue an application to join MCE — Marin Clean Energy — that is already providing alternatively sourced electricity to Marin County and several Contra Costa cities such as Lafayette, Benicia, El Cerrito, Richmond, San Pablo and Walnut Creek. PG&E will continue to deliver and bill the electricity as it does now, and residents who desire can retain PG&E as their sole provider, but to do so they will have to opt out of MCE.

MCE is what is called a Community Choice Aggregation. It is a nonprofit made of cities and counties that get together to buy and/or generate electricity for residents and businesses within their areas. MCE started in Marin County in 2010. Residents have the choice between two plans: A light green plan where 50 percent of the electricity originates from renewable energy sources - solar, wind, geothermal, etc., and a deep green plan that is 100 percent from renewable sources.

Lafayette joined MCE a year ago, but at the same time the town of Moraga declined to join because the county was reviewing several CCA options, including the creation of a Contra Costa CCA. The Board of Supervisors indicated recently that they would not pursue an independent option but would rather recommend the county join either MCE or the Alameda CCA called EBCE, still in the planning phase. It was time for Moraga to review its decision.

Since last year the council members in Moraga have had the opportunity to contemplate what has been done in Lafayette. Mayor Teresa Onoda said that she had

talked to Lafayette Vice Mayor Don Tatzin, who had not been a supporter of his city joining MCE. Onoda stated that now Tatzin only had good things to say about MCE.

The council members asked many questions of Dawn Weisz, CEO of MCE who attended the meeting. The first pertained to charges. Weisz produced sample data for residential costs. She showed that a PG&E client paying \$98.03 monthly would pay \$97.76 on a light green program and \$102.21 for 100 percent renewable program.

Council member Kymberleigh Korpus said she was supporting the idea, but added that she was concerned that in the agreement signed by members a possibility is listed that MCE would have the right to use eminent domain to acquire electricity-generating facilities. The town attorney did not share Korpus' concern and Weisz said that MCE procures electricity but is not in the business of generating it.

Several residents spoke in favor of joining MCE, including Jonathan Kinney, who represented the local activist group Indivisible Moraga, stating that the members, mostly progressives, were all in favor of giving people a choice. Larry Beans, who installed solar panel on his roof years ago, also supported MCE, explaining that MCE would pay twice of what PG&E pays for the extra electricity generated by his panels.

Weisz said that there were probably not a lot of places in Moraga itself to generate much electricity, but she noted that schools that have solar panels could make money with it, especially in summer when their needs are low.

EBCE also made a presentation to the council, but the project is still far from operability and was

not considered by the members. City staff will come back to council with an ordinance in May and Moraga should apply to join MCE in June. The following months will be dedicated to outreach from MCE to inform the residents of their options. The green electricity should start to flow mid-2018. Residents will continue to receive and pay their bills through PG&E.

Graphic provided

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# Orinda

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, May 16, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 9, 7 p.m.  
Special Joint Meeting with City Council  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

### Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, May 10, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

### 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



### April 2 to 8

- Alarms** 70
- Noise complaints** 2
- 911 Calls (includes hang-ups)** 8
- Traffic stops** 48
- Suspicious Circumstances** 12
- Suspicious Subjects** 8
- Suspicious Vehicles** 15
- Vacation checks** 25
- Burglary, Auto**
- Bevmo
- Burglary, Residential**
- 90 block Rheem Blvd.
- 100 block Ivy Dr.
- 20 block Muth Dr.
- 200 block Hall Dr.
- Civil**
- 100 block Estates Dr.
- 30 block Berkeley Ave.
- Disturbance**
- 20 block Orinda Way
- Orinda Theater
- 10 block Meadow Park Ct.
- Dispute**
- 10 block Camino Pablo
- 80 block Oak Rd.
- Felony, other**
- Wanda Ln/Tahos Rd.
- 10 block Sandhill Ct.
- Fireworks**
- 500 block Miner Rd
- 20 block Silverwood Ct.
- Harassment**
- 40 block Muth Dr.
- Hit & run**
- 20 block Brookside
- ID Theft**
- 60 block Rheem Blvd.
- 10 block Charles Hill Rd.
- Illegal Entry**
- 300 block El Toyonal
- Indecent Exposure**
- CVS
- Juvenile disturbance**
- Orinda Country Club
- Litter**
- 20 block Ardor Dr.
- Missing juvenile**
- Glorietta Elementary
- Ordinance violation**
- 100 block Canon Dr. (2)
- 100 block La Espiral
- Moraga Way/Oak Dr.
- 20 block La Campana Rd.
- Petty theft**
- Rite Aid
- 80 block Moraga Way (2)
- Police/Fire/ EMS**
- 10 block Crown Court
- Possession stolen goods**
- 20 block Orinda Way
- Promiscuous shooting**
- Grizzly Peak Stables
- Reckless Driving**
- Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.
- Orchard Rd/Glorietta Blvd.
- St Stephen's/Hwy 24
- Rheem/Glorietta
- Runaway juvenile**
- 100 block Moraga Way
- Shoplifting**
- Safeway
- Terrorist threats**
- Rite Aid
- Theft, Petty**
- 20 block Bryant Way



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## Council adopts banner policy, with reservations

By Sora O'Doherty



Banners in Lafayette.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

After years of pondering the issue, the Orinda City Council has agreed to adopt a policy on the use of banners in the city.

As it turns out, those pretty pole banners residents and visitors see in Orinda and other cities hide a thorny constitutional law question. Orinda had to decide if it wanted its policy to be "city speech," which means that the city pays for the banners and has complete discretion about what the banners say; or "public forum," which makes them constitutionally protected free

speech. While council members favored the city speech option, the challenge was that the Orinda Association, which puts on the Fourth of July Parade each year, really wanted to be able to use sponsorship on the banners to defray the nearly \$40,000 cost of the event.

After an evening of grappling with the issue again, the council unanimously approved a public forum policy, but with very tight restrictions. Joe Garvey of the Orinda Association and Sophie Braccini, the executive director of the Orinda

Chamber of Commerce, urged the council to adopt the broader public forum policy recommended by staff. Tim Farley, director of community and government relations and Tri Nguyen, director of institutional marketing for Saint Mary's College, spoke to the council of their desire to put up banners to build relationships with Orinda and to raise awareness of the college, which they described as being in Orinda's backyard.

Last July, the city's attorney, Osa Wolff, had brought a narrow public forum banner policy to the council for its consideration, but they sent her back to see if she could come up with a city speech policy that could allow for sponsorship. At the behest of the groups such as the Orinda Association and the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, she returned to the council with an even broader public forum policy proposal, which tried to accommodate a request by Saint Mary's College, to put up banners in Orinda to welcome students and their families to the new school term in the fall.

The council decided to deal with the two banner applications on April 18 on an ad hoc basis, before moving on to consider the policy issue. The application by the Orinda Association to again have banners for the annual Fourth of July Parade, including sponsorship, was approved unanimously, but the application by Saint Mary's Col-

lege passed by a vote of 3 to 1, with council member Dean Orr voting against it. Mayor Eve Phillips was not present.

The council then agreed that it was too much to ask the attorney to find a way to craft a city speech policy that would allow for sponsorship, something Wolff's research to date indicated does not exist. Lafayette has a city speech banner policy, as do many nearby communities. Moraga has no banner policy. San Francisco has a public forum policy. The council asked Wolff to tighten up the restrictions on the public forum policy brought to the council last year, instead of adopting the broader policy currently recommended by staff.

The council wants a policy that is limited to banners in support of events held in, or at least partially in, Orinda and that excludes banners in support of entities not associated with events. It also wants to see restrictions on provisions such as the minimum and maximum number of banners allowable. Wolff will draft a final policy and a resolution and bring it back to the council. Once the policy is in place, staff will be able to administer individual applications without further consideration by the council. However, the council did decide that they will revisit the policy as a whole in 24 months to see if it needs to be amended or revoked.

## Sinkhole repair should be complete by July

By Sora O'Doherty



Orinda is bringing in equipment to start the repairs to the Miner Road sinkhole.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

Repairs are starting on the Orinda sinkhole on Miner Road.

Only about a dozen concerned residents attended a community meeting held by the Orinda City Council at Sleepy Hollow School on April 26 as Director of Public Works Larry Theis gave a slide presentation showing the work that has started since the city received renewal of its emergency permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. This is confident that the work can be completed relatively quickly, and hopes to have Miner Road restored by early July.

Theis explained how the creek is being dammed and the water from the creek is being diverted to "dewater" the work area so that the

repairs can be accomplished. He talked about the narrow site and how there is a lot of digging to be done to get the creek bed down some 26 feet, how the soil that is being removed is being stored at the community sports field near Wagner Ranch school, and the noise problems associated chiefly with the dump trucks and their backup alarms.

Philip Chomak spoke to the council on the noise issue. While completely supporting the repair work, Chomak said that the noise of the backup alarms was particularly disturbing to the quiet neighborhood in which he lives. He had two suggestions: that the trucks disable the alarms and rely on hu-

man spotters or that the trucks switch to the "white noise" system used in New York City.

Theis and the council were sympathetic, but Theis said he

was afraid that relying on spotters would be costly and could lead to accidents. He also said that he didn't know that the white noise system was available currently, however, this might be a good option in the future. Theis also promised to try to keep the earth-moving activities away from the early morning or late night.

Theis also updated the community on the potential costs of the repair, which cannot be precisely known for two reasons: first, because it is unclear what issues might arise during the repair; and second, because it is as yet unknown how much of the repair work will be found to be reimbursable by federal agencies as "emergency opening" work, which is reimbursed at the rate of 88.5 percent and how much of the work will be considered unreimbursable "betterments." ... continued on page A8



A temporary dam and the dewatered creek bed.

- Trespass**
- Orinda Country Club
- Vandalism**
- 10 block Theatre Square
- Violation custody order**
- 300 block El Toyonal
- Warrant Arrest**
- 100 block Spring Rd.
- Unocal

## Calling all local Czechs

As part of 2017 Year of the Czechs in Orinda, the Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation plans to display a banner at the Saint Wenceslas festival listing the names of all Orindans of Czech descent. The festival will take place Friday, Sept. 29 through Sunday, Oct. 1. The foundation asks all Orindans with Czech heritage of any sort to send the names to be included on the banner. Personal stories would also be welcome, but the foundation seeks only the names. If you have Czech ancestry, you can add your name by sending it to the Orinda/Tabor Sister City foundation, [Bobbielanders@yahoo.com](mailto:Bobbielanders@yahoo.com). — Sora O'Doherty

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# Wilder development is finally blooming

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

It's been a long time coming, but residents are now occupying homes in Wilder.

More than two-thirds of the 245 total lots at Wilder have been transferred to builders or owners and approximately 28 residences are now occupied, according to Bruce Yamamoto of Brooks Street developers, who updated the Orinda City Council Wilder subcommittee on April 18. Committee members Dean

Orr and Amy Worth heard updates on the progress of housing, the finishing of the two remaining playing fields, the art and garden center and the trailhead.

The Homeowners Association is now operational and providing fulltime concierge service. Brielle Griffin, the concierge, has an office in Quarry House, and handles booking for the pool, gym and courtyard. She sched-

ules parties for residents and in addition organizes social events, such as a Valentine's Day party and an Easter egg hunt for the children, or a champagne tasting for the adults. Madeline Mallory, one of three resident members of the Homeowners Association, attended the meeting and provided additional information afterwards. She explained that the lots are large, but contain acreage for erosion control, which are maintained by a gardening service provided by the HOA.

Wilder's infrastructure is now complete, with all the roads paved, utilities in place, as well as sewer lines and storm water piping systems. Paths with occasional benches are scattered through the development, and wildflowers and birds abound. Although the annual erosion control season ended on April 15, there are still erosion control measures in place, including straw bottles, and covers on dirt piles to prevent runoff into waterways. During winter storms, some slides occurred in the open space areas.

Wilder spans 1,600 acres, of which 300 are to be developed. The remaining land will be transferred to various public agencies, such as the East Bay Regional Parks District. An extensive trail system will connect over the hill to Robert Sibley Park in Oakland.

Of the five total playing fields at Wilder, three are complete and in use, and two more

will be added. Two of the existing fields are artificial turf, and one is natural grass. Orinda requested that one of the two fields to be added also be artificial turf, and the developer agreed to pay \$150,000 towards the additional cost for the turf, with the city paying the remaining cost, estimated to be about \$180,000. Although artificial turf is more expensive to install, it is less expensive to maintain and provides additional benefits, such as being usable even in wet weather, unlike natural grass.

Yamamoto said that the goal is to have permits for the playing fields and the Art and Garden Center in hand in the next few weeks and construction can begin immediately. Orr expressed the hope that the permits can be granted before the eighth amendment to the Development Agreement, which will be brought to the Planning Commission in early May and the Orinda City Council later in the month. Yamamoto believes that the permits will be available by that time. Currently it is hoped that the Art and Garden center will open in June of 2018 and the new playing fields the following December.

The subcommittee also discussed ongoing plans for the trailhead area, which the city hopes will be transferred to EBRPD, security cameras, and shuttles for to get residents to BART and local schools.

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**\$2,150,000**  
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 The Beaubelle Group | CalBRE#00678426



**2 MONROE COURT | ORINDA**  
**\$1,595,000**  
 4 BR | 3 BA | 2531 Sq. Ft.  
 Soraya Golesorkhi | CalBRE#01771736



**424 DONALD DRIVE | MORAGA**  
**\$1,595,000**  
 4 BR | 2 BA | 2280 Sq. Ft.  
 Nancy Stryker | CalBRE#01290021



**3980 COWAN RD | LAFAYETTE**  
**\$1,539,000**  
 4 BR | 3 BA | 2292 Sq. Ft.  
 Maureen Wilbur | CalBRE#01268536



**100 EILEEN COURT | MORAGA**  
**\$1,225,000**  
 4 BR | 2.5 BA | 2484 Sq. Ft.  
 Valerie Durantini | CalBRE#01376796



**628 N. SILVERADO DRIVE | LAFAYETTE**  
**\$1,025,000**  
 4 BR | 2.5 BA | 2135 Sq. Ft.  
 Patti Camras | CalBRE#01156248



**678 CARROLL DRIVE | MORAGA**  
**\$935,000**  
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 Elena Hood | CalBRE#01221247

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## Fire Districts

### Public Meetings

#### Moraga-Orinda Fire

**District Board of Directors**  
Wednesday, May 17, 7 p.m.  
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit [www.mofd.org](http://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>.

## Moraga-Orinda Fire District board: architect responsible for Station 43 cost overruns

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District board refused to approve a \$100,000 contract increase requested for construction of Fire Station 43, insisting that many of the extra charges were incurred because of mistakes made by the station architect.

Steve Stewart, Station 43 project manager, told the board April 19 that the piers at the base of the fire station on Via Las Cruces in Orinda had to be redesigned due to modifications to the original design and revised geotechnical requirements. "We're adding \$25,000 because the work wasn't done right in the

first place?" asked Director Craig Jorgens.

The architect also requested more money to secure project approval from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and to rebuild an interior countertop to have it fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. "They thought they had all of the permits needed," Stewart said of the architect.

"It is their sole responsibility to get every permit that is required. There is no exception to it," Jorgens said. "They had to go back and check the changes in the code, and obviously they did not."

According to the Nov. 17, 2015 agreement between Shaw Kawasaki Architects of Oakland and MOFD, the architect "shall review the most recent version of the California Building Code and make all necessary changes to the Station 43 design to meet the current code." The Station 43 rebuild had been placed on hiatus in 2013 while the district worked out a joint venture with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District to build and staff a fire station in western Lafayette, but the project fell apart.

"Nothing has changed, except that a bunch of people didn't

do their jobs," Jorgens said. "Why are we going to pay them to manage the mistakes that they made?"

The board tabled both the architect's fee request and also a decision on installation of solar panels at the station. Directors Jorgens and John Jex complained about the project's lengthy capital payback and the lack of a district solar tax credit.

Fire Chief Stephen Healy said that he, not Stewart, will talk with Shaw Kawasaki about honoring the terms of its Station 43 contract.

## ConFire continues to struggle with firefighter staffing

By Nick Marnell

When Fire Chief Jeff Carman presented the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District 2017-18 budget recommendations to his advisory fire commission and his board of directors, he highlighted positive district events like the planned rebuild of Fire Station 16 in Lafayette, but the chief also warned about a nagging firefighter staffing issue.

Bolstered by a forecast increase in property tax revenue, new funding sources like the emergency medical service first responder fees and the sustainability of the emergency ambulance transport program, the district budgeted a 6 percent

revenue increase to \$126.6 million for 2107-18. The \$94 million expense for compensation, which includes nearly \$50 million in salaries and overtime and \$26 million in retirement contributions, will cover the operation of 25 fire stations and wages for more than 350 fulltime employees. ConFire also carries a \$154 million unfunded pension liability and a \$14 million debt for its pension obligation bonds.

But the chief said his main concern was the pressure on the organization caused by the difficulty of sustaining a fully staffed operation.

"I worry every day that something significant will happen to

our firefighters," Carman told his advisory fire commission April 10. He talked about the ladder truck destroyed on Highway 4 by a speeding driver who died on the scene and of the firefighter who fell from a roof during a fire attack, saved by a balcony that helped break his fall. The chief noted that ConFire responded to 65,000 calls in 2016, ranking the district in the top five nationally for call volume.

Maintaining a stable work force has been a struggle for the district, as ConFire is down 14 vacancies after having just completed a fire academy. Because of retirements, vacations and leaves, the chief said the resul-

tant overtime puts pressure on the firefighters and can force injuries and bad decisions.

"We may have to accept that we will always need two academies a year," Carman said, as he plans to fill Academy 51 in the fall with 30 recruits.

Also adding to the overtime demands of the firefighters will be the predicted blockbuster fire season, with Lafayette possibly at the center of the action. Because of its proximity to a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, the Lafayette area continues to worry Carman, especially after the heavy rains this winter.

## Oakland Fire steps up to help MOFD cover Canyon

By Nick Marnell

On the evening of April 18, the town of Moraga closed the Canyon Road bridge over Moraga Creek between Constance Place and the Valle Vista staging area, compromising the ability of the Moraga-Orinda

Fire District to quickly respond into the Canyon community.

"Our first thought was to use the Lafayette-Moraga Trail," Fire Chief Stephen Healy said. "We could use a bulldozer and scrape out a road." But the landslide along the trail was too big and it was pushing toward the bridge, nixing that approach. The muddy fire trails nearby need regraded and that option remained out until the summer. The district requested assistance from the Oakland Fire Department and from Paramedics Plus, the Alameda County ambulance provider, and the agencies immediately entered into a mutual aid agreement. "It was a lot to ask of Oakland Fire," Healy said.

Under mutual aid, either agency may decline to respond if it is unable to perform, so MOFD will respond to Canyon incidents out of Moraga Station 41 using a unique procedure. The district parked a reserve engine and a reserve ambulance on the Canyon side of the Canyon bridge, and locked them behind a fence topped with barbed wire. If Fire Station 41 is dispatched, the firefighters will shuttle to the bridge and walk across to the staged vehicles. "It's part of our job to take risks in order to save lives," said the chief, who noted that, should the bridge become impassable for even MOFD crews, they will use the trail at the



Locked up and ready to respond into Canyon.

Courtesy MOFD

end of Augusta Drive.

Healy said that under normal conditions, Station 41 responses take eight minutes of travel time to Canyon. Adding five minutes for the crew to cross the bridge and start the engine would result in a 13 minute total travel time.

Should the Station 41 crew be unavailable, an engine from Orinda Station 45 and an ambulance from Orinda Station 44 will respond to Canyon through Oakland and Pinehurst Road.

Travel time to Canyon via Highway 24 from Station 44 is 25 minutes; from Station 45, 22 minutes. Crews from Oakland Fire Station 6, on Colton Boulevard near Skyline, would arrive in Canyon in 11 minutes.

"Only when we receive word

from Oakland Fire that they are on the scene will we send our guys back to their stations," Healy said.

The Oakland firefighters came to Canyon the day after the bridge closure and endeared themselves to the community. Crews toured the town, mapped the area, checked the water supply, pretty much socialized themselves to an area they knew very little about. "They were great and we are grateful," said Canyon Steinzig, Canyon Community Association president.

In the 365 days preceding the bridge closure, MOFD responded to 22 calls into Canyon, including eight emergency medical calls, five vehicle accidents and no structure fires.

## Sinkhole repair

For example, the city is trying to save three trees on the country club property and one tree on the other side of the creek, which has resulted in additional costs being incurred. It is estimated that the total job will cost around \$2.9 million, which includes a 20 percent contingency provision. Theis thinks that the city's portion will be in the region of \$300,000 to \$500,000.

Other questions from the community included questions about the potential litigation by the three homeowners whose homes were flooded on Feb. 7. Theis answered that all three have filed claims against the city, and that the city is dealing with those claims now.

Neighbors also wanted to know

when the repair would be complete and Miner Road reopened, and Theis replied that the city will reopen Miner Road the moment it is possible, and they may be able to reopen the road even before the work is totally completed, while decorative work on the headwalls and the mitigation planting is still being done.

Another question concerned the fate of another bridge on Miner Road, the one that crosses San Pablo Creek. Theis explained that that bridge has been scheduled for a seismic upgrade, but that the city is trying to change the scheduled work from a retrofit to a replacement. However, it cannot be done at the same time as the sinkhole

... continued from page A6

repair, owing to the constraints of permitting and design.

Police Chief Mark Nagel said that there has been no major crime in the area but that officers are issuing tickets on the detour routes. He addressed a question about why the new stripping is broken rather than solid double yellow lines, explaining that the police want to encourage drivers to be able to go around obstructions on the road, but not to pass other vehicles.

Theis promised to keep the community updated on Orinda's new website, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org). He added that the city hopes to get some drone photos and time lapse photography of the repairs.

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# Letters to the Editor

## Unification key to schools' survival

Dear Editor,  
On April 20, the front page headline of the Lamorinda Weekly read: "Local school districts anticipate possible budget deficits;" the lead story on KTVU covered the attempt of parents of Northgate High and its feeder schools to leave the Mount Diablo School District; and we received a letter from the Lafayette School Board asking that my wife and I forego our Senior Citizen Tax Exemption.

Once again, the forest has been obscured by the trees; the trees being the five school districts encompassed by the area within the Acalanes High School District. Twenty-first century economics do not allow 20 Century luxuries to successfully continue. Each K-8 district and Acalanes must employ a separate superintendent, district office, director of curriculum, facilities department, and on and on. Any one superintendent costs each district's taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in wages, benefits and perks as well as each and every redundant position in each of the five districts.

This is a perfect time to reach out to the folks attempting to leave Mt. Diablo School District and present the county and state with a plan to unify K through 12th grades, within the entire area, and save the schools and taxpayers the money needed to ensure the continued high quality of education Lamorinda has long cherished.

We need the residents of our community to step up and begin the process of unification and save our schools.

Robert Steinmetz  
Lafayette

## Don't cut down trees for PG&E

Dear Editor,  
PG&E will change the look of Lafayette forever with their plan to cut down 270 large trees along public trails and private properties. And the city's response on March 27 falls short on preserving Lafayette's most precious resources.

Without an iota of proof, PG&E

claims many trees along the Lafayette Trail and other areas must be cut down for the safety of the underground pipeline. When pressed, PG&E acknowledges that the pipeline is safe and simply conducting a "proactive" step. We believe this is a cost-cutting measure at the expense of our environment.

The 2010 explosion in San Bruno was proven to be caused by defective welds, not big trees. The gas pipeline has coexisted with our large oak and buckeye trees for decades. And should any problems arise, shut-off valves are in place and functional. There is even evidence tree roots help gas lines by stabilizing embankments.

Meanwhile, 216 of these trees destined for the chainsaw were protected under city ordinances including a 87-inch diameter oak on the Lafayette Trail. Some are hundreds of years old. And since these trees are so large, each removal will make a huge impact on the look of our community. Home values could drop, and natural habitat will be lost forever. What happened to Lafayette's mission statement to preserve and enhance the semi-rural nature of this community?

We appreciate the city's efforts to reduce the number of trees removed, but 270 is still too many. Instead of waiving ordinances and accepting \$530,000 from PG&E for improved street meridians (yes, meridians), the city of Lafayette should insist that PG&E move the pipeline five feet further into the trail, thereby eliminating the need for unnecessary clear-cutting.

If anyone responds with "but what about the cost?" perhaps they should ask PG&E that question. As our gas bills have jumped, their quarterly profits more than doubled to \$675 million.

Michael and Gina Dawson  
Lafayette

## Combining districts makes sense

Dear Editor,  
It is interesting that there is a recurring school financing problem in Lamorinda. In the early 1980s when we lived in Moraga, we had a significant problem in the three

districts with declining enrollment and financing the curriculum. There was a group who wanted to end this problem. I went to the county board of education and did a very thorough analysis of costs in the three districts, along with a lot of information.

The major findings of this were:

1. Combining these small districts would yield one district of just under 5000 students giving an opti-

mal district.

2. We would save close to \$2 million (in 1980 dollars) and restore the music, arts and language programs, while adding languages. a stronger core with smaller classes. 3. The 3 districts could still fund raise for their own schools and have a degree of local options.

It was clear at the time, that a very strong group was more interested in maintaining their little pow-

er fiefdom, then really helping the kids. The kids of this time suffered these cutbacks and reduced educational options, but that was never a discussion, the power structure was. But if Lafayette is starting to have problems, are the other two far behind?

Time for the parents of school kids to go study the issue again.

Leonard Dorin  
Lafayette



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## Drifter Organics' mother-daughter team: Business partners and best friends

By Diane Claytor



Micaela and Dawn Marie Hoo work together and love it. Photo provided

Every day must feel a little like Mother's Day to Dawn Marie Hoo. Not only does her 22-year-old daughter, Micaela, still happily live at their Moraga home, but the dynamic mother-daughter team own a business together, working side by side on an almost daily basis — and thoroughly enjoying all this togetherness.

Ever since she was a little girl, Micaela Hoo endured both digestive and skin problems; stomach aches, bloating and eczema were constants in her life. Diagnosed three years ago with leaky gut, a condition that affects the lining of the intestines, Micaela Hoo went through a total detox of every item she ate and everything she used on her skin, forcing her to reevaluate all her food and skincare choices. Changing the foods she ate was relatively easy but finding acceptable skincare products was far more difficult. At that time, she learned she couldn't tolerate citrus, a common natural preservative found in most natural beauty products, even those labeled holistic.

Desperately wanting to help her only child, Dawn Marie Hoo took to the internet, researching everything she could about natural skincare and DIY beauty products. "I figured Micaela couldn't

be the only one on the planet with these issues," Dawn Marie Hoo says.

She studied labels to determine the ingredients on products already available; she read blogs, finding recipes for different natural skincare products. And then, with her daughter by her side, she went into her kitchen and started "cooking up" natural skincare creams. Her husband served as the guinea pig, testing each concoction. "He'd tell me one is too gritty or another is too oily," Dawn Marie Hoo said. "When he finally said 'this stuff is pretty good,' I knew we had found the right recipe."

"Micaela's skin and digestive issues soon cleared up and changed her entire outlook on life," Dawn Marie Hoo said. "Through our research, we discovered there were a lot of people with the same or similar issues. So we decided that, with all the homework we had done and all the time we had already invested, we should start a business."

With the help of a successful Kickstarter campaign, Drifter Organics, described by Micaela Hoo as the "skincare solution for anyone who wouldn't rub anything on their skin they wouldn't trust eating," was born.

Certified organic by Oregon Tilth, a leading nonprofit certifier, educator and advocate for organic products, the gluten-free, soy-free, paraben-free, plant-based Drifter Organics products are made in the Hoo's Moraga kitchen by the mother-daughter team. There are four main body butters — one unscented, three scented with essential oils — described by one beauty blogger as containing "super-thick and moisturizing shea butter mixed with a trifecta of oils that rejuvenated my dry, itchy, cold-weathered skin." Sold primarily through their website, drifterorganics.com, Drifter Organics products, which are for the entire body, can also be found in several local boutiques.

The mother-daughter duo had been working together for several years before founding Drifter Organics. Micaela Hoo writes a fashion and lifestyle blog and her mom takes most of the photos for the blog. "We've always been close," Micaela Hoo said. "It's funny, we do actually finish each other's sentences. We can both be thinking the exact same thing at the exact same time. I can look at her and just know what she's thinking."

Micaela Hoo admits that she's more high-strung than her mom, a characteristic that her mother believes may be attributed to her youthfulness. "She does occasionally have to calm me down," Micaela Hoo acknowledged. "But we really complement each other."

Dawn Marie Hoo spends about 25-30 hours each week being the "crazy mad scientist" for the skincare company while Micaela Hoo said she spends "a steady" 40 hours per week on company business, primarily handling the marketing through social media. An online student through the Savannah, Georgia College of Art and Design majoring in graphic design, Micaela Hoo describes herself as a "blogger, photographer, (sometimes) videographer, business owner, entrepreneur, (sometimes) illustrator, (sometimes) model, and holistic health nut."

Still happy to be living at home with her parents, Micaela Hoo offers a description that every mother hopes to hear someday. "She's my best friend," Micaela Hoo says about her mother, "the yin to my yang." And that is, perhaps, the best Mother's Day gift ever.

## Local Experts try to predict Lamorinda's retail future

... continued from page A1

It was jointly organized by the Orinda, Lafayette, and Moraga Chambers of Commerce.

The panelists in the informal evening discussion in a program at the Orinda City Offices on April 25 were Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk; Irene Chen, owner of fashion accessory business Parker Thatch, which conducts much of its sales activity online; Saint Mary's College business professor Tomas Gomez-Arias; Orinda Interim City Manager Steve Salomon; and longtime retail business consultant Larry Tessler. All agreed that the retail business is undergoing rapid and dramatic changes nationally, and that these changes are reflected in various ways in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda.

Nationally, retail businesses are failing at an increasingly rapid pace, victims of e-commerce and a glut of stores, particularly department stores, electronics and apparel shops, according to a recent Bloomberg News report. In Lafayette, Falk has observed dramatic changes in the urban fabric along Mt. Diablo Boulevard during his tenure of more than 20 years as city manager:

There are no longer shoe stores or a camera shop, and the last electronics store, Radio Shack, closed recently. He attributes these changes to internet buying, and to traffic and congestion, the latter ironically due in part to the local success of other retail food stores and restaurants.

Retail stores that sell an experience involving more than merely buying merchandise are increasingly attracting customers, such as restaurants and spas.

"You can't get that online," says Chen. "The challenge is becoming nimble" to create a desirable experience that will bring customers in and keep them there, she says. She uses new tools like Facebook Live to achieve this with her brick-and-mortar stores.

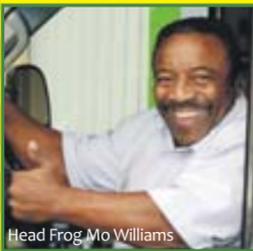
Transportation is also a key factor, says Salomon, and it is changing fast with the advent of companies like Lyft and Uber. Throughout most of his career in city government everything has revolved around parking, but this will be altered dramatically, he predicts. Not only is sharing rides a new trend that changes the equation, but the advent of new kinds of two- and three-wheel ve-

hicles is playing a part, too.

Salomon sees the internet as a phenomenon that is driving the reduction of square footage by successful new retailers like Amazon, which uses different merchandise stocking practices than traditional large retail stores. Malls are just not going to make it in the world of mixed-use development, predicts Salomon. In an era when retail is an experience, malls will have to be entertainment centers, Tessler agreed.

So what will Lamorinda look like in 10 years? People want the experience of a hometown, says Falk. In Lafayette this has translated successfully into growth of the city's downtown restaurant row, and he expects to see more. As to the proliferation of like businesses in a retail neighborhood, there is a "secret of clustering," he says, which accounts, for example, for the substantial increase of Diablo Foods' business after Trader Joe's opened its store in Lafayette. Contrary to the intuitive assumption that such competition is destructive, customers seem to be drawn to clusters of similar businesses for their shopping experience.

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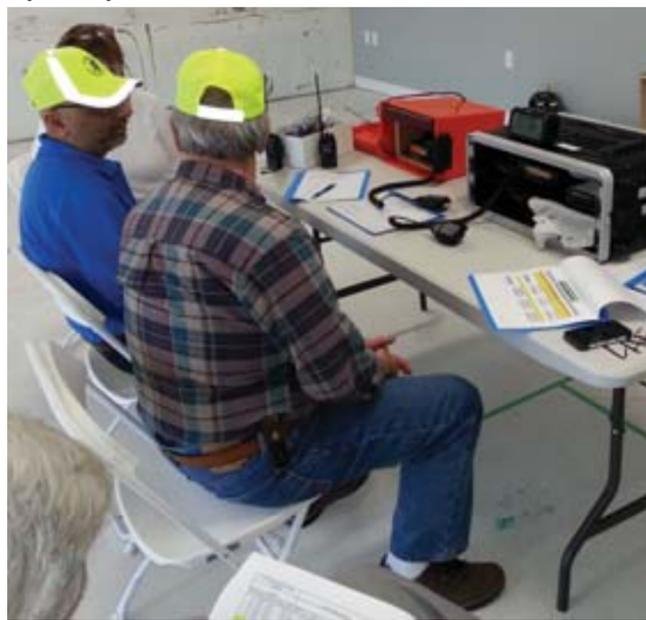
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# Volunteers train to talk around Lamorinda during auxiliary communications exercise

By Cathy Dausman



Once upon a Tuesday evening in Lamorinda, 26 volunteer emergency communicators spread out among five locations. Some met where Lafayette's new police station will soon be located; others were off to Moraga Town Hall and Orinda's City Hall. Still others staffed Moraga-Orinda Fire District Station 45 in downtown Orinda; the final few headed to Saint Mary's College. They opened up industrial sized suitcases, plugged in various radios and connected them to exterior antennas. Then they waited. The call came in: "This is a drill." Operation Communications Exercise, or CommEx, had begun.

Participants were told to imagine a scenario where a natural gas line had ruptured along Lafayette's Reliez Valley Road; as a result six vehicles had been destroyed and several houses had caught fire. Pleasant Hill Road was blocked. In event of an emergency, when cellular phone service becomes limited, interrupted or overwhelmed, organizations may need other means to get the message through. So Lafayette radio operators gathered information and dispersed it to their counterparts across Lamorinda over amateur radio bands, public works frequencies and General Mobile Radio Service frequencies.

"Check in! And use all frequencies to find someone," one commu-

nication leader urged his group.

"All Lamorinda agencies are working together so that we can manage emergencies that arise," said Lamorinda Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein. Rein has encouraged the Lamorinda community to standardize the radio equipment and materials each has to use.

"CommEx was a great opportunity for city and town staff to work with local amateur radio operators and Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team neighborhood leaders to exercise our auxiliary communications capabilities," Rein said. Professional emergency responders throughout Lamorinda value the drills as well as the volunteer communicators. "Having the ability to communicate and get the word out about damage from a disaster and the immediate needs whether food, water or shelter is critical to recovery success," said Orinda Chief of Police Mark Nagel.

"We have limited resources in Moraga and will need everyone's help in a major disaster," said Moraga Chief of Police Jon King. King said he was impressed with how quickly the radio equipment could be assembled and functioning.

Rein hopes this exercise is merely the first of many. His goal is to hold "at least three CommEx

practices per year, the next as early as June or July," he said.

MOFD Chief Stephen Healy calls information "the most valuable asset" at an Emergency or Department Operations Center, and said CommEx "adds tremendous value." When it comes to emergency communications, Healy believes talk is not just cheap – it is priceless.

Photo Cathy Dausman

## Canyon bridge closed

... continued from page A1

Town staff was on site rapidly and found that there was separation between the road pavement and the southeast end of the bridge, creating a visible gap. The town's geotechnical consultants were called to the site and began measuring depth and progression of the earth movement. They confirmed that the upslope hillside of the bridge presented tension cracks and continuing mass landslide movements. They observed that the gap on pavement was widening and that one of the bridge's support beams was moving and not supporting the bridge as it is supposed to. The conclusion was that the bridge had to be closed immediately.

The hillside next to the bridge, up the Lafayette-Moraga Trail and below Country Club homes at the end of Augusta Drive, has been moving since January of 2016. Whether these movements impacted the side hill and the bridge has not been addressed officially. The town manager confirmed that EBMUD, who owns the hill and the trail, has been involved in discussions with the town.

On April 27 the town council and staff held a special meeting to answer questions and dispel rumors. Several residents recommended the installation of a temporary "Bailey bridge," including the former company commander of a combat engineering company who said his group used to build Bailey bridges that could be installed in a few days.

The town manager repeated that the town's priority was the safety of

residents and the reopening of the road. Moraga resident Lance Larson insisted that a sound engineering process be followed, that site investigation should be done before any solution is decided.

Priebe asked and was granted by the council the immediate release of \$500,000 to fund studies and possible first solutions.

Moraga businesses and residents have been impacted by the closure of the bridge. The Saklan School in Moraga has several students and staff members that are coming from the Oakland/Montclair area who have been using the bridge every day.

Si Si Caffe, located on Country Club Drive, is a regular meeting place for bicyclists that roam the East Bay Hills. Owner Cathy Corsi said that the impact on her business was dramatic, especially during the weekend. The Moraga Horseman's Association representatives are also concerned with access to their horses on the south side of the bridge.

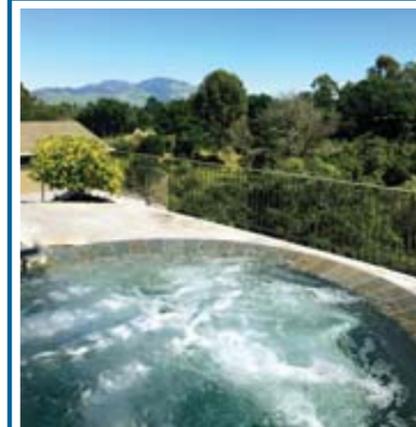
The ultimate solutions and costs are still very much unknown. One resident as well as Council Member Kymberleigh Korpus raised the issue of EBMUD's responsibility. But the town's priority is not to find whom to blame at this time, but to focus on public safety. Funding and responsibility will be addressed later.

The town created an ad-hoc page on its website to give daily updates to residents at www.Moraga.ca.us.

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## School access the No. 1 concern for Canyon residents

... continued from page A1

"Moraga may believe they are acting in the best interests of Moraga, but this issue is greater than the town," she said. The supervisors, though sympathetic, acknowledged that the bridge lies under jurisdiction of the town of Moraga.

Canyon Steinzig, the president of the Canyon Community Association, was born and raised in the secluded, sparsely populated community of 250 that shares his name. "We're a resilient bunch," he said. And while Steinzig noted that residents will travel to Oakland to satisfy most of the needs of their daily lives, he agreed that getting kids to school and getting them back home has become a real issue.

According to school officials, 18 students from outside the district attend Canyon Elementary and 16 kids who live in Canyon go to school in Lamorinda. "If they would only open the bridge to foot traffic, we could shuttle the kids across," Steinzig said. But Moraga Town Manager Bob Priebe told Canyon residents at an April 24 community meeting that the bridge was unsafe. "A sudden landslide would take out the bridge," Priebe said.

Canyon residents said they fear that school and community evacuations will be impeded if either Pinehurst Road or Redwood Road shuts down, as occurred April 20 when a big rig jackknifed on Pinehurst and closed the artery for six hours. "Parents are hysterical and very concerned. You can't run a school when there is no safe access," said Sullivan, who suggested that the school may lose interdistrict transfers because of the access inconvenience. Canyon Elementary Superintendent Gloria Faircloth pleaded with the supervi-

sors to repair the slides and metal plate on Pinehurst, which will now carry more traffic. "It could be a matter of life or death," she said.

The tone of the community meeting was not entirely negative. Residents praised the performance of the Oakland Fire Department, which will respond into the community under a mutual aid agreement with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. "They came the next day," Sullivan said of OFD. "They toured our area, had lunch with the kids, let them play on the fire truck." Meeting attendees cheered Battalion Chief Nick Luby after he assured Canyon that it will receive the same resources as the city of Oakland.

Spirits remained high when officials confirmed that Republic Services will not miss a beat with garbage collection and recycling, and that Horsemen's Association members will be able to care for their horses by going through the road barrier near the Valle Vista staging area. Lt. Jason Haynes said that, considering the curiosity seekers who may come to the community, the county sheriff's office will beef up its Canyon patrol during the bridge closure. Residents appealed for signage alerting the visitors to stay off of the community's private roads.

But the focus always returned to access. "Caesar could cross the Rhine in 10 days," barked a resident at the community meeting. "We can't wait years to fix this problem."

"It's a strain on our emergency resources too," Priebe said. "We have a vested interest in getting this solved."



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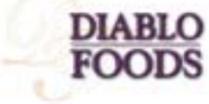
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# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Moms' groups grow up with their children

By Cathy Dausman



This mothers' group is still having fun.

Photo provided

It began for Ellen Pedersen with a colicky baby in the late 1970s. She was unable to find a parenting support group at the time, so she simply "read everything I could get my hands on." Eventually Pedersen learned enough that she was asked to teach parenting classes, first through Acalanes Adult Education and later through the Contra Costa County Family Stress Center.

Cheryl Collins was a student in Pedersen's classes for five years in the 1980s. She remembers sharing her frustration as a new mother with members of her group during the fragile first days of new parenthood when simply getting dressed was a struggle, and getting herself and her baby out of the house nearly unthinkable.

"Ellen was always positive in class," Collins said. Pedersen encouraged new mothers, saying "this is what happens, but you kept a human being alive today!" Collins remembers her mothers' classes held a wide variety of personalities, from ultra-conservative couples to the very liberal. Collins says she became a better PE and Kindergarten teacher and passed on the mothers' class wisdom to her students' parents. "You are in this (child rearing) journey together," Collins would remind her parents. "I still run into people (whose children I taught)," who were happy to pass on the advice they received about child rearing, Collins said.

Kathy Dadasovich moved to Lafayette more than 30 years ago. The mother-to-be had earned

a childhood development degree, but had not yet connected with anyone in her new community. Her Lamaze teacher suggested she take a newborn class, something Dadasovich said better prepared her for the rigors of motherhood. It also led to years of employment as a teacher for mothers of toddlers. "These people were my peers," Dadasovich said. Teacher and students learned valuable lessons from the "suggestion circle," a round-table discussion of the pros and cons of each child's daily behavior. In the years before social media, parents learned by watching their children interact with other children. These days Facebook queries provide instant feedback, but Dadasovich says new moms "need to get out of the house." Besides, she said, she learned when women gather their bodies release oxytocin, which reduces stress.

Mothers' groups evolved to meet participants' needs. There were couples groups, and later, Saturday classes for fathers. This was a time when new dads were still hesitant to sit on the floor with their young children, Dadasovich said. Siblings' classes (for moms who'd had a second child) met after nap time and included equal parts play time and group discussion. Collins remembers the "unbelievable support" a pedicure and encouragement from the mothers' group provided for very pregnant mothers who felt less than pretty.

Parenting class "saved my life," said Monica Wilcox of

Orinda.

Wilcox admits she was being dramatic. Still, she says she found motherhood "a bit isolating," especially because her son's colic made it more challenging to go anywhere. "It helped to have oth-

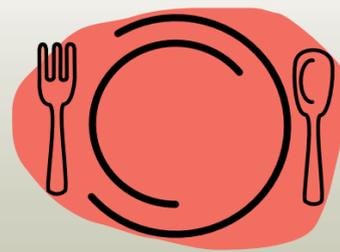
er moms to ask advice of and to just not feel quite so alone," she said.

"Our initial focus was all about the babies then it moved on as the kids grew," Wilcox said. "We would always have

great family birthday parties for the kids with the dads," she said, and later, more elaborate day trips -- "parks, zoos, the beach, camping trips throughout the kids' childhoods."

... continued on page B4

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## Moraga pioneers Leisure Sport Triathlon

By Sophie Braccini



Triathlons have grown in popularity and are attracting the most fit, as exemplified by the very successful triathlon in Moraga in April.

But now the city is trying something new. The Moraga Parks and Recreation Department has created a world premiere: The “Leisure Sport Triathlon” that combines disk golf, bocce ball and corn hole, to be held May 27. It’s based on the “Leisureman Triathlon” that ties together golfing, bowling and poker.

Moraga’s new sport is not only an excellent opportunity for fun for adults of all ages, but also teens and tweens.

Moraga has the perfect setting. The Moraga Commons Park where the competition will be held has one of the region’s most charming nine-hole disk golf courses, as well as bocce ball courts, and plenty of grass to play corn hole.

Clinton Calkins of the parks and recreation department says that when a resident came by to rent the bocce ball courts for a leisureman triathlon for a group of friends, the team took the idea and twisted it to offer something fun for adults in the area. “We have a lot of activities for seniors and for kids, but not that many for adults in between,” says the recreation coordinator.

The day of the event, Saturday, May 27, is earmarked as leisure, but it is also a competition, and the winning team will get a trophy Calkins says its members will be proud of. The competition is open to teams of four people of all ages. The three sports will have equal weighing in the totaling of points.

The triathlon will be an opportunity for people to discover the disc golf activity if they don’t know it already. Moraga has among the hills of the Commons one of best-designed courses in the area, according to players. The



Disc golf will be one of the three activities in the Leisure Sport Triathlon.

sport is played with special discs (don’t call them Frisbees), and the parks and recreation department will provide players with some if they do not come with their own. On a typical weekend day, residents of all ages are seen on the course, trying to get to the baskets in three-disc throws, the standard par for each hole.

Calkins says that he hopes to have enough volunteers to guide the teams on the course and that the point counting will be on the honor system.

Moraga also has very fine bocce ball courts under the oaks and by the creek in the park. There too volunteers will make sure beginners follow the rules, and the town will provide the balls that are used for that sport. Teams will be paired to play against each other; the winning team will be the first at 11 points. Calkins said that teams would be selected at random to form the duels.

The third sport is corn hole, a classic game of throwing a small sand bag in a hole, something anyone can figure out instantly.

The competition is set to start at 11 a.m. and finish around 3 p.m. The recreation department has scheduled a barbecue lunch in the middle of the competi-



Corn hole

tion. The Commons has tables and BBQ pits where meat and vegetarian options will be grilled for the competitors’ pleasure and refreshment after the efforts of the first part of the competition. Calkins says that Moraga will feed the players and quench their thirst, but that they can also bring their own snacks and libations if they feel like it.

The number of bocce ball courts available at this time limits the number of teams able to participate at 24. Registration ends on May 8 to allow the town to purchase the necessary equipment and food. The cost is \$40 per person, or \$160 for a team. It includes the lunch, a T-shirt, a commemorative glass, and leasing of equipment. Registration at moragarec.com.

## Special Acalanes assembly shows consequences of drug use

By Pippa Fisher

Parents are encouraged to engage their children in conversation about the choices and consequences surrounding drugs and alcohol following a powerful presentation on the subject that their children had been shown earlier that day.

Acalanes High School offers the “Up2U” assembly, which is hosted in part by the Acalanes Parents’ Club only once every three years due to costs involved. The program is a collaboration between staff, students and parents.

The program’s host, Tim Barley, a chaplain with the Contra Costa County Fire Prevention District, introduced the speakers. Using real-life scenarios and live presentations to impart the far-reaching consequences of drug and alcohol abuse to teens, the students heard in detail from firefighter Chris DeMeo of his experience responding to an alcohol-related crash during which a local teen lost his life. He told in detail what it was like as he stayed with the fatally wounded student in his last moments.

The audience then heard from Granada High School student Travis Palma who explained how, at a time of his life when he was left virtually parentless and unsupervised, he was able to

steer away from negative choices. The young man said he decided to surround himself with positive friends and set challenges for himself as a real life cowboy, riding bulls, demonstrating that good choices don’t necessarily mean boring choices.

Finally, one mother described her heartbreaking discovery of their happy, loving and high-achieving son’s death from a drug overdose. Pam and Ken Rogers lost their son Scott, a student at Monte Vista High School, several years ago. Ken Rogers spoke of the far-reaching impact of the choices made by Scott and of the guilt carried by his son’s friends. He stressed the need to end the “code of silence” that prevents teens from getting help for their friends who might be in trouble.

Indeed, the main message to the students was to consider the choices and consequences of their decisions. And for the parents, the message was to “have the hard conversation.”

Following the parent presentation, a panel consisting of the speakers joined by school counselors Mary Threlkel and Allison Gans took questions. Several parents commented that their students told them that the assembly had been “very sad.”

Acalanes Principal Travis Bell made the point that the students had been encouraged to approach counselors following the presentation should they want to and said that the following day several students had taken advantage of that. He said that it isn’t unusual for teens to need time to process the information.

Although the irony of the presentation falling on April 20 was not lost on some parents – 420 has long been code for marijuana smokers – Bell pointed out that it was not deliberate, but that offering the program before Prom and during “Prom-Wise week” was deliberate.

With legislation that will legalize marijuana in California, parents were reminded of the dangers to the teen brain, including diminished IQ. Bell made the point that despite how culture celebrates its use, research is clear — marijuana is addictive and leads to cancer at five times the rate of cigarettes.

“We are so fortunate that we have the staff and parent support to run such an important program,” Bell said. “The need to challenge our students to pause and think critically about the effect their choices can have is of the upmost importance as we engage the whole child.”

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Pour Me

# Cheer on Mom with Bloody Marys

By A.K. Carroll



A traditional Bloody Mary.

Photos A.K. Carroll

There is perhaps no one more deserving of an all-day celebration than the woman who bore you, burped you and brought you up. As a child, you could get away with a handmade card and breakfast in bed, but now that you're full-grown it's time to kick it up and brunch like an adult. Start with a decadent eggs benedict or Mom's favorite whole-grain muffin, and be sure to make a toast with one of America's favorite brunchtime beverages: the Bloody Mary.

Like many cocktail classics, the origin of the Bloody Mary is much-debated, and has been for decades. Most barmen (and women) agree that the vodka-tomato concoction was first served to alcohol-deprived Americans in Paris, sometime around the 1920s by a bartender called Fernand "Pete" Petiot. A tal-

ented staple of the infamous Harry's New York Bar (which was located in Paris, confusingly enough), Petiot spent Prohibition in a city where serving up spirits was still legal. He later migrated to the King Cole Bar of the St. Regis Hotel in New York, where Petiot served a drink called The Red Snapper, which was a cocktail comprised of vodka, tomato juice, citrus and spices. Sound familiar? I think so.

Comedian George Jessel deemed himself as the originator of the Bloody Mary in a 1956 issue of Collier's and was credited with the initial idea by Petiot himself in a 1964 New Yorker article, but it was Petiot who added the salt and pepper, Worcestershire, cayenne and lemon that made the drink what it is today.

Many believe that the drink was named for Mary the First of England, who earned her notorious nickname for slaughtering Protestants in an attempt to reestablish the Catholic Church. Others claim actress Mary Pickford or socialite Mary Brown Warburton, a contemporary and acquaintance of Jessel. It has also been said that Petiot named the drink for a woman who sat at his bar waiting for a suitor who never showed, which is the favored origin story of Brian Bartels, whose newly released book, "The Bloody Mary," hit the bookshelves in March.

In the 80-plus years since its inception, the Bloody Mary has developed a reputation as a "hair of the dog" day-after cocktail, which is in large part why we've come to

associate it with brunch. It's one of few common cocktails that can hold its own even without alcohol, and is (in this writer's opinion) one of your best in-flight options. The modern Bloody Mary is practically a meal unto itself, with many bartenders adding olives, pickled vegetables, strips of bacon, and skewers of shrimp to the classic mixture of vodka and seasoned tomato juice. Bloodys are savory, often spicy, and easy to alter for particular palates. While the classic Bloody mix is made with tomato juice, lemon juice, cayenne, Worcestershire, salt and pepper, many add Tabasco sauce, horseradish, and celery salt, among other seasonings.

If you're looking for an easy option, go for a premade mix (Pacific Pickle Works makes some of the best I've ever had) and a mid-range vodka. Top shelf spirits are pretty much wasted on a drink that wasn't made to showcase the spirit, though you can switch it up with mezcal or tequila. Still, fresh is best if you have time to make a mix of your own. Or better yet, let someone else do it for you. Below are just a few local haunts where you can get a good Bloody. (Make sure to bring mom with you).



**Rustic Tavern** – Starting with a house-made mix that features fresh horseradish, salt, pepper, the Bacon Bloody Mary, is mixed with well vodka, and garnished with olive, cocktail onion, lemon, lime, a salted rim, and a strip of smoked applewood bacon. (\$10)  
3576 Mount Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, CA 94549, (925) 385-0559

**Sideboard** – Weekends only, Sideboard blends tomato juice with horseradish, tobacco, lime, and Worcestershire, then adds sake instead of vodka, and garnishes with celery, bacon and olive. (\$9.75)  
3535 Plaza Way, Lafayette, CA 94549, (925) 310-4773

**Yankee Pier** – House-made mix is combined with well vodka (or vodka of choice) and garnished with celery and cold shrimp. (\$9.50)  
3593 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, CA 94549, (925) 283-4100

**Casa Orinda** – Bloodys here are built as you go (so no two are exactly the same). Bartenders spice up tomato juice and vodka with steak sauce, Tobasco, salt and pepper, served in a 16 oz. bucket glass and garnished with celery and squeeze of lime (\$9).  
20 Bryant Way, Orinda, CA 94563, (925) 254-2981

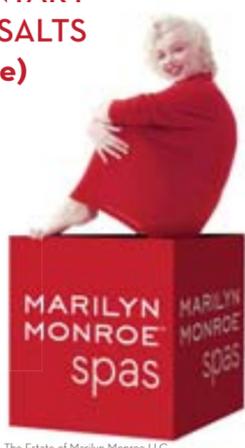
**Make your own Bloody Mary:**

- 1½-2 ounces vodka
  - 1/2 cup tomato juice
  - 2 teaspoons of fresh lemon juice
  - 1-3 dashes Tabasco sauce
  - 4-6 dashes Worcestershire sauce
  - pinch of salt and pepper
  - 1 tsp celery salt
  - 1 celery stick
  - 1 lemon wedge
- Add all ingredients to cocktail shaker. Mix by pouring liquid back and forth between the shaker's two halves. Pour into glass over ice. Garnish at will.

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## Glorietta Elementary School stages Disney's 'Mulan Jr.'

Submitted by Hillary Weiner



Photos provided



Based on Disney's Oscar-nominated film, "Mulan Jr." is a heartwarming celebration of culture, honor and the fighting spirit. In this story, it is up to the misfit Mulan and her mischievous dragon sidekick, Mushu, to save the Emperor from the Huns. Mulan defies the village matchmaker, taking up arms and disguising herself as a boy in order to spare her father from having to serve in the army. As the great battle with the Huns approaches, Mulan is forced to choose between revealing her true identity as a girl or saving all of China with her clever plan. With hit songs and a story packed with action, humor and heart, "Mulan Jr." brings ancient China to life with a modern sensibility.

This production of "Mulan Jr." is direct-

ed by music teacher Ron Pickett, with the assistance of parent producers Susan Jordan, June Lim and Melissa Matosian. There are two student casts, comprising approximately 65 students along with a student tech crew. The production is funded through parent contributions, Glorietta Parents Club, Orinda Arts Council and EFO.

"Mulan Jr." takes place at Glorietta Elementary School, 15 Martha Road, at 4 and 7 p.m. on Friday, May 12, and at 3 and 7 p.m. Saturday, May 13. Tickets for the Friday and Saturday performances (all reserved seating) will be available in advance online at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com). Tickets may also be available at the door prior to the show.

## Menge honored as Employee of the Month in Moraga

Submitted by Kevin Reneau



From left, Kevin Reneau, Rotary president, Gini Menge, Starbucks Manager Amanda Sargent, Chamber of Commerce President Wendy Schreck.

Virginia Menge, a popular barista at Starbucks Coffee, has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for March.

Menge has served Moraga customers for the past 11 years and has been with Starbucks for 13 years. She serves in many roles for the coffee company including making coffees, cappuccinos, lattes and other specialty drinks as well as food items.

"Ginny is extremely popular with our customers because of her fantastic work eth-

ic and she always as a positive attitude and a smile on her face," said Starbucks Manager Amanda Sargent. "She gets to know all of our customers. We just love having her on our team."

In winning the award, the Moraga Rotary and Chamber of Commerce will award Menge a gift card to Safeway as well as a gift card. Menge will be presented with his award and gifts at an upcoming Moraga Rotary meeting at Saint Mary's College.

## OIS Teacher named OUSD's Teacher of the Year

Submitted by Jonathan Lance



From left: Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools Karen Sakata and Orinda Union School District's Teacher of the Year Susan Boudreau. Photo Terry Koehne, CCCOE

On April 18, Contra Costa County Office of Education Superintendent of Schools Karen Sakata visited the classroom of Susan Boudreau, at Orinda Intermediate School. Boudreau, a 33-year instructor, was recently named Orinda Union School District's Teacher of the Year. Boudreau has been teaching science at the Orinda school

for the past 25 years. Prior to her current position, she had taught biology and science in the West Contra Costa County Unified School District, at U.C. Berkeley, and at the Queen Elizabeth School (grades 6-12), in Devon, UK.

"The accomplishment of which I am most proud is making science more accessible to girls and to all students who are not part of the traditional white-coat scientist mold," says Boudreau, whose father is a particle physicist. "This compelling world of physics is incredibly male-dominated – from middle school onward, and outward to engineering, too. The under-enrollment of girls is a huge waste of talent for society and for their own lives and careers, with physics being a gateway to so much beyond STEM. I want to model and convey the message that science is a fascinating, powerful and relevant endeavor in which ALL are invited to take a part."

On the evening of September 28, the 22 Contra Costa County TOYs, class of 2017-18, including Boudreau, will be introduced and honored at the annual Teacher of the Year Dinner Celebration, held at the Concord Hilton. The 22 TOYs will be accompanied by their families, friends, and co-workers. The expected crowd of close to 500 will also include numerous other supporters of the program.

## Teens plan Mother's Day walk against breast cancer

Submitted by Reagan Tierney



Zoe Zabetian and Reagan Tierney at last year's event.

Photo provided

For the past five years, Reagan Tierney and Zoe Zabetian, Miramonte students, have planned an annual Walk Against Breast Cancer on Mother's Day to raise funds for the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center. It is a breast health center in Oakland that was named after an Orinda resident who died from breast cancer. Her husband and grandchildren live in Orinda now.

The girls started the annual event in 2013 for a school project. At the time, Reagan's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. She is now a breast cancer survivor. Over

the years anywhere from 150 to 250 walkers have participated. In total, the duo has raised more than \$12,000.

This year, the walk will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on May 14, Mother's Day, at the St. Stephen's trail at Bates Boulevard. It is a drop-in, so walkers may arrive at any time during the time slot. The walk is flat, two miles long, and perfectly suitable for families. Noah's Bagels, Peet's Coffee, and Safeway donate refreshments. The girls are hoping to make this year our biggest walk yet

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

### Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

Submit stories to  
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## Mothers' groups grow up with their children

... continued from page B1

"There are six of us in the 'baby group' even now," Wilcox says, after more than 23 years and lots of changes. "We've managed to stay a group of good friends. We see each other four to six times a year still." Wilcox says the initial new mother bond, plus "a shared love of the outdoors, good books, museums, spirited discussions, and a good glass of wine" kept the group together. As a NICU nurse, Wilcox says she encourages the mothers whose children she cares for to reach out to other new moms when they leave the hospital. "It can be a lifeline," she says.

These Lamorinda mothers' children are now all grown, some with children of their

own, but many original mothers still stay in touch. "We didn't all go our separate ways," Dadasovich says. Babysitting co-op members from decades ago send Christmas cards or catch up at chance meetings across town. A group of former Lafayette Elementary School mothers who began walking the reservoir on Fridays when their children were young still find the time to bond over walks or day trips. Decades after the demands of a newborn, the terrible twos, the trying threes, the ferocious fours and the tricky teen years, social bonding...and the oxytocin it provides...is its own reward.

*In Focus: Jim Marggraff*

# Local man to judge at the Entrepreneur of the Year Awards

By Pippa Fisher



Jim Marggraff Photo provided

This year one of the judges at the prestigious Ernst and Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Awards program will be Lafayette resident Jim Marggraff.

The awards program, now in its 31st year, seeks entrepreneurial and innovative leaders who will be shaping the future through their vision. The program gives nominees the chance to compete at a regional level and go on to national and global levels. The Northern California program is one of more than 145 cities in more than 60 countries.

Every year the awards feature an independent panel of judges selected from both prior award winners and prominent industry leaders. Marggraff is no exception, having won the Northern California EY Entrepreneur of the Year award himself in 2011. He is in good company – other winners from the area include Starbucks Coffee Company, LinkedIn, FitBit, Google, GoPro, Earthbound Farm, Stella & Dot, Medivation and Shut-fly.

Marggraff, whose innovations have long been covered by the media including the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, CNN,

Good Morning America and Business Week among many more, has been developing technology and products to create solutions and improve learning for over 25 years.

From 1999-2010 Marggraff received hundreds of awards from around the world, most notably with his company, LeapFrog, for LeapPads – his educational toy, which earned the Toy of the Year award. It was during his seven years at LeapFrog that he developed his idea for a smartpen and went on to found Livescribe.

Never one to let the grass grow under his feet, Marggraff founded Eyefluence in 2013, developing technology that transforms intent into action through the user's eyes. He sold Eyefluence in 2016 to Google and is now a Director of Product Management at Google.

Marggraff says that the Entrepreneur of the Year award recognizes those who demonstrate excellent and extraordinary success in areas such as financial performance, innovation and commitment to their businesses and communities is what makes it the world's most prestigious business award for entrepreneurship.

He continues, "We are looking for entrepreneurs who demonstrate business savvy, financial acumen, leadership, high integrity, and evidence of success – and who will become the role models of future entrepreneurs."

He notes that the superb pool of nominees provides his biggest challenge and says that he has to merge insights from his own experience with guidance for the attributes specified by Ernst and Young to select the most outstanding entrepreneurs. "I am impressed by the overall quality and range of

businesses represented by the nominees."

Clearly a true entrepreneur has an exceptional drive to succeed. When asked if he sought to invent and create as a child, Marggraff replied that, as a child of a single parent with no college education, he was driven to find ways to augment the family income by delivering newspapers, selling Christmas cards and seeds and hosting neighborhood raffles but he says, "I enjoyed creating media – recording and splicing sounds and interviews, electronics and programming on a clunky teletype with paper tape."

Longtime Lafayette residents Marggraff and his wife have lived in Lafayette since 1998. They have two children, both of whom went through Acalanes High School. Their son, Blake, now 24, has just started his second company, EPharmix, and their daughter, Annie, attends Washington University in St. Louis.

He and his wife have encouraged their children through their actions and by engaging them in their own activities wherever possible. Marggraff says that both children visited LeapFrog weekly for years while he worked there to record their voices for characters in the LeapPad Learning System.

Their encouragement worked. In his senior year of high school Blake won the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair Gordon E. Moore award for a breakthrough treatment for cancer with his classmate Matt Feddersen.

Annie, after much research, set up a running club during high school for autistic students, a program that led to "Bear Cubs" running club for autistic students at Washington University – a pro-

gram she is currently working on taking nationwide.

However, Marggraff also credits his local schools, which he said encouraged his children too. He particularly credits Acalanes science teacher Jay Chugh who he said "cleared a path for them (Blake and Matt) to explore and invent – and represent Lamorinda on a global stage."

Marggraff continues, "Schools are only as good as the support of their parents and communities. I have met with and supported principals and teachers of many of our Lamorinda schools for discussions about the LeapPad and the Livescribe smartpen (that I had created). The energy, enthusiasm, and commitment of the staff with whom I have met, to our students' future, are extraordinary."

Marggraff is a member of the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club. He and his entire family have spoken on multiple occasions sharing their passions, projects and developments. He loves the extraordinarily positive community support in Lafayette. "People in our community step up to challenges and opportunities, both local or global."

Explaining what inspires him he says, "I am energized by developing a breakthrough technology to meet a critical need for our society and then building a team and solution that will positively impact the world."

The Entrepreneur of the Year Awards nominees are arguably already winners, gaining as they surely will from the perspective and wisdom of Marggraff's involvement.

## A new look for the 11th annual Moraga Community Faire

By Sophie Braccini



Local artist Jaya Griggs will again offer pet portraits Photo Andy Scheck

For 10 years now Ellen Beans had been the Moraga Chamber of Commerce's Community Faire leader. Now, the former Citizen of the Year decided that a decade was enough and passed the baton. It took two co-chairs to fill her shoes: Ashley Louisiana and Ian Cook represent the new generation of Moraga movers and doers who took on the challenge, supported by an experienced team of volunteers.

They are producing an event on May 13 that will be more condensed and integrated for additional interaction between visitors, vendors and the car show. They are also introducing novelties such as pony rides for kids.

Even if the layout and feel will be changed, residents will find at the fair many of the elements that have made this regional event – it attracts some 2,000 people. A Kid's Zone, live entertainment, food trucks, local wine, classic cars and all sorts of fun booths is what make the event "an old fashion neighborhood fair for the whole family," they say.

The co-chairs note that this event is the best chance for the local businesses, small and large, to show off and really interface with the residents, while providing local entertainment and fun.

"There are so many resources

here in town that many of us can overlook from time to time," says Cook. He adds that everything from the signs being printed, to the kids' activities like the bounce houses and balloon animals, are produced and provided by Moraga residents and chamber of commerce members. The entire entertainment lineup of bands, dancers, and performers is also local. Among the day's highlights will be performances from the Saint Mary's Jazz Band and the Campolindo High School band, as well as a presentation by CAPA dancers.

"All in all, it is really a time for the community to come together and shine, and that sense of pride in community is really why we all do it," says Cook.

Because Louisiana, Cook and the team noticed that there really are some fascinating and exciting cars on display during the car show, they rethought the fair design to integrate that part of the fair better, and this year, there will also be a car parade at the conclusion of the car show. The cars will circle the fair in an exit formation that should make for quite a demonstration. "It is one thing to look at the cars in the lot, but to hear them all fire up and circle the fair will be exciting," says Cook.

Even if the fair is celebrating old

cars, it will also do its part to limit the environmental footprint and encourage folks to ride their bikes to the Rheem Valley Shopping Center where it will take place again this year. Bike valet will be provided, so that people do not have to worry about finding a good spot to lock up their bikes for the day. The Moraga Police Department will be providing a bicycle safety course, as well as inspecting bikes to make sure that they are safe to ride.

A good fair needs food and beverages, and food trucks will be selling snacks or quick lunch items such as sliders filled with 100 percent grass-fed beef. Adult beverage booths served under the trees will offer beer and a variety of wines made by local wineries. Artists' wares, craft food items, and local businesses and organizations will be featured in booths throughout the fair.

Louisiana is on the board of the Moraga chamber of commerce and is Waste Prevention and Recycling Manager for Recycle Smart. She has attended the event as a vendor for close to 10 years and joined the committee about four years ago to oversee the recycling, organics and landfill services. She remembers how Beans and the fair were one of the first events in the entire service area requesting organic food scrap collection.

Cook started as a vendor and sponsor while working with the Moraga Country Club, then got more involved with the chamber of commerce and began set-up/take-down and various other volunteer roles. Cook is director, new business and operations for MedMatrX.

"We plan to honor Ellen (Beans) and her work in the community and the fair by having her ride in a convertible in front of the car parade," says Louisiana. The Moraga Community Faire & Car Show will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 13 at the town's Rheem Valley Shopping Center.

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## Teen Writes

# My prom as a pilgrimage

By Alexandra Reinecke

I'm a pilgrim in the black sweater my mother used to wear for Thanksgivings, and my friend is radiant in emerald. We sit with a triple-stack of pancakes spread like a Torah between us, and I look at them how one might assess such a text, thinking how it is that prom has been a pilgrimage, or what Wikipedia defines as a journey "to a shrine or other location of importance to a person's beliefs."

A pilgrimage because I learned the holy stations — the chocolate fountain room, the poker room, a maze of windows and stairs — around the room in avoidance of the dance floor. A pilgrimage because I'd eaten buffet food, a forbidden fruit my mother had hitherto managed to steer my childhood free of. A pilgrimage because I'd witnessed emotions clear on other people's faces as on the faces of the saints and sinners who mourn and exult in stained glass.

I start in on the pancakes, thinking how it has been a pilgrimage, also, for its cosmetic rituals: at the nail salon the overheard comment, as I watched my nails dry under pillars of blue light, that "Asians don't go to therapy," at the hair salon, the smell of eucalyptus shampoo, at the MAC counter at Nordstrom's the strange weight of false eyelashes like tiny and jet-black butterflies paused mid-flight.

As my friend begins to cut spongy squares off the pancake stack, I think, also, of the irony which separates our pilgrimage and that pursued by those at Plymouth. How when the Quakers landed, they said "Let your life speak" — a factoid I know only from my friend's supplement to her Penn application — but how we, inversely, instead spoke for our lives, which this particular night, had been less than exceptional enough to have spoken for themselves.

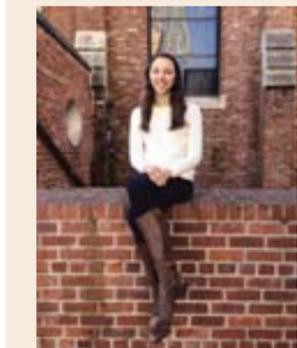
I think of what we spoke, which were things less transcendent than those the Quakers translated silently in wood carvings and butter pads. The directions to a party we ended up not attending. The irony of having to photograph a couple one half

of which I'd liked and whose other half I'd confided in the liking. How the bartender had come to understand my Diet Coke addiction in one night. That we'd relieved the cut-glass bowl beside the spray deodorant of peppermint Lifesavers in little foils.

So, my friend's Toyota is more a confessional than a wooden ship, but it occurs to me there that there is a holiness in it, despite its deviation from its proscribed metaphor. Holy that we, both critical reasoning champions, fail to highlight aloud the constellations we discern as more than isolated dots. That we lie to each other out of a camaraderie that extends, if momentarily, further than our mutual respect for the truth.

So, I'm a pilgrim and I've lost my black sweater somewhere between now and then. So, we eat toast triangles with I Can't Believe It's Not Butter. So, we remove makeup. So, we watch "Gossip Girl" and I think regretfully of a person, across the room, I neglected to speak to.

So, in the morning, when I go home in bare feet and no more or less enlightened than I came, but no more or less enlightened than I had expected to become, I am thankful to have undertaken this journey, this pilgrimage, however strange.



Alexandra Reinecke is from Westchester, New York. She currently resides in Lafayette, where she is junior at Campolindo High school. She writes every morning at 5 a.m. opposite a print of "View of the World from 9th Avenue" and consumes copious amounts of coffee. Her likes include maple-flavored anything and snow. Her favorite animal is a tiger.

## Thoughtful Food

# Delicious Almond Scones are a fun brunch addition for Mother's Day

By Susie Iventosch



Almond scones

Photo Susie Iventosch

A couple of weeks ago we featured Papa's Favorite Torte, and in the column I mentioned that almond scones are a great way to use any leftover almond paste you may have from that recipe. Even if you have no leftover almond paste to use up, these scones are a great excuse to get into the kitchen to bake, especially for a special

Mother's Day brunch.

This recipe comes from our attempt to replicate scones that we found on a trip to Idaho. My son and I absolutely loved these scones, which were offered in several flavors: almond, apricot or lemon-poppy seed.

Because we entertain a lot in the summer, we wanted to make

them on our own to serve to guests.

The base for the scones all appeared to be the same, and when I went into the store to inquire about the recipe, all the owner would tell me is that there are just five ingredients in her basic scone recipe, which included no eggs, except for the egg wash on top. Armed with this information, I came up with butter, flour, sugar, baking powder and milk (or cream), for a total of five. Next we figured out ingredient quantities, added a wee bit of salt and of course the almond paste and extract for the almond flavored scone, which was our favorite!

This recipe is the result and they are actually very simple to make. We like to use the Odense brand of almond paste, which is a very firm almond paste. I have not yet tried making these with Solo brand almond paste, but it should work just fine. If using the Odense brand, be sure to pick up the one with the blue label. The one with the red label is marzipan and that will not work for this recipe.

## Almond Scones –Whole Recipe

(Makes 12 medium-sized scones)

### INGREDIENTS

2 cups flour  
6 Tbsp. granulated sugar  
4 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 stick butter, cold and cut into small 1/2-inch cube pieces  
1/2 cup cream (or milk)  
4 oz. almond paste\*  
2 tsp. almond extract  
1 egg white for egg wash  
1/4 cup sliced almond for topping  
1 Tbsp. sugar for topping

\*I use the Odense brand of almond paste, which is packaged in a foil tube inside a cardboard box. So, before heating the almond paste with the milk, I cut the paste into small pieces. If you use the canned kind of almond paste, like Solo brand, then you will probably not have to cut it into pieces, because it's not quite as stiff to begin with.)

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Prepare a baking sheet with cooking spray or parchment paper.

In a large bowl, mix flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. With a pastry cutter, or your fingertips, cut butter into flour mixture until well blended and butter is reduced to tiny pea size pieces.

In a 2-cup glass measuring cup, or a small bowl, place milk (or cream or half & half), almond paste and almond extract. Heat in microwave for 1 to 2 minutes, until milk is warm and the almond paste is very soft. Remove from microwave and blend with a fork to stir almond paste into milk. It will still be a little bit lumpy —no problem.

With a large fork or spoon, stir milk mixture into flour-butter mixture. Blend well. Form into a ball, and on a floured cutting board, press the ball into a large circle with your hands. The circle should be about 1/2- to 3/4-inch thick. If dough is too sticky, just dust with a little extra flour before shaping.

Cut into even triangles and place them on prepared baking sheet. (Cut into 6 or 12 triangles depending upon whether you use the full or half recipe. Also, make them larger or smaller as you wish.)

With a pastry brush, glaze the tops of the scones with egg white, sprinkle with sliced almonds and sprinkle with sugar. (White, raw or brown sugar ... whichever you like!)

Bake for approximately 10-12 minutes, or until tops begin to turn golden-brown, and almonds are golden brown. Serve immediately, or store in an air-tight container for several days. These scones also freeze well. Thaw and reheat in a warm oven or toaster oven.

## Half Recipe

(Makes 6 medium-sized scones)

1 cup flour  
3 Tbsp. granulated sugar  
2 tsp. baking powder  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1/2 stick butter, cold and cut into small, 1/2-inch cube pieces  
1/4 cup cream (or milk)  
2 oz. almond paste  
1 tsp. almond extract  
1 egg white for egg wash  
1/2 cup sliced almonds for topping  
2 Tbsp. sugar for topping

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



# SMC receives \$2.7 Million STEM grant to support Hispanic students

By A.K. Carroll

Imagine you are a young Latina in her first semester of college. You are the first in your family to pursue higher education, the first to dream of the opportunities a college degree can afford. Your parents are proud. Your siblings are impressed. Your community back home is cheering you on.

But after several weeks on campus, your feelings shift from excited to anxious. You're not sure how your loans are being processed or if you need to pay the interest. Your chemistry class is harder than you anticipated and none of your instructors seem to understand how homesick you are. You think of getting a job to send money back home, but you don't know where you'll find the time. You were so eager to imagine yourself as a doctor months before, but now the path from here to there seems too steep to trek.

The barriers to student success are a real and tangible issue for first generation students on college campuses across the country. It's easy to assume that a student who drops out didn't have what it takes or shouldn't have started in the first place, but often that isn't the case.

"When a flower doesn't bloom we don't change the flower, we fix the environment," said Tracy Pas-

cua Dea, Assistant Vice Provost for Student Success at Saint Mary's College.

Earlier this year Pascua Dea collaborated with other SMC faculty and staff to apply for a \$2.7 million Hispanic Serving Institutions Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (HSI STEM) and Articulation program grant. The grant, which was awarded last fall, comes from the Department of Education and will be used to support a new initiative called Caminos a la Ciencias (CALC)—"Pathways to Science." The CALC initiative was designed to supplement and expand the curriculum and resources offered to STEM students at the college, with an emphasis on supporting Hispanic and low-income students.

Why this particular population? There are myriad answers.

"First generation college students are the largest group entering college nationally and they typically overlap with under-represented groups in general, often low income, Latino, or African American; that overlap creates a common goal," said Gloria Aquino Sosa, assistant professor and co-director of SMC's High Potential Program and Program Director of College Stu-

dent Services. "It is crucial that we ensure that they understand what goes into the college process."

Sosa explained that this is often a struggle for students whose parents desire that their children go to college, but who have no firsthand experience of what that process entails.

"I am (first generation) myself," said Pascua Dea, whose parents emigrated from the Philippines. "I relate to a lot of the students who are first generation on campus. Applying for financial aid or scholarships, buying books, etc.—my parents didn't know how this was done so I had to try and figure it out myself."

Part of CALC's goal is to make all of this more feasible. The naming of the initiative is representative of both its structure and purpose. "It's both literal and figurative," said Pascua Dea. "There are different ways to go about achieving a degree in STEM. Let's find the path that works for (each student), as opposed to throwing them all in one path."

The program consists of five major components: The creation of a new STEM center with increased services for STEM students; enhanced transfer articulation and support, specifically with students

from Los Medanos College, a two-year community college in Pittsburg; faculty development, curriculum development and ongoing evaluation and assessment.

In its first year, the program targeted 262 students, including 171 Hispanic and low-income STEM majors and 91 undeclared first-year Hispanic and low-income students who intend to major in STEM disciplines.

"Hispanic and low income are our target populations," said Roy Wensley, Dean of the School of Science and principal investigator and project lead for CALC. "(But) the kinds of things you do for one population of students help and benefit all students."

The new STEM center, for example, which Wensley described as, "a locus for students majoring in science and mathematics," will be open to all 600-some STEM students. "They'll receive help with academic work, but also help with understanding why they are pursuing the field and how to be successful."

The same goes for changes in pedagogy, which will directly impact the whole campus. Such changes are as much about a shift in approach as they are an alteration of practice. "(Instructors) need

to know their audience and know the narrative of the population," said Sosa. "Then they'll be able support the population better."

A major goal for SMC on the whole is what Sosa calls strengths-based institutional change.

"(It's) moving away from deficit-based conceptualizations of our student population and looking at a student from a strengths-based lens. Our students come to us with motivation and a desire to achieve. What causes most students to be unsuccessful is an idea that they can't make it," said Sosa.

Pascua Dea echoed those sentiments. "There's a psycho-social piece that goes beyond academics," she said. "Those questions of, Do I believe I belong here? Do I know what I'm doing? Do I have a network and people to go to? The whole point is to look at the student holistically."

Ultimately, the goal of CALC might be summarized as an institutional shift that will result in increased student success.

"The biggest shift we've done across campus is switching to strengths-based assessment," said Pascua Dea. "We ask what are the strengths the students bring and what can we do to support that?"

Family Focus

# Two tips for boosting happiness

By Margie Ryerson

“Happiness is an inside job.” ~William Arthur Ward

We all know people who seem to have it all, yet they are not completely happy. Sometimes the outward trappings — money, prestige, job, family — aren’t enough to overcome deep-seated personal dissatisfactions. The following steps for achieving greater happiness are not meant to be spiritual advice, but rather they are based on therapeutic psychological principles:

1) Avoid comparing yourself to others.

It’s human nature to compare and contrast ourselves with others. But some people do this to an extreme, many without even realizing it, and wind up sabotaging their ability to be happy and content.

If you feel deficient in some way and then see others who have what you think you lack, you will only make yourself feel worse by making comparisons. Even if you feel relatively good about yourself, focusing on what others have can undermine some of your own positive feelings. Comparisons can be about physical appearance, athletic ability, financial success, achievements, artistic ability, friendships, family or a host of other things. Most people compare themselves only to those who have more, not to those who have less.

Many people, especially women, are self-conscious and self-critical about their bodies. One woman in her 30s, Nina, came in for therapy to work on eliminating binge eating. She had been alternately binging and restricting for over five years. Nina was tired of feeling like a fraud as she worked with her physical therapy patients, helping them take better care of their bodies.

One component of therapy for Nina was to rid herself of the habit of comparing herself to others. Her challenge was to notice a body not in as good shape as hers for each enviable body she saw. It was important for Nina to develop perspective and balance because her perceptions were skewed. She said she felt mean finding people who looked worse than she did. But since she wasn’t hurting anyone by doing this, it was important for her to be fair and not always compare

“up” if she even needed to compare at all. Nina needed much more emphasis on appreciating what she had.

Similarly, Evan was in the habit of looking at his old college classmates and comparing their successes to his self-perceived failures. Rebecca constantly looked around at the multitudes of married couples while she was lonely and divorced.

Making comparisons is a habit, and like any habit it takes effort over time to break. First, you must catch yourself in the act of doing it. Awareness is an essential tool in changing a behavior. Then it’s important to focus on all that you have going for yourself. Try to appreciate everything, large and small. You may not have your ideal home, but there are probably aspects of your home or its location that you do enjoy. You may not like your thighs, but at least you have a body that works. And you probably have other features that you do like. You may not have as much money as you would like, but you’re probably better off than most other people in the world. You can remind yourself that no one has it all; even those who seem like they do often have challenges that aren’t apparent to others.

As you are practicing avoiding comparisons, you can concentrate on admiring the successes or beauty or personality of others. You can practice not allowing their good qualities or good fortune to detract from your own feelings of well-being.

You can then begin to use this admiration as positive motivation for yourself. Perhaps you would like to be more like your friend who is in good shape or has a good relationship with her husband or who has a thriving career. This is your cue to work on these things for yourself. It is much easier to improve ourselves when we come from a positive place rather than from a negative one.

2) Avoid Negative Self-Talk

We have all heard about the concept of seeing the glass as half full rather than half empty. But we can’t just automatically do this for ourselves. We need to first work on

changing our internal dialogue by becoming aware of messages we tell ourselves.

I typically ask clients what they would say to a good friend who is talking disparagingly about himself or herself. Would they tell their friend, “Well, you did a good job, but you could have done better.” Or, “You didn’t do well on the math test, Bar exam, SAT . . . so you must be pretty stupid.” Or, “You’re so selfish . . . fat . . . ugly . . . boring . . .” No, instead too many people reserve these negative messages for themselves.

Of course if you suffer from moderate to severe depression, it will be very difficult to make a shift out of negative territory on your own. You will most likely benefit from therapy and possible medication.

But for many others, self-correction is possible with focus and motivation. It is important to catch yourself in the act of thinking negatively about yourself and then try to turn that message around. You don’t need to make an extreme jump from “I’m so boring” to “I’m actually fascinating.” Just trying to be neutral instead of negative will be a good start, perhaps telling yourself, “I’m not boring when the conversation interests me,” or “I rarely feel like I’m boring when I’m with certain people.”

Ultimately, of course, the goal is self-acceptance. Those who can accept themselves, limitations and all, are the fortunate ones, for they have a key to greater happiness.



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

## Saint Mary’s College Dance Company Marks 20th Anniversary



The Saint Mary’s College Dance Company celebrates 20 years of outstanding and diverse dance performances with “Rise.” An evening of new works, this spring showcase features the choreography of the college’s award-winning dance faculty, including Catherine-Marie Davalos, Pope Flyne, Dana Lawton, Rogelio Lopez, Elizebeth Randall Rains, Dima and Olga Sukachov, and Shaunna Vella, as well as guest artist and graduate student Zaquia Mahler Salinas.

“Rise” depicts how individuals overcome contemporary challenges with love, strength, humor, intelligence and grace. The production runs May 11-13 in the LeFevre Theater at Saint Mary’s College,

1928 St. Mary’s Road, Moraga.

Tickets are \$15 General Admission and \$10 for SMC faculty and staff and \$5 for SMC students. They can be purchased online at [stmarys-ca.edu/dance-rise](http://stmarys-ca.edu/dance-rise).

The college invites the public to celebrate the SMC Dance Company’s 20th anniversary at a free special pre-performance reception at 6 p.m. May 12, in the SMC Art Museum. Mingle with choreographers, dance program alumni, enjoy appetizers, live music by the SMC Music Department, and free admission to the museum. Located at the SMC Art Museum Courtyard, the reception is a short walk to the LeFevre Theater. — Peggy Spear



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- Niman Flat Iron Steak:** potato gratin, green beans, chimichurri sauce.....18
- Fresh Seafood Cioppino:** in a rich tomato-basil sauce, parmesan, garlic toast...19
- Roasted Scallops:** spinach, salciccia sugo.....19
- Roasted Wild Salmon:** white wine, capers, braised greens, and potato gratin..17
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 Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 11 - 2  
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10 Moraga Valley Lane  
[www.mvpc.today.org](http://www.mvpc.today.org)  
 925.376.4800

### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422  
[www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)



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

### SAINT GILES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

9am Sunday School & Communion Service in the SMC Chapel



[stgiles-moraga.org](http://stgiles-moraga.org)  
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### Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 [thelumc.org](http://thelumc.org)  
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In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare  
 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)

### LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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### St Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

Please...



...thanks

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

### ART

**IRAN/USA, an original exhibition organized** by the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art, presents a program of compelling video art and prints by artist and faculty member Peter Freund through May 28. The museum is located on campus, 1928 St. Mary's Road in Moraga and is open from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday; \$5 admission.

**The Orinda Library Gallery presents** The Glover Group Color and Light: The Legacy Continues through May 31. A passion for the beautiful farmland, coastal and rural geography of the San Francisco Bay Area is the inspiration for over 60 new plein air paintings. Gallery hours: Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m.

**Valley Art Gallery presents Works On Silk** by featured artist Susan Helmer opening May 16. In addition to Susan's work, the new 2017 spring collection of over 300 new works by Valley Art Gallery Artists is on display, in a wide range of motifs, styles, media and prices, and representing the best of the best from more than 100 East Bay artists. There will be a free artist reception from 3 to 5 p.m. on May 20. [www.valleyartgallery.com](http://www.valleyartgallery.com).

### MUSIC

**Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, under guest** conductor Mitchell Covington, presents "Beautiful is the World," featuring exciting premieres of works by gifted Bay Area composers. Showtimes are at 4 p.m. on May 6 at Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland. Tickets: \$25-15, children between 6 and 12 free. Available at the door or online at [www.vocisings.org](http://www.vocisings.org).

**"Four Hands, Two Pianos, One Brain. Again"** concert AT 4 p.m. on May 7. Duo pianists David Auerbach and Martin Morley once again blight the concert stage with a program of classical and popular music presented in a uniquely entertaining fashion. From cold Scandinavian music to hot Latin tunes, dances including ballet, a tango, and a hoe-down, an audience participation quiz and — of course, there will be a puppet show! Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. Free admission, freewill offering.

**Free live music at the Concert at the Res from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.**, Saturday, May 13 at the Lafayette Reservoir Stage featuring the Big Band of Rossmoor, Acalanes Jazz Ensemble, Bentley Jazz Ensemble, Lamorinda Theatre Academy, Town Hall Troupe, Stanley Middle School and Westlake Middle School's Combined Symphonic Band. Food and Raffle tickets support Lafayette School and Rotary projects.

**Gold Coast Chamber Players concert "Tango Twist"** at 7:30 p.m. on May 13 in the Community Hall at the Lafayette Library. There will be a pre-concert talk with Kai Christiansen at 7 p.m. Enjoy tango-inspired music for string quartet and bandoneon, including a composition by former Lafayette Mayor Erling Horn's son, Patrick Horn. Tickets: \$40 General, \$35 Senior, \$15 Student. Purchase online: [www.gcplayers.org](http://www.gcplayers.org). By phone: (925) 283-3728.

**The Diablo Women's Chorale invites you** to join them in celebrating 75 years in the community with their Spring Concert "Make Them Hear You! Music for Our Times," to be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 20 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Avenue. Advance purchase tickets are \$18. General admission, \$10 Student, and \$24 Premium seating. Purchase at the door for \$20. Call 1-800-838-3006 or go online at [www.DiabloWomensChorale.org](http://www.DiabloWomensChorale.org)

### THEATER

**Diablo Ballet presents the final program of its 23rd Season, "Cel-**

**brated Masters,"** featuring three unique ballets with choreography by Val Caniparoli, Trey McIntyre and Robert Dekkers at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 5 and at 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 6 at the Del Valle Theatre in Walnut Creek. Each performance is followed by an interactive Q&A with the dancers and choreographers and includes a complimentary dessert reception with an opportunity for audience members to get up close and personal with the artists. Tickets are \$27-47. For tickets, call (925) 943-SHOW (7469) or visit [www.lesherartscenter.org](http://www.lesherartscenter.org) or [www.diabloballet.org](http://www.diabloballet.org).

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**Erik Larson, New York Times bestselling author,** discusses his latest book "Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania" from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 4 at the Lafayette Library Distinguished Speaker Series. Larson's work includes "The Devil in the White City," "Thunderstruck" and "In the Garden of Beasts." Information on a special private reception with Larson, reserved seating and tickets is at: [www.tinyurl.com/ErikLarson](http://www.tinyurl.com/ErikLarson), or call (925)283-6513 x102.

**"Nutrition and the Media – Separating Fact and Fiction"** is the title of Jill West's presentation at First Friday Forum, 1:30 p.m. May 5 in the Sanctuary at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette. West has a practice in Lafayette as a registered dietitian, nutritionist and Certified Health Coach and will present information to help separate nutrition facts from fiction and also highlight foods that promote healthy aging." Refreshments will be served at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This is a free event. For further information call 925-283-8722.

**Come hear missionary Don Richardson speak** at a complementary banquet by The Wycliffe Associates, bible translators, from 6:15 to 9:15 on Friday, May 12 at the Lafayette Veteran's Memorial Center at 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. The free evening includes dinner, speakers, worship music and an offering at the end for those who wish to participate. To RSVP by May 8 email [brad\\_reiches@wycliffeassociates.org](mailto:brad_reiches@wycliffeassociates.org) or call (925) 819-2127; please include number of attendees and a contact phone number or email.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**The Lafayette Youth Commission is putting on their** last seventh- and eighth-grade Tri-City Dance of the year from 7:30 to 10 p.m. on May 5 at the Lafayette Community Center. The dance will feature an Inflatable Bungie Run and Obstacle Course. It is \$12 and pre-registration is required (no sales at the door). Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda seventh and eighth grade students welcome. Strict dress code enforced. Participants are asked to bring a canned food donation. These are safe, drug and alcohol-free events that are chaperoned by Lafayette staff and commissioners. Students can register at [www.LafayetteRec.org](http://www.LafayetteRec.org) or call (925) 284-2232.

**Respite Night from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, May 5.** Respite Night provides a fun night out for special needs children and siblings while their parents get a night off. To register your children, visit the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church website: [mvpc.today.org](http://mvpc.today.org). Everyone is welcome and there is no cost for the event; also, no church or religious affiliation required. 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga.

**The Moraga-Orinda Fire District is hosting** its Orinda Open House and Hot Dog Lunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 6 at Station 45, 33 Orinda Way, Orinda. Kids and adults can meet their local firefighters, tour the fire trucks, and gather important wildfire safety and disaster preparedness information from MOFD and other local agencies. Smokey the Bear and Spunky the Fire Dog will make special guest

appearances throughout the day. For more information, visit [www.MOFD.org](http://www.MOFD.org).

**Lafayette Nursery School's 41st Annual Science Day of Discovery** is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 6 at 979 First Street, Lafayette. Make a volcano explode, shoot a rocket, make flubber, dig for dinosaur bones and pet an animal in the petting corral! Cost: \$5 per child. Call Lafayette Nursery School at (925) 284-2448, visit the website at [www.lafayettenurseryschool.org](http://www.lafayettenurseryschool.org) or [www.facebook.com/LafayetteNurserySchool](http://www.facebook.com/LafayetteNurserySchool).

**Don't Miss the Hacienda de las Flores, Fiesta de Mayo** celebration from noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 7, 2100 Donald Drive. Step back in time, enjoy the beautiful grounds and learn about the Hacienda's rich history. Fun for all ages! Free admission, authentic Mexican food and drinks, live Mariachi Band, piñata contests, cupcake walks, other kids' activities and more.

**The Lamorinda Idol 2017 auditions will be held** on May 11-13. Registration is open to all Lamorinda students or residents. Groups can include members outside Lamorinda. Register at [www.LamorindaArts.Org](http://www.LamorindaArts.Org) through April 30. The Lamorinda Idol program includes workshops, multiple performance opportunities, parties and the finals at the Orinda Theatre on Sunday, Aug. 26.

**Let's Go On A Letter Hunt at The Saklan School** at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 20. Local authors Sue Tenerowicz and Lynn Champagne of Spell-It-Out Photos will read their "Seussical" adventure book, taking young readers on a marvelous journey of rhyming and hunting for letters from A-Z. Following the reading, there will be a book signing and children will go on a Letter Hunt on the Saklan playground. Recommended for Pre-K through second graders. This event is free of charge and open to the public. Drop-ins are always welcome! Information and RSVP at [bit.ly/letterhuntsaklan](http://bit.ly/letterhuntsaklan).

### OTHER

**Meditation for Stress Reduction at 1 p.m. Thursday, May 4** in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Orinda Library welcomes Dr. Marshall Zaslove, a Board certified psychiatrist and author who has practiced meditation for over 40 years. Join in to learn simple effective techniques and practical methods to reduce stress and find your way to the garden of personal peace and joy within.

**"Colorful Mandalas in the Garden" at 1 p.m.** on Saturday, May 6 at the Lafayette Community Garden, 3932 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Join local artist and educator Tracy Randolph for an intergenerational art workshop at the Lafayette Community Garden & Outdoor Learning Center, where attendees will explore and create Mandalas. All ages welcome; Youth ages 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Register at [www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org](http://www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org).

**The Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA)** will hold its 42nd annual Spring House Tour and Garden Reception from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 7. This year's tour focuses on Claremont Park, the elegant, leafy neighborhood developed by Duncan McDuffie and laid out to conform to the existing topography, celebrating the creeks, oaks, and gentle slopes to create a setting for well-designed residences. Tour map, illustrated guidebook, and refreshments will be provided. General admission \$45; BAHA members \$35. For tour information and tickets, visit the BAHA website <http://berkeleyheritage.com>, e-mail [baha@berkeleyheritage.com](mailto:baha@berkeleyheritage.com), or call (510) 841-2242.

... continued on next page

Film Clips

# April showers bring May events to Lamorinda

By Derek Zemrak



Jimmie "JJ" Walker Photo provided

Lamorinda Theatres have several events planned for the month of May and there is something for people of all ages.

Forget this year's Oscar mishap. See Faye Dunaway and Warren Beatty at their best in Orinda's FREE Movie Night at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 1 in the 1967 classic "Bonnie and Clyde." The film won two Oscars in 1968, Best Actress in a Supporting Role for Estelle Parsons and Best Cinematography. This is the tale of a small time crook Clyde Barrow (Warren Beatty) who tries to steal a car and winds up with the car owner's daughter, Bonnie Parker (Faye Dunaway). The duo team up for a string of robberies resulting in mayhem and misfortunes. Does it remind you of the Academy Awards in February?

As with all FREE Movie Nights, arrive early for the best seating.

At 2 p.m. May 17, Moraga resident, author and film historian Larry Swindell will take center stage at the Rheem Theatre to introduce the Moraga Mover's Classic Film, "The Maltese Falcon." Director by the great John Huston, "The Maltese Falcon" is a noir classic. Detec-

tive Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart) gets more than he bargained for when he takes a case brought to him by a beautiful but secretive woman (Mary Astor).

Enjoy the amazing San Francisco locations in the film. A great field trip is to watch the movie and plan a day in San Francisco finding the locations. Admission is \$7.

Live stand-up comedy returns to the Orinda Theatre with comic legend, Jimmie "JJ" Walker.

Rising from the streets of New York's ghettos to television superstardom, JJ personifies the great American success story. His catch phrase "Dyn-O-Mite!" is part of modern vernacular. Time Magazine named Walker "Comedian of the Decade" in the 1970s.

JJ is best known for his role of JJ Evans, Jr. in the classic television series, "Good Times" (1974-1979). His other notable roles include "Airplane!," "Airport '79," "The Love Boat," "Everybody Hates Chris" and "Scrubs."

It will be a "Dyn-O-Mite!" evening of clean comedy. Tickets are \$20.

Get ready for a little magic at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 20 at the Rheem Theatre. Illusionist Timothy James will amaze you and the kids. It's a night of unbelievable sleight of hand, hilarious audience interaction and for the grand finale .... You just have to see it! It's fun for the entire family and KIDS of all ages. James will be accompanied by pianist Patti Leidecker. The event is sponsored by the Moraga Community Foundation. Tickets are \$15 and \$10 for kids under 18.

See you all at the Orinda and Rheem Theatres this month for several outstanding special events!

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

### OTHER

**Lamorinda Arts Council will host their second annual ShortDocs Film Fest** at 3 p.m. on May 7 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. This documentary film festival provides local filmmakers an opportunity to create new work as well as showcase it at a community screening. Entries for the Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest will be accepted until April 19. To learn more about the Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest competition and to enter go to [www.lamorindaarts.org/shortdocs](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/shortdocs).

**Come hear missionary Don Richardson** speak at a complementary banquet by The Wycliffe Associates, bible translators, at 7 p.m. on May 12 at the Lafayette Veteran's Memorial Center at 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Doors open at 6:15 p.m., salad service at 6:45, program from 7 to 9:15 p.m. including dinner, speakers, worship music and an offering at the end for those who wish to participate. RSVP by May 8 to email [brad\\_reiches@wycliffeassociates.org](mailto:brad_reiches@wycliffeassociates.org) or call (925) 819-2127; please include number of attendees and a contact phone number or email.

**The 11th annual Moraga Community Faire & Car Show** will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 13 at the town's Rheem Valley Shopping Center featuring pony rides, bounce house and climbing wall, bike safety check, live entertainment, food trucks, local wine, classic cars and all sorts of fun booths — an old fashioned neighborhood faire for the whole family. Free to attend. For more information, visit [www.moragachamber.org/faire](http://www.moragachamber.org/faire).

**Come celebrate diversity and promote our unity** at Soul Food Lamorinda from 2 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 13 at the Intercultural Center at St Mary's College. Soul Food Lamorinda is a free Baha'i-inspired program that combines an audio-visual presentation with readings from various faiths, philosophers and leaders, allowing us to reflect on inspiring themes and reminding us of the oneness of humanity. This month's program, "Syllables and Sounds" will explore the power of words, speech and sound, and how their inspired usage can touch and transform the human soul. Free and open to everyone. For more info: [www.meetup.com/Soul-Food-Lamorinda](http://www.meetup.com/Soul-Food-Lamorinda).

**Don't Miss Lafayette's Favorite Dinner Party** "Taste of Lafayette" Restaurant Stroll, 5:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday May 16. Friends, food and

entertainment with 26 participating restaurants. Ticket holders head out at their own pace with friends to stop at any or all of the participating restaurants for sampling. Tickets are available online at [www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org) or at the Lafayette Chamber offices, located at 100 Lafayette Circle. (925) 284-7404.

**Lafayette Juniors 18th Annual Kitchen Tour** is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 20. Tour six Lafayette kitchens for a great cause benefiting Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, Alternative Family Services, The Taylor Family Foundation, and Trinity Center. Tickets are \$40 and available at [www.lafayette-juniors.org](http://www.lafayette-juniors.org) or Premier Kitchens in Lafayette. (See page D1)

**The Moraga Community Garage Sale** provides an opportunity to clean out garages, attics, storage sheds and closets, while meeting neighbors and recycling unwanted items. Town of Moraga residents are invited to hold garage sales at their homes, join with neighbors to hold block sales, or organize a community group to hold a combined sale from 9 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 20. A \$15 registration fee will provide a listing in the Community Garage Sale Guide. The Town will provide marketing for the event and the sellers keep the cash - it's that easy! [Moragarec.com](http://Moragarec.com)

**The Many Faces of Skin Cancer 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** on May 24 in the Lafayette Library Community Room. Join an engaging panel of medical experts as they offer insights in the latest information on prevention, risk factors, new treatment options including immunotherapy, and explore the unique issues of skin cancer survivors. To reserve, call (925) 677-5041 x272.

### POLITICAL GATHERINGS

**Please join the Lamorinda Democratic Club** for a panel discussion on the Future of Housing in the Bay Area from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, May 11 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. For information, please visit [www.ldclub.org](http://www.ldclub.org)

### SENIORS

**Lunch n' Learn: "Are Your Legal Documents in Order?"** from 10:30 to noon on May 10 in the Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center. Are you aware of the basic documents you should have in place? It will cover the essential forms: Living Trust, Will, Health Care Directive, Financial Power of Attorney,

beneficiary forms, personal items distribution list and POLST. RSVP required by Wednesday, May 3: [Seniors@LoveLafayette.org](mailto:Seniors@LoveLafayette.org) or (925) 284-5050.

**Come to the Early Stage Alzheimer's Forum** from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on May 5 in Lafayette (exact address location will be provided upon registration.) Participants will have an opportunity to learn more about the disease, treatment and research updates as well as discuss common challenges and coping strategies during breakout sessions. This is a free event, open only to early-stage individuals and their care partners. Space is limited; early registration is recommended. For more information or to register, please contact Lan Trinh at (408)372-9982 or [ltrinh@alz.org](mailto:ltrinh@alz.org).

**Lafayette Senior Services presents Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird-Watching** from 9 a.m. to noon every Wednesday, meeting in the Alder Room at the Lafayette Community Center. Experience nature at its finest along local trails. Delight in the beauty that unfolds around each bend, all the while learning to identify a variety of birds. For more information or to place your name on the route email/phone list contact Lafayette Seniors Services, 284-5050 or [seniors@lovelafayette.org](mailto:seniors@lovelafayette.org).

### GARDEN

**The spirit of the tropics comes to Walnut Creek** for Fiesta de Jardín, a Latin-inspired afternoon garden party on the beautiful, flower-filled grounds of The Gardens at Heather Farm from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 7. Guests will enjoy a variety of small plates, refreshing beverages and live music while celebrating spring in the garden and raising funds for the host organization's nonprofit programs. Experience an afternoon like never before at The Gardens' biggest fundraiser of the year! Tickets: \$45 Members of The Gardens, \$50 Public. Tickets available online at [gardenshf.org](http://gardenshf.org) or by phone at (925) 947-1678.

**Lafayette Garden Club's Fabulous Celebration** at 10 a.m. on May 11 at The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. Mimosa and Brunch, plus a fashion show featuring "Garden Inspired" apparel, boutique with garden-themed items for sale, floral designs and arrangements. Cost: \$35 per person. For reservations please email: [AnnWard.annward@annward.com](mailto:AnnWard.annward@annward.com) or Laurelle Thom [laurrelleth@comcast.net](mailto:laurrelleth@comcast.net).

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## Service Clubs Announcements

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

May 5	May 12
<b>Nancy McIntyre - Inspiring students, one robot at a time.</b>	<b>Leander Hauri makes every effort to explain himself for all to understand.</b>

The "Teardrop Inn" trailer will be at the Moraga Community Faire on May 13; in Lafayette on May 20/21 on Mt. Diablo Blvd., in front of Ware Designs store.

## Lafayette Rotary Club

**Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting.** Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

May 4:	May 11:
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# Lamorinda Weekly

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Dons aim for top spot in DAL standings

By Karl Buscheck



Megan Bower



Sydni Gordon



Marina Carr

Photos Gint Federas

Not even Victor Silva, the head coach of the youthful Acalanes softball team, could have imagined just how much his club would grow in the opening months of the 2017 season.

"Believe me," Silva said. "If you had (told) me at the beginning of the season that we'd be (4-0 in league and 12-2 overall), I'd say, 'No way.' Because we're so young."

Asked to explain the success, Silva points to the facts that the Dons are always serious and ready to learn on the practice diamond and that the group has been busy building camaraderie off the field with an unprecedented amount of team dinners, lunches and bonding.

It also helps that the team can lead on the guidance of a trio of senior captains in first baseman/outfielder Marina Carr, outfielder Jazz Boynton and pitcher/second baseman/outfielder Brooke Panfili.

"They've made my job really easy," Silva said. "If the kids get out of line, they rein them in quickly. It's just gone so smoothly - I can't tell you. It's been a pleasure."

The Dons topped Campolindo 13-6 in eight innings on April 25 in Moraga, blanked Mt. Diablo at home a couple of days later and pay a visit to their other rival - Miramonte on May 9.

"Those games mean a lot. They mean more than any other individual game," Silva said of facing off with the Mats and the Cougars. "But our goal is to win as many games as we can."

In the race for the top spot in the DAL Valley Conference, the fiercest competition will come from co-leader Las Lomas, who also has a perfect 4-0 mark. The Dons and Knights conclude DAL portion of the schedule with a meeting in Lafayette on May 18 in Walnut Creek.

"Every game's a battle, but

Las Lomas looks like they're going to be our toughest foe," Silva said. "After league, we'll focus on NCS, but right now we're just trying to win league."

With a 2-2 mark in league (4-4 overall), the Cougars own the third spot in the Valley Conference. Campolindo has navigated a tumultuous start to the season, losing seven players off last year's roster - including three starters.

As a result, the Cougars are fielding a starting nine that features four players who entered the spring brand new to the sport.

"It's been a different year from what we expected," head coach Wayne Stephens admitted. "But actually, it's been a very good year because right now in league we're 2-2. So, even though we do have girls who are without experience at the varsity level - or any level period - we're actually doing pretty well."

Due to the dynamics of the roster, Stephens has counted heavily on the help of his three captains. Sydni Gordon - an infielder/outfielder - is the only senior on the roster, Katelyn Poole is a sophomore returner and the starting catcher and Tara McAteer is a sophomore transfer from Las Lomas who pitches and plays first.

"A huge credit for them for being able to not only help us coaches but help the girls who are not experienced at all and making sure they try to get them up to speed as much as possible as quick as possible," Stephens said.

Over in Orinda, the Mats have produced a 1-3 start in the Valley Conference and a 3-11 record overall, but head coach Steve Renfro isn't letting the struggles bog down the squad.

"Our measurement of success is not our win/loss record," Renfro said. "Although we enjoy winning, our success is about the process of learning and growth. This team of girls has demonstrated excellent work ethics and attitudes and are determined to give everything they have. Truly, they have been a joy to coach, and I enjoy watching them achieve incremental successes."

As the Mats build for the future, the team's up-and-coming players need look no further than junior Megan Bower when it comes to being a star on the field and leading off it.

"Megan Bower has been our team leader in production since arriving at Miramonte, shattering all known hitting records," Renfro said. "As an early commit to Santa Clara University, Megan is one of the best hitters I have had the privilege of coaching, and is an all-around great player."

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## Busy postseason schedule awaits track programs

By Karl Buscheck



Photos Gint Fedaras

With the dual-meet portion of the season officially over, a busy month of postseason meets now looms for the Miramonte, Acalanes and Campolindo track teams.

The onslaught begins when the three programs take part in the DAL Trials, hosted at Campolindo on May 6 – the Finals take place a week later.

“We have outstanding individuals, but we actually have a very outstanding team – especially with the girls,” said Acalanes head coach John Crain after the girls squad went 4-0 in DAL Foothill Conference dual meets.

The boys team went 3-1 in dual meets and both halves of the roster – especially the girls side – received an unexpected boost from the class of young Dons.

“We had some freshmen that came in that really surprised us this year who have been very contributory in terms of varsity performance,” Crain said.

The Mats, who figure to challenge the Dons for the DAL

girls league crown, have three standouts in sophomore Cassy Haskell, senior Rosie Cruz and senior Hannah Fishlow. Both Haskell and Fishlow were finalists at last spring’s NCS Meet of Champions, with the former advancing to the State meet in the 1,600 meter.

On the boys side, junior James Bull and senior Jonathan Fierro head up the pack.

“Our top two distance guys have been phenomenal,” head coach Tristan Tool said. “They’ve dropped (their times) a lot from what they dropped last year and both of them are running extremely well and both of them plan on making at least NCS Meet of Champions and I think that they both have a good shot at making State as well.”

This year’s MOC will take place on May 26-27 at Edwards Stadium at UC Berkeley – one week after the NCS Tri-Valley Championships at Foothill High School in Pleasanton on May 20 and one week before the CIF State Championships on June

2-3 at Buchanan High School in Fresno.

While both of the Mats varsity teams boast State aspirants, what most impresses Tool is the strength of the program at large.

“We’ve had probably our best season – especially in the distance, mid-distance group – as far as depth goes,” Tool said. “We’re not strangers to having one or two really good kids, but rarely do we have good depth coming from a small school.”

For Cougars head coach Chuck Woolridge, one of the best parts of the spring has been tracking the development of the emerging members of the team.

“We’ve got a nice group of younger athletes with some kids that I think have the potential to be great varsity athletes in the future,” Woolridge said.

“This year, with the number of seniors that we had graduate last year – especially on our boys side – we’ve been really focused on developing our new crop of talent,” Woolridge added.

Against that backdrop, Campolindo still has a crew of varsity runners poised to enjoy impressive postseason showings. That list consists of Niki Moore on the boys side and Lauren Williams and Juliet Arnswald and Hana Sun and Bella Chao from the girls roster.

“Those athletes, I think their goal is to make it through to the Meet of Champions and potentially compete for a State meet berth,” Woolridge said.

Moore, who won the 800-meter title at last year’s MOC – and who has added the 1,600 to his race list this spring – stands out as the Cougars’ most prominent runner.

“Niki is certainly our top athlete in terms of potential to make the State meet and run competitive times against the rest of the state (field).”

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# DAL All-League – Foothill Division Girls 2016-2017

## Girls Cross Country – 2016-17



Hannah Ruane



Cassidy Haskell

### 1st Team All-League – Foothill Division

Hannah Ruane	Campolindo	Junior
Isabella Chao	Campolindo	Junior
Cassidy Haskell	Miramonte	Sophomore
Rosie Cruz	Miramonte	Senior
Jenna Miles	Campolindo	Junior

### 2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division

Jessica Foxworthy	Campolindo	Junior
Emily Freil	Miramonte	Senior
Savannah Hilton	Campolindo	Junior

## Girls Basketball – 2016-17



Haley Van Dyke



Elle Louie



Brooke Panfli

### Most Valuable Player – Foothill Division

Haley Van Dyke	Campolindo	Junior
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### 1st Team All-League – Foothill Division

Elle Louie	Miramonte	Senior
Ashley Thoms	Campolindo	Junior
Emma Godfrey	Acalanes	Senior
Brooke Panfli	Acalanes	Senior
Clair Steele	Miramonte	Junior

### 2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division

Jordan Bryant	Miramonte	Junior
Veronica Marrowe	Acalanes	Senior
Jessi O'Reilly	Campolindo	Junior
Aubrey Wagner	Campolindo	Junior
Rebecca Welsh	Miramonte	Freshman

### Honorable Mention – Foothill Division

Emily Huston	Miramonte	Sophomore
Grace McGuire	Campolindo	Junior
Lauren Kobashigawa	Acalanes	Freshman
Erin Tarasow	Miramonte	Freshman
Kailey Meyer	Campolindo	Junior

## Girls Golf – 2016-17

### Most Valuable Player – Foothill Division

Emily Attiyeh	Acalanes	12
---------------	----------	----

### 1st Team All-League – Foothill Division

Tori James	Miramonte	12
Franny Caronna	Miramonte	12
Avalon Schenone	Acalanes	10

## 2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division

Haleigh Geott	Campolindo	12
Tiffany Shinn	Miramonte	11
Valerie Rockwell	Campolindo	12

### Honorable Mention: All-League – Foothill Division

Grace Andronico	Acalanes	10
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## Girls Soccer – 2016-17



Julia Rossi



Samantha Devecchi



Emily Smith

### Co-Most Valuable Offensive Player – Foothill Division

Julia Rossi	Campolindo	Senior
-------------	------------	--------

### 1st Team All-League – Foothill Division

Samantha Devecchi	Miramonte	Senior
Morgan Johnson	Miramonte	Senior
Lindsey Easter	Campolindo	Senior
Emily Smith	Acalanes	Junior

### 2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division

Mia Grillo	Miramonte	Senior
Olivia Grillo	Miramonte	Freshman
Mariah Brown	Campolindo	Senior
Devon Ortman	Campolindo	Freshman
Callie Erickson	Acalanes	Senior

### Honorable Mention – Foothill Division

Anna Le-Nguyen	Miramonte	Sophomore
Kendell Roberts	Miramonte	Junior
Gabby Ortale	Miramonte	Freshman
Savannah DeCarlo	Campolindo	Sophomore
Molly Ikeya	Campolindo	Junior
Nicole Huebner	Campolindo	Sophomore
Kierra Krawec	Acalanes	Junior
Allison Merrill	Acalanes	Senior
Caroline Clark	Acalanes	Senior

## Girls Tennis – 2016-17

### 1st Team All-League – Foothill Division Singles

Sasha Schtein	Acalanes	Junior
Bella Kelly	Miramonte	Senior
Jess Simon-Parker	Campolindo	Junior

### 1st Team All-league – Foothill Division Doubles

Sierra Ramer/Hannah McDonnell	Campolindo	Senior/Junior
Lauren Ladrech/Quinn Harrington	Acalanes	Senior/Senior

### 2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division Singles

Vivian McGowan	Campolindo	Senior
Allison Burkhalter	Miramonte	Junior
Sydney Bell	Acalanes	Sophomore
Erin Warenski	Campolindo	Freshman

### 2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division Doubles

Celia Campo/Sarah Vranesh	Campolindo	Freshman/Freshman
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### Honorable Mention – Foothill Division Singles

Skylar Jeveli	Acalanes	Senior
Grace Shi	Campolindo	Senior
Taylor Geary	Miramonte	Senior

## Girls Volleyball – 2016-17



Sabrina Smith



Parker Jones



Caroline Schafer

### Most Valuable Player – Foothill Division

Sabrina Smith	Campolindo	Senior
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### 1st Team All-League – Foothill Division

Parker Jones	Acalanes	Senior
Janelle Gong	Campolindo	Senior
Emily VanKol	Campolindo	Senior
Jaime Brown	Campolindo	Senior
Caroline Schafer	Miramonte	Senior
Blake Sharp	Miramonte	Senior

### 2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division

Alex Matson	Acalanes	Senior
Cameron Blakely	Campolindo	Junior
Lauren Pak	Campolindo	Senior
Tatiana Luevano	Miramonte	Junior

### Honorable Mention – Foothill Division

Devon Grobeck	Acalanes	Senior
Kelsey Budde	Campolindo	Senior
Layne Estes	Miramonte	Senior

## Girls Water Polo – 2016-17



Grace Tehaney



Becca Buck



Lexi Rowell

### Most Valuable Player – Foothill Division

Grace Tehaney	Miramonte	Junior
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### Outstanding Goalie – Foothill Division

Becca Buck	Campolindo	Senior
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### 1st Team All-League – Foothill Division

Carson Broad	Miramonte	Junior
Katrina Drake	Miramonte	Junior
Kari Jensen	Campolindo	Senior
Katie Klein	Campolindo	Junior
Kelly Murphy	Miramonte	Junior
Olivia Price	Campolindo	Senior
Lexi Rowell	Acalanes	Sophomore

### 2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division

Carlie Crumbaugh	Campolindo	Senior
Katie Lyons	Miramonte	Sophomore
Ella Maisano	Acalanes	Junior
Erin Neustrom	Campolindo	Junior
Skylar Savar	Miramonte	Junior
Savanaugh Sherwood	Miramonte	Sophomore – Goalie
Bella Wentzel	Acalanes	Junior
Brooke Westphal	Acalanes	Freshman

### Honorable Mention – Foothill Division

Sophia Cavalli	Campolindo	Junior
Christina Crum	Campolindo	Sophomore
Charlotte Curran	Miramonte	Senior



# Girls' Rock! LMYA Softball



# Campo volleyball tops Foothill Conference, Acalanes leads the Valley

By Karl Buscheck



Gage Worsley

Photos Gint Federas



Connor McCarthy

Campolindo – the leader of the DAL Foothill Conference – and Acalanes – the frontrunner in the Valley Conference – could be headed for an NCS showdown.

The Cougars, who sport an unblemished 10-0 mark in league (25-3 overall) ended up on the right side of the score line in the regular-season meeting, handling Acalanes 3-0 in Moraga on April 26.

“I feel that only recently, and I mean within the past week recently, we have started to find some stability and understanding of the path we need to pursue in order to be as successful as possible for the post season,” head coach Dave Chen explained.

Ranked No. 44 in the state by MaxPreps, the Cougars have a simple plan for the spring: advance to the NCS Division II championship, secure a title and compete in the NorCal tournament.

No player has been more essential to the success of the high-powered club than the Cougars’ senior outside hitter.

“Gage Worsley, is easily the most dominant player in the area,”

Chen declared. “I’m not saying that because he will be playing for the University of Hawaii next year, and I’m not saying that because he’s on our team. Through his volleyball lifetime, he as devoted himself to his craft and it shows.”

Aside from his in-game excellence, Worsley has also made his mark on the Cougars behind the scenes.

“His ability to communicate and be there for his team this year parallels his athletic prowess on the court,” Chen said. “Especially with a young group who is looking for guidance and direction his leadership has been a focal point for us this year.”

Like the Cougars, the Valley Conference-leading Dons (7-0 in league, 24-6 overall) have lived up to the hype.

“I had pretty high, but I thought, realistic expectations of us being a top two or three team in North Coast and giving us a good – especially in Division 2 – shot of getting to the final and hopefully winning it,” head coach Mason Mulvaney said.

While the league schedule has yet to conclude, Mulvaney knows his Dons could get a second crack at the Cougars in the weeks to come.

“I think it’s probably going to be a highlight of the (regular) season,” Mulvaney said of the recent matchup. “Hopefully we’ll see them in the playoffs as well.”

Mulvaney’s squad has called on two stars, the first of which is Connor McCarthy – a senior captain and a four-year varsity player – who the coach plans to vote for as league MVP.

“The team all around has been phenomenal, but especially Connor McCarthy,” Mulvaney said. “He plays opposite on our team and he’s

probably our strongest all-around player.”

The second is Carter Smith, a middle hitter who only started playing volleyball as a sophomore.

“He’s 6-foot-7. (He’s a) physically dominant player,” Mulvaney said of the senior captain. “I think if you talk to the Campo program or anyone that knows they’re going to play us, that’s the person they’ll focus on and kind of game plan around.”

Miramonte, owner of a 2-13 record overall (0-8 in Foothill Conference play), also calls on a pair of veteran captains to pilot the team.

“(Junior) Nick Luckenbach is a co-captain and has shown a tremendous amount of leadership this

season,” head coach Lisa Bachtold said. “He brings the team together and keeps them focused. (Senior) Sam Foster, the other co-captain, has been very productive for us in the middle. He definitely has a presence on the court and comes up with amazing blocks and is one of our main offensive weapons.”

The Mats will cap off the league slate by hosting Campolindo on May 4 in their home gym in Orinda.

“We went to five (sets) with Campo last time we faced them,” Bachtold said. “We look forward to senior night being a competitive match.”

## Acalanes Hosts Special Olympic Games

Submitted by Tyler Krochmal



500-plus athletes participated at Acalanes High School in the county’s Special Olympic Games. Pictured is athlete Jamal Swain from Stanley Middle School in Lafayette.

Photo Gint Federas

More than 500 students in special education and general education programs from 50 different schools converged at Acalanes High school April 25 for the Special Olympics Northern California Contra Costa County School Games.

Special education students had the opportunity to compete in Special Olympics track and field events and earn medals for their accomplishments. General education students also joined in as Unified Partners,

competing with their special education peers on the same relays. Unified Sports encourages inclusion, awareness and respect at an early age.

Dick Callahan, public address announcer for the Oakland Athletics, was the emcee.

The Contra Costa County School Games were presented by Chevron. The event will also take place at Liberty High School in Brentwood on Friday, May 12.

## Campolindo Spring Signing Day

Submitted by Eric Yabu



From left, Lauren Pak, Emily Van Koll, Josh Rego, Peter Brassinga, Aidan Crouch, Juliet Arnsward, Jared Yabu, Raymond Diaz, Kyle Flett

On Wednesday, April 19, Campolindo held its annual Spring Signing Day event. Nine student-athletes took part in the ceremonial National Letter of Intent signing: Juliet Arnsward (Linfield College, track), Peter Brassinga (U.C. Santa Barbara, water polo), Aidan Crouch (U.S. Naval Academy, water

polo), Raymond Diaz (Southern Oregon University, XC/track), Kyle Flett (St. Edward’s University, XC/track), Lauren Pak (Carleton College, volleyball), Josh Rego (Occidental College, baseball), Emily Van Koll (University of Redlands, volleyball), and Jared Yabu (Brown University, XC/Track).

**Submit stories to  
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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 5 Wednesday, May 3, 2017



May Gardening Guide with Cynthia Brian  
...read on page D16

## Annual tour features six unique kitchens

By Catherine Kauder



Modern kitchen design in this Happy Valley Highlands neighborhood features a blue Heath Ceramics tile backsplash.

Photos Sora O'Doherty

The Lafayette Juniors 18th Annual Kitchen Tour will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 20 and tour-goers will be treated to a look at six beautiful kitchens impeccably designed to reflect their homeowners' distinctive style and points-of-view.

This year's tour presents newly remodeled kitchens in homes located in the Happy Valley, Springhill, Burton

Valley and trail neighborhoods of Lafayette. Each kitchen is unique in design and captures a traditional, modern or transitional feel.

One of the more modern kitchens on the tour in the Happy Valley Highlands neighborhood belongs to Libby and Cameron Deatsch. The couple renovated their home over the past year with the help of local contractor Tracy Anthony.

A fan of Craftsman architecture, Libby Deatsch tried to incorporate this style into the renovation, but the further the couple got into the process, the more they realized a modern look was the way to go.

The couple decided to move their kitchen from its original location in an interior room on the first floor to the second floor of the home. The result is

a stunning, open kitchen that takes advantage of the home's incredible views of Mount Diablo and the Lafayette Reservoir.

The sleek, modern kitchen is functional as well as beautiful and features a wall of folding glass doors that open up onto a patio with a sweeping vista of Mount Diablo – the perfect setting for enjoying morning coffee or an afternoon meal. Another wall is almost completely filled with large windows that look out onto the Lafayette Reservoir.

The kitchen features clean, white, flush panel cabinets with brushed nickel pulls that cover most of the appliances, including the refrigerator and two dishwashers. Immaculate white Caesarstone counters line the perimeter of the kitchen. The center island has a custom concrete countertop that provides a sturdy and attractive space for the family to do homework and have snacks.

A gorgeous deep blue Heath Ceramics tile backsplash behind the Thermador stove gives a pop of color to the kitchen, while the room's cedar plank ceilings and pickled white oak floors lend some warmth to the space. A cluster of varying sized globe lights from West Elm hang over the wooden dining table, adding a whimsical touch to the room's decor.

"The tile backsplash might be my favorite thing in the whole house," says Deatsch.

... continued on page D4



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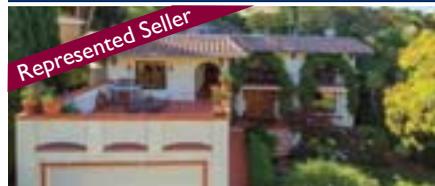
#### 122 Stein Way, Orinda



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**OVER THE ASKING**

#### 123 Spring Rd, Orinda



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**SOLD**

#### 67 Corte Yolanda, Orinda

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#### 4 Owl Hill Rd, Orinda

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

### LAFAYETTE

- 969 4th Street, \$1,158,000, 2 Bdrms, 1466 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 4-3-17
- 3352 Beechwood Drive, \$1,082,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 4-3-17
- 3460 Black Hawk Road, \$2,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 3409 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 3-30-17;  
Previous Sale: \$735,000, 07-09-98
- 898 Dewing Avenue, \$1,142,000, 4 Bdrms, 1551 SqFt, 1932 YrBlt, 4-5-17;  
Previous Sale: \$619,000, 02-18-11
- 901 Dewing Avenue, \$2,760,000, 4 Bdrms, 3240 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 4-4-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,425,000, 04-30-15
- 5 Diablo Oaks Way, \$2,892,500, 5 Bdrms, 4804 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 3-29-17;  
Previous Sale: \$2,895,000, 06-16-15
- 3436 Echo Springs Road, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 4-4-17
- 944 Hawthorne Drive, \$812,500, 3 Bdrms, 1486 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 4-3-17
- 3366 Kim Road, \$970,000, 3 Bdrms, 2419 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 3-28-17;  
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 06-17-15
- 3984 Los Arabis Drive, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2764 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 4-5-17;  
Previous Sale: \$330,000, 03-31-86
- 3927 Quail Ridge Road, \$2,272,000, 6 Bdrms, 4541 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 4-3-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,215,000, 12-10-12
- 1465 Rancho View Drive, \$4,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 5045 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 4-4-17;  
Previous Sale: \$3,100,000, 04-10-03
- 1659 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,185,000, 3 Bdrms, 1907 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 3-28-17;  
Previous Sale: \$78,000, 04-06-76
- 3218 Rohrer Drive, \$1,260,000, 3 Bdrms, 1636 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 3-31-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,070,000, 06-25-14
- 16 Shreve Lane, \$975,000, 4 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 3-28-17
- 3323 Sweet Drive, \$1,203,000, 5 Bdrms, 1610 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 4-3-17;  
Previous Sale: \$710,000, 03-01-11
- 1003 Woodbury Road #203, \$1,060,000, 2 Bdrms, 1638 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 3-29-17
- 1003 Woodbury Road #204, \$760,000, 2 Bdrms, 1110 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 3-30-17

### MORAGA

- 806 Augusta Drive, \$1,185,000, 3 Bdrms, 1842 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 3-28-17;  
Previous Sale: \$145,000, 03-14-78
- 1103 Country Club Drive, \$1,812,500, 5 Bdrms, 3051 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 3-31-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,480,000, 09-16-13
- 122 Danefield Place, \$1,420,000, 5 Bdrms, 2800 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 3-30-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,079,000, 12-18-13
- 12 Harrington Road, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 2235 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 3-31-17
- 104 Hodges Drive, \$1,262,000, 4 Bdrms, 2049 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 3-30-17;  
Previous Sale: \$479,000, 09-08-99
- 1 Paseo Linares, \$1,875,000, 5 Bdrms, 4930 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 3-29-17;  
Previous Sale: \$280,000, 01-23-85
- 1725 St. Andrews Drive, \$1,015,000, 3 Bdrms, 1770 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 3-31-17;  
Previous Sale: \$550,000, 07-03-12

### ORINDA

- 43 Charles Hill Circle, \$1,850,000, 3 Bdrms, 2838 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 3-29-17;  
Previous Sale: \$929,500, 05-01-03
- 42 Morello Place, \$1,385,000, 4 Bdrms, 2385 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 3-28-17
- 122 Stein Way, \$1,270,000, 2 Bdrms, 1498 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 3-28-17;  
Previous Sale: \$795,000, 02-01-07
- 404 Wovenwood, \$790,000, 1 Bdrms, 1532 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 3-31-17;  
Previous Sale: \$352,000, 08-29-96

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# Kitchen tour

... continued from page D1



A large island in this Happy Valley home does double duty as prep space and a seating area.

Photos Sora O'Doherty

In the Happy Valley neighborhood of Lafayette, homeowners Janet and Rick Cronk worked with Lafayette interior designer Kathy Burke to transform their single-story home into a classically elegant oasis perfect for entertaining their large extended family.

The thoughtfully designed kitchen is not only stunning but also incredibly practical. Lloyd's Custom Woodwork created creamy white cabinetry that is accented by antique brass hardware. The upper cabinets feature glass panes and are lit from the inside to showcase the attractive serving pieces.

The ample cabinetry provides storage for just about everything in the Cronks' kitchen. On either side of the stove are Pilasters, or rectangular columns built into the cabinetry, that can be pulled out to reveal shelves that hold cooking essentials like spices and oils.

The countertops in the kitchen resemble marble but are made of a more durable quartzite material, and are one of homeowner Janet Cronk's favorite features of the kitchen.

"The counter is wonderful — it's indestructible," she says.

The kitchen features a large, 4-foot-by-14-foot-long island that separates the food preparation area from the pantry and beverage service and allows for good flow of guests when entertaining.

"One side works perfectly for beverages and one side for cooking so we don't get in each other's way," notes Cronk.

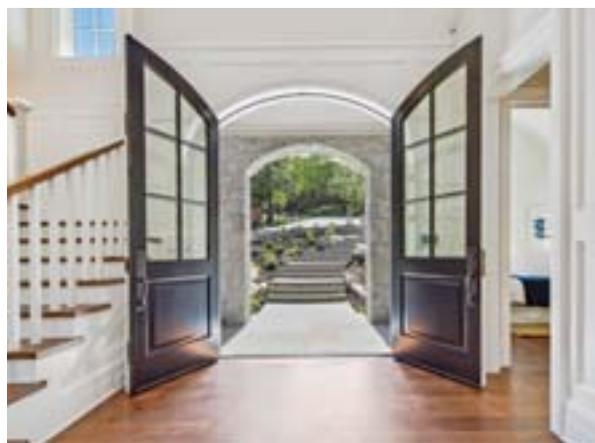
The center island does double duty as a prep space and a seating area, with rustic wood chairs where the Cronks' grandchildren love to sit. Under the bar area is even more cabinetry for additional storage.

These two kitchens will be featured on the tour along with four others that showcase a range of styles, including a transitional kitchen, an updated classic rancher with a mid-century twist, a California modern home and a wine country cottage-meets-coastal retreat.

Tickets for the tour are \$40 (\$35 tax deductible) with a box lunch available for \$15 and can be purchased online at [www.lafayettejuniors.org](http://www.lafayettejuniors.org) or at Premier Kitchens at 3373 Mount Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette.

Proceeds for the tour will go to the Lafayette Juniors' four beneficiaries for 2016-2017: Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, Alternative Family Services, The Taylor Family Foundation and the Trinity Center. The Lafayette Juniors selected these organizations for the exceptional support they provide to women, families and individuals in need throughout the East Bay.

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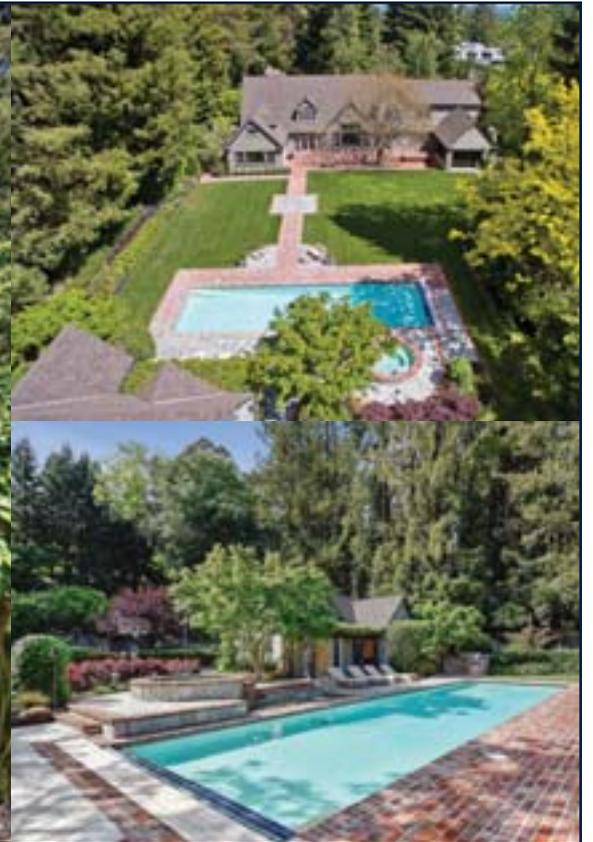
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## Feng Shui

# Common Feng Shui missteps

By Michele Duffy



Living plants, like these succulents, are good Feng Shui.

Photo provided

Spring is definitely in the air, ruled by the wood element, and the “It” color of 2017 is emerald green, symbolizing new beginnings. Instead of beginnings, however, I’m going to the past, sharing some of my local client adventures to help illustrate fixing the less-than-favorable Feng Shui solutions I’ve often run into and to help clarify some of the misconceptions I’ve encountered in my travels.

While Feng Shui is not a dualistic design modality — there’s no right or wrong — we can certainly speak in terms of “less favorable” or “less auspicious” Feng Shui. Feng Shui is a holistic approach, so often what I discover is that the big picture has been overlooked or was not factored into the specific recommendation or “cure.” One example is, when I find an abundance of crystals (earth) in the Wealth (ruled by wood) area (wood struggles to get through earth) or other cures that seem arbitrary or just plain silly. Sometimes our sources are neighbors, family or well meaning friends but as a professional it is easy to spot what is not working on several levels.

So, this is just a sampling of common missteps I have encountered out in the field and hopefully it will inspire your efforts to create energy-rich, nature-inspired Feng Shui in all of your environments.

### 1) The foyer is not a dumping ground.

Certainly after last month’s front entrance Feng Shui column this area is now sparkling with lively chi of healthy plants flanking the front door, working porch lights, no cobwebs, a new welcome mat, and zero clutter. As you enter your home, the foyer is an extension of the front door and the “mouth of chi” so it should be healthy energy in this “heavenly gate” area too.

The foyer should not include multiple pairs of shoes, personal photos, stained rugs, coats or piled up backpacks. Instead your foyer should be an open, well-lit, tidy, clean space so life-force chi will waft through your entire home unobstructed. The foyer does well with a fresh wall color, abundant lighting, lively art, a mirror or a bubbly fountain.

### 2) The furniture does not fit the space properly.

If your furniture from your last home doesn’t work in your new home, if it’s too big or too small, the energy (chi) in your home simply will not create a nourishing flow. If you are tripping over chairs or angling your furniture to fit, it’s time to rethink the spatial arrangement and let some pieces go. Think of regifting cumbersome or nonfunctional pieces back to the universe and donate to others who perhaps need it more than you. Reconnect with making comfort a priority!

### 3) Release broken items and clutter.

Feng Shui won’t be as effective if your home and yard are beset with cluttered or broken items. We are all part pack rat! Most of us have too much “stuff.” So, without judgement, just set aside a half day and work on your yard and garage, bagging old, broken, dirty, cracked, chipped items to toss out or donate, then see if some of the items strewn around your yard can now find a home in your garage.

Next, go room by room, starting with your master bedroom so you have a clutter-free haven to rejuvenate each night. It’s truly liberating to release clutter from inside and outside of your home which creates the lasting freedom to get unstuck in your life. If you need help, there are pros that can make short work of the stuff that is overwhelming you!

### 4) Artwork is a downer draining the life force of your space!

I’m very visual and so are many of my clients, so the images we surround ourselves with are so much more than subliminal messages. Remove low energy, sad, lonely, depressing, sick or unhappy art images and place art that supports your highest intentions of happiness, health, abundance and joy. Better yet, place the Five Elements of water, wood, fire, earth and metal strategically to strengthen the Feng Shui of your space. ... continued on page D14



De clutter like the kitchen drawer in this Moraga home, as even drawers and closets matter in Feng Shui.



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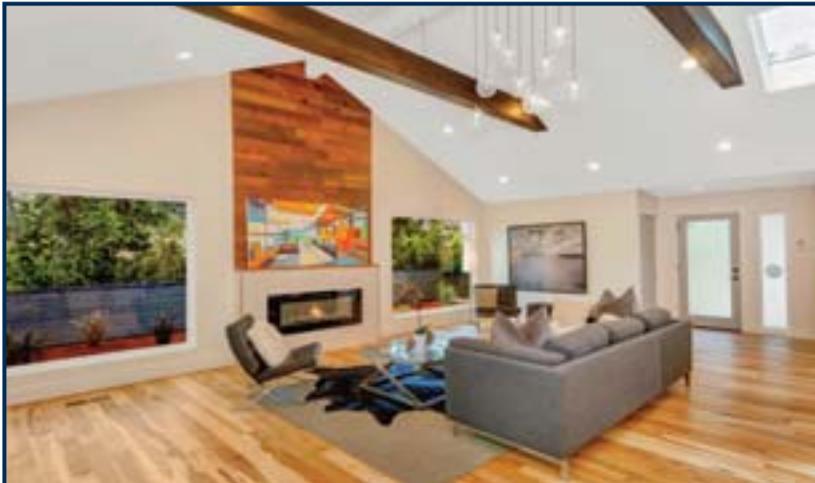
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kitchen features designer lighting, quartz countertops, large island, custom hood and top-of-the-line stainless steel appliances; Bertazzoni stove and hood, Bosch refrigerator and dishwasher, built-in Wolf oven with pizza-oven capability and microwave drawer. The master bedroom has custom built-ins and vaulted ceilings with French doors to lovely back yard. The enormous master closet is outfitted with modifiable closet systems. Custom built-ins, a sleek, free-standing tub and a curbless shower with infinity drain are all part of the dream master bath! The Jr. suite is splendid for an au-pair or visiting in-laws. Great laundry room. Lots of bonus storage space. Nice yard w/many fruit trees!

**Call me today with any real estate questions or for a complimentary home valuation. I'm happy to help!**



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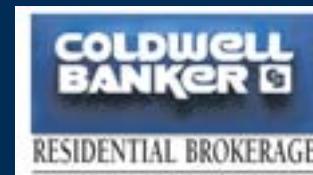
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## Feng Shui

# Common Feng Shui Missteps

... continued from page D8

5) **The beds, home office, or stove are not in "Commanding Position" to support you!** Energetically, set up your home so YOU are supported by not placing beds/desks in front of windows, in line with the bedroom door, or so your back faces the door. The "Commanding Position" is opposite and preferably diagonal from the door. A solid supportive wall should always be to your back so you are fully in control of the work or rest you want. This support concept also applies to the no-no of beds missing a bedframe or headboard, a key element of strong Feng Shui for security, sound sleep and support in the same spot you spend eight hours daily. Make these simple adjustments and immediately feel the difference!

6) **Picking Yang (active) colors for bedrooms.**

We love color but let's not overlook the function of the rooms we are painting. Bedrooms map back to the two R's: Rest and Romance. If your bedroom walls have strong hues or loud colors and you are having trouble sleeping, look no further for the solution. To break the insomnia cycle choose a softer yin more neutral color with a hue that is gentle for a sound night sleep and amp up the other design elements for a romantic, restful master bedroom retreat. Strong hues are great for pass through rooms, guest baths, family rooms or other rooms you want to encourage conversation or stay awake in. If color palettes also map back to the Bagua area of your bedroom, the color actually strengthens the Feng Shui. For example, if your master bedroom is in the wealth area (far left), ruled by the wood element, choosing a soft agave, or light blue-green color activates the wood element and strengthens the Feng Shui of your wealth area.

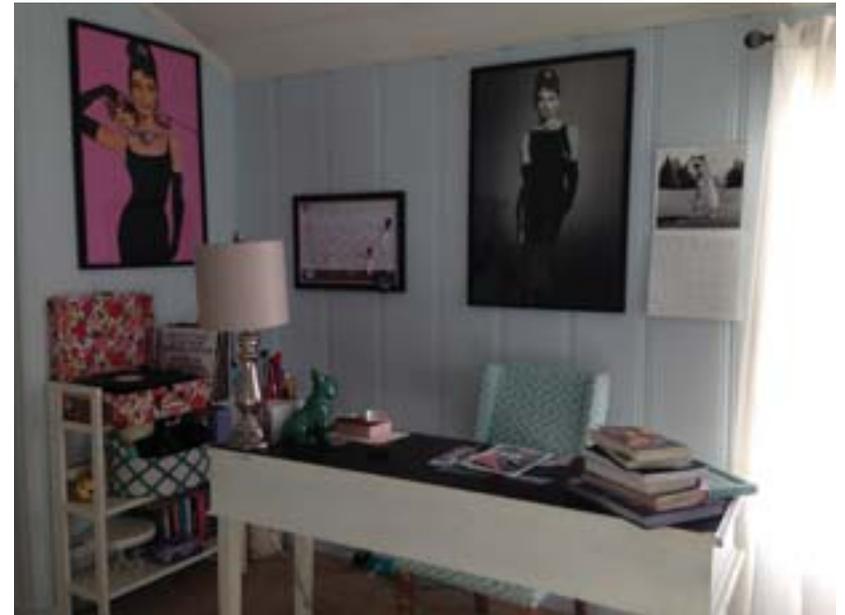
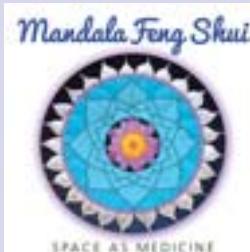
7) **Plastic or dry flowers and knick-knack abundance.**

Life-force, real energy, comes from design elements reflected in nature, for example healthy fresh flowers and plants. If your space is overwhelmed by dusty fake flowers just give them the heave ho and opt for silk in low light areas and live plants elsewhere. If you cannot find a spot for your coffee mug because your "collections" have taken over your space, it's time to prioritize towards functionality and comfort. Scale back on the tschotkes, sell them, or create one area to display them and free up your space and life for living. This is especially true for things in your space that no longer feed your joy and so as you let them go, notice how the renewed control over your space empowers a sense of renewed well-being.

With so much not under our control it's nice to know that if we change our space we can begin to change our life in meaningful ways. Taking the first step IS a new beginning so allow these Feng Shui tips to honor the spring season in your own home, and just experiment with what resonates most for you.

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family;

Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2015 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.



Beds, desks and if possible the kitchen stove should be in the power or "Commanding Position" like this correctly placed student's desk in Orinda.

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## Gardening Guide

# Hurray for May!

By Cynthia Brian

*“There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature – the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter.”— Rachel Carson*



*Sangria will be served on the pink patio with African daisies.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

The intoxicating waft of sweet jasmine filled my nostrils as I opened my front door and stepped onto the porch. Droplets of rain still clung to the leaves of the Japanese maple while the bright orb of sunshine broke through the cumulus clouds encouraging the clematis to reveal their splendor.

May! Magnificent May!

Between the copious showers and the solar assistance, spring is alive and lush with the grandeur of flora. My entire garden is bursting with surprises of color, textures and forms. Plants are sprouting that I thought had long ago failed. The orchard trees are abundant with the tiny beginnings of the luscious fruit that will ripen in summer and fall. Scampering from branch to branch, squirrels entertain while stealing the bright orange loquats in their harried feeding frenzy. Birds, lizards, frogs, spiders and other garden collaborators are active in their pursuit of the bounty of the month.

Yet, alas, weeds, weeds, everywhere. I spent every weekend in April in addition to hours daily before and af-

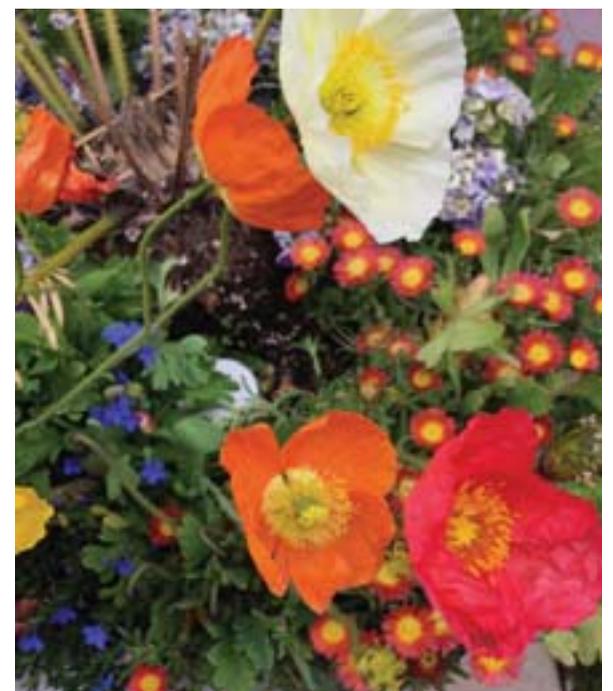
ter work pulling, composting, pulling, composting, pulling, and composting. The good news is that the soil is amenable, and although weeding is tedious and exhausting, I am able to pull most of these grasses and undesirables by hand. After all of my April preparations, including soil amending, I am finally ready for May planting. Seeds have been carefully sown for okra, beets, carrots, jalapenos, arugula, pole beans, bush beans, rattlesnake beans, peas, chard, corn, pumpkin, cucumber, a variety of lettuces, greens and kohlrabi. On Mother's Day I'll plant seedlings of tomatoes, eggplant, and squash. I am excited to tend to this living family of friends.

When I was a child, this was my most favorite time of the year (Christmas excepted) because we were able to dig in the dirt, plant our vegetable garden, and moreover, savor the succulent smells of the soil of spring. When my children were young, getting them involved in the outdoor projects was paramount. Invite your children to plant a garden with you. Kids love getting dirty. We were told that we had “clean dirt” because after a day in the garden our bodies and

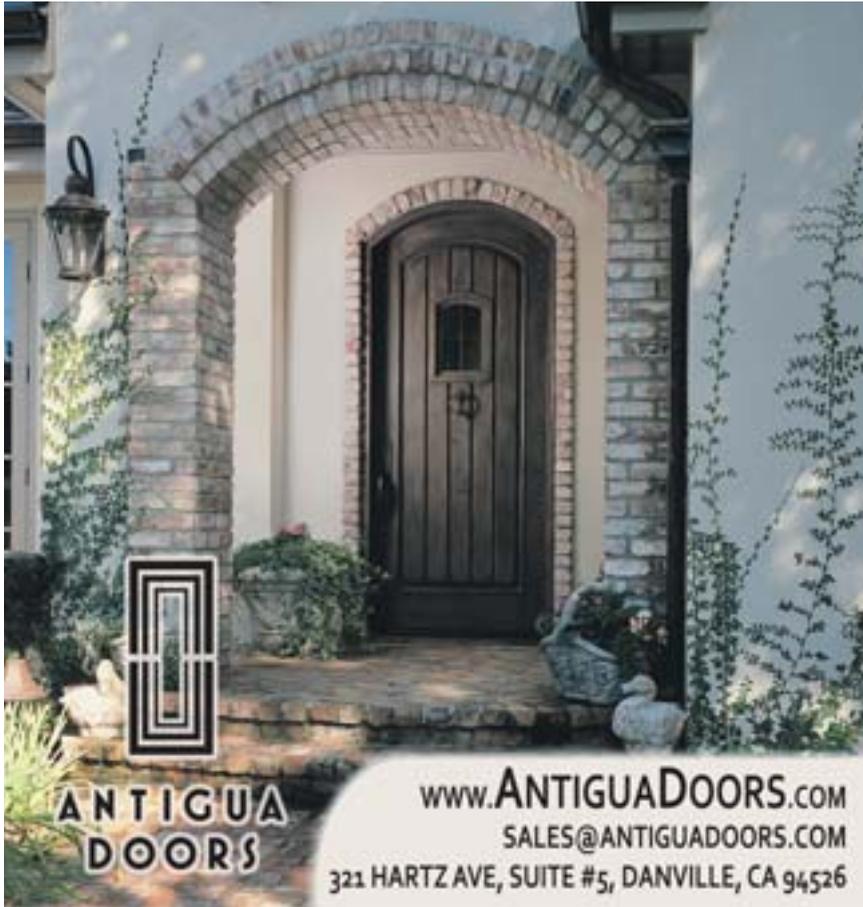
clothes were washed. (My Mom used to brush us off with a broom, too!) Children will be fascinated with worms, bugs, frogs and lizards. Gardening together forms family bonds with memories that will last forever, as you witness mine have. We were given our own plot of land to grow whatever we wanted and I did the same for my kids. My son's name remains on the gate where he began his “Veggie Garden.” Suggest that your child grow a pizza garden filled with tomatoes, peppers, onions, basil, and oregano or maybe a butterfly and bee heaven where pollinators will gather. Think easy-to-grow plants such as lavender, sunflowers or poppies.

Make sure to spray yourself and your clothing with bug repellent. Ticks are ubiquitous this season hiding in the tall grass and shrubs just waiting to jump onto a heart-healthy human and start the blood sucking. Mosquito larvae are already hatching. With all of the rain, get ready for mosquito madness. Scour your property for the tiniest accumulation of water in a container and dump it out. Old tires are notorious breeders of mosquitoes as water gets trapped in the inner rims and the larvae multiply and hatch quickly.

Spring is healing. It's new birth. It's a refresher course on living. Step outside your front door. Inhale the fragrance. Observe the beauty. Then get into your garden for a day of play. Hurray for May!



*Shirley poppies cascade over a container.*



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# Cynthia Brian's Goddess Gardener Tips for May

**DIVIDE** perennials, especially those that will bloom in autumn such as sedum and chrysanthemum. Dig up the clumps, pull apart and replant in other areas.

**TRANSPLANT** shrubs, trees and other plants that you want in other places in your garden. Make sure to get as much of the root ball as possible when digging, replant immediately. Water thoroughly.

**PLANT** okra, beans, watermelon, cucumbers, corn, amaranth, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, squash, pumpkin and whatever you love to eat.

**REMOVE** the bulbs from the potted gifts of narcissus, tulip, hyacinth or Easter lilies that you received in April after the blooms and foliage die back and plant in your garden. You'll be thrilled next year when the blooms and the reminiscences of the giver rekindle joy in your heart.

**ADD** nitrogen and organic matter while building the quality of the soil with a cover crop leaving no bare soil. Radish, cowpea, sunflower, oats and flax will provide lovely cut flowers, and prevent erosion until you are ready to plant something else for the summer.

**USE** the best tools possible for your gardening chores to save time and labor. A strong and well made hoe, spade, shovel, pick, pruning saw, pruning shears, hand trowel and rake are essentials that when maintained properly will last for many years. I recommend buying construction-grade tools instead of just garden tools.

**PRE-ORDER** my forthcoming garden book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener," Book I in the Garden Shorts Series. Publishing was delayed in April but will be ready for May. All pre-orders will receive extra goodies such as heirloom seeds, bookmarks, and more. Email me for details, [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com). Twenty-five percent of the proceeds benefit the 501c3 Be the Star You Are! charity. <http://goddessgardener.com/books>

**Win \$50,000** for your Garden: As a judge in America's Best Gardener Contest. I encourage you to enter to win \$50,000. Show the world that your thumb is the greenest by showing the world pictures of your garden today! [www.americasbestgardener.com](http://www.americasbestgardener.com)

**PLAN** to attend the Orinda Garden Club Tour on May 11 where five Orinda and Lafayette gardens will showcase their spectacular outdoor living settings. Get inspired for spring. [www.orindagc.org/tour2017](http://www.orindagc.org/tour2017).

**PAY** your water bill with your credit card and accumulate those airline and hotel miles. EB-MUD only charges an additional \$1.99. Best deal!

**EMPTY** all outdoor vessels of standing water. Even a teacup saucer will breed mosquitoes.

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

**INVITE** your mother for a day of garden strolling. Visit the Botanical Gardens in San Francisco ([www.sfbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org)) or go on a hike on your favorite trail.

Looking forward to seeing you at the 11th Annual Moraga Faire. Let's talk about play in May. My sincerest wishes for a Happy Mother's Day to every Mom in our community. You are love and are loved.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



*Tulips, pink osteospermum, and yellow daisies are happy companions.*



*After pots of bulbs die back, replant your Easter lilies and hyacinth bulbs.*



Close up of the toxic and beautiful Belladonna Trumpet blossom.



Cynthia Brian hugs the clematis.

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](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com). Available for hire for any project. [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com) [www.GoddessGardener.com](http://www.GoddessGardener.com) 925-377-STAR

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### ORINDA

New Listing

#### 228 Longview Terrace

Charming apx. 2130sf ranch style home on prime cul de sac in close-in neighborhood. 3 spacious bedrooms including private master suite opening to patio; formal dining room. Private 1/3 acre level yard. **\$1,165,000**



### ORINDA

New Listing

#### 45 Don Gabriel Way

Great location living near Del Rey School. Fabulous one level easy living family home w/comfortable spaces throughout. Incredible grassy lawns, front & back. Near 12 years of top rated schools. **\$1,365,000**



### ORINDA

New Listing

#### 5 Meadow Park Court

Great Yard! Great Street! Great One-Level 3bd/2ba, apx. 2167 sq. ft. home on .67 acre! One of Glorietta area's favorite cul-de-sacs with an incredible yard - plenty of space for a pool, garden and expansion. **\$1,370,000**

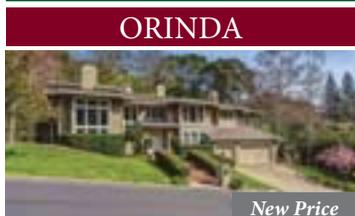


### ORINDA

New Listing

#### 429 El Toyonal

Located in the Orinda hills amongst the trees, this private home is near trails, open space & a short distance to Tilden Park. Updated kitchen, French doors to balconies, hrwd flrs thruout, built-ins, .92 acre. **\$1,585,000**

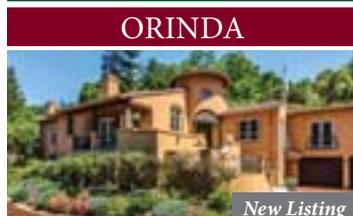


### ORINDA

New Price

#### 572 Dalewood Drive

Stunning executive 5bd/4.5ba, apx. 5211 sq.ft. home in Orinda Downs. High ceilings & hwd flrs; spacious kitchen; large family room & rec/game room opens to deck w/outdoor kitchen & gazebo w/views. **\$2,295,000**

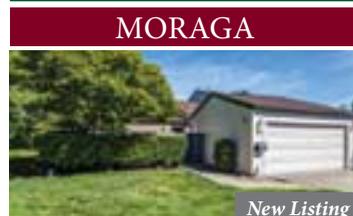


### ORINDA

New Listing

#### 22 Van Tassel Lane

Quality crafted Mediterranean style with ideal inside/ outside living spaces of exceptional beauty. Over-sized rooms, atrium, guest cottage, sauna, wine cellar, pool & spa. Views! **\$2,795,000**



### MORAGA

New Listing

#### 31 Ascot Place

Adorable 3bd/2ba single-level home. Highlights include: spacious master, fresh paint, vaulted ceilings, private yard, great view & cul-de-sac location. **\$675,000**

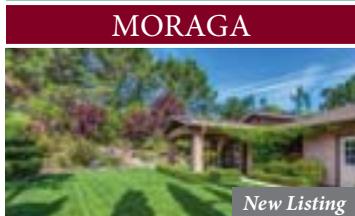


### MORAGA

New Listing

#### 1746 Spyglass Lane

Expanded Inverness with fabulous island kitchen/family room combo. Beautifully updated. Serene cul-de-sac backs to open space. Moraga CC amenities included. Golf, swim, tennis, clubhouse. **\$1,199,000**



### MORAGA

New Listing

#### 204 Moraga Road

Move in ready & remodeled 4bd/2.5ba, apx. 2,438 sq.ft. single level home on .54 acre corner lot. Bamboo flooring, granite kitchen/fam rm combo, prof. landscaped yd w/pond & covered lanai. Top schools. **\$1,325,000**



### MORAGA

New Listing

#### 39 Sherwood Court

Idyllic 2 story, 5bd/3ba apx. 2,850 sq.ft. traditional home on level .25 acre cul de sac lot. HW floors, dual pane windows, FP & "great room" kitchen/ 2 fam rooms combo. Close to shops & top schools! **\$1,449,000**



### LAFAYETTE

New Listing

#### 3346 Carlyle Terrace

Fabulous home on loved cul-de-sac. Sunny family rm opens to spacious level yard w/views. Bright eat-in kitchen opens to formal dining area & smaller enclosed yard. Hdwd flrs, double panes, new roof. **\$1,195,000**



### LAFAYETTE

New Listing

#### 1205 Monticello Road

Happy Valley Glen. Lafayette favorite nghbrhd, premium loc. close to town, BART. Fabulous .75 acre private setting, huge level yard. Single level, original owner. Fixer, rare opportunity. Great schools. **\$1,349,000**



### LAFAYETTE

New Listing

#### 3398 La Caminita

Custom Craftsman with a New England Flair. Great floor plan with Chef's kitchen opens to beautifully landscaped, private yard. Perfect for Entertaining. 4bd/2.5ba +office, 2630 sq. ft. **\$1,725,000**



### LAFAYETTE

New Listing

#### 1600 Reliez Valley Road

Light & bright Craftsman-styled apx. 3300 sq. ft., 4bd/3ba home on .68 acre + incredible separate apx. 1215 sq. ft. fully permitted studio/ guest house. Excellent Lafayette schools. Close to Briones open space. **\$1,998,000**



### CLAYTON

New Listing

#### 1781 Indian Wells Way

Great updated Black Diamond end unit townhome on fabulous corner lot. 3bd/2.5ba in 1749 sq.ft. on a .12 acre lot. Vaulted ceilings, lovely kitch w/granite counters. Beautiful patio & outdoor living area. **\$649,000**



### CONCORD

New Listing

#### 902 Dartmouth Way

Charming ranch style home with spacious & private backyard! 4bd/2ba, apx. 1752 sq. ft. home w/hwd flrs, dual pane windows, kitchen/ family room combo & much more! Close to shopping, BART, trails. **\$699,000**

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