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Residents place stickers on a large map with ideas on how to help alleviate traffic in Lafayette, especially during school drop-offs and pick-ups.

Photos Pippa Fisher

## A drive to solve Lafayette's traffic woes

By Pippa Fisher

Is there a “silver bullet” to solve congestion in Lafayette? Could it be coordinating traffic signals along Mount Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road? Realigning the Brook Street-School Street traffic lights, creating one intersection by removing the Masonic Lodge? Maybe the answer is adding additional school pick-up and drop-off zones, or more school busing. Or extending

Moraga Road directly to Highway 24 through the retail center between Safeway and McCaulou’s? The search for the best solution to Lafayette’s worsening traffic woes continues as the city reached out for public input and feedback at a recent Downtown Congestion Reduction Plan workshop. Those residents who turned out for the evening workshop

heard a presentation from Mike Iswalt of ARUP, the consulting company employed by the city to conduct the downtown congestion reduction study and City Transportation Planner James Hinkamp. They explained the goal of the evening was to seek public input for consideration to be combined with the results from the survey on the city’s website. The survey remains open through May 31. ... continued on page A12

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## El Toyonal to lose school bus service

By Sora O'Doherty



School bus on El Toyonal. Photo A. Scheck  
 The Lamorinda School Bus Program is planning to drop all school bus stops on the narrow, twisty El Toyonal Drive because the stops have been deemed unsafe and in violation of the California Vehicle Code.

Following the release of a safety study of all LSBP routes, patrons of the school buses that serve Wagner Ranch Elementary School and Orinda Intermediate School were called to a meeting where plans to eliminate the El Toyonal route were disclosed. Stunned, the families asked the LSBP to delay the decision, so the LSBP has agreed to a second meeting to be held at 7:30 p.m. June 8.

Many residents, like Christina Loughran and Michelle Swaney, are upset with the decision and said would be willing to sign a waiver not to sue based on any violation of Vehicle Code Section 22504 regarding the placement of bus stops.

Juliet Hansen, LSBP program manager, says she thinks that such a waiver will make no difference in the decision to close the route, although she did say that she would consult legal counsel on the question. Hansen said that First Student, the school bus operator, has had to tow buses out of a ditch on El Toyonal a number of times. Other incidents include hitting mail boxes and a 2014 sideswipe incident that resulted in the bus driver being cited and a driver’s license suspension of 30 days. Not all incidents are reported, Hansen added.

Both a hired consultant and the California Highway Patrol reviewed a number of routes in Lamorinda. LSBP put together a list for the CHP to review and asked for “bus stop ahead” signs in several places.

... continued on page A8

## MOFD's new drone to help with emergencies, search and rescue

By Cathy Dausman



MOFD's new drone. Photo C. Dausman  
 With its agile new helper, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District now has an extra set of eyes in the sky – a six pound Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, or drone.

Its uses include search and rescue, medical emergencies and aerial photography in addition to fire service training.

The UAV, an Inspire 1 model manufac-

tured by SZ DJI Technology Company was purchased with a recent \$10,000 gift from RESCUE ONE Foundation. The drone was outfitted with two swap-out upgrades: a high-resolution camera and a FLIR infrared camera. The drone can carry a payload of two pounds, making it capable of ferrying a small first aid kit or portable radio to a victim who can't be reached from the ground.

“We are pleased to be using this technology to help support our mission of all-risk emergency service and community risk reduction,” said Fire Chief Stephen Healy.

Commercial small drone operators are now licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration and only one MOFD employee — Capt. Michael Marquardt — is currently permitted to fly it. Marquardt has flown drones for the past 10 years, first as a hobby and now for MOFD.

... continued on page A8

<b>Civic News</b>	<b>A1-A12</b>	<b>Life in Lamorinda</b>	<b>B1-B8</b>	<b>Sports</b>	<b>C1-C4</b>	<b>Our Homes</b>	<b>D1-D20</b>
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Moraga council struggles with tight budget – page A4.

**Fire Districts** **A8**  
 MOFD fills big boots for muscular dystrophy – page A8.

An ‘Ideal’ show for Town Hall Theatre – page B1.



Campo boys and girls lacrosse are champs -- page B1.



Boarding animals is a pet project for these businesses – page D1.





**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Monday, June 12, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

Monday, June 5, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**

Monday, June 12, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

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

**Lafayette School District**

Wednesday, June 21, 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**

May 7 - May 20

- Alarms** 96
- 911 Calls (incl hang-ups)** 17
- Noise complaints** 11
- Traffic stops** 135
- Suspicious Circumstances** 11
- Suspicious Subjects** 23
- Suspicious Vehicles** 17
- Service to Citizen** 46
- Abandoned Vehicle**
  - Laurel Dr./Deer Hill Rd.
  - 1000 Block Circle Creek Dr.
  - Dewing Ave./Walnut St.
  - 3400 Block Monroe Ave.
- Animal Control Call**
  - 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Animal Cruelty**
  - 70 Block Lafayette Cr.
- Auto Burglary**
  - 50 Block Lafayette Cr.
  - 1000 Block Carol Ln. (8)
  - 3100 Block Plymouth Rd.
  - 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
  - Oak Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
  - 10 Block Hidden Valley Rd.
  - 10 Block Diablo Cr.
  - 4100 Block Hidden Valley Rd.
- Beat Info**
  - 3900 Block Happy Valley Rd.
  - Wb Sr 24 At Pleasant Hill Rd.
- Civil Disturbance**
  - 900 Block Paulson Ct.
  - 1600 Block Taylor Blvd. (3)
  - Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
- Civil Problem**
  - 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
  - 1600 Block Taylor Blvd.
- Civil Standby**
  - 1500 Block Rancho View Dr.
- Disturbing The Peace**
  - Circle Creek Dr./Circle Creek Ct.
  - 20 Block Lafayette Cr.
- DUI Misd**
  - Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24
- Exhibition Of Speed**
  - Nordstrom Ln./Glen Rd.
- Fire/EMS Response Info**
  - 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
  - 1100 Block Crescenta Ct.
- Fireworks**
  - 10 Block Lincolnshire Ct.
- Found Property**
  - Mt. Diablo Blvd./Brown Ave.
  - 3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
- Grand Theft**
  - 3600 Block Walnut St.
- H&S Violation**
  - Bacon Way/Springbrook Rd.
  - Golden Gate Way/Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Hailed By Citizen**
  - Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.
  - Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cr.
  - Lafayette Cr. @ Mt. Diablo
  - Police Department
  - 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Harassment**
  - 3500 Block Brook St. (2)
  - 800 Block Revere Rd. (2)
- Hit And Run Misdemeanor**
  - Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
  - 800 Block Solana Dr.
  - 900 Block Moraga Rd.
  - 3400 Block School St.
  - N Lucille Ln./Florence Dr.
- Identity Theft**
  - 10 Block Westminster Pl.
  - 3200 Block Elvia St.
- In Custody Theft**
  - 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

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**After public outcry, PG&E delays tree removal plan**

By Pippa Fisher



An exposed gas line along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail. Photo P. Fisher

Amid the buzz of continued dialog around the Lafayette trees earmarked for the axe, the sound Lafayette residents won't be hearing, at least for this summer, is that of PG&E buzz-saws.

The work — deemed necessary for gas transmission pipeline safety by PG&E as part of their Community Pipeline Safety Initiative — involves the removal of 272 trees, many along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail and up at the Lafayette Reservoir. But it has been delayed as a result of pushback by very vocal residents.

In a letter to the Lafayette City Council, PG&E said that their pipeline safety experts are working to review the trees proposed for removal. The letter, signed by PG&E CPSI Director Angus Coyle, continues on to say that the company is preparing a detailed report with information on the pipeline characteristics, safety and maintenance history, emergency planning efforts and planned pipeline safety work within the city of Lafayette. He says that the report will be provided to the city and made available to the public.

"Given the work we are doing to gather and provide additional information and be responsive to the community, as well as the review and nesting bird surveys, we do not anticipate returning to council until late summer," Coyle says. "We will not conduct any of this safety work in Lafayette until after we have come back to council."

... continued on page A12

**Stanley Middle School Jazz Ensemble ties for second best in the nation**

By Pippa Fisher

The Stanley Middle School Jazz Messengers have tied for second best middle school jazz band in the nation and were recognized at a recent city council meeting, when Lafayette Mayor Mike Anderson proclaimed May 22 to be Stanley Jazz Messengers Day in the city.

City council members, city staff and members of the public were treated to a standout performance from the jazz band under the direction of Middle School Music Director Bob Athayde.

Anderson gave each member of the band a proclamation and said that Lafayette is very proud of the band's achievement.



Bob Athayde and the Stanley Jazz band. Photo Pippa Fisher

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## New Lafayette logo for 50th anniversary year

By Pippa Fisher



Winning entry for Lafayette's 50th anniversary logo by Sofia Cruz.

Public Art Committee board member Erling Horn presented the winning design for the new Lafayette 50th anniversary city logo, which residents can expect to see on banners, bumper stickers, pins, posters, mugs and t-shirts.

Lafayette Partners in Education sponsored the contest among high school students in Lamorinda to come up with a design to commemorate Lafayette's 50th anniversary of its incorporation.

Horn explained as he made his presentation to a recent city council meeting that the hard task of judging the more than 100 logos fell to the PAC and the Banner Committee, who took into consideration the overall design and color scheme as well as the feasibility of reproduc-

ing the logos in both small and large formats.

The group unanimously selected the entry by Acalanes student Sofia Cruz – a design that features the hills and reservoir in sunshine either with or without fireworks.

Although Sofia was not present at the meeting, runner up Acalanes student Miles Wiesenthal was. Wiesenthal told the council members that he takes Digital Design at school.

Vice Mayor Don Tatzin commented that he was very impressed with all the designs and suggested a collage of all the entries could be on display at the library.

Residents should be on the lookout for the new artwork from the city's talented students.

## Traffic lights hit temporary roadblock

By Pippa Fisher



Photo Pippa Fisher

After a flurry of orange-vest and hard-hat activity along Reliez Station Road in Lafayette in recent months, work on the installation of the two new sets of traffic lights stalled temporarily.

Although residents might see some continued cleanup work and will have noticed the poles and new signage, the project is delayed due to several unanticipated conflicts concerning insufficient clearance from existing high-voltage electrical transmission lines.

Currently all intersection improvement work and all underground electrical infrastructure to support the new signals is complete.

Lafayette city engineering staff is talking with PG&E to solve the new issues and are exploring the possibility of deenergizing the lines temporarily to allow for the installation at the Olympic Boulevard intersection. Lafayette City Engineer Tony Coe says that Lafayette would schedule that work during the time of day that would affect the least number of PG&E customers and that it could mean late night work.

Further up the hill at the Las Trampas Road and Richelle Court intersection, Coe says that the overhead lines that are closer to the ground may have to be physically raised to provide proper clearance, which would require engineering by PG&E. He says that could take a little more time.

... continued on page A10

## Lafayette residents sip, sample and socialize at Taste of Lafayette



Volunteer Tom Stack helps at the tour

Cloudy skies and chilly temperatures did not deter folks from the community dinner party known as the Taste of Lafayette.

Residents strolled along the city's "Restaurant Row" as they sipped, sampled and socialized while visiting close to 30 participating establishments during the sold-out event. Live music and entertainment kept things hopping

at the "taste pavilion." A raffle benefited the Lafayette Community Foundation.

Lafayette resident Sue Conway said that she and her girlfriends have been coming to the last three such events. "It is nice to stroll and taste samples from participating restaurants. It's nice to meet people and see friends from around the community." —Pippa Fisher

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

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## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Wednesday, June 14, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Monday, June 5, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Design Review

Monday, June 12, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### School Board Meetings

##### Moraga School District

Thursday, June 6, 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



### May 3 to 13

#### Alarms:

May 4 Location n/a  
May 6 Location n/a  
May 8 800 block Camino Ricardo  
May 11 1000 block Country Club Dr.  
May 11 Location n/a  
May 11 300 block of Donald Dr.  
May 12 Locations n/a (twice)  
May 13 Location n/a  
May 14 Locations n/a (twice)

#### Hit & Runs

May 5 A Prius parked along St. Mary's Road.  
May 16 New Jeep parked on Rheem Blvd.

#### Firearms surrendered for destruction

May 10, May 13

#### Thefts:

May 3 2000 block Ascot Dr. \$500  
May 8 ID theft  
May 9 Unauthorized credit card transactions  
May 15 ID theft  
May 16 Lost/stolen property; California driver's license missing

#### May 8 Weapons

Police responded to Campolindo High for possible weapons and drug violations. They referred the case to juvenile probation (court).

#### May 3

Police were dispatched to Saint Mary's College to investigate a report of a hysterical student. Must be finals time. San Jose Police took the case, although it is unclear why.

#### May 4 Loud party

Officers found 20 people on Ascot Drive holding an alcohol party. The residents were warned, then cited for hosting.

#### May 5 Fraud

A resident nearly steered himself toward financial ruin when he mailed a \$60,000 check for a new car to Las Vegas. The bank tried to stop payment, but no dice; the check was already cashed and you can bet the car never arrived.

#### May 5 Vehicle tampering

A resident's truck parked along Moraga Road had its side lock and ignition damaged. Repairs estimated at \$300. No leads.

#### May 7 Warrant arrest

Officers served a \$162,000 warrant on a woman wanted for ID theft and drug related charges. She showed her California drivers' license as ID. Whether or not her license was real, she was arrested and booked into Martinez jail.

**May 8 Suspicious circumstances**  
Where's the fire? Apparently not at a closed business in Rheem Valley Center, although officers discovered an open exterior fire door. It was only 6:30 a.m., so police simply locked up and left.

#### May 9 Auto burglary

There's no silver lining for the person whose older silver Mercedes was burgled near Claeys South Hall

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## Moraga's budget: scraping the bottom of the barrel

By Sophie Braccini

The fiscal year 2017-18 will be a stressful budget cycle for the town of Moraga, town staff members predict.

One may think of the millions for road and bridge repair that the town has to fund, but the challenge is not even there, according to the town's Administrative Services Director Amy Cunningham. Simply put, Moraga's financial trend points to a budget in the red, with general fund expenses growing faster than revenues.

The town council was asked to find extra savings and they did so by cutting several relatively small expense items such as the contributions to the senior van program and to the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, and cutting down on published meeting minutes.

Cunningham warned the council at a special budget meeting on May 17 that labor negotiations are not over yet and payroll payments represent 64 percent of town's expense. Cunningham stated that cutting positions would impact service levels and was out of the picture this year. The council did not challenge her assumption.

To explain the increased expenses the director gave the example of a 10 percent cost jump for health benefits, and a forecast of 10 percent increase for workers compensation, and explained that the 4 percent of property tax revenue or 1.5 percent sales tax revenue increases would not help.

"As we are facing a number of unique challenges, we need your input," Cunningham said, adding that the objective was to minimize the impact on the level of service residents appreciate and expect.

Moraga was funded in 1974 as a minimal service government that may have been adequate for the second half of the 20th century. It does not well equip the little suburb for 21st century requirements and expectations. The town's public work director, Edric Kwan, noted that since Proposition 13, Moraga gets the smallest percentage of property tax in the county; the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's share is four times what the town gets.

In her presentation Cunningham reminded the council that the town's asset replacement fund is completely depleted, and this year

again, some needed maintenance and asset replacement will be delayed. Not replacing computers or police cars may not impact services in the short term but can have serious consequences later on.

Line by line the council members looked at relatively small ticket items to reduce or eliminate expense in the hope to keep the budget balanced.

The Spirit Van that drives seniors to appointments was one of the first on the chopping block, as the council members noted that private contributions could replace the \$9,000 the town has historically given to that program. Council member Jeanette Fritzky asked that this item be reviewed at mid-year and adjusted if possible. The \$9,000 contribution to the chamber of commerce was also eliminated.

Council member Kymberleigh Korpus asked that the 5 percent of proposed cut to the building and ground maintenance budgetary item as well as janitorial services be increased to 20 percent, saving \$8,000 instead of \$2,000. After weighing the impact of having to ask town employees to pick up

trash and replace toilet paper, and to cut the contract with Futures Explored (a nonprofit supporting adults with disabilities), the council agreed to a 20 percent cut. It spared the Hacienda de las Flores from the budgetary slimming program.

The council decided not to touch the \$5,000 it gives to support the Sunday hours at the library, its support of the Pear and Wine Festival, nor the hiring of summer interns, but decided to cut the cost of transcribing and posting complete public meetings minutes. Only action minutes will be posted, unless the matter pertains to land use. The council felt that since the meetings are now televised and archived, government transparency is upheld. The saving is \$13,000.

Other savings include changing the way of distributing the Town Crier to save on postage and reducing the number of professional associations staff belongs to.

The total saving amounts to about \$83,000. Cunningham will present the 2017-18 budget to the council in June.

## Mayor Onoda wants to appoint Moraga's own poet laureate

By Sophie Braccini

Suddenly there is plethora of projects in Lamorinda to appoint a poet laureate.

The Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) has proposed to appoint a laureate who would write poems for events and conduct poetry education. But Moraga Mayor Teresa Onoda wants the town to have its own laureate, as part of an exclusive partnership with Saint Mary's College.

What is a poet laureate? According to the dictionary, it is "a poet appointed to, or regarded unofficially as holding, an honorary representative position in a particular country, region, or group." Juan Felipe Herrera is the current U.S. poet laureate.

LAC's idea emerged a few years back as a way to design a program that would promote the literary arts locally. "We have a lot of initiatives to promote visual and performing arts," says LAC's president Lawrence Kohl. "Our project is to include poetry in major functions, and also to be a focal point to encourage community involvement in poetry,

popcorn poetry for kids, workshops, so poetry can become a part of the community." He adds that it is also a cool way to celebrate a local poet, as Lamorinda houses several published poets.

Onoda has a different idea. As she explained it during the Arts in Public Spaces Committee meeting on May 9, what she wants is an exclusive partnership between Moraga and Saint Mary College to appoint a poet laureate. In the mayor's vision, the laureate would not be compensated, but would be given an office at the Hacienda de las Flores for writing. At that time she was not sure if the person chosen would be a student or a professor, or what the extent of their function would be.

At the meeting Onoda made it clear that this was an important personal project of hers. She told the art committee that Jim Donahue, president of Saint Mary's College, had told her that he wanted this Moraga-Saint Mary's project to come to fruition.

A member of LAC who had come to the May 9 meeting explained that the objective was to have Moraga be part of the project. Lafayette and Orinda have already approved it and LAC has raised funds to give the laureate a stipend. LAC proposed to have Saint Mary's be a part of the review committee that would choose the laureate.

But the mayor would not hear it. For her Saint Mary's College is in Moraga, it makes the town special and should not be shared with Orinda and Lafayette, she said.

The arts council followed the mayor's lead. Just one member abstained indicating that looking into a Lamorinda partnership would make sense since there does not seem to be that many opportunities for Moraga alone to occupy a poet laureate.

The council meeting will make a final decision most likely at a June meeting. In the proposed text, the mayor could have the power to appoint the poet without a vote of the council.

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## At last, sinkhole repair to start this summer

By Sophie Braccini

Fixing the Moraga sinkhole is in sight as the town finally received the federal government's approval to bid on the repair of the hole that formed over a year ago.

Work will start this summer and will close the lower portion of Rheem Boulevard for several months. The town will eventually be reimbursed for the millions needed, but it is not clear yet when this will happen.

When the town received the Federal Emergency Management Agency's agreement to fund the sinkhole repair last year, it came with strings attached: Moraga had to follow a long administrative process to get its bidding documents approved before being able to advertise it.

"We were ready for a long time," said Public Works Director Edric Kwan. He adds that Moraga's project was not considered by the federal administration an "emergency opening," like the Orinda sinkhole is. Moraga had to follow a different procedure, called "permanent restoration" that included environmental approvals and working with the other agencies involved with the sinkhole, such as PG&E.

But the approval finally came and Kwan immediately advertised the project as required. He expects to bring the bids to the council on June 14 for awarding the repair contract. Then the work will start.

Because approval came later than expected and because Kwan wants to minimize impacts on resi-

dents, he has increased the work hours and added Saturday shifts. The deadline is Oct. 15 for work completion, but he hopes it will be finished earlier.

For Moragans, the big impact will be the closure of Rheem Boulevard at its intersection with Moraga Road. Kwan said the town does not recommend using the shopping center as a detour, but to instead use alternate public roads. To make the shopping center an official detour would have required the town to negotiate access rights with the property owner, he said, which could have added a considerable amount of time. "We want to get the project started," Kwan said. The town will post signage to signal that Rheem is closed.

The federal government will reimburse Moraga, but the town — with only a small reserve and also a closed bridge to repair — had to find the money to upfront the construction costs that are estimated at \$2.7 million. Earlier this year the town appropriated money from its reserves and from the Palos Colorado developer fee account to fund the project.

Administrative Services Director Amy Cunningham says that the date the federal government will approve reimbursing the town is October of 2018, but adds that this does not mean that the town will see that money just yet. Moraga might have to wait until 2019.

"It is tough for a little town like us to be struck by two emergencies," adds Kwan.

### Update on the Canyon bridge

Public Works Director Edric Kwan says that the Canyon bridge situation is different from the sinkhole since it is characterized as an emergency closing. He and his team have made the applications to get emergency funding to install a temporary one-lane bridge. At the time of this article there was no news about Moraga's eligibility. The town continues to monitor the hillside that moved and design a solution that will stabilize the site enough to protect the temporary solution.

## EBRPD rangers issuing tickets on trail near slide

By John T. Miller

The East Bay Regional Parks District is serious about enforcing the closed trail from the Valle Vista staging area to 1700 School Street, warned Moraga Town Manager Robert Priebe in his report to the Moraga City Council at its recent meeting.

The portion of the Lafayette Moraga Trail was closed as of Jan. 21, 2016 due to a mudslide.

"The closure is causing people to trespass on private property on Augusta Drive and to cross EB-MUD property," said Priebe. "The park rangers are issuing citations."

Other action at the May 24 meeting at the Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room included:

**Sinkhole Repair.** Priebe announced that the town has received authorization to go to bid for appropriation of funds on June 14 (See story above). "We will get it done this summer," Priebe told the council.

**Green Infrastructure.** The council heard a report from Public Works Director Edric Kwan and clean water consultant Frank Kennedy regarding approving a framework for managing waste water.

Council Members Kymberleigh Korpus and Dave Trotter expressed concern regarding funding of the proposals. Kennedy replied that part of the task would be to seek grants and get help from the Bay Area Storm Water Management and the Contra Costa Clean Water program.

Trotter was proud to point out that the town had already met the 7 percent trash reduction requirement.

**General Plan Implementation.** The meeting concluded with a report from planning department staff members Ellen Clark and Brian Horn reviewing Moraga's progress in implementing the General Plan.

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# Orinda

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, June 6, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 13, 7 p.m.  
Special Joint Meeting with City Council  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

### Citizens' Infrastructure

#### Oversight Commission

Wednesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

### School Board Meetings

#### Orinda Union School District

Monday, June 5, 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



### May 7 to 20

Alarms	45
Noise complaints	6
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	1
Traffic stops	44
Suspicious Circumstances	17
Suspicious Subjects	21
Suspicious Vehicles	18
Abandoned vehicle	

50 block Brookwood Rd.

### Animal cruelty

Orinda Way/Avenida de Orinda

### Battery

200 block Holly Ln. (felony)

50 block Tappan Ln.

### Barking Dog

El Toyonal/Camino del Cielo

### Burglary, Auto

Theatre Square

Orinda Theater

500 block Miner Rd.

### Burglary, Residential

40 block Moraga Via

30 block Bobolink Rd.

30 block Moraga Via

20 block Woodland Rd.

40 block Barbara Rd.

### Custody violation

reported to police (2)

### Death, non-criminal

400 block Tahos Rd.

40 block Bear Ridge Rd.

### Disturbance

Donald Dr./Hall Dr.

20 block Lavenida Dr.

70 block El Toyonal

Orinda Country Club

10 block Crescent Dr.

### Exhibition of speed

10 block Irving Ln.

### Fireworks

200 block Tappan Ln.

### Forgery

60 block Martha Rd.

### Hit & Run

10 block Ramona Dr.

### ID Theft

reported to police (3)

10 block Austin Ct.

10 block Camino del Diablo

10 block Silverwood Ct.

10 block El Rincon

60 block Lost Valley Dr.

### Misdemeanor

Moraga Way/Orchard Rd

### Panhandling

Bevmo

Chevron

### Police/Fire/EMS

Moraga Way/Brookside Rd.

10 block Camino Sobrante

10 block Camino Pablo

### Public Nuisance

Camino Pablo/Hwy 24

50 block Via Floreado

### Reckless Driving

Camino Pablo/Hwy 24

San Pablo Dam Rd./Wildcat

San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek

Risa Ct./Ivy Dr.

Camino Pablo/Los Amigos

Glorietta Blvd/Martha Rd.

Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.

El Toyonal/Canon Dr.

Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.

Restraining Order violation

Rite Aid (2)



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## Orinda City Council bans outdoor marijuana plants

By Sora O'Doherty

When marijuana becomes legal in California in 2018, Orindans will be allowed to cultivate six marijuana plants indoors, but none outside, by a new ordinance to be adopted by the city council recently.

The council took a pragmatic approach, recognizing that enforcement of restrictions on marijuana would be difficult to accomplish. Council Member Dean Orr was concerned about limiting the freedom of Orindans to grow marijuana on their property, but was convinced to support the ban on outdoor cultivation when assured that cultivation in a greenhouse or other garden building is considered an indoor grow.

The council received a staff report and heard from Police Chief Mark Nagel, as well as two speakers in the public forum. Jaime Rich of Alcohol and Drug Addiction

Prevention Team of Lamorinda expressed her concern that the new state law, Proposition 64, adopted by California voters in last November's general election, could enable easier access to marijuana by young people, who can suffer more adverse effects than adults. She recognized that the law did not permit the city to ban indoor grows, but urged the council to ban outdoor grows as more easily accessible to young people. She admitted that she didn't know about deliveries of marijuana, and Nagel agreed that he did not know how it would be possible to regulate deliveries.

Orinda mom Debbie Berndorf told the council, "If you haven't tried marijuana lately, you don't know marijuana." She stressed that the drug is now much higher in THC and is seriously addictive, unlike the product of 18 years

ago. She spoke of the nuisance of outdoor grows, which, she said, produce horrific smells that can prevent neighbors from even using their backyards. She also opined that there are very few homebound patients who require home marijuana deliveries. She suggested a registry, which was not adopted by the council, but stopped short of recommending a permit process.

Orinda City Attorney Osa Wolff was joined by an expert from her firm, Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP, Heather Minner. Minner advised that the city could impose restrictions on outdoor grows, but that smells are not as easily measurable as noise. The city could limit the number of outdoor plants, or ban them completely, which the council decided to do.

The city cannot ban indoor cultivation, but could have chosen

restrictions. However, enforcement problems proved a deterrent to such restrictions. The council did concur with a staff recommendation to ban commercial marijuana activities from Orinda.

Council Member Inga Miller mused that she didn't want to send Orinda residents to Moraga or Lafayette to buy marijuana; a furtherance of "retail leakage." However, Council Member Darlene Gee supported the ban and suggested it was more likely that Orindans would go west to seek their marijuana in Berkeley or Oakland.

So Orindans will be able to order marijuana deliveries, but won't be able to pick up local supplies; they can grow marijuana plants inside, but not outdoors.

## Orinda City Council refuses to consider joining a Community Choice Energy program

By Sora O'Doherty

Members of the Orinda community are surprised by and confused that the city council has not taken up the issue of Community Choice Energy in the city.

Eight speakers spoke up in the public forum on May 16 and asked the city council to put joining Marin Clean Energy on its agenda. Council Member Inga Miller's motion to do that was met with dead silence from the rest of the council. Without a second of the motion, the issue was dropped.

When a member of the public raises an issue in the public forum, the council is limited in the actions it can take, but, the council may also direct staff to report back or place a matter on a future agenda for discussion. It didn't.

Miller said she didn't know why her request was not seconded. No other council members would comment on the issue.

Last year the council declined to fund a study regarding MCE, noting, among other things, that no Orinda residents attended the meeting to support the funding of the study. Since that time, MCE made a presentation at the joint meeting of the Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette councils on March 1. Lafayette joined MCE in 2016, and recently Moraga and Contra Costa County

joined as well. Community Choice Energy programs have been growing in popularity, and also this month San Jose became the largest city to launch a community choice energy program, of which there are now eight in the state.

Sarah Butler, a former board member of Orinda Union School District, led off the public forum discussion of Community Choice Energy. She informed the council that the Board of Supervisors had decided to join MCE and that MCE had been thoroughly vetted by the supervisors. She noted that there is a June 30 deadline, that all necessary documents are available on the MCE website and distributed Moraga's draft resolution documents to the council.

Many others spoke in favor of joining MCE. Carol Weed, a Walnut Creek resident, said that she has been a customer of MCE for almost a year. She noted that MCE provides better reimbursement than PG&E for energy generated by solar, and even offers monetary compensation. Melissa Yu, a community organizer for the Sierra Club, asked the council to place the matter on the agenda for the next meeting in order to empower residents and businesses to have a voice in where their electricity comes from,

and touted MCE for promoting a healthy environment and a prosperous future.

Kelly Cannon, a 12-year Orinda resident, wants the option of using MCE. The program has lots of benefits and very little downside, she said. It saves money and uses renewable energy, she added. Lori Patel, an 18-year Orinda resident, who volunteers in the library, asked for choice in energy. Tandra Ericson supports joining a CCE, saying that the easiest one is MCE. She said, "Climate is very important to me; the only way I can get renewable energy is if you guys give us the option."

The Rev. Michelle Robbins moved to Orinda last July to be the Pastor at St. Marks. Prior to moving to Orinda, she lived in Walnut Creek, where she had the choice of choosing MCE. "We are only stewards of the earth, not the owners," she said. "We need to do a better job of taking care of it."

Despite the pleas of these residents, the council seemed unmoved, with the exception of Miller.

Looking back at the reasons given last year for not continuing to fund the study of CCEs might offer some clues to explain the council's inaction. At that time, the council decided that they preferred to keep

the city's focus — and funds — directed toward the goal of dealing with the city's roads. No one, the council reasoned, was clamoring for an alternative source of renewable energy in Orinda. In fact, no member of the public spoke either for or against the proposal at that time.

Council Member Dean Orr stated he had a lot of reservation with the implementation of a program and, based on the information before the council, he could not support moving forward. Then-Vice Mayor Eve Phillips indicated she had similar concerns to Orr's. She stated she has not heard much from residents about the issue and she wanted to be a good steward of the city's finances. Council Member Amy Worth noted that energy costs were low and the CCE looks attractive but she was concerned how in the long run the smaller entities would compete with PG&E and what the eventual impact would be to ratepayers. Based on her experience in serving on joint powers authorities, she noted the tremendous amount of city staff time that is needed, citing the Solid Waste Authority rate-setting process, and she did not anticipate that the CCE process would be any easier.

... continued on page A11

### Theft, Petty

CVS  
Theatre Square  
Safeway (2)  
100 block Camino Sobrante  
40 block Stanton Ave.

### Theft, grand

200 block Camino Sobrante

### Traffic collision

St. John's Church  
Moraga Via/Glorietta  
Moraga Way/Brookside Rd.  
Wilder entrance  
400 block Moraga Way  
Valley View/Don Gabriel Dr.  
Moraga Way/Camino Encinas  
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.

### Unwanted Guest

20 block Orinda Way

### Vandalism

Camino Sobrante/ Pablo  
Safeway  
Holy Shepherd Church  
Claremont/Stanton Aves

### Vehicle theft

Hwy 24/Camino Pablo

### Warrant Service/Arrest/Advise

300 block Glorietta Blvd.

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**Major repairs on the Miner Road sinkhole are zooming ahead**

By Sora O'Doherty



Repair work on the Miner Road sinkhole is progressing nicely.

Orinda is speeding through the repair of the Miner Road sinkhole and is on course for the road reopening in early July. Carpenter foreman Jerry Say explained that the rectangular culvert is now complete, and the work has moved on to the walls.

According to Orinda Interim City Manager Steve Salomon, the rebar for the parapet and retaining walls on each end of the box culvert has now been installed and the wood forms for the parapet wall set on top of the end of box culvert were set up for a concrete pour on

May 26. The retaining walls are designed to stair-step down into the creek channel. They vary in height between five-feet and 22-feet tall.

The wood forms are set on each side of the rebar. The concrete for the retaining walls will be poured June 2, and that will be the last ma-

jor concrete pour for the project. Salomon also noted that the contractor will likely begin backfilling over the box culvert and behind the retaining walls the weekend of June 3. The contractor will be importing structural backfill and delivering it to Miner Road off Camino Pablo.

Public Works Director Larry Theis explained that among the work still to be done are the re-installation of utilities and sewer lines and placement of high flow storm drain pipes; the city is working with EBMUD to replace the water line.

Theis was delighted that it was not necessary to remove additional trees from the site. He addressed the use of the Orinda sports field for stockpiles of dirt, acknowledging some complaints regarding noise and dust. He said that it will probably be a month before the material can be off-hauled, and it will be taken out at night to another job site in east Contra Costa County. The city will work with neighbors to mitigate noise and other concerns. Theis believes that it will be better to do the hauling at night, because

it will take only three to five nights to remove the dirt, whereas if the work were done during daylight hours it would take eight to 10 days owing to traffic. Noise will be an issue from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. Notification to neighbors will be provided as to exact time frame and the city will try to look at other mitigations.

Theis also reported on the status of services through the area. The PG&E gas pipeline is being suspended and will be buried back in place, no reconnection will be required. The Central Contra Costa Sanitary District is negotiating with the city's contractor for a price to reinstall the two sewer lines. EBMUD also recently tested the pipe, which is still in good condition, but it will remove and replace a 40-foot section. The pipe replacement will take two days.

Theis also said that the city will address larger potholes towards the end of the project, and that they are still working with Caltrans and Federal Emergency Management Agency concerning reimbursement.

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## Fire Districts

### Public Meetings

#### Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors  
Wednesday, June 21, 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, June 13, 1:30 p.m.  
Board Chamber room 107,  
Administration Building,  
651 Pine St., Martinez  
For meeting times and agendas,  
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

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## MOFD approves loan to pay for new equipment

By Pippa Fisher

Moraga-Orinda Fire District board members approved a low interest rate loan to help pay for new firefighting equipment with an eye to safeguarding finances over the next five years, but not without puzzling over the pros and cons of such a loan.

The board heard the details of the loan from Administrative Services Director Gloriann Sasser who explained that of the four proposals sought, US Bancorp's 1.9 percent interest rate spread over five years was the lowest. The loan amount requested was \$2,855,000 to cover the cost of the two ambulances, two

fire engine pumpers and one ladder fire truck the district recently purchased.

Sasser noted the advantage of spreading the cost over time and of the very low interest rate. She pointed out that although MOFD has enough money available in the capital projects fund currently to pay for the purchases without issuing debt and incurring the \$151,247 over five years in interest costs, having the additional money available over the next few years would provide the district with greater flexibility.

Discussion centered on the recognition that the district re-

mains vulnerable should there be a downturn in the economy, causing property taxes to go down and therefore reducing its income. Furthermore it remains hard to predict increases in retirement costs.

Board President Kathleen Famulener called the opportunity a "great deal" noting the flexibility it would afford the district, especially with the ongoing Station 43 construction and the proposed reconstruction of Station 41.

Board Director Steve Anderson commented, "It would not be fiscally prudent to not take advantage of these extremely low inter-

est rates."

MOFD board director John Jex was definitive in his view that the board should avoid taking out the loan but director Brad Barber who questioned the wisdom of paying interest on the purchase of limited-lifespan apparatus. Barber said that he was just not sure that this is the right way to do business.

The motion to authorize the issuance of the five-year, tax-exempt loan was approved by three votes to one, with Jex against and with Barber voting yes but with reservations. Director Craig Jorgens was absent.

## Firefighters 'Fill the Boot' for muscular dystrophy

By Pippa Fisher

Continuing a long-standing commitment to the defeat of muscular dystrophy, Moraga-Orinda Fire District firefighters and paramedics took to the streets of Moraga recently to raise money in their traditional "Fill the Boot" campaign.

For over 60 years the International Association of Fire Fighters have raised more than \$558 million.

The organizer of the most recent day's fundraising in Moraga, firefighter-paramedic Andrew Leach, said that they raised just over \$3,800 as firefighters passed the boots around at the junction of Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard and greeted drivers waiting at the traffic lights.

He said that that figure combined with t-shirt sales from the recent open house brings the amount raised for the Muscular Dystrophy

Association to over \$4,500 so far this year and expects the total to increase following the June 29 Orinda Fill the Boot day. Last year, between the two Fill the Boot days and the open house they raised over \$10,000.

Leach said that he works alongside the MDA representative and coordinates the dates and locations in the district to try and get as many on and off duty personnel to participate as possible. "The more fire fighters we have out there, the more money we raise."

Money raised will sponsor kids suffering from various types of muscular dystrophy to participate in summer camps. There are two camps this year, one in the Santa Cruz Mountains and a second in Occidental. "In years past we have sent an engine company to the camp to spend a day with the kids,"

said Leach.

His favorite part of this effort? "Seeing all our firefighters out there working together to achieve a com-

mon goal which is to raise as much money as we can to send as many children as we can to the summer camps."



Firefighter paramedic Jacob Airola collecting money in Moraga.

Photo Pippa Fisher

## RESCUE ONE buys extra eyes for MOFD

... continued from page A1

"It takes a little time to learn how to fly these things," he said.

The drone was unveiled at a Moraga Fire Station 41 demonstration in April with an audience of MOFD employees, volunteers and members of the RESCUE

ONE board of directors on hand. Its infrared camera quickly located a volunteer hiding under a nearby canopy of trees. Four days later it was called into service during a search for a UPS truck driver feared injured and lost after an accident in Lafayette's Hunsaker Canyon, where, said Marquardt, "it did exactly what it needed to do."

MOFD used the resource again May 11 when a vehicle overshot the embankment on Pinehurst Road south of Canyon Road and May 12 to monitor firefighting efforts during a residential structure fire in Orinda. It has also been used during training flights over Station 41.

Healy said MOFD does not fly the drone during a vegetation fire, and neither should anyone else. "It is actually illegal," he added, explaining that Cal Fire does not fly its aircraft in an area where drones are aloft. "If you fly, we don't," Healy said.

Before takeoff Marquardt consults smartphone apps B4UFLY, AirMap and ForeFlight to learn

of possible airspace restrictions; he checks Aviation and 1-800-wx brief for weather reports.

A tablet computer controls the white with red stickered UAV with the red and green running lights and white strobe. It is capable of flying 60 miles per hour although Marquardt currently keeps it under 47 mph. It has a flight life of 23 minutes. While not waterproof, it operates with good stability in winds up to 23 miles per hour.

While FAA regulations require line-of-sight operations, a flight path under 400 feet and daylight only operations, the MOFD operator has obtained a waiver allowing flight operations after twilight.

The New York-based Center for the Study of the Drone says 347 public safety agencies nationwide use drones; 23 of those agencies are in California.

Alameda County Sheriff's office has six drones, and used one during Oakland's Ghost Ship warehouse fire in Oakland last December. Menlo Park Fire Pro-

tection District has three "large frame" drones plus a few handheld drones. Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, and the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District are in the process of designing their own programs, Marquardt said.

"This is another tool — an extra set of eyes to keep firefighters safe," said MOFD Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein. Marquardt agreed, adding "the possibilities are endless." And like any good pilot, he is still building flight time. He is scheduled to attend a Menlo Park Fire Protection District symposium on public service drone use June 2. "Every day there's something new (to learn) and I'm trying to stay on top of it," Marquardt said.

[Editor's note: Lamorinda Weekly reported earlier on local drone use in a November 5, 2014 story: <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0818/Drones-in-Lamorinda-The-good-the-bad-the-unmanned.html>]

## El Toyonal to lose school bus service

... continued from page A1

The CHP denied all of LSBP's requests, leading to the cancellation or removal of a number of stops, mostly in Orinda due to the topography, a few in Lafayette and less in Moraga. Hansen added that Lafayette and Moraga and even other places in Orinda were able to adjust the routes to allow for compliant stops, but there is nothing that will help the stops on El Toyonal become compliant with the safety statute.

Loughran and Swaney said they do not believe that safety is the motivation behind the closure, citing studies that children are more 70 percent more likely to get to school safely on a school bus, and the students on El Toyonal have been safely riding the school bus for 20 years. They say that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says, "Bus is best."

One reason that these parents believe that the school bus is safer for children than transport in par-

ents' cars is that the people who live in the El Toyonal area respect the school bus; when they see it, they slow down — a courtesy not always granted to private cars. The two women said that families who planned to start using the school bus next year were not notified of the meeting. Loughran said that she would not have purchased her home but for the existence of the school bus route.

Hansen agreed that it is generally true that students are safer in buses than private cars, but noted that consultants do not necessarily believe that this is the case for El Toyonal. "Once we saw where the story was going, we tried to come up with a way to serve the neighborhood," she said, but found that there was no safe alternative. LSBP thought of Orinda Park Pool, but the driveway is very narrow and the sight distance for the left turn is insufficient. They also looked at the end of Canon or Rio Vista as

turn-around spots, but they weren't sufficient. Nor was there adequate parking on Camino Pablo for parents.

Although the goals are traffic mitigation and to provide as much service as possible, Hansen said that safety is the LSBP's foremost priority and is what is driving the closure. Hansen has met with Orinda Public Works Director Larry Theis, who will be talking to the school bus consultants.

There are also changes to other bus routes in the Orinda area, affecting Glorietta Elementary, Sleepy Hollow Elementary and Wagner Ranch Elementary to Orinda Intermediate and Miramonte High schools. The entire safety study can be read at <http://nebula.wsimg.com/0f5cb3db449c60f389e8d08cad940afb?AccessKeyId=ACBAD635E8DD86102CE4&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

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## Letters to the Editor

### Orinda holds out on Community Choice Energy

Dear Editor,  
At the Orinda City Council meeting on Tuesday, May 16, nine people spoke during the Public Forum in support of Community Choice Energy and requesting that it be put on the agenda for the next council meeting. Additional people were in the audience in support of CCE and approximately two dozen emails were sent and numerous phone calls made to the mayor and city manager in support of CCE.

Council member Inga Miller moved to discuss CCE at the next council meeting. In spite of the strong show of public support no other council member would second the motion. The audience was surprised and shocked. There is no direct cost to the city to join a CCE provider. Indirect costs may include legal review of documents, but since Contra Costa County and most of the cities in the county, including Walnut Creek, Lafayette, and Moraga have joined, acceptable legal documents already exist. Staff time for approval would similarly be minimal.

Joining a CCE provider gives residents a choice of energy sources with more renewable content than PG&E at the same or lower cost. Residents can opt out of the CCE to stay with PG&E. Orinda is disallowing its residents and businesses a choice of energy sources.

As Carolyn Knoll wrote in a letter to the editor on May 17, "Why the delay? What's stopping the council? What are their concerns?"

Jim Ulrick  
Orinda

### Quick fix for Canyon bridge

Dear Editor,  
Until a more permanent temporary solution is installed, how about letting people walk across the Moraga-Canyon bridge? It could be made perfectly safe by installing two steel cables, one for each direction. Those walking across would put on a harness clipped to a ring on the cable. In the unlikely event that the bridge collapses further while someone is walking on it, they'd just end up in the air. Parents could shuttle kids to school and others could rideshare or taxi into town. Hiring someone to oversee it wouldn't be too expensive. Let's harness (sorry) Lamorinda creativity!

Larry Zulch  
Lafayette

### Roundabout works

Dear Editor,  
Now that the roundabout at Olympic and Pleasant Hill Road has been in service for a few months and now that we see clearly demonstrated that this was an effective, if not inspired design for

improving this intersection, and that, in fact, chaos has not ensued and Rossmoor-bound cars are not strewn in the medians like errant bocce balls or stacked in the center like cord wood, is it possible that just one of the many naysayers who brayed doom at community meetings and on Nextdoor and in this very paper about the coming rounda-pocalypse might write a brief note that maybe, just maybe, they were wr-wr-wr-wrong?

I know, probably asking too much.

Dave E Dondero  
Lafayette

### PG&E needs to look at its own safety measures

Dear Editor,  
The grass-roots, loose-knit organization my wife and I started in April called Save Lafayette Trees began as a push to stop the unnecessary cutting of 272 trees in Lafayette. After talking with many informed Lafayette citizens and conducting basic research, we have realized that there are more gas pipeline questions than answers.

It appears the gas transmission pipeline in Lafayette has not been successfully pressure tested for leaks since the year after it was built in 1963. Its many twists and turns, along with a pressure rate only 17 percent of its capacity, means state-of-the-art sensors that could measure defects from within the pipe are rendered useless. From what we've read, these are the two best methods to determine the integrity of a gas pipeline.

PG&E told us in person that they instead "walk" the line with handheld leak detectors on an annual basis. Apparently the City of Lafayette has no records of when and if this was done. In fact, one four-foot section of the pipeline stands exposed along the trail, a fact pointed out to the surprised members of PG&E's customer outreach team.

The only other method of pipeline inspection they mention is Cathodic Protection, which is basically an electric charge put on the pipeline to reduce corrosion. Our Public Request Act resulted in the discovery of PG&E's admission to the city that they had 670 instances of inadequate CP that were left unremedied along their lines. Their errors were discovered in 2012, and as of 2017 they still hadn't completed repairs in 243 locations. In another failure discovered by our PRE, PG&E was fined \$5.45 million by the California Public Utilities Commission five months ago for using unqualified contractors to perform other corrosion testing. It's unclear how much Lafayette is impacted by these discoveries.

Meanwhile, PG&E is spending \$500 Million across the state to cut trees down to stumps saying this is a "proactive" step should they later decide that trees

are an issue. We strongly recommend that PG&E instead focus on investing their time, money and personnel on proven safety measures that may be lacking in our community now.

Michael and Gina Dawson  
Lafayette

### Urge Orinda to consider joining a CCE

Dear Editor,  
Daily, we read articles about the fast approaching devastating effects of climate change — drought, fish extinction, flooding, extreme temperatures. We need to take action to lower our carbon footprint. One simple way, is for a community to join a Community Choice Energy program. At little or no cost, our communities can reduce our carbon emissions by 10 percent while supporting local jobs and building the clean economy.

Unfortunately, with the exception of Inga Miller, the Orinda City Council refuses to even consider providing Orinda the energy choices that are being provided to other Contra Costa County communities including Lafayette, Danville, Moraga and Walnut Creek. I call upon fellow Orinda Citizens to contact Orinda City Council members to ask them to put the discussion about joining a CCE to the agenda.

Tandra Ericson  
Orinda CA

### Lafayette should appoint fact-finding group for tree removal

Dear Editor,  
PG&E stated in a May 17 letter to the City of Lafayette that their planned removal of 272 trees at the Lafayette Reservoir and along the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail could begin as soon as mid-June. The city has signed an agreement with PG&E authorizing removal of these scenic trees (some as old as 200 years) after PG&E agreed to pay \$500,000 in compensation to the city.

The reason given for removing the trees is gas pipeline safety. But PG&E's explanations of the

safety hazard presented by the trees has continued to evolve, as has the number of trees that pose a hazard. For example, in 2015, the number of Orinda trees requiring removal under the same PG&E program was reduced from 305 to 11 (96 percent reduction). Two years later, we see the same reduction pattern in Lafayette, from 1000 trees to 272. The standards that apply and why they are changing to this degree is disturbing. At the May 8 Lafayette City Council meeting, many concerned residents challenged PG&E's assumptions and asked for more information about the plan.

What's needed is the appointment of a fact-finding group that includes residents, city government, PG&E and other stakeholders. Many of the majestic heritage oaks to be removed along the trail preexisted the pipeline by many decades; the pipeline has been in place for more than 50 years. Yet PG&E's current plan is to remove the trees, not move the pipeline by a few feet. I recently asked PG&E and the city council to participate in the creation of the fact-finding group described above. Let's take the time to ensure all feasible solutions to Lafayette pipeline safety have been carefully considered before sending in the chain saws.

David Kusters  
Lafayette

### Clarifying ULI's report

Dear Editor,  
I wish to respond to Nick Waranoff's recent letter commenting on the ULI Technical Assistance Panel's preliminary report regarding downtown renewal.

1) The TAP did not recommend 240 housing units downtown. Here is what their preliminary report stated:

- "Orinda Can Create Value"
- Housing is highest value use
- Consider pooling the current 10 residential dwelling units per acre
- Allocate pooled units to property owners willing to dedicate creek right of way
- Would allow for up to six 40-unit residential/

mixed use projects • Permit flexible (35' to 55') height limit to be measured from curb on Orinda Way • Determine value capture from modest increase in density for tangible community benefit."

As I read its report, the TAP simply stated the total number of housing units currently zoned for downtown and suggested that the City consider pooling some of that zoning capacity to use as a trade-off for those property owners willing to dedicate creek right of way. It did not recommend a full build-out of currently permitted housing.

2) The inevitable sale of homes to young families by Orinda's older residents who want to downsize would occur whether they move downtown or somewhere else. The availability of downtown housing won't affect that natural outcome. And, providing an option for these individuals to remain in Orinda would allow them to continue to enrich our community.

3) The projected school population for OUSD is flat to declining. The base funding for the district, which is governed by the Local Control Funding Formula, increases when the total student population grows. This increased funding allows the district to retain and augment academic enrichment programming. It is also worth noting that all new development is required to pay a development impact fee to our school districts which they are required to set aside to build additional capacity should that be needed. In any case, the school districts are best equipped to address the question of the impact of development on their school populations and budgets and will be offered that opportunity when an Environmental Impact Report is prepared in connection with a Downtown Specific Plan.

The task of ULI is to provide options. It is up to the citizens of Orinda and their elected representatives to decide which, if any, of these options are right for our city.

Dan Palmerlee  
Orinda



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## Keep horsing around with the help of these local equestrian shops

By John T. Miller



ReactorPanel Saddle Company.

Photos John T. Miller

Three saddlery, tack, and bridle stores, with three different stories, have been created in the Lamorinda area to serve the robust equestrian community here.

### Horsing Around

The first to arrive on the scene, the Orinda Village Horse Shop, was opened in 1995 by owner Linda Englestad. With a motto of "Everything for the horse and rider," Englestad has fashioned an independent, locally owned shop that can respond to requests and local needs.

The business was originally called "Horsing Around," but a dispute over naming rights led the local company to change its name.

"This shop has been a part of the community for so long that we are familiar with the local barns, trainers, and riding programs offered," said Englestad. "Being a locally owned shop, we are able to easily adapt to requests or local needs."

Originally, the company focused only on English riding, which is the type featured in the Olympics and includes Hunter/Jumping, Dressage and Endurance. Last year, however, they expanded into Western style, which includes Rodeo, Pleasure Reining, and Trail. They also introduced a consignment program recently for customers to resell merchandise.

The company especially focuses on helping new riders and also carries items for the horse lover who may not ride.

### A Patented Leather Saddle

Tucked into a small office space in the Moraga Executive Plaza, the ReactorPanel Saddle Company provides quality saddles to local riders, customers all over the United States, and some international clients.

Carmi Weinger bought the saddle business in 1999 from an English company, and has developed a product unlike any other.

While some of the buyers are local, most of the sales go to customers across the United States, and a handful of saddles are sold

"After a further study, we found the heart rates of the horses were lower without the flap." The company has decided to delay release of the product until it is patented.

The saddle is for English-style riding, but the newly developed flapless version fills the niche market for endurance riding. "These competitions are like ultra marathons," said Weinger, "with the horses traveling over 100 miles."

Commenting on the local equestrian scene, Weinger said, "The area is rich and deep with riders. Moraga is a great central location to reach them."

### New Colt on the Block

While Dover Saddlery is a relative newcomer to the area, moving into the Moraga Shopping Center in the fall of 2015, the parent company was established in Wellesley, Massachusetts, in 1974 by the Power brothers. The Moraga store is the second West Coast location after Laguna Hills, and the next closest is in Colorado.

Current manager Tracy Burke has been with the Dover Saddlery for 12 years and helps open new locations for the company. After receiving a law degree in Massachusetts, she decided to work for Dover instead: "Dover was my go to tack store while growing up, and then became my undergrad job. After I passed the bar I decided I'd rather work for them than be a lawyer."

The store serves English-style riding and also has veterinarian medicines, supplements, horse care products and basic barn supplies. They sell their own makes of saddles, including Circuit and Warendorf, and carry about 10 other brands of saddles.

Burke is here temporarily doing training and looking to hire a new permanent manager. "I am amazed at how tight-knit the horse community is here and how well they support each other," she said. "Everyone is invested in the community (of riders), helping the equestrian scene flourish."



Orinda Village Horse Shop.



Dover Saddlery.

## Traffic lights hit temporary roadblock

... continued from page A3

"Preliminary estimates given to us range from 10-12 weeks, but we are aggressively pressing for this timeline to be shortened in the interest of expediting a public safety project."

At the same time the city staff is also exploring ways to install the rest of the equipment that has

no conflicts and can safely operate the signal in a temporary configuration.

The project had been slated for completion by the end of April 2017. Coe apologized for the delay saying, "A series of separate issues ranging from unmarked underground utilities to equipment short-

age has had a cumulative effect on our ability to stay on schedule."

He says that although the current issue with overhead line clearance is "a significant obstacle" city staff is actively pursuing all strategies to speed up completion.



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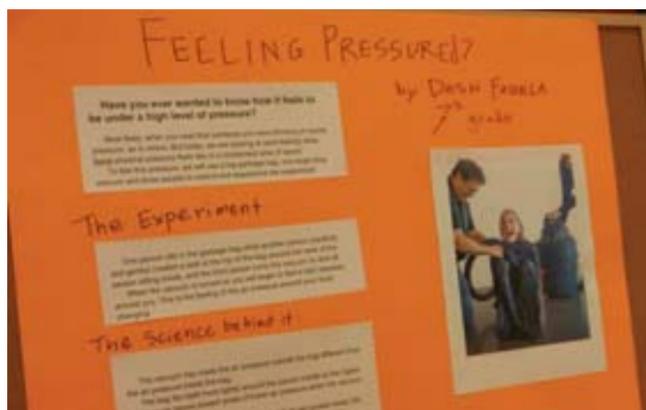
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# Students' creativity shines at Stanley's STEAM Expo

Submitted by Catherine Kauder



One of the more popular exhibits was the air pressure machine. Even Assistant Principal Brian Mangold got into the spirit of things. Photos provided

The Arts and Science community came together for one exciting night recently as Stanley Middle School hosted LPIE's STEAM. Expo.

STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art and math and this well-attended exhibition saw over 150 Stanley students showcase their creativity in all of these disciplines.

In the past, the event was traditionally a Science Fair held every two years. But this time around, LPIE expanded the categories to include art, robotics, home economics, wood shop and computers along with science and math. Music was also in the air as Acalanes High School jazz musicians performed in the courtyard and 40 Stanley musicians participated in a solo ensemble concert in the music room.

"It's not your grandpa's Science Fair," said Stanley Principal David Schrag.

Stanley's multipurpose room and gym were filled with interactive exhibits and demonstrations from students and community exhibitors such as Contra Costa HazMat, BMW Motorcycles, the Lindsey Wildlife Museum, Contra Costa Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team, East Bay Municipal Utility District and many more.

Visitors to the expo could see anything from student-drawn comics and other art work, crochet samples, BattleBots, computer programs and countless other experiments, many of which students did during their free time outside of school.

One of the more popular exhibits was seventh-grader Dash Fabela's air pressure experiment. Participants would sit inside a plastic garbage bag while another person vacuumed all of the air out of the bag, so that the person in the bag could feel the difference in air pressure – and get a tight squeeze in the process. A long line of students waited patiently for their turn to get "under

pressure" – and even Schrag and Assistant Principal Brian Mangold gave it a try.

Eighth-grader Roman Mirov had a table full of mini-computer components that he built himself at home. Mirov said he learned more about how to construct the devices by reading manuals and watching tutorials on YouTube.

"Anybody can learn what they're interested in online or in books," he explained.

Stanley computer teacher Brian Connolly's students displayed their interactive projects on the stage of the multi-purpose room. Eighth-graders Ellie Gainey, Nuala Maher, Jules Auston and Giovanna Fry showed their motorized replica of Disney's spinning tea cups ride, which was partially produced on a 3-D printer and used motors to move the spinning parts.

Students from home economics did cooking and sewing demonstrations, while art students gave a "how-to" on using the pottery wheel. Wood tech, robotics, math and computer students also showed off their skills during the evening, while a taco truck fed hungry expo goers out in the school's courtyard.

Meanwhile, community exhibitors like Napa-based GIGAmacro showed off the latest technology in high-resolution cameras and software.

"The exhibitors were engaged with the students and were open to lots of questions," said STEAM Expo Co-Chair Matt Fabela. "There was great interaction was going on during the event between students, parents, visitors and the exhibitors."

Mangold agreed, noting that it was good for students to see the applications that STEAM subjects have in the real world.

"It's amazing all of the resources in this community, and great to have them here to inspire our youth and be inspired by them," Mangold said.

## Orinda

### Orinda City Council refuses

... continued from page A6

Then-Mayor Victoria Smith agreed, noting she had concerns with the program's opt-out provisions and some of the long-term liabilities a JPA could face, and she highlighted that PG&E will be facing a mandate to source 50 percent of its energy from renewable resources. Given the city's financial challenges Smith said she would

prefer waiting to see how the issues played out with the county and with Lafayette and she preferred that the city focus on its road challenges and goals at that time.

Now the council knows how the county and Lafayette feel about joining MCE, but there is still no action planned on its part.

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Giving Dreams an Address

## A drive to solve Lafayette's traffic problem

... continued from page A1

Iswalt reminded the audience of the steps taken to this point since the study's inception in August 2015. Together with a specifically formed steering committee there have been many meetings with both the circulation committee and the city council. What started with over 100 possible strategies was whittled down ultimately to the current shortlist of 15 ideas on which they are inviting public feedback.

Iswalt made it clear that in his opinion there is no silver bullet; that each solution comes at a cost. He presented several projections for growth in the area, which would require implementation of different solutions over time.

Vice Mayor Don Tatzin explained that there would likely be

some combination of strategies. Tatzin pointed out that while some are minimally impacting, others come at a larger cost and might be looked at in the future. He urged residents to make their voices heard, not just with what not to do, but also more constructively.

And residents did have a chance to have their say. During a question and answer session people raised concerns from additional traffic on residential streets to loss of parking spaces with new road configurations.

One resident claimed she did in fact have the "silver bullet" solution and proposed a footbridge over Moraga Road, as she claimed much of the delays during school peak times would be avoided if students were not having to stop

traffic to cross the road continuously. Her suggestion was enthusiastically received by the crowd and Iswalt promised to talk further to her although he pointed out they had already considered pedestrian bridges and said that there are issues such as meeting ADA standards and with the amount of space required.

Large city street maps were laid out on tables at the back of the room and the public was invited to use colorful sticky notes to leave their ideas, suggestions and feedback on the maps.

Once all the public input has been gathered and a final report is made, the city council will hear a final presentation of the downtown congestion reduction plan in July.



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## PG&E delays tree removal plan

... continued from page A2

Mayor Mike Anderson expects the council to receive a comprehensive report from PG&E at a regularly scheduled city council meeting later in the summer and that the report will respond fully to the alternatives and options raised by residents to avoid the removal of the trees.

Anderson says, "I am hopeful that the safety and integrity of the pipeline can be maintained with removal of only the trees proved to be absolutely necessary to achieve this goal, with no other reasonable option available."

However, Lafayette resident and founder of the Save Lafayette Trees organization Michael Dawson does not share that optimism. "We don't have firm confirmation that any trees will be spared, and the letter from Angus Coyle demonstrates they are simply delaying the same unfortunate effects of the same agreement." Dawson

says that it does not change their organization's stance.

During a recent walk along the trail by PG&E representatives and concerned residents, Dawson says they brought up many questions, such as why they would take down trees where the slope is failing? What about the nesting birds?

"Will they pour pesticides on trees so close to Las Trampas Creek? How can PG&E be certain of trees ownership along the trail along property lines? Why is there an exposed section of pipe? Where are their safety valves? How does a pipe travel under the deep creek beds? How do they test and inspect the pipes?" he asks.

Dawson says that they would like PG&E to post notices on the trees slated for removal, conduct the appropriate environmental reviews, and respond back with confirmation that the trees of

community concern are no longer under consideration.

Lafayette resident David Kusters says that he was encouraged by PG&E's decision to delay the start of their planned removal of Lafayette trees, and its intent to prepare a detailed report about the pipeline's history and planned safety improvements in Lafayette.

But Kusters says, "However, many serious technical issues have been raised by members of the community about this project. I continue to believe that the responsible way to reconcile those issues is to commission a small group representing all stakeholders (including Lafayette residents) who would roll up their sleeves, examine the technical issues and patiently reach a consensus recommendation."

But for the summer at least, the chainsaws are quiet while dialog continues.



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## Diplomas for Saint Mary's College grads



Photos Cathy Dausman

Two batches of Saint Mary's College students, class of 2017, received their diplomas on the Moraga campus during ceremonies held over Memorial Day weekend.

An estimated 680 Saint Mary's College undergrads were awarded diplomas May 27; the following day some 640 graduate students received their diplomas during graduate and professional studies commencement, also held on campus.

John Diaz, a San Francisco Chronicle editor, delivered the undergraduate commencement address. Diaz, in a lighthearted moment referring to last year's commencement speaker Mahershalah Ali, expressed hope that he, too might win an Oscar after speaking before the SMC crowd.

Human rights advocate Deborah Richardson, herself a Saint Mary's College graduate (Richardson earned a master's degree in Leadership in 2013) addressed the graduate studies crowd Sunday. — Cathy Dausman



# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## An 'Ideal' Mix of Wit and Deceit at Town Hall Theatre

By Kara Navolio



Heather Kellogg, DC Scarpelli and Dana Lewenthal in "An Ideal Husband" by Oscar Wilde, June 1-June 24 at Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette. Photo Stu Selland

Political corruption, hypocrisy, secrets, and witty humor blend perfectly in Lafayette Town Hall Theatre's production of Oscar Wilde's "An Ideal Husband," running June 3-24, with previews June 1 and 2.

Although the play is set in 1895 London, the themes could not be more relevant today. Director Susan Hovey states, "The topic is timeless. There is political intrigue and scandal, but the show does not

hit you over the head with it. It's scathingly witty and thoroughly entertaining at the same time. I've always been a fan of Wilde's pithy epigrams."

Wilde's most famous play is "The Importance of Being Earnest." However "An Ideal Husband" was chosen by Artistic Director Susan Evans for its social commentary which still seems so modern and its grit. Evans added, "Director Susan Hovey has added

a modern element to the show by using contemporary music between the scenes as a nod to the very modern message from a play written in the late Victorian period."

The show, which premiered in 1895 and was revived many times, most notably on Broadway in 1996 and locally at CalShakes in 2008, poses the question: Is it possible to have an ideal husband? While scan-

dal unfolds, each character learns that we all have flaws and secrets. In the end what really matters is love.

The show features well-known local performers: Dennis Markham as Sir Robert Chiltern, Heather Kellogg as Lady Chiltern, DC Scarpelli as Lord Goring, Dana Lewenthal as Mrs. Cheveley, and Amanda Leigh as Mabel Chiltern. The design team has created an authentic turn-of-the-century set and costumes.

Several special events are planned for the show's run. On June 3, "A Wilde Opening Night"

celebration will take place. June 11 audience members are encouraged to wear costumes and come for "A Wilde Tea Party" following the show. On June 17, literary consultant Katie Zeigler has lined up local authors to discuss the topic of "sin" at "A Wilde Salon Night" before the evening performance (costumes encouraged). All special events will feature small culinary bites by Réve Bistro. In addition, on June 9 and 23 there will be post-show Talk-Balk with the actors.

Tickets and more information are available at [www.townhalltheatre.com](http://www.townhalltheatre.com) or (925) 283-1557.

## Award-winning author Fowler to speak at unique writing conference at SMC



Karen Joy Fowler Photo provided

The MFA Creative Writing Program at Saint Mary's College and Hedgebrook, the prestigious women's writing retreat and non-profit, announce Bridging: A One-Day Hedgebrook Writing Retreat for writers who identify as women, on Saturday, June 10 at Saint Mary's College.

The second annual retreat is rooted in the student-centered immersive writing approach of Hedgebrook and will feature a keynote address by award-winning writer Karen Joy Fowler.

The keynote address by Fowler is also free and open to the public.

The author of seven novels and three short story collections, Fowler's most recent novel "We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves" was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and was the winner of the 2014 PEN/Faulkner Award and the California Book Award for Fiction. Her book, "The Jane Austen Book Club," spent 13 weeks on The New York Times bestseller list and was a New York Times Notable Book.

Hedgebrook is a 28-year-old nonprofit dedicated to supporting women and non-binary writers across a broad spectrum, including age, citizenship status, current place of residence, nationality, ethnicity, disability, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation and economic resources and professional experience. More than 50 percent of Hedgebrook's alumnae are women of color, and come from all over the world and all walks of life.

"Hedgebrook is thrilled to bring the radical hospitality we practice at our retreat on Whidbey Island in Washington to SMC's extraordinary MFA program and writing commu-

nity," said Hedgebrook Executive Director Amy Wheeler "There is such good synergy in our shared vision to create space for women to come together, in solitude and community, to write, think, engage in big ideas and work together in the movement for equal voice in the cultural conversation for women."

Saint Mary's MFA Creative Writing Program Manager Sara Mumolo said the Bridging retreat reflects a mission match between Hedgebrook and the graduate program. "We felt a deep connection between Hedgebrook's philosophy of putting radical kindness first and women writing for change within our own social justice tradition, which is unique to our MFA program."

During the retreat, attendees can participate in workshop sessions on developing artist statements and press kits; exploring story, plot, and character development, and flash nonfiction; and gain important insights into applying for writing residencies. Participants work with celebrated authors and receive important feedback on their work from other Bay Area women writers and Hedgebrook alumnae, who include Saint Mary's MFA Creative Writing Program faculty and graduates.

The event will take place from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Hagerty Lounge at De La Salle Hall. Fowler's keynote address will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Soda Center on the campus.

Cost for the day's program is \$130 and includes choice of one of four writing workshops, happy hour reception (non-alcoholic options available), three meals with evening cake and coffee (vegan and gluten-free options available), and networking opportunities with Bay Area women writers groups. Limited partial scholarships are available.

For more details about the Bridging: A One-Day Hedgebrook Writing Retreat collaboration between Hedgebrook and the Saint Mary's MFA Creative Writing Program, contact Bridging coordinator Joanne Furio at 415-686-8695 or by email at [jf14@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:jf14@stmarys-ca.edu). Learn more about the retreat online at [stmarys-ca.edu/hedgebrookretreat](http://stmarys-ca.edu/hedgebrookretreat). — Peggy Spear

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## Song, solar and social activism at Campo

By Cathy Dausman



Drummer Ben Ebert of Trapdoor Social.

Photos Cathy Dausman

Lafayette native Ben Ebert still talks and sometimes jams with friends and old band mates from Acalanes High School, but now calls Los Angeles home. Ebert is a professional musician — a drummer for the five-member band Trapdoor Social.

Recently the band brought its music and its message to Campolindo High School. It was almost 90 degrees when Trapdoor presented their lunchtime concert on the Campolindo quad. They liked it — “they” meaning both the 80 to 100 students who sat listening to the set, and the band itself.

The band uses its six-panel solar generating trailer to power their electric guitars, amps, mics and speakers. After the concert, Ebert and band mates Merritt Graves, Skylar Funk, Louie Gonzalez and Patrick Griffen obligingly posed for photos before the aptly named Skylar Funk gave an AP environmental science class a peek into the workings of Trap-

door's 1.64 kilowatt capacity solar trailer.

In this and other ways the band promotes its social activism. They also produce a clean-

energy concert and fundraiser for charities. Last year they produced Sunstock Solar Festival, a charity benefit arts and music fest; it returns this year June 18.

Trapdoor Social has appeared locally at Saint Mary's College and UC Berkeley, but the Campolindo show was only their second high school venue. Performing at his crosstown rival “was just a coincidence,” Ebert said. “Our agent happened to come across the school without knowing I was from Lamorinda,” he said. One Campolindo fan even suggested the group perform at their school's 2018 Senior Ball.

As for his alma mater, Ebert says he would definitely love to play at Acalanes in front of his past teachers. “I have a lot of fond memories at that high school,” he said.



Trapdoor Social

## Teen Writes

### Away and apart: The odd time of year

By Alexandra Reinecke

Recently I went to Senior Ball with my journalism friend. People wore fruit-colored gowns and skin-tone eye shadow and the restlessness which has plagued the upperclassmen — seniors and juniors alike — since the onset of May. With AP weeks over, gone is the substance which once occupied their classrooms, their 50 minutes designated academic expedition.

In APUSH — AP U.S. History — we research conspiracies where we once sat agape over footage of 9-11. Where a week ago AP Calculus poured over limits, derivatives and integrals, they now play kickball and plan “teach-how-to” projects for which the rules of poker and the steps in the assembly of a peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich are topics neither of exception nor rebuke.

Students in AP Psychology research topics of choice; one friend researches psychopaths, another the case of a woman who, placed under hospitalization for said ailment, could only view one half the tiramisu on the hospital tray placed before her. AP environmental science is doing something related to the plastic which shackles Diet Coke cans and the polar ice caps; AP chemistry is a room kinetic only with the motion which dominates the projector screen pulled down for a series of Neil deGrasse Tyson and like-hosted movies.

We don't have direction. We are, however, under the guise of assignment sheets with steps and bolded words “still learning.” The seniors look forward to polyester robes and white lace; the juniors to a year in which sleep runs like water and nerves aren't pulled like bungee cords. And yet we sit in classrooms empty with a lack

of the AC against metal grates and eat frozen yogurt in the flavors of Maine and Minnesota's berries and yet we are separated from the feeling meant to accompany such warm-weather pleasures. The fact that we are away and apart.

Bare legs and shoulders and the backs of necks flirt with heat. But we are contained in school. Removed, as we are always when college is in the question and SchoolLoop active, from full-fledged participation in the world's less-than-scholarly facets. We are trapped. Trapped in a version of academia which, in its weakness and indirection we would, if we had the privilege of caring any less, would disregard as absurd. With APs over, substance is gone, though stress remains. June is a word we reiterate covertly, a word covered with just one more set of chemistry problems, just one more essay, and yet as perceptibly absent as a jacket against the wind, as distant a scenario as trenches we've seen only in photographs or the grainy surface of mars.

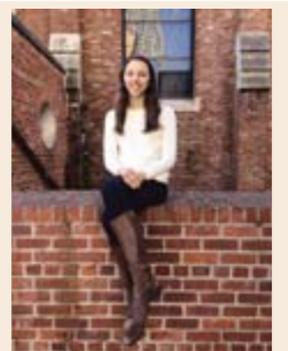
When I got home from ball I found the kitchen door locked so that the room — island block, cabinets, the quiet squares of Dad's Buddhist prayer flags — despite the clarity and proximity with which I viewed it through the door's glass, was one to which I lacked access.

I had to go in through the screen door in my parent's bedroom, an entrance to our 1970s-windowed, Cape Cod-shingled anomaly of a house I considered a sort of metaphor.

A metaphor for the fact that we can meet summer, but not shrug off the final vestiges of scholastic anxiety necessary to experience it. The fact that we can order cold drinks at Starbucks, and listen to the hum

of the AC against metal grates and eat frozen yogurt in the flavors of Maine and Minnesota's berries and yet we are separated from the feeling meant to accompany such warm-weather pleasures. The fact that we are away and apart.

In the morning, the sun was harsh on the prayer flags, the kitchen, and yet as I stood there I was glad. Glad to have gained access to that warm place. Content to stand — barefooted, sleep-deprived, haggard in a black Champion sweatshirt and smudged mascara — experiencing what I had been held away from. In the morning, I stood barefooted 10 minutes, letting the pools of light and heat make wondrous mod-dress patterns the color of lemon and eggshell over the necks of my feet. Sun-devoured. Glad. Content. So, I imagine, we soon all will be.



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.

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## A unique Eagle Scout project: creating prosthetic hands for those in need

By Sora O'Doherty



Eagle Scout candidate Caiden Anderson, 17, shows examples of prosthetic hands assembled for donation to children. Photos P. Anderson

Miramonte junior Caiden Anderson did more than lend a hand for his Eagle Scout project. He helped create them.

Caiden's project was training other scouts to assemble 10 3D-printed prosthetic hands for children. Caiden trained three other 17-year old scouts to assemble the parts, which were 3D printed by other volunteers, using fishing line on a tensioner pin. At an open house at Anderson's home, 10 other scouts from his troop, 303, spent many hours assembling the hands, which will be sent back to e-NABLE for distribution at no charge to children who need them.

The hands are complex; each one takes three to four hours to assemble. The 3D printing for each hand takes 26 hours.

Anderson was initially inspired by a story in the Lamorinda Weekly about the Rotary LN-4 project, which provides prosthetic hands, and through internet research he found e-NABLE, a global network of volunteers who are using their 3D printers, design skills and personal time to create free 3D printed prosthetic hands for those in need – with the goal of providing them to underserved populations around the world. Anderson had always been interested in building things that move and change, and really wanted to

help someone. Last summer he interned for Humanity United working on the problem of human trafficking.

The type of prosthetic hand that Anderson and his troop assembled contains no electronic elements. Recipients must have to have a functional arm all the way down just below the wrist.

According to Jen Owen of e-NABLE, the hands are body powered. They are not implanted in any way and do not require surgery. They are strapped to the limb via Velcro, leather or other fabrics, lined with medical grade foam padding and are powered by the individual physically by bending their elbow or wrist. As far as Food and Drug Administration medical device regulation goes, it is believed not to apply because the prosthetics fall into the premarket category, because the design files and the built prosthetics are given away for free, according to e-NABLE's Ivan Owen.

Children who require prosthetic hands may require a new hand every year as they grow. This can be a tremendous financial burden on families. Standard prosthetic hands may cost from \$10,000 to \$15,000. The printed parts provided by e-NABLE volunteers cost about \$50, and the stringing costs about \$20 for a total cost of about \$70. The completed hands are provided to recipients free of charge. The hands come in all different colors, so kids can make requests. In some cases, the volunteer can be connected to a specific child to provide new prosthetics as the child grows.

Since the inception of the Eagle Scout program in 1912, there have only been about two and a half million boy scouts who have risen to the level of Eagle Scout, less than one percent of the population. Anderson, 17, is currently a life scout. The Eagle Scout project is a leadership project, so the candidate can only do 30 percent of the actual work. Upon completion of the project, it must be submitted to a review board. Upon approval of the project, and having fulfilled all the other requirements including earning 21 merit badges, the candidate becomes an Eagle Scout, a rank he holds for the rest of his life. Some famous Eagle Scouts include Astronaut Neil Armstrong, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, President Gerald Ford, and movie produced Steven Spielberg.

The Lamorinda Weekly is proud to feature local Eagle Scouts on our Service to the Community page. If your troop has Eagle Scouts, send a photo with a write-up of up to 250 words about the scouts.



Scouts from Troop 303 assemble prosthetic hands to be donated to children in need.

## Orinda Academy: A small school that offers big adventures for its students

By Sora O'Doherty



Emma Greif, Orinda Academy Photo S. O'Doherty

Emma Greif enjoyed her "amazing" educational adventure in Japan just before spring break this year.

Greif is a sophomore at Orinda Academy, a small private high school. With just 100 students and about 10 full time teachers, Orinda Academy is celebrating its 35th year, sending approximately 87 percent of its graduates to four-year

colleges. Some foreign students return home, some students attend two-year colleges, and some take a gap year after graduation.

In September, Orinda Academy students select their Educational Adventures class from a catalog of mini-courses planned by the faculty. Orinda Academy announces a foreign adventure that students can join the following spring. The early announcement allows students to pay on an installment basis, as well as to prepare for the coming visit to another country.

Greif and 13 other students visited Japan, accompanied by seven teachers and parents. The trip lasted 11 days. Students have other alternatives to the foreign trip, including adventures closer to home, learning yoga or doing volunteer work, for example, according to Janet Harrison, admissions director.

Greif gained a lot of cultural insight, she said. The group journeyed around Japan on buses and bullet trains. Greif was delighted by the amazing food, particularly enjoying fresh sushi and wasabi. She was surprised as how bright everything looked, streets and houses, even the advertisements are different, she said. She noticed a lot of animation, even in ads directed to adults. She was particularly impressed by the group's visit to Hiroshima. She expected the people to not be kind and welcoming, and found that instead the people of Hiroshima don't blame the United States or Japan. They blame the bombs, Grief said; "they took something horrendous and made it into hope."

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## Boy Scout Troop 200 Announces Four New Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Andrew A. Bassak



Clockwise from top left, Alexander D. Kaviani, Robert J. Sicotte, Diego K. Mountin, and Andrew James Bassak (seated). Photo Terry Riggins

Boy Scout Troop 200, sponsored by Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette and under the leadership of scoutmaster Mark Weyland, announced the elevation of four scouts to the Eagle Scout Rank, the highest rank in Scouting. Robert J. Sicotte, Diego K. Mountin, Andrew James Bassak, and Alexander D. Kaviani were recognized for earning the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor ceremony held on May 21 at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church.

## JM Middle school's Creative Arts and Writing Contest celebrates its 40th year

Submitted by Claudia Benner



JM Vice Principal Brian Sullivan, CAW Chair Claudia Benner, judges Moraga Mayor Teresa Onoda, Nancy Comprelli, Wynne Bacon, author Mitali Perkins, and JM principal Joan Danilon.

The Joaquin Moraga PTA-sponsored Creative Arts and Writing Contest, run by parent volunteers, has been encouraging middle schoolers to express their creativity in writing, music and visual arts for the past four decades.

This year, organizers received over 430 entries in 15 different categories. The awards ceremony was held on April 28. Students, parents and teachers packed the auditorium

and cheered enthusiastically as the winner's names were called out.

The guests of honor were Moraga Mayor Teresa Onoda, Nancy Comprelli and Wynne Bacon. All three have been judges in the contest for over 17 years. The special guest was local author Mitali Perkins, who awarded a copy of her novel "Bamboo People" to the winners of the Short Fiction and Long Prose categories.

## Lorie honored as Moraga Teacher of the Year

Submitted by Jonathan Lance



Karen Sakata and Amanda Lorie.

On May 12, Contra Costa County Office of Education Superintendent of Schools Karen Sakata visited the classroom of Amanda Lorie at Donald Rheem Elementary School. Lorie, a 10-year instructor, was recently named Moraga School District's Teacher of the Year. For the past couple of

years, Lorie has been teaching kindergarten at Rheem Elementary. Prior to her current position, she has taught grades K-2 at both Rheem Elementary and Quail Run Elementary, in San Ramon.

When asked about her philosophy of teaching, Lorie answered, "Teaching is a delicate balancing act of science, systems, culture, and heart. I believe in the socio-cognitive model of learning, and that students learn what they live, not only in the home, but in the classroom as well," she said. "To be truly successful in school, students need to feel connected and safe. They need to feel valued and that their teacher knows who they are, what is important to the child (interests, hobbies, etc.), and that their teacher thinks the child matters. Lasting, caring relationships, in addition to systems and routines — these are the things my students and I work on, and build together, all year."

On the evening of September 28, the 22 Contra Costa County TOYs, class of 2017-18, including Lorie, will be introduced and honored at the annual Teacher of the Year Dinner Celebration, held at the Concord Hilton.

## Loto Rickman named Moraga's Employee of the Month

Submitted by Kevin Reneau



From left, chamber president Wendy Scheck, Loto Rickman, Moraga Royale GM Dianne Wilson, Rotary President Kevin Reneau.

Loto Rickman, the assistant director of the Moraga Royale Senior Living Community in Moraga, has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for April.

Rickman has served Moraga residents for the past 10 years in a variety of roles at Moraga Royale. She began with the company as a receptionist and worked her way through several departments including office manager and activity director and is immensely popular with the residents.

"Loto's most valuable asset is her dedication to both our residents and our company," said Moraga Royale Executive Director Di-

anne Wilson. "When I am away, I know that I can depend on Loto to run the building and take care of any issues that arise. But most importantly, I am confident that our residents will always come first and their needs will be met with Loto."

In winning the award, the Moraga Rotary and Chamber of Commerce will award Rickman a gift card to Safeway as well as a gift card to Sushi Fighter in Moraga. Rickman was presented with her award and gifts at the Moraga Rotary meeting on May 9 at Saint Mary's College.

## 'Drowsy Chaperone' delights

Submitted by Lori Anders



From left, Diana Van Gilder, Rachel Rosenbaum, Finn Anders and Sofia Koepke.

Photo Eموke Veres

On May 12 and 13, The Saklan School in Moraga presented its ninth annual Middle School Musical at Town Hall Theater. They presented the 2006 Broadway Musical "The Drowsy Chaperone."

The story centers around the Man in the Chair, who plays a record to take the audience on a personalized tour of his favorite Broadway show (the fictitious "Drowsy Chaperone"). Throughout the show the audience is privy to the Man's secrets and his life, and why the show is special to him. In dealing with emotions and complicated life themes, it is a prime example of the purpose of theater education in today's culture.

The middle school production is unique at Saklan in that the entire middle school collaborates to put together the show. From roles on the stage, to stagecraft, costume de-

sign, sound, and stagehands — all students work together to put on a high level musical production.

The production is directed and produced, choreographed, and musically directed by Grace Chaffey, the music and performing arts director at Saklan.

Students themselves have a lot to say about the process, "Theater is important because it helps you express your feelings. You can be yourself on stage," says Saklan student Kylie Choi. Sofia Koepke says, "Theater taught me social skills, like working with people and solving problems," and Casey Stevens comments, "I learned that a play relies on everyone for them to function properly." As these students move on to high school, they take these valuable life lessons with them.

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.

Submit stories to  
[storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)



# Camino Pablo Three-peats win in annual Rotary Field Day

Submitted by Gary Irwin



From left, Clara Cecchin, Mia Walloch, Olivia Metz and Ella Binney, third graders from Camino Pablo Elementary with their third place medals. Photo provided by Rebecca Metz

Camino Pablo School's third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders won for the third straight year the 26th annual Moraga Rotary Field Day, amassing a record total of 103 points, eclipsing last year's 97 points. Second place went to Rheem School, with a total of 89 points.

Camino Pablo had the highest participation, with a record 60 percent of its potential athletes competing, and fielded 127 of the record 367 contestants from all Moraga schools including Saklan, which fielded 15 athletes. The total medal points for each school were: CP, 66; Rheem, 41; Los Perales, 35, and Saklan, 2.

The athletes winning the most points were both from Camino Pablo and Rheem. The High Point Boy was Tyler Schmidt, a third-grader in Mrs. Faber's class at Camino Pablo who won a gold and silver medal for eight points. There was a tie for High Point Girl, who each won three gold medals for 15 points each. They were Grace Charles, a third-grader in Mrs. Berkman's class, and Natalie Rane, a fourth-grader in Mrs. Drury's class, both at Rheem. The teacher

whose students accumulated the most medal points was Mrs. Faber from Camino Pablo. These students and teachers will be guests at a lunch meeting of Moraga Rotary where they and Camino Pablo school will receive engraved plaques to recognize their accomplishments.

For the fourth year, the Field Day had the assistance of many of the men and women from the Saint Mary's College basketball teams, and the relay races were conducted by Coach Randy Bennett. The Gael athletes conducted the basketball throw event, and also helped officiate and judge the sprints, relays, sack races, and the newly introduced steeplechase event. Gold, silver, and bronze medals were awarded to the top three contestants in each event, and other contestants received a participant ribbon.

Moraga Rotary conducts Field Day as a community service to introduce elementary school children to entry-level track and field competition among the Moraga schools. The main goal is for the athletes, parents and teachers to enjoy the competition and to have a good time.



Winning third grade boys relay team from Camino Pablo. From left, Alexandre Farnier, Zubin Rajesh, Maddox Johnson, and Colin Doherty. Photo provided

## Thanks for helping!



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## In Memory

### Diane Katzman

May 3, 1938 — May 10, 2017



Diane Katzman passed away peacefully surrounded by family on May 10.

Diane loved quaint places and beautiful things, but there is nothing in this world that made her happier than seeing her three sons and their families all together in one place. She lived for those times.

She was "hot dog mom" at Camino Pablo Elementary school back in the 60s, which many locals may remember. She always made sure everyone in her home felt welcome.

She worked at I Magnin at the iconic store on Broadway in Walnut Creek for 23 years. She sold homes with her son Keith until she retired.

For 25 years she was a fixture at the Moraga Tennis & Swim Club. She was there every Thursday with her best friends Mary Tierney, Mary Jane Cooper and Sue Tillotson where they played tennis and then bridge and, from what her children hear, had a lot of laughs.

She was a proud mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. Just eight hours before her passing she was smiling and waving to her 9-month old great granddaughter Marlie. She taught her family that family always came first, no matter what, and that you always stick together.

She died at 5:45 a.m. on May 10 with family right by her side and holding her. All of the worries of this world were gone, her skin was perfectly smooth and glowing, her lips slightly open and receiving of her last breaths. She looked like a little child, angelic, innocent, pure, and so incredibly beautiful, and then she was gone. She passed through life's porthole into His Heavenly Kingdom.

Her family misses her very much. You never really realize how much someone means to you until they are not there anymore. The world lost a beautiful lady that day. She was loved by everyone who knew her.

Services will be held at 1p.m. Saturday June 3 at Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Blvd. in Piedmont, California.

## In Memory

### Louise Hansen

1931-2017



Louise Hansen, age 86, passed away quietly on Chinese New Year (January 28, 2017) due to cancer.

She retired in 2016 after 36 years as a writing aide at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. So many got to experience her gentle influence, English expertise, New York accent, and "happy birthday" serenades on the harmonica.

Louise fully enjoyed and appreciated every aspect of life; her favorite Latin phrase would have been "Carpe Diem." Her husband Neil predeceased her in fall 2016. Survivors include her children Wendy Hansen, John Hansen, and Jennifer Koziel, and beloved grandchildren Marissa, Kai, Annika, Nolan, Erin, and Brody. In Louise's memory, please visit your local library and read, read, read!

## In Memory

### Michaela (Caela) A. Brown

(née Hughes)

April 30, 1959 - May 15, 2017



On May 15, our beloved Caela, as she was known, passed from this life to the next. At her side were daughters Megan and Jordan, twin sister Lydia Phillips and niece Rachel Phillips. She was also survived by Megan and Jordan's father Dave Brown, their aunt Laurie Brown (Ken Sarachan) and by nephew David Phillips.

Caela lived in, and ran her own manicurist shop in Lafayette and Orinda for most of her life. She graduated from Miramonte High School in 1977. Known for her sense of humor and unabashed candor, Caela was the kind of person people gravitated to. She will be missed by many!

A Life Celebration will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on June 10, at 3428 Woodview Dr, Lafayette. Please park on Woodview Drive and not on the paved driveway. A shuttle will be provided for those who need it. Please —no black attire!

## 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.

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### ART

**Lamorinda Arts Alliance is proud to announce** a new show at the Piedmont Center for the Arts, "Art to Soothe the Soul," running through June 11. Join the artists of the Lamorinda Arts Alliance for this soulful exhibition and help yourself feel good. For more information and directions, visit the Alliance's website at [www.laa4art.org](http://www.laa4art.org).

**The Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery is pleased** to present the exhibition Misch Kohn and Betty Friedman: A Legacy in Printmaking from June 2 through July 2. The artists' reception takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. on June 2. The Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery is located at 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. [www.jenniferperlmuttergallery.com](http://www.jenniferperlmuttergallery.com)

**Moraga Art Gallery announces its new show** opening June 7 and running through Aug. 12. The show's title, Experiments and Explorations, suggests adventurous efforts by artists who take risks and follow less-traveled creative roads. The public is invited to a free opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 10. Come to meet the artists and enjoy light snacks, a glass of wine, and live music. For more information, go to [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com), or call (925) 376-5407.

### DRAMA

**Town Hall Theatre presents "An Ideal Husband"** by Oscar Wilde June 1-24 on stage at 3535 School St. in Lafayette. Enjoy one of Oscar Wilde's most beloved and funniest plays. Tickets and show times available at [townhalltheatre.com](http://townhalltheatre.com) or at the box office. See story page B1.

**"As You Like It" by William Shakespeare** presented by Cal Shakes and directed by Desdemona Chiang runs through June 18 at the Bruns Amphitheater located at 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way in Orinda. Tickets and show times at [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org); or by calling the box office at (510) 548-9666; [boxoffice@calshakes.org](mailto:boxoffice@calshakes.org).

**Orinda Starlight Village Players present Agatha Christie's "The Unexpected Guest"** from June 2 -July 1 at the outdoor theater in Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way. Showtimes and general admission tickets are \$20 and are available at the Box Office, call (925) 528-9225 or email [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org) for reservations. Be aware that this is an outdoor theatre and dress appropriately/bring blankets.

### MUSIC

**Don't miss "Music Down In My Soul"** at 7:30 p.m. on June 3 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, Lafayette. This 30th Anniversary Concert will feature numerous favorites drawn from the 1,500-plus compositions presented in past seasons — classics, folk songs, jazz, popular, show music and patriotic songs, spirituals, gospel — and the adult and youth singers are on board to celebrate. Ticket Info: \$10 student, \$20 senior, \$25 general. Tickets can be purchased through the church's website at [www.cantareconvivo.org/upcoming](http://www.cantareconvivo.org/upcoming)

events or through its office at (510) 836-0789.

**Come hear the Dave Rocha Jazz Trio in concert** at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 3 in the Orinda Library Auditorium. Help kick off the library's Summer Reading Program with a "hot" jazz concert. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library.

**Lafayette Partners in Education's second annual Party** in the Park. from 3-6 p.m. on Sunday, June 4 at Plaza Park. Music by local bands and singers, activities, games and more. Admission is free. Bring a picnic lunch or buy from one of the local eateries.

**WomenSing presents "Water Is Life"** from 8 to 10 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7 at Church of Santa Maria, 40 Santa Maria Way, Orinda. WomenSing's Spring 2017 concert celebrates the life-giving flow of water in our lives, featuring music from Mendelssohn through Paul Simon. Cost: \$28 general admission; \$10 for students. For more info see [www.womensing.org/concerts/current-season](http://www.womensing.org/concerts/current-season) or call (925) 798-4875 or email [info@womensing.org](mailto:info@womensing.org).

**Diablo Choral Artists presents a choral journey** of Summer Travels, featuring works by Mendelssohn, Elgar, Rossini and Copland. Includes Rossini's Il Carnevale de Venezia, Mendelssohn's Sechs Lieder, Op. 48, Elgar's From the Bavarian Highlands, and more at 8 p.m. on Friday, June 9 at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek, and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 11 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill. Details and ticket purchase on website: [www.dcachorus.org](http://www.dcachorus.org), (925) 680-7089, [info@dcachorus.org](mailto:info@dcachorus.org).

**It's free concerts in the parks season! Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda** will all offer a full slate of free summer music at local parks. It kicks off at 6:30 p.m. June 2 in Lafayette with San Francisco Airship. For a full list of free concerts in Lamorinda, see story on page B8.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**Face Painting with Bukki the Clown at noon** on Saturday, June 3 at the Orinda Library. Orinda Library welcomes Bukki the Clown who will paint your face to kick off the Summer Reading Program at the Library. Have a snack while you're there!

### OTHER

**ESL Conversation Circle at 1 p.m. every Thursday** at the Orinda Library. Practice speaking and listening to English in a casual group guided by trained ESL instructors. No registration required and free of charge.

**John Muir Land Trust presents an official property dedication** and public opening of the newly expanded, 1,185-acre Fernandez Ranch near Hercules. Take a guided tour and explore miles of new multi-use trails from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 2. Kids will be delighted by a variety of bugs, birds, beetles and animal tracks. This remark-

ably intact natural habitat is a paradise for hikers, dog walkers, bird watchers, and nature lovers of all ages.

**Summer is just cooler with cats! Community Concern for Cats** invites you to meet our laid-back big cats and our fur balls of kitten fun at this weekend's adoption event from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 3 and 4 at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see [www.communityconcernforcats.org](http://www.communityconcernforcats.org).

**Saint Mary's College of California, MFA in Dance Program**, presents the first ever Process Dance Festival. MFA Students of the Class of 2017 (Cohort 2) will present their graduate thesis concert-length works in the program's first-ever dance festival, to be held on the Saint Mary's campus from noon to 8 p.m. on June 17 and 18. Ticket and pricing information at [www.stmarys-ca.edu/process-dance-festival](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/process-dance-festival).

**Alta Bates Summit Comprehensive Cancer Services** invites you to their annual Cancer Survivorship Symposium, "A Celebration of Life – Finding Strength Together" from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on June 21 at Samuel Merritt University in the Bechtel Hall, 400 Hawthorne Ave, Oakland. Join Alta Bates staff for an evening of inspirational speakers who will discuss the impact of the cancer experience on families. This is a free, event open to all members of the community.

**Naturalist and Wildlife expert, James "Doc" Hale** will discuss the local Pleistocene Megafauna, their extirpation, and the evolution of the East Bay Area wildlife landscape from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, June 24 at the Lafayette Community Garden, 3932 Mt Diablo Blvd. The classes are free. However, a \$5 donation is appreciated.

**Diablo Ballet presents their second annual PAWS de Tutu dog festival** from 9 a.m. to noon on June 24 at the Lafayette Reservoir. The dog costume competition and parade, benefiting Diablo Ballet's PEEK Outreach programs, will feature costume and trick competitions, K-9 demos, dog adoptions, vendors, snacks and fun. Anyone interested in attending should register online at [www.diabloballet.org](http://www.diabloballet.org) as participation is limited. Admission is only \$5 per person. To enter any or all of the competitions: \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth (17 and under), which includes the admission fee.

### SENIORS

**The Aging Brain: Myths & Facts at 1:30 p.m.** on Wednesday, June 7 in the Orinda Library Auditorium. Orinda Library welcomes Dr. Patrick Arbore, Founder and Director of the Center for Elderly Suicide Prevention and Grief Related Services (CESP), a program of Institute on Aging in San Francisco. Bringing over 40 years professional experience in the field of aging, he will dispel the myths and share the facts about the aging brain.

## Lamorinda's Religious Services

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Film Clips

# Things are heating up at Lamorinda Theatres

By Derek Zemrak

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Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman.

Photo courtesy of Warner Bros./DC Entertainment

Wonder Woman soars into the Rheem Theatre with a preview screening at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 1. “Wonder Woman” is one of the most anticipated blockbuster movies of the summer and you can see it early before it opens nationwide on Friday.

Before she was Wonder Woman she was Diana, princess of the Amazons, trained warrior. When a pilot crashes and tells of conflicts in the outside world, she leaves to fight a war to end all wars, discovering her full powers and true destiny.

Do not miss this preview screening at the Rheem in their luxury VIP seats.

After a sold-out show on May 20, magician and illusionist Timothy James will return to the Rheem Theatre – back by popular demand – this Saturday, June 3 for two shows. The first show will be at 6 p.m and is kid-friendly. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$10 for children under 18 years of age.

The 8 p.m. performance will be a PG13-style show which will be a little more edgy but still appropriate for teens. Against the advice of his lawyer, James will fool your pants off! Get ready for a magic show like you have never seen. His Vegas style amazed the sold-out audience on May 20 with rave reviews from all. The show is fun for the whole family and you do not need to fly to Las Vegas. Get your tickets early before they are sold out. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.lamorindatheatres.com](http://www.lamorindatheatres.com)

com or at the Rheem Theatre box-office.

“Grease” is the word at the Orinda Theatre monthly Free Movie Night at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 8. “Grease,” a 1978 box-office blockbuster, is a musical that takes place in California. During the summer of 1959, two teens, Danny Zuko (John Travolta) and Sandy Olsson (Olivia Newton-John) have a summer vacation romance. But the summer fling must end when school begins. Upon returning to school neither realizes that they are both attending Rydell High. Danny’s the leader of the T-Birds, a group of black leather jacket-wearing greasers while Sandy hangs with the Pink Ladies, a group of pink-wearing girls led by Rizzo (Stockard Channing). When they clash at Rydell’s first pep rally, Danny isn’t the same Danny from the beach. Sandy and Danny both try to make changes so they can be together. “Grease” was nominated in 1979 for five Golden Globes and one Academy Award (Best Music, Original Song – John Farrar for the song “Hopelessly Devoted to You”).

Although “Grease” did not win a Golden Globe or an Oscar, it did win the 1979 People’s Choice Award for Favorite Overall Motion Picture. Grease is still a favorite today 39 years later. The Orinda Theatre will be having a costume contest that evening so come dressed as your favorite “Grease” character and win fabulous prizes.

## As Seen In Lamorinda: Having a Ball!



From left, Kiera O'Brien, Wayne Hawkins, Christina Crum, Rachel Hendricks, Jack Strong, Emily Rasmussen, Carson Van Farowe  
Photo Cathy Dausman

Moraga Commons was filled with tuxes and ballgowns on a recent Saturday evening as Campolindo High School’s upperclass met and mingled for photos during a decades old pre-Senior Ball tradition. The 377 students and dates later enjoyed an evening of dinner and dancing at the former San Francisco Federal Reserve Building, also known as The Bentley. — Cathy Dausman

## Lamorinda Weekly

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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

**June 2**  
**Gigi Wang, entrepreneur**  
**extraordinaire from UC Berkeley,**  
**on cutting edge technology**

**June 9**  
**The war for hearts and**  
**minds escalate**

The “Teardrop Inn” trailer, appearing at the Walnut Creek Arts and Wine Festival plus June Concerts on the Square in Lafayette

**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.

**June 1: Steve King**      **June 8: Christina Alba**

Q&A on Trends & Shifts in our Paradigm of Work      Rivulet Chiropractor’s on chiropractic methods

**Rock the Plaza: Fridays in June, 6 pm Free Live Music, Plaza Park Downtown Lafayette**

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Meeting 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

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For more information, contact:  
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## Free concerts to rock Lamorinda this summer

By Peggy Spear



Some dancing at a concert last year at Moraga Commons. Photo A. Schreck

It's free concert season in Lamorinda. Here is a list of what you'll hear this summer at different city venues.

### Lafayette

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love at the Rock the Plaza concerts on Fridays throughout June.

June 2: San Francisco Airship

June 9: Shakey Zimmerman

June 16: Dream Posse

June 23: Barry "The Fish" Melton and his band.

Music begins at 6:30 p.m. The '60s inspired "Hippie Market" along Plaza Way opens at 6 p.m.

Stay late to jam! The Acoustic Hootenanny around the campfire begins at 8:30 p.m., with special guests, including Lafayette's own Stevie Coyle (The Waybacks), playing folk songs. Bring your guitar.

### Moraga

Thursday evenings at the Commons are for relaxing with friends and enjoying the bands. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the band shell. The volunteers of MPF will cook dinner for you with the Snack Bar opening at 6 p.m.

June 22 Floorshakers - Fun, soul, rock& roll

June 29 Spill the Wine - Jackson 5 to Maroon 5

July 4 David Martins House Party - Dance party and show (7 p.m. concert)

July 13 Foreverland -Tribute to Michael Jackson

July 20 Beatles Flashback - Tribute the Beatles

July 27 Mixed Nuts - Jazz, soul, blues and rock

August 3 House Rockers - Rock and soul

August 10 Apple Z - Rock and roll

August 17 Fundamentals - Red-hot rockin' soul

The County Food Bank will have collection bins near parking lots each Thursday. Concerts start at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m.

The concerts are sponsored by The Bruzzone Family, Republic Services, Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley, Moraga Junior Women's Club and 5-A Rent A Space

### Orinda

It's time to sit back and unwind at the free summer concerts at the park series on Tuesday nights.

June 13, Lucky Losers — Contemporary Blues

Food Truck: El Ranchero (taco truck)

June 20, Juke Joint — Classic Soul

Food Truck: Pia's Pizza

June 27, Fog City Swampers — Classic Rock & Roll

Food Truck: An the Go (Asian Fusion)

July 11 Floorshakers — Funk Soul, Rock & Roll

Food Truck: Kenny's Heart & Soul (Soul Food)

July 18 Lamorinda Idol

Food Truck: Pia's Pizza

July 23, Opera in the Park, 5-7 p.m.

July 25, Bruce Gunn & Big Rain — Soulful Rock Country

Food Truck: El Ranchero (taco truck)

August 1, JetBlacq — Jazz

Food Truck: Rebel Dog Hotdogs

August 8, West Grand Blvd — Motown

Food Truck: An the Go (Asian Fusion)

August 15, Big Band Jazz

Food Truck: Kenny's Heart & Soul (Soul Food)

The concerts run 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary and the Rotary Club of Orinda, and supported by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation, Orinda Community Foundation and City of Orinda. Also coming up in Orinda this summer:

The Orinda Village Starlight Players have three plays at the Orinda Community Park this summer:

Agatha Christie's "The Unexpected Guest" June 2 through July 1  
Malcolm Cowler's adaptation of L. Frank Baum's "The Wizard of Oz," July 21 through Aug. 12

Robert Merrill's "Five-Door Farce," Sept. 1 through Sept. 30

## Thoughtful Food

# Take a dip into this new summer favorite

By Susie Iventosch

Looking back over the past several Lamorinda Weekly issues, I realized we had not yet published an appetizer in 2017. With the summer months almost upon us and outdoor barbecues are just around the corner, what better way to open a good party than with a delicious starter? It's time to get your dip game on!

This dip (or spread) is made from three cheeses and an assortment of chiles and peppers. Feel free to adjust by using more or less, hotter or milder, peppers in your rendition. The goat cheese gives it an especially great flavor and the sharp cheddar gives it a bit of a bite, while the cream cheese holds it all together and gives it a nice creamy texture. Cooking the peppers makes them much milder than they are when raw, so even using a whole jalapeno would not make this too hot for the average person.

This dip is wonderful cold, and I venture to say, even better hot, so you can serve it either way. We also served it as a topping for homemade chicken enchiladas in lieu of sour cream, and that was fantastic!

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.



You can find most of the recipes published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website. Click Food tab. [www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html)



Green Chili Goat Cheese Dip

Photos Susie Iventosch

## Green Chili Goat Cheese Dip

### INGREDIENTS

4 oz. soft, Montrachet-type goat cheese

4 oz. grated sharp white cheddar cheese

4 oz. cream cheese

1 Tbsp. cream or Half & Half

1 Tbsp. olive oil

1 garlic clove, minced

1 small shallot, finely diced

½ jalapeno, finely diced

½ poblano pepper, finely diced

1 Anaheim (Ortega) chili, finely diced

1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

### DIRECTIONS

Heat oil in a small skillet. Cook shallots and garlic until translucent.

Add all three peppers, and cook for about 8 to 10 minutes over medium-low heat, until peppers are just cooked and tender, but not mushy.

Meanwhile, place goat cheese in a bowl with cream cheese and cream. Beat with an electric beater until smooth. Add grated cheddar cheese and cooked veggies and mix well. Stir in lemon juice.

Now, you decide whether to serve cold as a spread for crackers, or heated as a dip for chips. It is really good either way.

If you decide to serve it hot, pat the mixture into a greased ramekin or small casserole dish. Bake for about 20 minutes at 350 degrees, until cheese is bubbly and top is beginning to brown.

Serve warm with tortilla or pita chips.

## Cooking Term of the Week

### Fool

In the last column, I referred to "fool," a dish very similar to hummus, but made from fava beans. This week's term "fool" is a classic British dessert, made by folding stewed or pureed fruit into a custard or cream. Traditionally, gooseberries were the choice fruit for fool, but it can be made out of a variety of different fruits. The fruit is pureed and strained and mixed with sugar before folding into the cream or custard. This is a great dessert for hot summer weather when made with berries, rhubarb or even peaches.

## Mindful Littles celebrate diversity with games, quilting workshop on June 2

By Sophie Braccini

The Lamorinda group Mindful Littles continues to organize fun activities and workshops for children and their parents to increase thoughtfulness and empathy. The children gain an opening to the world around them and beyond, while their parents can reflect on mindful parenting.

The group is now in the process of creating a quilt that will represent local diversity and how it makes our community more beautiful. A second workshop is available in the afternoon on June 2.

Tanuka Gordon has a way to connect with young children. She started her presentation on diversity with a pea masala sandwich. Can you picture a little child going to school in mainstream America with in her lunch box perfect triangular sandwiches filled with a bright green mush? It raised a few eyebrows, and the little girl, now an Orinda mom, got teased more than once. Her story was the perfect segue into the world of differences and diversity.

The five women who get together to organize the events proposed to the children a series of game activities that drew them gently into the concept of respecting differences by first connecting with what make us different, and also our similarities.

After a game of "Simon Says" where the kids tested their ability to recognize differences, each child sat with their families and reflected on the things that their family par-

ticularly loves and values. They then got together with another family and filled up a Venn diagram that showed what they had in common and what made them different.

After the exercise, children and parents were invited to share what they had learned. "We all have a heart," said a 5-year-old little girl, who obviously had grasped the crux of the matter. A parent noted that seeing what others value made her think of different things her family valued as well. Some noted they were surprised to see they had so much in common with people they had never met.

The afternoon continued with each family making its heart contribution to what will be a 35-piece large quilt. Niñon Shesgreen, owner of the local business Vagabond Ruth, prepared the fabric kits for each family: a large heart set on a piece of fabric, each with different colors. In the center, the children and parents wrote what was special about their family and then attached to it a large safety pin where the children had strung a few colorful beads of their choice.

About 15 families had joined the playful Sunday afternoon session, and while some knew others in the group, some were coming for the first time.

Mark Kress, a local dad, says that he started coming to these sessions because he has the feeling that his kids live in a bubble. "The Haiti session got them some perspective about where we live," he

said remembering a former activity. He added that his 6- and 9-year old are "sponges" and that they get it. Kress explained that he was introduced to the group by Sarah Bennett, who had started a mindfulness parenting group six years ago. There he reflected on aligning his spirituality with his everyday parenting.

Linda Lathrop, who was there for the first time with her daughter, also said that one of her purposes is making mindfulness part of her parenting style. As a teacher she used some of the techniques to be calm in the present moment in the classroom and testifies that the children, who feed off the adults' energy, always react to it very positively.

Gordon started the Mindful Littles group with her like-minded friends Mary Patel, Molly Hanahan, Bennett and Maya Vasudevan. She explained during the workshop that after the next session in June, Shesgreen will assemble the quilt that will be on display at the Orinda Library. It will be carried by the group in the 4th of July parade in Orinda and then will be donated to the Orinda Community Church. "It will represent all our different hearts united as one," said Gordon.

More information about the group and registration for the June 2 diversity session is available at [www.mindfullittles.org](http://www.mindfullittles.org).



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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Campolindo Cougars captures NCS boys and girls lacrosse titles

By Karl Buscheck



Photos Gint Federas



After the Campolindo Cougars secured the NCS D 2 boys lacrosse title – defeating Marin Academy 13-12 on May 19 – head coach Mitch Frey delivered a simple message to his club.

“You guys put your minds to a goal. You guys earned this opportunity and you guys were able to take advantage of it,” Frey said, recalling the praise he paid his players. “I couldn’t be prouder of a group of individuals.”

Then, Frey informed the Cougars – who finished 19-3 overall (13-1 in league) – that it was time to collect their hardware.

The top-seeded team had arrived at the showdown with No. 3 Marin Academy – their sixth consecutive win, dating back to the end of April – by taking down No. 9 Saint Mary’s, 18-6, in the quarterfinals, and handling No. 4 Piedmont, 10-7, in the semifinals.

In the championship matchup in Moraga, the Cougars and Marin Academy were knotted at 12-12 with three minutes to go with senior Will Rack supplied the decisive goal. Fellow senior Drew Cirelli lead Campolindo with four goals, while also producing a pair of assists.

Following the conclusion of their unblemished march through the postseason, Frey highlighted

the contributions of Campolindo’s cast of veterans.

“If there’s a group to focus on here, it’s definitely our seniors,” Frey said. “I mean, this group came in as freshmen and this is our first NCS title. To leave as seniors, it’s something that they and the alumni, as well as the rest of the team built. It’s great to see.”

The Cougars, who claimed the DAL championship, ended the spring ranked as the No. 19 team in the state, according to MaxPreps.

Despite that lofty ranking, Campolindo didn’t have the chance to test themselves against the rest of the elite programs across California because there is no state tournament for lacrosse.

“It’s funny. We were talking after the game – the coaches and I – even the next morning,” Frey said. “It’s one of those things that you wish you could go further with a group like this, but NCS is as far as it gets and hopefully in the future there is a state tournament, so we can continue playing – especially when you have such a great group.”

### Campo girls win D II bracket

Owners of 22-1 record overall (15-1 in league), the Campolindo girls lacrosse team claimed the NCS D II title after taking down No. 7 Bishop O’Dowd, 12-9, on

May 18 in Moraga. For the section winners, this spring marked the first time that the program had locked up the No. 1 seed in NCS.

“One of the key factors to this team’s success has been their adhesiveness and chemistry,” head coach Dave Parker said. “Everyone has made significant contributions to the team’s success.”

The Cougars enjoyed a bye in the opening round, roared past No. 8 Christian Brothers, 16-5, at home on May 12 and beat No. 5 Branson – also in Moraga – 14-7 on May 16, to set up their championship meeting with Bishop O’Dowd.

Parker lauded the strength of the Cougars’ roster, suggesting that if the DAL allowed it, the team could have supplied 10 or 11 All-league players. At season’s end, the team is ranked No. 19 in the state, per MaxPreps.

“The depth throughout our lineup at every position has been possibly our greatest advantage,” Parker said. “At this level, almost every team has at least a couple vulnerable spots on the field, and with the uniformity and consistency of our players’ skills, we’re usually able to identify and expose our opponents’ weaknesses, while most other teams aren’t able to do that against us. Our girls truly put the team first.”

## Local honors for SMC rugby champs

By John T. Miller



From left: Kimberleigh Korpus, Teresa Onoda, Holden Yungert and Dave Trotter

Photo John T. Miller

The Town of Moraga honored the Saint Mary’s Gaels Rugby team for winning its third national Division I-A championship in five years at a recent town council meeting. Accepting the proclama-

tion for the team was tournament MVP Holden Yungert, a senior and All-Conference back for the Gaels.

A quartet of juniors, who hope to repeat as champions next year, were also introduced to the council.

They included Peter Walden, Marcus Viscardi, Ethan Waller and Vili Helu. Both Waller and Helu were named to the All-Conference first team.

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## Campo reaches semifinals of NorCal regional volleyball tournament

By Karl Buscheck



Photo Gint Federas

The Campolindo boys volleyball team advanced all the way to the CIF NorCal Division II regional semifinals before their season came to an end in a 3-2 loss to No. 4 seed Saratoga on May 25 in Moraga.

For the Cougars, the defeat also brought an end to the team's 15-match win streak, leaving the group with a final record of 31-4 overall and 11-0 in DAL play. Head coach Dave Chen knew just the type of challenge

the No. 1 seed Cougars were in for in the NorCal championships, which pits the top programs from around the region against each other.

"The teams in the other sections have been battle tested through their own regular season and section playoff runs," Chen explained. "They all pose matchup challenges as each team has several top-caliber players that have helped to bring them to this point."

Campolindo had reached the NorCal semifinals after blitzing the No. 8 seed Rio Americano, 3-0, in Round 1 at home on May 23.

The squad had earned the No. 1 seed in NorCals after charging through the regular season and NCS. The DAL Foothill conference winners also claimed the No. 1 seed in the NCS D II bracket on their way to securing the section title. The Cougars buzzed through the NCS competition, winning 3-0, 3-1 and 3-1.

"The one seed is always an honor to get," Chen said. "It's nice to be recognized and that your regular-season accomplishments garnered the top seed. However, regardless of the top seed or not, the playoffs are a totally different story. Every team seems to step up their game a few more notches to a new intensity (level) and focus. As the top seed, the intensity level teams brought against us was very high."

For the Cougars, who ended the spring as MaxPrep's No. 39 team in the state, a pair of senior leaders guided the group to the finals stages of the NorCal regional tournament.

Zack Duffy was named a captain for his

ability to hold the team accountable on and off the court, while Gage Worsley impressed the coaching staff with his passionate yet light-hearted approach.

"We all know how dominant of a player he can be," Chen said of Worsley. "But for all of us behind the scenes, he has a way of communicating to all the players, new and old, and being relatable to convey his message."

While the Cougars played into the NorCals, Acalanes – the winners of the DAL Valley Conference – made it to the semifinals of the NCS D II tournament before bowing out of the postseason.

The Dons, who were seeded second in the competition, lost 3-2 to No. 3 seed Redwood (the team that would go on to lose to Campolindo in the finals) on May 16 in Lafayette.

Captained by the senior trio of Connor McCarthy, Bijan Shahabi and Carter Smith, the Dons arrived in the semifinals showdown after flying past No. 10 Drake, 3-0, on May 13 in their home gym in Lafayette. Acalanes ended the season with a 28-7 record overall and a 10-0 mark in DAL Valley Conference play.

## Miramonte and Campolindo set to meet in NCS baseball semifinals

By Karl Buscheck



Tim Tague

Photo Gint Federas

In his 26 seasons in charge of the Miramonte baseball program, head coach Vince Dell'Aquila had never piloted an undefeated team.

That was, until this spring when the Mats

raced through the DAL Valley Conference with a spotless 10-0 mark and entered the NCS D III semifinals with a perfect 26-0 record.

Recognizing the gravity of what his team was achieving, Dell'Aquila has made a point – from the opening weeks of the seasons – to make sure the Mats have been enjoying the ride.

"I tell the guys after every game that I'm really proud of them," Dell'Aquila said. "It seems like as we got started, every four or five games, I'd be telling them that because it really is amazing. We got to game eight, game 12, game 16 and I knew that the pressure was probably mounting on them. And I just wanted them to know that I was really proud of them no matter what happened next."

Headlined by star pitchers Tim Tague (senior) and Sam Liang (junior), the Valley Conference winners entered the postseason as the No. 1 seed. They proceed to dispatch No. 16 Las Lomas, 5-2, in the opening round on May 23 in Orinda and handle No. 8 Albany, 12-3, on May 25 at home in the quar-

terfinals.

That set up a semifinals clash with neighboring Campolindo (13-12 overall, 5-5 in league), on May 30 in Orinda. The Cougars, who are the No. 5 seed in the bracket, opened up NCS by topping No. 12 Arcata, 7-6, at home on May 24, and edging past No. 4 Kennedy, 7-6, in Fremont on May 27. Head coach Max Luckhurst couldn't point to any particular players powering the club's postseason run, instead offering credit to the roster at large.

"We don't have the standout guy on the mound. We don't have the standout guy at the plate," Luckhurst said. "We're just competing. We just ask them to compete."

As the final stages of the playoffs approach, Luckhurst is also asking his team to have fun.

"Oh you get down to this. This is why you play the 24 games (of the regular season)," Luckhurst said. "This is why you've been practicing since February 6."

While the Mats and Cougars are playing in the D III bracket, the Dons took part in the D I competition. Acalanes earned the No.

7 seed, exiting to No. 10 Berkeley, 2-1, in Lafayette in the opening round on May 24.

For a Dons team anchored by senior outfielders Will Rembac and Daniel Kim, simply advancing to the top tier of NCS play was far from a lock throughout the spring.

Playing in their first season at the D I level, Acalanes had the second-highest strength of schedule rating in the section – behind only De la Salle. The team also had to dig its way out of a big hole after a slumberous beginning to the spring.

"The most impressive part was that we started the season off 4-9 and really looking like we may not qualify for playoffs," head coach Justin Santich-Hughes said. "The fact we finished 12-12 and alone in second place in league speaks volumes to the character this team has."

"It could have been really easy to crumble under the 4-9 start," Santich-Hughes added. "But credit to kids on our team they just kept working and that to me is what makes the No. 7 seed impressive."

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# CYO Track Championships

Submitted by John Murphy



Beck Murphy



Charlotta Bell



Tyler Bergren



Neve Murphy

Photos provided

The CYO Track and Field teams from St Perpetua, Santa Maria and St Monica competed in the Oakland Diocese Championship on May 12 and 13. This year, the teams sent an impressive 27 athletes to the championship meet.

On the first night of the meet, qualifiers from each of the three Sections competed for medals in the 800m and 1600m. In the 1600m events, Beck Murphy won gold and Sophie Westen won bronze. In the 800m, Madeline Jerge took home the bronze and 2nd grader Reese Tierney narrowly missed placing 4th with an impressive time of 3:02. Tyler Bergen won gold in the 800m while setting a new meet record of 2:22 for 5th grade boys. This is the 3rd straight year that Tyler has broken the Diocesan record in the 800m.

Day 2 of the event saw even more medals presented to Lamorinda athletes. In the 50m sprint, James Drummond III won bronze and Natalie Aiken took silver. Charlotta Bell of Santa Maria won gold in the High Jump while also taking home silver medals in the 200m and the 400m. Neve Murphy won gold medals in the in Long Jump and in the 400m and took silver in the 200m. Tyler Bergren added to his gold medal collection with wins in the 400m and the Long Jump. 3rd grader Ilias Kaplanes-Jones won silver in the Long Jump. In the shot put, Gabe Goeller won silver and Vivian Carter took home the bronze.

In the relays, St Perpetua's 5th grade girls took the silver medal in both the 4x100 relay and in the Sprint Medley relay while the 3rd grade girls 4x100 relay team took home the bronze.

# Lamorinda U15 boys cap season with state cup championship

Submitted by Max Truax



Back from left, Luca Scapinelli, Alexander Cuellar, Nickolas Geannacopulos, Adrian Guzman, Jamiel Liu, Rabee Haidari, Kai DiGrande, Danilo Mendoza, coach Billal Samy; Front from left: Steven Metcalf, Fernando Lara, Sean Donovan, Simon Neuwirth-Stein, Daniel Medina, Justin Truax, Luke Ahearn, Greg Kornguth, (Jonathan Montoya not pictured) Photo Michael Stein, OakwoodDigital.net

The Lamorinda U15 Boys soccer team defeated Turlock Saturday, May 20, to capture the State Cup Championship. The team created early chances, striking the post twice but failing to score. The match took a major turn when a Turlock player was sent off for violent conduct. Lamorinda capitalized scoring twice, taking a 2-0 lead into halftime. Turlock struck first after the half, reducing Lamorinda's lead to 2-1. However, Turlock's goal ignited Lamorinda's attack which scored six more times, leading to an 8-2 victory. The State Championship marked the end of an amazing 2016-17 season for the Lamorinda boys winning the Champions League with a perfect 7-0-0 record.

# Lafayette AB Oaks wins Diablo League tournament

Submitted by Julie Schmit

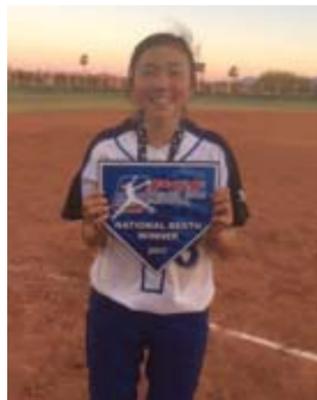


Back row from left, Jack Wood, Miles Bergman, Jack Seelye, Luke Souza, Graham Oh, Dante Montgomery, Will Stryker; front row from left, Will Berrien, Zach Anderson, Evan Malmquist, Jack Cusumano, Connor McPhail

Baseball team 13U Lafayette AB Oaks took first place in their age group in the 2017 680 Diablo League tournament the weekend of May19-21 at the Twin Creeks complex in Sunnyvale. Many of the students attend Stanley Middle School in Lafayette and they all played Lafayette Little League for many years. The entire tournament for all age groups included 59 teams from 14 Bay Area cities.

# Moraga's Abbie Lee qualifies for 2017 PGF Nationals Premier

Submitted by Kwon Lee



Softball team Sorcerer 14U outfielder Abbie Lee went 6 for 9 (5 singles and 1 double) and had 2 walks in 5 games in Phoenix, Arizona where her team earned a 2017 PGF National Premier Berth (July 29th through August 5th) in Huntington Beach, California.

# Way to Go! LMYA VOLLEYBALL GOLD TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS



4th Grade HUNTINGTON BEACH (from upper left) Coach Nicki Cobain, Skylar Platto, Olivia Deboy, Grace Gallacher, Taylor Kauffman, Natalie Hsia, Lily McKinney. Stella Baceda (Not Pictured) Lila Mathers, Dulci Vail, Abigail Ticher, Robin Mathers, Assistant Coach



5th Grade PENSACOLA BEACH (L-R) Sophia Hairston, Nina Damiano, Claire Damiano, Madison Thomas, Charlotte Mueller, Sophia King, Keira Elliott, Sadie Symonds. Vivian Carter. Coaches (L-R) Mary Beth Carter, Monica Symonds



6th Grade MYRTLE BEACH (L-R) Alexa Carter, Alexia Silverberg, Remy Swartz, Haley Flynn, Ally Hoogs, Kate Crosby, Keilly Kilpatrick, Jodie Toren - Coach. (Front) Heather Stephen (Not Pictured) Olivia Feldman



7th/8th Grade WAILEA BEACH (Back L-R) Lani Brown, Julia Poole, Isabella Bartos, Coach Mark Poole, Gianna Giordano, Maddy Ng (Front L-R) Ash Wehrly, Kaitlyn Eng, Kennedy Merrion, Rachel Freeby, Katie Dougherty (Not Pictured) Coach Karman Ng

**Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorinda weekly.com**  
(we prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide)



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Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 7 Wednesday, May 31, 2017



June Gardening Guide with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D12

## Sit, stay: homes-away-from-home for pets

By Cathy Dausman



Walterrock Pet Ranch owner Candace Harper greets a dog play group at her kennel.

Photos Cathy Dausman

It's nearly summer, and time to plan vacations for you and your pets. Cats and dogs in particular have a variety of home-away-from-home options. The Lamorinda Weekly visited three area kennels and asked a veteri-

narian what to expect before boarding Fifi or Fido. Here's the scratch:

**Canyonwyck Kennels** is ramping up for the high season, which extends from Memorial weekend through Labor Day, says co-owner

Carol Beasley. "Then a couple calm months, and it starts over again at Thanksgiving." The kennel near Rossmoor first opened in 1947 and Beasley has worked there since high school when she learned to groom, then

manage, the kennel she now co-owns. She lives onsite and employs a niece and nephew. Beasley and her sister, co-owner Maureen Beasley, take in "large, rambunctious, very active dogs," and customers know to expect that. Their dog guests can swim, play and hike the property's back acreage, leaving them well exercised, dirty and tired.

If that's not enough, they offer daily dog-training sessions. Maureen says running the business has given her sister "invaluable" medical knowledge about the pets who board there, adding "we recognize you, but we know your dog!"

Kennel experiences vary greatly, Maureen says, and there is nothing other than a land use permit or business license required, so she tells potential clients "go ahead and look at everybody."

**North Main Pet Lodge** is a surprisingly large facility, given its downtown Walnut Creek location. It is a second-generation, family-run owned and operated for the last 25 years by Chris and Colleen Prouty. Chris Prouty's parents raised and showed standard poodles and cats; they travelled extensively before designing and building Pet Lodge.

... continued on page D4





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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	22	\$740,000	\$3,325,000
MORAGA	13	\$715,000	\$1,810,000
ORINDA	14	\$1,150,000	\$2,800,000

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

- 973 4th Street, \$740,000, 1 Bdrms, 813 SqFt, 1946 YrBl, 4-14-17
- 910 Acalanes Road, \$1,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 2133 SqFt, 1970 YrBl, 4-26-17;  
Previous Sale: \$369,000, 05-19-89
- 3268 Ameno Drive, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 1952 SqFt, 1961 YrBl, 4-14-17;  
Previous Sale: \$835,000, 09-25-12
- 549 Arrowhead Drive, \$2,370,000, 5 Bdrms, 2970 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 4-24-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,235,000, 11-10-10
- 3316 Betty Lane, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 2815 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 4-21-17;  
Previous Sale: \$925,000, 08-22-13
- 3341 Betty Lane, \$1,420,000, 3 Bdrms, 1671 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 4-21-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,010,000, 08-04-15
- 944 Dewing Avenue #C, \$815,000, 2 Bdrms, 1278 SqFt, 1976 YrBl, 4-21-17;  
Previous Sale: \$618,000, 06-01-06
- 934 Diablo Drive, \$1,390,000, 3 Bdrms, 1953 SqFt, 1957 YrBl, 4-18-17;  
Previous Sale: \$418,000, 09-17-96
- 1168 Glen Road, \$1,887,500, 3 Bdrms, 2627 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 4-17-17
- 3493 Hamlin Road, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1549 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 4-17-17;  
Previous Sale: \$160,000, 10-07-97
- 26 Julie Highlands Court, \$1,582,000, 4 Bdrms, 3813 SqFt, 1997 YrBl,  
4-14-17; Previous Sale: \$632,000, 04-17-98
- 3941 Los Arabis Drive, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2712 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 4-18-17
- 3222 Lucas Circle, \$956,500, 3 Bdrms, 1364 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 4-20-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,480,000, 12-02-16
- 626 Lucas Drive, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 1911 SqFt, 1957 YrBl, 4-26-17
- 3470 Orchard Hill Court, \$1,380,000, 8 Bdrms, 2704 SqFt, 1955 YrBl,  
4-18-17; Previous Sale: \$479,000, 03-31-99
- 1061 Orchard Road, \$795,000, 2 Bdrms, 829 SqFt, 1937 YrBl, 4-25-17;  
Previous Sale: \$562,000, 10-11-06
- 3834 Palo Alto Drive, \$3,325,000, 5 Bdrms, 3620 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 4-26-17
- 443 Ponderosa Court, \$1,875,000, 3 Bdrms, 3724 SqFt, 1984 YrBl, 4-21-17;  
Previous Sale: \$428,500, 05-10-85
- 3728 St. Francis Drive, \$2,183,000, 4 Bdrms, 2803 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 4-17-17
- 952 Stow Lane, \$1,965,000, 5 Bdrms, 3441 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 4-27-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 08-01-08
- 3289 Theresa Lane, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2140 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 4-25-17;  
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 09-28-01
- 985 Victoria Court, \$1,200,000, 2 Bdrms, 1308 SqFt, 1938 YrBl, 4-20-17;  
Previous Sale: \$520,000, 11-05-01

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... continued on page D10

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# Sit, stay: homes-away-from-home for pets

... continued from page D1



Colleen Prouty, North Main Pet Lodge owner, plays with Sophie the poodle and Jolie the lab at her facility's indoor play area. Photos Cathy Dausman



Dog lodgings have both an inside and an outside area, making “potty breaks self-regulated and easier and less stressful” on the pet, Colleen says. A swamp heater regulates the building temperature that allows doors to be open. The floors have radiant heating. Outside runs are shade-covered and misted when the temperatures climb, and there is an additional inside play area.

By intention the Proutys keep their canine play groups small, just two to five dogs. Prouty says she and Chris put their staff through a canine body language course so they can head off trouble before it starts. They also play specialized music to calm the dogs down.

Cats, too have a “pretty big” lodging space. Prouty’s mother-in-law designed its seven-foot-high ceilings to make changing litter boxes “a stand-up job.” Pet Lodge has 87 separate runs for dogs and 17 for cats, but Prouty says they intentionally book under capacity. A caretaker (the Prouty’s son) lives on the premises, and a pet grooming site (Four Paws Grooming) is immediately adjacent.

**Waiterock Pet Ranch** on Lafayette’s north side has been in business since 1942; Candace Harper has owned it for 30 years. Their canine capacity is more than 100, but Harper doesn’t like to fill it up, and she doesn’t take new clients over the holidays. Waiterock has a cattery too, but Harper’s business is “98 per cent dogs.”

“It’s a wonderful job,” Harper says, “but you have to love dogs and read their language.” She is animal first-aid trained and claims to know “every vet in two counties.” She is also well prepared for any emergency, stocking a month of supplies.

Waiterock opened its doors to over 300 dogs displaced by the 1991 Oakland Hills Firestorm and kept them at no charge (some for five months) until they were reunited with their owners.

Harper cautions dog owners to be thorough in their research before employing anyone as a pet checker or pet sitter, citing comments she’s heard from customers the last 30 years. “Pets suffer emotional stress when their owners leave whether they’re at home or in a boarding facility,” she says. “It’s how those providing care respond that makes the difference.

“Be an advocate for your dog,” Harper says, “and tour, tour, tour.”

... continued on page D6

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# Sit, stay: homes-away-from-home for pets

... continued from page D4



Stella the Labrador enjoys pool time at Canyonwyck.



Canyonwyck owners, sisters Maureen Beasley (left) and Carol Beasley enjoy a moment in the sunshine with a bulldog puppy they are boarding.

Veterinarian Mona Miller recommends pet owners update vaccines — Bordetella vaccine, core Rabies and Distemper-Parvo for dogs and core Feline Distemper (FVRCP) for cats — provide extra food and medication, appoint local surrogates and specify financial spending limits and level of care before they board. “It is very difficult for the pet caregiver and the veterinarian to make emergency decisions without guidance,” Miller said.

The pet care industry has changed dramatically over the past 25 years, Colleen Prouty said. Today’s kennels offer doggy day care and nearly individualized service for each four-footed customer, knowing pet parents treat their animals like people. “We provide the service through (the animal’s) lifetime,” Chris Prouty said, adding “the hardest part is when they pass.”

Running a boarding facility is not for the faint of heart, either. It requires round-the-clock attention, 365 days a year. “Even when we’re closed,” Colleen Prouty says “we still have to feed and care for the pets.”

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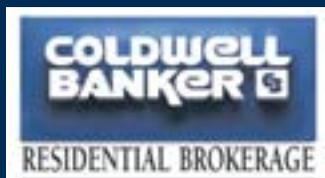
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Welcome to an exquisite family home in the heart of Happy Valley, Lafayette! This updated family home has a flexible floor plan; 2 Master Suites - one on the lower level (Au-Pair unit?) another on the upper level plus office or 5th bed (possible nursery). This central Happy Valley Location is near award winning schools, Downtown Lafayette and BART as well as access from vPanorama Drive to miles of hiking trails in Briones.



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# Tom Stack



**PENDING/Buyer**  
1825 St. Andrews, Moraga \$1,550,000  
Moraga Country Club



**PENDING/Seller**  
0 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga 28 Acres Lot/Land



**PENDING/Buyer**  
662 Moraga Way, Orinda \$1,249,000



**New Listing/Seller**  
1849 Reliez Valley Rd., Lafayette \$1,265,000



## Recent Sales

Tom Stack / Broker Associate

Coldwell Banker Bay Area Top 90 Sales Associate

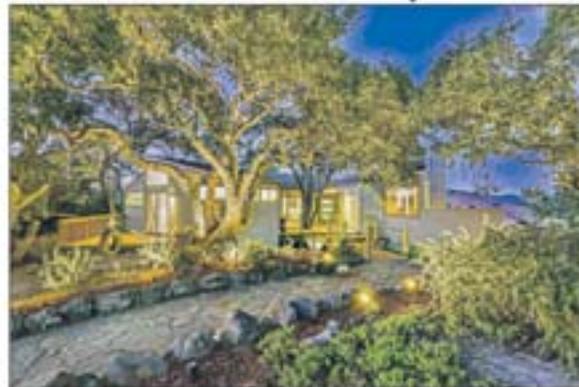
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[www.2LeewardGlen.com](http://www.2LeewardGlen.com)



**Paddy Kehoe** | 925.878.5869  
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**Claudia Gohler** | 925.765.8081  
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# Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

## MORAGA

90 Brookfield Drive, \$1,340,000, 5 Bdrms, 2492 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-17-17  
 1392 Camino Peral, \$720,000, 3 Bdrms, 1348 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 4-14-17; Previous Sale: \$555,000, 07-01-14  
 67 Corte Yolanda, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1894 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 4-25-17; Previous Sale: \$960,000, 11-13-14  
 820 Country Club Drive, \$725,000, 2 Bdrms, 1262 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-19-17; Previous Sale: \$649,000, 10-29-14  
 747 Crossbrook Drive, \$1,255,000, 4 Bdrms, 2323 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 4-25-17; Previous Sale: \$775,000, 10-10-02  
 101 Fernwood Drive, \$1,299,000, 4 Bdrms, 2342 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 4-20-17; Previous Sale: \$75,000, 09-04-73  
 107 Hodges Drive, \$1,140,000, 3 Bdrms, 1709 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 4-14-17; Previous Sale: \$960,000, 08-09-05  
 42 Lambeth Square, \$1,810,000, 4 Bdrms, 2805 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 4-27-17; Previous Sale: \$800,000, 08-31-01  
 1009 Larch Avenue, \$1,035,000, 3 Bdrms, 1418 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 4-19-17; Previous Sale: \$305,000, 09-23-93  
 34 Miramonte Drive, \$715,000, 2 Bdrms, 1762 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-26-17; Previous Sale: \$234,500, 06-17-97  
 263 Paseo Bernal, \$865,000, 3 Bdrms, 2018 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 4-25-17; Previous Sale: \$625,000, 04-15-13  
 392 Springfield Place, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2374 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 4-18-17; Previous Sale: \$952,000, 04-14-10  
 17 Tamarisk, \$1,355,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 4-24-17; Previous Sale: \$1,060,100, 10-31-14

## ORINDA

33 Bates Boulevard, \$2,320,000, 4 Bdrms, 2870 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 4-14-17; Previous Sale: \$1,525,000, 03-22-12  
 23 Claremont Avenue, \$1,190,000, 3 Bdrms, 1203 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 4-27-17; Previous Sale: \$650,000, 10-17-03  
 16 Del Mar Court, \$1,976,000, 4 Bdrms, 2870 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 4-14-17; Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 03-24-00  
 11 Descanso Drive, \$1,540,000, 4 Bdrms, 2037 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 4-18-17  
 243 Ivy Place, \$1,515,000, 4 Bdrms, 2118 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 4-21-17  
 6 Jack Tree Knoll, \$1,475,000, 5 Bdrms, 2666 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 4-26-17  
 16 La Cintilla, \$1,747,500, 6 Bdrms, 4415 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 4-26-17; Previous Sale: \$1,590,000, 03-01-13  
 35 Martha Road, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2525 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-21-17; Previous Sale: \$395,000, 12-05-96  
 5 Oak Arbor Road, \$2,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 4101 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 4-24-17; Previous Sale: \$2,574,000, 12-30-16  
 4 Owl Hill Road, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2372 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-26-17  
 123 Spring Road, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 3406 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 4-25-17; Previous Sale: \$424,000, 09-19-97  
 40 Sunnyside Lane, \$1,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 2612 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 4-27-17; Previous Sale: \$1,370,000, 10-07-05  
 111 Van Ripper Lane, \$2,205,000, 4 Bdrms, 1996 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-27-17; Previous Sale: \$1,340,000, 06-10-15  
 23 Via Hermosa, \$2,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3472 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 4-18-17; Previous Sale: \$800,000, 05-20-02



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## June Gardening Guide

# Rooms of His Own

By Cynthia Brian

*"The only limit to your garden is at the boundaries of your imagination." —Thomas D. Church*



*A bricked flowerbed filled with red carpet roses, Asian lilies, and a cast iron lantern.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

From the street, the white Lamorinda ranch-style house of Michael Curtis belies the magnificence waiting to be discovered beyond the garden gates. A collector of all things cast off and cast iron, Curtis converts salvaged junk into artistic architecture that transforms his garden into an alluring adventure of discovery.

His grandfather founded L. N. Curtis and Sons Fire Protection and Emergency Response Equipment in 1929 and throughout Curtis' life he has accumulated firefighting memorabilia. Curtis' father introduced him to collecting rocks, minerals, glass and old bottles as they explored abandoned mines and ghost towns together. As a boy, one of Curtis' favorite jaunts was hiking the railroad tracks where he'd pick up discarded telegraph insulators. When he'd find anything that was made of cast iron, he was especially excited. All of these treasures were stored and as he traversed the globe as an adult, he added to his compilation. His heartfelt dream was to one day create a secret garden where all of his

unusual trinkets would dance with the most colorful flowers in perfect harmony.

With his love of the English countryside, his first home boasted an English cottage garden, complete with an authentic red phone booth. In 2001, he moved that phone booth along with his beloved remnants from his industrial revolution fascination to a small house on an acre of land filled with diseased and dying trees. After removing 55 eucalyptus trees, Curtis enriched the soil, and without any written plan or design schematic, began work on his inspired masterpiece using his vision and intuition as guides.

Smooth stones lead through a lush lawn to the iron arbor covered in the sunset oranges and reds of Joseph's coat and flanked by white Alba tree roses. Chimes, bells and hummingbird feeders dangle from the arch while a variety of birdhouses perch on poles, nesting birds darting in and out. Rows of telegraph insulators lining the path are accentuated by two hand painted manhole covers, gifts from a trip

to Japan. With the flip of a switch, the insulators illuminate like Christmas lights.

Color is a driving force in the garden and the combination of textures and forms is mesmerizing. Curtis built brick retaining walls and planters, filling them with an enormous diversity of rainbow flora including camellias, roses, impatiens, lilies, Daphne, birds of paradise, gerbera daisies, lobelia, salvia, pansies, violets, canna, petunias, daisies, lavender, foxglove, nasturtium and a variety of bushes, boxwoods, and shrubs. The tranquil sounds of cascading water emanate from the nine fountains scattered throughout the property. Whether one turns right or turns left, an eclectic wood or metal gate directs attention to a divergent garden room sectioned by a growing privet fence and festooned with artifacts from Curtis' escapades to estate sales, fairs, salvage yards, and years of walking the rails. He even built a tree house from reclaimed barn wood adding a ladder, an antique loggers saw and vintage signs discovered in the Gold Country. An abandoned test missile rests against the fence awaiting its proper placement.

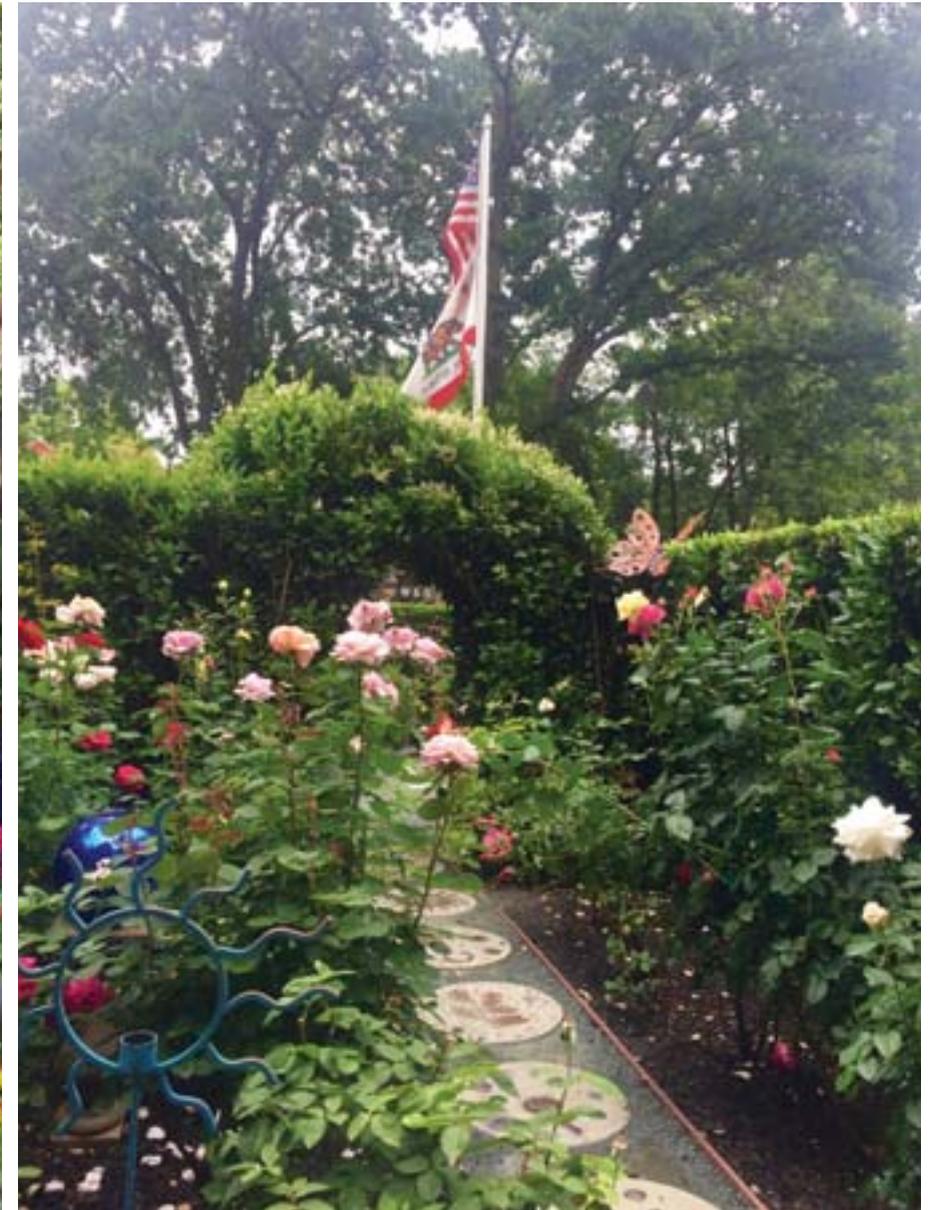
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*A red and blue painted vintage fire hydrant set among the impatiens and plantings.*



One of nine fountains in the lush landscape.



Handmade stepping stones anchor the rose garden and flag pole.

Gazing balls and a rusted butterfly grace the formal rose garden with the pièce de résistance being the round stepping stones Curtis crafted using a wine barrel ring, concrete, colored glass, rusted tools, horseshoes, and other discarded items that captured his fancy. Fire hydrants, water pumps, street placards, and railroad warning signs dot the landscape as well as inspirational messages.

The result is whimsical, magical, playful and most of all, timeless.

Although his garden is uniquely his refuge, what Curtis adores more than anything

is sharing his garden rooms with friends. With a glass of wine in hand, he graciously guides while explaining the stories behind every artifact and every plant. Of course, if one wants to meander alone, he encourages the exploration. There is no worry about getting lost in this maze as every gate has a unique bell so that he can tell where anyone is at any given moment.

I attempted to glean a bit of gardening advice and came away with these tips:

... continued on page D14



Welcome friends to Michael Curtis's Garden Rooms.



Michael Curtis greets Cynthia Brian at the arbor. Notice the red English phone booth at the end of the path.



The kids-only tree house built from reclaimed barn wood and vintage signs.



Densely planted pots, a birdhouse, the swimming pool and outdoor kitchen offer relaxation.



Cactus hang on the lattice while purple petunias and lavender flank the bird bath.

1. Let your unique vision and your imagination be the driving force of a garden design. There are no limits.
2. Anything is art. Display your collections in an appealing manner to evoke conversations and questions. What may be trash to someone else could be a treasure to you.
3. Let color be king. Don't be afraid to razzle dazzle and mix it up.
4. Add grace and relaxation with water elements. Fountains are fabulous.
5. Do the unexpected. (Who would think about showcasing an English telephone booth, a manhole cover in the garden or adding lights to telegraph insulators?)
6. Offer shelter and food for the birds. You can never have too many birdhouses.
7. Don't be afraid to try new plants. If you like it, plant it. If it grows, great. If not, move on. Planting is pure pleasure.
8. Create garden rooms, not just garden beds.
9. Welcome your loved ones to share your oasis with a glass of wine for walking.

Before I left this enchanted setting, I asked Curtis what his plans for the future entailed. Since his right hand helper, Tony, will be retiring next year, he said he is contemplating selling this personal paradise. "Won't you be sad to leave all this beauty behind?" I queried. "Yes, but it's time for me to be off on a new world quest," he said.

At that moment, I could imagine him dashing to the end of the arbor pathway, entering his red English phone booth and, like other super heroes, flying off to rescue another forlorn and forgotten garden.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



Cynthia Brian enjoyed Curtis' magical garden.

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)

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### ORINDA

New Listing

**224 The Knoll** Sought after end unit in prestigious Orindawoods. Beautifully appointed throughout, exquisitely renovated gourmet kitchen, soaring ceilings, expansive priv. patio + decks. Enjoy pools, tennis, BART shuttle.

**\$998,000**

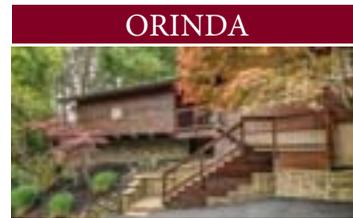


### ORINDA

New Listing

**11 Cresta Blanca** Walk to town & BART from this adorable 3+ bdrm, 2 bath home in apx. 1926 sq.ft. on an apx. 9990 sq.ft. lot. Spacious living & dining area with open beam ceilings, beautiful hardwood floors & fireplace.

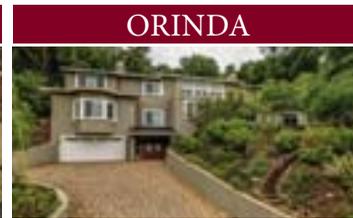
**\$1,025,000**



### ORINDA

**51 Valencia Road** Magical home & setting w/stylish updates, spacious floor-plan & wonderful in/out living. Wood floors, updated kitchen & baths, walls of glass & numerous upgrades. Convenient to town, schools, BART.

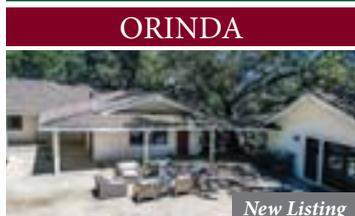
**\$1,398,000**



### ORINDA

**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, hrdwd flrs thruout, built-ins, 92 acre.

**\$1,585,000**

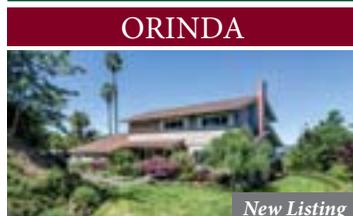


### ORINDA

New Listing

**10 Albo Court** Pristine single-story home featuring classic farmhouse charm & character mixed w/ exceptional modern-day materials & outstanding design. Completely remodeled kitchen. Level lot, secluded pastoral setting.

**\$1,595,000**

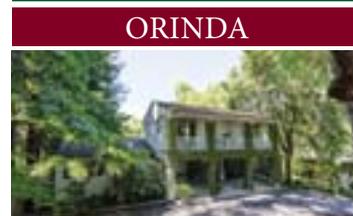


### ORINDA

New Listing

**452 Tahos Road** Private .96 acre setting, panoramic views! Beautifully updated, traditional style, level yards with pool. Great floor plan, hardwood floors, crown mouldings & more. Glorietta school district.

**\$1,645,000**



### ORINDA

**411 Camino Sobrante** One of Orinda's most charming & distinctive homes set on Premier parcel at El Sueno corner lot. Incredible "Old World" charm in every rm. Easy access to patios, yards for entertaining, family fun.

**\$1,750,000**

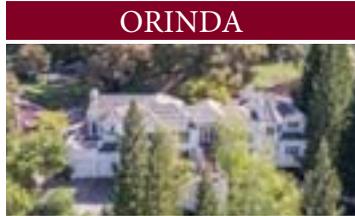


### ORINDA

New Price

**176 Camino Don Miguel** Magnificent custom built classic traditional 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath home viewing the 5th fairway of Orinda Country Club. Beautiful lawns, gardens, terraces.

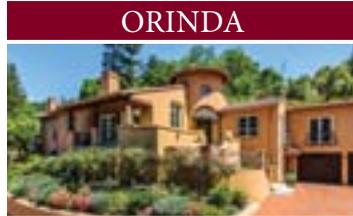
**\$1,990,000**



### ORINDA

**3 Gardiner Court** Stunning family home combining breathtaking views, pool, beautiful gardens & 5100+ sq ft of graciously proportioned, sun flooded living space. High ceilings, gourmet kitchen, fabulous master suite.

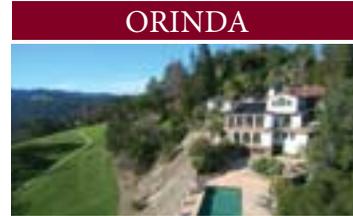
**\$2,695,000**



### ORINDA

**22 Van Tassel Lane** Quality crafted Mediterranean style with ideal inside/ outside living spaces. Oversized rooms offer great light & elegant spaces to entertain. Atrium, guest cottage, sauna, wine cellar, pool & spa. Views!

**\$2,795,000**



### ORINDA

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

**\$4,950,000**



### MORAGA

New Listing

**102 Brookline Street** Modern elegance, vaulted ceilings, custom finishes & abundant light are some of the wonderful features of this detached 3 bedroom, 2 bath, apx. 2098 sq. ft. renovated Moraga Country Club home.

**\$1,165,000**



### MORAGA

New Listing

**161 Walford Drive** Light and bright 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, apx. 2,271 sq. ft. updated rancher on a level .229 acre lot. Open kitchen/family/dining room. Great street, close to award winning K-8 schools!

**\$1,275,000**



### LAFAYETTE

New Listing

**3313 Vaughn Road** Amazing 2800+ sq ft, 4 bdrm, 3.5 ba + office & sunroom on 1 full acre in Reliez Valley. Room for pool, vineyard, horses! Soaring ceilings, expansive decks, perfect in-law setup. Laf. schools, close to Briones trails!

**\$1,388,000**



### LAFAYETTE

New Listing

**3705 Highland Court** Seeking distinction? Serene retreat captures views from 2+ acres. Attractive single story 4 bedroom home plus fabulous outdoor living area with kitchen, pool & park-like yard.

**\$1,550,000**



### LAFAYETTE

New Listing

**1253 Panorama Drive** Exquisite 5 bedroom home in heart of Happy Valley! Eat-in updated kitchen/ great room, 2 master suites. Expansive views.

**\$2,150,000**

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