

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY



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Local high schools held graduation ceremonies June 9. Clockwise from Top left: Miramonte, Campolindo, Acalanes, Campolindo, Miramonte and Acalanes

Photos Gint Federas

## Lamorinda celebrates its graduates

It's that time of year again when a parent's tears flow as quickly as mortar board hats fill the sky.

Graduation 2017 from Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte was no different, as the three Lamorinda high schools braved a breezy evening to commemorate the nearly 1,000 local graduates heading off to college, the military,

work, gap years and other exciting opportunities.

The graduation caps were decorated from everything from the student's college of choice to their favorite movies. One Campo graduate channeled his own Summer of Love by dressing in flower child gear, while another graduate rocked a cap made of money.

The diversity of the caps reflected the diversity of each student accepting a diploma on June 9, representing their own Independence Day from 13 years of traditional schooling.

For a list of all graduating seniors, see page A11. And best of luck, graduates, from the Lamorinda Weekly! — Peggy Spear

Advertising

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### Canyon challenges Moraga's handling of bridge crisis

By Sophie Braccini

The Canyon School District declared a state of emergency over the closure of the bridge connecting the small enclave to the town of Moraga that occurred in mid-April.

According to the school board, the situation endangers the 70 students that attend the school since Moraga-Orinda Fire District emergency services cannot reach the community anymore. This declaration included a challenge to what Moraga has been doing to reopen the road.

The Moraga Town Council will discuss all possible options to reopen the road at its June 14 meeting.

For Moraga Public Works Director Edric Kwan, the Canyon School District's claim that Moraga is stalling comes from its misunderstanding of the complexity of the bridge situation and how the appropriate emergency funding works.

Jim Smith, president of the Canyon School District, explains that if an incident occurred in Canyon, rescue services would have to come

from Oakland. The Canyon school board believes that the response time would be unacceptable, bordering on 30 minutes. Pressed by what they feel is an emergency, the school board members decided to take things in their own hands.

According to Smith, the only entity that should have been able to declare if a bridge is safe or not is the California Department of Transportation, not the consultants hired by Moraga. The Canyon resident explains that this is the only agency that has the expertise to assess a bridge's usability. Smith confirmed that the town of Moraga reached out to CalTrans when EBMUD contractors signaled that a landslide was threatening the bridge, but that the agency does not intervene in an emergency, unless it gets direction to do so from state or district emergency services. The board is even questioning whether or not the bridge should stay closed.

... continued on page A8

### An unforgettable Father's Day gift

By Cathy Dausman



Matt Phillips and his daughter Adeline meet two of the Con Fire crew who responded to his 911 call for help. From left, Captain Tony Arieta, Phillips and Adeline and Engineer Garrett Presley. Standing in for Firefighter Britten Peterson is Firefighter David Hall (far right).

Photo Cathy Dausman

Matt Phillips received his Father's Day gift a bit early, but it is one he will never, ever forget. Phillips delivered — on his own — his second daughter Adeline in the Lafayette home he shares with

his family and that once belonged to Adeline's great-grandparents.

"It doesn't seem real," says mom Sarah Phillips, of the couple's evening home-birth on April 11. ... continued on page A12

**Civic News A1-A12**

Brakes put on Orinda school bus plan — page A6.

**Fire Districts A8**

Brushfire spurs fear of busy season — page A8.

**Life in Lamorinda B1-B8**

Pause to enjoy Paws de Tutu — page B1.



**Sports C1-C4**

Mats say goodbye to coach, AD Dell'Aquila — page C1.



**Our Homes D1-D16**

Local man cooks up his own designer barbecue and smoker — page D1.





**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Monday, June 26, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

Monday, June 19, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**

Monday, June 26, 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 28, 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 21 - June 3**

- Alarms** 69
- 911 Calls (incl hang-ups)** 5
- Noise complaints** 18
- Traffic stops** 143
- Suspicious Circumstances** 13
- Suspicious Subjects** 35
- Suspicious Vehicles** 30
- Service to Citizen** 39
- Abandoned Vehicle**
  - 3700 Block Sundale Rd.
  - Mariposa Rd./Mountain View Dr.
  - Palo Alto Dr./Toledo Dr.
  - Silverado Dr./Hartwood Ct.
  - 400 Block Block Silverado Dr.
  - 1st St./Moraga Blvd.
- Animal Cruelty**
  - 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
  - 900 Block S Thompson Rd.
- Auto Burglary**
  - 10 Block Greenvalley Dr.
  - Pleasant Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24
  - 3300 Block Springhill Rd.
  - 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
  - 900 Block East St.
- Battery**
  - Buchan Dr./Old Tunnel Rd.
- Beat Info**
  - Wb Sr 24 At 1st St.
- Civil Problem**
  - 800 Block Reliez Station Rd.
  - 1000 Block Aileen St.
  - 800 Block Mountain View Dr.
- Commercial Burglary**
  - 1000 Block Dewing Ave
- Counterfeit**
  - 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Defraud Innkeeper**
  - 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Disturbing The Peace**
  - 3300 Block Springhill Rd.
  - 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
  - 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
  - Brookwood Park
- DUI Misdemeanor**
  - 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
  - 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
  - 30 Block Lafayette Cr.
- Elder Abuse**
  - 3400 Block Lana Ln.
- Fire/Ems Response Info**
  - 3800 Block Palo Alto Dr.
  - 1000 Block Miller Dr.
  - 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
- Forgery**
  - 900 Block 4th St.
- Found Adult**
  - 3500 Block Golden Gate Way
- Found Property**
  - 4000 Block Marianne Dr.
  - 3300 Block Springhill Rd.
  - 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
  - Glenside Dr./St. Marys Rd.
- Fraud False Pretenses**
  - 3300 Block Mildred Ln.
- Grand Theft**
  - 4000 Block Tilden Ln.
- H&S Violation**
  - 3400 Block Moraga Blvd.
- Hailed By Citizen**
  - Moraga Blvd./4th St.
  - 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Harassment**
  - Sunset Loop/Meek Pl.
  - Mt. Diablo Blvd./1st St.
  - 800 Block Revere Rd.
  - 1000 Block Miller Dr.
- Hit And Run Misdemeanor**
  - 3400 Block Moraga Blvd.
  - 3200 Block Stanley Blvd.

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**Council takes time to review city manager's contract**

By Pippa Fisher



Steve Falk Photo Gint Federas

With City Manager Steve Falk's employment agreement up for renewal, Lafayette City Council members and residents weighed in on the terms of the contract at a recent meeting, resulting in an extension for 120 days, giving enough time to review both performance and the wording of the contract.

Although residents in attendance took the opportunity to raise two areas of concern – performance and the severance package – it became apparent that a couple of the council members also questioned the generosity of the package.

Under current terms Falk has an 18-month severance package, which would add up to \$512,142 including salary and benefits. The city would not have to pay if a termination were due to willful misconduct or felony.

Council Member Cam Burks noted that an 18-month severance package was much higher than typically agreed for other city managers. City Attorney Mala Subramanian explained that 18 months had been arrived at over time, growing incrementally by one month for every year since it was set at six months in 1996 to a maximum of 18 months.

Council Member Ivor Samson agreed with Burks and said that he was concerned with an 18-month severance pay, “notwithstanding the history behind it.”

By comparison, the Walnut Creek city manager has a nine-month severance package, but more typically the length of time is six months, such as is the case for

city managers in San Ramon and Moraga.

Falk says that despite the severance controversy, he is still enthusiastic. He provided a long list of accomplishments from his latest three year term, including his work with Police Chief Eric Christensen and the Crime Prevention Commission to implement crime cameras, body-worn cameras and to convene an Implicit Bias workshop for police, and negotiated to acquire and rebuild a new police station.

He pointed to the development of housing in the downtown, the acquisition of \$2 million in grants for improvement of the BART southern station entrance as well as the negotiations to rebuild Fire Station 16 in western Lafayette, among other accomplishments.

However, those residents that attended the recent city council meeting had a list of their own, citing issues that they say have not been handled fairly, in particular the development of a playground in Leigh Creekside Park, the current controversy surrounding the proposed removal of trees by PG&E and an ongoing investigation by the Fair Political Practices Commission into alleged wrong-doing by Lafayette commissioners, among other complaints.

Council Member Mark Mitchell reminded residents that while he respected their comments, residents should direct their anger over these issues instead to the city council. “The city manager implements the policies of the council,” he pointed out.

Steve Cortese, a Lafayette resi-

dent and principal of the Cortese Investment Company who own La Fiesta Square and Lafayette Mercantile, says that the city manager position is a difficult job. “You balance many different interests and you take heavy fire. I’ve known several city managers throughout the Bay Area and Steve Falk is the best I’ve seen. I really think we’re lucky.”

Cortese continues, “The state of the city is proof of his success. Before Steve became city manager, the downtown was in disrepair and lifeless. He’s managed to reposition our downtown in a relatively short time frame. Now we have a vibrant city and a stable financial picture.”

However as Burks later commented, this meeting was not about performance. Right now, he said it is about “process and structure,” referring to the severance terms and a need for review of legal wording.

The council agreed unanimously to extend the contract as it is for 120 days during which time they will meet to review Falk’s performance and they directed the city attorney to review the contract to make sure it meets current California law before bringing it back at a public meeting towards the end of the summer, at which time the council will hear residents’ comments on the subject.

Falk himself commented, “I have completely enjoyed my 27 years here with the city and hope to serve Lafayette for many, many more. If I continue to work hard and do a great job, the matter of severance will never be an issue and the city won’t pay a dime.”

**Rockin’ the Plaza**

Young and old alike celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love in the first of the Rock the Plaza series of concerts in Lafayette, to be held on Fridays in June. Families spread out their blankets and relaxed to the groovy sounds of San Francisco Airship. Some danced, some jammed after the show around the campfire and others rode the magic bus. — Pippa Fisher



Photo Lafayette Chamber

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# Mariachis and Margaritas support Las Trampas

By Pippa Fisher



Executive Director Daniel L. Hogue hosted the event. Photo provided

A recent “Mariachis and Margaritas” fundraising event organized by Lamorinda Gives Back, also known as LAMA, was fun for all but the real winner was Las Trampas, for whom they raised over \$5,000.

The sold-out event was held at The Coffee Shop in Lafayette and featured mariachi band, Reyna y su Trio, catering by Maria Maria and cocktails by Lost Republic and Dulce Vida.

LAMA is a local charitable organization whose mission statement is to engage Lamorinda residents to make a positive impact in the community through funding, volunteerism and advocacy.

Las Trampas in Lafayette supports adults with developmental disabilities. LAMA President Brian

Britton commented, “Las Trampas is a remarkable organization with great leadership who make real differences for Lamorinda residents on a daily basis.”

Executive Director of Las Trampas, Daniel L. Hogue, was appreciative and enthused about their partnership with LAMA. “Las Trampas is sincerely thankful for the efforts of LAMA. Mariachis and Margaritas was a fantastic event and certainly a reflection of the energy and commitment the organization has for championing our community.”

No LAMA event would be complete without “Hot Notes,” its llama and mascot in attendance and this evening was no exception as he duly put in an appearance to add to the success of the occasion.

# LPIE throws thank you Party in the Park

By Pippa Fisher



Working at the Party in the Park, from left, Lisa Spieler (incoming Vice President, LPIE), Amy Parlett (President, LPIE) and Danielle Gallagher (chair of this year’s Power Party and incoming Community at Large Member, LPIE). Photo Pippa Fisher

Families enjoyed a carefree afternoon in the Lafayette Plaza Park June 4, picnicking and playing, listening to music, with snacks and fun activities all provided by Lafayette Partners in Education as a celebration of community and for their support for the children in Lafayette schools.

The free event was organized by Chairperson Kelli Shrader and included a raffle and live music.

Food was available from local restaurants and families were picnicking on the green. Local ice cream store Smitten was scooping ice cream.

LPIE is a community-based education foundation run by parent volunteers working to enhance and expand the educational opportunities for students in Lafayette’s six public schools.

# Residents get to rock out on ‘Make Music Day’



What’s better than karaoke? Live karaoke of course and to celebrate “Make Music Day” residents will have their chance to belt out a song with a live band to back them up.

Local musician Paul Cotruvo will be at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Amphitheatre 6-8 p.m. on June 21 with his band, The Flashbacks, waiting to play backup

— there will be 100 songs from the 60s to choose from. Aspiring rock stars can pick a song and sign up to be the lead singer.

Make Music is a free celebration of music around the world on June 21. Launched in 1982 in France as the *Fête de la Musique*, it is now held on the same day in more than 750 cities in 120 countries. — Pippa Fisher

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## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Wednesday, June 14, 7 p.m.  
 Wednesday, June 28, 7 p.m.  
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Monday, June 19, 7 p.m.  
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Design Review

Monday, June 26, 7 p.m.  
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

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 23 to 30

#### Alarms:

**May 25 Redwood Lane**

**May 28 Commercial building;** camera showed silhouettes, nothing amiss

**May 29 Location n/a**

**May 23 Child abuse**

Police responded to reports of an infant left unattended for 10 minutes in a car. The infant was not in the car, and unharmed. Parent and caregiver were counseled.

**May 23 Miscellaneous**

Initial reports of a purse theft from Safeway. Turns out the unattended basket was returned to the registers. Clerks didn't notice the purse until later, but all the contents were accounted for.

**May 26 Sexual battery**

800 block Camino Ricardo

**May 26**

An anonymous letter, perhaps from Carnac the Magnificent, alerted police that a residence on the outskirts of Moraga may be used for illicit purposes in the future. The info was sent, but not by ESP, to the county sheriff's department.

**May 27 Welfare check**

Police responded to a yell-fest between a grandma and 7-year-old child. No crime was committed; it was just a mutual non-admiration society. Take two throat lozenges and call me (quietly) in the morning.

**May 29 Drug**

A suspect arrested on outstanding warrant found in possession of controlled substances. He was booked into jail in Martinez

**May 30 Vandalism**

A Safeway shopper gone for 30 minutes found her car keyed upon return. No leads.

**May 30 Deceased**

An elderly male on Calle La Mesa reported unresponsive and could not be revived. The death was likely from natural causes.

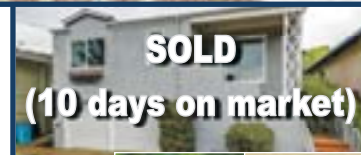
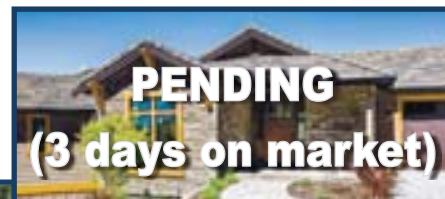
**May 30 Trespass**

A non-student was found on Saint Mary's Campus trying to snitch items from a donation bin. College and town police took matriculating care to teach him not to return or trespassing charges would be filed.

**May 30 Forgery**

Someone checked into another's account. Counterfeiter was being unbalanced.

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## The good life on Kendall Circle in Via Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



New residents at Via Moraga.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Sitting in Via Moraga's community park with a group of residents while a dog frolics on the lawn and children have fun in the nearby play structure, it's hard to believe that the space that looked so tiny on the developer's plans is both perfectly adequate and friendly. It all fits, as the new Moraga residents that have moved in the now sold-out residences testify with contentment.

Four years ago, the process started to develop 17 compact single-family homes on the two acres that used to be a bowling alley. This type of home with almost no yard is a first for Moraga. Senka Maricic-Foster, who was in charge of sales of Via Moraga for the developer, Signature Homes, confirms that the project is fully sold out. Sales started in May 2016, thus it took about a year to sell 17 units priced between \$1.2 and \$1.4 million across from the Rheem Valley Shopping Center and next to 5A-Rent-A-Space.

Signature Homes President Gary Galindo says that this was his first project in Moraga. He adds that with four years and 28 public meetings, this was the most difficult project to get approved in his entire career. He explains that the process took so long that the actors changed, such as the members of the Planning Commission and the new group came with different expectations than what had been previously approved. He remem-

bers conflicting requests from the design review board and the commission, another aspect that made it difficult for the developer. He believes it is because Moraga does so little in matter of development that it has not been able to adopt a more expedited process. Galindo is nonetheless very proud of the outcome. He says that inside the development people forget that it is located along Moraga Road. He believes that Signature Homes has contributed to the beauty of Moraga.

May Lin bought one of the largest floor plans. Her home is bright, modern, very well conceived and functional, with quality appliances and finishes. The great room incorporates the kitchen, dining room and family room. The homeowner, who is a doctor working in San Francisco, loves that she can see her children play or do their homework while she cooks. The plan also works very well for entertaining. The ground floor includes a bath and a bedroom, or office, while the second floor has three bedrooms, a master with large bath and closets and a Jack-and-Jill bathroom for the kids.

Maricic-Foster says that these type of homes, compact single-family dwellings located near transportation and schools, is what many young families in which both parents work want today: an uncomplicated lifestyle with as little maintenance as possible.

George and Merle Silverman chose the home to be close to their children who live in Orinda. They come from Foster City. They did not want an old home that would require work. Merle Silverman had been looking online for proposed development in the three Lamorinda cities and they were one of the first to put money down to have an option on one of the homes. The couple loves the fact that the shopping center is across the street, and so does Lin, who enjoys walking to the store or to the gym.

All the neighbors interviewed note, though, that there has been a few close calls with drivers who do not stop when the crosswalk light flashes, warning that pedestrians want to reach the shopping center side of Moraga Road.

Hubert Ma and Dr. Joanna Cheung were also among the first to buy a home at Via Moraga: she is the owner of the pediatric dentistry that occupies a ground floor office next door at 533 Moraga Road. The couple thought the opportunity was too good to pass. They choose Moraga for the school district and low crime rate. Their young children have made friends in the neighborhood with other kids their age, such as those of Altan Khendup, who moved from Berkeley in a home at Via Moraga along with his wife's brother's family, who occupies the home next to his.

Some of the homeowners are newlywed, others are couples without kids, or young families or empty nesters. Silverman says that the most spoken foreign language is Mandarin, and there are people from Eastern Europe, Malaysia, as well as American-born. Some residents are in the medical field, one teaches at Saint Mary's, some are engineers.

The neighbors quickly got to know each other, and it is as a group that they walked to the study session in April for the renovation of the Rheem Valley Shopping Center. "We would have liked to see more improvements proposed," says Silverman, "but any modernization is welcomed."

The homeowners are part of a homeowners' association that maintains the common area: a front garden that creates a buffer with Moraga Road, and the community back garden.

## Civil discourse at DeSaulnier's Moraga town hall

By Cathy Dausman

Neither sinkhole nor bridge failure, not even the presence of Moraga's mayor and city manager was enough to steer the conversation away from national issues during a May 30 town hall meeting at Saint Mary's College hosted by Congressman Mark DeSaulnier.

The only local question was really a regional one, concerning the state of California's educational system. Although DeSaulnier didn't mince words, as town hall meetings go it was a very civil discourse.

"We really try to be bipartisan in these times," DeSaulnier said, but he calls President Trump "very unusual" and says bluntly "Congress is not working right now."

... continued on page A8

## Local Knowledge... Extraordinary Results

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www.moragacommunityfoundation.org or:  
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Donations designated for the Community Watch Campaign will be used exclusively for the purchase of the Moraga Police Department video camera systems.

Goal: \$60,000



Raised to date: \$20,000

## Moraga Police, with help from San Francisco P.D., arrest Uber driver

By Sophie Braccini

Recently promoted Moraga Detective Kevin Mooney says that San Francisco Police Department's Special Victims Unit was very helpful in the arrest of a 42-year-old Uber driver suspected of sexual battery on a Moraga resident.

The man, identified as Leonid Beker, booked in the county jail in Martinez, was released on bail. Uber removed him from the app.

According to the Moraga police report, on May 26, at approximately 1:03 a.m., Moraga Police Department received a report of a sexual battery that had occurred on Camino Ricardo in Moraga. When officers responded, they discovered that a female victim had taken an Uber ride to Moraga from Oakland. The victim's account of the incident is that when the Uber vehicle reached Moraga, the Uber driver stopped before reaching the destination, got into the backseat of the vehicle with the victim and committed sexual battery.

According to the California penal code, any person who touches an intimate part of another person while that person is unlawfully restrained by the accused or an accomplice, and if the touching is against the will of the person touched and is for the purpose of sexual arousal, sexual gratification, or sexual abuse, is guilty of sexual battery. This crime is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year, and by a fine not exceeding \$2,000, or by imprisonment in the state prison for two, three or four years, and by a fine not exceeding \$10,000. Mooney said that both a misdemeanor and felony charges were made at the district attorney's office.

Several sources of information allowed the MPD to identify the driver as Beker, including a traffic camera installed by the city of Orinda at the border with Moraga, as well as the victim's camera. Mooney says that when the SFPD

heard of the case they immediately understood its serious nature and the officers were very accommodating and helpful. As soon as Beker was located, Mooney drove to San Francisco and arrested him. The detective said that Beker was cooperative. He was taken to the county jail in Martinez — Moraga does not have a jail — where he stayed until a \$50,000 bail was posted and he was released.

Andrew Hasbun, spokesperson for Uber, said that what the rider reported was deeply troubling and that the driver was removed from Uber as soon as the company became aware of the accusation. Hasbun added that Uber was supporting the police investigation and that this driver had had no previous feedback of this nature. The spokesperson also provided the screening policy used by Uber. That company indicates that it has a zero tolerance policy regarding sexual misconduct.

Uber's screening policy in California is mandatory. Beyond driving records that go back seven years, every person who wants to drive with Uber undergoes a national, state and local-level criminal history check that screens a series of national, state, and local databases including the US Department of Justice National Sex Offender Public Website, the PACER database, and several different databases used to identify suspected terrorists. This research is subcontracted to Checkr, a third-party background check provider.

Mooney said that the investigation is continuing and that if other people have information they should contact him at (925) 888-7056. He expects the results to be presented to the district attorney in the near future. The conclusion of the case will take several more months, depending on a number of factors, including the accused's plea.

## The local garden club helps the Moraga urns come back to life

By Sophie Braccini



The new bridge in the proposed Moraga Townsite subdivision was finished and the concrete urns in place on Munster Street when this photo was taken. The Moraga Barn, center back, was also ready for business. One of the urns is now part of the landscaping at the Moraga Public Library.

Photo Moraga Historical Society



From left, Penny Walwark, Carolyn Westoff, Rena Munson and Ute Kelly.

Photo Karin Biasotti

It just took the desire of the Moraga Garden Club, the hard work of city employee Ruben Ochoa and flowers recommended by the Moraga Garden Farm to give back some life to the old and large concrete urns located on Country Club Drive.

These grandiose and a bit out-of-place features are the remnants of early plans for the Moraga Ranch. They were built in 1915 to signal what was supposed to be the entrance of the town. That dream never materialized, but the concrete features remained, a piece of Moraga history many think is worth preserving.

Carolyn Westoff often drives on Country Club Drive and the empty urns shaded by growing trees in the median strip of the road bothered her. One of the original urns was moved to the Moraga library years ago, where the group she belongs to, the Moraga Garden Club, makes sure it is maintained and attractively planted with flowers. Westoff mentioned the abandoned urns to Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram, who said that something could be done only if the watering system of the urns was operational.

The project fell on the lap of lead maintenance worker Ochoa, who says that he enjoys working with the garden club members. He inspected the sturdy structure, found what was wrong with the irrigation system and repaired it with parts available in the town's corporation yard. He then cleaned up the weeds and old roots before adding fresh soil and compost coming from the town's own compost pile. He turned it over to the garden club.

Westoff was the project manager for the urns and she recruited a few friends from the 150 members of the group, Penny Walwark, Rena Munson, Ute Kelly and Karin Biasotti. They choose begonias

for the color effect and for their low maintenance quality, as well as a few grasses. Ochoa says that the dirt is about 24-inches deep and could even accommodate shrubs.

Elsie Mastick, who volunteers at the Moraga Historical Society, has gathered much information about the beginning of the town and the story of the urns. These concrete elements were installed on Country Club drive — called Munster Drive in 1915 — next to the Moraga Barn that was first built as a hotel by the Moraga Company director Robert Noble Burgess. These features were constructed to attract potential land buyers in the valley.

At the time, there was a railroad coming to Moraga through the Oakland hills and going to Antioch. Munster Drive was supposed to become the main street of the community the owners of the Moraga Land Company had in mind for the valley. But the response from the market was poor, followed by the crash of 1929, then by World War II. Later Donald Rheem created a second town center and what was to become a second shopping center.

The urns remained on the now quiet Country Club Drive. These features are part of the history tour every third grader takes in Moraga, along with the former hotel and the Barn that is now owned and occupied by Gaskin Wealth Management. According to Ochoa the urns are here to stay, unless someone moves them, as the construction is very sturdy. The garden club flowers have restored some of the original pride that was invested in them.

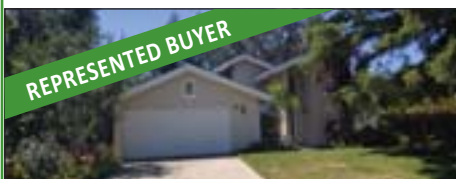
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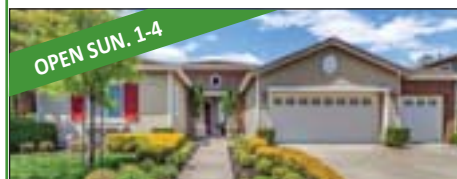


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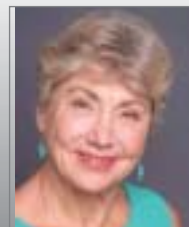


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## Orinda

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Tuesday, June 20, 6 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 27, 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 19, 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 21 to June 3

<b>Alarms</b>	55
<b>Noise complaints</b>	3
<b>911 Calls (includes hang-ups)</b>	9
<b>Traffic stops</b>	45
<b>Suspicious Circumstances</b>	9
<b>Suspicious Subjects</b>	14
<b>Suspicious Vehicles</b>	13
<b>Accident</b>	
Camino Pablo/Brookwood (property) 100 block Crest View Dr.	
Library	
10 block Camino Sobrante	
<b>Animal cruelty</b>	
Reported to Orinda Fire Station	
<b>Barking Dog</b>	
200 block El Toyonal (2)	
<b>Burglary, Auto</b>	
10 block Theatre Square	
<b>Burglary, Residential</b>	
50 block Orchard Rd.	
10 block Casa Vieja	
300 block El Toyonal	
<b>Death, non-criminal</b>	
10 block Snow Ct.	
<b>Disturbance</b>	
Wilder/Rabble Rd	
Safeway (domestic)	
70 block Donald Dr.	
<b>Dispute</b>	
Orinda Theater	
Crest View Dr./Culver Ct.	
10 block Park Lane Dr.	
60 block Claremont Ave.	
<b>DUI</b>	
Oak Hill Rd./Mt Diablo Blvd.	
<b>Fraud</b>	
80 block Coral Dr. (2)	
<b>ID Theft</b>	
20 block Dolores Way	
Reported to police	
20 block Via Hermosa (2)	
10 block Alice Place	
<b>Loitering</b>	
90 block Davis Rd.	
<b>Medical</b>	
20 block Irwin Way	
Miner/Honey Hill Rd.	
100 block Stein Way	
<b>Panhandling</b>	
Bevmo	
Safeway	
<b>Possession stolen property</b>	
Starbucks	
<b>Public Nuisance</b>	
20 block Ardor Dr.	
Camino Pablo/BART	
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	
Orinda Intermediate School	
Camino Pablo/Claremont Ave.	
Moraga Way/El Corte	
San Pablo Dam Rd/Bear Creek	
Camino Pablo/Claremont Ave.	
Moraga Wy/El Camino Moraga	
<b>Shoplift</b>	
CVS	
20 block Orinda Way	
<b>Strongarm robbery</b>	
Camino Encinas/Moraga Way	
<b>Theft, Grand</b>	
Theatre Square	
<b>Theft, Petty</b>	
40 block Candle Terrace	
<b>Theft, Vehicle</b>	
Starbucks	

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## Bella Oaks: Orangetheory Fitness but no Chase Bank

By Sora O'Doherty



Bella Oaks site at 25A Orinda Way.

Orinda City Council members clearly grappled with their dreams of what Orinda might become as they agreed to a waiver allowing Orangetheory Fitness, an interval training, heartbeat-based fitness center, to anchor a corner of the proposed development at 25A Orinda Way to be known as Bella Oaks.

Developer Paul Ugenti needed the waiver because the gym is not a Category A use — not strictly falling within the category that includes restaurants and retail businesses that were originally planned for the development.

And despite the concern expressed by Mayor Eve Phillips, the rest of the council could not see their way clear to also approve a waiver for Chase Bank to occupy the other street front corner of the development.

Ugenti told the council that he has been trying for a year to pin down tenants for Bella Oaks, and is in talks with businesses such as Coffee Shop and Urban Remedy in Lafayette, and The Gastropig in Oakland, but cannot get them to agree to open in Orinda without the presence of the anchor tenants, Orangetheory and Chase Bank. With both Orangetheory and Chase,

Ugenti said, he would have leasing commitments equal to 90 percent of the building. After the waiver for Chase was denied, Ugenti said, “Despite this setback we will continue to work on our leasing agent in an attempt to replace Chase Bank as our anchor tenant. If we are unable to do so the future of the project is uncertain and our path unclear.”

There were several concerns with the two waiver requests expressed by both council members and members of the public. Loyal patrons of the neighboring In Forma Fitness, which occupies 23A Orinda Way, urged the city council not to allow Orangetheory to open right next door, fearing that the competition would put owner Andrea Columbu out of business. Columbu, owner since 1995, clearly inspires loyalty and affection in the patrons of his establishment, but other speakers urged the council to allow Orangetheory. Those speakers want something different and said that there is room for both gyms, which cater to quite different users.

The second waiver request presented an even greater challenge to the council, particularly because banks are not open evenings and



Orangetheory Fitness in Walnut Creek.

Photos Sora O'Doherty

Sundays, which, they felt, would not contribute to the vibrancy they seek for downtown Orinda. In the staff report and further comments, Orinda appears to suggest that Chase has expressed a “preference” for a ground floor location, which Ugenti believes is a misunderstanding of Chase’s position. Ugenti states that Chase does not want a second-floor location, an extremely rare location for banks. Chase Market Director of Real Estate Ronald J. Chester, urged the council to consider the fact that some 3,500 Chase customers from Orinda go to other Chase branches each month. Chester was clear that this figure represents Orindans who actually walk into a bank, not automatic teller machine users. Ugenti and Chester suggest that when a customer goes into a bank, they are more likely to combine that trip with other errands, such as getting dry cleaning done, or having coffee or lunch. Thus, they argue, even though the city does not derive sales tax from a bank, the presence of the bank should have a positive effect on city revenues.

The site of Bella Oaks was once a gas station, and has been vacant for decades. In 2014 Chase Bank applied for permission to build

and occupy a two story building, but later withdrew the application. After Bella Oaks was approved by the Planning Commission, they denied permission for the bank to be located on the ground floor, but suggested that it might go in on the second floor, adjacent to the parking lot, and approved spaces for two ATMs on the ground floor.

Council member Darlene Gee noted that she was very conflicted, but could not approve the bank waiver, and Vice Mayor Amy Worth agreed with council members Gee and Dean Orr.

Phillips said, “Chase may not be the most exciting tenant, but we have 3,500 users.” She said she was very concerned about the future of the project and wondered if this was the council’s last chance to make it more than an empty lot. If the project fails, she added, she thinks the people of Orinda are going to be really frustrated with the council.

Council member Orr was un-receptive to suggestions that the street front footage could be reduced, but left a small opening for the applicant to return with a plan for a first floor bank that was internal and did not front the street.

## School bus plan on hold, but routes still may be cut

By Sora O'Doherty

The Lamorinda School Bus Transportation Agency Board backed off its plan to immediately cancel the El Toyonal bus route and eliminate stops on some other Orinda school bus routes, but it appears to be a dim hope that the busses might operate the routes for the next school year.

At a meeting jam packed with upset parents and bus supporters, the LSBTA decided that more research was required, and tabled the matter until its next meeting

on July 13 — a date that upset many parents even more because it will cause their children to miss the Stingray Ball at Orinda Park Pool that same evening.

To make matters even worse, on June 5 there was another accident involving a school bus on El Toyonal. No children were present and little damage was sustained when a white pick-up truck sideswiped a school bus and failed to stop.

A steady stream of parents and children addressed the LSBTA board on June 8. Although Board President Don Tatzin urged the audience to withhold applause lest they discourage any speakers from voicing a contrary opinion, the applause was frequent and enthusiastic and all speakers seemed to be unanimous in their

opposition to the proposed route changes, especially the elimination of route 18, which serves El Toyonal, although other routes were also represented.

The parents begged the board to delay a decision on the bus routes until the end of the next school year, to allow for further research, but the board members expressed grave doubt that they could continue to allow the routes to be operated that have been deemed dangerous. The parents were also dismayed that the next meeting will occur when many affected families will be on their summer vacations.

The board and parents also heard from Orinda Director of Public Works Larry Theis, who explained some of the realities of dealing with Orinda’s narrow,

twisting roads. Theis talked about such issues as the possibility of removing double yellow road striping, and replacing it with another form of striping. He also addressed the issue of improvement to the roadway to increase the available width. As a capital improvement project such work would probably require a year to accomplish, from planning and city council approval through actual modifications of the roads.

One of the issues that was raised by the parents was that the striping was uneven on the section of El Toyonal involved in a 2014 bus accident: the lanes were unevenly divided so that the lane the bus was traveling in was only seven-and-a-half feet wide, while the other lane was over 11 feet wide. ... continued on next page

#### Traffic Collision

40 block Manzanita Safeway

#### Trespass

Orinda Country Club  
20 block Heather Ln.

#### Unauthorized possession

10 block Theatre Square

#### Unwanted guest

10 Crest View Dr.

#### Warrant Service/Arrest/Advise

Safeway

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### Fete your three-fourths of a century

Orinda's Three Quarters of a Century Lunch will take place on June 21 at the Orinda Community Church. The theme will be the Summer of Love with speaker Dennis Erokan, who used to be involved with the BAMMY awards. The Three Quarter Century lunch is an annual event for all Orinda residents aged 75 years and up. To arrange to attend the lunch, contact John Fazel at (925) 324-2017 or by email at runmnts@prodigy.net.

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### School bus plan on hold

... continued from page A6

Theis agreed that stripe placement is discretionary, and it was suggested that the placement of stripes should always be such as to accommodate school busses where possible. The public works director also indicated that he would need to hire a special consultant to quickly accumulate the data on the road conditions of the bus routes.

Many of the concerned parents said they had knowledge in relevant fields such as engineering, and expressed very specific concerns about the methodology of the safety study commissioned by LSBTA and conducted by School Bus Consultants. There was also a great deal of dismay that the report contained what the parents regarded as misstatements of the applicable law. The parents have been quickly conducting their own research, coming up with alternative busses that are narrower than the ones currently used by First Student. The alternative busses presented cost around either \$55,000 or \$62,000 each. The parents were ready and willing to pitch in and help with anything that will keep the bus routes operational.

Many parents and children expressed horror at the idea of children walking on the dangerous road. While Patrick D. Kneib, the School Bus Consultants' project manager said that they had never suggested that the children walk, at least two children addressed

the board saying that their mother would make them walk.

Other parents noted that the lack of a school bus will drastically reduce home prices along route 18.

There was also a great deal of dissatisfaction with the process of noticing the proposed school bus changes and the meetings, with many in attendance saying that they only happened to hear about the meeting, but would make sure to bring all their neighbors to any future meetings.

Board member and Orinda Vice Mayor Amy Worth summed up the actions required now: 1) thoroughly examine the actual bus corridors to fine tune the report as to the exact location of road deficiencies; 2) look into the possibility of operating narrower busses on these routes; and 3) determining the conditions under which the contractor, First Student, will agree to provide service for the contested routes.

Late in the evening, after many of the parents had left, the board voted unanimously to authorize another \$5,000 for School Bus Consultants to do further work on the study. Kneib assured the board that the additional money would not be used to correct any errors in the report but that that would be covered by the original amount of \$70,000 that the board had allocated for the report.

### Sinkhole repair almost done



The Miner Road sinkhole repair is nearly complete. EBMUD was able to re-install their high pressure water line within one day to put it back into service supplying water to most of Northeast Orinda. PG&E rewrapped their gas mainline for maintenance coating. The temporary steel beam support has now been removed and the sewer lines and waterline are fully operational.

Bay Cities is installing the high-flow pipes above the box culvert and the entire area above the retaining walls will be completely backfilled under the proposed concrete slab and vehicle barrier that will be formed. The overall project is still on schedule to be completed in early to mid-July, according to the city.

— Sora O'Doherty

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**649 MINER RD | ORINDA**  
**\$1,575,000**  
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 Finola Fellner | CalBRE#01428834



**264 DRAEGER DRIVE | MORAGA**  
**\$1,525,000**  
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 The Holcenberg Team | CalBRE#01373412



**5 FLEETWOOD COURT | ORINDA**  
**\$1,375,000**  
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 Frank Woodward | CalBRE#01335916



**1849 RELIEZ VALLEY RD | LAFAYETTE**  
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**3361 BETTY LANE | LAFAYETTE**  
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 Robert Brown | CalBRE#01946857



**1194 MORAGA ROAD | MORAGA**  
**\$1,075,000**  
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 Susan Schlicher | CalBRE#01395579

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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, July 11, 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 replaces its outside auditor. Again.

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District hired its third auditor in four years in May when it agreed to terms with Vavrinek, Trine, Day and Company, a national accounting and consulting firm. The district did not renew its contract with JJACPA Inc. after a three-year run.

Section 26909 of the California Government Code requires that special districts provide a regular audit of their financial records. A district ad hoc committee comprising directors Steve Anderson and John Jex, a retired auditor, interviewed auditing firms and recommended that the board award Vavrinek, Trine, Day and Company a three-year contract through June 30, 2019 worth \$52,000, over \$20,000 more than the district paid for the same services with JJACPA.

"We've become more sophisticated, and for what we were asking of an auditor, we think this is a reasonable price to pay," said Anderson. "And we've been pretty tough on our auditors."

The district fired its auditing firm, Cropper Accountancy Corp., in 2013 after the company failed to recognize \$2 million that should have been allocated to a special district fund. JJACPA signed off on 2015 and 2016 district financial reports that included a \$23 million incorrectly recorded prepaid item.

Since 2014, the district has produced not only annual financial records but a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, a much more detailed analysis of district financial operations.

### New job for Hoover

Former Moraga-Orinda Fire District Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover was appointed superintendent of the U.S. National Fire Academy in May. She becomes the first woman to lead the academy. "I feel so honored to serve our nation's fire service within my new role," Hoover said. "I also want to thank the citizens of MOFD and the members of the fire district for allowing me to serve them as the fire marshal and take those lessons throughout the rest of my career." Hoover worked at MOFD from 1998 until 2007 and later served as state fire marshal.



Tonya Hoover in 2014  
Lamo archive

## MOFD to purchase four power gurneys for its ambulances

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District board accepted an Assistance to Firefighters Grant award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that will allow the district to outfit four of its ambulances with self-loading gurneys.

"The self-loading gurneys are better for the patient, and they are better for the firefighters, too," said Fire Chief Stephen Healy. "Firefighters won't blow out their backs lifting so much weight from the ground."

The gurneys operate using a battery-powered hydraulic system which supports a cot on which the patient lies, and with the push of a button, the patient is loaded into or unloaded from the ambulance.

At more than \$47,000 a piece, power gurneys had been cost-prohibitive for the district, but combined with nearly \$160,000 from the AFG award, the district will apply \$30,000 it had budgeted for two traditional gurneys to cover the total cost of the four state-of-the-art models. Battalion Chief Jerry Lee, who authored the grant proposal, said that two of the gurneys will be placed into the two new district ambulances and two into the ambulances at Station 41 and Station 44.

"Gurneys are probably the most used item in the fire district," Lee

said. "Essentially every medical call requires the use of a gurney."

Since he was named battalion chief in 2012, Lee has procured \$2.9 million in grant funding for the district, highlighted by a \$1.1 million FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant in 2013 which covered the salaries and benefits of four firefighters for two years.

MOFD had not fared well in securing grant money prior to Lee's promotion. "Maybe it was a perception that the district was pretty

well funded," Lee said. And maybe it was also because Lee sought out the award money from federal and regional agencies, and put in the work to obtain the funding.

Grant applications typically take Lee 20 hours to fill out. The application to FEMA for the self-loading gurneys ran 26 pages and did not contain simply a succession of yes-no and multiple choice questions. Lee had to provide detailed narratives about the structure of the fire district, its finances, the community it serves and why it

was applying for the grant in the first place. He submitted the completed application in November and FEMA notified MOFD of the award on May 19.

The Stryker power gurney pictured is an example of the equipment the district looks to purchase. With the district board — minus an absent John Jex — having unanimously accepted the FEMA award money June 7, Lee will begin the competitive bidding process, with gurney delivery expected in the 2017-18 fiscal year.

## MOFD fears a fierce fire season

By Nick Marnell



The Moraga-Orinda Fire District responded to a four-alarm vegetation fire June 5 that charred over 20 acres in Orinda along westbound Highway 24. It was the first event of what fire officials fear is shaping up to be a very rough fire season, and prompted these words from Fire Chief Stephen Healy.

"With the heavy rains this past winter, the larger fuels have higher moisture contents, which is good because the chances of a conflagration from a fuel-fed fire are diminished. However, these same rains, particularly those late in the season, have contributed to an annual grass crop that is thick and tall. This is why we ask our citizens to remove dead fuel, including grass, brush and trees. Remember only to mow weeds during morning hours, when fuel moistures are higher and the winds are typically lighter. For more information about vegetation management and other community risk-reduction measures, check our website: [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)"

Photo courtesy MOFD

## Canyon challenges Moraga

... continued from page A1

Moraga was fast to answer to Canyon's declaration of emergency, even using the Nixle emergency channel to broadcast its response. Priebe characterized Canyon's allegations that the bridge had not been properly assessed as "gross misrepresentation of the facts." He explained that the town decided to close the bridge following expert advice that indicated that the structure was unsafe for public use. The manager added that the town declared its local emergency pursuant to the correct government code, referencing the California Emergency Services Act.

The Canyon School Board's president said that if the bridge is not safe, a Pioneer Bridge should be installed. The Canyon school board asked for an estimate of a 150-foot, two lane steel bridge and received a quote for \$250,000. Smith adds that if the hill is unstable, then the town should already have started to build a retaining wall.

At previous Moraga town council meetings the town engineer and public work director made a de-

tailed description of the work that needed to be done before a temporary bridge be set in place. The hill that failed continues to move and a complete understanding of the depth and span of the instabilities needs to be completed before remediation takes place, otherwise whatever is built now to contain the hill might fail again. Only then will remediation have a chance to last, and a temporary solution can be put in place.

At the beginning of June the town was notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency denied the Town's Public Assistance request because the Emergency Relief program administered

by the Federal Highway Administration is the lead federal agency for bridges and roadways emergency projects. The Town will focus on working with FHWA for ER program grant funding.

At the June 14 council meeting, which starts at 7 p.m., Kwan will present six alternatives and the council will decide on a course of action. The solutions range from doing nothing to constructing a permanent new bridge. Several alternatives of temporary bridges will be proposed. The meeting is open to the public at 335 Rheem Blvd. and can also be seen online at <https://livestream.com/moraga>.

### Sinkhole bid to be awarded

The town received four bids to repair the sinkhole at Rheem Boulevard and Center Street, ranging between \$1.3 and \$2 million. At this week's city council meeting, the contract should be awarded to the lowest bidder, McGuire and Hester, if the council finds them responsive and responsible. If the council follows staff recommendation work should start in July for 77 consecutive workdays. The Rheem Boulevard and Center Street intersection will be completely closed off to motorists during construction.

## DeSaulnier's Moraga town hall

... continued from page A4

DeSaulnier drew applause explaining why he chose not to attend the presidential inauguration. The sympathetic audience applauded again hearing their Congressman's stance against defense spending. (DeSaulnier says the Department of Defense has wasted \$125 billion dollars in spending.) He called the administration's new medical aid bill, passed by the U.S. House of Representatives

May 4, "one of the worst pieces of legislation I've ever seen."

With his own preexisting medical condition related to a blood cancer diagnosis, DeSaulnier himself has reason to be concerned about what changes Trumpcare might bring. "You can't change (health care) in one year," he said, but he expects to see bipartisan support to prevent benefit cutbacks to low-

and middle-income wage-earners. Civility and passion should coexist even in disagreement, DeSaulnier said, but he admits getting information with civility today is "a real challenge." His Moraga-based audience of 200 might beg to differ. DeSaulnier's town hall presentation is available online at <https://desaulnier.house.gov/newsroom/power-point-presentations>

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# Letters to the Editor

## Scouts earns Merit Badge

Dear Editor,  
I'm writing a report on the Lamorinda newspaper for my Boy Scouts Merit Badge. I'm supposed to say a thing I enjoy about the paper. I think it was a great idea to have the winning team of soccer or basketball in the newspaper. It is very fun to see your name and picture in the paper and show your family.

Chandler Peatross

Dear Editor,  
For a Boy Scout requirement I am supposed to write to you and express my opinion or share information with you. I would like to first express my opinion. I love all the work you guys do over there. I sometimes go out and grab the newspaper at my house and I always like looking at the front page. I would like to share information with you but I don't currently have anything very important. When I do get some information I'll make sure you're the first to hear.

Charlie Peacock

## What about other large vehicles on El Toyonal?

Dear Editor,  
Why now? I've been here 40 years. They use small busses on upper El Toyonal. What about garbage trucks, or UPS trucks? What about fire trucks?

Our city needs to seek an exemption or we withhold tax money. For Uber or Lyft.

Caroline Smith  
Orinda

## Support local climate change efforts

Dear Editor,  
Climate change is a "tragedy of the (unregulated) commons."

Cattle herders in England in the early 1800s shared a "commons" on which they were each entitled to let their cows graze, as was the custom in English villages. Each individual herder had an incentive to add more cattle, because they would receive additional benefits from each additional animal, but the whole group would suffer if too many cattle were added and overgrazing destroyed the commons. Only a rule-making authority that encompassed the entire commons could protect it.

The Paris climate agreement is just such a rule-making authority that can limit destruction of our common atmosphere and climate. President Trump's decision to withdraw is as narrow-minded and

foolish as the cattle herders on the English commons.

We the people can make up for president Trump's failure by supporting local actions such as state carbon tax legislation, SB 775, and choosing community choice energy providers for our counties and cities.

Jim Ulrick  
Orinda

## Onoda is out of touch with poet laureate

Dear Editor,  
I hope I'm not the only one to see the ludicrous positioning of two news stories about Moraga government on page 4 of the 5/31/ edition. First, Moraga's budget "scraping the bottom of the barrel" and right next to it Moraga's "Mayor Onoda wants to appoint Moraga's own poet laureate."

The town is in dire shape financially which demands the full attention of our elected officials and, it won't get a lot better soon. BUT the person who is 'Mayor' is concerned that SHE wants our own town poet, and that this is "an important 'personal' project of hers."

We are told it would not be a paid position but that the person would be given an office at the Hacienda at no charge so that they would write - as though that makes it OK.

The town still has to pay for the overhead on that office, to clean it, maintain it, light it, heat it, cool it, and to say nothing of insuring it as part of the building. None of that is FREE.

It was suggested that Moraga join Orinda and Lafayette in such a project but according to the paper, the "mayor would not hear of it" - really? On top of that, she wants to the authority to make the appointment WITHOUT A VOTE OF THE COUNCIL.

When I was a kid we had a snarky comeback for situations like this: "Who died and made you king?"

Mayor Onoda does not understand her role as mayor. She is supposed to represent all the people of the town and she is not to use her position to further her personal projects.

Shame on the council if it approves this proposal. And Mayor Onoda should resign her position so she can pursue her own 'personal projects' on her own time and dime.

Barbara Simpson  
Moraga

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

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# Steve Benjamins, the man who works slowly

By Sophie Braccini



Steve Benjamins starts playing the 1896 Chickering & Sons he has been restoring to its former splendor. Photo Sophie Braccini

Steve Benjamins lives on another planet, one where timelessness and quality reign. In our world where impermanence is everywhere, he talks about musical instruments made to last centuries.

His calling is to restore the instruments and give them back the majestic sound they were built to produce. In his Golden Gate Way atelier he is now working on a 1896 Chickering & Sons, from the first American piano manufacturer, giving it back concert quality sound and enjoying himself immensely in that process.

Benjamins says that one thing he loves about his job is that people pay him to work slowly. He never takes more than one or two instruments a year and has built such a reputation now that the waitlist is long. He can even refuse to work on instruments too recent that he does not feel are worth a restoration. Benjamins also tunes pianos and plays professionally.

"After the Great Depression, people started to take shortcuts and use cheaper material to make the pianos," says Benjamins. He gives the example of a 1970 German harpsichord that looked like a beautifully made instrument. The artisan explains that in the middle of the harpsichord, two pieces of pressed wood had been used under the rose wood veneer, maybe to save a few Deutschmarks, but

when Benjamins started to tune it and put it to tension like he does for well-made instruments, these pieces would not stand the tension and broke, completely destroying the instrument. "It had to be trashed," he adds sadly.

But nothing of the sort happened with the Chickering he is restoring now. He says that the Hillborough client had bought a large mansion and needed a piano to go with it. Friends of friends owned the old American instrument, a family heirloom, but had no use for it anymore. The client bought it for \$2,500. The restoration will cost them \$20,000, but then the value of the antique piano will jump to more than \$100,000.

What is special about this Boston manufacturer is that he was the first in the world to use iron bars to increase the tension in the piano and thus creating a more profound base that gives each piano its personality.

"When this happened, pianos were finally able to produce the big sound that some composers, like Mendelssohn, needed," says Benjamins as he brings back to magnificence a piece of history.

Benjamins starts playing the instrument that's now in the final tuning stage. The sound is stunning, full and sonorous, ready to become the medium for the most intense musical emotions. The piano re-

stor and tuner is also a player and already imagines playing the restored Chickering in the large hall it was purchased to adorn. People sometimes hire him to play at parties.

Moving through his warehouse, Benjamins points to the old pianos he has purchased to rescue them. He says that today's piano are made to last 80 years, and then go. What made the big difference for the old instruments was the quality of the woods, metal and other material that were used to construct them.

"This wood was probably cut down in the 1850s," says Benjamins, pointing to the frame of a 1893 Steinway Baby Grand he is also restoring. "At the time the wood was cured in open air for some 50 years. This wood now is as hard as a nail and it was cut so thick, two inches of American oak, that we can clean it up with a chisel and return it vibrancy." Once cleaned the wood will be given a coat of West Marin Epoxy to reseal it. Benjamins says that the wood used now comes from trees that were not given enough time to grow and then to dry. He adds that the first Stradivariuses were made out of very old German trees that simply do not exist anymore.

Benjamins pays also great attention to the bent sideboard that, when made right, with spruce, will make the piano sing and give it its personality.

Benjamins' client said he could keep the instrument for a few more months to tune to perfection the new set of cords. He will continue this work of love for a few more weeks. Benjamins also will come to people's home to tune their piano, even if they don't own an exceptional instrument. "It should be done every three years," he says.

Scott Hildula recently produced a documentary about Benjamins that was featured in the Lamorinda Arts Council's documentary competition. It can be viewed online at <https://youtu.be/271m8zoqQW8>. More about Benjamins at <http://www.restorationpiano.com>.

# Ill-advised drivers still using Pinehurst Road as an alternate route though Canyon

By Nick Marnell



Not a very good idea.

Courtesy Jamie Barret Riley

Ramifications of the Canyon Road bridge outage in Moraga continue to haunt Canyon residents.

On the evening of the Canyon Elementary School Science Fair, a big rig driver lugging an auto carrier detoured onto Redwood Road and Pinehurst Road to avoid congestion on Highway 13 northbound. Predictably, he jackknifed his vehicle on the first major hairpin turn after he passed through Canyon, closing Pinehurst to traffic in both directions. Because the Canyon Road Bridge in Moraga closed in April, the accident shut down one of the only available town access roads for three hours.

According to Gloria Faircloth, Canyon School superintendent, many of the families could not make the May 25 fair, and town residents worried for their safety, fearing that an emergency might occur while the road remained blocked.

The truck driver told Canyon resident Sally Hogarty, who was stuck in the traffic jam, that he used a GPS app that directed him to use Pinehurst to bypass the heavy Highway 13 traffic.

"If you look at a map, it looks like a good way to go," said Mor-

agatop Pinehurst near Skyline. And Art Carrea of the Alameda County Public Works Department said that his department will put up a warning sign at the Pinehurst-Redwood Road intersection to discourage truckers from driving on Pinehurst.

But there is a catch to the preventive measures. According to Officer Brandon Correa of the California Highway Patrol, ignoring a warning sign or an informational sign does not provide grounds for a traffic ticket. And despite the ruckus the truck driver caused, "Unless an officer observes a violation, we cannot issue a citation," Correa said.

Sgt. Ray Kelly of the Alameda Sheriff's Office said that it is up to the county supervisors, law enforcement, traffic engineers and community leaders to sit down and talk about the impact and the dangers of a truck going through Canyon. "Our job is to keep the roadways safe for vehicles and pedestrians. If we put up signs here, there will be problems over there; if you do A, then B will happen. What if someone hires a mover? What do they do then?" Kelly said.

Pinehurst Road problems are not caused only by truck drivers; slides and fallen trees have also shut down the road this winter and spring. Citing the longer response times for fire, medical and security emergencies, exacerbated by the road closures since the bridge outage, the Canyon School District board declared a local state of emergency May 25, requesting the state to take action to "restore travel across the Canyon Road bridge quickly."

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## An unforgettable Father's Day gift

... continued from page A1



Sarah and Adeline Phillips Photo Cathy Dausman

Sarah Phillips' due date wasn't for three weeks, so despite experiencing what she thought was false labor earlier that day, she and her mother shopped for baby clothing in Livermore. She expected to work the next day at her teaching job at Dublin's Kolb Elementary School. She was to accompany her third-grade class on a San Francisco field trip, but Mother Nature had other plans.

After putting her 2-year-old daughter to bed Phillips began having more contractions. Her doula,

reached by phone, suggested she might be dehydrated. Phillips chose coconut water to drink. "I chugged six," she said, adding she hasn't touched the beverage since. Then she took a bubble bath. Husband and wife tried to watch TV, but neither could concentrate. As she paced the house experiencing 30 second contractions every two minutes Phillip's thought was: "If this is false labor, how can I bear the real thing?"

They called her parents in to babysit daughter Nora and Phillips began to pack for the hospital. Suddenly everything changed, and Phillips knew they'd never make it. When her husband called 911, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District dispatcher Kelley Matulich answered. Fortunately for the Phillips family, Matulich had talked three or four other 911 callers through the home birth process over the past several months. No time to panic, no time even for pillows or blankets; Matt Phillips helped his wife and mother-to-be to the kitchen floor while Matulich talked him through the process. After only two pushes dark-haired, five-pound, seven-ounce Adeline arrived.

Con Fire Engine 15 and its crew arrived moments later, alongside Sarah's parents; the crew helped Matt cut the umbilical cord and the trio — mother, father and newborn baby — rode to Walnut Creek's Kaiser Permanente hospital. "It was strange going into Labor and Delivery with a baby already," Sarah says.

Contra Costa Public Health officer Jami Daviner says the county has registered 4,505 hospital births and 33 out-of-hospital births in 2017; of those four home births two were in Lafayette and one was in Moraga. Orinda had no home births for the same time period.

"We were blessed and fortunate," Sarah Phillips says, noting in the event of childbirth "the body really does what it's designed to do." Even big sister Nora did the right thing that night — she slept through the entire blessed event!

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# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## PAWS de Tutu: A fun PAWrade and ComPAWtition on four legs

By Diane Claytor



There's no place like Paws de Tutu for this group of 2016 participants.

Photos Diablo Ballet

A beautiful Saturday morning at the Lafayette Reservoir; dogs in costumes walking the red carpet as they approach the stage, proudly PAWrading across it, PAWsing for the cheers – and laughter — from the audience and, then, of course, waiting for the best part: their doggie treat for a job well done. This is what both two-legged and four-legged participants and onlookers will have the opportunity to enjoy when Diablo Ballet hosts its second annual PAWS de Tutu from 9 a.m. to noon on June 24 from 9 a.m.

Last year's event attracted dozens of costumed dogs, dressed in outfits both simple and intricate. Kerry Silverstone, former Diablo Ballet board member and event chair both years, encourages attendees to think "outside the box" when creating costumes. And last year, many did just that. There were dogs dressed as ballet dancers, cowboys, aviators and campaigning politicians. One even arrived riding atop a pony.

The winning entrant was Peggy Bradley, dressed as the Wizard of Oz's Dorothy, along with her dogs, costumed, of course, as the cowardly lion, scarecrow and tin man, as well as sidekicks Glenda, the good witch and the "Lollypup" kids. Silverstone knows what Bradley is planning for this year's PAWrade and promises that it will wow the audience.

This year there will be two categories for the costume compAW-

tion: one for best individual costume and one for best group (two or more dogs) costume. A third compAWtition has also been added: dog tricks. Winners in each of the three categories will be awarded great prizes, including gift baskets provided by Pet Food Express, a WHISTLE GPS dog tracker and gift cards from a variety of local retail outlets.

Judging the compAWtition will be Pam Kessler, editor of Walnut Creek Magazine, Rosie Allen, former KGO news broadcaster, Amanda Kuiper, wife of Glen Kuiper, TV broadcaster for the Oakland A's, and Renee DeWeese, co-founder-co-artistic director of the Lamorinda Theatre Academy. Radio personality and self-proclaimed dog lover Charly Kayle, most recently with KOIT radio, will be the guest emcee while Brian Fitzsimmons of 21st Century Sounds will serve as the DJ, playing his custom "Walk the Red Carpet" music for all the PAWticipants.

K-9 units from both the Concord and Oakland police departments will be on hand, demonstrating what they can do, how they are trained and how they protect our communities. ARF and Rocket Dog Rescue will be there with dogs available for on-the-spot adoptions. And then, ensuring that none of the furry friends are stressed, as well as giving a whole new meaning to "downward dog", there will be DOGA (Dog Yoga), led by interna-

tionally known fitness guru, Molly Fox.

Snacks and coffee, provided by Don Francisco's, will be available for the humans while doggie treats will be available for their pets. Following the compAWtitions, a Pup PAWrade around the scenic Lafayette Reservoir will offer exercise for all.

While it may seem that this particular Saturday morning will go to the dogs, it will also benefit Diablo Ballet's PEEK (Performing Arts Education and Enrichment for Kids) Outreach Program, the only arts education program of its kind offered by a local professional dance company. PEEK provides in-school movement curriculum and free dance performances for students and families in underserved areas, most of whom would never be exposed to the arts in any other way. In 2015, Diablo Ballet expanded the program to provide creative movement classes to teenagers incarcerated within the Contra Costa County juvenile justice system. All proceeds from PAWS de Tutu go to fund these incredible programs, which have reached more than 65,000 underserved children in the past two decades.

Lauren Jonas, co-founder and artistic director of Diablo Ballet,

is so grateful for all the PAWticipation. "I love the creativity that dogs and their owners showcase," she said. "I am so very appreciative of the support that PAWS de Tutu provides. Our underserved youth get so much from our PEEK program and this is the perfect vehicle to support it."

No dog? No problem. Come watch, laugh and have fun while helping to support PEEK. Admission is only \$5 per person; to enter any (or all) of the compAWtitions, it's \$20 per adult and \$10 for those under 17. To register, go to [diablo-ballet.org/events/](http://diablo-ballet.org/events/).

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## Lafayette author Gini Graham Scott shares secrets of self-publishing

By Kara Navolio



At left, self-publishing author Gini Graham Scott.

Photo provided

Have a story to tell? Want to write a book to help promote your business? Publishing your book is easier than it ever has been. Lafayette author Gini Graham Scott will share her expertise on how to self-publish your book at a talk in Lafayette on July 15.

There were over 1 million self-published books in 2016. The fast-growing phenomenon has created opportunities for writers, but also for companies who are looking to take advantage of would-be independent publishers with high fees for services such as editing and printing. These so-called "Vanity Presses" often charge thousands of dollars to get a book out.

"Of the 1 million self-published books last year, 462,000 were done on Amazon's CreateSpace," notes Scott, "which is a free platform. Self-publishing does not have to

be expensive or take a long time." Scott, author of over 150 books spanning over 30-plus years, published "Self-Publishing Secrets" in May. It outlines the myths about publishing and 10 easy steps to do it yourself at very little cost and within a few weeks of having a completed manuscript.

"Self-publishing has really taken off over the past five-10 years," notes Scott. "The publishing industry has undergone major changes with the market for eBooks and audio books rises. The Great Recession of 2008 also had a big impact on the traditional publishing houses. It's harder to get traditionally published now."

In the early days of her career that was the only option, and she enjoyed success with many of her titles. "Collect Your Court Judg-

ment" sold over 40,000 and has been reprinted under new editions many times. (The newer editions have been rewritten by another author). Scott, who has a Ph. D. from U.C. Berkeley in Sociology and a J.D. from University of San Francisco, uses both traditional and self-publishing, depending on the book.

At her talk on July 15, which is hosted by Women of Influence's Academy, she will discuss the myths of publishing, writing a book to promote your business, ghostwriting, and self-publishing and marketing your book.

Scott has many projects going at all times. This year alone she has published 20 books. While most of her work is non-fiction, she has also written some fiction, film scripts, and children's books. In March, a book she co-wrote with a doctor who specialized in end-of-life care, "At Death's Door," was published traditionally by Rowman Publishing. The book has been turned into a pilot for a TV series based on the doctor's experience in dealing with terminal patients.

To attend Scott's talk on self-publishing, contact her at giniscot@pacbell.net or 925-385-0608 for an invitation to attend Women of Influence as her guest. On July 11 and 18 she will also be leading Meet-up groups to share her ideas on writing and publishing a book as well as marketing and promoting it.

## SMC's MFA dance program presents the first ever 'Process Dance Festival'

Submitted by Michael Lupacchino



Photo Jen Philips photography

Launched in 2014, Saint Mary's College of California MFA in Dance program offers dancers, choreographers, and designers the chance to further their studies and prepare for employment in professional dance organizations and higher education. The second graduating cohort, known as Cohort 2, announces the culmination of its two years of study with the "Process Dance Festival." Taking place at Saint Mary's College on June 17 and 18, the festival is two full days of dance, art and creative expression.

Festival attendees will enjoy multiple performances during the day in the LeFevre Theatre and across the way at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art. Food trucks will be on-site both days for refreshments and the quad in front of the theater will host craft and arts vendors, community dance classes, and other activities. Ticket options include an all-day pass for all 12 performances as well as a two-day pass for the entire weekend. Additional options and pricing information are available online at smarys-ca.edu/process-dance-festival. Following the performances on Saturday (June 17), there will be a reception open to the public at the

Brother Cornelius Art Center Interior Patio starting at 8:15 p.m.

Cohort 2 is one of the most diverse cohorts in the brief history of the MFA in Dance program. With an age range spanning four decades, students come from multiple states and multiple countries. Choreographers include Cassie Kosin Liu Begley (Pleasanton), Byb Chanel Bibene (Brazzaville, Republic of Congo), Danielle Ferguson (Dayton, Ohio), Joy Thiesen (Fresno), Kaveri Seth (New Delhi, India), Kelsey Bergstrom Young (San Francisco), Kevin Paul Hockenberry (Lubbock, Texas), Michael Lupacchino (East Hartford, Connecticut), Raúl Galván (Edinburg, Texas), Sarah Billings Wheeler (New York, New York), Stephanie Emmanuela Engel (Santa Cruz), and Zaquia Mahler Salinas (San Diego). The weekend of new works reflects an eclectic variety of artistic expression inspired by a wide range of personal histories and cultural experiences.

The "Process Dance Festival" features works that are the culmination of two years of scholarship and personal choreographic explorations. Tight-knit Cohort 2 presents a weekend of dynamic and unique works with the common

theme of shared human experience. Bibene and Engel explore the divine, iconography, and the role that spiritual beliefs play in our lives. Seth's work is a journey through the layers of consciousness and the self, while Thiesen delves into the social issues of mental health and how dance can be used as a tool for treatment. Looking at histories, Galván presents a study on the paths of four men who have been guided through life thanks to dance while Bergstrom Young looks at all of our "baggage" and how what we collect along our paths influences our futures.

Begley and Lupacchino offer different views of gender and intersectionality, with Begley's work diving into female sexual expression, while Lupacchino looks at masculinities in American concert dance. Mahler Salinas dissects human connection through biomythography while Billings Wheeler takes us into different spaces, both physical and abstract, that influence our lives and our beings. Freeman and Hockenberry address artistic expression as a form of freedom and healing, with Freeman's emphasis on the therapeutics of dance and Hockenberry's look at LGBTQ dance artistry and liberation. The festival features lighting designs by Danielle Ferguson and Seth, as well as costume designs by Freeman.

The MFA in Dance program at Saint Mary's College of California offers two distinct tracks of study: the MFA in Dance: Creative Practice and the MFA in Dance: Design and Production, which is the first program of its kind in the nation. Students in the MFA program span multiple generations and come from all over the world to study in the San Francisco Bay area, home of one of the largest dance communities in the United States.

### Correction

The May 31 publication of Lamorinda Weekly incorrectly stated the date for this year's Sunstock Solar Music Festival. The correct festival date is Sept. 9. Additionally, Sunstock Berkeley is scheduled on the U.C. campus Sept. 30.

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Your Words

# Does Anybody Wanna Play Monopoly?

By John T. Miller



Is anyone a winner?

Photo John T. Miller

So now that the May 30 deadline has come and gone, who's ready for the next round of Safeway Monopoly?

Bleary-eyed and fatigued almost to the state of nausea, I stay up late nights that last week of May, opening ticket after ticket looking for that elusive 8Z07G to win a million dollars or the 8Y14F for the million-dollar vacation home.

But no. After ritualistically ripping my way through a pile of 80 tickets, I am no closer to winning

a million dollars than I am to claiming a \$5 grocery card.

At night, I dream of Wheat Thins and Dannon Yogurt, the two tickets I need to win either a \$10,000 4-Wheeler or a \$300 Smart Watch. The logos of Safeway products dance through my head like visions of sugar-plums.

In the morning, unable to sleep, I wake and tear into another eighty Monopoly tickets an hour before the alarm goes off in hopes of finding the missing link to our future fortune — the \$1,500 Hershey's Syrup Gas Grill and Grocery ticket, or the Planters Peanut \$5,000 cash!

When we win the million dollars, my wife and I will throw our alarm clock away — which has been set to 6:00 am for the last 30 years — and buy one of those Bose headphones with surround sound white noise sleep enhancer. I hope that exists.

To be fair, all was not lost. The coupons included with the tickets, especially toward the end when the Safeway employees gave away a pile an inch high to any customer still willing to accept them, included, for me, a free pound of Iodized salt, five donuts, a can of Safeway Signature corn and a loaf of French bread. This was more than enough to atone for the sleepless nights, useless pile of torn up tickets, and coffee-fueled mornings, ceremonially unveiling sacred logos of Safeway products.

So yes, bring it on. When they play Monopoly again I'll be there in line buying as much as I can, waiting breathlessly while the Safeway checker circles the number of tickets earned, counts them out in front of me, and sends me home to sleepless nights searching for the 8M54B, my ticket for the \$1,000 laptop.

## Pet Projects

# Choosing a flea control product

By Mona Miller, DVM

I am often asked, "What's the best flea and tick product?" and I wish I had a short simple answer. There are now so many options, due in part from differences in formulations and from pharmaceutical company competition for the market. There are pros and cons to each type. Additionally, most of these flea control products also help protect against ticks.

The factors that a pet owner might consider when choosing a product include safety, effectiveness, potential toxicity reactions or side effects, cost, availability (through their veterinary hospital directly, mail order pharmacy or warehouse or pet store) and effects on the environment.

There are basically two types of formulations: oral chewable monthly tablets and topical spot-on liquid applications. The oral tablets get absorbed into the pet's system and kill adult fleas and ticks when they contact or bite into the pet's skin. Usually the kill is within a couple hours, and the tab is effective for a month (about 28-31 days). This formulation is comparable to the old-fashioned "flea bath" in that there's no repellent activity — it doesn't keep fleas off the pet. For the most part, these tabs are fairly safe, especially when given with food. Some pets, however, experience nausea, loss of appetite or diarrhea. Very rarely, seizures have been reported with some of these tabs.

The spot-on topicals are ap-

plied on the back of the pet's neck (if a cat) or between the shoulder blades (if a dog). It takes about 48 hours for the liquid to absorb into the skin and translocate through the skin layers all over the body. Most of these products do not get absorbed into the pet's body system other than skin. This formulation is comparable to the old-fashioned "flea dip" in that there's repellent activity and most life stages (juveniles, adults and in some cases eggs) are killed. These topicals are labeled for "once a month" but effectiveness seems to decrease by the third week or so. Side effects to the pet are rare — occasionally, I've seen lethargy or loss of appetite, or a mild skin rash at the site of application.

These two types of formulation can be used together for maximum flea control, and I often recommend this when faced with either a severe flea problem or a flea-allergic pet who is having high levels of itchiness. Otherwise, I generally recommend the oral product to clients who desire low to moderate protection; and the topical products for flea allergic pets, high-load flea issues and for clients who want high-level protection.

There may be a concern with the topical products on environmental impact. An article published in the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District "Pipeline" last year asked as its title "Is your Pet's Flea Treatment Sending Toxic Pollutants to the Bay?" There has been

documentation that fipronil has been detected in Bay Area water systems, and has been placed on a list of pollutants of "moderate level concern." Fipronil is an active ingredient in one of the most popular topical spot-on flea products that has been in use for 20 years or more. It is also used as ant and termite control in industrial and construction sites.

I'd like to make a specific note that cat owners should use only cat products, since cats are more sensitive to toxicities than dogs (as a general rule). A wonderful resource to compare the many products available can be found at www.veterinarypartner.com by searching "flea and tick control products."



Dr. Mona Miller lives in Lafayette with her son, two cats and yellow Labrador. She attended UC Berkeley as an undergraduate, and received her DVM from UC Davis. She has been happy to call Lafayette home since 2001. She can be reached via email at MonaSDVM@aol.com. She welcomes questions from readers that may get incorporated into a column.

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## Community service honored

Submitted by Dawn Brightbill



Service winners are joined by Acalanes Principal Travis Bell and College and Career Advisor Ginger Jessop.

Acalanes High School honored its Community Service Award winners on May 25. Seventy Acalanes students from all grades received either the Acalanes Service Award or President's Volunteer Service Award. These students provided over 4,300 hours of community service over the past 12 months.

## Lafayette couple from Atria wins 90th birthday bash

Submitted by Ben Adkins



From left: Jenifer Noble, Engage Life director, Atria Park of Lafayette, Leo Morales, senior executive director, Ania Lamsen, community business director (kneeling), Joan Wight (holding check), Fleta Herb, senior community sales director, Kay Trail, community sales director.

A Lafayette couple has been selected as the winners in a contest that will allow four generations of their family to join for a 90th birthday celebration this summer.

Bob and Joan Wight, residents at Atria Park of Lafayette, were the top vote-getters in the international Mother's Day "Gifts of Time" contest held by the Atria Senior Living corporate office.

Contest participants shared ideas for ways they would ideally choose to spend time with their mother. Atria received dozens of submissions from families across the U.S. and Canada.

Submissions were then narrowed to a field of five, posted on Facebook and put to

a public vote. Thousands of votes poured in, with the Wight family edging out their competition by a narrow margin. The couple will use their winnings to help create a celebration for their 60 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren together for their 90th birthday celebration in August.

"The Wights are such a lovely and deserving couple, and we are thrilled that they will be able to celebrate their 90th birthdays with family members from across the country," said Jenifer Noble, Engage Life director at Atria Park of Lafayette. "I could not be prouder to be a part of making this family's dream come to reality."

## Cyclists again embark on 'Laura's Ride' to fight breast cancer

Submitted by Rick Perez



Photo provided

This month, Orinda's Nick Bloisa, 70, and friend Rick Perez, 69 – who maybe should have better sense – will cycle from Santa Monica, California to St. Augustine,

Florida as a fundraiser in memory of Laura Bartron, a friend of Bloisa's who succumbed to breast cancer age of 45. Although her life was far too short, Laura, who worked as a Nutritionist at Renaissance, is well remembered.

Called "Laura's Ride," the two men are determined to help fight breast cancer with an epic 3,000 mile bicycle adventure that will cross the USA. They leave June 14.

Through this adventure, Laura's Ride will raise funds for the Danville based Lazarex Cancer Foundation in support of patients fighting breast cancer and to help move breast cancer research forward. Their goal is to raise \$100,000. Lazarex is a one of a kind non-profit that offers financial assistance directly to advanced stage cancer patients, enabling them to access potentially life-saving treatments available through FDA clinical trials.

For more information on the men's ride, visit [www.laurasride.org](http://www.laurasride.org).

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.

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## Getting healthy at Acalanes

Submitted by Graham Wiseman



Acalanes High School held its first Wellness Faire in April. There were booths for all types of assistance in keeping youths healthy and happy. There was even musical accompaniment by Acalanes musicians. The school hopes to make this successful event an annual tradition.

Acalanes students take a spin on a stationary cycle at the school's first Wellness Faire.

## Local Girl Scouts earn Gold Awards

By John T. Miller



Left to right: Erica Stephan, Kyra Merryman, Kiera Crandall and Lauren Holloway Photo John T. Miller

Four area Girl Scouts earned the prestigious Gold Award just prior to their graduation from high school. Kiera Crandall, Lauren Holloway and Kyra Merryman of Campolindo and Erica Stephan of Miramonte achieved the highest award bestowed upon an outgoing Girl Scout.

One other area senior, Maria Wong of Campolindo is working on completing her project: "Awareness and Prevention of Sexual Assault among Youth."

The award — equivalent to the Eagle Scout in Boys Scouts — represents an independent project that will, according to their website, "change the world, or at least your corner of it, and solve a community problem, not only in the short term but for years in the future."

The Gold Award must be done independently and represent at least 80 hours of work. An advisor from the host organization, along with a Girl Scout advisor oversees the activity, and a lengthy write-up of the program is submitted at the project's close. Only about 3 percent of Girl Scouts nationally complete the Gold Award.

Crandall wrote, directed and edited a set of five videos for the "Character Counts" program at Kimball Elementary in Antioch, a school with a high percentage of children from low-income families. She also created corresponding activities for the program that teachers can use for years to come to help model appropriate behavior in social situations.

Her YouTube examples demonstrated desired behaviors such as respect, responsibility, fairness, trustworthiness, and citizenship, and, whenever possible, she involved the students in the process of filming the videos.

Holloway developed "A Library for Contra Costa Interfaith Housing," a project she hoped would "help the children who didn't like reading or who had trouble reading to have a higher chance of success."

She expanded on her previous experience through her church of working with children at the CCIH in Concord to develop a library for their afterschool program. "They had some books," she said, "but no library."

She created a checkout system, organized the books by age level, gathered about 300 new or gently used books, and started a book club. Volunteers will keep up the checkout system and continue the book club.

Her project serves the Lakeside Apartments, a low-income housing unit at the end of the Monument Corridor, home to 124 households including 16 families with special needs.

An interest in science prompted Krya Merryman to develop a "Youth in Science Program" at Wren Avenue Elementary School in Concord. "I knew I wanted to do something with education and youth," she said, "but I wasn't sure what."

The past summer spent at UCSD studying marine biology accelerated her interest in science, and working with the Students in Action Club at Campolindo called attention to community service, leading her to work at the school where their science program was severely underfunded.

Over the course of two months, she introduced fourth and fifth grade students to six different fields of science in their afterschool program. "It was cool to see them work in a new lab environment because they'd never had a class like that," said Merryman. She organized the program so that volunteers can continue to use the packets she developed to work with the next group of students.

Erica Stephan expanded on her role as a volunteer with the Aspire Education Project where she worked one-on-one with disadvantaged students to improve academic performance, created a garden, painted a mural, and collected over 200 books for a "Head Start on Learning" program in the Fruitvale area of Oakland.

"Improving lives and providing equal opportunities in education are very important to me," she said.

The garden is composed of mostly perennial plants, while the mural focuses on healthy eating habits. The books will become a permanent part of the library collection. Stephan plans to go back and see how the garden is doing, but says, "It was made to last without me."

All of the students will be moving on, but their projects were designed to be sustainable and continue without them. Both Crandall and Merryman plan on attending Diablo Valley College before transferring to four-year schools. Holloway will attend Loyola Marymount in Southern California, and Stephan will participate in a joint program with the College of William and Mary in Virginia and the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

## 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.



# The talented singers of Acalanes choral program excel all year

By John T. Miller



The women of Acalanes' Bella Voce along with director Bruce Lengacher. Photo John T. Miller

Listening to the Bella Voce women's chamber choir practice in their rehearsal space at Acalanes High, it is easy to hear why they would win Unanimous Superior ratings at their festivals throughout the year.

With no one in the audience other than this reporter, they sang with unbridled joy and euphonic precision a contemporary Spanish language song "Martes," by Joseph Gregorio, under the direction of Bruce Lengacher, their musical instructor.

I applauded when they finished, but Lengacher nodded and mentioned casually, "You were just a little sharp on those last high notes there."

The chorus agrees, and I can sense the sopranos vowing to nail those notes the next time around.

### Superior Ratings

All four of the Acalanes ensembles scored high in their festival outings this year, while also participating in a whirlwind of activities that helped continue their tradition of being one of the best performing arts programs in the area.

At the California Musical Educators Association (CMEA) Choral East A festival hosted by Acalanes in March, both the Chorale and Women's Ensembles achieved Superior ratings, while the Concert Choir

scored a Unanimous Superior rating. The Bella Voce and Concert Choir went on to garner Unanimous Superior ratings at the Napa Valley Choral Classic Invitational.

### Year in Review

The Concert Choir attended the Choral Institute in Occidental with Head Royce Academy, Ruth Asawa School of the Arts and ECCO, the high school ensemble of the Piedmont East Bay Children's choirs. Together they worked with L.J. White to present the world premier of "I/WE" at the First Unitarian Church of San Francisco.

All four ensembles participated in the Mixed and Women's Fall Choral Classic festivals with the other district coral programs, and they performed a pair of winter concerts in December: "Winter Wind, Winter Moon."

In January, Bella Voce and the Women's Ensemble worked with Volti, a professional chamber choir, on a Renaissance piece and a modern composition.

Later that month the combined fine arts departments began their nine-week production schedule of "Bye Bye Birdie," which ran for three performances in March.

Bella Voce also competed at the Northern California Women's Choir Golden State Competition at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, placing fourth out of ten schools, thereby earning a spot in next year's competition. "We probably could have done better," said Lengacher, "but the competition coincided with closing night for our musical, and a

majority of the cast was also in Bella Voce."

Later in March, Bella Voce and Concert Choir toured Los Angeles, where they participated in a workshop with Dr. Chris Peterson at CSU-Fullerton, and an advanced vocal workshop with Disney composer and arranger Bret Simmons. They also attended an Anaheim Ducks vs. Buffalo Sabres hockey game. "We didn't get to be on the ice for the National Anthem, but we sang our own arrangement loudly from the stands," said Lengacher.

The choirs finished the season with their Spring Choral Concert "He Said, She Said," in April and the Pops Concert "Broadway and Beyond" in May.

### Notable Performers

Lengacher, in his 18th year as choral director at Acalanes, made special mention of three students who brought talent and energy to the program: Sarah Manning, who will attend University of Colorado at Boulder next year, did original graphic designs for the musical, Spring and Pop concerts; Conrad Rocha, a junior,

Rocha choreographed the musical and co-choreographed the mass choir numbers for the Pops as well as for Concert Choir's song; and Emma Broback, who will attend UCLA, received the Arion Award, recognizing her as the outstanding choral musician.

The choir is generously funded by LIPE and the Acalanes Performing Arts Boosters.

## TeenWrites

### A summer full of expectations

By Analie Fernandes

"Driiiiiing." It's the last school bell of the year, the only time that any of us are happy to hear the obnoxiously loud call to order. Everyone in my class cheers, then rushes out the door, calling goodbyes over their shoulders and waving to friends. The parking lot is a mess. Yearbooks are being passed around with colorful pens. Groups of teenagers are packing into cars like sardines. Car doors are open, leaking loud music. On my way to my friends' car I hear "Despacito" and "That's What I Like" at deafening volume. Traffic is awful. Everybody's heading the same direction — downtown, to get food. It's a mass exodus into freedom — the start of glorious, beautiful summer.

What I love about summer is that the minute that last bell rings, all my responsibilities wash away, like sand castles, smoothed by the waves. There are no more AP classes, no more sports, no more clubs. I'm left with a blank slate, with pristine, untouched sand, ready to be shaped however I want. Summer-time is freedom in its purest form — a fresh start.

Usually, my summers are carefree, a collection of long days spent relaxing in the sun in various locations. This year is different. I've been ambushed by nostalgia, what used to be known as YOLO in cringier days past. I can feel the pressure to have a memorable summer more keenly this year than ever, my penultimate summer as a high schooler. My sentimentality is easily translated into melodramatic introspections. I don't have much time left as a teenager, and I'll never be this young again. My window to make memories that will be worth remembering decades later is closing. It seems almost as if I'm failing to truly experience adolescence unless I do something amazing this summer — as if a mundane summer reflects a mundane personality.

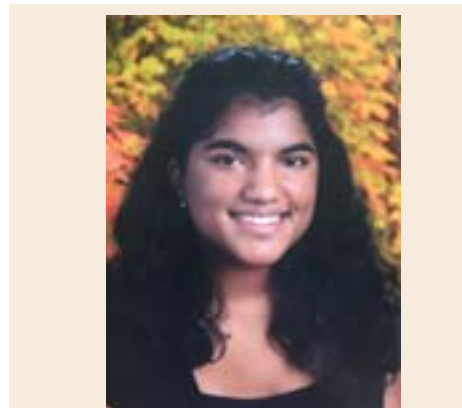
After all, our society has idealized the sunny season, making it into a hallmark of teen culture. Our parents tell us stories of old roadtrips and beach vacations with friends. We watch movies and read books about teenagers and their amazing, life-altering summertime adventures. Think about it: "Dazed and Confused," "Grease," "Dirty Dancing," "I Know What You Did Last Summer." All are cult classics, all are centered around sum-

mer adventures,

I had fallen into a trap.

My summer was being crushed under the weight of a lifetime of expectations — and if I wasn't careful, my entire senior year would be crushed too. I was suffocating all the fun out of summer, fixating on perception rather than feeling. It took some time for me to realize that the reason that all these stories resonated with me wasn't because I wanted to do what these characters and people did. Rather, I wanted to experience what they did. I wanted a summer that was spontaneous, relaxing, fun—and those things are entirely within my control. I can make my summer whatever I want it to be. I needed to realize that what I'll cherish the most won't be manufactured moments, modeled after old stories, but the happy memories I make when I let my life play out naturally.

So I will make a pilgrimage to the beach with my friends; I will watch the waves wash up and do cartwheels on the sand — but it won't be because I'm trying to live up to an idealized story. It'll be because I love the beach, because my friends want to collect seashells, because it's sunny and we're in California, and "What else would we do?" because we're young, because it's fun, because we can do what we want. It'll be because we're only young once and summer is what we make it.



Analie Fernandes is a rising senior at Berean Christian High School, where she is the editor-in-chief of the school newspaper. She has called Lafayette home for five years, having previously lived in New York, Tennessee, and Ohio. Analie's favorite authors include George Orwell, Elizabeth Gaskell, and, of course, Jane Austen!

## In Memory

### Karen David Ross

October 21, 1942 - May 24, 2017



Karen David Ross was born Karen David Resnick on October 21, 1942, in Rockford, Illinois. Her parents were Rose David of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada and Jerry Resnick of Chicago, Illinois. Karen is survived by her husband, Dr. Joel C. Ross and her three sons, Kevin Ray, Keith Michael and Curtis Paul Ross. She was the grandmother of four, Jakob Castillo, Samuel O'Brien, Lukas Augustin and Emilia Ann Ross. To her grandchildren, Karen was just "Nana" or "Gummy." She was loved by her daughters-in-law, Claudia Castillo and Catherine O'Brien Ross, and by Taralyn Tietjen, the fiancée of Dr. Curtis Ross. She was loved by her brother, Kalman Resnick,

and his wife, Benetta Mansfield, of Chicago, Illinois and her dear Aunt Eileen Lasky (Aunt Babe) and Uncle Marvin Lasky of Rossmoor, California.

Karen grew up in Chicago where she graduated from Goudy Elementary School in Evanston, Illinois and then graduated from Evanston Township High School. Karen graduated with a bachelor's degree in teaching from the National College of Education, now National Louis University. While a student at National, she met her husband, Dr. Joel C. Ross. Karen and Joel were married on July 3, 1963, in Wood Dale, Illinois. Their first son, Kevin Ray Ross, was born in 1967 in Skokie, Illinois. In 1969, Karen and Joel moved to Travis Air Force Base in Travis, California, where their second son, Keith Michael was born. In 1971, they moved to Orinda, California where they lived for 44 years. Their third son Curtis Paul Ross was born in 1978. In 2015, Karen and Joel Ross moved to Rossmoor.

During her time in Orinda, Karen founded Rossera Designs, a successful interior design business. Rossera Designs provided sophisticated design services throughout the East Bay and San Francisco and elsewhere in California. Karen also participated in many activities in her community, including serving as a docent at the Oakland Museum of California and volunteering at her sons' schools in Orinda and with Raphael House in San Francisco. She travelled extensively throughout the world with friends and family. She was a passionate collector of antique estate and costume jewelry. Several of her signed pieces will be donated to the causes she felt most close to.

Karen leaves behind the legacy of her family and the affection of her many friends. She will be dearly missed by all those that knew her. Her passion and energy will never be forgotten.

Aunt Babe's description of Karen says it all:

Karen lived every day of her life to the fullest. To say it was *joie de vivre* is putting it mild. Being dull was not her style. Her presence never went without notice. She will be missed by one and all.

Karen died on May 24, 2017 from complications stemming from a stroke in 2012. During the past six years, she fought her health battles with a positive attitude, a strong sense of humor, and a commitment above all to her love for her family.

There will be a celebration of Karen's life at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building on June 17 between 12 and 4:00 p.m. to commemorate the woman we knew and loved.

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### St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda  
254-3770. www.ststephensorinda.org  
Sunday 8am, 10am

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

### ART

**Flower Power: an Asian Art Museum Docent Lecture** at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Asian Art Museum Docent LauraBeth Nelson will share the highlights of this exhibition (June 23 – October 1, 2017) in honor of the 50th anniversary of San Francisco's Summer of Love, showcasing the expressive powers of flowers in the arts and cultures of Asia.

### MUSIC

**St. Paul's Concert Series: Flute and Piano** Concert featuring Laurel Zucker, flute, and Dwight Stone, pianist, composer at 8:15 p.m. on Saturday, June 17 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Ave., Walnut Creek. St. Paul's Concert Series hosts free concert; donations are welcome to support the artists and the ongoing concert series. There is free parking across Trinity Ave. www.laurelzucker.com; www.stonemusic.us.

**Make Music Day from 6 to 8 p.m.** on Wednesday, June 21 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Amphitheatre. Make Music Day is a free celebration of music around the world. Back by popular demand, will be local home-grown musician Paul Cotruvo. Paul will bring his band The Flashbacksto back YOU up. We will have 100 songs from the 60s to choose from. You pick a song, and sign up to be the lead singer. Live Karaoke – and you can have your five minutes of fame. Visit www.lafayettechamber.org for details.

**It's time to sit back and unwind at the free summer concerts** in at the park series from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Orinda on Tuesday nights. June 20, Juke Joint — Classic Soul; June 27, Fog City Swampers — Classic Rock & Roll.

**Free concerts from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** Thursday evenings at the Moraga Commons Park. Bring your picnic blanket or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the band shell. Enjoy the music while your children enjoy the park. The volunteers of MPF will cook dinner 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.

**Lafayette Celebrate the 50th anniversary** of the Summer of Love at the Rock the Plaza concerts on Fridays throughout June in Lafayette. June 16: Dream Posse; June 23: Barry "The Fish" Melton and his band.

**Music begins at 6:30pm.** 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, with special guests, including Lafayette's own Stevie Coyle (The Waybacks), playing folk songs. Bring your guitar.

### THEATER

**"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; or by calling the box office at (510) 548-9666; boxoffice@calshakes.org.

**Town Hall Theatre presents "An Ideal Husband"** by Oscar Wilde through June 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 or at the box office.

**Orinda Starlight Village Players present Agatha Christie's "The Unexpected Guest"** from June 2 to 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 for reservations. Be aware that this is an outdoor theater and dress appropriately and bring blankets.

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**"Some of My Best Friends Are Super Sleuths: Let Me Introduce You!"** at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 15 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Join Acalanes Adult Education instructor Joan Trezek for a presentation on what makes our favorite detectives such engaging characters. She will cover detectives you may already know and love, and introduce you to some she thinks you should meet.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**The Contra Costa County Library invites** children, teens and library users of all ages to take part in Summer Reading. Summer Reading runs through Saturday, Aug. 5. This year's theme is "Build Your Brain" and the program is filled with activities, events and reading lists designed to exercise your brain. Readers of all ages can participate online or use a paper reading record. Completed reading records or online completion certificates should be returned to one of the 26 Contra Costa County Library branches by Aug. 5. All finishers will receive a book prize and be entered into a drawing for a chance to win additional prizes. For more information on Summer Reading visit your local Contra Costa County Library branch or http://www.ccclib.org/summer.

### OTHER

**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 dance festival, to be held from noon to 8 p.m. on June 17 and 18 on the Saint Mary's campus. Ticket and pricing information at www.stmarys-ca.edu/process-dance-festival.

**This Father's Day grow your family** by adopting a kitty from Community Concern for Cats. See our purrfect kittens and cats at this weekend's adoption event from 1 to 4 p.m., June 17 and 18, at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see www.communityconcernforcats.org.

**Alta Bates Summit Comprehensive Cancer Services** presents its 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.

**KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents Melvin Goodman & Daniel Ellsberg:** Whistleblower at the CIA from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21 at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, 2407 Dana Street, Berkeley. Melvin Goodman and Daniel Ellsberg will discuss Goodman's book, Whistleblower at the CIA, answer questions & sign books. Cost: \$12 advance, \$15 door. For more info see www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2947326 or call (510) 967-4495.

**Unleash the Wonders of Your Mind at 6:30 p.m.** on Wednesday June 21 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. The Brain Whisperer, Steven Campbell, will teach you how to use the new brain science to transform your life: end negative thinking, improve focus and clarity, enhance problem solving and simply be happier. A Summer Reading Festival program.

**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 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. (See story page B1)

**Attention wireless radio lovers: LARIG,** Lamorinda's amateur radio group, hosts a free, live, in-the-field radio demonstration 11 a.m. to dusk, June 24 at Moraga Commons Park. LARIG joins 35,000 amateur radio operators nationwide in celebrating the 103rd annual American Radio Relay League Field Day. For details, visit http://tinyurl.com/k8asjef.

**Eat Stay Love Lafayette Food Tour.** Green Hills. Great Schools. Good-tasting eats. Eat – Stay – Love Lafayette food tour is a two-hour, family-friendly tour great for newbies and anyone looking to discover this side of the Caldecott Tunnel. Tours run on the last Saturday every month at 11 a.m. Advanced reservations required. Adults: \$35; Kids 12 and younger: \$20. Book today at www.localfoodadventures.com or (510) 604-6546.

**The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life** of Concord and Walnut Creek will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 24 at Ygnacio Valley Park (901 Oak Grove Rd. Concord). Relay For Life is a community event where teams and individuals camp out and take turns walking or running around a path for 12 hours, symbolizing the battle waged around the clock by those facing cancer. Family friendly activities, entertainment, food and more will be happening throughout the day. This event is free and open to the public. Visit relayforlife.org/ConcordWalnutCreekCA to learn more, sign up or donate to this life saving event, or contact Jessi Norris at 510.993.8536 or Jessi.norris@cancer.org.

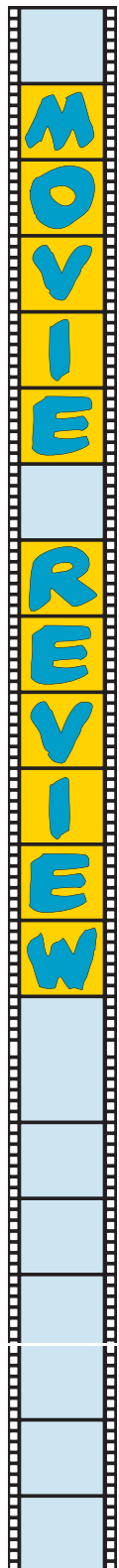
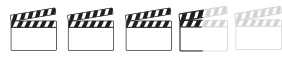
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Film Clips

# Mysterious and well-acted 'Cousin Rachel' hits Orinda Theatre this Friday

By Derek Zemrak



Oscar-winner Rachel Weisz stars in "My Cousin Rachel." Photo credit: Fox Searchlight Pictures

"My Cousin Rachel" begins its two-week run at the Orinda Theatre on June 16. A remake of the 1952 original starring Richard Burton and Olivia de Havilland is based on the Daphne Du Maurier novel of the same name.

The film follows the story of a young man Philip (Sam Claflin) who seeks revenge on his cousin Rachel (Rachel Weisz) who he believes murdered his cousin and the guardian who raised him. Upon meeting her, Philip falls under the alluring spell of her charm.

Academy Award Winner Rachel Weisz ("The Constant Gardener") is captivating in the role of Rachel. She lures the audience and Philip into her web. She is mysterious, seductive, beguiling and mesmerizing. Claflin's performance as Philip is as strong on the opposite side of the acting spectrum.

"My Cousin Rachel" is a solid alternative from the superhero films currently blasting up theaters nationwide. The cinematography is Oscar-worthy with stunning European landscapes. Equally impressive is the costume and set de-

sign. When award season rolls around later in the year, you will be hearing the name, "My Cousin Rachel."

"My Cousin Rachel" is an enjoyable mystery thriller, rated PG-13 for some sexuality and brief strong profanity with a TRT (total running time) of 1 hour and 46 minutes.

**Silent Movies return to the Rheem**

At 7 p.m. Saturday, June 17, at the Rheem Theatre, enjoy an evening of short films starring Mary Pickford with authentic music composed and performed by Patti Leidecker. Leonard Pirkle will give a history of Mary Pickford and the short films.

Did you know that Mary Pickford was a co-founder of United Artists Studio and one of the original founders of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences?

Learn more about this amazing woman at this very special event at the Rheem. The Moraga Community Foundation is sponsoring this event.

Admission: \$15.

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

**OTHER ... continued**

**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.

**Wine and Tapas Speaker Series Presents:** Finding Peace in Broken Places at 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 9 at 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. After experiencing the plight of Syrian refugees and their children in Turkey and Jordan, Sai Aashraya dedicated his life to create ways of love and service that unleash the capacity for joy and peace. Admission is free and open to all ages, bring a small tasting to share for our common cheese and charcuterie

board. Beverages and baguettes will be provided.

**SENIORS**

**Friday Connections at the Lafayette Library.** Join the gathering at the Lafayette Library from 1 to 3 p.m. every Friday for a variety of activities: speakers, games, film screenings, presentations and more. Catch up with old friends or meet new ones over refreshments! Check with library staff or the online calendar [www.tinyurl.com/laf-calendar](http://www.tinyurl.com/laf-calendar) for each week's activities and meeting room. For more info, contact Chris Gray at (925) 385-2288 or [cgray@ccclub.org](mailto:cgray@ccclub.org) or Lafayette Senior Services: [Seniors@LoveLafayette.org](mailto:Seniors@LoveLafayette.org) or (925) 284-5050.

**Branch 116 Sons in Retirement, for retired or semiretired men,** will be holding its 11:30 a.m. lunch meeting on June 19 at the Clubhouse at Boundary

Oak, 3800 Valley Vista Road, Walnut Creek. The guest speaker will be Dr. Brian Hopkins, a board certified urologist, who will be speaking on myriad urological problems of older men. The cost is \$25. For reservations or information call (925) 322-1160 or email [branch116@gmail.com](mailto:branch116@gmail.com). For more information about our group, visit [www.branch116.org](http://www.branch116.org).

**Smart Driver 4 Hour Refresher Course from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.** on Thursday, July 20 at the Toyon Room, Lafayette Community Center. Refine your driving skills, develop safe, defensive techniques, and possibly lower your insurance premium. Offered through AARP. \$15 AARP Members; \$20 Non-Members. Max: 25 paid registrants. To reserve your spot, send check, made payable to AARP, to Lafayette Senior Services, 500 St. Mary's Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549.

## 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](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com)

<b>June 16</b> Seismological Lab at UC Berkeley on The Science Behind Earthquakes	<b>June 23</b> Maura Wolf, Consultant and Educator, Focus on Strategic Planning, Organizational and People Development
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The "Teardrop Inn" trailer continues to appear in June at Rock the Park Concerts on the Square in Lafayette

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

<b>June 15:</b> Rich Dutra The Challenge Day Event	<b>June 22:</b> Dennis Erokan Get Famous
--	--

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

## Free concerts to rock Lamorinda this summer



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

**Lafayette**

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

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 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

## Pour Me

## The Father of Craft Beer

By A.K. Carroll



Craft beers on tap.

Photos by A.K. Carroll

In this installment of Pour Me, we take a peek at the world of craft beer, a favorite of fathers and brainchild of brewmasters.

Once upon a time, long before the invention of the kegerator and the rise of hop-happy hipsters, homebrew and craft beer were the favored drinks of Americans everywhere, from the corn-based creations of native-born people to lagers and ales made in the traditional styles of immigrants from all parts of Europe. The country's first industry entrant, New World brewery, was founded in New Amsterdam (present-day Manhattan) in 1612, but it wasn't until the 19th century that craft beer really took off. Between 1810 and 1873 beer went gangbusters, and by the turn of the century the U.S. boasted over 4,100 breweries, a number which wasn't eclipsed until 2015.

The average American was consuming upwards of 20 gallons of beer a year by 1914, and then the industry came to a halting stop. Why the slow down? One word—Prohibition. Though the crackdown on spirits was defiantly met with gallons of homemade moonshine and dozens of the speakeasy cocktails that have been making a comeback in the past five years, beer took a hard hit from teetotalling. A few hundred of the thousands of pre-Prohibition breweries renewed their licenses after the 21st Amendment passed, but the first iteration of Big Beer put the squeeze on the little guys, and by the early 1980s only 50 independent beer companies were still in play. Americans had all but forgotten the craft brews of bygone days, having traded them in for cans of bland pale lager.

Lucky for us, Northern Californians were as innovative and adventurous then as they are today, and the same spirit that motivated plucky winemakers to start setting up shop all over Napa Valley and led to Alice Waters' famed contribution to California Cuisine, also inspired Fritz Maytag to make a risky investment in the purchase of Anchor Steam brewery in 1965. Though the company now produces over 164,000 barrels a year, they were arguably the brewery that launched the craft beer movement, which continues to this day and has led to the creation of over 5,000 breweries across the U.S.

What exactly is craft beer?

According to Brewer's Association, craft breweries must be small (they make less than six million barrels annually, which is also roughly three percent of U.S. annual beer sales), independent (they own and control over three-quarters of the brewery), and traditional (in one way or another). Traditional beers get their flavor from traditional or innovative ingredients and their fermentation. Many craft brewers interpret historic brewing styles, such as English porters, Belgian saisons or Irish stouts, with modern twists, while others develop original brewing techniques of their own.

Under the blanket of craft breweries you'll find microbreweries, which produce less than 15,000 barrels annually and sell majority (75 percent or more) of their beer offsite, brewpubs, which sell at least 25 percent of their beer on site and typically within the confines of a restaurant, regional breweries, regional craft breweries and contract brewing companies.

You don't need to be a beer geek to enjoy a quality brewsky, and there are plenty to pick from. According to California Craft Beer, there are over 700 craft breweries in the Golden State alone, more than any other state in the nation. Though none of them are located within the confines of the Lamorinda area (at least not yet), there are still plenty of places that pay tribute to the art of beer and carry local favorites on tap. So raise a pint to Fritz Maytag, the father of craft beer, or toast your own dad with a quality brew from one of these local watering holes.



## Thoughtful Food

## All hail Cilantro for that extra spice

By Susie Iventosch

It seems to be love or hate with cilantro, but I am a huge fan. Not only is it a key ingredient in many Mexican dishes and salsas, but freshly snipped leaves are so tasty in green salad. It's a perfect addition to curry sauce and the beautiful leaves make for a lovely garnish. Cilantro is the king of herbs in my book and for some reason, the smell of it just reminds me of summer.

When we made chimichurri grilled chicken the other night, we added cilantro to this typical Argentinian sauce, and it was a palate-pleaser. Since cilantro pairs so well with lime juice, we tossed in a touch of both lemon and lime, which made it extra zingy. Normally, chimichurri is made with parsley and oregano in addition to garlic, red pepper flakes, olive oil and red wine vinegar. The zesty lemon-lime potato salad fell into place and all together, this is a fun meal to serve for your summertime barbecues and picnics. The sauce holds well in the refrigerator, so if you make extra you can have it on hand as a dipping sauce for other meals, too.

## Cooking Term of the Week

## Grunt

This is a fun cooking term and one that might prove useful as we get into the beautiful summer fruit season. Grunt is a dessert typically seen in the eastern United States, and is a hybrid between a pie and a cobbler. The fruit (berries or stone fruits) is cooked under a crust of biscuit dough. The grunt is said to be named for the sounds coming from the bubbling fruit under the dough as it cooks. A grunt is usually cooked on the stove top, but can be baked. When baked, it is actually very much like a slump, but that's a term for another day!

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

## Grilled Chimichurri Chicken

(Serves 4-6)

1 whole roasting chicken  
1 batch chimichurri sauce (recipe below)

## DIRECTIONS

Rub skin of whole chicken with ½ cup of the chimichurri sauce, reserving the remaining sauce for serving. Place chicken in aluminum pan, or a baking pan that you don't mind putting on the barbecue or grill. Place the pan with the chicken over the center burner and cook indirect on gas grill with the two side burners on medium and the center burner turned off. Cook for approximately 1 hour, or until done and juices from legs and thighs run clear. This will vary depending upon the size of the chicken and the grill you are using. Carve chicken and drizzle chimichurri over when serving. Pass extra sauce for seconds!

## Chimichurri Sauce



(Yields approximately 1½ cups)

## INGREDIENTS

1 bunch fresh Italian parsley  
½ bunch fresh cilantro  
¼ cup fresh oregano leaves (no stems)  
2 garlic cloves, peeled  
1 tsp. dried red pepper flakes  
½ tsp. powdered cumin  
¼ tsp. salt  
Juice of 1 lemon  
Juice of 1 lime  
½ tsp. lemon zest  
¼ cup red wine vinegar  
¾ cup olive oil

## DIRECTIONS

Clean parsley and cilantro and cut off the bottom part of the stems. Place in food processor along with oregano leaves and garlic. Process until finely chopped. Add remaining ingredients and puree all together in the processor. Cover and let stand at room temperature for about 2 hours until ready to use. If you make it a day or two ahead, refrigerate and bring to room temperature before using.

## Lemon-Lime Potato Salad



(Serves 4-6)

6 medium potatoes (3 new potatoes and 3 Yukon gold)

## Dressing:

2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 shallot, finely chopped  
1-2 Tbsp. olive oil  
½ bunch cilantro, stems removed and leaves chopped or julienned  
2 Tbsp. lemon juice  
1 Tbsp. lime juice  
¼ cup red wine vinegar  
1 tsp. Dijon mustard  
2/3 cup olive oil  
Salt and pepper to taste

## DIRECTIONS

Clean potatoes and cut into evenly-sized halves or quarters. Place in a large pot of cold water and bring to a boil. Reduce to simmer and continue to cook the potatoes until they easily pierce with a knife, but are not mushy. This will take roughly 15 minutes or so. Check them often, because you don't want them to be either underdone or overdone. Drain potatoes and place in a bowl to cool.

## Lemon-Lime Cilantro Dressing-directions

Heat 1-2 Tbsp. olive oil in small frying pan. Cook garlic and shallot until translucent. Remove from heat and cool. Meanwhile, place remaining ingredients in a jar with a tight-fitting lid. Add cooled shallot and garlic and shake well. Adjust with extra olive oil as needed for your tastes. We tend to like a tangy dressing.

Gently toss cooled potatoes with dressing and stir every once in a while to make sure all of the potatoes are well-coated. Serve at room temperature. This salad is really nice served on a bed of lettuce with slices of avocado on the side.

# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Dell'Aquila retires after 26 years at Miramonte

By Karl Buscheck



Coach Vince Dell'Aquila gives advice to some of his baseball players.

Asked to name the person who most impacted his coaching philosophy, former Miramonte Athletics Director Vince Dell'Aquila, who just retired after 26 years at the school, didn't hesitate to answer.

"The very first coach that I had – and he only coached me for a year – was my dad," Dell'Aquila said, recalling his father Fred. "My dad is probably – whatever positives you might have about Coach Dell – my dad was that on steroids."

In his more than a quarter of a century at Miramonte, Dell'Aquila donned a variety of hats, serving first as an assistant coach, then as a head coach and P.E. teacher and finally as the AD for the past 19 years.

"Everybody said the same thing (about my dad)," Dell'Aquila continued. "'Coach Dell'Aquila was fair. He was kind. He was compassionate. He taught things the right way. He didn't talk down to you.' So, I'd hear all those things (growing up)."

The younger Dell'Aquila's tenure at Miramonte all started with a barbecue back in the fall of 1991.

His son, Brian, had just joined the football program, and the long-time head coach, Floyd Burnsed sought out Dell'Aquila knowing he'd played center at Cal Poly

Pomona. Burnsed asked if he wanted to help coach the team and Dell'Aquila jumped at the opportunity.

That spring, the head baseball coach, John Buschini, made him the same offer – knowing that Dell'Aquila had also played that sport collegiately – and like that, he was in.

In 1996, Dell'Aquila took over the baseball program that would go on to win six NCS titles under his stewardship and produce a 366-202-1 record. Shortly thereafter, he took over as the AD, all the while continuing on as a P.E. teacher and offensive line coach for the football team.

Whether he was conducting a class, standing in the dugout or patrolling the sidelines, Dell'Aquila was always eternally optimistic, wearing a perpetual smile and entirely unflappable.

"I try to pick out the best of everyone," Dell'Aquila said, explaining that he's always possessed a calm demeanor. "Sometimes when I see the worst, I go, 'Okay, that's not where I want to go.'"

The 2002 State Coach of the Year was never simply worried about teaching baseball fundamentals or football techniques – like so many of his peers.

"Most of those people don't touch on life skills," Dell'Aquila

explained. "That's what I've always felt. I've always treated players like professional players. I've taught them like professional players. I've coached professional players so I know what it is that they need and how to make them better."

When asked to highlight the most memorable teams that he worked with, Dell'Aquila speaks of winning four section titles with the football program, and most notably coaching the line that protected future two-time Hesiman Award finalist and NFL quarterback Ken Dorsey.

He also singled out the 1999 baseball setup – the first to win North Coast under his management.

"I think we we're 12-12 to get into NCS as the last seed and we kind of ran the table on the top seeds with just a good group of guys," Dell'Aquila said. "Fast forward to this year, same thing (it was) a great group of guys. We don't have a Division I player, but just a really, really good group of kids and they were really determined and this year was obviously a very special year."

"There were many teams in between that had their own personalities and successes and it's just been a great run," Dell'Aquila added.

Believed to be the longest-ten-

ured employee in the district at the time of his retirement, Dell'Aquila said there is nothing better than seeing his former charges excel later in life – regardless of the stage they choose.

"That to me is the ultimate compliment. It's the ultimate satisfaction in coaching," Dell'Aquila said. "The wins and the losses, they're going to come."

Long after he forgets the win-and-loss records, Dell'Aquila will still remember the kind words his ex-players have shared with him.

"When you get kids that come back and there may have been things that I said that I don't even remember, but kids say, 'Hey, remember when you told me this ... It's made me the father that I am today. The son that I am today. The business person that I am today,'" Dell'Aquila said. "That's really the satisfaction that I think a coach gets from coaching young men."

Even though he's retiring, Dell'Aquila isn't leaving the game all together.

He plans to stay on as the offensive line coach with the football team, will coach one set of grandkids in tee-ball and little league and will now have far more flexibility to visit his other set of grandkids in southern California.

"I'm not going to really realize that I'm retired because the teacher dynamic is that you have all summer off," Dell'Aquila said. "So this is just normal for me."

The only difference is there won't be the annual summer countdown to the first day of school.

"Somewhere after the Fourth of July I go, 'Oh my gosh, already a month has gone by.' So, I won't have to worry about that," Dell'Aquila said with a chuckle.

Before departing his post at Miramonte, Dell'Aquila was celebrated at a retirement party on May 20 on the football field. Initially, the coach, AD and teacher was planning to go out quietly, but the community – and his own family – insisted otherwise.

"It was just very special," Dell'Aquila said. "There were a lot of decades there. Kids from the 90s and the 2000s and up to now and I guess I don't feel like I need to be validated because I know what I've done and I know how hard I've worked to try to make things better for kids, but when you have an event like that it really echoes to hear people say certain things or come up to you and say certain things."

"It was a very good feeling."

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## Eighth-Graders star at Volleyball Nationals

Submitted by Lee Baldwin



Back row, Stacey O'Connor (#12), Erin Meade (#14), Molly Mitchell (#18); front row: Brianna Lee (#10).

Photo Greg Lee

Fighting through Northern California's qualifying season, Lafayette and Moraga eighth-graders Brianna Lee, Erin Meade and Molly Mitchell helped guide their Nor-Cal Volleyball club team to a spot

in USA Volleyball's Junior Nationals. The team is helmed by head coach Stacey O'Connor, alumna and stand-out volleyball player at St. Mary's College. The team, which has qualified for nationals

three years in a row, is looking forward to the upcoming trip to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where they will play from June 25 to 28.

## Sports Reporter Wanted

Lamorinda Weekly is looking for a sports reporter to cover a variety of high school, college and club sports.

**Required Qualifications:**  
Excellent writing and communication skills. Live or work in or near the Lamorinda area and have the ability to write professional, well-structured articles. Prior journalism experience desired, but not required.

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## Lamorinda U16 Boys NorCal Premier League and State Cup Champions

Submitted by Michelle Maeder



Back row from left, Adrian Guzman, Nickol Geannacopulos, Dante Finley, Alejandro Cardenas, Jose Carra, Vicente Rodriguez, Chris Rogers, Martin Galvan, Saul Carapia, Alvin Sanchez, Montreux Maeder, Coach Billal Samy; front row from left, Christian Ramsey, Fernando Lara, Kellen Clancy, Gio Sponzilli, Erik Voss, Felix Luis, Vivek Lashkari, Victor Quintanilla, Amado Uyehara

The Lamorinda U16 boys team started 2017 with a bang! With 11 games in to the new year they recorded an amazing 10-0-1 record, outscoring their opponents 32-to-6.

It was a huge month of May for these boys. They became champions not once but twice within a week: NPL1 Spring League Champions, and, NorCal State Cup State Division Champions.

Led by Coach Billal Samy, these boys made Lamorinda Soccer Club history by not only becoming the first boys' team to reach the State Division Finals, but also the first to

win and become champions in a very tense, physical game against higher-ranked San Jose Earthquakes PDA.

It also must be noted that the U15 boys team, also coached by Billal Samy, became champions in their respective Spring season and State Cup tournament. Congratulations to both teams.

Lamorinda SC wishes both teams the best of luck as they begin their summer tournament season.

## Oakland Strokes Sibling Alumni Strike Gold at 2017 IRA Championships

Submitted by Steven Johnson



Erik Johnson, Lafayette, bow seat in Cornell's Lightweight Mens 8+, second from right  
Photo Cornell Crew

Winning a National Championship is the ultimate goal of all collegiate athletes. Winning two National Championships during your college career is amazing. Winning your second National Championship on the same day that your sibling also wins their second gold medal is really special. That special event happened for Oakland Strokes alumni Erik and Marie Johnson, of Lafayette at the 2017 IRA National Championships June 4 at Lake Natoma in Gold River, California.

Rowing as the bow seat for Cornell's Lightweight Mens 8-plus, Erik and his team won their 8-plus Grand Final, capping off a undefeated season. This was the second time for Erik having won the same event at the 2015 IRAs, also capping another undefeated season. For Marie, after being on the injured reserve list all year, rowing as the

bow seat for Stanford's Lightweight Womens 2X, she and her teammate won the 2X Grand Final. This was the second gold in as many years for Marie, as she and her boatmates won the Lightweight Womens 8-plus Grand Final at the 2016 IRAs.

For Erik as a graduating senior, it was a great way to finish off his collegiate rowing career. For sophomore Marie it was a sweet way to cap off a challenging season with a win. This was her first race in a 2X, and she had talked her coach into entering her into the race only three weeks prior to the 2017 IRAs.

Prior to enrolling at Cornell, Erik rowed both Open and Lightweight events for Oakland Strokes. Before enrolling at Stanford, Marie also rowed both Open and Lightweight events for Strokes. Both Erik and Marie graduated from Miramonte High School in Orinda. Go Strokes alumni!

## Miramonte Lacrosse member makes the UnderArmour All America West Region Team

Submitted by Jason DeWitt

Boo DeWitt, freshman at Miramonte High School, went to the UnderArmour All America West Region tryouts in Mission Viejo on June 3, 2017 and was among two other Bay Area students selected to represent the West Region, which consists of none western states, and made first team All League (DAL). She also started every game and had the most goals/assists/points in league history for a freshman player. Boo was also second in the State of California (Division 1) among freshman in total points, goals, and assists.

2017: 46 goals, 22 assists, 68 total points.



Marie Johnson of Lafayette, bow seat in Stanford's Lightweight Women's 2X, (far right).  
Photo Stanford Lights

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## Huntington Beach wins the LMYA 4th grade gold volleyball championship

Submitted by Judy McNeil



From left, Lily McKinney, Dulci Vail, coach Nicki Cobain, Grace Gallacher, Natalie Hsia, Olivia DeBoy, Skylar Platto, Taylor Kaufman, assistant coach Robin Mathers, Abigail Tichenor, Lila Mathers, Stella Baceda  
Photo provided

## OIS Track and Field excels



Congratulations to the Orinda Intermediate School Track and Field team. The seventh-grade girls and the eighth-grade boys won the League Championships at Acalanes High School on June 2nd. The boys were led by Zion Mayo who won the 100, 400, Long Jump and anchored the winning 4x100 and 4x400 teams. The Girls were led by Ella Dulski and Kate Riley. This is the first Track and Field championship for O.I.S.

## Double Win for Moraga in Manteca

Submitted by Susan Linden



13U team back row from left, Dylan Wilkalis, Michael Coane, Jack Beaty, Max Rittmann, Jack Williams, Scott Linden; front row from left, Connor Fritch, Xavier Esquer, Luca Rago  
Not pictured: Cade Bennett and coaches Don Cooper, Brody Cooper, Chris Rago.



14U team from left, Dillan Thoms, Nicholas Meng, Drew Isola, Casey Linden, Sam McGonigle, Justin Liang, coach Dave Manousos, Jack Daugherty, Max Weaver, JT Clark, coach Dan Wheeler, Sean Lee, Daniel Wheeler. Not pictured Graham Becker.

Moraga Pony Mavericks' 13U and 14U teams won in Manteca at the Ultimate Memorial Day Tournament. The 13U's, led by coach Don Cooper, went a perfect 5-0 and the 14U's, led by coach Dave Manousos, went 4-1.

## Lamorinda U11 Girls Navy Takes 2nd at The Creek Cup

Submitted by JD Woods



Back row from left, coach Evan Sassano, Noe Johnson, Katie Lakin, Nadia Young, Maren Thorpe, Olivia Penney, Catherine Davis, Emma Knutson, and director of coaching Mohamed Mohamed; front row from left, Sophia Amanquah, Sadie Hansell, Demi Woods, Mylie Jaquet, Louisa Symkowitz, Nicole Nguyen, and Madyson Yu.

Following a game one loss to the Stockton Storm, The LaMO girls tied the MVLA Lyonais 3-3 to finish the day. On Sunday, the girls dominated the Danville Mustang, and then rattled off five unanswered goals to take second overall in a 6-4 victory versus the host Walnut Creek Soccer Club (May 27-28).

**Submit stories to  
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(we prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide)

## LMYA Softball Season Ends as it started, With 'Panache'



10U Champion Cal BEARS  
Front (L-R) Audrey Flitter, Katie Weaver, Kaitlyn Golik, Gianna Bordi, Kiyah Watenmaker Back (L-R) Coach Lance Hendrickson, Maddie Ingham, Sophie Hendrickon, Melina Nath, Bella Bundy, Antonia Lawrence, Marilyn Jia, Coach Justin Bundy



12U Champion Cal BEARS  
Back (L-R) Aubrey Fitzsimmons, Marina Rago, Isola Foutch, Umpire Mike Wilson, Ava McGlothlin, Makayla Erickson, Ingaborg Foutch, Jane Callister, Abigail Weiner, Kaeli Martinet. Front (L-R) Rachel Gottfried, Jake the Dog, Tessa Wilson, Erica Riegel

### 10U All-Stars



### 10U All-Stars

- Avery S.
- Bella B.
- Cailyn C.
- Campbell E.
- Charlotte F.
- Christina R.
- Clara D.
- Dulci V.
- Emma D.
- Eva M.
- Kate C.
- Kate W.
- Katelyn H.
- Lulu L.
- Macie R.
- Maddie I.
- Marina C.
- Melina N.
- Nola C
- Olivia W.
- Piper B.
- Riley W.
- Sienna H.
- Sophie H.
- Taylor M.

### 12U All-Stars



12U All-Stars: Ashlyn C., Brianna R., Cassidy K., Charlotte A., Chase O., Chloe S., Ella J., Emmi C., Havana W., Ingaborg F., Isola F., Jane C., Jordan C., Julia P., Kaeli M., Kalena K., Kate S. Keilly K., Kendall K., Kira J., Leah M., Makala E., Marina R., Marinna L.



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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 8 Wednesday, June 14, 2017



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

*...read on page D12*

## Where there's smoke there's barbecue

By Cathy Dausman



*Dan Mazaika's barbecue rig can hold its own against shiny red firetrucks.*

*Photos Cathy Dausman*

When Dan Mazaika comes on the scene he is often accompanied by smoke and fire. There is plenty of shiny red and chrome equipment too, but there may also be hot dogs, pork, chicken or

tri-tip.

Mazaika is a Moraga-Orinda Fire District engineer, as well as a welder and cook. He combined the latter talents to hand-craft one industrial-sized barbecue smoker oven on wheels, a

project Mazaika admits cost him three years in labor plus “blood, sweat, tears — and even a few beers.”

He says his barbecue is still very much a work in progress. The unit doesn't have a name yet although it

begs for one. From its heavy-duty four-wheeled trailer to its wood-burning fire box to the oven scratch-built from a repurposed air tank and OS&Y sprinkler valve handles to its big-rig twin chrome smoke stacks, it is a marvelous sight to behold. It is red and shiny enough to hold its own even amid commercial fire trucks.

And hold its own it does — the unit handles 100 pounds of meat at a time. “I did a whole pig for Super Bowl one year,” Mazaika said. Although he brings the smoker to work for his crew and coworkers to enjoy, Mazaika says, “It is my personal barbecue and it is kept at my house.”

The smoker was featured at a recent MOFD Open House in Orinda where Mazaika busily turned out barbecued hot dogs. Lunch proceeds were donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

“My father taught me to weld, and I thought I could build one of these cool barbecues,” Mazaika said. After some research, he decided to build a smoker. “I did not have to make the barbecue as detailed as it is for it to be functional, but I wanted to give it some character,” he said. The red and chrome color scheme was almost a given considering his profession.

*... continued on page D4*

# THE *Beaubelle* GROUP



library/office nook are a few of the many amenities. New price \$2,795,000

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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	19	\$920,000	\$3,000,000
MORAGA	4	\$800,000	\$1,490,000
ORINDA	7	\$950,000	\$2,025,000

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

- 3364 Betty Lane, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1154 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 5-5-17;  
Previous Sale: \$37,000, 12-06-72
- 9 Burnt Oak Circle, \$1,441,000, 4 Bdrms, 2250 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 5-2-17;  
Previous Sale: \$44,000, 01-27-71
- 659 Byrdee Way, \$920,000, 3 Bdrms, 2122 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 5-10-17;  
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 04-09-15
- 60 Carolyn Court, \$1,155,000, 3 Bdrms, 1191 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-8-17;  
Previous Sale: \$760,000, 05-29-09
- 3451 Echo Springs Road, \$1,362,000, 2 Bdrms, 2216 SqFt, 1945 YrBlt, 5-9-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,249,500, 07-26-06
- 919 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,970,000, 3 Bdrms, 2692 SqFt, 2002 YrBlt, 5-10-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,285,000, 11-19-03
- 624 Huntleigh Drive, \$1,273,500, 4 Bdrms, 2044 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 5-2-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 07-28-06
- 37 Jennifer Highlands Court, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3538 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 5-2-17; Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 09-14-05
- 17 Kelly Ann Court, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1888 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 5-9-17;  
Previous Sale: \$55,000, 04-12-78
- 3324 Las Huertas Road, \$3,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2384 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 5-8-17;  
Previous Sale: \$660,000, 05-10-01
- 660 Los Palos Drive, \$2,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 3388 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 5-12-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,775,000, 05-23-13
- 3924 Quail Ridge Road, \$2,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 3588 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 4-28-17; Previous Sale: \$1,575,000, 10-05-09
- 864 Revere Road, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2117 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 4-28-17;  
Previous Sale: \$880,000, 11-21-16
- 514 Silverado Drive, \$1,335,000, 4 Bdrms, 2377 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 5-2-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 11-17-14 ... continued on page D9



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# Where there's smoke there's barbecue

... continued from page D1

Mazaika also loved “the look of industrial stuff from the ‘30s and ‘40s. I wanted it to look like an old boiler that might have come out of a factory 80 years ago,” he said. The trailer was a surplus gift. “It was going to be for my backyard” Mazaika said until his friend gave him the trailer. To date the barbecue on wheels has traveled as far north as Red Bluff.

Just how did Mazaika get bitten by the barbecue bug? “A few years ago a



barbecue competition show was popular on the Food Network and I enjoyed watching the teams compete with their cool homemade barbecues,” Mazaika said. He perfected his cooking skills by assisting Martinez Sportsmen’s Club’s Danny Pellegrini. Although he says he is not a hard-core competitor Mazaika has entered the King of the County barbecue contest in Martinez a couple times.

The barbecue takes about an hour to reach 225 degrees, Mazaika’s preferred cooking temperature. “There are thermometers on the cook box and I stoke the fire about every 40 minutes,” he said. He even cooks for the employees at Bob’s Christmas Tree Lot in Moraga.

“In December the lot gets busy, so for one day I come down and barbecue for them, so they can enjoy a hot lunch of tri-tip and ribs,” Mazaika said.

When he’s not cooking, Mazaika works out of Orinda’s Fire Station 45. He’s been with MOFD for 19 years; he spent the first five years as a reserve officer. “I am a second-generation firefighter in the department,” he said. “My father, Steve Mazaika, started as one of the original Moraga Volunteers Firefighters.”

Mazaika has no plans to cook for a living. “I get many offers to be hired, but I just cook for friends and family. I don’t want this to become a side business (because) then it becomes more work than fun. I don’t want that. I built it to have fun.”

## Understanding barbecue — and building them

If this article has left you bitten by the barbecue bug, first bone up on the regional definitions of slow-smoked meat.

Cooking styles differ from city or region of origin, from Kansas City, Kansas, to Memphis, Tennessee, Lexington, Kentucky, North Carolina and Texas. Sauces, marinades, dry rubs, choice of meat and the very wood itself (pellets or logs? Cherry, apple, pecan, alder, oak, hickory or mesquite?) all impart delicious but distinctive tastes to your entrée.

Then flip over to the Kansas City Barbecue Society website ([www.kcbs.us/index.php](http://www.kcbs.us/index.php)) for in-depth information on the subject. This nonprofit organization boasts over 20,000 members and sanctions more than 500 barbecue contests worldwide, including the upcoming Silicon Valley BBQ Championship at Santa Clara Central Park, June 23-24 ([www.kcbs.us/event/6877/silicon-valley-bbq-championship](http://www.kcbs.us/event/6877/silicon-valley-bbq-championship)).

For those stoked to build their own smoker out of wood, metal, cinder block, brick clay pots, or cardboard, Lamorinda Weekly has smoked out a few... ahem... choice websites to get you started:

- <http://cooldiyideas.com/diy-meat-smokers/>
- [www.popularmechanics.com/home/food-drink/how-to/a778/3372796/](http://www.popularmechanics.com/home/food-drink/how-to/a778/3372796/)
- [http://amazingribs.com/links/build\\_your\\_own\\_bbq\\_smoker\\_grill.html](http://amazingribs.com/links/build_your_own_bbq_smoker_grill.html)
- [www.instructables.com/id/How-to-Build-a-Smoker/](http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-Build-a-Smoker/)

With summer just days away, if you really can’t wait, ready-made units abound:

- [www.thespruce.com/how-to-buy-a-food-smoker-331659](http://www.thespruce.com/how-to-buy-a-food-smoker-331659)

— Cathy Dausman



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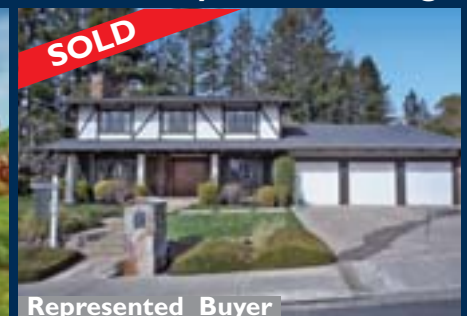
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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded ... continued from page D2

### LAFAYETTE ... continued

3156 Somerset Place, \$1,440,000, 3 Bdrms, 1822 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 5-8-17  
 1757 Springbrook Road, \$1,595,000, 4 Bdrms, 2596 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-10-17  
 3332 Stage Coach Drive, \$1,925,000, 4 Bdrms, 3127 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt,  
 5-10-17; Previous Sale: \$1,695,000, 10-16-13  
 931 Stow Lane, \$2,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 3015 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 5-5-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$825,000, 11-19-98  
 4043 Valente Court, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 2074 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 4-28-17

### MORAGA

133 Danefield Place, \$1,490,000, 4 Bdrms, 2320 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 5-11-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$167,500, 09-19-78  
 101 Hodges Drive, \$1,019,000, 4 Bdrms, 1978 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-9-17  
 5 Josefa Place, \$800,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 5-9-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$332,000, 11-02-99  
 3983 Paseo Grande, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1745 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 4-28-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$680,000, 07-13-11

### ORINDA

17 Broadview Terrace, \$1,607,500, 4 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-28-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 05-15-09  
 32 Coachwood Terrace, \$1,661,500, 3 Bdrms, 3291 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-5-17  
 4400 El Nido Ranch Road, \$1,575,000, 4 Bdrms, 2933 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-28-17  
 26 Loma Vista Drive, \$1,133,000, 5 Bdrms, 2431 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-28-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$913,000, 09-21-06  
 41 Longridge Road, \$1,232,000, 3 Bdrms, 2022 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 4-28-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 09-29-05  
 91 Muth Drive, \$2,025,000, 3 Bdrms, 2241 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 5-5-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$985,000, 07-20-16  
 129 Spring Road, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1252 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 5-5-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$633,000, 09-09-11  
 38 Whitehall Drive, \$1,455,000, 3 Bdrms, 2077 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-11-17

## 69 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Orinda

Beautifully remodeled 4 bedroom 3 bathroom single-level home in Sleepy Hollow. The open floor plan has a great room with vaulted ceilings and hardwood floors and a gourmet kitchen with quartz counter tops and stainless steel appliances. The level yard includes a trellis-covered blue stone patio, a deck, a large lawn area and a private patio off the master suite. Enjoy serene views of the hills from the upper yard area. Minutes to Sleepy Hollow Elementary School (check for availability).

Offered at \$1,695,000 | 69sleepyhollowlane.com



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## Feng Shui

# Trends for on point design

By Michele Duffy



There are many new and old favorite colors that I love and share in the Benjamin Moore palette, but the real trend I'm all juiced up over is a locally based, eco-friendly, paint pigment line called Drikolor. The fabulous pigment is added carefully to a Drikolor gallon of paint, and voila, you have a cutting-edge, environmentally friendly, one-of-a-kind color that will surely set your space apart.

Another en pointe trend is to use eco-friendly natural design elements that represent one of the Five Elements.

The flooring our feet touch, the bedding we sleep in, the chairs or sofas we sit on, the dining table where we eat, are increasingly made of sustainable materials that blend to create a subtle subliminal of "nature inspired, energy-rich" wellness.

Utilizing reclaimed or repurposed raw and sustainable materials such as vintage wood, sea glass, corrugated metals, cork, and abundantly available bamboo can strengthen the Five Elements and ultimately the Feng Shui of your space.

Applying the Five Elements in your own home can be an adventurous and fun exercise. The Water Element can easily be represented by black wavy sculptures or a soothing table-top fountain in the foyer; purple orchids activate the Wood Element; a soy candle ignites the Fire Element; a crystal or ceramic bowl of crystals, shells and rocks grounds the Earth element; and the Metal Element activates effortlessly with a harmonious metal chime.

Each home, each room, has an individual energetic signature, so each project needs the trained eye of a Feng Shui expert to see the big picture as well as the small details, to tie all of the elements together and enhance the overall Feng Shui. Your home should be vital, vibrant, serene and abundant.

... continued on next page

**M**y work focuses on drawing upon the ancient wisdom of Feng Shui, and applying design principles in a way that supports modern, busy 21st century lives, so trendy isn't normally a word I would include in many consultations, but it's important to be au courant and fresh, that in itself is great Feng Shui.

So what are some trends we can all take advantage of that strengthen, versus weaken, the Feng Shui of our homes?

First, color is the biggest splash of trendsetting and what we paint in our interiors should, ideally, strengthen the overall Feng Shui of our spaces, create the right mood and form a nice backdrop for living our lives.

There is more to a color consultation than simply picking colors and color can be downright daunting to many people. Choosing a "flow" color will help you neutralize most of the common areas and it's also wise to choose colors that are friends and work well together. Remember to apply colors that will support and strengthen the Five Elements of the Bagua, as you overlay the Bagua over the rooms you paint in your home.



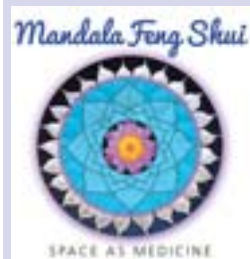
For the trend-within-a-trend, even “DIY projects” are more frequently inclusive of a professional Feng Shui analysis so the design budget dollars are spent wisely, save time, save elbow grease and other precious resources in our busy lives. Selecting from the beginning ideal Feng Shui items that are workable, budget-friendly, readily available and powerfully placed puts you in the happy “commanding position” for any of your home remodeling projects.

Of course, trends don’t always fit our lifestyle, tastes or mindsets. One that I like to buck is always changing every last detail to fit the season. Yes to lighter-weight blankets and throws but keeping some of the yin winter blue pillows maintains just enough coolness to balance the strong yang Fire Element of the coming summer months.

Most importantly, experiment and have fun. Remember, if it feels good to you, most likely you are probably on the right track towards wonderful Feng Shui.

<b>WEALTH &amp; PROSPERITY</b> XUN Wood Southeast Purple	<b>FAME &amp; REPUTATION</b> Li Fire South Red Summer	<b>RELATIONSHIPS</b>  Kun Earth Southwest Pink
<b>FAMILY</b>  ZHEN Wood East Green Spring	<b>HEALTH</b>  TAI JI Earth Center Orange, Yellow Brown	<b>JOY &amp; COMPLETION</b>  DUI Metal West White Autumn
<b>KNOWLEDGE &amp; SELFCULTIVATION</b>  GEN Earth Northeast Blue	<b>CAREER &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b> KAN Water North Black & Dark Blue Winter	<b>HELPFUL PEOPLE &amp; TRAVEL</b>  QIAN Metal Northeast Grey

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating “Space as Medicine” Feng Shui one space at a time,



as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2017 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.



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*Digging Deep*

# 11 Tips for uprooting and transplanting gardens

By Cynthia Brian

*“What you plant now, you will harvest later.” — Og Mandino*



*The shiny green leaves of the purple trumpet vine mix perfectly with the deep purple flowers of the potato vine.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

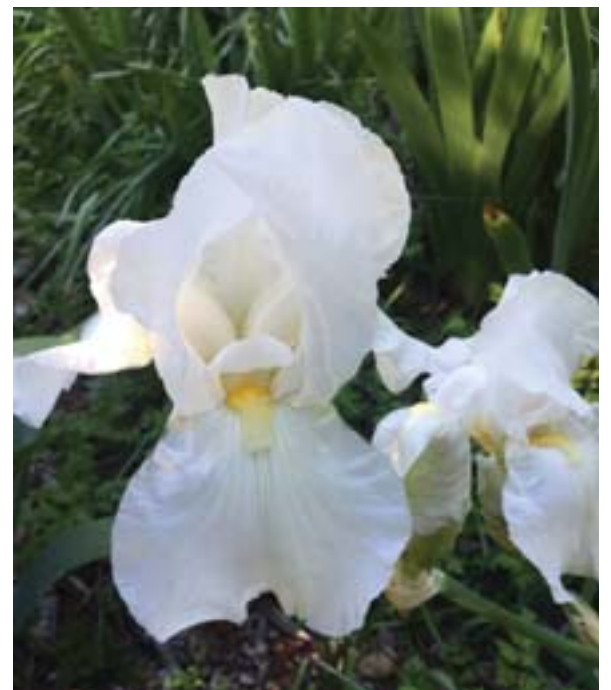
It's the time of year when kids are excitedly looking towards the play-filled days of summer while parents are wondering how they will juggle all of their children's activities — swim meets, fairs, camps, baseball tournaments, concerts and, possibly, a move. During the summer, many people are uprooted and transplanted to another location. Sometimes the disruption is just across town and sometimes it is across the country or across the globe. It's challenging and often a shock to our systems getting settled, making friends and building a new garden.

When plants, trees, and shrubs are moved, they also go through an instance of distress. It doesn't matter if they are being moved from one part of the garden to another or across the continent to a new home, as directors of our landscapes, we have a responsibility to give the transplants a good foundation for their new environs. Spring, early summer and late fall are traditionally optimal times for this transition. Follow the suggestions below for a successful uprooting and transplanting experience.

... continued on next page



*Deep red blooms of the Queen Elizabeth Rose decorate a patio.*



*Asiatic Lilies increase in blooms annually.*



*Privet is a fast growing shrub that is used for borders, privacy screens, and in formal gardens.*

## Transplanting Tips:

When we transplant seedlings, trees, shrubs, or other plants, they experience shock. To diminish the negative effects of being moved, these easy steps will help provide strength and adjustment to the new environment.

1. Prevent shock effectively by gently uprooting. Dig up as many of the roots as possible and don't shake the dirt off. Refrain from cutting roots, unless a plant has been root bound.
2. To strengthen the plant, cut it back about a third and make sure to remove any flowers, dead leaves or dying limbs. This will help the plant regenerate more quickly without exerting extra energy. Don't over prune or you'll worsen the effects of shock.
3. Provide clean, nutrient-rich soil for the transplants. Buy bags of topsoil or potting soil, depending on where you are transplanting.
4. Before transplanting, boil eight cups of water with eight tablespoons of sugar. Stir and allow cooling to room temperature. Before putting the roots in the new soil, pour two cups of this liquid on the transplant. Save two cups for each plant after the transplant. This recipe is good for two plants. Increase recipe to make as much as needed.
5. Dig a large enough hole for the transplant as a major cause of shock is placing a plant in too small of a hole and not providing enough water.
6. After planting in your new location or container, pour the remaining two cups of sugar water on the plant.
7. Water the transplant thoroughly. This helps the roots settle into the new soil.
8. Monitor water on a regular basis. Proper watering is essential for rapid recovery.
9. Wilted, shriveled, scorched, rolled, curled, or yellow leaves are indicators of shock. An immune system booster for transplants is to treat with aspirin water. Smash two or three aspirins in a gallon of water. Trickle water on your plants to increase plant health.  
Add three to four inches of organic mulch around the plants to reduce symptoms. Mulch will insulate the plant, maintaining a consistent temperature while prevent erosion.
10. Continue to water deeply yet be diligent not to drown the roots.
11. Give the plants time to recover and settle into their new home. Have patience. It's shocking to be uprooted!

... continued on page D14



# Cynthia Brian's Mid-month Gardening Guide

- **WATER** deeply and less frequently. As summer approaches our gardens will be thirstier. By watering deeply, you encourage strong roots. If you want to use a hose and sprinkler, buy a water timer that can be attached to a hose bib. Price is only about \$23-\$30 and will save you time, money and waste.
- **GROW** roses on your patio or deck in containers where you have plenty of sunlight. Use high quality soil and tree rose of your choosing for blooms and beauty all season long. Cover a mailbox with a climbing rose to increase your curb appeal.
- **SNIP** the tops off mint to enjoy in multiple refreshing uses including salads and mojitos.
- **SPREAD** the seeds of Love in a Mist after they have finished blooming. The seed pods can be crushed and shaken in areas where you want more flowers next year.
- **PRIVACY** screens are all the rage in neighborhoods. Prune privets to a height and width you want for a quick green fence or plant clumping bamboo. (This bamboo does not get out of control or tear up your concrete)
- **GIVE** the gift of living plant to your graduate. With care, a plant will be a constant reminder of your ongoing love.
- **CELEBRATE** Dad on Father's Day. A well-made tool or herbs for his barbecue marinades could be right up his alley.
- **WATCH** for mosquito larvae in birdbaths and other still water. Empty water from all containers or add animal safe Dunks.
- **WIN** \$50,000 for your Garden: As a judge in America's Best Gardener Contest, I encourage you to enter your best garden photo. The top prize is \$50,000. Wish I could enter! [www.americasbestgardener.com](http://www.americasbestgardener.com)
- Harvest what's ripe and ready:
  - Mulberries (you may have to battle the birds)
  - Cherries (Ditto to above)
  - Wild Plums
  - Nectarines,
  - Kale
  - Mints

Enjoy our final days of spring. Summer sun and fun is quickly approaching. Congratulations to all of our graduates and a very Happy Father's Day to all the great daddies. Kudos to you all.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



*The lacy blue, white, or pink florets of Love in a Mist are great as garden fillers.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*



*Adding a cascading pink Bonica rose over a mailbox increases curb appeal.*



*Acanthus spinosus* is the inspiration for the popular architectural and decorative ornamentation motif originally introduced by the Greeks.



Cynthia Brian loves gardening in June.

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 Are1® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's Radio show at [www.StarStyleRadio.com](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com). Her new book, Growing with the Goddess Gardener will be available soon! Hire Cynthia for your next project, [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com) [www.GoddessGardener.com](http://www.GoddessGardener.com) 925-377-STAR

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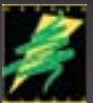


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## ORINDA



New Price

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

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 29 Tappan Lane

A rare find! Very special mid-century custom built 1 level home on gorgeous 1.89 acre estate knoll setting. Views across Sleepy Hollow. Total tranquility. Beyond beautiful long estate lane. **\$1,775,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 2 Valley View Drive

Iconic Orinda landmark home on prime .6 acre with wonderful grounds. Exquisitely remodeled throughout, chef's kitchen, huge family room, gorgeous master suite, 3 renovated baths + bonus room. **\$1,795,000**

## ORINDA



### 572 Dalewood Drive

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

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 10 Winding Lane

A tasteful estate situated up a winding lane of 8.6 acres. 3 main structures of apx. 23,422 sq.ft. with Main Residence, Carriage House & Sports Complex. Handcrafted features well beyond the norm. **\$16,500,000**

## MORAGA



### 891 Augusta Drive

Moraga Country Club expanded Plan 3. Remodeled kitchen, updated baths, 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, office and spacious bonus may be used as third bedroom. **\$1,050,000**

## MORAGA



### 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**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

### 1038 Leland Drive

Sweet move in ready 3bd/2ba, apx. 1,228 sq.ft. home w/ hardwood floors, fireplace, dual pane windows, A/C & level fenced yard. Private .31 acre lot with level lawn & room to garden. Top schools! **\$925,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Price

### 1600 Reliez Valley Road

Custom home with top of the line everything! 3298 sqft, 4 bdrm, 3 bath on private .68 acre. Separate 1180 sqft permitted studio/ office that City & County have approved as accessory dwelling unit. **\$1,845,000**

## ALAMO



New Listing

### 115 Bando Court

Spacious 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home, new kitchen, updated baths, hardwood floors, sparkling pool on cul-de-sac. **\$1,750,000**

## CLAYTON



New Price

### 1781 Indian Wells Way

Great updated Black Diamond end unit townhome on fabulous corner lot. 3 beds, 2.5 baths in apx. 1749 sq. ft. on a .12 acre lot. Vaulted ceilings, lovely kitchen with granite counters. **\$630,000**

## CONCORD



New Listing

### 1901 Meredith Court

Beautiful Rancher on quiet cul-de-sac. Pride of ownership abounds. Fully remodeled 3 bedroom, 3 bath with Bonus Detached Office/ Studio. Fruit trees and garden beds. Backs to Open Space. **\$619,000**

## MARTINEZ



New Listing

### 36 Donegal Way

Updates throughout in this 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome. Highlights include updated eat-in kitchen, new floors, new carpet, fresh paint. **\$550,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

### 1121 Studebaker Road

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