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100 Lafayette Circle after the fire

Photo courtesy ConFire

Total devastation in Lafayette Circle fire

By Nick Marnell

A discarded cigarette on a restaurant patio likely caused the explosion and fire that ripped through the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce building, fire officials said. In minutes the fire wiped out more than 40 years of Lafayette history, completely destroying an iconic restaurant, the Chamber and a number of small businesses.

"We determined that the cause of the fire was accidental," said Robert Marshall, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District fire marshal, a fact of little solace to those who lost everything.

As he's done countless times in his 17 years at the restaurant, Jeff Assadi closed La Fines-

tra at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 12 and brought in a company to do after-hours maintenance. Chris Rossi of Siggys Carpet Cleaning of Lafayette shampooed the restaurant carpets, completed the job in an hour and departed. A restaurant employee who assisted Rossi then left, and Assadi locked up the restaurant, noticing nothing at all out of order. "Whatever happened after that, I have no idea," Assadi said.

Whatever happened after that, arrived in a fury from the depths of hell.

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Advertising

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Rescue One marks its 40th year quietly helping to save lives

By Sophie Braccini



Rescue One Foundation members at a demonstration of the new drone that it purchased for MOFD. Seated: MOFD Captain Michael Marquardt (drone pilot), Gene Gottfried, Gordon Nathan; Standing: Linda Borrelli, Ellen Long, Sally Whittaker, Greg Reams, MOFD board president Kathleen Famulener.

Few people know that the Moraga Fire District was the first fire district in Northern California to possess a fully equipped paramedic unit to serve the population's medical emergencies.

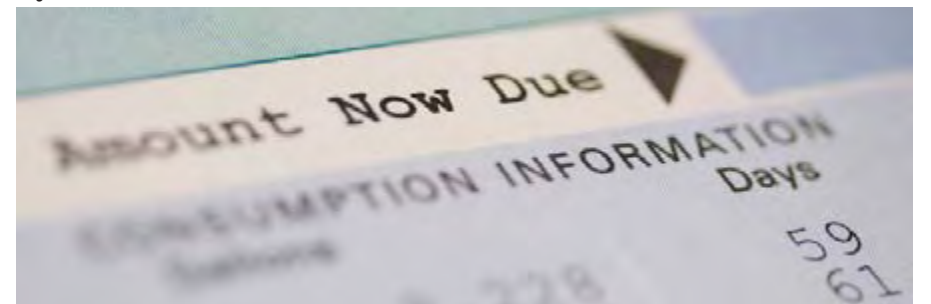
It happened because, 40 years ago, Moraga residents were frustrated at not getting

ambulances fast enough. They created Rescue One, the foundation that paid for the very first emergency medical vehicle. Since then Orinda joined the Moraga district that became the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the two towns benefit from the same service.

... continued on page A10

Lamorindans react to the EBMUD water rate hike

By Nick Marnell



Residents' EBMUD bills are taking a hike upward.

Photo provided

Proving once again that no good deed goes unpunished, customers of the East Bay Municipal Utility District, who cut water usage nearly 20 percent during the drought, will pay 18.25 percent more for their water over two years through June 2019.

The district board approved the new rates July 11 with a 9.25 percent increase effective immediately, and an additional 9 percent rise next July, much of the \$2 billion raised earmarked for upgrading district infrastructure.

"It's a slap in the face to those who conserved," said EBMUD Ward 2 Director John Coleman, who serves the Lafayette

area and cast the only vote against the rate increase. Coleman prefers that EBMUD had issued general obligation bonds for the infrastructure investment, which he said would have heightened transparency. "We need to be more cognizant of where our citizens are coming from, and my vote reflected that," he said.

Jessica Shafer, a Moraga mother of three, personified Coleman's stance. "It sounds like we did a better job of managing our water than they did managing their money," Shafer said of the district. "Shouldn't we get benefits for working extra hard to save water?"

... continued on page A10

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Buses to stop running on El Toyonal, other routes – page A6.

Fire Districts A8
Will MOFD have to shutter another station? – page A8.

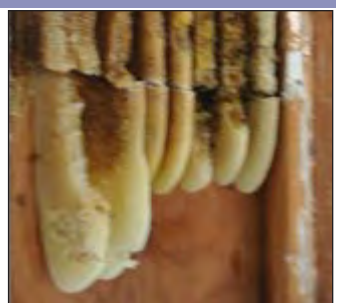
It's been 45 years for Roughing It Day-Camp – page B1.



Saint Mary's Mike Matoso wants to continue success as AD – page C1.



Unwanted guests? Get the real buzz on bees in the house – page D1.





Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Aug. 14, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, July 31, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Aug. 14, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

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

July 2 - July 15

Alarms	75
911 Calls (incl hang-ups)	4
Noise complaints	9
Traffic stops	100
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subjects	12
Suspicious Vehicles	27
Service to Citizen	31
Abandoned Vehicle	
3000 Block Sandalwood Ct.	
3000 Block Sandalwood Ct.	
1000 Block Circle Creek Dr. Laf	
10 Block Topper Ct.	
Topper Ct./School St.	
Accident Property	
1st St./Eb Sr 24	
Auto Burglary	
S Lucille Ln./St. Marys Rd.	
4100 Block Coralee Ln.	
Battery	
3500 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
Beat Info	
4100 Block Canyon Rd.	
Eb Sr 24 At Acalanes Rd.	
Civil Disturbance	
20 Block Lafayette Cr.	
Civil Problem	
3900 Block Quail Ridge Rd.	
Civil Standby	
1000 Block Regio Ct.	
DUI Misdemeanor	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Creek	
Moraga Rd./School St.	
Embezzlement	
900 Block Mountain View Dr. Laf	
Fire/Ems Response Info	
100 Block Lafayette Cr.	
50 Block Lafayette Cr.	
3300 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
1100 Block Nogales St.	
Fireworks	
500 Block Merriewood	
Springhill Rd./Martino Rd.	
3800 Block Quail Ridge Rd.	
Burnt Oak Cr./Rohrer Dr. Laf	
Springhill Rd./Prado Way	
3rd St./Moraga Blvd.	
Rose Ln./Rose Ct.	
Forgery	
900 Block Mountain View Dr. Laf	
200 Block Lafayette Cr.	
Found Property	
3500 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.	
3400 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
1600 Block Silver Dell Rd.	
Fraud False Pretenses	
1000 Block Via Roble	
Hailed By Citizen	
3500 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
200 Block Lafayette Cr.	
Moraga Rd./Wilkinson Ln.	
Harassment	
3500 Block Moraga Blvd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3500 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
Lafayette Cr./Fiesta Ln.	
Lafayette Cr./Fiesta Ln.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Creek	
Acalanes Rd./Mt Diablo Blvd.	
Identity Theft	
3200 Block Sweet Dr. Laf	
1000 Block Via Roble	
In Custody Theft	
3500 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
Litter	
10 Block Wallabi Ct.	
3400 Block Golden Gate Way	
Loitering	
3600 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
Lost Property	
Police Department	
Missing Adult	
900 Block Carol Ln.	
3600 Block Mosswood Dr. Laf	
Occupied Stalled Vehicle	
Deer Hill Rd./Laurel Dr. Laf	
Acalanes Rd./El Nido Branch Rd.	
Ordinance Violation	
3600 Block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
10 Block Aspen Ct.	

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Troops honored as families gather for picnics and great music

By Pippa Fisher



World Airline flight attendants, from left, Loren Bente, Veronica Villano, Nancy Peppin, Yolanda "Jolie" Vega, Margie Sikes, Aimee Johnson. And little dog Daisy. Photo Pippa Fisher

Blazing sunshine and sizzling heat didn't stop a large crowd showing up July 15 at Lafayette Reservoir to express their gratitude to the troops and especially to those ones have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Families enjoyed their picnics and stayed as cool as possible in the shade to the sounds of great music from the Big Band of Rossmoor and Eagles tribute band, Midnight Flyer.

Yolanda (Jolie) Vega, whose own son was killed on active duty in Afghanistan, sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and thanked the crowd for their support.

Also at the event, in addition to many present and past military

members, were several people who worked with Vega as flight attendants on World Airways during the Vietnam War.

Vega explained, "World (Airways) received a military contract to fly military to various bases in Asia - Japan, Okinawa, Korea, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam."

Vega said she was based out of Yokota Air Base for three years. "All of us who flew into military bases during the Vietnam War received an identification card from the Military Airlift Command under the Department of Defense. We were covered under the Geneva Convention(s) and were given officer ranks."

Once again, the annual event was a resounding success.

Renovation work to start on new police building

By Pippa Fisher

After some initial delays, work will be starting soon on the renovation of the new Lafayette police station.

The Lafayette City Council unanimously approved a contract to Sausal Corporation to begin the work on the new police department at a recent meeting.

The city has had to find a new location for its police administration offices following the decision by the landlord at the current site in Desco Plaza in October last year not to renew the lease. The problem is that the department has outgrown the space and, among other issues, there are just too many police vehicles in that parking lot.

In November the city found a new location just east of Boswell's at 3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd., which

must now be renovated and transformed into a police building.

Although initially the police were expecting to have to be moved out of Desco Plaza by the end of June this year, the current landlord gave an extension for the space on the condition that they remove multiple vehicles from the parking lot beginning July 1, which has been done.

The delay in starting the work is largely due to the building's utility systems - water, sewer and electrical systems - having to be brought up to the standards required in a modern police station.

Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk said, "We thought the building was going to be a plug-and-play, but it requires more work than that."

The council heard from Lafayette City Engineer Tony Coe, who explained that Sausal Corpo-



The Lafayette Police Department will relocate here. Photo Pippa Fisher

ration came in as the lowest bidder at \$1,387,300.

Coe said that the construction company is in the top 100 of California contractors in terms of annual revenue size. He added that Sausal has a portfolio of public projects including the Redwood Shores Li-

brary in Redwood City, the Alcosta Senior Center in San Ramon and various school buildings across the East Bay.

Coe hopes that work will start before the end of this month and should be completed by the beginning of 2018.

Lafayette School District Governing Board Vacancy

Application and Selection Procedures

The Lafayette School District Governing Board has a vacant position due to the resignation of a board member effective June 29, 2017. The board is proceeding with filling the vacancy by provisional appointment. The person appointed shall hold office until the next regularly scheduled election for district board members (November 2018) and shall be afforded all the powers and duties of a board member upon appointment.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE To be considered a candidate for a provisional appointment to the Lafayette School District Governing Board an application packet must be submitted no later than Tuesday, August 8, 2017. The application packet must include:

- Letter of interest relating to pertinent experience
- Current resume
- Completed application form

Application forms are available at the Lafayette School District Office, 3477 School St., Lafayette or online at www.lafsd.org.

Candidates are considered eligible if they are 18 years of age or older; a citizen of the state; a resident of the school district; a registered voter; and not disqualified by the constitution or laws of the state from holding a civil office.

APPLICATION PACKETS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAIL or IN PERSON AT THE LAFAYETTE SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE, 3477 School Street Lafayette, BY NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M. on TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2017.

By mail: Application packets must be received at the Lafayette School District Office on or before Tuesday, August 8, 2017.

In person: Application packets can be delivered to the district between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

SELECTION PROCEDURE The board will interview candidates at a public meeting on Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Stanley Middle School Library, 3455 School Street, Lafayette CA.

The board will accept oral or written public input and will select the provisional appointee by a majority vote at this meeting.

Within 10 days following the board meeting the district will post a notice in all district schools and in the newspaper stating that the vacancy has been filled and that unless a petition is filed that meets the requirements of law within 30 days of the provisional appointment, the appointment will become effective.

**Please direct any questions to:
Lafayette School District Executive Assistant, Sharon Carman, at (925) 927-3502.**

Lafayette

Conflict of interest in commissions is causing trust issues in Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher

The integrity of Lafayette's boards and commissions is currently under scrutiny for perceived conflict of interest.

For instance, can a member of the Planning Commission or Design Review Commission represent his or her own paying client when seeking approval for a project? What if they recuse themselves from meetings in cases when the firm they work for is involved?

This was discussed at the July 10 Lafayette City Council meeting, following a year of concerns about integrity within these commissions.

It's obvious that changes need to be made to Lafayette city policy regarding the question of conflict of interest within the city's commissions to provide clarity and to ensure no ethical boundaries are

crossed.

City Attorney Mala Subramanian reminded the council that although the city's draft resolution goes above and beyond what is required by the Political Reform Act, the regulations do not completely prohibit commissioners from representing clients and provide guidelines for such cases. For example, no commissioner may use his or her city position to influence the outcome of an application.

In fact currently, DRC Chair Bob Cleaver's firm is employed in the development of Woodbury Highlands and initial site planning work there was done by LPC member Thomas Chastain's firm. However, both commissioners recused themselves during presentations to the boards so are not technically in violation.

... continued on page A9

'Aging By Design': the 9th annual Senior Symposium is set for Aug. 5

By Pippa Fisher

Lamorinda residents will soon have the chance to attend the Senior Symposium for an informative morning of presentations, discussions and vendors with the theme of "Aging by Design," organized by the Lafayette Community Foundation.

As LCF board member Anne Grodin noted, the main focus of this event is to make people aware of the diversity of services available for seniors in this area.

The symposium is co-sponsored by John Muir Health and many senior-related businesses and providers in collaboration with the Lafayette Senior Services Commission.

Now in its ninth year, the event is always popular. It takes place at Lafayette Elementary School, 950 Moraga Road in Lafayette from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Aug. 5. There will be plenty of parking

behind the school with some mobility parking in front.

This year the symposium will include presentations from stroke program coordinator for John Muir Health, Jennifer Cave-Brown, and senior fitness consultant David Garcia. It will also feature a panel discussion by service providers. There will be breaks between the speakers to allow attendees to visit the resource fair.

LCF is providing Communication Access Real Time Translation captions for people with hearing loss.

The free annual event can accommodate up to 300 attendees. Those interested are encouraged to register in advance online at www.lafayettecf.org or by calling (925) 284-8214. Advanced registration also qualifies for a chance to win a gift card to Diablo Foods.

Upper Happy Valley Road work nears completion, but more to come

By Pippa Fisher



EBMUD installing a new pipeline.

Photo Pippa Fisher

Residents who have become used to the delays and the slow, bumpy crawl over steel trench plates on Upper Happy Valley Road can look forward to some smoother rides in the near future.

EBMUD is in the process of installing a new 12-inch pipeline along Upper Happy Valley Road. The company expects to have the work completed by mid-August, at which time the steel plates will be removed and some reconstruction work on the pavement will begin.

City Engineer Tony Coe updated the Lafayette City Council members at the council meeting July 10. He cautioned that although EBMUD will be repairing the pavement under Lafayette's most stringent repair standards - Lafayette requires restoration of the road up to four feet beyond a road cut as opposed to the county's requirement of only four inches beyond - the road surface will still require further work.

In his report Coe says that, "This measure alone would restore the pavement to be equal to, if not exceeding, the conditions prior to the pipeline work." But, he added that the utility company is responsible only for restoring the road to the same condition as before and that "we can't ask them to do more than that."

However the city is planning to surface seal the mile-long stretch of road next summer, which Coe says will restore a smooth and uniform appearance, as well as fill cracks, level low spots and repair any potholes. This work is already budgeted for under capital improvements.

Council Member Ivor Samson commented that it is important for the city to get word out to residents that further repairs are planned, even beyond EBMUD's work and that the "patchwork" effect along that stretch of road, will be addressed at that time.



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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission

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

Design Review

Monday, Aug. 14, 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



June 28 to July 11

- Accident**
- July 4
Moraga Road/Paseo Linares
- Alarms**
- June 29 (2)
- June 30 (2)
- July 1
- July 4
Moraga Swim/Tennis club
Camino Pablo
1100 block Larch
1300 block Camino Pablo
- July 6
1900 block Ascot Dr.
- July 7
- July 8 (2)
- July 9
3900 block Campolindo Dr.
- Argument**
- July 6 SODA Aquatic Center
- Assault & Battery**
- July 1
- Civil**
- July 5 Williams Dr.
- Credit fraud**
- July 5 reported to police
- Court violation**
- July 6
- Felony assault**
- July 2 Taco Bell
- ID Theft**
- June 28
- July 8 600 block Moraga Rd
- Larceny**
- July 6 CVS
- Traffic collision**
- June 29
Corliss/Lynnwood Place
- July 4
Moraga Rd./Paseo Linares
- July 7
Moraga Way/St. Andrews
- Vehicle Larceny**
- June 29
underground parking garage
- Vandalism, auto**
- July 2
- Welfare check**
- July 1 MOFD transport

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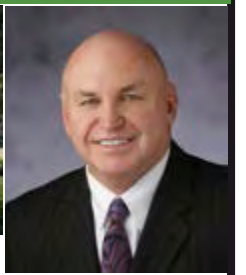
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Moraga will streamline commercial permitting process

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga officials promised at a recent council meeting that it would take only three months to do what years of discussions could not achieve: streamlining the commercial permitting process. It took the determination of a property owner and the persuasion of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce to kick-start a process that had stalled for years.

According to chamber executive director Kathe Nelson, some businesses think that Moraga's commercial permitting process is "the kiss of death." Jay Kerner of U.S. Realty Partners, which owns a large part of the Rheem Valley Shopping Center, explained that in retail time is of the essence and he added at the July 12 council meeting that he welcomed any attempt to simplify Moraga's process.

Ellen Clark, the planning director, presented to the council a solution to avoid years of meetings by creating a Commercial Planned Development district for Moraga. Under that new framework, a commercial property owner could ask for the establishment of a CPD district with predictable parameters such as building height, parking constraints, and types of use. Once the general framework is approved, any new business, or change in existing business, would simply have to demonstrate its compliance within the framework to be approved.

This would be quite different than the current process. Today, any modification to a use permit for a commercial space requires staff to make a series of findings, some of which are completely at odds with current standards: per current code, a finding has to be made that "a use won't generate pedestrian traffic flow between abutting uses."

This process is long and can be appealed, which leads to uncertainty. Clark noted that staff recommended this code simplification to support U.S. Realty Partners' desire to attract new tenants and revitalize the Rheem center. She noted that the commercial planned develop-



Rheem Valley Shopping Center



Moraga Shopping Center

ment mechanism is widely used in the Bay Area.

Dave Bruzzone, whose family owns the Moraga Center (Safeway shopping center), said he supported the idea of simplification and asked that his property be included in the new CPD. At this time the Moraga Center is regulated by the Moraga Center Specific Plan and a committee has been working for over two years on the zoning of the MCSP.

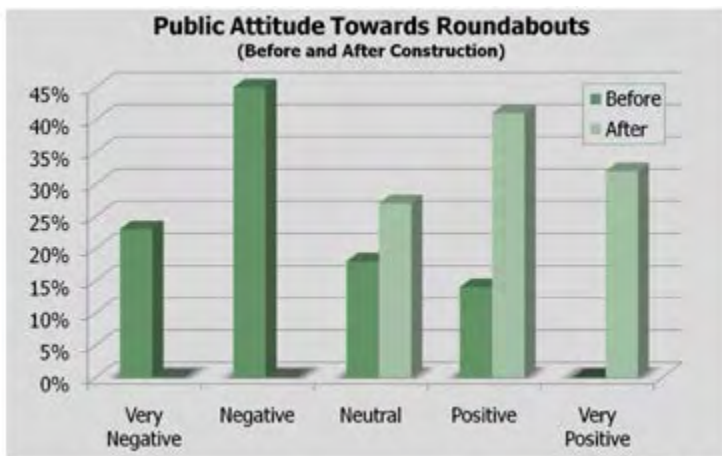
The ad hoc committee will develop a proposed CPD ordinance and proposed permitted uses and development standards in any future CPD-zoned commercial areas of the town. After that, the plan-

ning commission will review the proposed ordinance before the Town Council considers it for adoption. When a property owner asks for an area to be constituted as a CPD the same process will be followed: review by the planning commission before consideration by the council. Once approved, adjoining properties can ask to be included in an existing CPD.

Council members Kimberleigh Korpus and Dave Trotter were appointed to be part of the ad hoc committee. The first meeting of that group, which is open to the public, is scheduled for 10 a.m. Aug. 9.

Roundabouts take shape on St. Mary's Road

By Sophie Braccini



FHWA statistics on roundabouts.

Roundabouts are some of the most misunderstood features on the road today.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, before a roundabout is constructed about 65 percent of the people affected have a negative perception of the road feature, but after construction 75 percent of the same users have a positive viewpoint regarding roundabouts.

When Moraga Director of Public Works Edric Kwan presented the first version of what two new roundabouts would look like on

St. Mary's Road, he certainly had to face expected skepticism from many residents, though several

Moragans who live in the Bluffs voiced their support of something they see as a possible solution for a very dangerous intersection.

The town of Moraga received a grant last year to pay for a study to design roundabouts on St. Mary's Road. The topic was the safety of two intersections: Bollinger Canyon and Rheem Boulevard. The idea has been on the desk of the public works department since January of 2008, with the recommendation of constructing one or two roundabouts. It became an objective of the town last year to get the project "shovel-ready" for when grant money comes in.

Kwan hired Kimley Horn and Associates, a firm with extensive roundabout construction experience. A presentation was given on July 20 in the town's offices.

Kwan reminded the rather large audience that the two intersections were characterized with insufficient stopping sight distance and had visibility issues. He said that the project's first objective was to improve the safety for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. Other goals included minimizing the impact to open space, curtailing construction costs, and maintaining the rural character of the surrounds areas.

... continued on next page

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Roundabouts take shape

... continued from page A4



Roundabout design on St. Mary's Road.

Image provided

The Moraga Town Council asked the consultant to consider all possibilities for these two intersections.

The consultants explained that they had considered different alternatives: at the Rheem Boulevard intersection either a roundabout or a traffic signal, and at the Bollinger Canyon Road intersection, a full size roundabout, a mini-roundabout or a three-way stop.

According to the consultants and the data they collected, a roundabout at Rheem and a mini-roundabout at Bollinger are the best options in terms of traffic calming, safety, traffic flow, and cost.

Some residents that had come to the meeting were nonetheless very critical of the concept. Several people asked why the town would spend time and money on "bells and whistles" when it had a fiscal emergency on its hands.

Kwan explained that no money from the general fund would ever go to this project and that it would remain unfunded until it could be financed by grants. He added that in spite of the financial emergency, residents deserved the best safety possible.

A number of residents voiced their skepticism toward the small roundabout proposed at the intersection at Bollinger, located on a slope in a blind curve. Sean Houck, from

Kimley-Horn and Associates, who has conceived over one hundred roundabouts, talked about several designed with similar topographic constraints that were very efficient.

One person also noted that only to neighbors of the intersections (including the entire Bluffs) were notified of the meeting and that it would impact the whole town. Kwan responded that more public meetings would be held to discuss the project.

Several Bluffs residents expressed their appreciation in very emotional terms that the town was taking their concerns into consideration. Some said that they had to go through the most dangerous intersection in town, aware of the fact that it was a big risk every time. Others noted that they were hearing emergency response vehicles coming to the intersection every other week.

Some residents noted that no formal crossing had been planned for pedestrians at the intersections and asked that it be added.

Kwan concluded the meeting saying that residents' comments would be taken into consideration and that a final project would be submitted during a public session in the coming months. More information is available on the project website at www.moraga.ca.us/roundabouts.

Moraga is stuck with its dire finances

By Sophie Braccini

Many Moraga residents are feeling frustrated over the state of the town's meager finances, and made their frustration known at a recent town council meeting. One of the main reasons for their ire is that they feel cheated since Moraga gets the least percentage of the property taxes collected within its limits in Contra Costa County.

And there's nothing they can do about it. This fact was etched when Proposition 13 was adopted and, according to County Supervisor Candace Andersen, cannot be changed. Moraga residents will have to find other sources of revenue.

Al Dessayer, a former Moraga mayor, says that when the town was incorporated in 1974, the percentage of property tax the town could levy was declared by the county; it was not by voter's choice. He adds that at the time, opponents to the incorporation were saying that the town would never survive with such a small tax base. Dessayer says that the founders of Moraga made the choice of a minimal service town and that as long as the town stayed with this philosophy, it worked and it was able to put money aside.

Dessayer adds that since 1974 laws and obligations have changed and so have the population's expectations. But even if expectations and obligations have changed, the percentage of the property tax the town gets back will not budge, according to Andersen.

Andersen learned very early in her political career that changing Prop. 13, which passed in 1977, was impossible. Before its passage, each entity, town, school district, fire district, etc., levied a different tax and the average rate for the state was 2.67 percent of the full cash value of properties. Property taxes

increased as home values rose to such an extent that people on fixed incomes ended up not being able to pay the taxes on homes they had bought years before. Prop. 13 also promised that the percentage of the property tax would not go over 1 percent of the home value.

When Prop. 13 passed the total property tax revenue dropped drastically, from \$10.3 billion to \$4.3 billion. Each county looked at its new allotment and gave to each entity the same percentage of the diminished revenue as the one they had contributed the year before. As a result, those who did not tax their residents at a high rate got even less than those who had taxed their residents more. These percentages are still the same today.

In Moraga the town's administration gets 5.27 percent of the property tax collected, almost 40 percent goes to the Moraga and Acalanes school districts, and a surprising 3.17 percent goes to the Walnut Creek School District. (In Lafayette 6.66 percent of the property tax collected within the city limits goes to the city and 4.5 percent goes to WCSD). The Moraga-Orinda Fire District gets 18.8 percent, and 13.65 percent goes to the county. Andersen explains that giving more to Moraga would result in giving less to one of the other entities, something she does not see happening.

So it is likely that Moraga will have to find additional revenue within its borders, as indicated by the administrative director at a recent council meeting. How and when has not been decided yet. In a recent message, Town Manager Bob Priebe indicated that city staff will schedule a number of open communications with residents in the coming weeks, including a community meeting, to discuss the fiscal emergency and the current town budget. Then residents will be polled to evaluate what they think should be the priority spending. The town manager will present the findings to the Town Council, and let it decide whether to put a measure on a ballot and if so, what type of measure and when.

Dessayer remembers the time when the town cut what was deemed non-essential expenses such as parks and recreation services and Hacienda de las Flores maintenance, and that at the time the town did not have any public works staff as services were contracted out as needed. But he is not pessimistic about Moraga. Dessayer knows that a large part of the expense the town is incurring for its current infrastructure problems will come back to replenish reserves. He also thinks that residents will do what is needed to keep the town afloat.

Hacienda Nights

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Aug. 15, 6 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Aug. 8, 7 p.m.
Special Joint Meeting with City Council
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure

Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

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



Alarms	77
Noise complaints	14
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic stops	44
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subjects	11
Suspicious Vehicles	17
Animal Cruelty	
Orinda Theater	
200 block Village Square	

Battery

Bevmo

Barking Dog

20 block Woodacres Ct.
20 block Daryl Dr (2)
200 block El Toyonal (2)
100 block El Toyonal

Burglary, Auto

Casa Orinda Restaurant
60 block Brookwood Rd.

Burglary, Residential

10 block Greenwood Ct.

Disturbance

100 block Overhill Rd.
Manzanita/Acacia Drives
70 block Donald Dr. (2)
20 block Carisbrook Dr.
30 block Via Callados
Orinda Theater
Orinda Intermediate School
Donald Drive/Hall (2)
50 block Moraga Way
100 block Stein Way

Dispute

10 block El Toyonal
10 block Oakridge Ln.

Drunk in Public

10 block Theatre Square

DUI

Los Amigos/Camino Pablo

Fireworks

Valley Dr./Heather Ln.
30 block Charles Hill Rd.
Reported to MOFD
Lomas Cantadas/Los Venado

ID Theft

reported to police
90 block Via Floreado (2)

Litter

20 block El Gavilan

Loitering

McDonald Dr./Hall

Panhandling

Hwy 24/Camino Pablo

Police/Fire/ EMS

Lafayette Park Hotel
200 block Hall

Reckless Driving

Camino Sobrante/La Espiral
Lombardy Ln./Van Ripper
Camino Pablo/Brookwood
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.

Tamper with Vehicle

El Nido Ranch/Charles Hill

Theft, Petty

Holy Shepherd Church
100 block El Toyonal
El Toyonal/Alta Vista
500 block Tahos Rd.

Trespass

50 block Moraga Way
Quarry Hill Rd./Big Leaf Rd.

Vandalism

Casa Orinda Restaurant
Paintbush Ln./Big Leaf Rd.

Warrant Service/Arrest/Advice

Hwy 24/Wilder (2)

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Orinda City Hall houses rare and beautiful artwork

By Sora O'Doherty



Portrait of cellist Zdenka Cerny Vasak by Czech artist Alfons Mucha, donated to the Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation by Otto Vasak, son of Zdenka. Photo provided

With 2017 being the Year of the Czechs in Orinda, it is a good time to recall that Orinda City Hall houses a beautiful portrait of cellist Zdenka Cerny Vasak by the renowned Czech art nouveau artist Alfons Mucha. The portrait was a gift to the Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation when Bobbi Landers was

mayor of Orinda. Landers could think of no better place for the artwork than in City Hall, where any of the Czech residents of Orinda could easily see it.

The portrait was donated by Otto Vasak. He had inherited it from his mother, the famous cellist Zdenka Cerny Vasak, who had trained in her father's conservatory as a girl. In 1913 Mucha, a family friend, painted the portrait of Zdenka with her cello for a concert poster for an upcoming world tour. The tour, scheduled for just when World War I erupted in Europe, was canceled. The portrait hung in the artist's studio.

The history of this artwork was discussed 45 years ago in the Chicago History Magazine, Spring 1972, by Katherine Wagner Seineke in an essay entitled, "Mucha's Chicago Poster." Visitors to City Hall may obtain a copy of the article upon request. Seineke explains how the portrait came to be, and how it came to return to the United States:

"The star pupil of Cerny conservatory was Cerny's own eldest daughter, Milada, who, a prodigy at the piano, has already made a successful concert tour of Europe in 1903 at the age of 10. ... But it was Milada's little sister Zdenka, who would be the subject of a Mucha portrait in his best medium, the color lithograph poster.

"During his early stay with the Cernys young Zdenka became a favorite of Mucha. He was very much a member of the family and often played simple piano parts in family trios on relaxed musical evenings. ...

"On a visit to the Cernys in March, 1913, ... he renewed an old promise to Zdenka to do her portrait. She was now sixteen, an accomplished cellist, and of a rare swan-like beauty.

"The poster was intended for Zdenka's European tour, but the declaration of war by Austria-Hungary on Serbia caused Zdenka to cancel and hurry back to Chicago. The posters were used for her American concert tours, but her career was short. By the end of the war she was married and had given up the concert stage. Papa Cerny took a trip to Prague later in the twenties when he learned from Neubert that Mucha still had the drawing at his Zbirah Castle in the country. Mucha told Cerny ... that of all the posters he had designed, Zdenka's was his favorite. When he learned that Zdenka has asked her father to look at the drawing if it still existed, Mucha took it from the wall and removed it from its silver frame. Rolling it up he gave it to Cerny, saying, 'Take it to Zdenka in Chicago with my love.'"

For further information on Mucha, see <http://praguedayschicago.com/MuchaBooklet.pdf>

First Student puts the brakes on some Orinda school bus routes

By Sora O'Doherty

Half of the school bus routes in Orinda have been changed to such an extent that parents will probably not use them in the fall.

The Lamorinda School Bus Transportation Agency board might have considered an extension to see how the routes could be improved, but was stymied because school bus contractor First Student refuses to provide services to routes deemed unsafe. Although the routes have been safely operated for over 20 years, the LSBTA commissioned a study by School Bus Consultants that branded many bus stops and routes as unsafe. Route 18, which used to service El Toyonal, is canceled, with no stops left on the route, replaced by a group stop in Orinda Village. Routes 11-2 (Manzanita) and 13 (Charles Hill) are also severely impacted.

Consultants presented LSBTA members with a revised report at its July 13 meeting that made no changes to their recommendations. Many members of the public, mostly parents, vociferously objected to the changes, but the board seemed out of options when First Student stated flatly that they would not continue to operate the disputed routes, even as a temporary extension to allow a search for solutions.

First Student, whose representatives included Dave Collins, area general manager for California, and Henry Cooper, location manager, also rejected a proposal to have pilot cars precede the school buses to assure safety, and said that they would not operate under those conditions.

In the end, the board adopted the recommended revisions to all the routes, but set up a subcommittee to try to find solutions for the worst affected routes, and noted that no parent would be financially penalized if they drop the bus in the fall but seek to rejoin later. LSBTA board members made clear they were extremely concerned that the changes proposed by SBC in the name of safety could also result in more dangerous conditions for students, from walking along or crossing unsafe streets to being transported in private cars, which is considered less safe than transport

in a school bus.

Two Orinda board representatives, Julie Rossiter of the Orinda Union School Board and Amy Worth, vice mayor of Orinda, will serve on the subcommittee. Rossiter voted against adopting the SBC recommendations, and Worth stated that it would be her preference to continue to operate the routes during the search for solutions. The other members of the subcommittee are Laura Allaire, school bus liaison for Wagner Ranch Elementary School and LSBTA board member, and Moraga City Council Member Jeannette Fritsky, who volunteered to join the subcommittee so that more than Orinda would be represented.

General Counsel to the LSBTA Mala Subramanian advised that to continue the routes in the face of the SBC report would constitute negligence — perhaps even triggering strict liability for any ensuing accident. Although asked repeatedly by the Moraga Town Council representative Fritsky to provide some authority for her position, Subramanian could not. Amy Roach, a parent and an attorney with many years of government work experience with the state of California, noted that legally the board does not have contract liability and that

it is not negligent to operate the bus routes in question. "My child is 70 times safer on a school bus than in my car," Roach said, concluding that this is "one big experiment with the child's safety."

Parent Courtney Brothers said she spoke with a First Student driver who said she had no problems with route 11-2, even in the presence of the dump trucks being used in the Miner Road sinkhole repair, and was very unhappy to hear of its possible discontinuance. Sarah Butler, formerly an OUSD board member, explained the difficulty of dealing with this issue, which only came up in May, over the summer. She urged the board to slow down and form a subcommittee.

Many parents who addressed the board were lawyers or engineers who offered their professional opinions on the crucial issues of safety and liability. The speakers pleaded for an extension of the bus routes for next year in order to allow for changes to be made to address the problems identified by SBC. The consultants rejected the notion that narrower buses could solve the problems in Orinda, citing industry best practices, but they were unable to refer the board to any written collection of such best practices.

Larry Theis, Orinda director of public works who conducted stakeholder meetings, strongly recommended keeping the routes as is and using a pilot car, at least for El Toyonal. The proposed changes, he said, reduce the service provided to the community. Theis and Jason Chen, an Orinda senior engineer, garnered praise from the speakers for their commitment to trying to solve the bus problem, and Theis praised the community as being exceptionally cooperative, noting that area residents will already yield the right of way to the school bus.

Parent Eileen Fitz-Faulkner asked the board to consider how many accidents will be caused by the lack of a school bus, and urged the board to look for buses with double turning axles, like fire trucks. Nick Kosla noted, like many others, that he had purchased his home because of the existence of the school bus route, and wondered if the safety issue had been thoroughly vetted when the routes were adopted some 20 years earlier. He sought a second opinion looking for solutions, such as a traffic safety analysis based on the existence or absence of the school bus route.

... continued on page A10



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Housing ordinances dominate Orinda City Council meeting

By John T. Miller



Honoring the sinkhole "heroes": From left, back row: Levi Kinnebrew, Drake Haglan & Associates, Orinda councilmembers Darlene Gee, Inga Miller, and Dean Orr, Orinda vice mayor Amy Worth, Malcolm Sproul of LSA Associates, and Kevin Ross of Drake Haglan & Associates; front row: Ben Rodriguez and Eric Barker of Bay Cities Paving & Grading, Cathy Avila of Avila & Associates, Orinda mayor Eve Phillips, Yasmine Akky, LSA Associates, Dustin Rath, Vali Cooper & Associates and Larry Theis, Orinda staff.
Photo John T. Miller

The Orinda City Council acted on a pair of ordinances at its July 18 meeting, approving one to regulate Accessory Dwelling Units while voting to delay adoption of the other proposed regulations for short-term rentals.

The ADU regulations were developed in response to changes in state law, changes that were a result of the need to increase dwellings and address the housing shortage.

According to Orinda Senior

Planner Derek Farmer who presented the staff findings to the council, "The new laws nullified our existing second dwelling ordinance. We were no longer consistent with state law so we had to come up with an ordinance that took those changes into account."

Mostly, the new regulations are designed to ease the process of building second dwellings on a property, especially those with homes already developed on it.

The ordinance clarifies rules that apply to ADUs in Orinda, making them consistent with state law. It also cleans up some of the other areas of the code, in particular maximum floor areas and the definition of what constitutes a kitchen.

Without the changes, the standards that applied to ADUs were a confusing mix of state and local zoning rules.

The council also considered a new ordinance to regulate short-term rentals – through companies like AirBnB, VRBO, and Craigslist, among others – since there are currently no rules to govern these activities.

As a result of a February 2016 out-of-control party that ended in violence at a short-term rental, the city was prompted to determine more about regulating these types of rentals. The city was billed for the police assistance necessary to deal with the incident.

The goal was to provide information about the party in question, along with the broader impact of short-term rentals on public safety, traffic and parking, while also discussing the regulation of short-term rentals by registration, license, or other methods to be sure the property owner is financially responsible for costs incurred by the city.

Concerns about the registration procedure and the issue of "unhosted" (entire homes) versus "hosted" (private rooms within homes) caused enough discussion for the council to postpone a decision on the ordinance until its next meeting.

Several residents spoke of the benefits of using rooms in their homes for short-term rentals as a way to be able to stay in Orinda and afford their mortgage.

The council also heard a report from Marguerite Young, Ward 3 Director of the East Bay Municipal Utility District on water quality, upcoming infrastructure repairs, a proposed rate increase and other matters.

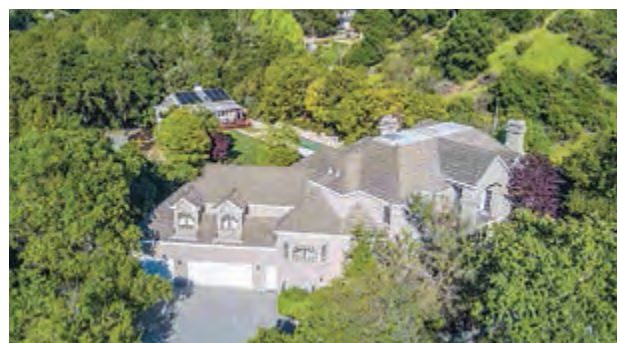
Young said that the rate increases would amount to approximately four dollars per month for the average customer, with the revenue helping to pay for residual effects of the drought, capital improvements, and operations.

"The distribution system has over 4,200 miles of pipeline and is an average of 72 years old," Young said. Currently EBMUD is replacing about 15 miles of pipeline a year, but hopes to increase that rate to 40 or more miles per year by 2020. (See related story on page A1.)

The Council also recognized many of the people and organizations responsible for the sinkhole repair on Miner Road, which opened on June 30 after a six-month closure. The next regular city council meeting is scheduled at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 1 at the Orinda Library Auditorium.

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors
Wednesday, Aug. 16, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors
Tuesday, Aug. 8, 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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Morale plummeting at MOFD due to board actions

By Nick Marnell



Capt. Mark McCullah shares his frustrations with MOFD board.

Intent on putting the district on the road to financial viability, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board voted to slash district operations, with one director telling a room full of firefighters that everything was in play for future cuts, including the closure of a fire station.

Fire Chief Stephen Healy presented a revised 2017-18 MOFD budget to the board July 18 that eliminated \$500,000 in operational expenses, including overtime, but even those cuts did not totally satisfy Director John Jex.

“Our general reserve is grossly

inadequate, and will be at the end of this year, even with this,” Jex said, stressing that MOFD is not in good enough financial shape to operate long term and to meet its obligations. With the budget changes, the district projects its general fund reserve to reach \$4.8 million this fiscal year, though as of 2016 MOFD recognizes more than \$64 million in net pension liability, a pension obligation bond and retiree health care liability.

“You need to increase revenue, or make operational changes like eliminating a fire house,” Jex said.

“You have to make those kinds of determinations.”

Director Steve Anderson pleaded for the board to keep the district on track with its mission to provide the highest possible level of emergency and public service to the community. “In the last 60 days, we are at the lowest morale that I have seen in this organization. These people have lost their leader and they have no confidence in their board,” Anderson said, referring to Healy’s announced September departure and urging passage of the original budget. “There is a toxic environment going on here, and we’ve got to fix the morale now.”

Three directors remained unmoved, as Jex, Craig Jorgens and Brad Barber voted to pass the revised budget, with \$100,000 added back for the chief to use for contingencies. Anderson and board President Kathleen Famulener voted against the cuts.

Firefighter-paramedic Lucas Lambert, district union representative, lashed out at the board’s decision to reduce operating expenses. “The MOFD board of directors has

created an unnecessarily chaotic environment at our meetings. This type of chaos is not conducive to the high level of service that we aim to provide and the professional environment we pride ourselves on,” Lambert said, urging the public to pay close attention and not stand for service cuts in the community.

Local 1230 President Vince Wells said he understands the need for MOFD to be financially responsible, especially with the district history of financial mismanagement, but he said there needs to be a proper balance between financial restraint and providing adequate service. “A couple of new board members have financial backgrounds, and are putting financial stability ahead of fire service, and that has the troops concerned,” Wells said.

Wells also talked about the soon-to-begin 2018 labor negotiations. “I’m concerned,” Wells said. “Because of the actions this board has taken so far, we expect it will push for reduced resources. With this group, it seems everything is on the table, and that makes everyone uneasy.”



Courtesy: Moraga PD

House fire in Moraga

Moraga-Orinda Fire District firefighters put out an early morning, single-alarm blaze at a residence on Corte Amigos in Moraga July 14. The fire was contained to two rooms and extinguished in 15 minutes.

“The homeowners were asleep and thanks to their smoke detector, everyone got out safely,” Fire Chief Stephen Healy said.

The fire was less than a mile away from the June 19 vegetation fire along the hillside above Campolindo High School. “That fire was an accident, likely caused by human activity related to work on the high-tension wires, through the fire is still under investigation,” Healy said. — Nick Marnell

Lafayette hills remains IDd; longtime mystery solved

By Cathy Dausman

Skeletal remains discovered on a Lamorinda hillside March 16 have been identified by the California Department of Justice DNA Laboratory in Richmond, accord-

ing to Moraga Police. Forensic analysis identified the deceased as Richard Allen Saimons, reported missing to Lafayette Police on Aug. 2, 1998.

Saimons, a Lafayette resident, left his home that afternoon and never returned. Saimons was 37 at the time of his disappearance. There were no signs of foul play.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact Moraga Police Lt. Brian South at (925) 888-7052 or the Lafayette Police at (925) 284-5010.

Total Devastation

... continued from page A1



The morning after.

Photo Nick Marnell

“I’ve never been close to a wildfire or any kind of serious fire before, but I’ll tell you the sound it made was mind-boggling. It sounded like a jet taking off, or a tornado. I’ve never seen or heard anything quite like it before,” Lafayette resident Mark Robinson said.

By the time Capt. Jared Palant and his ConFire engine company arrived at the scene near midnight, the building at 100 Lafayette Circle was completely engulfed in flames.

“We knew instantly this was huge by the number of 911 calls we got,” Marshall said. “Unless we had been there 30 minutes earlier, there was no way we were saving that building.”

Palant immediately called for a third alarm. “A wood-sided building, with a shake roof, surrounded by two-story apartment buildings and another two-story commercial

building, a eucalyptus tree — our goal was to contain the fire to the building of origin,” he said. “We had to prevent large chunks of ash from landing on the roofs of the neighboring buildings.”

Crews pumped water out of five hydrants to fight the fire, requiring thousands of gallons of extra water from the East Bay Municipal Utility District; a typical fire would need one hydrant. “It was the biggest fire I’ve ever seen as the captain of a first-responding unit,” said Palant, an eight-year ConFire veteran.

“I was afraid the whole town would go,” Marilyn Finn, a 101 Lafayette Circle resident, said. “It’s a miracle that they held it to that one building.”

Nearly 50 firefighters contained the blaze within two hours, and several fire personnel remained on the scene throughout the day. The

fire caused an estimated \$1.1 million in damage with no reported injuries. Stunned tenants and residents caught their first glimpse of the devastation Thursday morning, the historic building constructed in the 1970s burnt to the ground.

Assadi heard the news at 6:30 a.m. “I’m in shock,” he said. “I just don’t understand. How could a fire spread that quickly?” Assadi said he wants to reopen La Finestra as soon as possible, and he is searching for a suitable location in the city.

He praised, and expressed pain for, his employees, particularly server Tony Lavino, whom he called a local icon. “I want to have my people back,” a crushed Assadi said.

“All of our work was saved in the cloud,” said Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson, scrambling to help displaced

tenants find new locations. He landed a temporary home for the Chamber at Stanley Middle School and an additional meeting location at the Stanley Smith Insurance agency.

Marta Chavalas of Skincare by Marta said finding a new location has been difficult because of the tight real estate market. “I would like to stay in Lafayette, if possible,” she said.

One business owner at 110 Lafayette Circle, unaffected directly by the incident, was moved by the response of Lafayette residents. Heidi Simarro of Phoenix Skincare and Waxing said that nothing was even singed at her building, and other than parking problems because of the newly fenced-off area, she was doing OK. “Competitors called and offered me space,” she said. “I almost cried when I heard that.”

Lifson plans a meeting with the displaced tenants to go over his attempts to secure government loans and Workforce Development assistance from Contra Costa County.

According to Lafayette Chief of Police Eric Christensen, the property has been released to its insurance company which will conduct its own investigation. After the investigation the property manager, Wells and Bennett of Walnut Creek, will handle removal of the debris. Christensen estimated the process will take several months.

Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk said he will set up a meeting with Lafayette Circle property owners to discuss reasonable and appropriate land use opportunities in the area, an area to be long remembered as the site of one of the city’s most spectacular structure fires.



The Lafayette Chamber offices and other businesses in flames. ConFire

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Lafayette Conflict of interest in commissions is causing trust issues in Lafayette

... continued from page A3

There has however been at least one instance of a commissioner being fined by the Fair Political Practices Commission for violation of the California Political Reform Act back in 2008.

More recently, following concerns about conflict of interest, Commissioner Allen Sayles resigned from the Planning Commission on May 17, 2016 following a controversial application for the development of a pool house on which he was the architect.

The city council heard comments from Lafayette resident and attorney Scott Sommer who has been concerned about this issue for several years. He set forth documentation showing a series of misdemeanors and said that no progress had been made over the past 12 months, despite the Stanford Commission's involvement, which had been brought in by the council to address the issue.

Sommer pointed to Los Angeles' two-year "revolving door" policy, prohibiting representation of a client by commissioners for two years following their leaving the commission.

City Council Member Ivor Samson said that of all the issues facing the city he feels more strongly about this matter than anything else and sees tightening up the conflict of interest code as the most important priority.

Samson went on to say that residents perceive a lack of integrity in government due to conflict of interest.

He commented that the resolution is too complicated, too subjective and only applies to individuals. He said it needs to apply to firms and that there should be a "cooling off period" or revolving door of a year or so.

Commissioners might feel asked to choose between public service, which is commendable and encouraged, and their livelihood, he said, but "Maintaining the city's integrity is priority."

Others on the council agreed. Council Member Mark Mitchell said that no commissioner should be doing business in Lafayette.

Mayor Mike Anderson called for the formation of a subcommittee made up of City Council Member Cam Burks and Samson

to work further on the wording with the city attorney and for it to be brought back to the council by the first meeting in August — a motion that passed unanimously with all five council members present.

Anderson commented later, "My hope in forming the subcommittee is that they can really take a close look at the draft language from the last meeting and suggest an appropriate method of limiting commissioners from even the appearance of a conflict of interest, to assure our residents that these review processes are fair and impartial."

"I truly feel that all of our commissioners bring the highest level of integrity and expertise to bear on the issues that we ask them to review and approve," Anderson continued, "However, as it was stated at the last council meeting, the review and approval processes of the city must be fair and impartial. If this is not the case, the changes necessary to achieve this will be made."

Letters to the Editor

Likes police report humor

Dear Editor

I appreciate your writer's inspired humor in the Moraga police reports, and I wish that Lafayette and Orinda were open to similar treatment. What kind of Grinch would not smile at "Oh give me a drone..." in the recent Moraga police report.

Richard White
Moraga

Keep Moraga Police Reports funny

Dear Editor,

Regarding Moraga Police Reports, I noticed that your last edition did not include the humorous writing of previous reports and were therefor dull to read like the Lafayette and Orinda ones. You should pay no attention to the letter from the resident with no sense of humor in your previous edition who disagreed.

Barry Gross
Moraga

If Orinda is feeling weary and down, it has a bridge for that

Dear Editor,

So congratulations to the City of Orinda for finally finishing the Miner Road bridge. Now as a famous local bridge it needs an appropriate name.

Since troubled waters destroyed the old bridge, I suggest that the new one be named "Troubled Waters." Having a "bridge over troubled waters" (perhaps the only one in the country) would seem like a distinctive boon to Lamorinda -- and frankly a lot of fun for music lovers everywhere. Maybe even Simon and/or Garfunkle could be invited to the dedication. Hope that the Friends of Orinda Creeks can take this up - and that our city council will be supportive. Just hoping...

Harlan Van Wye
Orinda

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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EBMUD rate hike

Seemingly resigned to the rate increase was Sue Porter of Orinda. "No, I'm not surprised," she lamented. "And after how hard we worked to save water."

EBMUD spokeswoman Andrea Pook blamed the drought for one-third of the rate hike, with infrastructure needs accounting for one-third and operational expenses for the remainder. "A drought is difficult for everyone," she said. "We're still seeing the impacts — like water quality."

Pook said that the recent high levels of trihalomethanes in the Orinda water supply and the sour taste of Lamorinda water in 2015 were coincidental to the rate in-

crease and not veiled threats to users. "The taste changes were a result of the drought," she said. "And the rate increases affect everyone, not just customers in Lamorinda." The district plans treatment additions at the Orinda and Lafayette Water Treatment Plants to address what it calls disinfection byproduct formation.

Some took the rate increase in stride. "If they're repairing old pipelines, I'm all right with that," said Nancy N. Hom of Moraga. "As long as they maintain a hardship exemption for those who cannot afford the increase." EBMUD offers a Customer Assistance Program to help pay a portion of the

... continued from page A1

water bill for qualified low-income residential customers.

For the average single-family customer who uses 200 gallons of water per day, the bills will rise approximately \$4.34 per month this fiscal year, and by \$4.63 per month next fiscal year, according to the district. Sewer rates will rise 5 percent each year as well, but EBMUD does not have wastewater customers in Lamorinda.

Pook confirmed a sliver of good news for Lamorindans: The district did not raise the \$7 daily parking rate at the Lafayette Reservoir. "And tap water still runs about a penny a gallon," she said.

Rescue One anniversary

Rescue One's roots can be traced back to one day in 1976. Jean Kirsch's husband cut his leg with a power saw and was bleeding profusely. Jean Kirsch called an ambulance while a local Emergency Medical Technician tried to stop the bleeding. The ambulance had to come from Walnut Creek — it took 30 minutes to arrive. Gordon Nathan, a volunteer firefighter and now board member of Rescue One, remembers that Kirsch almost died.

The scare spurred his wife and other residents into action. They decided that they needed a rolling emergency room available locally at all times.

Jean Kirsch, Jerry Mayer, Linda Borelli and Yvette Nance were some of the founding board members of Rescue One. At the time Borelli was president of the Moraga Service League, and that group was asked if they would raise the money for the first ambulance. Borelli, who has been on Rescue One's board almost continuously since, remembers going door to door asking everyone to chip in \$1 to fund the first vehicle. Rescue One also paid for the training of the first firefighters who volunteered to become paramedics.

When Orinda joined Moraga to form MOFD, Dr. Eugene Gottfried joined Rescue One's board, along with other Orinda residents. He remembers the pre-MOFD time when he needed an ambulance that took 45 minutes to come to his residence

and then got lost on its way to the hospital. Gottfried is Rescue One's current president. He explains that the foundation is funded mostly by unsolicited donations from people who were rescued by MOFD ambulances.

Nathan confirms that the group decided not to solicit donations, and he gives the example of the family and friends of Reed Austin Whittaker that made a donation of \$13,000 in memory of the young man who was killed in a tragic automobile accident five years ago. Several organizations also support Rescue One such as the Moraga Country Club, which asks its residents every year if they want to contribute, and Moraga Royale, which raises money for the foundation.

Over the years, the foundation has donated \$417,000 to MOFD. It funded an automated LUCAS chest compression system. Gottfried remembers that about five years ago, just after the LUCAS was purchased, MOFD used it to save the life of a bicyclist who crashed after suffering a heart attack. Money was also used to purchase the first Jaws of Life, a hydraulic apparatus used to open crashed vehicles in order to free people trapped inside, the first a fire district ever owned. MOFD was also the first district to get shoring equipment to allow rescuers to safely attend to people injured in a landslide. The foundation also funded a Zodiac water rescue boat for the

... continued from page A1

San Pablo Reservoir, which is part of MOFD's jurisdiction.

One of the latest donations was used to purchase a drone equipped with infrared cameras that is used in search and rescue missions and is capable of dropping a small first aid kit or miniature AED. The drone was used in the recent Campolindo fire to detect hot spots in the hills. Gottfried noted that MOFD was one of the first agencies to get such a device.

The fire district staff makes requests to the foundation and the board members see if it fits its mission of medical emergency, as well as its budget. The board also wants to support the education of the paramedics. For example Rescue One funded the equipment of an education center within Station 45 in Orinda.

As it marks its 40th anniversary, Rescue One continues to fund equipment and training so medical emergencies are responded to in the two communities with trained professionals equipped with cutting-edge, life-saving equipment.

The 40th anniversary will be celebrated all year long. The Town of Moraga honored the foundation at a recent council meeting with a proclamation, Rescue One was in the Fourth of July parade in Orinda, and it is showcasing its history at the MOFD open houses.

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Orinda

Orinda school bus routes

Worth reiterated that in fact the El Toyonal route, the most challenging, has been operating safely for 20 years with only a couple of minor accidents. When questioned when the safety of the Orinda routes was called into question, Cooper stated that he was hired during the 2014-15 school year and received concerns from drivers. In reviewing the routes, he observed conditions that concerned him, and communicated his concerns to his superiors and to the school bus program.

Bob Smith, a California licensed engineer, pointed to the relative risk of students riding in safe school buses or riding in private cars or even walking. He called it a purely legal question and said that the board was trading the children's safety for a tiny bit of liability. Laura Allaire, the Wagner Ranch school bus liaison, drew the board's attention to the high number of students

who will be adversely impacted by the changes: 10 percent of Wagner Ranch Elementary School students and 15 percent of Orinda Intermediate School students. She noted that even many private cars cannot navigate El Toyonal without crossing the double yellow lines from time to time.

Tracy Hampton, who lives on Brookwood Road, noted that Durham School Services operates a school bus on the same route. There are other options, she said, urging the board to adopt an extension to allow time to find them. Darren Cook said any potential benefits of the changes outweigh the risks. "Do you trust the methods and expertise of the consultants?" he asked. "Would you bet a child's life on it?"

But the board was left with the reality that school starts in about a month and First Student would not operate the routes. So the subcom-

... continued from page A6

mittee was formed, and will look at a host of potential improvements, from moving stops to having the buses turn around on private property offered by homeowners for the purpose, to investigating other providers and other equipment. Gerson seemed to sum up the spirit of the meeting, stating, "What is best for the kids, not what is best for our bottom line."

After the meeting, disappointed parents were heard to be discussing the possibility of a private contract with Durham to safely get their children to school.

The revised SBC study can be found at this link:

http://nebula.wsimg.com/3ad6bbcd908f087af78682aee4a5e5b9?AccessKeyId=ACBAD635E8DD86102CE4&disposition=0&alloworigi=1

Correction

In our July 8 article entitled "County Planning Commission OKs Saranap Village," the Lamorinda Weekly incorrectly identified Paula Santi's affiliation. She is with the Saranap Village Steering Committee. We regret the error.

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Roughing It Day Camp celebrates 45 Years of happy campers

By Lisi Burciaga



And they're off for another day of Roughing It.

Photo Pippa Fisher

Horseback riding, kayaking and fishing are all activities that add to the charm and attraction of locally based Roughing It Day Camp, which has brought joy to kids and families across the Bay Area for generations.

Lafayette residents Ann and Hobie Woods jump-started Roughing It Day Camp in 1972 and have since co-directed the camp, which works to entertain and teach valuable life skills to children ages 4 through 16 in the Bay Area. This year marks the 45th anniversary of the camp's founding.

Ann and Hobie Woods met on the job as day camp counselors, an experience which aided in sparking the idea for Roughing It years later.

"I had two little girls and there really wasn't much for them to do in the summer, and I had a really good, strong experience as a camp counselor," Ann Woods says. "Hobie said, 'Well why don't you just start a day camp?' I never thought that it would be going 45 years later."

The Woods sought a good location for their camp, which they found at the local Lafayette Reservoir.

"We found the Lafayette Reservoir which was a perfect spot for camp and still is. We had one canoe, a couple of fishing poles, and one bus and we got started," Woods says.

While the camp originated in Lamorinda, it eventually spread to other areas throughout the Bay Area, starting with the Montclair area of Oakland.

"There were really no day-camps here, so people were excited about the idea and it just caught on. Eventually people outside of Lamorinda wanted to come to our camp," Woods says. "Gradually more and more parents who were friends of friends going to our camp would come to us and say 'think of coming to Piedmont' or 'Berkeley' and so that's kind of how we expanded."

Today, the camp's bus services travel to 36 stops in East Bay, San Francisco, Contra Costa and the Tri Valley.

"The camp kind of evolved and took on a life of its own," Woods says.

Since its establishment, Roughing It has offered a variety of outdoor activities to its campers, now including horseback riding, swimming, rowing, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, hiking and more. While many activities have been around from the start, others have been acquired as the camp has grown

and developed over its 45 years of business. The camp added horseback riding about five years after its founding, starting with a group of 10 horses.

"Hobie and I had been horseback riding instructors at Kennolyn Camp and we knew that there are some special skills that you develop with a horse, and a special relationship, that you don't have with a canoe or a fishing pole," Woods says.

According to Woods, horseback riding now acts as a crucial component of Roughing It.

"Now we have 24 horses and it's a really important part of our camp. It's one of the reasons kids come to Roughing It. Kids aren't able to keep their horses in their backyard like they were 20 or 30 years ago when that was something kids could do in Lamorinda," she says.

Kayaking serves as another recreation that has been added to Roughing It since its founding. It was added around 2007 in order to teach the importance of teamwork.

"We thought kayaking would be a fun thing to add because it's two-person kayaking and we really stress working together with other people," Woods says.

She says the camp has also adapted activities such as the Outdoor Living Skills, Nature, and Environmental programs over the years. The camp's array of activities are part of what makes the camp beloved by many of its attendees.

"My daughters love the range of activities, especially the horseback riding, the swimming, and the section that's called 'Environment' where they learn about and do different games related to the environment," Lamorindan Gemini McCasland, a mother of two campers, says.

According to Ken Serwin, father of a Roughing It camper, the wide selection of quality activities are what single out Roughing It among other local day camps.

"There are lots of day camps around where your kids join a whole bunch of other kids in minimally supervised, glorified babysitting," Serwin says. "With Roughing It, you get camp. You have lake activities, the kids learn to ride a horse at the Roughing It Stables, and the kids swim at a great pool and get swimming lessons."

While many of the camp's programs have seen growth and change over the years, the Lafayette Reservoir has remained the location for a majority of the camp's activities from the start.

"The reservoir was just as wonderful then as it is now, with the beautiful grass areas and the lake to fish, row, and canoe," Woods says.

According to Jessica Almgren-Bell who worked as a Roughing It camp counselor for the summers of 2015 and 2016, it's not just the activities and location that make the camp so beloved.

"My favorite part of Roughing It is definitely the people. Yes, the location is stunning and the activities are loads of fun, but I think what sets it apart is the people," Almgren-Bell says. "Everyone comes from such diverse backgrounds, and they all bring something really unique to the table. Working with them every single day is so amazing, as they're such genuinely great people."

According to Almgren-Bell, Roughing It Day camp plays an incomparable role in the Bay Area. "I think Roughing It fosters a one-of-a-kind community within Lafayette and the greater Bay Area. It is a place for everyone — kids, teens, adults, you name it. Everyone has a place at Roughing It. It creates an environment that is truly hard to find anywhere else."

Although Roughing It didn't hold any special activities to commemorate the anniversary, they've spent their 45th year of service appreciating over four decades of happy campers, according to Woods.

"We're just celebrating being around and the fact that we have a 45th anniversary," Woods says.

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From left: Amy, Cecilio, Ann and Hobie Woods.

Photo provided

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Lafayette artist rises from ashes to create new works inspired by local landscapes

By Kara Navolio



Suzy Elsworth-Heithcock and one of her paintings.

Photo provided

When your home catches fire and you lose everything, including your life's work of paintings, it might be hard to imagine recovering from such a devastating loss.

But recover is exactly what Lafayette artist Suzy Elsworth-Heithcock did. It has taken eight years, however, to complete enough work for a solo exhibition. Elsworth-Heithcock's first solo show is on display through Aug. 14 in the Walnut Creek City Hall lobby.

The blaze occurred in the summer of 2009 after workers left flammable rags under the house that ignited from the hot weather. "Losing four of our five cats was the worst part," reflected Elsworth-Heithcock. "We were lucky that no people were hurt or that the fire didn't spread to other homes. We were not home, so it wasn't possible for us to rescue anything. We lost 10,000 books, our photographs. We had to replace every

glass, toothbrush, pair of socks." The only examples of any of her previous artwork are a handful of giclée prints of some of her earlier paintings.

The home took two years to rebuild and restock. "The silver lining is that I got to redesign my house, but everything you see is new," she noted. "There is nothing here from our travels or with family history."

The insurance paid nothing, however, for her lost art. Since she had not yet sold any pieces there could be no value attached to them. "That was pretty devastating to be told that your work had no value," Elsworth-Heithcock recounted.

Painting became part of her emotional healing process. As the house was being re-built, she began to explore the open space around her home and in the Briones Regional Park. Her new painting style was influenced by the beauty around her and her recent experiences. She began to work in a large-

er format with a looser style. She often took photos and then transformed the scenes into beautiful paintings that have a sense of surreal realism and celebrate life and the joy of nature.

Many of the eight paintings in the exhibit are landscapes from the local area. "I am conscious of the fact that everything moves, even rocks and mountains, and even if we as humans can't perceive the movement in the time span we are here. I want people to know that nothing is static," explained Elsworth-Heithcock. This movement shows in her landscapes with her flowing brush strokes.

Elsworth-Heithcock has shown her work in several local galleries this year, but this is her first solo exhibition. The work can be viewed Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1666 N. Mani St. in Walnut Creek, or on her website: elsworthartworks.com.

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New CERT training trailer carries the load

By Cathy Dausman

Duncan Seibert was like a kid in a candy store, only this store had wheels and a trailer hitch.

Seibert, program manager for Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team was showing off Lamorinda CERT's newest acquisition — a six-foot-wide by eight-foot-tall 14-foot long storage unit on wheels designed to tow all the gear associated with nine weeks of hands-on emergency preparedness



Duncan Seibert in front of the new trailer.

Photo Cathy Dausman

training.

Previously that gear was housed in a storage container and transferred weekly to CERT instructor's vans or trucks, and carted to various classroom locations. Inevitably, Seibert explained with a shrug "we'd forget something." No more.

Designed in April, custom built in Oregon and purchased by the Lamorinda CERT Foundation for \$4,100, it was then donated to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (which owns and insures all CERT assets) and delivered in July.

"It came with the (interior plywood) walls," Seibert said. Exterior trailer graphics are of Lamorinda CERT and MOFD. Seibert installed electrical wiring and shelving inside and mounted a 16-watt solar panel to the roof. There was just one final hitch to the road to local ownership — the fire department would not accept the trailer until CERT found a parking spot.

Saint Mary's College offered space. SMC Chief of Public Safety Adan Tejada explained that "hosting the CERT trailer is just another part of an ongoing tradition of co-operation between Saint Mary's College and the Lamorinda emer-

gency preparedness network. We have conducted numerous joint exercises and participated in joint training. Having accessible resources placed strategically in the region only enhances all of our emergency operations," Tejada said.

"I can't thank Saint Mary's College enough for this (parking space)," Seibert said, although he expects to reduce his indebtedness by teaching a class in fire safety to SMC staff. This is the third trailer for Lamorinda CERT.

CERT's Volunteer Reception Center trailer is stored at MOFD Station 41 on Moraga Way. A recently purchased trailer holding shelter supplies donated by Red Cross is also at Station 41, but construction work planned for that site precludes parking a third trailer there, Seibert said. The new training trailer replaces a small original CERT trailer, which was donated by the Moraga Police Department.

The new training trailer will be used to tow gear to the fall CERT basic training classes starting Sept. 14 in Orinda. To take the class go online to <https://lamorindacert.org/training/classes/>.

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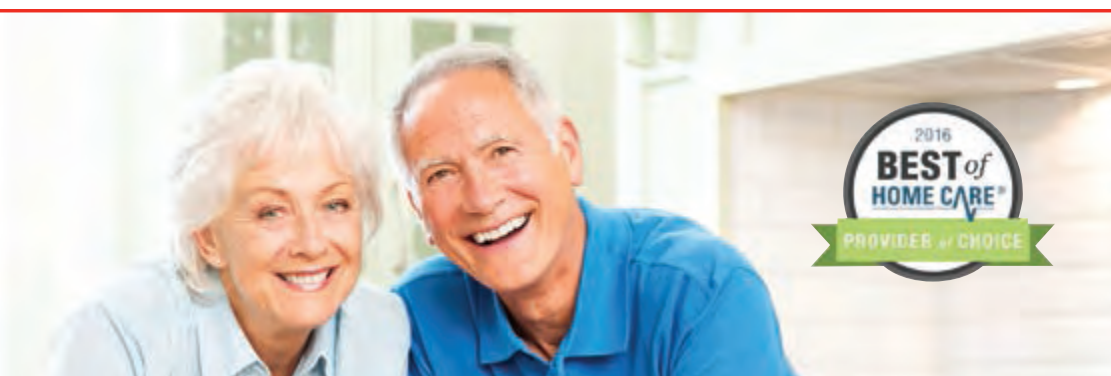
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Moraga's one-man band

By Cathy Dausman



DJ Ryan O

Photo Cathy Dausman

"I've loved music my whole life," DJ Ryan O says.

While the "O" stands for Oettinger (his last name) it could also stand for out and about, as the 40-something Moraga resident connects with community while plying his second career.

Oettinger explains his goal is to read his crowd, then deliver "a celebration" by bringing his audience along on a musical journey. DJ is an acronym developed when on-the-air radio hosts jockeyed vinyl record discs ("American Graffiti," anyone?), but Oettinger insists, "If you just push 'play' you're not a DJ." For starters, Oettinger doesn't confine himself to a booth. And unlike a live band that might take breaks, he takes none. He relies on technology but always has a backup plan, explaining, "There is no second chance (to get it right)."

Mistakes? "I make mistakes

all the time," he confesses, including the time Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" abruptly cut off during a holiday party because he had selected an incomplete version of the song. Oettinger's challenge is to bridge his audience's diverse demographics. He clusters songs, but his playlist includes hip-hop, country, hit songs, rock music and alt/grunge. He discovered Latin and Caribbean music during the five years he spent in Miami. Then he embellishes the music, re-mixing it, adding percussive beats, clean version hip-hop lyrics and streaming it together electronically. "That stuff doesn't exist off the shelf," he says.

DJ work and a strong vocal presence go hand in hand. Oettinger listened to FM rock music growing up in Southern California. When he had the chance to speak on the air with then-DJ

Ryan Seacrest the die was cast. In college at Cornell University Oettinger worked at WVBR, first pulling graveyard shifts and later hosting Friday "drive time" afternoons, developing a patter styled after his LA radio favorites.

Oettinger worked nights at a college bar in Ithaca to earn extra money, played bars in San Francisco, played for gas station openings (his day job is with Chevron) and even performed as a DJ in Miami department store windows. When he arrived in Moraga in 2009, Oettinger offered to play at the Pear Festival. "Since then it's been word of mouth," Oettinger says.

Moraga's Recreation and Facilities coordinator Kimberly Nelson says Oettinger has also performed and emceed at the Moraga Treeline Triathlon and the town's new Leisure Sport Triathlon. "He brings such a good energy and does a good job reading the crowd," Nelson says. "We don't need to give him a playlist."

Between full-time work and parenting (he and his wife have two preschoolers), Oettinger manages to squeeze in 20 DJ events per year. "I'd rather DJ than golf, go to bars or take guy trips," he says.

Although an extrovert, Oettinger says each event necessitates hours of music preparation and a two-hour setup ahead of a four-hour performance. DJ work leaves him "physically exhausted, mentally awake ... and starving!" But DJ Ryan O figures he still has another 10 years left on his playlist.

"We're a big musical family," he says. And yes - he does take requests.



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State Farm Home Office, Bloomington, IL

There's a new venue for Lamorinda Safety Fair

By Cathy Dausman



Kids will get a chance to sit in a helicopter.

Photos Carol Yates

An absolute alphabet soup of first responder organizations — and their acronyms — will gather Aug. 5 at Saint Mary's College for the fifth Lamorinda Safety Fair.

East Bay locals can meet police, fire, sheriff's department, park district and emergency preparedness representatives, learn CPR and fire suppression, emergency communications skills, and bike safety. Visitors can watch police motorcycle competitions, look skyward for helicopters from East Bay Regional Parks District, Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office and REACH air medical services.

And if that's not enough, a classic car show and accompanying cruising music will share an adja-

cent site. The safety fairs, hosted every second year by the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission and Lamorinda CERT began in 2009 and were held on the grounds of Lafayette's Stanley Middle School. This year's relocation to Saint Mary's College allows more room for exhibits and the police motorcycle competition course and facilitates landing space for helicopters.

"Saint Mary's College was approached by Lafayette Police Department and we were excited to be able to contribute (the venue)," said SMC Chief of Public Safety Adán Tejada.

The event runs from 9 a.m. to

1 p.m. except for the motorcycle competition, which is scheduled through 5 p.m. Parking is available in all open lots during the fair, and no permit is required. Helicopter parking, however, may be limited.



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Acalanes Chapter of Nation Charity League hosts annual Mother-Daughter tea

Submitted by Jocelyn Coolbaugh



Merci Award-winner Ellie Novogradac donated a total of 127.25 hours of charity work.

Members from the National Charity League, Inc., Acalanes Area Chapter gathered at the Orinda Country Club for the annual Mother-Daughter Enchanted Garden Tea to acknowledge overall time contributed

to serving NCL's Mission and its commitment to community service, leadership development and cultural experiences.

The mother and daughter members of the NCL, Inc., Acalanes Area Chapter collectively contributed 6,938.25 hours to various philanthropies nationwide during 2016.

Every year, the league awards a member with the most service hours across the whole chapter with a Merci Award and this year's recipient is Ellie Novogradac. She is a freshman at Head-Royce School in Oakland. She donated a total of 127.25 hours during the year toward philanthropic activities. Ellie enjoys working on projects for the Children's Hospital of Oakland and Foster A Dream. When she isn't busy working on philanthropic efforts, she plays softball and participates in the school jazz ensemble.

The Ticktock class of 2021 chose Special Olympics of Northern California for this year's Tea Philanthropy. Members supported this organization by bringing new basketballs, goggles for the local Sea Serpents swim team and donated \$711.

YMTC's 'The Most Happy Fella'

Submitted by Laura Soble



Lamorindans Jack Melcher, Beatrice Sayed, and Maddie Starbuck (front)

Three Lamorinda youths are currently performing in "The Most Happy Fella," Frank Loesser's classic musical produced by Youth Musical Theater Company. It tells the story of Rosabella, a young woman from San Francisco, who is wooed by Tony, an aging Italian grape farmer from Napa Valley. Their age difference naturally leads to trouble, but love prevails. With a gorgeous score of nearly 40 songs, including "Standing on the Corner" and "Warm All Over," this richly emotional show will warm your heart!

The show runs through July 30 at El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater, 540 Ashbury Avenue, El Cerrito. Purchase tickets at www.ymtcbayarea.org or at the door one hour prior to performance.

The young local actors performing in the show are Jack Melcher, Beatrice Sayed, and Maddie Starbuck.

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Chic Life Sports Schools Business Food Our Homes Letters/Opinions Calendar Obituaries

Lafayette Chamber office burns to the ground
A 3-alarm fire destroyed a commercial building at 101 Lafayette Circle that housed 10 local businesses, including the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and La Foresta Restaurant. [Read more...](#)

With fanfare, Miner Road reopens to the public after sinkhole
46 city officials set out tables and chairs, beaded water and popcorn, residents streamed in to see the reopening ceremony of Miner Road. Work crews worked to clear the site right up to the sinkhole. [Read more...](#)

Double trouble: Acalanes' Brooke Panfili earns 1st Team honors in 2 sports
For her second year, Panfili, the recently graduated swimmer, earned 1st Team honors in both swimming and water polo. [Read more...](#)

Complaint filed in attempt to save targeted trees in Lafayette
The group known as Save Lafayette Trees has filed a complaint in court demanding the reversal of a tree-cutting agreement in order to protect 272 trees deemed at risk from PG&E clearance. [Read more...](#)

Moraga declares fiscal emergency with thin budget
Moraga Town Council could not decide if a local post laureate should be a named Lamorinda resident or university honoree. [Read more...](#)

Main Street America promotes a healthy stake for Orinda
Main Street America offered its final report to the Orinda City Council, there were some surprises. [Read more...](#)

Letters to the Editor
Clean up your trash at the Cemetery
Dear Editor: Even though Moraga's small public works staff did its usual amazing job of getting the Cemetery back in order after the Fourth of July celebration, a tremendous amount of trash on the grounds still needs to be removed on the morning of the July 31. [Read more...](#)

Orinda
Main Street America promotes a healthy stake for Orinda
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Moraga
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- Fire Chief departing MOFD
- Taste of the World food trucks coming to Orinda
- Complaint filed in attempt to save targeted trees in Lafayette
- 2016 2017 Boys DFAL All League Spring Sports
- Lafayette Chamber office burns to the ground
- Moraga declares fiscal emergency with thin budget
- Double trouble Acalanes Brooke Panfili earns 1st Team honors in 2 sports
- With fanfare Miner Road reopens to the public after sinkhole
- Lamorindas doctor in the dugout
- Jay Ingram reflects on future challenges for Moraga Parks and Recreation

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to www.lamorindaweekly.com and click the link below the story.

Girl Scouts spice up Stanley Middle School for Silver Award

Submitted by Julie Gladden



Girl Scout Troop 31664 members, from left, Audrey Passalacqua, Bella Gladden, Sue Applin (teacher) Makalya Pierce and Olivia Anderson completed their Girl Scout Silver Award.

For their Silver Award, four girls who have been involved in Girl Scouts in the Lafayette School District for nine years wanted to build something for their Silver Award that would be used by Stanley Middle School after their departure.

In working with Stanley Middle School's home economics department, the scouts de-

signed and built a portable spice garden.

"I can't wait to integrate this awesome spice garden into our cooking curriculum," said home economics teacher Sue Applin. "I am so grateful to the girls for all of their hard work."

All four girls will continue as scouts in high school.

Troop 200 Scout leads Scotch Broom removal Hornaday project at the Lafayette Reservoir

Submitted by Jack Bayless



From left, Ranger Mike Powers, Sam R., Josh E., Ben A., Paul S., Nick M., Jack B., Declan T., Ian H., Kris B., Ken B., Drew B.

In March, Jack Bayless, a Life Scout with Troop 200 from Lafayette, led a party of youth and adult advisors participating in a major step of his Hornaday conservation project in the removal of Scotch Broom bushes at the Lafayette Reservoir. The conservation project used a number of means to remove and study efficient removal of Scotch Broom. This project now enables rangers to, if necessary, make repairs on the bio deten-

tion area located east of the parking lot.

The team removed over 500 plants with mechanical pullers and other means.

A huge thank you to EBMUD for their support and especially Ranger Mike Powers; BSA Troop 200 William T. Hornaday Advisor, Drew Bassak, Kellye French and Carol Bossard, Ph.D, Saint Mary's College biology professor, for their support in this project.

Keith Katzman is new president of the energenic Moraga Movers

Submitted by Janet Peischel



Keith Katzman

Keith Katzman has been installed as the new president of Moraga Movers, the area's popular organization for adults 55 and above. Katzman's term will extend from June 2017-June 2018.

Moraga Movers is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the Lamorinda community—and the lives of its members. The organization began as a nonprofit, Moraga Hacienda Seniors, in 1975. The group meets monthly for dinner at Saint Mary's College. There are opportunities to join sponsored activities, such as bridge, book reviews, and bocce as well as monthly day trips.

Katzman will be replacing Phil Arth, who served as president for 18 months.

Earlier in the year, Arth had reached out to Katzman about accepting the presidency; Katzman joined the group's monthly board of directors' meetings and became an active participant.

According to Arth: "The difference between Keith's energy level and mine is dramatic, though not surprising. More than two decades separates us. So Moraga Movers will be improving its ride from a 1940 Ford Coupe to a 2017 Tesla Model X. Hold on to your hats!"

Katzman is a longtime member of the Moraga community. His family moved here when he was a child, and it's here where he went to school and graduated from high school. After college, Katzman returned to Moraga, and he received his real estate license in 1984. In the intervening 30-plus years, he has become one of Moraga's top-selling real estate agents. Moraga is where Katzman has chosen to live his life and raise his three kids.

"I'm looking forward to working with the other BOD members to set and meet new goals for Moraga Movers. I've been a member of the group for many years, and I always look forward to the events. It's a chance to relax among old friends and make new ones. I always leave these events with a strong sense of community. This is why I live in Moraga."

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

You don't know Jack (fruit)...

By Cathy Dausman



Rambutan

Photo Cathy Dausman

Seasonal fruit in groceries and farmers' markets across Lamorinda offer peaches and pears aplenty, but these edible anomalies may have you doing double takes.

Jackfruit, alternately spelled Jakfruit, is a monster to behold. Easily comparable in size to a watermelon, this far-eastern import is a relative of the fig, mulberry and breadfruit tree. It is low in calories, cholesterol and sodium and high in heft – the individual fruits can tip the scales at almost 100 pounds.

Bitter melon, says one online source, is a fast-growing, trailing or climbing vine with thin stems and tendrils which require trellis support. Bitter melon looks like a cucumber with skin gone awry, and indeed it is a member of the cucumber and squash family. It may aid in regulating diabetes, as the vegetable contains a chemical called charantin, which reduced blood glucose in rabbits. It can also be prepared as a green tea substitute.

Slice open the almost Harry-Potter like dragon fruit, with its lime and fuchsia covering and discover a black-spotted white interior with a taste like kiwi fruit. The www.livelovefruit.com website claims dragon fruit has many health benefits including benefits for bones, teeth, nervous and immune systems, skin and heart.

While the rambutan may be as common as an apple in Southeast Asia its looks are

menacing in a microscopic bacterial sort of way, although the fruit is thin-skinned and its exterior "spines" are harmless. The fruit name is derived for the Malaysian word for hairy; inside its other-worldly exterior is a fleshy white fruit ball wrapped around an inedible seed. Cross a lychee with Addams family's Cousin It and you get a rambutan. It even has a website: www Rambutan.com

The almost entirely all-rind Citrus Fingers is also known as Buddha's fingers or fingered citron. Did someone plug a lemon into an outlet? Use citrus fingers for cooking or to flavor alcoholic drinks, or simply as a sweet-smelling decoration.



Dragon fruit

National Night Out 2017: a time to enjoy community and safety

By Cathy Dausman

Aug. 1 promises to be a night of lights, sirens and cameras for many Lamorindans as they celebrate a great excuse for a summer party during National Night Out.

The evening has become an annual event for many — a chance to meet local police and fire representatives (and inspect their shiny vehicles), grab the ear of an elected official or catch up on neighborhood topics.

The NNO website says 38 million neighbors in 16,000 communities have been exposed to the community building campaign since it was established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania suburbs in 1984. The organization grew out of a desire to unite local neighborhood watch programs under the umbrella organization National Association of Town Watch. Today participants come from every state, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide.

"National Night Out is a great opportunity for the community to meet their first

responders and get information on how to be better prepared in their own homes," said Moraga-Orinda Fire District Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein. He spends the evening driving to and from every party, bringing emergency preparedness information and explaining Community Emergency Response Team classes and ham radio service opportunities for volunteers throughout Lamorinda.

Lafayette began holding neighborhood mixers several years ago and Orinda as early as 2007; the program became a coordinated effort in all three communities in 2014. Look for information about an NNO event near you on social media.

However many neighborhoods participate in 2017, there is always room for more next year. Future volunteers can buttonhole Rein at their local party, contact his office at drein@mofd.org or go online to learn more at <https://natw.org/about>.

"We really thank the hosts of these events. They're doing a great service to their neighborhoods," Rein said.

Some NNO gatherings for 2017:

- Lafayette: Black Forest Ct.
- Moraga: Rheem Valley Manor, Stafford Road at Fernwood Drive
- Orinda: St. Stephen's neighborhood, 66 St. Stephen's Drive

Family Focus

Reduce time sucking, stress-inducing parental guilt

By Margie Ryerson

"There are two kinds of guilt: the kind that drowns you until you're useless, and the kind that fires your soul to purpose." — Sabaa Tahir, *An Ember in the Ashes*

Anna sobbed in my office as she recounted all the ways she was a defective mother to her three children. Her 16-year-old daughter was cutting her arms and legs and being uncommunicative, her 11-year-old daughter was underperforming in school, and her 9-year-old fourth-grade son was being bullied.

Altogether it was a lot for a single parent to handle. Naturally someone in her situation would be upset and discouraged, and some self-reflection never hurts. But Anna was not personally responsible for every aspect of her children's well-being. Instead of being able to look at all she was doing well on their behalf, she was consumed with guilt. The "shoulds" had taken over: I should be a great mom at all times, my children should have only happy lives, I should be to blame if any of my children experience problems.

Some women start feeling guilty during pregnancy if they stray from following all of their doctor's recommendations. Then they may have some guilt about the actual birth if it was a C-section or if the baby has an unforeseen health issue. Soon after, there can be guilt over nursing and sleep issues with their baby, or just being too tired to be the spectacular parent they would like to be. Then there's the guilt many parents have if they find themselves resenting their child's constant crying or whining or demands for attention.

Later on, parents can feel guilty if they don't spend enough time with their kids, if the time they spend isn't creative enough and fun for the kids, if they don't take their kids to various activities, if they take their kids to too many activities, if they don't buy their kids what they want at times, if they buy their kids too much at times . . . you name it, and some parents will invariably feel guilty.

A small amount of guilt can be useful in helping to guide us. We may decide to make shifts and changes for the better after we've experienced some pangs of guilt. But experiencing too much guilt frequently leads to unhappiness and discouragement. Ironically, an excess of guilt prevents us from making clear and productive decisions about the issues that are contributing to our guilt in the first place. It hampers our ability to problem-solve effectively.

What to do about this energy-draining and time-sucking emotion? It's not enough to say to yourself, "Just stop feeling guilty." You need to actively convince yourself that it's a form of negative energy that you don't deserve to have. I always tell people that the fact that you have guilt in the first place shows what a caring and responsible person you are. Unfortunately, some parents who need to feel guilt about their parenting, such as those who abuse their children, all too often don't.

Here are some points to consider:

- Realize that your children will likely remember the overall loving and fun times together, and not the occasional lapses on your part.
- It's good for children to see your imperfections at times, especially if you acknowledge them or can even laugh about

them. You can then be a role model for them in accepting certain personal limitations and trying to improve what you can. In this way, your kids will see that you don't expect perfection from yourself or from them, and neither should they.

- Realize that your guilt can interfere with your being a relaxed person for your children to be around. Too much guilt creates anxiety and stress.

- Look at your feelings of guilt as something to be explored. Think about whether there's a connection with your own childhood and your parents. If a parent caused you pain or disappointment, have you resolved never to do this to your kids? Or if you had a happy childhood, are you feeling you need to do at least as well or even better for your kids?

- Look at how much pressure you put on yourself in general and try to reduce some of it. You need to see that you can still perform at a high level (usually, but maybe not always!) without applying a lot of pressure.

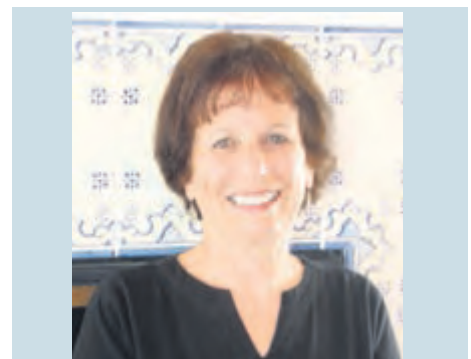
- If you are struggling, get help for yourself. Sometimes we need someone to help us be able to change our mind set.

- As your kids become teens and adults, if they see you feeling exceptionally guilty about yourself as a parent, they may not easily accept responsibility for themselves and their own actions.

- Above all, convince yourself that chances are you will not damage your child irreparably if you occasionally don't have patience, energy, time or motivation to give your best to your child.

After receiving support and encouragement, Anna was ready to address her children's issues. Her teenage daughter was diagnosed with clinical depression, and improved significantly with a combination of medication and therapy. There was a history of depression on both sides of the family. We developed strategies to help motivate her 11-year-old in school. This child was a day-dreamer who was resisting having to grow up and face additional responsibilities. Anna worked with her son's school to address the bullying situation, and we discussed ways to help empower him with his peers.

When Anna was able to step back, she realized that it was unproductive and unnecessary to blame herself because her children were struggling. Instead Anna could view each of her children's difficulties as a challenge to overcome, without letting guilt get in the way.



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

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◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

The featured artist at the **Valley Art Gallery** is Shirley Nootbaar, a well-known local artist who has been a member of the gallery for over 50 years. Her exhibit is titled From Ridges, Roads and Ranches and will run through Aug. 6. Nootbaar, a third-generation Californian, earned her B.F.A. from California College of Arts and Crafts (now CCA) and is presently a freelance artist-illustrator. Working in watercolor, she has the unique skill of transforming ordinary scenes with lively technique and dramatic presentation, making her work more than just a reflection of the subject. www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311

The **Lamorinda Arts Alliance** presents a new exhibit titled Halcyon Days at the Diablo Fine Art Gallery in Walnut Creek that runs through Aug. 5. Halcyon Days refers to a period of peace and calm, something we could all use. The artists reflect on this idea in a variety of media including paintings, photography, sculpture and ceramics. Unique jewelry is also a feature of the gallery. 1535 Palos Verdes Mall, Walnut Creek. (925) 933-4278, www.diablofineart.com.

MUSIC

Mule Ears Music presents its **Battle of the Bands** fundraising concert at 6 p.m. on Aug. 4, at Mighty Fine Guitars in Lafayette. Bands that perform at the event select their beneficiary of choice, and the band that raises the most donations from the audience while they perform wins the purse for their chosen beneficiary. Featured performers include Laurel Hellman, Stevie Coyle, Austin de Lone, Ruthie Gibbs, Tricia Gibbs, Avery Hellman, Judith Hellman, and Mick Hellman. Beneficiaries will be announced shortly before the event. For more info contact Colleen Gallagher, colleegallagher@me.com or (212) 920-6162.

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.

Free concerts from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. light up 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. July 27 Mixed Nuts - Jazz, soul, blues and rock; Aug. 3 House Rockers - rock and soul

THEATER

Cal Shakes presents "The Glass Menagerie" written by Tennessee Williams and directed by Lisa Portes through July 30 at the Bruns Amphitheater located off the Wilder Road exit of Highway 24. The West Coast Premiere of "Black Odyssey" written by Marcus Gardley and directed by Eric Ting will run Aug. 9-Sept. 3. There is a free, 20-minute informational Grove Talk starting 45 minutes before each and every performance with plenty of picnic benches. Tickets and exact show times available at www.calshakes.org.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Summer Movies in the Orinda Park: "Finding Dory" begins at 8:15 p.m. on Thursday, July 27 at the Orinda Community Center Park & Tennis Courts, 28 Orinda Way in Orinda. Free event.

The Berkeley Kite Festival is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on July 29 and 30 at the Cesar Chavez Park, Berkeley Marina. Free event with kite competitions, the "Octopile," Candy Drop, Kite Battles, a Kid Zone with pony rides, bounce houses, and more. Food, crafts, and free kites. www.BerkeleyKiteFestival.com, (510) 235-KITE or www.AnotherBullwinkleShow.com for vendor info.

How to Create Comics - a workshop with Oliver Chin at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 3 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. In this Just for Teens program, Orinda Library welcomes publisher, author and artist Chin, who will teach kids how to draw characters and write stories, so they can make their own comic book. All participants receive a free comic book. Materials provided. Space is limited. Register online, by phone or in person at the Orinda Library. This program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library.

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 a local Contra Costa County Library branch or www.ccclib.org/summer.

OTHER

Enjoy the Contra Costa Tale Spinners at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 27 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. There will be a story swap with Jeff Byers, well-known to Bay Area audiences, who believes longing drives every good story.

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

Join the fun at Hacienda Nights from 5-9 p.m. on Friday, July 28, featuring food trucks, lawn games and fun for all ages. Beer, wine, and margaritas will be available for purchase with proceeds benefiting the Hacienda Foundation. The Hacienda de las Flores is located at 2100 Donald Dr. in Moraga.

Friends Corner Book Shop (sponsored by Friends of the Lafayette Library) is having a half price sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 29. The Shop

is located at the corner of First Street and Golden Gate Way in Lafayette.

The California Retired Teachers Association invites all educators from the Lamorinda area to its next luncheon from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 2 at the Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill. Featured speaker is State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. Cost is \$25. Call Lorrie at (925) 937-2898 or email jalosborn@gmail.com before July 22.

State Senator Steve Glazer will discuss the State of the State during the noon lunch meeting of the Orinda Rotary on Wednesday, Aug. 2 at the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way next to the Orinda Library. Senator Glazer will update us on the latest legislative issues and provide insight into California's current political climate. The meeting starts at noon. The public is welcome. Cost is \$20 per person and includes lunch. www.orindarotary.org. Your payment is your reservation.

Miwok for All from 9:30 to noon on Saturday, Aug. 5, at the Lafayette Community Garden, 3932 Mt Diablo Blvd. Children, parents, grandparents, and other relatives can share in the joyous and abundant way of life of local Saclan Miwok Natives. Learn Native values sitting in connective circle, creating family names and necklaces, pounding acorns, practicing hunting skills, and enjoying games and music. Return home with a special sense of Native belonging. Classes are free. However, a \$5 donation is appreciated to support its education programs. www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org

The Lamorinda Safety Faire, organized by the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission, will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 5 at Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Rd. Learn how to protect yourself and your family while children enjoy seeing and sitting in helicopters just after they land. Other special emergency vehicles will be available. CERT booths will be there with information and demonstrations. (See story page B3.)

Botanical Drawing Workshop with Catherine Watters at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 9 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Orinda Library welcomes botanical artist and instructor, Catherine Watters, who will introduce attendees to botanical art and guide them through hands-on exercises to experience the practice of botanical drawing. Materials provided. Space is limited. Register online, by phone or in person at the Orinda Library.

Diablo Ballet's Annual Gourmet Gallop food and wine walk returns to downtown Walnut Creek for the seventh consecutive year from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 10. The event invites guests to sip, sample and stroll their way through 16 downtown Walnut Creek locations as they experience a one-of-a-kind culinary adventure. \$39 per person on or before July 2, \$45 per person starting July 28 are available online at www.diabloballer.org or by calling (925) 943-1775. Group rates are available.

... continued on next page

Please...



...thanks

Please submit events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Film Clips

Helen Hunt to be honored at the 20th Annual California Independent Film Festival

By Derek Zemrak



Helen Hunt Photo provided

The California Independent Film Festival will be celebrating its 20th year Sept. 7 – 13 at the Rheem and Orinda Theatres. Oscar Recipient, four-time Golden Globe winner and four-time Emmy recipient, Helen Hunt, will be the honored guest and will receive the 2017 Diamond Award, given each year to a woman for her contribution to the entertainment industry.

A VIP reception for Hunt will be held at Cine Cuvée Wine Bar and Café at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10. The VIP reception is limited to 25 attendees. “A Conversation with Helen Hunt” will follow the reception at 6:30 p.m. at the Orinda Theatre.

Hunt, an Academy Award-winning actress, has become an accomplished filmmaker as well. She wrote, directed, produced and stars in two films: “Ride” and “Then She Found Me,” which garnered critical acclaim, financial success, and won the Palm Springs Film Festival’s Audience Award. It stars Hunt along with Colin Firth, Matthew Broderick and Bette Midler.

As an actress, Hunt’s extensive and diverse body of work includes roles in film, theater and television. In 2011, she completed two independent film projects – Steven Bernstein’s “Decoding Annie Parker” with Samantha Morton, and Ben Lewin’s “The Sessions” opposite John Hawkes and William H. Macy. “The Sessions” premiered in competition at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival and took home the Audience Award, the jury prize for Best Ensemble. Hunt also received a Supporting Actress Oscar nomination and won the Independent Spirit Award for her performance.

Other film credits include: “Soul Surfer,” “Every Day,” “Bobby,” “As Good As It Gets,” “What Women Want,” “Castaway,” “Good Woman,” “The Curse of the Jade Scorpion,” “Dr. T & the Women,” “Pay It Forward” and “Twister.” Early career film credits include: “The Waterdance,” “Kiss of Death,” “Mr. Saturday Night,” “Peggy Sue Got Married,” “Next of Kin,” “Girls Just Want to Have Fun,” “Project X” and “Miles from Home.”

Some of Hunt’s recent TV work includes “Mad About You” and the critically acclaimed HBO Miniseries “Empire Falls.” For her role as Jamie Buchman in “Mad About You,” Hunt garnered four Emmy Awards, four Golden Globe Awards (three as lead actress and one as Producer for Best Comedy), and a Screen Actors Guild Award. She was also named Best Actress for her role in the film “As Good As It Gets” for which Hunt won a Golden Globe Award, a Screen Actors Guild Award, and an Oscar.

She has also directed television episodes of ABC’s “Revenge,” “Mad About You,” “The Paul Reiser Show,” Showtime’s “Californication” and FX Network “Feud.”

Hunt is equally accomplished as a stage actress who recently reprised the role of ‘Stage Manager’ in David Cromer’s latest production of “Our Town” at the Broad Stage in Santa Monica January and February, 2015. Hunt first played the role of ‘Stage Manager’ in the 2010 New York production of “Our Town” at the Barrow Street Theater. Additional theater credits include “Twelfth Night (Viola)” at Lincoln Center and Life Xs Three at Circle in the Square Theater. Other theater credits are “Taming of the Shrew” at NYSF-Shakespeare in the Park, “Been Taken” at EST, “Much Ado About Nothing (Beatrice)” at the Shakespeare Center L.A., “Methusalem” with the Actor’s Gang, “The Value of Names” at the Skylight Theatre; and “Love Letters” in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Boston.

A Los Angeles native, Hunt grew up in an artistic environment. Her father, Gordon Hunt, is a director and respected acting coach. Hunt currently lives in Los Angeles with her partner, Matthew Carnahan, her daughter Makena Lei and her stepson Emmett.

The California Independent Film Festival is seeking sponsorship for the Helen Hunt event in Orinda. For more information, email derek@caiff.org.

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July 28	August 4
Our newly installed President, Walter Nelson, will give you a peek through the window of his life with some entertaining stories.	Learn about Camp Venture from the firsthand experience of, Ross Ney, a graduate of the program.

Whoever would have thought the 2017 June/July AARP edition would feature “older buyers trying to simplify travel desires” by scaling back to “head-turning” Teardrop Trailers? We did!

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

SENIORS	<p>call (925) 284-8214. (See story page A3.)</p> <p>Free Peer Counseling: Contra Costa Health Services offers free one-to-one counseling with trained senior counselors who use their life experiences to help other older adults (55-plus) cope with life changes, problems, crises, and challenges. 10 a.m. to</p>	<p>noon second Tuesday monthly. Confidentiality is strictly observed. Appointment required. Please call Lafayette Senior Services to sign up for one of the 60-minute appointments: 284-5050. Check in at Lafayette Community Center front office.</p>	
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Lamorinda Weekly

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Lafayette Rotary Club

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

July 27:	August 3:
Christoph Nauer Working Smarter not Harder	Andy & Wendy Scheck Honey “honey”?

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

Free concerts to rock Lamorinda this summer

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.

- July 27 Mixed Nuts - Jazz, soul, blues and rock
- Aug. 3 House Rockers - Rock and soul
- Aug. 10 Apple Z - Rock and roll
- Aug. 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.

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

- Aug. 1, JetBlacq — Jazz
Food Truck: Rebel Dog Hotdogs
- Aug. 8, West Grand Blvd — Motown
Food Truck: An the Go (Asian Fusion)
- Aug. 15, Big Band Jazz
Food Truck: Kenny’s Heart & Soul (Soul Food)

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

Also coming up in Orinda this summer:
The Orinda Village Starlight Players have three plays at the Orinda Community Park this summer:
Malcolm Cowler’s adaptation of L. Frank Baum’s “The Wizard of Oz” runs July 21 through Aug. 12
Robert Merrill’s “Five-Door Farce,” Sept. 1 through Sept. 30



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Pack up some legal documents when your child goes to college

By Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D.

Did you know that once children turn 18, parents lose the legal authority to make decisions for them? An individual who has reached the age of 18 is considered an adult in the eyes of the law. This includes the loss of parental ability to access educational information, medical records, represent them in certain situations or manage their financial affairs.

Although laws and circumstances vary, in general, proper documents must be generated that grant the parent(s) the authority to act on the adult child's behalf. The purpose of this article is to jumpstart the process of families thinking through important legal matters that may support them and their adult children during the college or early adult years and in the event of an emergency. As with most things in life, good planning helps to ensure greater peace of mind.

The following documents should be considered that will allow you to continue to aid your son or daughter with regard to educational, medical and financial information and decisions:

1. FERPA Release: This form allows the parent(s) to speak with the school about your adult child's grades and other information related to their school performance. Ask the school directly for this form since each usually has its own form to use for this purpose.

2. Health Care Power of Attorney: This document will allow you to act on your adult child's behalf with regard to medical decisions in the event that they are incapacitated, even temporarily, and cannot make such decisions. There are also provisions within this document that allow your adult child to express his or her wishes with regard to end of life decisions and organ donation.

3. Durable Power of Attorney: This document allows you to act on your adult child's behalf regarding financial or legal matters. For example, you would have the ability to pay your child's bills,

apply for student loans, sign tax returns, etc.

4. HIPAA Authorization Form: Federal law prohibits disclosure of information about your child's health. This form allows you to access your adult child's health records and speak to medical personnel about his or her health. In the event of a medical emergency, for example, if your child was in an accident and unconscious, you would be able to obtain medical status information and make prompt decisions regarding treatment options.

It is highly recommended that you consult with an attorney regarding these issues. Much of the information contained in this article is based on advice given by an attorney at <https://sites.google.com/site/robingorenberg/Documents-for-Adult-Children> and distributed through college admission professional organizations.

Now that you have survived the college admission process with careful planning and attention to important details, it is time to take the steps necessary to put your legal house in order for the college years ahead.



Elizabeth LaScala, PhD, brings decades of admissions expertise to personally guide each student through applying to well-matched colleges, making each step more manageable and less stressful. She has placed hundreds of students in the most prestigious colleges and universities in the U.S. Reach her at (925) 385-0562 (office) or (925) 330-8801 (mobile), or online at www.doingcollege.com or Elizabeth@doingcollege.com.

Thoughtful Food Peach Grunt

By Susie Iventosch



Grunt if you like this delicious "grunt."

Photo Susie Iventosch

In a recent column we explored "grunt" in the cooking term of the week section, and I knew then that as soon as peaches were good and ripe, I'd be trying to make one of these for my family. I love fresh, ripe peaches in pies, cobblers or just plain, but I have to say, this turned out to be one of my favorite uses of peaches yet.

Since I'd never made a grunt before, it took a couple of attempts to get the recipe where I wanted it. Because the definition indicated the dish was somewhere between a

cobbler and a pie, but with biscuit-like pastry, I decided to make sweet biscuits for the crust. The first attempt was a rather free-form drop biscuit topping, and it was not very pretty. So, then I actually rolled and cut out round biscuits and placed them on top of the fruit beneath. What resulted was a sort of peach shortcake, but with the fruit on the bottom and the crust built in right on top. I didn't serve this dish with ice cream or whipped cream, but I think that a dollop or scoop of either would be a great accompani-

ment to the grunt.

Grunts are often cooked on the stovetop, but I baked this one in the oven and actually took it out during the baking to see if it was "grunting" as indicated by its namesake. It didn't really sound all that much like a grunting noise, but rather like a bubbling noise. Perhaps, if cooked on the stovetop it would make more of a grunting sound. I'll keep you posted as I make more of these yummy desserts!

INGREDIENTS

Biscuit Dough:



Photo Susie Iventosch

2 cups flour
1/4 cup granulated sugar
1 Tbsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1 stick butter, cut into small pieces
1/3 cup buttermilk
Peach Filling:
10 medium juicy, ripe peaches, peeled, pitted and sliced
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. cardamom
Dash salt
3-4 tablespoons flour
Dusting of extra-fine baker's sugar

DIRECTIONS

Grease or spray a 2-quart casserole dish. Set aside. Peel peaches and remove the pit. Slice into 1/2-inch slices. Place in a bowl and toss with brown sugar, flour, cinnamon, cardamom and salt. Pour all into the bottom of the prepared casserole dish.

In a medium-large bowl, place flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Mix well. Add butter and with a pastry cutter or fingers integrate butter into the dries until very small crumbles. Mix in enough buttermilk to form a ball of dough. Roll dough into a 3/4-inch thick disc and cut eight or so 2-3 inch rounds with a biscuit cutter. Place rounds on top of fruit and sprinkle with extra-fine sugar. Bake at 400 F for approximately 25 minutes, or until biscuits are golden-brown and fruit is bubbly. Cool and serve one biscuit and fruit per serving. Garnish with whipped cream or a scoop of ice cream if desired.

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



Cooking Term of the Week

Jalousie

A jalousie is a French pastry that resembles something between a turnover and a strudel, made with light, flaky puff pastry wrapped around fruit filling like a neat little rectangular package. The name comes for the design of the pastry, which has long slits in the upper crust that resemble the traditional French louvered or slatted "jalousie" window shades or blinds. I found a particularly intriguing and yummy-looking Apple Brown-Butter Jalousie on Fine Cooking's website that I plan to make in the fall. Here is the link: <http://www.finecooking.com/recipe/apple-brown-butter-jalousie>

*Note: Last week's term of the week missed one word and that is glucose! This is how it should have read: Invert sugar is the result of the breakdown of complex sugar into its component sugar molecules of fructose and glucose.

You can find most of the recipes published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website.

Click Food tab.

www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html



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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Saint Mary's new Athletic Director is committed to Gaels' winning legacy

By Nick Marnell



New Saint Mary's AD Mike Matoso at his introductory press conference.

Photo Tod Fierner

At the two previous universities that employed new Saint Mary's Director of Athletics and Recreation Mike Matoso, he left his mark with upgraded athletic facilities. Sure enough, in addition to successful sports programs and the welfare of student-athletes, Matoso said that improvements to the Saint Mary's facilities will become a major focal point of his athletic department.

Matoso arrived at Saint Mary's July 19 after a five-year stint as athletic director at Division II California State University, Stanislaus, where he spearheaded nearly \$7 million in facility upgrades, including the basketball arena, Warrior Stadium and the baseball and softball fields, with much of the money coming through private donations.

"Kids are used to playing in high-level facilities," Matoso said. "At Stanislaus, a lot of kids left because they thought we weren't committed to winning. When we upgraded and added to the facilities, they started to stick around."

Prior to Stanislaus State, as Senior Associate Athletic Director at the University of San Diego where he oversaw all athletic facilities, Matoso played a key role in developing and planning Fowler Park, a \$14 million baseball facility ranked by Baseball America as one of the top five collegiate facilities in the country.

For Saint Mary's, Matoso hinted at a change to Louis Guisto Field, saying he would like to move the tables and concession stands onto a concourse so that regardless of whatever else they do, fans nev-

er lose sight of the baseball field. In McKeon Pavilion, he envisions renovations to the athletic department offices and also locker room upgrades.

It was the USD connection and a return to the West Coast Conference that drew Matoso to his new job. "One of my first college innings pitched at Cal Poly was on the diamond at Saint Mary's," said Matoso, who participated in the Division II College World Series. Matoso always wanted to return to Division I, and he joins men's basketball coach Randy Bennett and baseball coach Eric Valenzuela as former Toreros on the Moraga campus.

Matoso said his priority is to sit down with all of the coaches and see what they need to continue their highly successful programs. The Gaels boast 19 combined WCC championships and 30 NCAA Tournament appearances in their history, the men's basketball program is the winningest program in California over the last decade and the women's basketball team has won 20 games for six straight years. Plus, two Gaels were chosen in the June Major League Baseball Draft.

"How do we capitalize on the success?" said Matoso, who knows a bit about athletic program success himself. At Stanislaus State, 11 of his 14 teams competed in postseason play in 2105-16 and 2016-17, and under his leadership at USD the school captured the WCC Commissioner's Cup for five consecutive years. Saint Mary's has yet to win a WCC Commissioner's Cup — awarded to the school with the

most success in conference play — in the Cup's 16-year history. (Neither has Gonzaga.)

The new AD insists he will maintain the high academic standards that define the 300 Saint Mary's student-athletes. "It's what makes the school — and the WCC — so unique," Matoso said. "Winning the right way is the only way to do it."

James Donahue, school president, concurs. "His commitment to the welfare of student-athletes and their academic success resonates strongly with the mission of Saint Mary's," he said.

Matoso was born in Belmont, and he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Cal Poly. "We are super excited to come to Moraga," said the married father of three. "My family and I are really excited about getting engrained into the community."

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MCC hosts prestigious tennis tourney

By John T. Miller

Moraga Country Club will host the 31st annual \$25,000 Heritage Bank of Commerce Open Tennis Championships from Aug 8-13.

The event, also presented by Pine Grove Business Center of Orinda, is one of the most prestigious open events on the West Coast and attracts a wide range of players, from local high school standouts, top collegiate players and touring pros.

Anyone can apply to play. The entry fees for the tourney are

\$59.63 for singles and \$33.00 for doubles. Entries close Aug 1.

The prize money will be split between the top finishers in Men's singles and doubles, Women's singles and doubles, and mixed doubles.

Head Tennis Pro at MCC Mark Orwig touts the facility as "one of the best viewing facilities for seeing tennis competitions live."

Admission is free to the six-day single elimination event. For more information, contact Orwig at (925) 376-1314.

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2016-2017 Girls DAL All League, Spring Sports

DAL All-League Girls Lacrosse - 2016-17

Most Valuable Player
Taylor Geary (Miramonte)

First Team
Julia Mueller (Acalanes)
Liv Lagomarsino (Campolindo)
Maisy Mills (Miramonte)
Claire Cimino (Campolindo)
Marcy Morse (Acalanes)
Boo Dewitt (Miramonte)
Grace Burnite (Campolindo)
Perrie Lundstrom (Miramonte)

Second Team
Lucy Stenovec (Miramonte)
Abigail Burns (Campolindo)
Devon Ortman (Campolindo)
Jessalyn Simon-Parker (Campolindo)
Peyton King (Campolindo)
Claire Gallagher (Acalanes)
Emma Workman (Acalanes)
Morgan Johnson (Miramonte)
Francesca Veverka (Miramonte)

Honorable Mention
Olivia Gittings (Miramonte)
Caroline Stenzel (Miramonte)
Caroline Coats (Campolindo)
Susie Bush (Acalanes)



Julia Mueller Photos Gint Federas



Liv Lagomarsino

DAL All-League – Valley Division Softball – 2016-17

Most Valuable Pitcher – Valley Division
Tara McAteer (Campolindo)

1st Team All-League – Valley Division
Megan Bower (Miramonte)
Katelyn Poole (Campolindo)
Brooke Panfili (Acalanes)
Kylie Berry (Acalanes)
Jazzlyn Boynton (Acalanes)
Alexis Carlson (Acalanes)

2nd Team All-League – Valley Division
Kelly Gagnon (Campolindo)
Emily Rahimi (Campolindo)
Jennifer Giron (Miramonte)
Carly Johnson (Miramonte)
Kaitlyn Miller (Miramonte)
Jenna Evaristo (Acalanes)
Marina Carr (Acalanes)
Rosetta Shackett (Acalanes)

Honorable Mention – Valley Division
Riley Nicosic (Acalanes)
Hanna Grossen (Campolindo)
Anna Kim (Campolindo)
Sydni Gordon (Campolindo)
Genevieve Ruvetti (Miramonte)
Ashley Miller (Miramonte)
Maddie Weber (Miramonte)
Cassidy Wall (Miramonte)
Smiley Tuihalangie (Miramonte)



Tara McAteer



Megan Bower

DAL All-League Girls Swimming – 2016-17

1st Team All-League
Emily Lo (Acalanes)
Sophia Cavalli (Campolindo)
Lauren Etnyre (Campolindo)
Paige Hanley (Campolindo)
Rachel Hendricks (Campolindo)
Ashleen O'Brien (Campolindo)
Emily Rasmussen (Campolindo)
Maddie Smith (Campolindo)
Katrina Drake (Miramonte)
Eloise Engs (Miramonte)
Sophia Kosturos (Miramonte)
Katie Lyons (Miramonte)

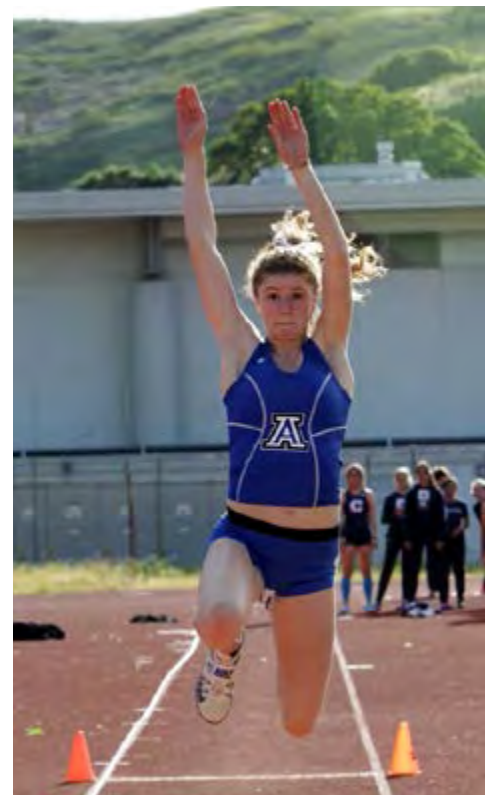
2nd Team All-League
Carson Broad (Miramonte)

Honorable Mention
Emily Gebhardt (Acalanes)
Claire Maxwell (Acalanes)
Bella Wentzel (Acalanes)
Lizzy Follmer (Campolindo)

DAL All-League Girls Track – 2016-17

1st Team All-League
Windy Margerum (Acalanes) 100M Hurdles, 100M, Long Jump, Triple Jump
Arianna Gragg (Acalanes) 400M, Long Jump, High Jump
Juliet Arnswald (Campolindo) 300M Hurdles, 4x400 Relay
Rosie Cruz (Miramonte) 3200M
Jordyn Bryant (Miramonte) Shot Put, Discus Throw
Arden Creson (Miramonte) 100M, 4x100 Relay
Madelyn Robinson (Miramonte) 4x100 Relay
Lola Olabode (Miramonte) 300M Hurdles, High Jump, 4x100 Relay
Masina Mayo (Miramonte) 4x100 Relay
Inani Boggan (Acalanes) 400M, 4x400 Relay
Annie Klopstock (Acalanes) 4x400 Relay
Marianna Florine (Acalanes) 4x400 Relay
Emily Sverak (Acalanes) 4x400 Relay

2nd Team All-League
Hannah Ruane (Campolindo) 1600M, 3200M
Hannah Fishlow (Miramonte) 800M
Jenna Miles (Campolindo) 3200M
Ashley Thoms (Campolindo) Triple Jump
Anna Weier (Acalanes) Shot Put, Discus Throw
Melissa Wilson (Campolindo) 4x400 Relay
Marifren Francisco (Campolindo) 4x400 Relay
Kaylee Johns (Campolindo) 4x400 Relay



Windy Margerum

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Orinda Country Club swims 'Fast and Furious' at annual Mini Meet

Submitted by Amy Campbell



This year's 47th annual Mini Meet hosted by Meadow Swim and Tennis Club, took place on Sunday, July 16. Over 550 swimmers ages 3 to 8 from nine separate clubs swam to this year's race car theme "Fast and Furious" during one of the hottest days of the season. Orinda Country Club brought home the winning trophy, upsetting last year's winner Moraga Valley Pool. Home team Meadow rounded out the top three.

Here are this year's results:

- Orinda Country Club: 706.5 pts.
- Moraga Valley Pool: 538 pts.
- Meadow Swim and Tennis Club: 377.5 pts.
- Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club: 318 pts.
- Orinda Park Pool: 270 pts.
- Moraga Country Club: 215 pts.
- Moraga Ranch Swim Club: 115 pts.
- Miramonte Swim Club: 78 pts.
- Campolindo Cabana Club: 28 pts.



Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club "B" Meet

Submitted by Dana Wentworth



Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club held its 31st Annual "B" Invitational on Sunday, July 23. This meet celebrates the "B" swimmers from the nine teams within the Orinda Moraga Pool Association

(OMPA). It is eagerly anticipated by many swimmers, and is considered the championship meet for the "B" swimmers within the OMPA. We would like to congratulate all the participants and High Point Winners of 2017.



High Point Winners:

- 6U Girls: Avery Marshall — Sleepy Hollow Legends
- 6U Boys: Cooper Ghali — Orinda Country Club
- 8U Girls: Zoey Hire — Moraga Valley Pool Swim Team
- 8U Boys: Luke Sagara — Meadow Swim Team
- 10U Girls: Keelin Doherty — Sleepy Hollow Legends
- 10U Boys: Ben Lucas — Sleepy Hollow Legends
- 12U Girls: Beatrice Morley — Orinda Country Club
- 12U Boys: Grant Barmmer — Moraga Country Club
- 14U Girls: Sonja Testa — Moraga Country Club
- 14U Boys: Malcolm Kiss — Orinda Country Club
- 18U Girls: Marina Storey — Moraga Valley Pool Swim Team
- 18U Boys: Drew Layton — Orinda Park Pool

Moraga Baseball Association are 2017 Pinto Champions

Submitted by Michael Baldelli



Moraga Baseball Association Astros coached by Chad Hamilton, Brian Sullivan and Brian Shaffer are 2017 Pinto Champions.

Players: Dylan Hamilton, Sevan Kalpakjian, Liam Baldelli, Ben Shaffer, Charlie Sullivan, Cade Williamson, Chase Osteen, Justin Fabo, Hudson Ortland and Brody Hall

Photo submitted by Brian Shaffer and Michael Baldelli

2017 Campolindo Girls Varsity Lacrosse Team honored

Submitted by Lisa Milburn



In honor of the 2017 Campolindo Girls Varsity Lacrosse Team's outstanding accomplishments, the Town of Moraga proclaimed July 12 as "2017 Campolindo Girls Varsity Lacrosse Team Day." Go Cougars! Congratulations on a historic season!

Campolindo Water Polo Team places second at State

Submitted by Barbara Williams



Cougar Waterpolo, earned the silver medal at the 2017 California State High School Championships, which annually brings together the top 48 teams in the state for a three day competition in Orange County. The Cougars lost a hard-fought championship game to perennial powerhouse Mater Dei 11-9, after defeating Newport Harbor 10-7 in the semi-final and Orange Lutheran 14-7 in the quarterfinals.

Moraga Mavericks 12U defeat AllStars, win Buckeye Classic

Submitted by Brent Meyers



The Moraga Mavericks 12U took home the championship at the fifth annual Buckeye Classic, hosted by Lafayette Little League, defeating the Lafayette AllStars 3-2 in a great battle. The Mavericks next head to San Diego to compete with 200 teams in the Xtreme Diamond World Series.

Pictured from left, back row: coach Mike Rogers, Nick Rogers, Will Studebaker, coach Steve Hammond, Robbie Mascheroni, Justin Rodriguez, Philip Jagard, Evan Olson, coach Brent Meyers; front Row: Justin Meyers, Brendan Comerford, Lucas Concepcion, Dashiell Weaver, Charlie Hill; not pictured: Grant Roesch

Photo Rob Mascheroni

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 11 Wednesday, July 26, 2017



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

Home is where the hive is

By Cathy Dausman



After the wall had been opened, bees can be removed with a modified vacuum.

Photo Cathy Dausman

It's one thing to invite bees into your yard with bee-friendly flowers and trees or even host a hive or two; it's quite another to have the bees invite themselves over.

David Munson of Moraga knows firsthand what it's like to have "the girls" around (honey bees are overwhelmingly female). He jokes since they've had multiple bee hives lodged in and around their house they must be listed on some "bee B&B" vacation guide. "It started with the (front yard) olive tree," a couple years ago Munson says; and "they've been there at least two times."

This year the little stingers found a crack between the brick near the living room bay window and proceeded past the exterior wall into the insulation and built a comb up against the interior dry wall. From inside his house Munson could put his ear to the sheetrock, hear the noise, and feel a physical warmth. He called Lamorinda Weekly publisher Andy Scheck, himself a beekeeper, warning him "they're baaaaaaack!"

Munson also called a contractor who offered to take out a section of the interior wall or cut out a piece of exterior siding to access the hive, but he didn't like the cost. Instead he and Scheck devised a plan: they'd mask off the bees' various entry and exit routes and train them to inhabit a temporary hive. When the bees got used to the hive, they installed a one-way wire mesh for exit only. The box was left in place for about two weeks, while the bees made honey in the provided wax combs. Four days before its removal Munson said there was "no warmth, no buzzing" along his inside wall. ... continued on page D4



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	18	\$590,000	\$2,875,000
MORAGA	17	\$405,000	\$1,600,000
ORINDA	20	\$875,000	\$3,400,000

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

- 160 Arbor View Lane, \$2,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 3870 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 6-2-17
- 3346 Carlyle Terrace, \$1,265,000, 3 Bdrms, 1779 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-7-17;
Previous Sale: \$525,000, 02-18-99
- 77 Carolyn Court, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 3962 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 6-1-17;
Previous Sale: \$12,000, 01-28-05
- 3980 Cowan Road, \$1,445,000, 4 Bdrms, 2291 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 6-7-17;
Previous Sale: \$8,000, 02-17-71
- 1044 Dolores Drive, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 1963 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-13-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,110,000, 06-08-06
- 3569 East View Drive, \$1,390,000, 3 Bdrms, 1824 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 6-2-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 05-09-14
- 3980 Los Arabis Drive, \$2,875,000, 5 Bdrms, 3540 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 6-7-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,462,000, 07-09-10
- 3395 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,765,000, 3 Bdrms, 1534 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 6-2-17;
Previous Sale: \$965,000, 10-05-15
- 881 Mountain View Drive, \$1,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 3280 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 6-1-17;
Previous Sale: \$450,000, 06-05-92
- 2525 Pebble Beach Loop, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2052 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 6-2-17;
Previous Sale: \$260,000, 05-22-96
- 1855 Reliez Valley Road, \$850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2671 SqFt, 1926 YrBlt, 6-13-17
- 3179 Rohrer Drive, \$590,000, 3 Bdrms, 1168 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 6-9-17
- 844 Santa Maria Way, \$2,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 3996 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-14-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,985,000, 03-18-08
- 3280 Sweet Drive, \$1,070,000, 3 Bdrms, 1525 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-14-17;
Previous Sale: \$807,000, 10-16-08
- 3389 Sweet Drive, \$1,360,000, 3 Bdrms, 1743 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-1-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,165,000, 03-05-14
- 1070 Via Alta, \$1,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 3919 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 6-1-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,489,000, 01-12-06
- 680 Wee Donegal, \$975,000, 3 Bdrms, 1836 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 6-12-17;
Previous Sale: \$820,000, 11-26-14
- 3272 Withers Avenue, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2023 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 6-5-17;
Previous Sale: \$420,000, 08-11-98

... continued on page D10



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Home is where the hive is

... continued from page D1



Mesh attached to a pipe and reduced to a half-inch at the end was used to trap bees out of Munson's home.

Photos Cathy Dausman

Scheck closed off the hive one night when the population went dormant and relocated it. Neither Scheck nor Munson found the queen bee.

With all the bee excitement, you'd think Munson might sour to these uninvited guests, but not so. He admits to having been stung, but insists he and his wife "don't hate bees." They see the value in fruit, flower and vegetable pollination bees provide to their fully landscaped backyard. Munson says he stood just feet away unsuited while the bees were being managed and was never stung. He did notice that solicitors delivering door hangers left them on the sidewalk away from the bees, and that his gardeners and a cable repairman gave the hive a wide berth.

Meanwhile in Lafayette, another homeowner called for help when his renter reported it was no longer safe to be in the garage. Bees had again invaded the detached garage and built a colony inside the wall. The renter, who did not wish to be named, watched nearby while two suited beekeepers pried off the inside wall. The bees had built an irregularly shaped four-foot-long hive in between the studs. The renter pointed out multiple holes along the garage exterior siding which he thought were drilled by woodpeckers, and suspects that is how the bees gained entry. The hillside home is regularly visited by local wildlife, most of it welcome, but when the bees discourage residents from even setting foot in the garage, things can get awkward. It took two suited beekeepers to vacuum the bees into a specially modified shop vacuum. The bees in the vacuum were transferred to a bee box. Finally, the combs were transferred into the box, and the old honeycomb was harvested for honey. Bees from both the Moraga and the Lafayette homes were preserved.

Orinda beekeeper Steve Gentry, owner of Steve's Bees, says removing bees safely and completely from homes is a complicated job which takes a lot of work.

He says bees traditionally, historically and biologically like living in wood, and in Lamorinda there are simply more opportunities for them to inhabit the wood found in houses than trees.

To rid yourself of a home bee infestation, Gentry says it is best to find a licensed contractor who understands the process, rather than an exterminator who may or may not take the job. He estimates he has moved hundreds of swarms (not all of them home invaders) over the past 30-plus years. "It is hot, sweaty work," Gentry says. "I like playing with bees."

Removing interior sheetrock is the cheapest, fastest and cleanest way to access a hive in house walls, he says. The insulation comes out, bees are vacuumed up and the honeycombs removed. Then, Gentry says, the studs need to be thoroughly cleaned, and sprayed with two coats of oil-based primer. Otherwise, says Gentry, "even though the bees are 95 percent gone," scout bees will smell the former hive and they'll move back in. "Exterminators don't know that," he says. Gentry also recommends getting three quotes and references before hiring someone to do bee removal work.

Munson's advice to other homeowners is to look for any little hole and seal it shut. He says he's sealed so many places that he ran out of caulk. Gentry suggests homeowners check for dark spots on exterior walls and overhangs in the spring (this may indicate a hole) and keep an eye out for scout bees. "These guys will find a way in," Munson says.



A beeswax comb with honey on the top and baby bees on the bottom was saved from the hive in the garage wall in a Lafayette home.



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Feng Shui

Let there be light

By Michele Duffy



Summer is now in full swing and so is the ruling element of FIRE, so exploring lighting (fire) from a practical perspective serves a refreshingly worthy purpose.

If you find yourself squinting or drab colors reign in your environment, then consider tackling lighting solutions to change up the energy of each of your rooms in a positively thoughtful way.

For a nature-inspired, energy-rich and certainly “hygge” (Danish Feng Shui) environment, natural lighting is best.

A popular trend these days is full-spectrum lights that simulate natural daylight and add a layer of illumina-

tion for many benefits, including good reading light, low light for warm romance and juicing up a dark area of your home.

The term “full-spectrum lighting” refers to a balance of color temperature within a light source that tries to simulate daylight. All light sources have varying degrees of color from the full color spectrum. The simplest way to see the color spectrum is to use a crystal from a chandelier. Hold it up to sunlight, and as the light passes through the crystal it bends, opening up to show the spectrum, resulting in a rainbow effect on a surface.

When you purchase a light bulb which states

“Full-spectrum or Daylight,” this simply relates to the light bulb manufacturer’s opinion or their interpretation of the balance of color in the light bulb that they feel matches daylight.

This is a misleading concept as daylight changes throughout the course of the day with various color temperatures being produced naturally, showing a multitude of temperatures reflecting varying degrees of colors that make up the full spectrum of light. Color consultations and our color choices must take into account the different levels of lighting at various times of day and evening, as lighting influences almost everything.

So many of my clients cannot believe how they deeply connect to and love their bedrooms, kitchens, family rooms and outdoor patios when specific, targeted, and much improved overall lighting solutions are introduced.

Adjusting lighting (FIRE) doesn’t need to be an overwhelming task and like any other major overhaul, it’s wise to prioritize and be methodical going room by room. Having a large-scale strategy is key to pulling the various pieces together so the lighting ties into other aspects of your overall design, including colors, texture and, of course, function. All functional components must be included with the design for each room and lighting illuminates it all.

Many of us put up with 60-watt bulbs in our master bedroom bedside lamps. Those may work somewhat in a guest room, but the dinginess of low lights, especially if there are no other light sources or no natural light, ought not be tolerated, especially in a master bedroom retreat. Creating a sanctuary includes applying the lighting layer carefully.

The size of the master bedroom, amount of furniture needed and location in home (see BAGUA map) all matter if we are transforming the lighting in our environment.

... continued on page D8

**Ann Ward**

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Enchanting grounds with huge level lawns, beautifully landscaped gardens and play areas.



*per Public Records

Feng Shui

Let there be light

... continued from page D6

Here are some tips for good Feng Shui lighting:

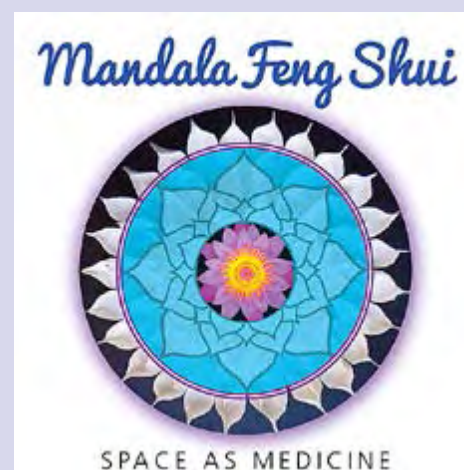
- The front entrance and front walkway lighting must be first, safe and might also be low-voltage landscape lighting;
- Master bedrooms require 100-watt bedside reading lights;
- Kitchens should be functional with plenty of overhead lighting, under cabinets and low lighting for evening access;
- Crystal chandeliers enhance certain bathroom placements;
- Install modern floor lamps interwoven for design jazz;
- Patio solar lighting is glamorous fun;
- Soy essential oil candles always set the mood after dark.

When lighting encourages a cozy “hygge” reading nook, a safe food prep spot on your kitchen counter or an ease of entry with a sublime entryway, then you know that your lighting is supporting all aspects of your vibrantly designed life.

For more ideas and feedback please visit my website mandalafengshui.com and sign up for my eZine!

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<p>FAMILY ZHEN Wood East Green Spring</p>	<p>HEALTH TAI JI Earth Center Orange, Yellow Brown</p>	<p>JOY & COMPLETION DUI Metal West White Autumn</p>
<p>KNOWLEDGE & SELFCULTIVATION GEN Earth Northeast Blue</p>	<p>CAREER & OPPORTUNITIES KAN Water North Black & Dark Blue Winter</p>	<p>HELPFUL PEOPLE & TRAVEL QIAN Metal Northeast Grey</p>

The Bagua Map: Front Door



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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Hello Lamorinda!

My name is Erin Martin and I am a realtor at Village Associates and a third-generation Lafayette resident. My husband and I feel extremely lucky to live and raise our three kids in such an amazing community. For the last several years I have written the real estate column for the Lafayette Monthly, a newspaper that was recently discontinued. I am excited to begin writing a monthly column for the Lamorinda Weekly.

As the calendar turns to summer it is a good time to take stock and understand how Lamorinda real estate performed over the last year. Below is a summary of Multiple Listing Service ("MLS") data for Lamorinda residential detached home sales over the last twelve months from July 2016 to June 2017 (the prior-year comparison is from July 2015 to June 2016).

As most of you already know our real estate market remains strong as the spring market delivered record figures for most of Lamorinda. The Lamorinda average sales price is now \$1.54M, up 5%, and the average sales price per square foot is \$604, up 4%. The biggest gains came from homes between 2,500–3,500 square feet where the price per square foot is up 10%. Families are feeling more confident about their financial situation and are moving up into larger homes. In Lafayette, the average sales price and price per square foot were both up 4% to \$1.57M and \$620. In Moraga, the average price is up 2% to \$1.33M and the average sales price per square foot is up 1% to \$560. In Orinda, the average sales price is up 7% to \$1.61M and the average sales price per square foot is up 5% to \$608. In addition, over the last twelve months there were 88 Lamorinda transactions over \$750 a square foot compared to 56 in the year prior, a 57% increase. This is great news for all of us that live in Lamorinda.

For a more detailed analysis including a separate analysis of Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda please visit the Insight section of my website at www.erinmartinhomes.com. Feel free to email or call with your real estate questions - erin@erinmartinhomes.com or (925) 951-3817.



ERIN MARTIN

925.951.3817 direct
erin@erinmartinhomes.com
CalBRE# 01922810



Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

MORAGA

118 Ascot Court #A, \$590,000, 2 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 6-14-17
1969 Ascot Drive #A, \$405,000, 2 Bdrms, 938 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 6-5-17; Previous Sale: \$369,000, 05-10-06
2129 Ascot Drive #1, \$650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1643 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 6-12-17; Previous Sale: \$375,000, 07-24-09
31 Ascot Place, \$785,000, 2 Bdrms, 1379 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-1-17; Previous Sale: \$435,000, 01-21-10
365 Birchwood Drive, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2358 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 6-13-17; Previous Sale: \$800,000, 04-04-01
97 Brookfield Drive, \$1,527,000, 4 Bdrms, 2938 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 6-13-17; Previous Sale: \$630,000, 12-02-98
132 Devin Drive, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 1898 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 6-5-17
424 Donald Drive, \$1,595,000, 4 Bdrms, 2280 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 6-5-17; Previous Sale: \$1,092,000, 06-26-08
19 Fieldbrook Place, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2691 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-9-17; Previous Sale: \$49,000, 12-08-77
6 Irvine Drive, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 2005 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 6-13-17; Previous Sale: \$740,000, 04-19-01
133 Miramonte Drive, \$725,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-7-17; Previous Sale: \$247,500, 04-09-99
135 Miramonte Drive, \$821,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-1-17; Previous Sale: \$392,000, 08-15-02
204 Moraga Road, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2438 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-1-17; Previous Sale: \$695,000, 07-18-02
130 Quintas Lane, \$1,555,000, 5 Bdrms, 2888 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-15-17; Previous Sale: \$60,000, 07-09-74
39 Sherwood Court, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2850 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 6-6-17; Previous Sale: \$620,000, 06-26-98
1746 Spyglass Lane, \$1,135,000, 3 Bdrms, 2080 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 6-13-17; Previous Sale: \$540,000, 05-23-00
141 Westchester Street, \$940,000, 2 Bdrms, 1867 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 6-12-17; Previous Sale: \$700,000, 01-06-17

ORINDA

87 Bates Boulevard, \$1,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 2769 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 6-12-17; Previous Sale: \$1,190,000, 03-06-02
2 Birch Court, \$885,000, 3 Bdrms, 1760 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 6-2-17
11 Charles Hill Road, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 3000 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 6-15-17
13 Donald Drive, \$1,720,000, 4 Bdrms, 2990 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 6-12-17; Previous Sale: \$525,000, 04-25-96
20 El Castillo, \$2,272,500, 4 Bdrms, 3653 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 6-13-17; Previous Sale: \$260,000, 09-10-97
52 Estates Drive, \$875,000, 3 Bdrms, 1593 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 6-7-17; Previous Sale: \$44,000, 11-09-72
12 Honey Hill Road, \$1,895,500, 4 Bdrms, 3484 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-2-17; Previous Sale: \$610,000, 04-26-91
1 Kittiwake Road, \$1,344,000, 3 Bdrms, 1917 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 6-12-17; Previous Sale: \$900,000, 11-02-05
21 La Noria, \$3,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 4000 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-9-17; Previous Sale: \$860,000, 06-04-99
11 Las Palomas, \$1,365,000, 5 Bdrms, 2338 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-14-17; Previous Sale: \$855,000, 05-25-04
Lost Valley Drive, \$1,230,000, 5 Bdrms, 1671 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-2-17; Previous Sale: \$1,075,000, 05-19-15
751 Miner Road, \$2,205,000, 4 Bdrms, 3797 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 6-7-17; Previous Sale: \$500,000, 10-20-99
2 Monroe Court, \$1,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1531 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-1-17; Previous Sale: \$338,500, 10-30-92
240 Monte Vista Ridge Road, \$2,260,000, 5 Bdrms, 4356 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 6-6-17;
Previous Sale: \$2,400,000, 02-09-07
171 Moraga Way, \$1,389,500, 4 Bdrms, 2243 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 6-12-17; Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 04-28-06
662 Moraga Way, \$1,435,000, 4 Bdrms, 2475 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 6-13-17; Previous Sale: \$605,000, 10-28-03
10 Oak Drive, \$1,880,000, 5 Bdrms, 4907 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 6-6-17; Previous Sale: \$281,000, 01-11-88
20 Red Coach Lane, \$2,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 3204 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-9-1744
34 St. Stephens Drive, \$1,699,000, 5 Bdrms, 2705 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-2-17; Previous Sale: \$1,198,000, 11-13-15
29 Via Callados, \$1,270,000, 3 Bdrms, 2318 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 6-5-17; Previous Sale: \$825,000, 04-23-02

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Gardening Guide for August

Rats, rattles and voles!

By Cynthia Brian

“There's a snake lurking in the grass.” Virgil

Ten rattles! Diamond pattern on the skin. This was no gopher snake!

I was checking my orchard on the hill agonizing over the gopher mounds when I saw the slithering snake. Excited to know that I had a friend in the rodent business, I quickly ran to get a closer look. Dang! Not a gopher snake but *crotalus oreganus oreganus*-northern Pacific rattlesnake. I was wearing my normal summer gardening gear – shorts, bathing suit top, cowboy hat and boots. Not exactly the suggested outfit for wrangling a rattler. As I was counting the number of rattles, he/she slinked into the rosemary bush bordering my vegetable garden.

It's been over five years since I've witnessed a rattlesnake on my property. According to the experts, because of the wet winter and now the dry summer, rats, mice, gophers and voles are ubiquitous, which means that their hunters are in abundance as well. This season I've had several gopher, garter, and king snakes as wanted guests. Rattlesnakes give me the shivers.

Every summer growing up on our ranch in Napa County meant a meeting with at least 50 or more rattlers. I've stepped on a few in the past and a couple snaked over the top of my boots. Fortunately neither I, nor anyone in my family has ever suffered a bite.

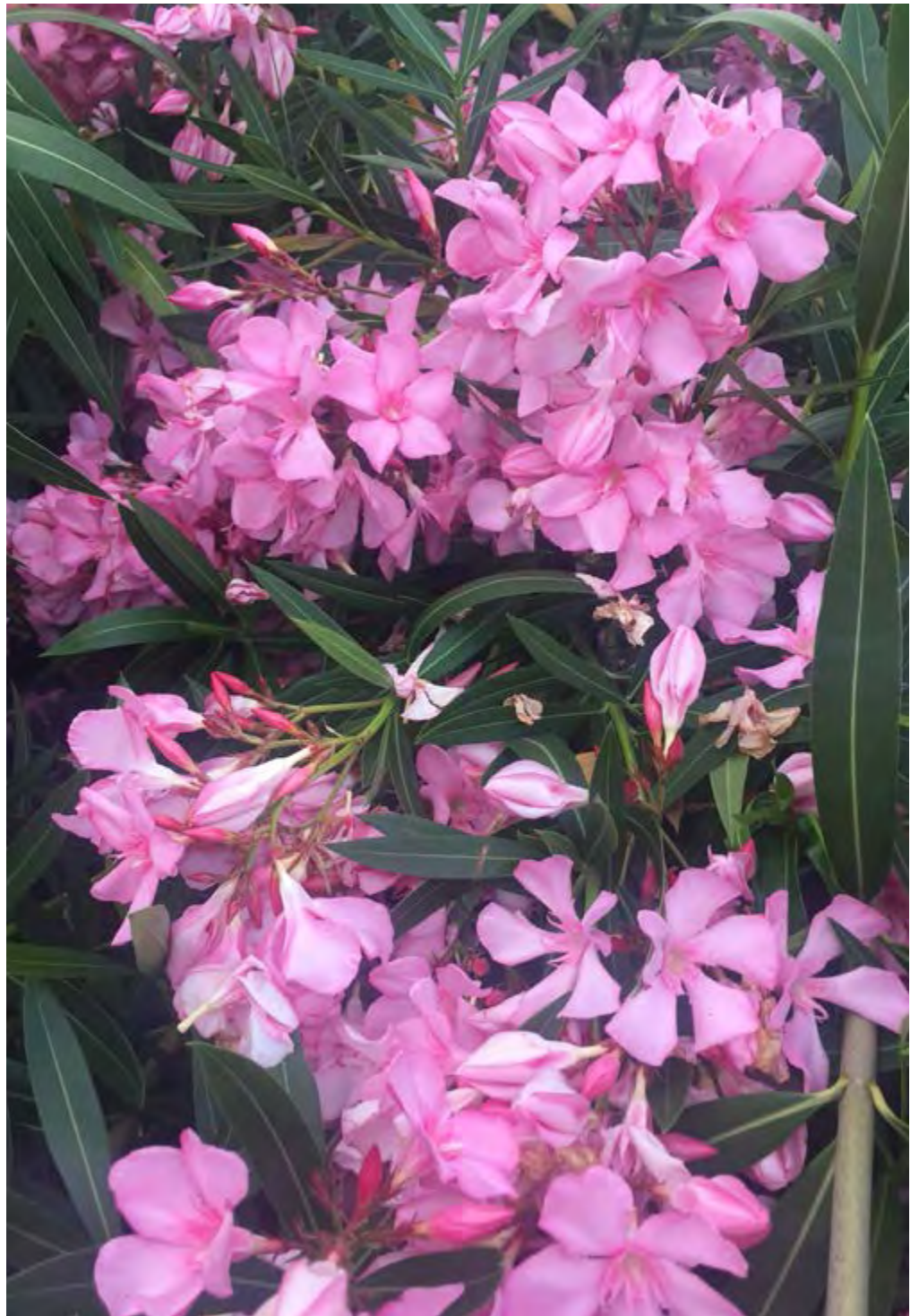
Rattlesnakes are the only pit viper found in California. All are poisonous and potentially dangerous. They kill their prey with their venom as opposed to constriction. Babies are born fully developed with one rattle and are even more potent than adults. The rattles on the end of the snake's tail are used as a warning system, alerting predators or humans to stay away. Every time the snake sheds, a new rattle is grown. Rattles can break off, and to the unaccustomed bystander, a snake without rattles may resemble a gopher snake. Without proper identification, never handle a snake in the grass. Rattlesnakes are not aggressive and don't usually strike unless provoked, however, since they seek warm-blooded prey, a human could be mistaken as food.

Rodents are inundating homes and gardens this year in search of water and food. Wherever rodents race, snakes that eat rodents follow. I discovered a terrific trap that zaps rats and mice dead. It's called The Rat Zapper and it works like a charm.

For gophers, box traps and black hole traps work best. The moles are normally looking for grubs in a lawn and don't do much damage. I just stomp down on their ridges. Voles, also called “field mice” or meadow mice” are bad news as they target the root systems of vegetable gardens, lawns and fruit orchards. They will gnaw at the trunks of trees and shrubs, chew blades and stems of grass, and eat bulbs. They often use empty mole or gopher burrows as their runways. Voles reproduce rapidly leading to mass destructions of landscapes. Snap traps are best to catch these critters when they exit their holes.

The best protection to minimize the rodent infestation is to invite their natural predators – owls, hawks, and yes, snakes. A family of barn owls will hunt and eat up to 1,000 rodents a year. Consider installing a nesting box for owls. The hawks fly with the wind currents to find the rodent restaurant.

... continued on next page



Oleanders repel gophers and moles.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Most snakes to visit our gardens are not venomous, yet, all snakes can bite and should not be handled. King snakes are my very favorite snake to have in a garden because they kill rattlesnakes.

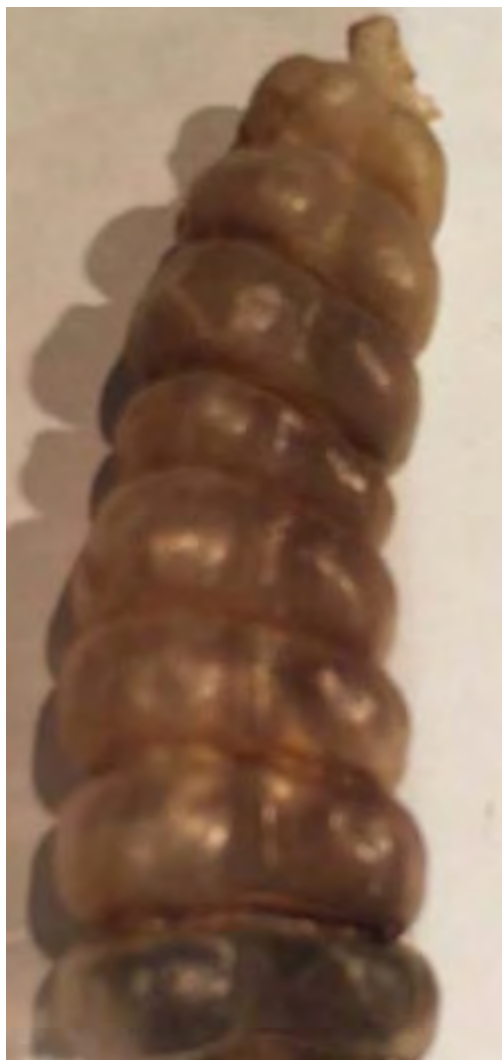
The California Department of Fish and Wildlife suggests the following precautions since rattlesnakes do not just reside in rural areas. We live in hill country with plenty of open space, creeks, and trails. Rattlesnakes are here. Pay attention.

- Be alert when walking in a park, golf course or riverbank.
- Wear sturdy boots and don't wear flip-flops when hiking. Stay on the trail and don't wander into the brush. Inform your children to stay with you.
- Avoid tall brush, woodpiles, and underbrush. Snakes often hide during the heat of the day; they come out at dusk and dawn to hunt.
- Check your sleeping bag when camping, step on rocks and logs instead of climbing over them.
- Watch where you step when leaving your house or a building. Rattlesnakes often stretch out at door thresholds.
- Rattlesnakes swim. Don't grab onto floating sticks or branches when swimming anywhere, including your swimming pool.
- Don't put your hand into a place you can't see. Don't weed under bushes unless you've rattled the area.
- A dead rattlesnake is still venomous. The head needs to be buried.
- If you have a dog, talk to your veterinarian about getting the canine rattlesnake vaccine. For small dogs, it doesn't always work, but for a large dog, it could be life saving.
- Hire a snake wrangler if you find an unwanted snake. Check online.

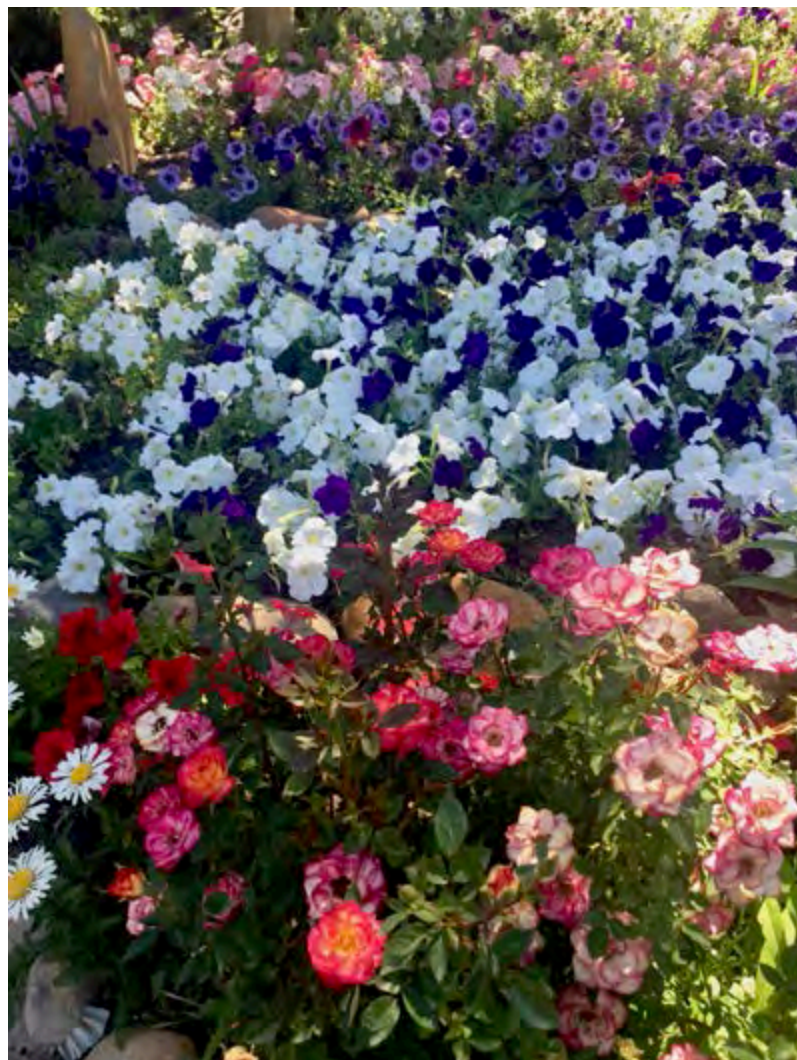
In case of a rattlesnake bite, call Poison Control immediately at 800-222-1222 and get to the nearest emergency room. Stay calm, remove rings, and don't try to suck the venom, cut the wound, tourniquet the bite or ice it. Most rattlesnake bites are accidental, but all are very dangerous, and can be fatal.

I still haven't found my rattlesnake but I am being extra cautious, especially when weeding, wearing my boots, gloves, and carrying a sharp shovel. As much as I despise rats and other rodents, a rattlesnake is not a welcome serpent in my summer paradise where I prefer to be barefoot and bikini clad!

Enjoy the summer and join me in my dance to stay clear of the rats, rattles and voles!



Rattles from a rattlesnake.



Pelargoniums and petunias are a pretty combo.



Yellow yarrow is a medicinal herb that people use to reduce toothaches and other ailments.

Cynthia Brian's Summer Tips:

The following plants are repellents to gophers and moles. Plant them in areas of infestation.

Rosemary
 Marigold
 Oleander
 Penstemon
 Catmint
 Salvia
 Strawberry
 Daffodil
 Castor Bean

Garden Events

- If you will be in Europe in September you may want to visit the spoga+gafa, the world's leading garden trade fair Sept. 3-5 in Cologne, Germany with over 2,000 exhibitors from 60 countries. <http://ow.ly/pBxP30dA88D>
- The World's Pure Food Fair and National Heirloom Expo happens in Santa Rosa Sept. 5, 6, and 7 with three-day tickets only \$25. Heritage poultry, music, seeds, fruit tastings, dahlia show, colossal pumpkins and more. <http://www.theheirloomexpo.com>
- Closer to home, Moraga Gardens Farm, a nonprofit volunteer membership garden, 1290 Moraga Way, Moraga between the fire station and School Street grows many varieties of pesticide-free, organic vegetables including tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, cucumbers, chard, fruits and herbs. Watch for demonstrations, lectures and sales. <https://moragagardensfarm.org>

Blooming Beautiful!

Roses
 Gladioli
 Firecracker Plants
 Snapdragons
 Magnolias
 Petunias
 Pelargoniums
 Geraniums
 Daisies
 Yarrow
 Hollyhocks
 Osteospermums



Add three or four inches of mulch around plants to keep the soil moist and cool.

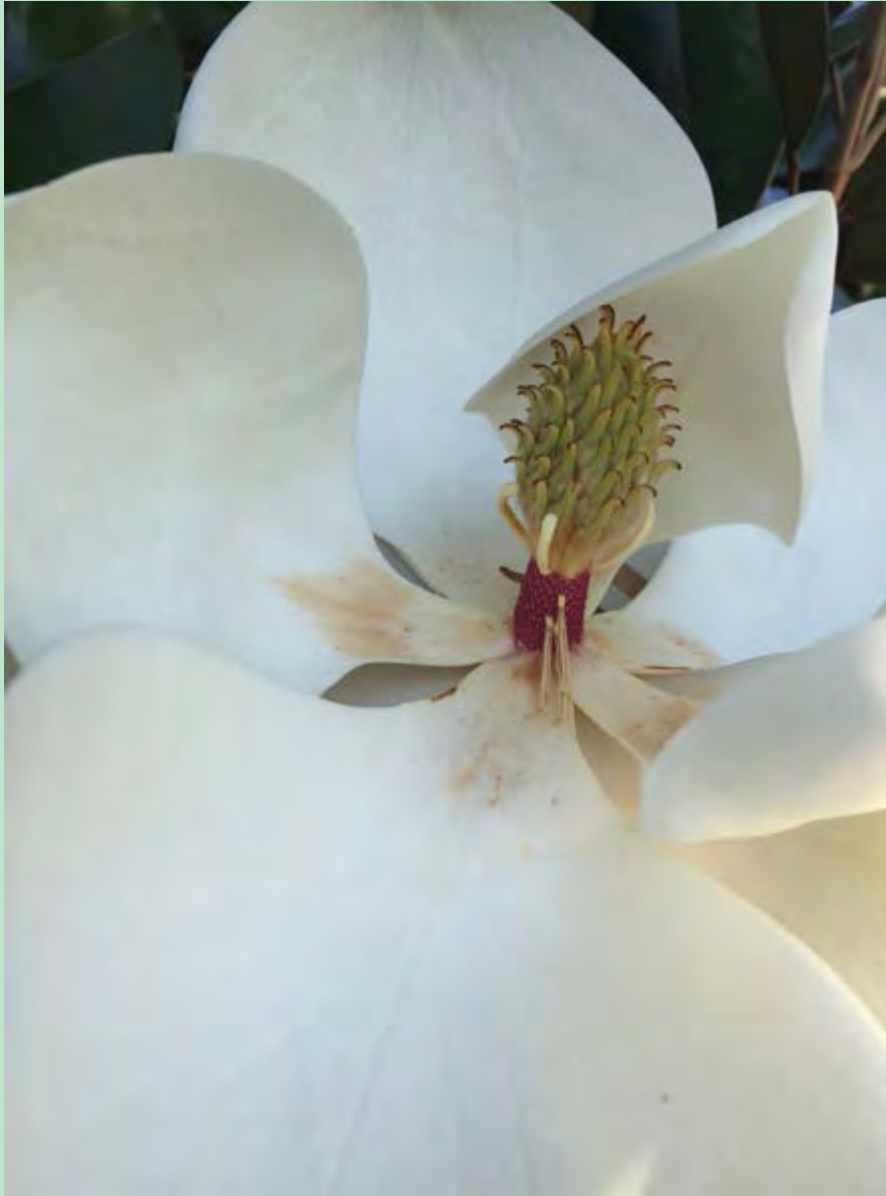
Photos Cynthia Brian



A turkey hen and her baby drink from a saucer on the walkway.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!





A close-up of a creamy magnolia flower.



Summer is the time for a bed of petunias, mini roses and daisies.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is a New York Times best selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3.

Tune into Cynthia's Radio show at www.StarStyleRadio.com

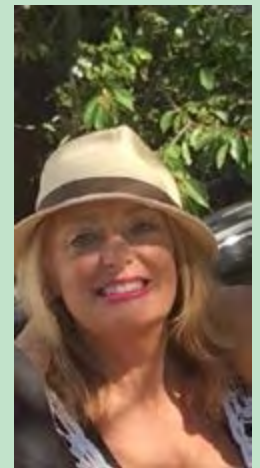
Her new book, Growing with the Goddess Gardener will be available this month!

Hire Cynthia for your next project.

Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

www.GoddessGardener.com

925-377-STAR



Cynthia Brian in the garden.

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Lamorinda's Leading Independent Real Estate Firm

ORINDA



New Listing

410 Wovenwood

For Lease! Orindawoods! Charming, remodeled 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome with privacy. 2 car garage. Spectacular views! Top schools!

\$4,500/month

ORINDA



New Listing

129 Rheem Blvd. Great Orinda Opportunity. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, updated kitchen & baths, A/C, tankless water heater, newer carpet, new sod. Needs TLC. Close to Rheem shops, Theater. Orinda Schools & backs to Rim Trail.

\$899,000

ORINDA



New Listing

5 Estates Drive Tucked behind mature oak & redwood trees, this classic home has walls of glass, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, hardwood floors, brick courtyard & .44 acres. Near downtown Orinda, BART & schools.

\$1,349,000

ORINDA



New Listing

15 Estabueno Drive First time on market! 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, apx. 2162 sq.ft. on premier .32 acre level lot. Spacious flr plan. park-like yard, hardwood flrs, family rm/ dining rm/ kitchen combo & separate workshop/studio.

\$1,395,000

ORINDA



New Listing

54 Heather Lane Designer quality 4 bdrm, 3 bath home of apx. 2089 sq.ft. on beautifully landscaped .8 acre w/ Mt. Diablo views. Huge 4th bdrm w/ separate entrance on lower level -perfect for in-law, au pair or large office.

\$1,398,000

ORINDA



New Listing

23 Overhill Road Fabulous single level living in stunning totally renovated mid-century contemporary w/bonus 4th BR/family rm on lower level. Huge private deck, panoramic views. Level yard area. Walk to town.

\$1,475,000

ORINDA



New Listing

32 Heather Lane Big spaces come alive in a well maintained family home w/ income producing option w/ two bedroom, one bath apartment w/ separate entrance. Abundance of windows, views & walk to Meadow Swim & Tennis.

\$1,790,000

MORAGA



New Listing

1954 Joseph Drive Exceptional home at end of cul-de-sac in popular "The Bluffs" neighborhood. Ideal setting overlooking valley & views of St. Mary's in the distance. Well maintained home, super pool, privacy. Fantastic!

\$1,585,000

MORAGA



New Listing

1031 Bollinger Canyon Rd. Horse lover's dream home! Rancho Dos Rios is a 10.51 acre ranch w/ apx. 3,432 sq.ft., 4bd, 2.5ba home, detached 4 car gar. w/ apx. 1,018 sf in-law apt, pool, 2 stall barn w/ paddocks, arena, mare-motel, 2 pastures.

\$1,995,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3235 Del Mar Drive Completely Remodeled Rancher with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths and a Detached Office. Apx. 2224 sq. ft. home opens to expansive yard. Easy Commute Location with Award Winning Lafayette Schools.

\$1,249,000

LAFAYETTE

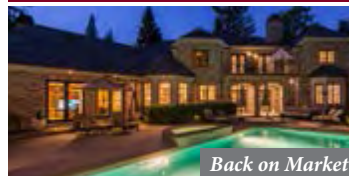


New Listing

1200 Glen Road Happy Valley Glen contemporary with fabulous views of Reservoir & hills. Updated kitchen & baths. 5 bedrooms + library + bonus room + full apartment attached. Close to town, BART.

\$2,375,000

LAFAYETTE



Back on Market

4015 Happy Valley Road Rare opportunity to own elegant French Country home in prestigious Happy Valley. Classic 2 story, apx. 6,011 sq.ft., 5 beds, 5.5 baths, flat .97 acre, saltwater infinity-edge pool/spa, outr kitchen & pergola.

\$4,995,000

ALAMO



New Listing

212 Dorchester Lane

Incredible setting in Stonegate w/ stunning views of Diablo Foothills Regional Park. Updates throughout! Gorgeous kitchen! Spacious master suite on main level! Vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors & more!

\$2,195,000

DUBLIN



New Listing

6552 Bantry Bay Street Luxury end unit 4bd/3.5ba townhome in desirable Tralee Village! Updated throughout w/ open floorplan & ground level bedroom w/ full bath & walk in closet. Granite countertops, hardwood floors & more!

\$819,000

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

2597A Oak Road Level in condo that backs to pool & gardens. New paint/ carpet, updated kitchen & bath, newer HVAC, spacious living room w/fireplace, dining room & private deck. 2 generous sized bedrooms. Central location.

\$419,000

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

1213 Clover Lane Fabulous Saranap home on attractive cul de sac. Walk to town w/ 3 separate units - renovated main house w/ 2 bedrooms + den, 2 baths; detached upstairs studio apt., detached cottage. All sharing .3 acre.

\$985,000



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