

LAMORINDA WEEKLY



www.lamorindaweekly.com

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FREE Admission, FREE Parking, FREE Shuttle, FREE Bike Valet Parking

Saturday, Sept. 16 10-7 PM

Sunday, Sept. 17 10-6 PM

Downtown Lafayette

Live Music on Four Stages / Kid Zone

www.lafayettefestival.com



2016 Iron Filmmaker third-place winners (from left), Milla, John, Zane, Tamara, Tina and Keira Elliott of Orinda, submitted a fourth entry this year in the CAIFF Iron Filmmaker Competition.

CAIFF celebrates independence – one filmmaker at a time

By B. B. Kaye

Movies by independent filmmakers from as far off as Iceland, Japan, Germany and England will be shown in Lamorinda for the annual California Independent Film Festival, Sept. 7-16 in Moraga, Orinda and San Francisco. The festival has grown steadily over its 19-year history, beginning with a modest 28 films and a turnout of about 150 in 1999, and this year antici-

pates that an audience of over 6,000 will come to see over 80 films.

CAIFF gives filmmakers working without the largesse of a major studio the one thing most difficult to achieve for unknowns: an audience. It's a chance to have their work noticed and maybe, just maybe, create enough interest to break into a big-time career in film entertainment.

Festival founder Derek Zemrak said, "I wanted to give people in the Bay Area someplace to screen their movies. Being a filmmaker, I know how difficult it is. The first year, we showed movies in a conference room at the Hilton in San Francisco. Now, we spread it over 10 days and three theaters."

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Advertising

The 13th Annual

Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Saturday, September 9th, 10am - 3pm

www.OrindaCarShow.com

Plan to Attend – Admission is FREE!



Oh rats! Rodents and other critters overrun Lamorinda

By Diane Claytor



This bold rat scampered up a pole to munch on seed from a hanging birdfeeder. Photo Jennifer Wake

The pitter-patter of little feet typically means something smile-worthy – a toddler running down the hall for a hug or a playful puppy scampering about. But these days, that pitter-patter may mean something far less pleasant; it could mean rats are living in your attic or walls, or voles, moles or mice are running across your deck.

The general consensus is that the rodent population has increased significantly this year in Lamorinda. A NextDoor.com post asking the simple question "Varmints in your yard?" elicited almost 80 responses, most answering yes. They've been found in pools – alive and dead. They've been destroying gardens – feeding on fruits, vegetables and flowers. They're dashing across walking trails and racing through open fields. Paul Hyde of Orinda has even seen rats shimmying down wires in an attempt to reach his bird feeder.

But it's not just in our area. Reports indicate that the numbers of these very unpopular animals are on the rise throughout the state – and, in fact, throughout the country. ... continued on page A12

Lamorinda shows solidarity with Texas after major disaster

By Nick Marnell



Task force members decontaminating search dogs during Hurricane Harvey search and rescue efforts. Photo courtesy CA TF4 and Oakland Fire

Lamorinda public and private entities stepped up to aid the victims of Hurricane Harvey, providing assistance, shipping supplies and collecting donations for the devastated east Texas region, site of the heaviest tropical downpour ever recorded in the continental U.S.

Firefighter Stephen Rogness and engineer David Mazaika from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District joined two captains and three firefighters from the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District as members of the California Task Force 4 Urban Search and Rescue team, trained rescue specialists who departed from Oakland Aug. 26 for the drive to Texas to aid in recovery operations.

... continued on page A10

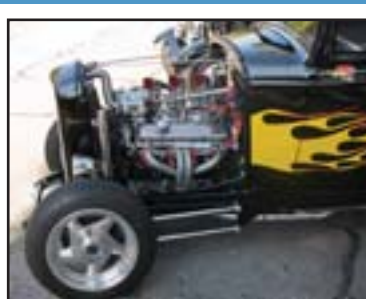
Civic News	A1-A14	Life in Lamorinda	B1-B8	Sports	C1-C4	Our Homes	D1-D20
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Moraga considers firearms commerce and storage regulation – page A5

Fire Districts A10

Frustrations mount with Frustration 43 inaction – page A10.

Local car enthusiast honored at Classic Car Show – page B1.



Boys and Girls Water Polo Previews – page C1.



Keeping decks wildfire safe – page D1.



22nd Annual Lafayette Art and Wine Festival set for mid-September

By John T. Miller



Mark Mitchell (front center) and Mayor Mike Anderson (hand on white shirt) at last year's festival
Photo Gint Federas

After a year of floods, falling trees and even a ruinous fire, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce is more than ready to celebrate its 22nd annual Art and Wine Festival the weekend of Sept. 16-17, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Since the fire, the Chamber of Commerce has been operating out of temporary quarters at the Lafayette School District offices next to Stanley Middle School.

"It's certainly been a challenge," said Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson, "but the fire is out and the festival is on!"

Luckily for the Chamber, most

of its materials were stored off site and all the files were backed up in the cloud. "We're not sure exactly what we might have lost, but with a standing committee of 35 people and nearly 400 volunteers, the festival will open without a hitch and with several new features," Lifson said.

A new family stage will be located at the main entrance at Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Oakhill Road, with Saturday's entertainment including acts from Lamorinda Theater Academy, Town Hall Kids, and the Lamorinda Idol contest winners.

... continued on page A13

End in sight for work on new water pumping plant

By Pippa Fisher



EBMUD's new Diablo Vista pumping plant set to be operational by early 2018.
Photo Pippa Fisher

On the east end of Lafayette the dreaded orange cones and lane closures are back again but residents can take heart from the fact that the construction work on the new water pumping plant is nearing completion.

The East Bay Municipal Utility District has been working on construction of the new building since the end of 2015. Now stained, with windows and doors installed and with a new sidewalk, the site is level and ready for fencing.

There remain a few more areas of work before the new Diablo Vista pumping plant can be put on-line, bringing water to the community and replacing the old pumping plant on Mt. Diablo Boulevard located near Carol Lane, next to Ace Hardware.

Once the repaving work closest to the new pumping plant on Mt. Diablo Court is complete, repaving work on the westbound lanes where pipe was installed will begin in early September, with the unavoidable lane closures, loss of street parking and traffic delays.

Testing work on the new pump plant systems will begin soon along with pressure testing and flushing of pipes; residents will see large water storage tanks adjacent to the worksite to support this activity.

Finally permanent perimeter fencing and landscaping will be installed.

Once all new systems are "go," the old pumping plant will be taken out of service and demolished sometime in late 2017-early 2018.

All smiles at awards ceremony



Photo provided

Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk, Mayor Mike Anderson and Planning and Building Director Niroop Srivatsa receive the "Great Places in California" award from officials of the California chapter of the American Planning Association at the APA Annual Awards Gala

on June 2 in Oakland. The award is given annually to only three locations in the state that exemplify character, quality and excellent planning. The APA says "It must be a place where people want to be!"
- Pippa Fisher

The Early Fall Market in Lamorinda!

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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, Sept. 27, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Sept. 18, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
 Thursday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us
 Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org
Moraga Citizens' Network:
 www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

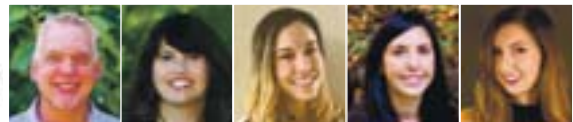
Moraga Police Report



will be back next time



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Moraga Sinkhole repairs on track, Canyon bridge delayed

By Sophie Braccini



Canyon bridge remains closed

Photo Andy Scheck

Moraga public works department announced that the reconstruction and repair work of the Rheem Boulevard sinkhole is progressing according to plan, with an end date scheduled before the rainy season that typically begins Oct. 15.

The work to reopen the circulation on Canyon Road toward the Oakland hills, however, has

been delayed. The next step before the installation of a one-lane temporary metal bridge is the demolition of the existing compromised bridge. Before the bridge is demolished, the utilities that pass under that bridge had to be rerouted.

Shawn Knapp, Moraga senior civil engineer, explains that Sprint needed to dig under the

creek to reroute its cable system. The work was delayed by one month when boring encountered layers of granite. A different approach and a longer process were required.

According to the engineer, the demolition of the bridge will start mid-September, as long as the company that was given that contract, W.C. Maloney Inc., is able to pull all the required permits in time. Knapp explains that the company will then have 21 days to complete the demolition and the hauling of the debris, working seven days a week, with shorter hours on weekends.

The town has started to seek companies that sell, rent and install metal truss bridges. Knapp says that 10 have been contacted, with the objective being to find one that will rent a bridge to the town.

As the demolition starts, the town will start the preparation

work for the installation of the metal bridge: construction of abutments, preparation of the road with new striping, and installation of traffic lights.

Knapp confirmed that the town is aiming to reopen the road in mid-November and added that the town is in touch with the Canyon community, especially the school board, to inform the members of the exact advancement of the work.

Staff is working with the California Department of Transportation on the emergency release program and setting up the reimbursement process. Knapp adds that Moraga is just one of the agencies seeking reimbursement in California and the total amount of repairs from last year's problems amount to about \$1.5 billion in the state – an amount that will pale in comparison with what Texas will certainly require.

Moraga Chamber golf tournament on 9/11 benefits local firefighters association

By Sophie Braccini



Happy participants at last year's event

Photo Lynn Champagne

This year the Moraga Chamber of Commerce annual golf tournament will be held on Sept. 11 in collaboration with the Moraga Orinda Professional Firefighters Association. The annual event this year will also raise money for this local group that was formed to give back to the community.

The executive director of the chamber, Kathe Nelson explains that this is the first time that a partner is involved in the annual event. She says that the date was

a deciding factor. Since Sept. 11 was the only available date for the tournament, Chamber board member Ian Cook suggested involving the local firefighters and take that opportunity to honor those who lost their lives in 2001. Lucas Lambert, vice president of the MOPFA, adds that his association is proud to be part of the event.

Lambert says the association has invited the United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County Honor Guard to

present the colors and raise the flag at 11:30 a.m. This guard participates in many events including national and state memorials. The Saklan School children's choir will then sing the national anthem.

This memorial ceremony will follow registration at 10:30 a.m. and a general warm-up session led by a professional trainer from 24 Hour Fitness.

During the tournament that follows, participants will have the opportunity to contribute to the association. They will also partake in fun golf challenges such as hitting farther than a professional golfer or getting clos-

est to the pin on shorter holes. Lunch and drinks will be served to participants during the tournament and a dinner at the club is included in the \$175 registration fee.

During the dinner, the association's president, Anthony Stephens, will make a short presentation about MOPFA's objectives and achievements. A silent auction is also scheduled as part of the after-game festivities. Non-golfers can join in for a dinner-only option for \$40.

Nelson said that 10 percent of the proceeds will be given to the firefighters association. Lambert adds that his group not only or-

ganizes the Moraga and Orinda pancake breakfasts, it is also a contributor to research for children with muscular dystrophy and to the Lisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation. "All the MOFD fire fighters are part of the association," says Lambert. "It is our way to give back to the community."

The annual golf tournament was initiated by then country club general manager Frank Melon. It has been led by Bob Fritzky for the past three years. Participants can register as foursomes or individually on the Chamber's website at moragachamber.org.

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Moraga moves toward regulating firearms storage

By Sophie Braccini

Few topics are as divisive and potentially explosive as firearms regulation in this country. The small town of Moraga decided nonetheless to look at regulating firearms storage and commerce within its borders. A recent town council meeting attracted many supporters and some opponents as the matter was discussed. Most residents spoke with calm and respect, a fine example of democratic debate, one council member noted.

The Aug. 23 Moraga Town Council meeting drew an overflowing crowd to the town chambers. Town clerk Marty McInturf counted 99 people in attendance, while hundreds more signed up online, watching the debates live. A majority of the people who came and spoke were parents of young children, a lot of them attending a council meeting for the first time. In their own words, it took an issue dear to their hearts to have them find the time to come to an evening meeting when they are already juggling so many activities.

Moraga Chief of Police Jon King framed the debate by saying he was convinced that all in atten-

dance had the same objective: the safety of the community. The difference, he said, was simply finding the best way to go about it.

Two possible ordinances were on the table that night: one to restrict where in town gun dealers could set up shop, and one to require gun owners to safely store their arms when not in their immediate control. The purpose of the evening was for the council to decide whether or not these two texts should be studied.

King's report did not favor adding both texts to the town's books. He explained that zoning the sale of firearms so dealers cannot set up shop in residential districts or near schools made sense, but he added that a safe storage ordinance was not a good idea. King said that such a text would be redundant since state law already punishes people whose easily accessible firearms cause accidents, especially when involving children. He added that if such a rule was in the municipal code, he did not see a way for his officers to enforce it.

King praised Allison Anderman, a Moraga resident and staff

attorney with the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, who brought this topic for the first time to the council and worked with other parents to prepare all the documentation regarding the potential ordinances.

Forty-six residents spoke in favor of drafting both ordinances. Many parents, school administrators, pediatricians and a church minister explained the same thing: safe storage ordinances prevent teen suicide, reduce the number of accidents involving firearms and children, and prevent theft of weapons.

Eight people, most of them Moraga residents, spoke against the safe storage ordinance. They explained it carried the risk of jeopardizing their safety by delaying access to their gun in case of an emergency, that it would cost money the town does not have, and like King said, existing law was enough and a municipal rule would not be enforceable. Most indicated that what was needed was to educate children.

... continued on page A12

Manuel Valdez takes oath of office as Moraga postmaster



Manuel Valdez at the Moraga Post Office

Photo Andy Scheck

Manuel Valdez raised his right hand at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 1 and was sworn in as postmaster at the Moraga post office on Center Street. In doing so, he followed a proud tradition that dates back to 1886 when the first post office opened.

Valdez took the job in Moraga a few months ago and was immediately appreciated by the staff. Shelley Hayse who works in Moraga noted that his winning personality may come from the fact that he has actually worked in nine different facilities during his postal career, starting in Orinda where he carried the mail for 12 years before graduating from the Associate Supervisor Program that served as a springboard to his management career. He was the manager of the Fremont delivery unit in 2014 prior to his selection as the Moraga postmaster.

Hayse noted that Valdez has been open and accommodating, and willing to take the time to train everyone in new technologies that are quickly taking over the postal procedures. She says that his phi-

losophy is that the Moraga post office should be a facility with employees who actually look forward to coming to work.

Valdez' desire to create a positive working environment for his employees, adds Hayse, also translates to his attitude toward both the residential and business customers. "He is committed to providing solutions to problems and does not hesitate to go to extreme lengths to find answers to delivery questions," she says.

"It is a privilege to work for such a great and diverse organization," says Valdez. "When I first started working for the Postal Service, I never imagined that one day I would be a postmaster. It is truly a great honor."

As postmaster, Valdez is responsible for all delivery and retail operations for the town of Moraga with 14 routes, 872 P.O. boxes, and 5,868 delivery stops (business and residential addresses). Valdez manages 34 employees who process and deliver a daily mail volume of more than 30,985 pieces.

- S. Braccini

Final Food Truck Event! Hacienda Nights Friday, 9/8, 5-9pm



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Monday, Sept. 11, 2017

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Dinner Only (non players) \$40 (starts at 4:30)

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kathe@moragachamber.org

<p>1202 Thomas Dr., Martinez</p> <p>Hillside custom home, almost 3300 sf, water views, private secluded lot. 5 bdr. 3 baths, hardwood flooring, a commercial kitchen, master suite retreat, spiral staircase to lower level, huge family room, and 2nd fireplace. Offered at \$800,000 by Rose Brudigan 925.765.6490. <i>For rent: 3654 B Chestnut St. Lafayette townhouse with 2 bed/1.5 bath for \$2895/mo.</i></p>	<p>811 Shady Glen, Martinez</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">PENDING</p> <p>This nicely upgraded home with views has 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, including a large Master Suite and 2065 sf. 1 bed & bath are conveniently found downstairs at street level. Also featured are a large deck and usable up sloped lot. Beautiful Alhambra Heights location, close to everything. Offered at \$750,000 by Regina Englehart, 925.876.9076.</p>	<p>58 Muth Drive, Orinda</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">SOLD</p> <p>Lovely contemporary style home with beautiful natural light, 3 bdr. and 2 full baths has 2000 sq.ft. of living space on .62 acres. Downstairs family room with wet bar. Its large deck with canopy trees is great for entertaining. Great schools, close to downtown Theater Square, BART & Highway 24. Sold for \$1,187,500 by Lisa Shaffer 925.528.9278.</p>	<p>712 Kearney Street, Benicia</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">SOLD</p> <p>Beautiful and spacious single-story home in the prestigious Water's End neighborhood offering 4 bedrooms plus den, 3 bathrooms, 3 car garage, and a huge private backyard. Wonderful location walking to schools and parks. Sold for \$800,000 by Sheri Wedlake, 925.324.2091.</p>	
<p>320 51st Street, Unit B, Oakland</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">SOLD</p> <p>Special Rockridge condo in a charming 4-unit 1925 building. This home with 912 sq.ft. has a formal dining room, ample kitchen, bonus office space, inside laundry. Add. features include hardwood floors, dual panes, central heat, high ceilings, private garage. Ideal location near bus, new Ridge shops, Temescal & BART! Sold for \$620,000 by Julie Georgiou 925.200.8246.</p>				

Meet our Featured Agents ...

Rose Brudigan
925.765.6490
CalBRE#00571094

Lisa Shaffer
925.528.9278
CalBRE#00996886

Sheri Wedlake
925-324-2091
CalBRE#00872175

Julie Georgiou
925.200.8246
CalBRE#01043977

Tania DeGroot
510.367.1422
CalBRE# 01094898

Regina Englehart,
Broker-Manager
925.876.9076
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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 6 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure

Oversight Commission
Wednesday, Sept. 13, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

School Board Meetings

Orinda Union School District
Monday, Sept. 11, 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 13 to 26

Alarms	70
Noise complaints	10
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	1
Traffic Stops	36
Suspicious Circumstances	14
Suspicious Subjects	9
Suspicious Vehicles	13
Abandoned Vehicle	
Snow Ct/Lost Valley Dr	
Burglary, Auto	
10 block Orchard Rd	
Death, Non-criminal	
100 block Amber Valley Dr	
Disturbance, Juvenile	
Donald Dr/Hall Dr (2)	
50 block Brookside Rd	
Donald Dr/Alice Ln	
Disturbing the Peace	
10 block Crestview Ct	
Dispute	
400 block Tahos Rd	
10 block Keith Dr	
Location n/a	
Drunk in Public	
500 block Moraga Way	
Orinda Community Center	
Exhibition of Speed	
Dalewood Dr/Amber Valley	
Fireworks	
Bates Blvd/Warford Terr	
Fraud	
20 block Bryant Way	
ID Theft	
20 block Jack Tree Knoll	
Reported to police	
100 block Rabble Rd	
40 block Calvin Ct	
Health & Safety Violation	
Donald Dr/Hall Dr	
Injury Accident	
BART	
Loitering	
Donald Dr/Hall Dr	
Missing Adult	
100 block El Toyonal	
Police/Fire/EMS	
200 block Overhill Rd	
10 block Vida Descansada	
100 block Ardith Dr	
500 block Moraga Way	
100 block La Espiral	
Alice Ln/Zander Dr	
Public Nuisance	
La Encinal/El Toyonal	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Way/Overhill Rd	
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd	
80 block Moraga Way	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr	
San Pablo Dam Rd/Wildcat	
Moraga Way/Estabueno Dr	
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr	
Runaway Juvenile	
10 block Overhill Rd	
Theft, Petty	
40 block Moraga Way	
Theft, Grand (from vehicle)	
60 block Orchard Rd	
Theft, Vehicle	
10 block Yosemite Rd	
Terrorists Threats	
BEVMO	
Trespass	
300 block Camino Sobrante	
Vandalism	
10 block Bingleaf Rd	
20 block Bryant Way	
Warrant Service/Arrest/Advise	
Moraga Way/Northwood	

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Inaugural Senior Health and Wellness Fair launched

By Sora O'Doherty



Dr. Patrick Arbore, who specializes in elderly suicide prevention and grief services, will speak at the Sept. 23 Senior Health and Wellness Fair.

The first Senior Health and Wellness Fair will take place at the Orinda Community Center located at 28 Orinda Way from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23. The event is being organized by the Orinda Chamber of Commerce with the support of the city of Orinda, the Orinda Association, Lamorinda Village and the Orinda Care Center. Admission to the fair is free.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Patrick Arbore, a winner of the Jefferson Silver Award and a nationally recognized speaker and expert in the field of elderly suicide prevention and grief services, will talk about senior empowerment. Arbore formed the Center for Elderly Suicide and Grief Related Service as well as the Friendship Line through the Institute on Aging in an effort

to address the issue of elderly suicide and depression. The Institute on Aging website states older adults represented only a small percentage of calls to suicide hotlines at the program's inception in 1973, but weren't calling because they didn't see themselves as "in crisis." Instead, it states, "they were suffering from chronic loneliness and undiagnosed depression." Arbore wanted to change that.

According to Arbore, self-empowered aging means taking control of one's life by learning, updating and improving skills, taking risks, building confidence, assuming power over personal circumstances, and developing the resilience to overcome inevitable challenges to come.

A panel of experts will offer effective ways to improve health and wellness through exercise, nutrition, continuing education, spirituality, connectedness, and alternative medicine. The Quality of Life Panel will focus on taking care of both body and soul. The panel will include Vera Singleton, a Lafayette holistic

medical practitioner; Arcadia Wellness, a medicinal cannabis specialist on the legal and medical aspects of medicinal cannabis; and Stuart Moore, a Moraga senior fitness specialist. Jennifer Monahan of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute will talk about plasticity of the brain, continuing education, lifelong learning and cognitive fitness. There will be two chair yoga sessions led by Atma Yoga, chair massages will be provided by Massage Envy, and food will be supplied by Aegis and Vitality Bowls.

The focus of the event will be on lifelong wellness and excitement. The event will also feature local business vendors and associations, ready to answer questions on aging. Vendors will include representatives of senior living, hearing specialists and financial planners. Attendees will be given passports that will be stamped at each vendor's table. Once completed the attendees may enter their name in a raffle to win unique giveaways.

'Five-Door Farce' final play of the season for Starlight Players

By Sora O'Doherty



Susan Chapple and Dan Phillips in Starlight Players' production of "Five-Door Farce." Photo Charlie Jarrett

A funny play rounds out the 34th season of the Starlight Players, a completely volunteer theatrical group in Orinda. Robert Merrill's "Five-Door Farce" has only been performed at one other venue, in Riverside.

According to Merrill, "To tell you part of the plot of 'Five-Door Farce' would mislead you. To tell you more than that would reveal too much. When pressed about the play, I've said the following: It's a tragedy inside a parody of a farce. It's the collision of 'Noises Off' and 'Six Characters in Search of Author.' It's a farce, seriously. Exploring the themes of creation, gender roles, identity, religion, theater, determinism, and existentialism, it plays with the conventions of farce in a way that fans of farce will love and enemies of farce will appreciate. Oh, and it's funny." The play is being directed

by Jill Gelster, administrative director of the company.

Starlight Players are a good example of the saying, "it takes a village." Gelster and her husband, David Dierks, run the box office and concessions. Dierks is the set foreman and builds all the sets, with the help of the cast. The cast also has to do all the set decorations as well as acting. Gelster and Joe Donovan do the tech work for each show.

Auditions are held each spring for the three shows to be produced that season. The cast size varies. For "Five-Door

Farce" there are 11 in the cast.

Performances will run through Sept. 29, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 24 at 4 p.m. and Thursday, Sept. 28 at 8 p.m. (The performance scheduled for Sept. 30 has been canceled.)

The outdoor theater is located at 28 Orinda Way in Orinda Community Park. Reservations

can be made online; tickets are available at the door. Regular admission is \$20. There are light refreshments for sale, or you may want to bring a picnic and eat in the park before the performance.

Starlight Players will be back next year in June for their 35th season. Auditions will be held next April.



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Orinda Motors Presents



The 13th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Friday Night Pre-Party,
September 8th, 5:30pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS"

Saturday,
September 9th, 10am-3pm
ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW



Entries by mail are now closed. Please go to www.OrindaCarShow.com for current entry information. Join us as a spectator – Admission is FREE!

Enjoy vintage and modern exotic cars and motorcycles, food, music, and more! The show will be held in and around Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way.

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Enter Your Car and Buy Party Tickets Today at www.OrindaCarShow.com

These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda and other local charities. We would like to thank our partners for helping make these events happen: The Orinda Association, Rotary Club of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society Museum, Chamber of Commerce, EFO, Lamorinda Arts Council, Orinda Community Foundation and Seniors Around Town.

Event Schedule

Friday, September 8th, 5:30pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS" FRIDAY NIGHT PRE-PARTY

The presenting sponsor for this great event is **Mechanics Bank**.

Route 66

Our all-inclusive event is Orinda's largest community-wide fundraiser. You'll enjoy "Route 66" cocktails, sample regional cuisines like St. Louis BBQ and feast your eyes on the coolest collection of classic Corvettes west of the Mississippi! Great music, silent and live auctions will round out the evening.

This community-wide fundraiser benefits our schools, our seniors, the arts, our parks, recreation programs, and more!

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NO WALK-INS WILL BE ALLOWED.

Saturday **Free Admission**
September 9th, 10am - 3pm
13TH ANNUAL ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

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- 200 Classic and modern exotic cars as well as unique motorcycles
- Lamorinda Idol Winners Performance at Noon
- Arriving at 1 p.m., there will be an outstanding exhibit of classic Corvettes - cars from the 50's, 60's to today - driving into the middle of the show. If you experienced last year's rolling Ferrari exhibit, you know this will be really exciting! Special thanks to the Diablo Valley Corvette Club for their support and assistance developing this year's special exhibit.
- Shaded seating to enjoy lunch and refreshments from the Car Show BBQ Booth
- Lord's Ice Cream and Candy
- Ride in the Drive of Classic Cars at 3pm
- Buy a 2017 Car Show T-Shirt

Proceeds benefit local charities: Seniors Around Town, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society Museum, The Orinda Association, Orinda Community Foundation and other local charities.

See a 1pm visit of over 60 years of Corvettes – driving into the middle of the show – from the 50's to today!



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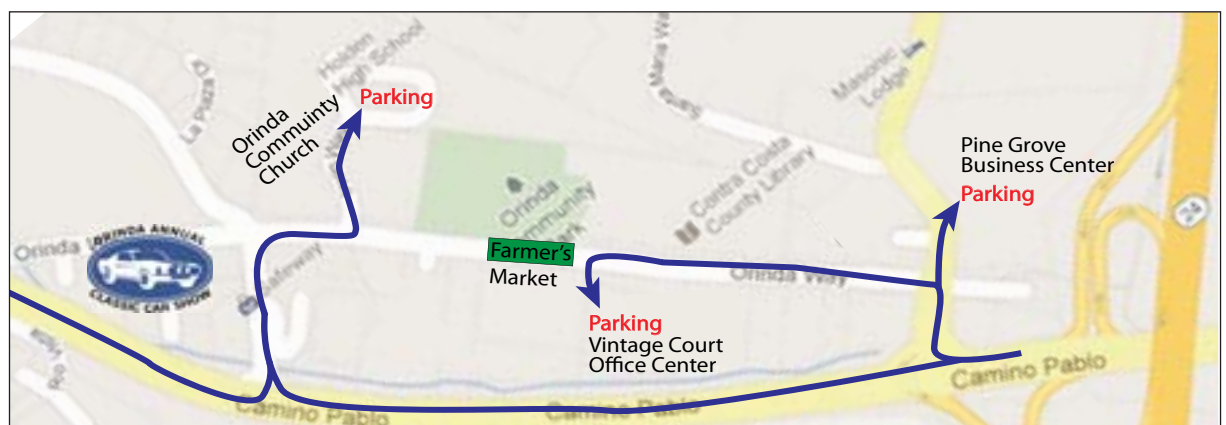
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Stretch Andersen	David Dierks	Mark and Mary Maxson	Bob Schmalz
Syd Anderson	Anthony DREWITZ	Todd Mercer	Greg Sisk
Nancy and Bob Bishop	Jill Gelster	Pete Michaelides	Jeff Smith
Kevin Bixler	Steve Giacomi	Ken Miller	Tom Steinberger
Barbara and Jack Bontemps	Karen Derr Gilbert	Jim Mitchell	Steve Strand
Boy Scout Troop 303	Susan and Steve Glynn	Ed Moffatt	John Vanek
Sue Breedlove	Lincoln Haley	Tom Pearson	Craig Volpe
Tom Brzezinski	Steve Harwood	Allen Pennebaker	Marie and Bill Waterman
Sheila and Scott Butler	Carolyn and Chip Herman	Greg Pritchard	Kate Wiley
Betsy and Greg Chovanes	Sally Hogarty	Terry Ranahan	Brandt Williams
Steve Corbitt	Sylvia Jorgensen	Debbie and Wayne Rechnitz	Rick Woodward
Bill Cosden	Stu Kahn	Kriste Roeth	Willow Bunting
	Aileen and Mark		

CLASSIC CAR SHOW PARKING

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- Vintage Office Building, Orinda Way
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Fiesta Stage

Saturday- 16th
 10:30 am – 12:00 pm Sunny and the Black Pack
 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Electric Head Band
 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm The Bell Brothers
 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Foreverland
Sunday – 17th
 11:00 am – 12:30 pm Bob Athayde and Friends
 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Steven Ybarra Band
 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Neon Velvet

Bank of the West Stage

Saturday -16th
 10:30 am – noon Cover's Cup Contest Winner (One Night Stand)
 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Extra Large
 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm ZEBOP!
 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm The Spazmatics
Sunday – 17th
 10:00 am – 12:30 pm Cover's Cup Finalists
 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm East Bay Mudd
 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm The Sun Kings

Premium Wine Stage

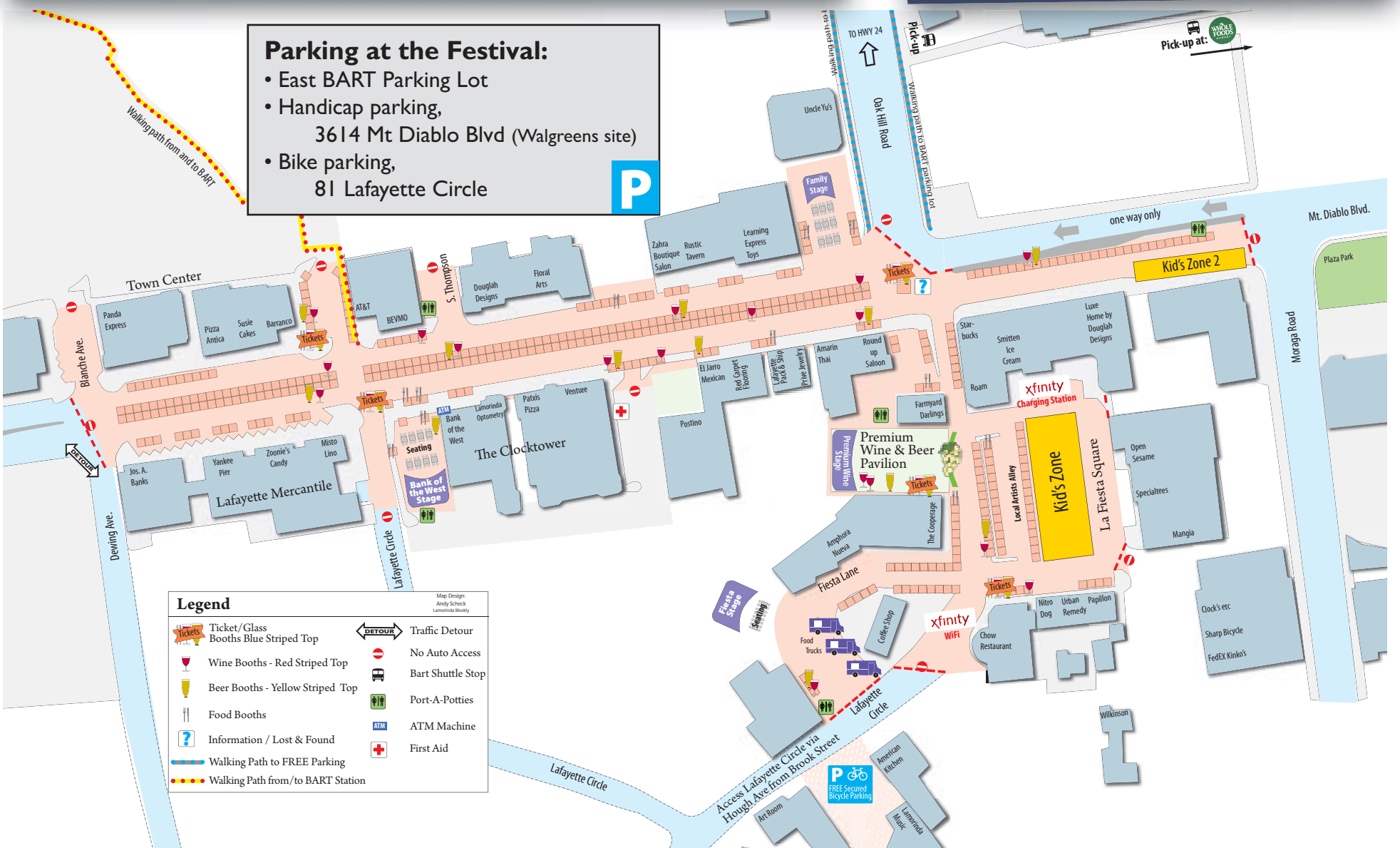
Saturday -16th
 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm 3day Weekend
 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm The Ripplers
 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm Other People's Money
Sunday – 17th
 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Trouble with Monkeys
 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm The TUNERIDERS
 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm The Big Jangle

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Orinda Community Foundation Offers Grants to Benefit Orinda Seniors

Submitted by Sue Severson

Recognizing the challenges faced by many Orinda seniors, the Orinda Community Foundation is seeking grant applications from groups or organizations that may offer solutions.

The funds available from the OCF result from the generosity of a couple that found a home in Orinda after escaping the Holocaust in Europe during World War II. Originally from Hungary, Ernest and Lola Poll moved to Orinda in 1949, opening Village Cleaners and becoming deeply involved in the community. The late couple created a trust to benefit senior housing, transportation and programs in their adopted community. Many local projects and organizations have already benefited from the Poll's generosity. The OCF is hopeful that the remaining funds can help seniors get around and stay connected with their community.

The OCF welcomes any application that offers possible solutions to the challenges that Orinda seniors face getting to appointments, shopping or accessing beneficial programs. While the OCF recognizes that several senior programs already exist that address these needs, such as the Orinda

Association's Seniors Around Town volunteer ride program and the City of Orinda Community Center, additional resources are needed.

Grant applications can be downloaded on the OCF's website, www.orindafoundation.org. The only firm requirement is that all grant funds must benefit Orinda senior citizens and applying organizations must be recog-

nized as a 501c3 nonprofit by the IRS. Grant applications must be received by Sept. 15. Please submit to the Orinda Community Foundation, P.O. Box 21, Orinda, CA 94563 or email orindafoundation@gmail.com. Questions may be addressed to OCF President Sue Severson at the previous email or by calling (925) 254-1679.

Orinda Community Foundation Seeking Applications for Board Opening

The Orinda Community Foundation's mission is to enhance the quality of life in Orinda by encouraging philanthropy, building partnerships, and providing financial assistance to support community activities, beautification and the arts. OCF is a public benefit nonprofit 501c3, Tax ID number 27-2134212.

The OCF and its board members are actively involved in the community, including co-sponsoring the Orinda Action Day of Community Service with the city each April, and the NorCal Kids Triathlon the last Saturday in August. Annual community donations allow support of community events and programs such as the Fourth of July Parade and Celebration, Summer Concerts in the Park, Opera in the Park, Lamorinda Idol singing contest, Youth Ink Writing Competition, senior activities, Joaquin Moraga Adobe restoration, public art displays and much more.

An OCF Board position has recently become vacant. Interested Orinda residents may apply by sending a letter of qualifications to OCF, P. O. Box 21, Orinda CA 94563 by Sept. 15. Inquiries may be directed to Sue Severson, OCF President, at orindafoundation@gmail.com or (925) 254-1679.

OUSD seeks input on future facilities

By Sora O'Doherty

Most Orinda Union School District buildings were originally constructed in the 1950s and have served students well, according to OUSD Superintendent Carolyn Seaton, but it is time to plan for the schools of the future.

To begin the long-term facilities master planning process, OUSD has partnered with the architectural firm LPA, Inc. LPA has collaborated with several high performing school districts across California to design long-term facilities master plans. These plans feature school facilities that multiply

the possibilities for teaching and learning far beyond the four walls of a traditional classroom, Seaton says.

Seaton has reached out to the OUSD community, seeking their input. OUSD understands that an effective long-term facilities master plan must be built on a foundation of district, student, parent, and local community input. To that end, OUSD is inviting people to attend one or more of the following FMP Site Community Meetings beginning Sept. 14 at Orinda Intermediate School (see complete schedule below).

School Site:	Date/Time:	Location:
OIS	9/14 from 6-8 p.m.	Room 22 (Art Room)
Del Rey	9/26 from 6-8 p.m.	MPR
Glorietta	9/27 from 6-8 p.m.	MPR
Sleepy Hollow	9/26 from 6-8 p.m.	MPR
Wagner Ranch	9/27 from 6-8 p.m.	Library

In the next few weeks, OUSD will launch a website on which all facilities master planning information will be available.

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Elena Hood | CalBRE#01221247



319 TAPPAN TER | ORINDA
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Finola Fellner | CalBRE#01428834



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The Beaubelle Group | CalBRE#00678426



4 LAMP CT | MORAGA
\$1,695,000
5 BR | 2.5 BA | 3092 Sq. Ft.
Elena Hood | CalBRE#01221247



142 CANON DRIVE | ORINDA
\$1,650,000
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Shellie Kirby | CalBRE#01251227



633 MICHAEL LN | LAFAYETTE
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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors
 Wednesday, Sept. 6, 7 p.m.
 Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors
 Tuesday, Sept. 12, 1:30 p.m.
 Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez
 For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.



Lafayette ambulance response times drop under Alliance

By Nick Marnell



Faster to the scene in 2016

Photo courtesy ConFire

Thanks to dynamic resource management and increased efficiencies in the district dispatch center, the partnership between the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and American Medical Response – the Alliance – has lowered ambulance response times into Lafayette an average of nearly two minutes in its first full year of operation.

The Alliance began delivery of ambulance service to most of Contra Costa County in January 2016 under a first-of-its-kind arrangement in California. Fire Chief Jeff Carman said at the time that the union of the two providers of pre-hospital emergency medical care under a single governing body would allow for faster and more ef-

cient emergency response.

For Lafayette, the chief's prediction has been on target.

According to district records, in 2016 AMR reported 1,710 ambulance calls into Lafayette at an average response time of 10 minutes and 37 seconds. In 2017 the number of calls reported by the Alliance into the city increased to 2,015, with an average response time of 8 minutes and 44 seconds.

Terence Carey, ConFire assistant chief-emergency medical services division, credits much of the improvement to a more functional dispatch center. The AMR dispatchers moved from Sacramento to district headquarters in Pleasant Hill in February 2016, and between the two agencies, nine dispatchers

are on duty at any one time under one roof.

"Under the old system, you would pick up the phone, the call went to the sheriff's office, then it was given to ConFire, ConFire determined the problem and dispatched the call to Sacramento. Then AMR would dispatch an ambulance," Carey said. He attributed 51 seconds of shorter processing time to the consolidated dispatch model.

With the changes in the dispatch center, fire and ambulance units now share the same radio channel and can communicate directly to manage field resources. Carey said the resultant dynamic reassignment of apparatus added depth to the system, which also helped reduce Lafayette response times.

Carey, a 34-year fire service and EMS veteran, grades performance not only of the ambulance response times, but of the entire EMS system. "The local EMS agency sets our response standards," Carey said. "The other components of the system are the dispatch center, the fire units, ambulances and the hospitals. We work with all five legs to provide a streamlined and more efficient EMS model in order to deliver better customer service."

It's well and good for the Alliance to provide an improved service model, but the Board of Supervisors approved the partnership with the expectation that the venture would also be profitable. Based on data the Alliance supplied to the board in the spring, collection revenue will exceed expenses by more than \$6.7 million for 2016, though ConFire administrative services director Jackie Lorrekovich said in August that figure will likely drop but that the program will show a profit. ConFire advanced the Alliance \$3 million for startup costs, and Carey said after that money is repaid, any profit will go back into the system.

Looking ahead, Carey would like to better assist those with mental health issues. "How do we do a better job on the 14 percent of calls that are psychiatric?" he said. Carey believes that further response time improvement can come with freeing up ambulances from the 90 minutes spent on each mental health-related call at psychiatric hospitals.

"We expect more improvements in 2017," Carey said. "While we are compliant with the LEMSA response time standards, we will not rest on those laurels."

Residents losing patience with MOFD Station 43 inaction

By Nick Marnell

Amnon Oshri walks his dog on Via Las Cruces in north Orinda every day, alongside the barren construction site of Fire Station 43. "Nothing is being done," Oshri said, lamenting the lack of progress by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District in rebuilding the fire station that was razed in 2016.

"It's just sitting there empty. It's horrible, and it's dangerous," Oshri said.

Honey Hill neighborhood resident Ellen Dale echoed Oshri's frustration. "We are just tired of looking at the vacant lot – which is now full of weeds – and wondering what is going on," she said.

Finding out what has been going on has been frustrating, because the district board has held eight closed session meetings since May, many regarding Station 43 contract litigation, and has reported nothing to the public.

Finally, after the closed session the night of Aug. 29, Fire Chief Stephen Healy explained the reasons for the construction delay. The problems began when Pacific Mountain Contractors, the winning bidder for the Station 43 rebuild, pulled out of the job. The chief gave no reason for the contractor's action, and blamed the construction delays on litigation with Pacific and on putting together terms of a deal with the new contractor, San Ramon-based Federal Solutions Group, one of the original bidders on the Station 43 project. Healy had no comment on the contract negotiations.

"We have been working closely with the fire department on this ahead of the game," said Kabir Singh of Federal Solutions Group. "All of the subcontractors are lined up and we are ready to mobilize once the contract terms are final."



Taller weeds are the only difference between this shot and our July 12 photo. Photo Nick Marnell

Representatives of Pacific Mountain did not return repeated calls seeking comment. The company recently completed the \$5 million construction of Fire Station 32 for the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, and according to Aaron McAlister of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, Pacific remains a qualified bidder for the rebuild of Fire Station 16 in Lafayette. ConFire has

yet to release a request for proposal for the project.

The MOFD board plans to present all Station 43 contract items and updates to the public at a special Sept. 6 meeting at the Moraga Library.

North Orinda is not without fire coverage, as the Station 43 companies have been working out of a mobile unit in the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church parking lot.

Lamorinda shows solidarity with Texas

... continued from page A1

"They were initially deployed in San Antonio, but they move around, and their deployment changes by the minute," said Ed Gonzales, ConFire assistant chief

of operations. When they arrived in Houston, Gonzales said the firefighters went door-to-door, searching for and evacuating stranded people and pets, and removing hazardous material from the standing water.

On Aug. 30, the task force had been redeployed to Beaumont, Texas, site of continued heavy rain and life-threatening flooding, with residents clambering to their rooftops for safety.

Jay Lifson, executive director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, has plenty of experience in local fundraising for national disasters, which have occurred eerily close to the date of the city's iconic Art and Wine Festival. "In 2001, we collected money for 9/11. Then in 2005, it was Hurricane Katrina, where we collected donations in large pickle jars," said Lifson. Though nothing had been formalized by press time, Lifson said he felt certain the Chamber will accept donations for Harvey victims at the 2017 festival.

The town of Moraga has organized no formal relief effort, according to Amy Cunningham, administrative services director. She recommended that people who want to contribute go through appropriate national disaster relief organizations, like the American Red Cross or the United Way.

City of Orinda Public Information Officer Tonya Gilmore nearly matched Cunningham's words. "If contacted, we would recommend that citizens donate

to well-known, reputable relief organizations such as the Red Cross and Catholic Charities," Gilmore said. The city will include information for online donations to the American Red Cross in its weekly online newsletter, the Orinda Outlook.

Volunteers of Be the Star You Are, a 501c3 charity based in Moraga, are shipping books and supplies to shelters in the Texas area and the group expects to continue its Operation Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief through the end of 2017.



Teens from the Moraga nonprofit 'Be the Star You Are' collect books and supplies to send to shelters in Texas as part of its Operation Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief program. Photo courtesy Cynthia Brian



Along Happy Valley Road last Sunday eighth-grader Alexis Doyle, originally from Houston, Texas, organized a fundraiser to help raise funds for the American Red Cross and Hurricane Harvey victims. Students from left: Sigourney Heaton, Alexis Doyle, Victoria Flint, Isabelle Davis, Sydney Pezman and Tommy Bieker. Photo provided

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Letters to the Editor

Questions regarding MOFD underfunding

The Weekly has reported on the magnitude of unfunded employee retirement benefits by the area's public agencies. It has also reported a morale issue at MOFD because some Directors wish to use revenue to cure the pension and retiree medical plans' underfunding. If this is true, employee expectations are unrealistic.

I have been following MOFD's finances for a decade and make the following observations:

* Since MOFD was formed 20 years ago, its tax revenue has increased from \$9 million to \$23 million, a 150 percent increase, more than twice as much as inflation (66 percent).

* The latest audited financials show MOFD with \$71 million in underfunded retirement benefits. This assumes that the plans' assets will earn 7% in the future. The reason that the plans are underfunded is that their assets have not been able to earn at that rate. If a more realistic rate, 6%, was assumed, MOFD retirement plans would be underfunded by about \$100 million.

* For MOFD to have paid the salaries and benefits and to have fully funded the retirement benefits promised to the employees over the past 20 years, its revenue would have had to increase to \$32 million by now, 3.5 times what it was in 1997 when MOFD was formed. That would be four times what inflation has increased. That is what its employee compensation policies have actually cost the taxpayers.

* The increase in revenue has mostly gone to increases in employee compensation as this accounts for 85% of the MOFD budget.

* We currently have the same level of service (17 firefighters in five stations) as we did when MOFD was formed.

If MOFD's employee morale is low because they are concerned that they will not be able to see past increases repeated over the next 20 years as we pay off the debts of the past 20 years, they need to question who asked for those past increases and why the community does not deserve to share in the benefits of increased revenue going forward.

Steve Cohn
Orinda

The root of the problem with PG&E tree removal

Last week PG&E provided a "Pipeline Information for the City of Lafayette" document to residents with outstanding questions about gas pipeline safety operations in Lafayette. It's important to note that this information is incomplete and there are significant questions yet to be answered. PG&E should know that their responsibility and commitment to an open community forum must be satisfied prior to any tree removal. Yes, the report includes many details, but even these beg more questions.

Save Lafayette Trees brought a CEQA lawsuit against the City of Lafayette and PG&E because we believe the CPSI agreement that the City made without prior notice to residents is unlawful. Save Lafayette Trees is endorsed by the Lafayette Homeowners Council, Sustainable Lafayette, and the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. These organizations represent thousands of citizens, many of whom are contributing to this lawsuit. We are asking the City to rescind the agreement.

PG&E has a goal to build trust with customers. Residents question the integrity of the CPSI program. If the City were to rescind the agreement and PG&E would accept the rescission, the community could collaborate with our City leaders and PG&E on ensuring pipeline safety now and for the future while effectively preserving our natural environment. This collaboration would build our trust.

Residents need to know that PG&E plans on removing trees but will be leaving their roots in place. The CPSI claim is that roots could potentially lead to corrosion. PG&E's own survey makes no distinction between potential impact of live or dead tree roots on pipeline integrity. The pictures PG&E presents of tree roots wrapped around pipeline shows segments that were fully excavated. That will not be the case in Lafayette and it's not been the case in CPSI tree removals across the state. If you are a resident who has made an agreement with PG&E to have your trees removed and have any second thoughts, we recommend you contact PG&E to ask if you can rescind (recall) your agreement. You may also contact us at savelafayettetrees@gmail.com and we will gladly assist you.

Gina and Michael Dawson
Lafayette

Hurricane Harvey and climate change

Hurricane Harvey, an "unprecedented storm," was unequivocally enhanced by global warming in three ways.

First, sea levels are 7 inches higher than they were 100 years ago. And the rate of increase is accelerating. This increases flooding by raising the baseline for rivers and water running off of the land. It also increases the height of hurricane storm surges of sea water onto the land.

Second, the ocean is warmer. More than 90 percent of the warming that has happened on Earth over the past 50 years has occurred in the ocean. During Harvey, Gulf ocean temperatures were 3 to 7 degrees above average. Hurricanes feed off heat from the water. When the ocean heats up, it turns into water vapor. As water vapor rises, it cools, condenses into rain, and releases heat that creates the spiraling winds.

And third, the air itself is warmer. 2016 was the warmest year since records began in 1880. And the rate of increase in air temperature is also accelerating. Warmer air holds more moisture than cooler air and that increases rainfall intensity. More than 50 inches of rain were recorded for Harvey.

We can't say Harvey wouldn't have happened but for global warming. We can say that this hurricane was enhanced by global warming, which is caused by our continuing use of fossil fuels. "Unprecedented" storms have become the new normal and will become more severe in the future as these three enhancing factors continue to increase.

Climate chaos resulting from global warming is right up there with nuclear annihilation among threats to the survival of humanity. The current rate of change in the earth's climate and species extinction is explosive in geologic time.

Climate change is a choice that our government and the fossil fuel industry are making. The longer we continue this dangerous "experiment" with the earth's climate, the harder it will become to control, much less reverse. It is imperative now that our elected officials stand up against climate denial and demand that the Administration and Congress commit to long-term climate action to avoid the impending climate chaos.

Call and write your members of Congress. See <https://www.climate.gov/#understandingClimate> for more information. Join local action groups, such as Citizen's Climate Lobby (<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>), <https://350.org/>, and Orinda Progressive Action Alliance (<http://orindaprogressives.wixsite.com/opaa>) and on facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/626446120888654/>).

Jim Ulrick
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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Long road back for many businesses wiped out by Lafayette fire

By Nick Marnell



Photo Nick Marnell

The Lafayette Circle businesses destroyed by the July 13 fire have regrouped with varying degrees of success as of the beginning of September.

Marta Chavalas of Skincare by Marta moved into the Lafayette Beauty Store and Salon on Mt. Diablo Boulevard, a temporary stop until she finds her new home. "It's been very difficult for me," she said, as her business requires water, sinks and special flooring. "No carpets," Chavalas said.

According to Jay Lifson, executive director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Marion Iles moved her accounting business to Walnut Creek, as did Brad Backeberg. "The therapists have found new places and Kelly of Studio 102 Hair Design moved into a spot across from the Lafayette Library with two of her employees," Lifson said. Paul the Tutor landed a new location on Old Tunnel Road.

The owner of La Finestra restaurant said he is tantalizingly close to a new site for his business. "We are negotiating on a couple of properties in Lafayette," Jeff As-

sadi said. He initially checked out and rejected the Artisan Bistro location, because the building needed to come up to Americans with Disabilities Act standards and the landlord refused to help with any leasehold improvements.

"By the end of September, we definitely plan to reopen. We will be thrilled to serve Lafayette again," Assadi said. Insurance covered two months of wages for his employees, and Assadi said he expects all of his employees to return.

The Chamber of Commerce is close to securing a new permanent location as well, but Lifson said he could not yet comment on the targeted site, only that it was near the previous Lafayette Circle Chamber offices.

Sereta Churchill, Lafayette Community Foundation board member, said the foundation has sent information to each of the affected businesses so they can apply for community foundation grant funding.

(Note: Many of the business listed in the photo moved out of Lafayette Circle long before the July fire.)

Moraga moves toward regulating firearms storage

... continued from page A5

Some also claimed that this regulation would abridge the second amendment to the constitution.

Proponents explained that existing laws are not specific enough. They stated that not all laws are easily enforceable, but they set the standards and goals of the community. Proponents also explained that in the 2013 case of Jackson v. the City and County of San Francisco, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that requiring safe storage of firearms was not unconstitutional. Such legislation has not been challenged in court since this ruling.

On the council, only member Kymberleigh Korpus made a detailed case against the safe storage of firearms ordinance. Although she said she was aware of the Jackson case ruling, she said that for her such an ordinance would be unconstitutional. She also argued that Moraga should not be addressing topics that are political national issues. Korpus added that government regulations were not the solution to all concerns, and that parents had other solutions, such as education of their children.

Mayor Teresa Onoda and council member Jeanette Fritzy both declared their support of both ordinances. Fritzy said that she did not believe this was a political topic,

and that the safety of the residents was part of the council's responsibility. She said she reviewed the data and was convinced of the efficiency of this rule. The mayor said that she occasionally goes shooting with her son and likes guns, but that she knows how teen parties can become unruly and if the town council can do something to prevent accidents, it should.

Council Member Dave Trotter proposed a compromise: drafting town rules regarding firearms storage, but not necessarily an ordinance. Vice Mayor Roger Wykle wavered between that option and asking for an ordinance before finally supporting the regulatory option.

The next step is now for staff to draft two ordinances: one that will restrict firearms dealerships in commercial districts, and one that will require firearms owners to safely store them.

There will be more opportunities for public input when the new rules are reviewed by the planning commission, before a final hearing at the town council level. At this time there are 61 territorial entities that have approved a specific zoning ordinance for firearms dealers in California and eight that require safe storage.

Rats and other rodents overrun Lamorinda

... continued from page A1

A recent ABC news story stated that, "All across urban America, rats are scurrying in larger numbers and gnawing at the nerves of city dwellers ..."

Rats, while perhaps causing the worst headaches, are only part of the problem. Orinda's Dana Fouts reported that her father, Gary, wanted to emulate an incredible tulip display he saw during a trip to the Netherlands. "He planted approximately 200 bulbs in a painstaking arrangement. One tulip came up. The other 199 were apparently many meals to our evasive gophers and voles," she commented.

Deborah Bass, public affairs manager for Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control, said it does appear there are more rodents running around this year. There's no way to tell for sure, of course, because there's no way to monitor them. However, Bass reported, service calls regarding rats and mice from local residents are up 20 percent over last year. Mike Scott, co-owner of Honest Rodent Proofing, said his company, too, has seen a significant increase in the number of calls.

Everyone seems to have a theory as to why this is happening, with construction and weather the most likely culprits. Bass explained that whenever there are severe changes in the weather or construction disturbing their natural habitats, rodents search for new places to live, "wherever they can find food and harborage." Scott said he has repeatedly been asked this question and his employees discuss it all the time. "It's very difficult to pinpoint an exact reason," he stated. "I think it's a combination of reasons, a per-

fect storm." The years of drought caused the soil to crack and open up, "giving rodents an easy way to get in." And because Lamorinda soil is more clay-based, it's easier to penetrate. Then this year's abundant rain encouraged rampant breeding and forced rodents from their homes.

But Scott believes it goes even deeper than that. "Within the last several years, California has focused on integrated pest management, meaning using less poisons and toxins and more natural eradication," he reported. Although Scott agrees with that, he said, "it has allowed the rodent population to grow. ... It's an ongoing battle with no easy solution."

And therein lies a big part of the predicament. Currently, there is no way to safely eliminate these varmints. As Hyde stated so succinctly, "All you can do is manage the problem; you can't eliminate it."

But it can, indeed, be managed. To begin with, you can contact Vector Control, a free service throughout Contra Costa County. While its role is advisory (they don't set traps), their technicians will carefully survey your property, both inside and out, and advise you on what to do, how to do it and where to purchase whatever supplies are needed to hopefully get rid of the rodents living there. "Honestly, there is so much you can do yourself," Bass assured.

Even Scott, who eradicates rodents for a living, acknowledged that there are steps homeowners can take to reduce the chances that these small animals will get into their homes. "Rodents are looking

for a safe haven, someplace they can hide," Scott said. "There's no magic potion but it's all about cutting off their food source and preventing them from finding that safe haven."

Some suggestions from the professionals include:

- Keep firewood off the ground and at least 18 inches away from your house.
- Don't leave any pet food out and make sure there is no accessible water, food or birdseed (which, according to Bass, is "gourmet food for rats and mice").
- Pick up all fallen fruit (described by Bass as a rat's "buffet").
- Trim back tree branches and landscaping at least four feet from your roofline and cut back the ivy and juniper ("it's their idea of a Ritz Carlton").
- Make sure all vents leading under your house are in good, un-ripped, condition.
- Seal any holes around or leading into your house. Rats can squeeze through openings the size of a quarter and mice can get through a dime-sized hole.
- Set traps wherever you think rodents are traveling around your house, using peanut butter, nuts, bacon, pieces of apple or oatmeal as bait.
- Call a professional rodent control company; they will inspect, clean out and proof your house and set traps.

Whatever method Lamorindan's choose to use, Scott said the most important thing is "staying on top of it. Rodents are relentless so it's important to stay ahead of the game."



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Building a Better Mouse (Rat) Trap

With rats in and around Paul Hyde's Orinda home, he realized he was facing a "battle I could never win. But I declared war." Discovering that birds were getting to the peanut butter-laced traps before the rodents could, Hyde placed the trap inside a shoe box, cut a hole on one end and placed an orange peel in hardened peanut butter. "We have rats that are so clever, they learned to lick the peanut butter from the trap without triggering it. They now have to yank the orange peel out to get to the peanut butter, thus setting off the trap." So far, Hyde said, it's working.

Dan Claytor, this reporter's husband, also vowed that the mice and rats would not win the fight around his Moraga home. Using an Amazon box, he cut a hole on each end and placed two oatmeal-filled traps inside. "That way, I get them coming and going," he explained. And he has, catching one most nights over the past month.



This contraption, contrived by Dan Claytor, traps rats as they dine.

Photos Diane Claytor

Latest Lafayette School Board member

... continued from page A2

Sturm says that he and his wife, Kristina, moved to Lafayette from San Francisco in 2009, drawn by the community's small-town feel, access to nature and, most importantly, preeminent schools. Their oldest son attends Burton Valley Elementary School, and their younger son and daughter will soon be joining him ensuring family enrollment in the Lafayette schools for almost the next two decades.

Sturm campaigned in the fall for election but lost to board member Meredith Meade and Kindhouse at that time. Sturm says of the 2016 election campaign, "I am focused ahead, not behind. I have great confidence in our school board and superintendent, and our ability to work together to best support our community's aspirations and our children's needs."

In fact Sturm makes the point that he applied for appointment to the LAFSD board for the same reasons that prompted and motivated his campaign during the 2016 election. "I have a long-standing commitment and desire to give back to my community and a particular passion for youth and education causes."

Sturm shares the commitment of the current board that students

should be intellectually engaged to their fullest so learning is enriching and instruction promotes character development, integrity and ready pursuit of academic interests. He says he has spent much of his professional career advancing equal opportunity causes and believes it is important for schools to actively encourage both girls and boys to pursue their interests in science, technology, teaching or other professions that have historically been underrepresented.

Sturm says that public schools should be particularly thoughtful and interactive in their approach to supporting special needs children and believes his background and experience can be helpful. He says, "The district is making material progress and additional work lies ahead, including becoming less dependent on contract service providers."

Sturm believes leading sustainability practices not only represent the "right thing to do" but also tend to promote cost efficiency, praising as an example the district's commitment to solar energy and the associated long-term cost savings.

He added, "I am thrilled to get started – now the rewarding work truly begins."

22nd Annual Lafayette Art and Wine Festival

... continued from page A3



Photo Gint Federas

Sunday will showcase primarily local teenage cover bands.

Three stages will feature music, including the Fiesta stage sponsored by PG&E, The Bank of the West stage, and the Premium Wine stage, sponsored by 92.1 KKDV. Opening the festival at 10:30 a.m. Saturday morning will be the Roundup Battle of the Bands winner One Night Stand (aka The Jesters), with the rest of the weekend filled with rock and roll, country and western, jazz, and other local musical acts.

As usual, Eckerstrom Productions will be bringing in over 200 regional artists and crafts people, as they have done since the inception of the event.

In addition to exhibiting pieces from many Lamorinda artists, local artist and chairman of the art committee Tom Taneyhill has invited members from Studio Seven Arts, the Bay Area's largest art and framing gallery located in Pleasanton, to share their artwork.

Wine Thieves owner Jim Meyers will coordinate the wineries and oversee the Premium Pavilion. The Lamorinda Wine Growers Association, a group that includes nine bonded wineries and dozens of growers, will also feature wines under the recently designated Lamorinda AVA wine appellation.

A wide variety of microbreweries will be represented and pouring at the Beer Booth along with over 20 restaurants serving food.

"We started this to show off downtown Lafayette, which has changed quite a bit in the last 22 years," Lifson said. He also men-

tioned that a brand new Peruvian restaurant, Barranco, will open on Mt. Diablo Boulevard during the weekend.

The event raises money for the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and its programs as well as for at least a dozen other nonprofits, including the largest recipient, Lafayette Partners in Education (LPIE).

Mt. Diablo Boulevard will be closed for the festival. Road closures of Lafayette Circle, Mt. Diablo west from Oak Hill Road to Dewing Avenue and Mt. Diablo east from Dewing to Moraga Road will begin at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15 through 11 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17.

Participants are urged to take public transportation or park for free at BART. Shuttle service will run from all of the BART lots. Bike valet parking will be available for free at Lamorinda Music, 81 Lafayette Circle.

The Lafayette Art, Wine and Music Festival is one of the largest annual festivals in Contra Costa County. Admission is free, with an individual wine or beer glass costing \$7 and admission to various Kids Zone activities costing between \$1-5. Combination packages are available with big discounts. For more information, visit lafayettefestival.org.

In addition to the whirlwind of activity going on to prepare for the festival, Lifson has also been searching for a new location for the Chamber of Commerce. He announced that they will hopefully sign a lease soon.



There are currently openings on the following Commissions and Committees

- Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Capital Projects Assessment Committee
- Circulation Commission
- Creeks Committee
- Community Center Foundation
- Downtown Congestion Study Committee
- Environmental Task Force
- Lamorinda Spirit Van Drivers
- Public Art Committee
- Senior Services Commission
- Youth Commission

For additional information visit the city's website: www.lovelafayette.org
Or call City Clerk Joanne Robbins, City Clerk 925-284-1968
Application deadline September 30, 2017. Positions open until filled.



City seeks volunteers for vacancies on the Design Review Commission

The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to fill two vacancies on the Design Review Commission.

The five-member body is responsible for matters relating to aesthetics and the physical appearance of the city. The commission advises the staff, planning commission, and city council and acts on applications for design review including residential and commercial development projects.

Members of the design review commission are selected on the basis of education, training and experience in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, design, city planning or a related field. The council may appoint one or more nonresidents if, in its discretion, it considers it necessary to gain sufficient expertise.

Individuals interested in this volunteer position may obtain an application from the City's web site at www.lovelafayette.org or in person at:

City of Lafayette Offices
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 210
Lafayette, CA 94549

You may also call the City Clerk's Office at (925) 284-1968 to request an application be mailed to you. Completed applications must be received by 5:00 pm, Monday, September 25, 2017.

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Opening Night Tomorrow
Thursday September 7, 6:00PM Rheem Theatre
20th Annual California Independent Film Festival
6:00PM Opening Night Mixer
meat and cheese platters from Cine Cuvée and sushi from Sushi Fighter.
6:30PM – 2017 Slate Award Announcements
Tickets \$30 at caiff.org or at the Rheem/Orinda Theatre

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CAIFF celebrates independence – one filmmaker at a time

... continued from page A1



and if you're even one second over, it's disqualified! Time management is everything. We're always right down to the wire submitting to Dropbox. Our daughters spearheaded our Iron Filmmaker movie this year. Only Milla and Keira are in it. They insisted on a horror/suspense drama."

This year's top Iron Filmmaker entries will screen at 10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 10.

Major film-world figures will present work throughout the event. Helen Hunt, multiple award-winning actress, screenwriter and director, will host a VIP reception at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9 at Cine Cuvée. Animation Night will have special guest, Dave Mullins, director of the latest Pixar short, "LOU," at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, and there will be a VIP reception and conversation with acclaimed television and film actor and producer Zachary Quinto at the Castro beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16.

The Sapporo International Short Film Festival, honored guests at CAIFF for 10 years, will showcase eight award-winning films from around the world, and Zemrak's personal 20 favorite short films from CAIFF's own 19-year history will be screened in three parts over the festival schedule. (See story on page B7.)

This is year four of CAIFF's Film Scoring Competition. Two-hundred seasoned and aspiring composers from around the world were given the same short film, "Mono," with the original score removed, and carte blanche to create a new one. Five award-winning television and film professionals will select from the top five finalists at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9 at the Rheem Theatre.

The first of an Annual California Playwright Competition has been introduced to the festival this year. Four plays will be performed live onstage Monday, Sept. 11 at 4:45 p.m. in the Rheem Theatre. Audience members will get to vote for who will be CAIFF 2017 Playwright of the Year.

"When we began, people only had access to 35 millimeter film cameras, or maybe they could rent a RED camera for \$10,000. Now, people can get their hands on a 4K cinema camera for not a lot of money. We've seen a big increase in quality over the years," explained Zemrak. "You meet a lot of people and make friends (through the festival). Some you'll never see again, and some you'll have been the first to see before they hit the Big Time. Come and enjoy!"

For the full California Independent Film Festival schedule and for tickets, visit caiff.org.

Full-length feature films, animation, and shorts in nearly every category – comedy, horror, drama, suspense, sci-fi, mystery, thriller and western, as well as wide-ranging documentaries on scientific, biographical, ecological, and social subjects – will play on big screens at the Rheem Theatre, the Orinda Theatre, and the Castro Theater in San Francisco during the 10-day event.

Entrants from around the globe enter the festival's annual Iron Filmmaker Competition. They are given a theme, a single line of dialogue, a prop, and a scant 24 hours to write, cast, direct, shoot, add music and credits, edit, and submit a three-minute movie. This year's given dialogue is "Marriage is just a fancy word for adopting an overgrown child who cannot be handled by their parents anymore," the prop a ring, and the theme is, "Did I say I do?" Ouch.

Orinda residents John and Tina Elliott, with their four children, Zane, 7, Keira, 11, Tamara, 13, and Milla, 15, submitted their fourth entry this year. In 2016 they won third place with a comedy titled "All In A Day's Work."

John is an electrician by day, and teaches the trade to electrical apprentices and journeymen by night. Tina works three jobs – mom, bookkeeper, and costumer. "She has made hundreds of costumes, and recently won an award at the D23 Expo (Official Disney Fan Club)," John Elliott said.

"One day out of the year we can pretend we're filmmakers," he said. "Teamwork is crucial. You have to acknowledge a team leader and establish different jobs. The first few times we tried to be democratic, but people get their creative juices flowing, and if it doesn't work with everyone else their feelings get hurt. You have only 24 hours for everything, including script; we always build a script – and try to have fun with it. There's a lot to do to make that three minutes,

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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Classic car pioneer to be honored at Orinda Classic Car Show

By John T. Miller



This picture of a 1936 Auburn Boattail Speedster was taken in 1970, during Bob Fisher's first mayoralty and at the time of the first Concours d'Elegance de Lafayette. This was the spirit of the Concours. Photo provided

Generations of classic car enthusiasts will pay tribute to the man who helped launch an appreciation for the pastime by presenting the Lamorinda Classic Car Pioneer Award to Bob Fisher.

As part of the 13th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show, this inaugural award will recognize Fisher for his contributions in establishing and nurturing the classic car culture enjoyed in the Lamorinda communities today.

While Fisher's impact on the classic car scene can't be denied, his imprint on the city of Lafayette is huge. He was the top vote getter of 20 candidates in Lafayette's incorporation election in 1968, served twice as mayor in 1970 and 1974, and was the youngest of 450 California mayors. He was Lafayette's first chair of the Mayor's Conference of Contra Costa County and was honored by the city as Citizen of the Year in 1976.

After earning degrees from Harvard College and Harvard Law School, and a Ph.D. from London School of Economics and Political Science, he became a professor of criminology at UC Berkeley for six years, president of John F. Kennedy University for 10 years and executive director of The San Francisco Foundation for nine years, among other career stints.

In an effort to bring prestige and notoriety to the "nondescript suburb somewhere east of Oakland on the way to Walnut Creek," as Fisher described the fledgling town, he invoked the spirit of the Revolutionary War hero Marquis de Lafayette, "who was distinguished by an appreciation of beautiful things."

Fisher used his connections in the Rolls Royce owner's club to arrange the first Concours d'Elegance de Lafayette in 1970. Over 100

beautiful and classic cars from all over the world drove to the green at Stanley Middle School where they were showcased on their way from San Francisco to Napa.

Eventually, the Concours moved to Acalanes High School and became more of a car show, lasting for 30 years and generating proceeds for many local charities.

Fisher claims that his love of cars was born as a child from the memories of his father's job, managing General Pershing's motor pool in France during World War I. "I could never afford anything until the late-'60s when I really started collecting cars," he laughs. "I never wanted to be a collector, but found it was easier to buy them than to sell them!"

He became a mentor, of sorts, to the next generation of enthusiasts, working with many of the high school students in the Lafayette Youth Commission and the Mayor's Class he taught at Acalanes once a week.

Dan Akol, a local car enthusiast who will be showing some of his classic cars at the Orinda event, recalls meeting Fisher when he was a teen: "We'd go over to his garage in Lafayette and he had a number of really beautiful top-line classic cars, including a 1909 Brush brass car. He told me to polish up the Brush and if it won first place I could drive his 275 GTB Ferrari to the senior ball."

An interesting side note is that long ago Fisher sold the Ferrari that Akol drove to the ball for about \$10,000. Similar cars can now be worth up to \$3 million.

Akol is not the only student who was the beneficiary of Fisher's generosity and influence. Many of them helped work in his garage, polished up his cars, and went to the ball in one of his classic auto-

mobiles. Quite a few of them ended up as collectors themselves.

Fisher said, "It's a very nice hobby that anyone can become involved in. You can buy a junker for a couple hundred dollars, fix it up, and have fun doing it."

Asked what it meant to be the first recipient of the Lamorinda Classic Car Pioneer Award, Fisher said, "The Concours d'Elegance de Lafayette brought together hundreds of volunteers annually for 30 years to raise needed funds for local charities, and offered a great number of hobbyists the chance to celebrate their appreciation for cars as exceptional expressions of both artistic and engineering creativity. It was my privilege to create this event and very gratifying to be the first honoree."

Fisher will be honored at the Orinda Classic Car Show, which will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9 in and around Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way. This free event continues to delight car fans of all ages and benefits the "Seniors Around Town" transportation service, an Orinda Association program, The Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) and other fine causes. A pre-show dinner and party, "Dancing with the Cars," will be held Friday, Sept 8 beginning at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.orindacarshow.com.

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'The Land of Reverse' weaves a beautiful bedtime tale

By Sophie Braccini



Image provided

Dave Manousos is a happy man: He is able to continue to live his life and enjoy himself as a child, although he is already a grandfather. He does this through his two major occupations: as a hitting coach for the Moraga Baseball Association, and as a writer and illustrator of children's books. His latest work, "The Land of Reverse: Where Sleep is Just a Matter of Letting Yourself Go ..." is now available at local bookstores.

In the land of reverse, finless fish walk around and birds fly backward, your feet are your hands and your head is upside down, and wherever you are going, you are not. Everything rhymes in the land of reverse and your imagination can go wild. This is Sam's story: the 9-year-old child who cannot get to sleep, who one night enters the reversed world and finds his way back home after he finally lets go.

The book features Manousos' beautiful illustrations, sometimes spread across the entire double page, with soft coloring in blues, purples and browns as Sam enters the world of reverse. The little boy finds himself in a kind of Alice in Wonderland world – Manousos' favorite book – just dreamier and sometimes a bit scary, as dreams can be. When Sam finally lets go, he is back in his room. Did he dream? Did he imagine all this? Did he really go through the mirror where everything can be seen in reverse? Young readers can decide.

Manousos says that some 30 years ago, while his daughter was playing with a Rainbow Brite doll in the living room, rhymes came to him that became the weft of this story's fabric. "There is a strange place, the land of reverse, where first is last and last is first, where

children work and parents play, people grow younger day by day, up is down and down is up, round is square and square is round ..." The many lines of rhythmic words stayed with him until last year when he finally sat down and constructed Sam's story.

Will "Land of Reverse" help restless kids to go to sleep? A 1994 study published by Salkovskis & Campbell titled "Research and Therapy imagery distraction" noted that an interesting and engaging imagery task before bed can help children fall asleep more quickly. This imaginative story will also delight children's sense of silliness.

This is not Manousos' first children's book. He wrote "Sophia's Turn," about his niece, Sophia Lucia, who is the holder of a Guinness World Record for pirouettes; "Life is Good and Other Reasons for Rhyme," a poetry collection; and he has many more stories in his desk drawers, including sequels of Sam's adventures.

Manousos says he has been rhyming since he was 16 years old. The other big part of his life, the one that took him to corporate America for over a decade, is illustration. The author explains that sometimes he starts with the drawings and composes the rhythms to go with them – like for "Life is Good" – and sometimes it is the other way around.

Growing up, Manousos was one of 11 siblings, including seven sisters. His grandmother lived with them and had her artist studio in the back of the house. He remembers that it was there, in the middle of his grandmother's easels and canvases that he learned to draw and paint. Today he continues to paint almost every day. He has also been using a Wacom tablet and Photoshop since the '90s.

This latest book is also a community project. It was laid out with the help of Lynn Champagne, owner of Champagne Design, and it can be found at Orinda Books. Manousos will also participate in the first Moraga Got Chalked event on Sept. 23. This event, which is a part of the traditional Pear and Wine Festival, will challenge kids to create chalk art using their imagination around the sculptures that are now on display in Moraga. The event will also feature local published children's authors who will read and share their work (more on this event in our next edition).

"Land of Reverse" can also be found online at Amazon.com or on these other websites: thelandofreverse.com and www.daydreambooks.com.

LOPC conference emphasizes conflict resolution

By Bobbie Dodson

A special opportunity to learn about the Democratic Republic of Congo will take place Sept. 21-23 when Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church will host the Congo Mission Network Conference: "Moving Mountains in the Congo Through Reconciliation." Keynote speaker, Dr. Pakisa Tshmika, who grew up in Congo but now resides in Fresno, will discuss "Congo Current Conditions in the DRC; Causes of Conflict and Why Reconciliation is Critical" from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 22.

"There will be a special emphasis on conflict resolution which is a topic on which Dr. Tshmika is well-versed," says Roberta Spaulding, LOPC chair of the event. "Missionaries from Congo as well as members of the Congolese community and people from throughout the United States interested in Congo will be in attendance. A group from California will be presenting Congolese music."

Holding a doctorate in Public Health from Loma Linda University, Tshmika travels to Congo several times a year and has held numerous positions there

including training public health workers. He has established the Mama Makela House of Hope, which is named after his mother, to support efforts in education, health and peace building in the DRC. This in a country where some 7.7 million people are on the verge of starvation and chronic malnutrition affects 43 percent of children.

"The DRC has for many years suffered under warfare and political chaos while it has an abundance of natural resources. It is important for us, as citizens of the world, to learn more about such impoverished nations as the DRC and how we might improve their lot. Speakers at our conference will address such issues," says Herb Long of Lafayette, chair of LOPC's Congo Team.

All the lectures, held at 49 Knox Drive in Lafayette, are free to the public. The cost to attend a lunch or dinner is \$10 and reservations can be made at 42queens.com. For full details of the conference go to: Congo Mission Network Annual Meeting CMN Conference at congoartners.org.

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'Train Driver's Diary' a bittersweet tale at the Orinda Theatre

By Sophie Braccini



image provided

It is so refreshing to see a movie that is unpredictable and not formatted to a specific framework. The latest offering from the International Film Showcase, "Train Driver's Diary" (Dnevnik masinovodje), a Serbia-Croatia co-production, by writer-director Milos Radović, is such an unclassifiable production: Is it a sweet fable, a tragi-comical coming of age movie, or a social satire? Fortunately, it does not matter. The story of train driver Iija and his maybe-son Sima is a touching piece of cinematic art, constantly oscillating between tears, smiles and sweetness.

Iija, played by Lazar Ristovski, is an older train driver. He has moved beyond grumpiness, with a skin thicker than his locomotive. The driver has seen much and has survived by closing up his emotions and affections. A 10-year-

old boy, Sima, crosses Iija's path, breaking into his life. As the child becomes a man, he too wants to become a train driver, to Iija's dismay. "Train Driver's Diary" grapples with a very real issue: how train operators deal with fatal accidents caused by the train they drive. In the 2014 article "Part of the Job: How Engineers Deal With Death on the Railroad" by Darren Orf, published on PopularMechanics.com, the reporter quoted statistics, stating, "It is not so much a matter of if an accident will happen, but when." The film meets the topic head-on, but treats it with irony and black humor, cutting through the drama. For example, Iija, after a particularly gruesome accident, meets with two railroad psychologists, but ends up being the one helping the two professionals cope with the reality he describes.

Sima has also been through a lot. He was allegedly dropped in front of an orphanage in a banana crate by parents "who did not love him and had no use for him."

He somehow grew up next to the closed-up Iija and his friends, who are all train drivers. They live in an unlikely village made of train cars very creatively converted into

unique lodging units. The little tribe's members support each other in order to survive the dramas they have all suffered.

... continued on page B5

Gold Coast Chamber Players' fall concert features families of famous composers

By Sophie Braccini



Photo provided

Tickets are already getting scarce for the first concert of the season of the Gold Coast Chamber Players. The Lafayette orchestra has tripled the number of subscribers in recent years, surpassing the 100 count last year, so Pamela Freund-Striplen's group almost always plays to a full audience at its usual location: Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall. The first concert on Sept. 23 this fall is "Family Business," featuring pieces from family members of famous composers, giving an opportunity to reflect on the inspiration and the links that run in families.

Every year the orchestra performs five concerts designed to create an experience around a theme. Freund-Striplen believes that the pre-concert talks play an important role in the pleasure people derive from the events.

Freund-Striplen explains that she constructs her programs in a multi-layered process, finding connections between composers, themes and players. She thinks of the people she wants to work with, of composers and pieces she wants performed, and then circumstances make the match. The director is in touch with musicians from all over the world and she says that somehow it always works out to create the unique events she brings to Lafayette.

This year the overarching theme is "youth." For example the Georges Enescu string quartet that Gold Coast will play for the third concert in February was composed in his youth. The director is extremely excited to present this moving epic piece in Lafayette, one of the first times in the Bay Area. Freund-Striplen wanted Romanian violinists to play the Romanian composition. She says that having musicians who were raised and

have studied music where it was composed give it a different sound, because they grew up with it. Similarly, for program five, the French Connection, a French cellist, Jean-Michel Fonteneau, will join the orchestra.

The first concert will include youthful work by Felix Mendelssohn and his sister, Fanny Hensel, by Mozart's sister, and a piece by Bach's youngest son Johann Christoph Friedrich Bach for violin, viola and piano – a sonata that Freund-Striplen characterizes as a very good piece rarely played.

The second concert on Oct. 28 is called Wayfarers. While teaching a master class with Zakarias Grafilo, Freund-Striplen learned that he had arranged several Mahler pieces for a smaller orchestra. He will come and play with other members of LiederAlive! Mahler Wayfarer Songs, with Kindra Scharich, mezzo-soprano.

The third concert is Fantezie on Feb. 3, featuring George Enescu, followed by Czech Mate on March 10. The director says that she would like to be able to present Czech music every year, exploring things that are not widely known.

The final concert on May 19 will open the festivities for the celebration of the city of Lafayette's 50th anniversary. The concert will present Lily Boulanger, one of the female composers Freund-Striplen likes to feature, in Ravel's Piano Trio in A Minor and Faure's Piano Quartet No. 2 with Alex Strauss, violin, Freund-Striplen, viola, and Jeffrey Sykes, piano.

The GCCP also continues to partner with Stanley Middle School, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School and Campolindo High School educational programs.

For tickets, visit www.gcplayers.org.

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Acts of Kindness at NorCal Kids Triathlon

By Jennifer Wake



From left: Colton Gibson, Grey Bennett, Dresden Gerber, William Andrews, Jane Andrews, Crew Bingham and Olivia Bates. Photo Lauren Bennett

The NorCal Kids Triathlon, sponsored by the Orinda Community Foundation, notched another successful year of swimming, cycling, and running Aug. 27, with more than 320 kids ranging in age from 4 to 14 participating in the eighth annual event, which starts and ends at Miramonte High School.

"This event really strengthens community spirit and helps the young athletes burst with pride as they cross the finish line," said event co-chair and OCF president Sue Severson. "Over half the athletes every year are first-time participants in a triathlon."

There were a few tiny hiccups for a couple of the young triathletes, but fortunately, thanks to quick thinking and the kindness and support of others, the event ended positively for everyone.

Debbie Westover's 14-year-old daughter Maddy and three of her friends, Natalie Swanson, Ella Lewerenz and Keily Sarica, were at Water Station No.1 when one of the little 4-year-old athletes came up to the station, crying, confused and wanting his mother.

According to Westover, Keily stayed back at the water table in case other kids came while Maddy, Natalie and Ella took the little boy by the hands and ran the rest of the way with him to the track and over

the finish line.

"I thought that was the cutest thing I had ever heard," said Victoria Carter, who later relayed the story to Severson.

Event co-chair Richard Stanaro described a different instance involving another triathlete in the 5-6 year range.

"We had a little chap that fell off his bike. His mother told one of our committee team members about it, and told [her son] that to get the medal, he must finish, encouraging him and teaching him the virtue of fortitude. His dad followed with him, but he came through in the end after the awards had started."

Stanaro told the event announcer, Scott Butler, about the young athlete and volunteers kept an eye out for him. "We saw him coming into the stadium area with his dad in the background, and we told Scott," Stanaro said.

The announcer told Steve Harwood, his "partner in crime," to key the theme music to "Rocky" while Butler made a special announcement, encouraging the crowd to cheer the boy on. "He really turned on the juice for this little boy," Stanaro said.

"The whole crowd cheered him on by name. He was wiping away tears as he entered the track and ended with a huge smile," Stanaro said. "That made my day."

Scout revitalizes map of America on Los Perales playground

By Cecilia Murtagh



Christophe Marinier with his map.

Photo provided

The cry went out, "Where is Rhode Island? Someone painted over Rhode Island!" The project director, Christophe Marinier, walked over with the green paint and replaced the missing state. National disaster averted! This happened as Marinier, an Eagle Scout candidate from troop 234, recently worked on his project to repair and repaint the large playground map of the United States at Los Perales Elementary School.

When asked why he chose to spruce up the map he said that he had enjoyed playing around it when he was a student at LP and it had inspired his love of maps. He noticed that the map, which was originally done by the Moraga Rotary Club, had faded over the years and was in disrepair. He sought permission from the school principal, who suggested that the Scout include the basketball and four square courts.

Marinier sought help at Home Depot where he talked to the experts to find out exactly what this job would entail. He found out it would take more than just paint. It would take money and many hours by many volunteers to complete. He estimated costs, and solicited funds from people who also wanted to preserve the map.

Then he reached out for help. He orga-

nized a core group of Scouts: Haden, Christian and Tristan Prizeman, Siegfried Needham, Mason Grubelle, Andy Babson and Sam Lee, who brought along his brother and grandfather. These stalwart Scouts were joined by Marinier's parents Philippe and Celia, his sisters Camille and Brigitte, and his grandfather Bob Murtagh. They in turn drafted Noel Wolfe and his family, Maura, Ellie and Will.

As the big day approached Marinier gathered his supplies. He needed to procure paint, a gas blower, a power washer, sand, and asphalt. After the blower and broom crew finished, the entire surface needed to be power washed. Next the sand crew, followed by the asphalt crew, filled in the many large cracks that had appeared in the playground surface over the years. Then, the whole thing had to be primed. Finally, the cartographers, with their paints, could get to work on the map while another group worked on the four square courts, and still others painted the basketball courts. As it took shape Marinier knew that he had chosen his project well. It turned out better than he imagined.

The LP students get to enjoy the map this year and Lamorinda Weekly readers can see the finished product on Google Earth.

2017 Lamorinda Idol winners take a bow

Submitted by Steve Harwood



ABC (Lleyton Allen, Elizabeth Becker and Jenni Coletta)

Photos provided

The 12th annual Lamorinda Idol singing competition, produced by the Lamorinda Arts Council Aug. 27 at the Orinda Theatre, featured talented soloists and singing groups from kindergarten to 12th grade from throughout Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, with winners in the elementary, middle and high school categories crowned 2017 Lamorinda Idols at this fun-filled, raucous event.

And the winners are:

K-2 Solo: Riyana Habarakada and Sanya Rawat

3-5 Solo: Mina Lim

Middle school Solo: Nejlack Ackdoe-Pagey

High school Solo: Elizabeth Becker

Groups K-5: Fourte (Claire O'Connor, Sadie Poole, Natalie Schroeder and Katie Welch)

Groups 6-8: Deuce (Nejlack Ackdoe-Pagey and Grace Barmmer)

Groups 9-12: ABC (Lleyton Allen, Elizabeth Becker and Jenni Coletta)

Audience Award: Michaela Sasner



Fourte (Claire O'Connor, Sadie Poole, Natalie Schroeder and Katie Welch)

Fractured peace

By Alexandra Reinecke

Scott Fitzgerald wrote that life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall. While the season is fast approaching, however, it is neither crisp nor personally incarnating. It is warm and groggy. Suede moccasins sit like impatient Labrador retrievers in the back of my closet. A new, sleek down Patagonia puffer is mashed in my backpack, resentful of the hope I, by wearing it in whatever short, early chill the morning provides, momentarily gift it. I haven't enjoyed the cedar smell of new pencils. Target does not yet allot shelf space to Washington apple candles. Beside the pack of gum signifying my recent plane ride home, the honey color of new, school year Chapstick threatens to melt in its stick.

With school starting, it is effectively fall, but not fall. I, being a senior, am effectively finished with the college admission mania, and yet I am not. I spent my summer completing Hinduism research at Columbia. I also spent it writing supplements for the 16+ colleges to which I plan to apply. Now, back at school in this sweltering California heat, I am as in limbo as is the surrounding weather.

I spent three years of high school working toward admission to my first choice college. From the vantage of my freshman, sophomore, and junior years, senior year appeared to be the breathing time after a long distance track of hurdles. As a senior, I have, unfortunately, found this school year is not composed of exhaling, or of the post-competition stroll to the water fountain I always expecting.

As a senior, I find myself sprinting, considerably less enthusiastically, at a group of phantom hurdles that were hitherto concealed to me. Maintaining the academic track record I have sustained through high school. Continuing to produce fiction and nonfiction, to lead publications and clubs. Studying for Calculus tests which seem no less real to me than did their mathematical predecessors, which struck fear like nothing else in me for three years' duration.

I do not take car trips to Muir Woods, as I once expected I would. I do not eat takeout Chinese food over Scrabble games with leisure time I can now afford. I make Quizlets for AP Comp Gov. I bite the inside of my mouth over Calculus. Rather than begin the caffeine cleanse I, last year, promised myself

I'd start in the fractured peace of this year, I stockpile the pantry with chai latte mix and cases of Diet Coke.

This is not a fractured peace. This is not the tranquility following the run. I am the same person I was as a junior, and as a sophomore, and as a freshman. I escape none of the old responsibilities. I skirt none of the old expectations. I am in limbo. I am working to a standard of excellence by which I am not only merely tired, but routinely exhausted.

So, it is not getting crisp. So, my life is not starting over again with the looming change of season. And Fitzgerald also wrote something different about starting over. "It's never too late . . . to be whoever you want to be. . . . I hope you live a life you're proud of. If you find that you're not, I hope you have the strength to start all over again."

So, maybe fall isn't about becoming born again with the leaves. So, maybe autumn isn't, as I expected of the time between junior year and college decisions, a time which smells of cider and cedar. A time of fractured peace.

So, courage isn't sitting out from the end of a hard race, but seeing it through. Courage is having the capacity, however difficult, to be the person, in those three years, you so often were. Courage is having not the capacity to start all over again, but that to start from where you stand. To begin to continue.



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

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Moraga man marks half-century of summer camps

By Cathy Dausman



Moraga resident and longtime camper Jeff Werth
Photo Cathy Dausman

Jeff Werth would rather interview than be interviewed, but he talks easily about his longtime commitment to summer camp.

Werth is somewhat of an expert on the swimming, fishing, hiking, basketball and arts and crafts he does in the Napa hill country, and for good reason. For the last 50 years he has attended Enchanted Hills Camp on Mt. Veeder – a camp run by Lighthouse for the Blind that serves blind children, teens, adults, deaf-blind, seniors and families of the blind, offering recreation in a fun, challenging and accessible way. Werth has only

missed one session since 1968, because of illness, and his family thinks he may also be the oldest resident in attendance. He's 64.

His six-day session in late June is tailored for blind and special needs campers. It's the whole experience that brings him back, year after year, from the cooking (he says the camp's spaghetti dinner, prepared by Chef Israel was his favorite meal, adding Israel cooks better than his mother does), to his cabin mates and counselors. Ask about his favorite event and he'll tell you it was "chapel."

The only thing Werth won't do is go horseback riding – he draws the line at grooming the animals, as the camp requires its riders to do.

Initially Werth's camp was a two-week experience, but the sessions were shortened in the mid-1980s to allow for more participants. Fearing Werth would be homesick during one long camp session, his family wrote to him daily. But his counselors got tired of reading all his correspondence, so Werth put his foot down and told his family to send no letters, no post cards.

"It's always been fun to go," Werth says of this long-standing experience. If fellow campers seem anxious at first about being away from home, he insists "they'll get used to it." His family has always said he could call and ask to come home early but he has never wanted to. The one concession Werth makes for camp is not shaving – he leaves his razor at home.

The result, says his brother Steve, is that the normally cleanshaven man looks a bit like Grizzly Adams when gets off the bus. But the tradeoff seems worth it, and as Werth sang at this year's talent show, "Don't worry ... be happy."

For information about the Lighthouse for the Blind Enchanted Hills Camp, visit lighthouse-sf.org/programs/enchanted-hills/.

Family Focus

Signs You May be Over-Indulging Your Children: Part One

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

Just about every good parent indulges or even overindulges his or her kids at one time or another. This is part of the pleasure of parenting – to be able to helpfully and lovingly address your children's needs and desires. This column, however, addresses how consistently indulging your children too much can lead to unintended consequences. Children who are used to being catered to by their parents may not fully develop adequate self-discipline and empathy for others. They may automatically challenge authority in school, sports, or with adults in general, and become argumentative and rebellious. We want to teach children to stand up for themselves of course, but not to overreact to every correction they receive.

Here are a few ways parents may inadvertently be too indulgent:

- **Not insisting on good manners.** For example, your children interrupt you without saying excuse me and waiting for you to give them attention. They don't ask to be excused from the table. They don't say please, thank you, and hello and goodbye to you and others.

- At an early age children can learn that parental preferences prevail over theirs. As long as parents act benevolently and firmly, even humorously at times, while providing training, children will eventually respond. They may need consequences of course, but that is to be expected. It helps to be calm, not emotional, while administering them. As a previous column mentioned, it works well to show reluctance when you need to give a consequence.

- **Letting them wear you down with their persistent crying, whining or nagging after you've already said no.** In other words, their negative behavior pays off and gets reinforced.

Yes, we're all preoccupied or distracted at times, but it is important to be consistent in addressing this behavior so it will eventually be extinguished. With a younger child, you may need to just tough it out, telling him a reluctant "no" and then something encouraging. For example, "I know you want ice cream, but unfortunately we can't stop to get it right now. Maybe we can tomorrow, but only if you stop crying now." If he stops crying, be sure to get him ice cream the next day and tell him it's because he listened well and stopped crying right away the day before. If he doesn't stop crying, ignore him until he stops and definitely don't get him ice cream the next day. Wait until you're pleased with his behavior for any reason before you take him for ice cream the next time, and of course let him know why you're doing it.

With an older child, you can establish rules ahead of time. It helps to offer an explanation along with your initial "no" so your child won't feel dismissed. You may decide that she gets one chance to rebut your "no" if she is calm and polite, and you certainly can change your mind if you want. But if you stand by your decision, you expect her to respect it even though you know she's not happy with it.

It is important to allow for discomfort in

a parent-child relationship. It will eventually pass, and you can always figure out new ways to make him or her happy on your own terms if you want. But if you try too hard to immediately fix a disagreement, your child will sense that he or she has the upper hand. Part of a healthy family dynamic is when a child can recognize and accept a parents' authority even though they may disagree with an outcome.

- **When your child has problems with others, automatically believing their version without first considering all possible sides of the situation.**

It is important to listen carefully to your child when he or she is upset, to give them empathy, and to even agree with them initially. You will be showing caring and trust in them, which is a loving response. But in reality you don't want to automatically trust his or her perspective without checking out the facts.

For example, it is common for a child to complain to a parent that a teacher is picking on them. The teacher may very well be correcting their behavior often, but it is frequently because the child is misbehaving. A child doesn't always see the cause and effect of their own actions, and can sometimes feel they are being treated unfairly. (Of course sometimes the fact that a certain child is frequently disruptive in class may cause a teacher to make an inaccurate assumption that this same child is acting up again, even if he isn't). It is important for parents to have a healthy skepticism if a child says he is frequently a victim in various situations, and to dig for more information.

One 8-year-old boy I saw, "Evan," complained that the kids in his after-school program were mean and didn't want to play with him. I urged the parents to check with the director of the program. They found out that their son was making mean faces at some of the younger children, was grabbing toys and puzzle pieces from others, and was basically the cause of his own unpopularity. After we learned this information, we were able to help Evan become aware of his own behavior and to make positive changes.

Be aware whether you are consistently providing the leadership in your parent-child relationship, or if too often your child is managing to lead you instead. Remember, it's never too late to change your approach.



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

In Memory

Carolyn Bowman Wolf

Carolyn Bowman Wolf passed away Thursday, Aug. 17, her 65th birthday, at her home in Lafayette, California following a 4-year back-and-forth battle with cancer.



Born Carolyn June Bowman and raised on a dairy farm in West Unity, Ohio, daughter to Joline (Shaffer) and Lloyd Bowman, Sr., she began playing piano at a 7 years old and teaching piano at 14. She left home at 17 to tour the Midwest and Pacific Northwest with musical groups and entertained for a short time on cruise ships out of New York City and Fort Lauderdale before ultimately settling in the East Bay Area in Northern California. On May 7, 1994, Carolyn married Edwin Paul Wolf at a ceremony in Danville, California.

Her passion and career was music; she continued to work as a voice and piano teacher as well as accompanist and/or music director for numerous community theatre programs, singing groups and churches. She worked in varying capacities at Hillside Covenant Church in Walnut Creek, California, including Music Minister, for a total of 38 years.

She leaves behind her husband of 23 years, Edwin; 3 stepsons: Logan (Megan) Wolf of Lafayette, California; Leigh Wolf of Washington D.C.; Landon (Kayla) Wolf of Rocklin, California; and 1 granddaughter, Mackenzie; as well as her mother, Joline, of Bryan, Ohio; sisters Jane (Irvin Fender) Fry of Auburn, Indiana; Linda (Dana) Smith of Bryan, Ohio; Beth (Alan) Surfus of Markle, Indiana; Sandy Bowman of Bryan, Ohio; Annette (Ron) Zaper of White House, Ohio and brother Lloyd F. (Susan) Bowman of West Unity, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her father, Lloyd W. Bowman, and a sister, Susan Bowman.

Memorial Service will be held Saturday, Sept. 23 at 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church with Pastor Jeff Reed of Hillside Covenant Church officiating. For questions or more information or to submit photos, music, or stories of Carolyn, please email CarolynWolfLegacy@gmail.com.

'Train Driver's Diary'

... continued from page B3

Solidarity and love seeps through these gruff characters. They do not judge, they seldom blame and they deeply care.

In an interview given to CineEuropa at the end of last year, Director Radović said that the subject matter could have been made into a tragedy, but also into a tragi-comedy. He chose, in his own words, to make a film that would be touching, warm, gracious, tragic, and funny – all in one movie.

The actors are all very powerful, including newcomer Petar Korać who plays Sima. He portrays the candor and naivety needed for this touching character. Korać

is supported by strong, professional well-cast actors.

"Train Driver's Diary" was selected as the Serbian Academy of Arts and Science's submission for the Academy Awards Best Foreign Language Film category, and received the audience award at the Moscow International Film Festival in 2016. The film is a welcome respite from a formatted big production, and is a fine example of Eastern European movie productions. It will open at the Orinda Theatre for one week, starting Sept. 15. For more information, visit lamorindatheatres.com.

Lamorinda's Religious Services

ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

24 Orinda Way (next to the Library) - 254-4212

Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am
 Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm
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www.christianscienceorinda.org

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8:30 a.m. Traditions Worship Service
 9:45 a.m. Education for all ages
 10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship Service
 Coffee Fellowship at 9:30 and 11:45 a.m.
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 in the SMC Chapel



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 inclusive theology



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 254-3770. www.ststephensorinda.org
 Sunday 8am, 10am



10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org
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 and Serve the World

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church A Loving Community

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 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

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Not to be missed

ART

The Moraga Art Gallery announces its new show entitled "EAST-WEST PORTAL," signifying a mix of contrasting cultures embodied in the collages of resident artist Pamela Murray and jewelry by guest artist Jyotsna Chawla. The show runs through Oct. 21. For more information, visit www.moragaartgallery.com, call (925) 376-5407 or email moragaartgallery@gmail.com.

The Lafayette Art and Wine Festival 2017 will be held from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16 and from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17 in downtown Lafayette. An award-winning art, wine and music festival with four live stages, 20+ cover bands, 260+ artists and a KidZone. There will be food, wine and beer. Free admission. Near BART. For more info see www.lafayettefestival.com, call (925) 284-7404 or email festival@lafayettechamber.org. (See story page A3)

The Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents "Refuge," a two-person exhibit featuring new work by Susan Sharman and Susan Taira. Sharman and Taira both find inspiration and solace in nature, translating their personal experience through a variety of mediums. Opens Sept. 14 with an Artist's Reception from 6 to 8 p.m. and runs through Oct. 21. www.jenniferperlmuttergallery.com

Valley Art Gallery's featured new artist is Ruth Hussey. For more than 40 years Hussey has concentrated on perfecting her skills, specializing in portraiture, figure and still life paintings. This exhibition will feature her works done in egg tempera, a medium used by many famous masters in the late medieval and early Renaissance periods. The show runs through Sept. 15. For information, visit valleyartgallery.org.

Closing Summer - Paintings by Joe Loria, opening reception from 6 to 7 p.m. on Sept. 11 at the Lafayette Library Gallery.

MUSIC

The Lafayette Studio Big Band will perform an outdoor concert on the back patio surrounded by oak trees from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10 at the Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Dr, in Lafayette. The suggested donation is \$25 at the event, which includes all refreshments and snacks. No reservations required. For more information, contact the church (925) 283-8304. To hear a sample of the music, visit www.lafayettebigband.com.

Pacific Chamber Orchestra opens its 29th season with "Poetry in Motion" - a lyrical musical journey through Mozart's Overture to the Opera The Abduction from the Seraglio, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 with pianist Natsuki Fukasawa and Schubert's Symphony No. 1 in D Major. Performances will be in the Sanctuary at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16; and in the Bankhead Theater in Livermore at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17. Tickets are \$10-\$59. Children with paying adult are free. Tickets are available at www.PacificChamberOrchestra.org or at the door.

Pete Escovedo - Music and stories from his life and career at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 21 at the Orinda Theatre. www.lamoridamusicseries.com

The award winning Gold Coast Chamber Players bring the finest in chamber music to Lafayette and the surrounding areas. The first of this season's five concerts, titled, Family Business will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23 in the Lafayette Library Community Hall, and features music by the famous families Mozart, Mendelssohn and Bach written for piano and strings. Tickets include a pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. Visit <http://www.gcplayers.org/> for tickets and information or call (925) 283-3728. (See story page B3.)

THEATER

Orinda Starlight Players present Robert Merrill's "Five-Door Farce" Through Sept. 29 in the Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way.

Regular admission: \$16; Senior \$8. Tickets are available at the Box Office; call (925) 528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org for reservations. Showtimes: 8:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 24, and 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 28. This is an outdoor theatre so dress appropriately and bring blankets.

California Shakespeare Theater and Santa Cruz Shakespeare's co-production of "Measure for Measure" by William Shakespeare, directed by Tyne Rafaeli runs from Sept. 16 to Oct. 8 at Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Single tickets start at \$20, with discounts available for seniors, students, persons age 30 and under, and groups. All tickets are available through the California Shakespeare Theater Box Office, 701 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley CA, 510.548.9666, online at www.calshakes.org, or at the Bruns box office on the day of the performance.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

SMC Creative Writing Reading Series with Robert Hass and Matthew Zapruder at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 7 at the Le Favre Theater, Saint Mary's Campus.

Come to be informed about the Democratic Republic of Congo at the Congo Mission Conference, "Moving Mountains in the Congo Through Reconciliation," from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. September 22 and 23, at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Keynote speaker, Dr. Pakisa Tshimika will discuss current conditions in Congo. All meetings are open to the public, and free. Register for Lunch or Dinner, \$10 each, at 42queens@gmail.com. To view entire schedule click on Congo Mission Network Annual Meeting, CMN Conference.

Practical Advice for Those with Osteoporosis & Osteopenia. A free lecture from 7 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday Sept. 26 at Lafayette Physical Therapy located at 3468 Mount Diablo Boulevard Suite B110 in Lafayette. In this presentation you will learn concepts to improve postural alignment, balance, and proper movement patterns to protect your spine if you have osteoporosis or osteopenia. You will get practical advice on what to do and what not to do while staying active with these conditions. Valerie Watase, Director of LPT, will discuss the options for the management of these conditions.

"Creating Story in Memoir and Biography" by award-winning author Gabrielle Selz from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27 at Saint Mary's De La Salle Hall in Hagerty Lounge, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. This talk will focus on how to shape and condense life into a structured story. How do we shape a narrative that is factually accurate while also "feeling" true to the experience of reading? How do we marry chronology and evidence to a scaffolding of larger contexts and themes? Free.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Crafts with Valerie at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 7 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Open to grades 6-12. Make creative bookmarks and magnets with collage artist Valerie Adinolfi. All materials provided. No registration required.

Las Trampas invites you to a fun event for the entire family that also supports a good cause. You can walk, roll or run at the 8th Annual Walk n' Roll 1 mile or 5k from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 23 on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail at 3460 Lana Lane. Registration fee of \$25 includes: T-shirt, raffle, Whole Foods bag, games by KKDV, refreshments and entertainment by KKDV and the Jan Coogan Group of Bread & Roses. You can register online at www.lastrampas.org.

Calling all local children and young adult book authors to attend the Chalk Walk on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Moraga Commons Park during the Pear and Wine Festival. Each of Moraga's five elementary and middle schools, and Saint Mary's College will be assigned a piece of art or sculpture that is currently located within Moraga. They will research the artist and the piece. During the Chalk

Walk, each school will have a 10 x 10 space where students will recreate their assigned piece in their own interpretation. Local children's book authors may reserve a booth space in the vicinity. Booth Space is \$25. For more information and to register go to www.moragachamber.org.

The second annual Color Run will take place beginning at 9 a.m. (registration starts at 8 a.m.) on Sunday, Sept. 24 at Acalanes High School. This 1.5 mile run through the Acalanes campus and grounds is also a great team bonding event for scout troops, club sports teams and LMYA teams. Each participant will receive an official Color Run T-shirt and have a blast being covered in a rainbow of colors as they run through five different color stations. Please visit the Acalanes High School Webstore at <https://acalaneshs.revtrak.net/color-run-1/> to sign up. If you don't have a Webstore account, you may check out as a guest by using the code 9999999.

OTHER

John Tateishi will be teaching a course starting Sept. 26 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center on the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, their campaign for redress, and the present-day implications of this part of American history. Tateishi will also be giving an overview of his class at a free info session at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. For info, visit olli.berkeley.edu.

The California Independent Film Festival opens Thursday, Sept. 7 at the Rheem and Orinda Theatres. Visit www.CAIFF.org for full schedule and tickets. (See story page A1)

Don't miss the 13th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend: "Dancing with the Cars." Pre-party, 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8 and Classic Car Show, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9. Enter your car and buy party tickets today at www.OrindaCarShow.com. These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda and other local charities.

Women Support Group: Sexual Trauma Survivors - An ongoing group in Lafayette from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays at the Bay Area Psychotherapy Institute, 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite B201 Seminar Room. This is an on-going group for those who identify as female who have survived sexual trauma. It is a safe and confidential place to share with other women how the trauma has impacted your life and to explore different healing modalities. Group members will help each other to work through interpersonal obstacles to transforming their lives and overcoming trauma. Ranges from \$30-40/session. www.lamorindacounseling.com

Lamorinda is a cat-caring community! Community Concern for Cats thanks local media and retail for introducing neighbors to our adorable adoptables from 1 to 4 p.m. this weekend, Sept. 9 and 10 at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information see www.communityconcernforcats.org.

Please join us for a free movie screening of an exciting new documentary film called "Changing the World One Wall at a Time" from 2 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10 at the Intercultural Center at Saint Mary's College. The film is about one of the world's largest street art campaigns held to raise awareness for the thousands of young Baha'is who are barred from higher education in Iran because of their beliefs. To learn more about this movie, visit www.notac-rime.me/thefilm/.

From Spiritual to Material and Back Again, featuring Dr. Anna Gatmon, author of "Living a Spiritual Life in a Material World: Four Keys to Fulfillment and Balance" at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13 in the Orinda Library Auditorium. Explore the challenges and treasures of discovering new interior lands. Gatmon's rich life journey has included careers as a fashion model, an educator and a counselor. She holds a doctoral degree in transformative learning from the California Institute for Integral Studies.

... continued on next page

Please submit:

Events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Stories: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Letters: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Opinion: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Film Clips

Favorite Short Films featured at CAIFF, opening tomorrow

By Derek Zemrak

In celebration of our 20th film festival, I personally selected some of my favorite short films that have screened at the California Independent Film Festival in previous years. Several of the past filmmakers will be attending the screenings.

Director John Murphy, whose short film "Flowers on a Muumuu," won Best Short Film at the very first film festival. It is a film noir parody of private detective Maurice Pomerance's quest to find the owner of a mysterious glass eye. Director John Murphy will be flying in from Texas to attend his screening at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9 at the Orinda Theatre.

Director Michael Fallavollita from Los Angeles will be introducing his first 24-minute short film that screened at CAIFF in 2003, "String of the Kite." In this short film, most people dismiss Lucky Santucci's stories as pure imagination but his grandson Kevin believes them wholeheartedly. With his new kite ready for flight, Kevin will discover that the truth lies somewhere between the moon and the earth. "String of the Kite" will be showing at the Orinda Theatre at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9 at the Orinda Theatre.

Michael also has his last short film project in the film festival entitled "Tale of the Kite," which is a sequel to his previous short "String of the Kite." What is so interesting is Michael used the same actors in the both films. Now 11



Short film feature from 2013, "God Don't Like Ugly" Lamorinda Weekly

years later the "Tale of the Kite" description is: "His dream of flight began with a kite. A young test pilot finds himself in a mysterious desert region out of contact with his airbase and with little hope of survival. But childhood memories of his grandfather may provide the key to his ultimate destiny." An 11-year filmmaking journey, the film is shot on Super 16mm film and RED digital. "Tale of the Kite" will be screening at the Orinda Theatre at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9. Actor Kevin DeSimone will be in attendance at both screenings.

CAIFF Alumni Director Suny Behar from Los Angeles will be attending his screening of his short film, "Chaos Theory," at the Orinda Theatre at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10. "Chaos Theory" is a 30-minute short film that tells the tale of an outrageous misadventure of a meteorologist desperate to stop the endless cycle of disorder that is ruling his life.

I hope you will go down memory lane with me at this year's film festival. You will laugh out loud and shed a few tears.

See you at the festival.

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Service Clubs Announcements

LAMORINDA SUNRISE Rotary
Friends, Fun, Service Above Self

Meets Friday mornings at 7:00 am at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Check us out at www.lamorindasunrise.com or email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com.

<p>September 8</p> <p>Stephanie Shaterian will share how to create immersive presentations that encourage you to think outside the box. She is a founder of fLO Content, a creative agency specializing in video and multi-platform storytelling for business.</p>	<p>September 15</p> <p>Metabolic Chaos...and the Impact to our Health presented by Dana Hemmingsen, FDN-P of BodyZing Health & Wellness</p>
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Bringing People together to Provide Humanitarian Services Locally and Globally

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.

<p>September 7:</p> <p>Two Lafayette Rotarians share all about themselves.</p>	<p>September 14:</p> <p>Joy Alaidarous on the good Rotary's Foundation does in the world.</p>
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www.rotarylafayette.org
www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-1973929631366

Not to be missed

OTHER ... continued

Be prepared to handle all-hazard emergencies. Take Lamorinda CERT classes in Orinda this fall. Your \$25 registration pays for 8 weeks of localized FEMA training plus a live exercise final; students receive a free medical supply kit (\$30 value) after class #4. CERT welcomes Lamorinda residents and employees. Evening classes begin Sept. 14; for details go to <https://classes.lamorindacert.org>

All are invited to attend the Saint Mary's College Guild Installation Tea Party 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14 at the SMC Soda Center. Cost: \$30 Per Person. Wine Purchase Is Available. Make check payable to SMC Guild; send to Patricia Wiegmann, 39 Carr Drive, Moraga, CA 94556. Please RSVP by Sept. 10.

Join Friends of Orinda Creeks in the annual beach and inland watershed cleanup at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 16. Trash accumulates along San Pablo creek in Downtown Orinda and flows downstream all the way to San Pablo Reservoir and beyond to San Francisco Bay. Directions: turn down the driveway at 25 Orinda Way and park near the chain link fence. Bring sunscreen, gloves (if you have them), water, and wear long pants, long-sleeve shirts, and sturdy shoes. All other equipment will be provided. For further information, contact Adriane Bosworth at bosdesign7@gmail.com or (925) 254-7538.

The Sept. 19 showcase meeting of the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of AAUW will feature Ann White, an ambassador of Road Scholar, a not-for-profit leader in educational travel. She will speak about the history of this organization, its mission and the wide variety of travel experiences they offer. The meeting will also start the year with informational presentations about the many interest groups and service opportunities available to AAUW members and will take place at 9:30a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19 at the Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Guests and visitors are welcome.

Many Faces of Gynecologic Cancers from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19 in the Lafayette Library Community Room. Join an engaging panel of medical experts as they explore the unique issues of ovarian, cervical and uterine cancers. The panel will offer insight into ongoing screening guidelines, latest treatment options, advances with minimally in-

vasive surgery and menopausal issues faced by gynecologic cancer survivors. Q&A session to follow presentations. Advanced registration recommended. Call (925) 677-5041 x260.

Fourth Street Fashion: A Runway Show - A benefit for the Berkeley Food & Housing Project from 5 to 9 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 23, Fourth Street, Berkeley. Costumes by Castle in the Air, looks by local clothing and accessory shops, gift bags, beer and wine, food booths, DJ. Free event. <http://www.fourthstreet.com/events/2017/9/23/fourth-street-fashion-a-runway-show>

The Great Conversation: Collegiate Seminar's 75th Anniversary Symposium from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sept. 23 in the Soda Activity Center: Moraga Room, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. The event will feature round table Seminar discussions, plenary speeches, and concurrent panel talks. Speakers include President James Donahue, Professors Ted Tsukahara, Raina León, Felicia Martinez, Ellen Rigsby, many more faculty, and alumni. And, as befits a symposium, it will end with wine and conversation.

Middle Eastern Festival 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23 and 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 24 at St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church, 501 Moraga Way, Orinda. Food, games, live entertainment, folk dancing, crafts, Middle Eastern heritage exhibits and more. Entrance fee: adults \$2.00; children under 12 free. For information: www.stjohnorinda.org - or call (925) 258-4255.

The Value of Community and Choice as we Grow Older at 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25 is a live-streamed event presented by Beacon Hill Village in Boston and hosted locally by Lamorinda Village features best-selling author of Being Mortal, Atul Gawande MD, MPH. For more information or to register (seats are limited) call (925) 253- 2300 or RSVP@LamorindaVillage.org. Event held at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr, Lafayette.

If you're affected by prostate cancer or know someone who is, Alta Bates Summit Comprehensive Cancer Services invites you to learn about the latest advances in diagnosis and treatment beginning at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27 at Samuel Merritt University in the Fontaine Auditorium, 400 Hawthorne Ave, Oakland. You will have an opportunity to browse our resource tables before the presentation starts. During the presentation, a team of six clinicians special-

Not to be missed

izing in cancer will address radiation treatment, MRI and biopsies, surgical management, androgen deprivation therapy, bone health, and integrative medicine. Samuel Merritt University in the Fontaine Auditorium.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley is pleased to present the President of the League of Women Voters of California, Helen Hutchison, speaking on the movement to reform the corporate property taxes in California's Proposition 13, which contained giant loopholes allowing big corporations and wealthy commercial property owners to avoid paying their fair share of corporate taxes. President Helen Hutchison will speak from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16 at the Concord Public Library, 2900 Salvio Street. Concord. All are welcome. Light refreshments served.

SENIORS

Orinda Senior Health and Wellness Fair 1 to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. This three-hour free event will feature Dr. Patrick Arbore as the keynote speaker talking about Senior Empowerment. He will be followed by an expert panel presenting effective ways to improve health and wellness through exercise, nutrition, continuing education, spirituality, connectedness and alternative medicine. For more information see www.orindachamber.org or call (925) 254-3909.

GARDEN

The Walnut Creek Garden Club presents "How About A Facelift To Your Yard? What Are Some Things We Can Do To Improve Our Home's Curb Appeal?" at 9:45 a.m. Mon-

Not to be missed

Start Downsizing Now For Your Move in the Future presented by Mark Shaw, Re/Max Accord Lafayette Realtor from 10:30 to noon Thursday, Sept. 28 in the Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center. Do yourself (and your children) a favor and start tackling the many years' worth of "stuff" that has accumulated in your house and garage. Breaking it up into small, doable tasks is much easier, less stressful and less exhausting than waiting until the last minute. Mark will share tips and advice he's gained from his many years in real estate. Members: free; non-members: \$10.

The Senior Mobility Action Council, a workgroup of the Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging, is putting on an event: the "Senior Transportation Forum 2017, It's More Than Just A Ride!" from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 29 at the John Muir Medical Center, Ball Auditorium in Walnut Creek. The purpose of the forum is to help educate the public, elected officials, seniors, transportation advocates, social workers, and medical discharge planners about the transportation challenges that older adults and the disabled face in CC County as well as the importance of accessible transportation in maintaining a strong community.

The Walnut Creek Garden Club presents "How About A Facelift To Your Yard? What Are Some Things We Can Do To Improve Our Home's Curb Appeal?" at 9:45 a.m. Mon-

day, Sept. 11 at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road. 9:45 - Business Meeting; 10:30 - Social; 11 Program.

Lafayette Garden Club is excited to present Rosalind Creasy, a garden and food writer, photographer, and landscape designer with a passion for beautiful vegetables and ecologically sensitive gardening. She has authored several books and will be sure to delight us in the wonders of edible gardening. The meeting will be held from 9:45 a.m. to noon Thursday, Sept. 14 at the Lafayette Veteran's Building located at 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

Montelindo Garden Club Meeting (third Friday) of every month, September through May will be at 9 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 15 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Everyone welcome. Presentation: Growing Unusual Fruit in the Bay Area. Speaker: Idell Weydemeyer.

The Moraga Garden Club Monthly Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 21, at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Guest speaker will be Kristen Yanker-Hansen, past president of the California Horticultural Society. The topic of her discussion will be "Planting a Dry Garden." Interested parties are welcome to attend the 9:30 a.m. social hour, the 10 a.m. meeting, and the presentation by Kristen Yanker-Hansen, immediately following the meeting.

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Round Rosh Hashanah challah symbolizes circle of life

By Susie Iventosch



Lafayette native and Campolindo alum Dania Lubliner Massey with her son, Jordan Massey, 7. Photo Susie Iventosch

One day last summer while my sister-in-law, Shira Lubliner, was visiting we decided to make a loaf of challah. Since she'd made many of them before and I'd never made one, she was the perfect person to teach me. Challah is a leavened white bread, typically braided and served to celebrate the Jewish Sabbath and special holidays. Not only is challah delicious, but it also is a beautiful loaf of bread!

Shira didn't have a recipe with her at the time, but she found one online for Famous Challah that had been posted on Food.com by "Tante B." According to Tante B, this recipe originally came from The Spice and Spirit of Kosher-Jewish Cooking, a compilation of recipes published in 1977 by the Lubavitch Women's Organization Junior Division. Apparently Tante B made a few minor changes to the original recipe, but other than changing the

shape, we didn't change Tante B's version, which we found to be just perfect.

This year my niece, Dania (Lubliner) Massey, came to visit and we made a round challah with the sous-chef help of her adorable 7-year-old son, Jordan. Usually challah is formed in an oval shape, but for the Jewish New Year festival of Rosh Hashanah, tradition calls for the bread to be made into a round loaf.

"I really enjoyed making the challah and my favorite part was braiding it," Jordan said. "It was delicious and I definitely loved eating it. I want to make it again!"

Jordan believes the Rosh Hashanah challah is round like the year that goes round.

While Jewish cuisine varies by region, the tradition of baking round challah for Rosh Hashanah is universal among Jews. According

to Shira, the round challah symbolizes the circle of life, and also may relate to the round-shaped bread used some 2,000 years ago in the Temple in Jerusalem.

"Rosh Hashanah commemorates the birthday of the world, the part of the endless cycle of time," she noted. "Additionally, round challah looks like a crown – a mystical symbol in Judaism, representing God's kingship over the world."

Shira said that Rosh Hashanah challah is a treat especially enjoyed by children. Sometimes the bread is made with raisins and dipped in honey to assure the blessing of a sweet new year.

This year, Rosh Hashanah begins in the evening on Wednesday, Sept. 20 and ends the evening of Friday, Sept. 22.

Rosh Hashanah Challah

(Makes two 8-inch round challah)

*This bread looks like it has a million directions, but if you follow each step, you will see that it all flows smoothly and quickly. There is also a link to a YouTube video illustrating how to shape the loaf.

INGREDIENTS

7 cups all-purpose flour, split in half
2 packages dry yeast, 1/4 ounce each
1 egg, beaten
1/2 cup vegetable oil (I used olive oil)
1 Tbsp. salt
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 cups warm water (90-100 degrees)
(2 cups raisins-optional)

Egg wash glaze

1 egg, beaten
2 Tbsp. sesame seeds or poppy seeds

DIRECTIONS

Making the Dough

Measure all ingredients, so they are ready and handy.

In the metal bowl of your mixer, add 1tablespoon sugar from the 1/2 cup and combine it with the yeast and warm water. Let sit for about 10 minutes, until yeast dissolves and becomes foamy.

Add the rest of the sugar, the salt and half of the flour (3 1/2 cups) to the yeast mixture. Mix well using the bread hook of the mixer.

Add the beaten egg and oil and beat until integrated.

Slowly, add most of the remaining flour, holding out about 1/2 cup flour until you know if the dough needs it. The dough will become very thick. Note: Add raisins now, if you are using them so they will mix into the dough.

Kneading the Dough

When the dough pulls away from the sides of the bowl, turn it onto a floured work surface and knead for about eight minutes, using some extra flour as needed to make a workable dough and to keep it from being too sticky. The dough will be ready when it is smooth and elastic, and springs back when pressed with the fingertips.

Place dough in a large greased bowl, turning the dough once so it's oiled on all sides.

Cover the top of the bowl with a damp towel and let rise in a warm place for two hours, until doubled-plus in size. (Do not place in a heated oven for this step!)

Punch down dough. (Tante B punches the dough down in four or five places every 20 minutes during this two-hour rising, but I only punched it down once at the very end of the rising.)

Shaping the Challah

Prepare pans. Spray two 8-inch cake pans with cooking spray or oil well.

Turn dough out onto a floured work surface for shaping.

Divide dough in half. Set one half aside and cover with plastic wrap while making the first loaf.

Divide each half into six equal pieces.

Roll pieces between palms of hands and stretch until you have six fairly equal length tubes of dough, like a bread stick shape, approximately 10 to 12 inches long.

Lay three pieces out on the work surface.

Overlay the remaining three logs of dough alternating over and under each piece already on the work surface, into a lattice pattern. Tighten the woven pieces toward the center.

Now, braid the three ends that are sticking out on all four sides and carefully tuck the braids under the latticed dough.

(Here is the link to a quick video tutorial on how to make both a six and four-braid challah, plus challah rolls: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52-GK2pFIQM>)

Gently lay the latticed, braided, round loaf into your prepared pan.

Repeat with the second half of dough.

Allow challah to rise at room temperature for another 20 minutes or so.

Baking the Challah

Preheat oven to 375 F.

Brush all of the exposed dough on the shaped and risen challah rounds with egg wash and sprinkle with sesame seeds or poppy seeds.

Bake for 25 minutes. Tops of challah should be a dark golden-brown color.

Turn off oven and leave in oven for another 5 to 10 minutes. Remove from oven and serve now or later, it reheats beautifully and is also delicious at room temperature as well. This bread also makes a delicious toast for breakfast!



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

Mirepoix

Mirepoix (pronounced mir'pwä) is a mixture of finely diced vegetables such as carrots, onions and celery, sautéed in butter along with herbs and sometimes meat, ham or bacon. The mirepoix is then used as a flavoring for soups, stews or sauces, or as a base for braised meat or fish. It can also be used as a garnish.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Why Lamorinda girls love water polo

By Jon Kingdon



Photo Gint Federas

Some sports have contradictory qualities. Football is a truly violent game and yet it has its graceful and acrobatic aspects. Football players require intelligence, speed and discipline – many of the same characteristics water polo players need to be successful.

Developed in England in the 19th century, and originally called “water rugby,” water polo began as a very physical sport.

Possibly the most famous water polo match was in 1956 when Hungary played the USSR at the Melbourne Olympics in Australia. This game became known as “The Blood in the Water Match” due to the fair amount of blood left in the pool after Hungary’s 4-0 win.

Though violence like this is rare, water polo is far more physical and demanding than the average spectator realizes.

So what is it that attracts Lamorinda girls to the sport?

According to Acalanes Girls Water Polo Coach Misha Buchel, the girls who go out for water polo have to bring a wide range of physical and mental skills to the game. They know that there is the potential for injury to the head, shoulders, elbows and legs. “It is not a sport for anyone that cannot handle contact. It can be a wrestling match in the water.”

The sport also demands the players have endurance. Players may have to go an entire quarter without touching the bottom of the pool. The game rewards the strongest and the fittest.

Yet as physical as the game is, Buchel says the players must understand the tactical side of the sport.

According to Miramonte Girls Water Polo Coach Lance Morrison many of the players come from families where their parents played water polo in college and passed down their love of the sport to them. Morrison notes, “Water polo has become a prominent way of life in the Lamorinda area.” Numerous colleges have taken notice of the talent in the area and he feels the area has become a hotbed of college recruiting.

Those interested in Lamorinda swimming programs can start as early as 4 years old and continue on through high school. This more than anything explains the success of the swim teams at the high school level. It also explains the continued success of the water polo teams at Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte. Bushel points to the long history of water polo in the area and also the proximity to UC Berkeley, which boasts a top water polo program.

Campolindo Girls Water Polo

Coach Kim Everist, once a Member of the USA Junior National Women’s Water Polo Team, certainly understands the requirements asked of the players and its demands: “Currently, all types come out for water polo. In order to be successful at our sport, you definitely have to be mentally tough and, like any sport, it helps to be athletic. The training is demanding and there is constant physical contact.”

Everist believes the best water polo players are those kids who have played basketball, soccer and volleyball. “There are elements of these games that are very similar and teach necessary skills that transfer to water polo,” she says. “Water polo is a fun, social sport and I think in high school many girls come out because it is no-cut sport and fosters a fun atmosphere. Those that play the most minutes are physically strong, swim well, have a competitive spirit, enjoy the physical and mental challenge and have a general awareness of the flow of offensive and defensive concepts.

“Our sport welcomes all body types. Some are more conducive for certain positions in the game and for different levels of play, but there is a success story for every body type that exists. It is a tough game, but fun and very rewarding.”

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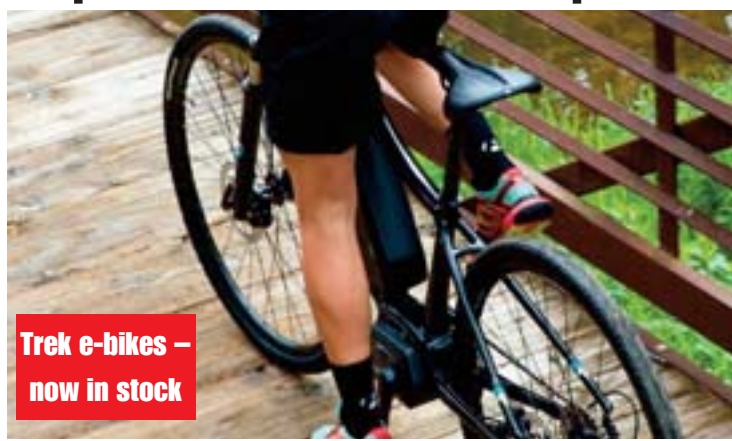
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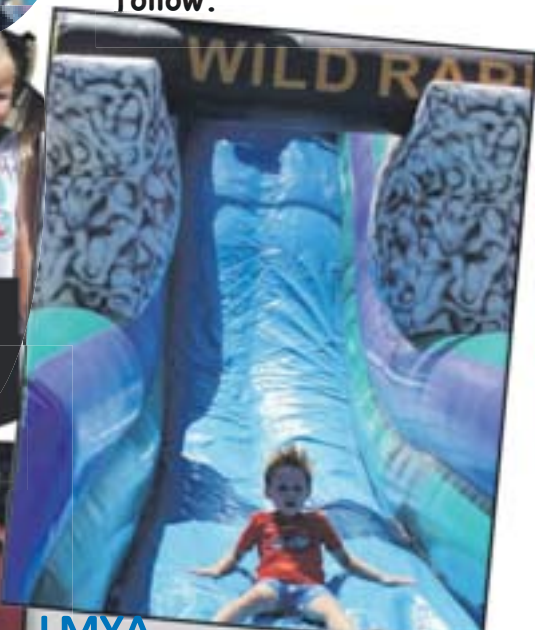
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Game and practice schedule changed because of the hot weather last week and we could not get pictures for our Water Polo preview stories. We will try to print photo next time.

Lamorinda Boys Water Polo Preview

By Jon Kingdon

The Acalanes Boys Water Polo Team, following Miramonte's lead from last season, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this season. Coach Russ Stryker who played on two championship teams when he attended Acalanes understands and appreciates the history of the program and the responsibility and pressure for the team to have a successful year.

"We're in a tough league and our goal is to win the North Coast," Stryker said.

Having lost four starters to graduation, this is going to be a young team, although the team has a particularly deep junior class.

Stryker's main concern is the team's lack of experience, having to rely on eight new players coming up from last year's JV team. This is going to put some pressure on the team's seniors to provide the leadership for the underclassmen.

"The most important thing is for me to see the team coming together and I hope to see this in our scrimmages," Stryker said.

Acalanes will be utilizing a movement offense. The players leading the offense will be junior attacker Jake Stone who was first team all league last season. Other attackers who will be relied upon include seniors Bennett Winther and Jacob Parker, and junior Max Stryker.

Senior Jed Wood is going to be making a transition from field player to goalie and will be the key to holding the defense together.

Acalanes will be opening their season at home on Sept. 5 against Tamalpais.

On Oct. 6, the Dons will travel to Irvine for the Southern California Invitational.

Campolindo Coach Miles Price has lost four starters to graduation. Ironically he is excited about what he sees as a veteran team. "We have six seniors that should all contribute in one way or the other and seven juniors that will contribute as well. Depth is going to be our greatest strength. This team is more balanced than any I've coached."

With such a balanced roster, Price sees the team as "open for any of the players to step up as the season progresses."

Two of the players that Price is relying on for leadership are goalie Ben Miller and driver/attacker Michael Wheeler.

Campolindo will be utilizing a run and gun system. Price wants his team to press other teams defensively and to put them on their heels.

Even though Campo is a veteran team, Price feels it's important for the team to build cohesion. "We need the players to trust in each other."

Entering his sixth year at Campolindo,

Price attributes the successes of his team to "bringing in a top staff and once that happened, a positive momentum grew with the players buying into our system."

Price is looking forward to major tournaments, opening the season on Sept. 7 in Santa Barbara and The San Diego Tournament beginning on Sept. 21, to measure his team against the top competition in the state.

Miramonte, a team with a strong tradition, having won the NCS 15 times since 1995, once again enters the season with great optimism, having lost only three starters to graduation.

Coach James Lathrop will be counting on his three captains to provide both talent and leadership for the Matadors. The three seniors are attackers Mikey Davis, Will Creed and goalie Duncan Creed.

Lathrop is still trying to establish who the rest of his starting team is going to be. "We're still trying to find out our team identity and am looking forward to the journey," Lathrop said.

On offense, Lathrop has a lot of options with a number of last year's substitutes looking to step forward as starters and he has a number of new players as well. "We're a young team. My job is to figure out each player's role. We have to improve as a unit and the key to this is that we be a team that is aware, focused and disciplined."

Defense looks to be the real strength of the team. As with each unit, Lathrop wants to establish the right attitude: "We want to get better, we want to always give a top effort and always want to win and the players take this attitude seriously."

With 25 players on the team roster, Lathrop has let the players know that there are a lot of open opportunities for the players to step up and establish themselves as contributors.

Lathrop appreciates the strong tradition of Miramonte Water Polo as they enter their 51st season. He feels that someone like Bill Brown who has been involved in some capacity with the team for every one of those seasons, epitomizes the culture that attracts so many players to his program.

Miramonte is playing two major tournaments: Opening their season at The Elite Eight at Harvard-Westlake High School in Southern California starting on Sept. 8 and The SoCal tournament in Irvine beginning on Oct. 8.

Lathrop believes that playing against the top teams in the state will "allow us to keep our focus and is great preparation for our league play in the NCS."

Lamorinda Girls Water Polo Preview

By Jon Kingdon

It's been said that no good deed goes unpunished.

The Acalanes Dons, coming off a very successful season as NCS Division II champions, don't feel they are being punished but rather are being rewarded by moving up for the first time to the more difficult Division I level.

Normally there is some pressure on a team when they win a championship to repeat that success. However, with the step up in competition, Coach Misha Buchel says that the team is able to "avoid the pressure of being the hunted. It's a different type of challenge but the girls are excited at the opportunity and this was our goal prior to last season."

The Dons come into the season with a great deal of confidence, having graduated only one starter.

However that starter was the team's goalie. The battle for that position will be between junior Laurie Garfein and freshman Ava Donleavy. This is a key position not just for preventing goals but the goalie is essential to making the long passes and taking advantage of the opportunities as they come available.

Buchel feels that the team needs to "find more consistent offensive play to go along with our defense."

Senior Bella Wentzel is one of the leaders Buchel is counting on to maintain the team's top defensive play.

On offense, the Dons will be relying on attackers, senior Ryan Hagglund, junior Lexi Rowell and sophomore Brook Westphal.

The team opens their season against Tamalpais on Sept. 5.

Buchel is also pointing to the Acalanes Girls Invitational the weekend of Sept. 11 when they will be hosting a number of teams including Campolindo, Miramonte, San Ramon and Monte Vista. It will be a full weekend with each team playing four games. The games will be played at both Acalanes and Campolindo high schools.

Coach Kim Everist, beginning her 13th year at Campolindo, faces the challenge of replacing four starters lost to graduation. Playing in such a difficult league with so much parity does not make it any easier.

Everist is relying on character and fundamentals to bring the team together: "We are stressing breaking habits, being in top condition and developing great team chemistry. We want a great culture where everyone will be held accountable. We simply want the players to play to the best of their ability."

When asked to describe her offensive

philosophy, Everist puts it very simply: "Attack—Attack—Attack. We want to engage with the defense and we will always be working for positive possessions."

Leading the offense will be senior attacker Katy Klein and center Erin Neustrom.

The same aggressiveness should be evident on defense as well as Everist is stressing a press and drive defense, an attitude of grit and guts.

Everist attributes the success of her teams to having the players buy into the philosophy of "Team First—Self last."

Miramonte, coming off a second place finish in their first year in Division I last season, enters this year with a very optimistic attitude, having lost no starters to graduation. In fact, five of these players have been starters since their sophomore season. The five are attackers, Kelly Murphy and Carson Broad, lefty center, Grace Tehaney, center Katrina Drake and center-defender Skylar Savor.

This will be Lance Morrison's first season as the Matador's head coach, having been promoted from last year's JV team and he appreciates what a rare opportunity it is to take over such a veteran, talented team. "Our offensive power is huge," Morrison said. "I've never seen a team with this much power. We can score from any position in the pool."

Handling such talent should be difficult but Morrison said that "the girls have all been very adaptable to whatever systems we have installed. I am trying to work to the strengths of each of the girls."

Holding the team's defense together will be junior goalie Savannah Sherwood. According to Morrison, "Savannah has shown amazing growth since her freshman year. She brings great length, height and athleticism to the position. She helps to direct traffic on the defensive end."

Even with such an impressive group of starters, Morrison said, "We are going to need our underclassman to be ready to come in and spell the starters."

There are a number of players that should be able to fill these roles. Two-meter sophomore Sally Fellner and utility freshman Fiona Young are just two of many underclassmen that will be competing for playing time.

Morrison says the ultimate key for the team is to get on the same page in the pool and maintain the right attitude out of the pool as well. Most importantly, Morrison wants the girls to "appreciate how rare an opportunity this is to play on such a potentially successful team."

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Lamorinda Soccer Club team's successes

Submitted by Keven Guillory



Lamorinda 07 boys

Photos courtesy Lamorinda SC

The Lamorinda Soccer Club teams have been on a tear this past month, with boys and girls teams winning several tournaments.

Lamorinda's '07 boys team won the San Ramon Soccerfest in 100 degree heat by winning every game, taking the final against Magic by 2-1. Coach Christian Garcia said teamwork was the key.

The Lamorinda '08 girls team won the Davis Legacy Super Classico Summer Tournament, roaring through the field of teams without a loss, finishing 4-1 in the final against Davis Alliance.

The Lamorinda Under 10 Boys team are Walnut Creek champions, advancing unde-

feated and scoring 14 more goals than their opponents.

And the Lamorinda U19 girls team won the Davis Legacy College Showcase with a 5 - 0 record, outscoring their opponents 18-2 overall. They played in a heat wave; temperatures averaged 101 degrees over the three-day tournament. In the championship game against Davis Legacy, Charlotte Guillory and Caroline Clark both scored to seal the victory.

As school begins, Lamorinda's student athletes are looking forward to the upcoming season.



Lamorinda U19 girls



Lamorinda U10 boys

Lamorinda Soccer Club U10 Girls Champions

Submitted by Marc Rich



From left: Avery Williamson, Priscilla Martini, Emma O'Connor, Cate McKormick, Reese Lins, Grace Charles, Leilani Mancheno, Samantha Rich, Tamar McKey (not pictured Kadence Yim, Elodie Jensen, Avery Bruno, Samantha Murdin)

The Lamorinda Soccer Club U10 Girls Navy won the Davis Legacy Super Classico Summer Tournament Aug. 12-13 with a record of 4-0. The girls opened the tournament with a 5-2 win over Loomis Freedom followed by a convincing 10-0 victory versus Sacramento United and a 6-5 win over Davis Legacy advancing to the championship match versus Davis Alliance. In a hard

fought final game the Lamorinda U10 Girls won the championship by a score of 4-1.

The LMSC U10 Girls Navy previously achieved second place at the San Ramon Summer Classic June 29 and 30 with a record of two wins, one loss and one tie. The U10 girls now have six wins one loss and one tie as they go into the 2017 Norcal fall season.

U12 Lafayette Pacifics participate in east coast tournament

Submitted by Catherine Habas



From left: Pacifics' manager Dan Meade, assistant coaches Mike Michlitsch and David Habas, players Sam Meade, Andrew Habas, Miller Smith, Nathan Kim, Jackson Berry, Tyler Holder, Cole Foster, Luke Seeyle, Riley Bonner, Zubin Acuna, Zach Snyder and Mason Michlitsch.

In mid-August, the U12 Lafayette Pacifics baseball team traveled to upstate New York and competed in a five-day, seven game baseball tournament at the Cooperstown All-

Star Village. Fifty teams from across the U.S participated in the tournament. The trip included a visit to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

USA Water Polo Cadet National Team Wins Gold in Serbia

Submitted by Alan Lurlund



Tom McGuire (left) a sophomore at Campolindo High School, Mark Lurlund (right) a freshman at Monte Vista High School.

Photo Stewart McGuire

Tom McGuire, an incoming sophomore at Campolindo High School and Mark Lurlund, an incoming freshman at Monte Vista High School, helped the U.S. Men's Cadet National Team win the gold medal at the Darko Cukic Memorial Tournament in Belgrade, Serbia, with a 9-6 win over Croatia on Aug. 20.

Team, which went undefeated through seven games, competing against some powerhouse teams such as Serbia and the Netherlands. This was the first time Team USA has finished first in the tournament, which began in 2007. The last time a U.S. national or Olympic team beat Serbia was in 2008.

This was a historic win for a U.S. National Team in an international tournament. The tournament is considered the unofficial world championships for the Cadet National

Of the 14-man roster, Lurlund and McGuire were the only Northern California players selected to travel to Serbia; the rest were from Southern California.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 14 Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D12

Don't let your deck become a hot zone

By Cathy Dausman



Decks can provide solace and shade, but need TLC during fire season.

Photo Cathy Dausman

Sit on a Lamorinda deck and you can enjoy rolling hillsides in a sun-kissed Mediterranean climate. A deck is a wonderful amenity for any home; it is quite literally a bridge from indoors to out. Residents enjoy morning coffees watching squirrel antics, or perhaps share a glass of wine with friends as birds sing their lullaby. But living in the wildland urban interface doesn't give us a free pass on outside square footage. That deck, like other household structures, must be properly maintained to ensure its safe enjoyment.

Cheryl Miller, Executive Coordinator of Diablo Fire Safe Council says residents should think beyond cleaning, painting and repairs and take steps to minimize the possibility of fire damage too. Miller says homeowners should check four deck spaces – around, below, inside and on top of the deck – and ensure at least the first five feet out from your home is a “noncombustible zone.”

Around: When it comes to vegetation, think lean, clean and green. Fire officials recommend that only a relatively small amount of vegetation be

present in the noncombustible zone. This prevents fire from climbing onto the deck or burning directly into a home. Eliminate dead plants and cut short any dry grasses. Remove or prune highly flammable plants that are full of resin or volatile oils, such as juniper, pine or eucalyptus. Keep only green and healthy vegetation.

Below: Out of sight, out of mind is not a good game plan for the space underneath a deck. It is not the place to store firewood, lawn furniture, toys or other flammable materials. “Your deck can capture and intensify the heat of a fire and more easily ignite anything stored below,” Miller says. “The heat of a fire below the deck may be enough to break nearby windows and allow fire inside the house.” Miller suggests homeowners consider enclosing this area to reduce the risk of wildfire damage.

Inside: If you're uncertain when the deck was built, it may be time for a change. As the decks age Miller says the board ends and smaller pieces of wood dry, cup and split, making it easier for fire to ignite the structure. Replace small parts. Pay attention to how the deck is attached to the house. A noncombustible metal flashing or stucco surface can reduce the chance of the deck serving as a fuse to light your house on fire. If it is time to rebuild your deck think twice about the materials you use (see sidebar, page D4). “Some of the new plastic or wood-plastic composite materials can easily ignite or lose their structural integrity from the heat of a fire. An unsuspecting firefighter could step on your deck to save your house, only to fall through the deck boards,” she says.

... continued on page D4

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	9	\$700,000	\$2,200,000
MORAGA	4	\$760,000	\$1,375,000
ORINDA	7	\$955,500	\$2,325,000

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

- 6 Crest Road, \$1,885,000, 3 Bdrms, 3066 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 7-28-17
- 4120 Happy Valley Road, \$2,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 4986 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 7-25-17;
Previous Sale: \$950,000, 08-24-15
- 152 Haslemere Court, \$884,000, 3 Bdrms, 1638 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 8-1-17;
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 09-11-02
- 3286 Isola Way, \$1,975,000, 4 Bdrms, 3080 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 7-31-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 01-09-14
- 1849 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,205,000, 4 Bdrms, 2173 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 8-1-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,177,000, 03-23-05
- 1015 Silverhill Drive, \$1,437,000, 5 Bdrms, 4877 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 7-31-17;
Previous Sale: \$590,000, 02-06-89
- 3340 South Lucille Lane, \$700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1154 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 7-28-17
- 3350 Springhill Road, \$1,600,000, 7 Bdrms, 3239 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 7-31-17
- 1062 Via Roble, \$1,625,000, 5 Bdrms, 3525 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 7-31-17

MORAGA

- 1174 Alta Mesa Drive, \$1,195,000, 3 Bdrms, 2486 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 7-26-17;
Previous Sale: \$825,000, 12-16-14
- 149 Calle La Montana, \$1,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 3623 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 8-1-17;
Previous Sale: \$718,000, 08-07-00
- 129 Oxford Drive, \$1,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2028 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 7-26-17
- 496 Woodminster Drive, \$760,000, 3 Bdrms, 1800 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 7-28-17;
Previous Sale: \$580,000, 04-10-13

ORINDA

- 8 Charles Hill Place, \$955,500, 4 Bdrms, 2137 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-31-17
- 23 Donald Drive, \$1,261,000, 3 Bdrms, 2034 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 7-28-17;
Previous Sale: \$903,500, 07-12-12
- 46 Ivy Drive, \$1,045,000, 2 Bdrms, 1225 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 8-1-17;
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 08-20-14
- 649 Miner Road, \$1,535,000, 4 Bdrms, 3114 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 7-25-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 05-22-15
- 121 Tappan Lane, \$1,610,000, 3 Bdrms, 3782 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 8-1-17
- 53 Tara Road, \$2,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2862 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-31-17
- 40 Via Floreado, \$1,025,000, 4 Bdrms, 2516 SqFt, 1926 YrBlt, 7-26-17

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Don't let your deck become a hot zone

... continued from page D1



Keep areas surrounding decks free from debris.

Photo Cathy Dausman

On top: Clean your deck's nooks and crannies of leaves and twigs to prevent flying embers from alighting and igniting. Store furniture and flammable materials like brooms, doormats and chair cushions inside during red flag days. Children's toys and plastic furniture in particular may have low ignition points. Diablo Fire Safe maintains a web page advising what to do during red flag days; find it online at www.diablofiresafe.org/red_flag.html. Most importantly, pay special attention to your barbecue or fire pit. Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Capt. Lisa Martinez says owners should never leave a barbecue or outdoor fireplace unattended, and always have an extinguisher, hose or bucket of water handy. Insure your gas barbecue hoses are UL-listed and made for or sold with the barbecue. Don't assume hoses attached to a second-hand barbecue meet code. Turn off the gas feed when the barbecue is not in use. Never empty cooking coals or wood embers into a trash container, and make sure a housekeeper or maintenance worker does not do that. Discard coals into a small metal garbage can with a tight-fitting lid, Martinez says, and make sure portable fireplaces have a spark arrester. Again, keep an extinguisher handy.

Lastly, Martinez says property owners should include specific language in lease agreements for multi-unit family housing, apartments and condos about when ten-

ants or owner occupants may and may not barbecue, and that occupants should consider not using coal barbecues during high fire danger.

"Enjoy your deck knowing it can help protect your home from wildfire," says Miller, while bearing in mind Martinez' final comment: "Fire season is not over until we get a lot of rain."

Helpful online resources

California's Office of the State Fire Marshal website lists the best deck construction materials for use in wildland urban interfaces: http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselist-ing_bml_searchcotest.

The California edition of "Protect Your Property from Wildfire" includes details of deck construction http://disastersafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/WF_California_IBHS.pdf

Learn about Diablo Fire Safe cost-share funding to reduce wildfire vegetation hazards at www.diablofiresafe.org.



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At Home with Amanda

Small, simple steps to timeless design

By Amanda Eck



Wallpaper added to this powder room is a wonderful way to add pop.

Photo provided

Everyone likes to be up-to-date with the recent design trends, but how can you incorporate them into your homes while still embracing timeless design? One simple step: start small. The following are some easy items you can bring into your home without worrying if it's going to date you in a few years. (Can you say avocado green countertops?)

Wallpaper

Wallpaper has been making a comeback for a few years now, but I still get clients who look at me sideways when I suggest it. I'm sure we have all either grown up with, or knew someone who had some hideous floral-print wallpaper (OK, I admit it, I have too). Or worse, the dreaded wallpaper border. Well I'm here to tell you that wallpaper has come a long way, baby.

When I suggest wallpaper to clients today I advise that "a little goes a long way." Geometric designs, grass cloth and large print patterns are all on point. As for placement, try it out in a small powder bath, make a statement in your entry, or even try it out on that fifth wall – the ceiling.

Brass

No, the '80s haven't called and asked for their brass back. We are not talking about the shiny, cheap brass toilet paper holders and shower door trims of old. Today it's the warm classic brass and more specifically the unlacquered brass that develops a patina over time. I encourage my clients to mix their metals. There is nothing wrong with having, say, brass pendants in your kitchen with a chrome faucet, brass cabinet hardware and stainless appliances.

And just like with wallpaper, a little goes a long way. Start off small, incorporate a brass lamp in your living room, or try a small brass side table. I love sourcing unique brass pieces at local vintage shops, flea markets, Etsy and eBay. Even mainstream retail stores are getting in on the brass love. (Check out Target, West Elm and Restoration Hardware.)

Color

Color is a great way to express yourself in your home. You do not necessarily have to commit to a mustard yellow sofa or paint your walls pink, but you can bring it into the space in small doses. By keeping your big upholstery pieces neutral you can bring in color with accent pillows, rugs, accessories or artwork. Or maybe add a painted piece of furniture. Some popular colors currently are any and all blues – especially navy – greens, from light pale sage to dark emerald, pinks and blush-tones, orange and warm mustard yellow.

... continued on page D12



Spectacular Contemporary Home with Amazing Views

319 Tappan Terrace, Orinda



Unique custom home privately set in the hills of Orinda. With approx 4,200 square feet, 5 bedrooms and 4.5 bathrooms, this home was designed by Jong & Jong of Berkeley and offers incredible design and attention to detail. This home boasts a chef's kitchen, private master retreat, open living spaces and a wall of windows showcasing the fabulous views. Enjoy indoor/outdoor living at its finest!

Offered at \$2,275,000

Open Sunday 1-4

www.319Tappan.com



Finola Fellner

925.890.7807

BRE #01428834

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Destination: Sleepy Hollow



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22 Van Tassel Lane
5 bd | 4.5 ba | 4757 sqft | .97 acre | Pool | Cabana
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1 Hidden Lane
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Van Ripper Lane
3 bd | 2.5 ba | 2362 sqft | .51 acre | Pool | Views
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Brass

At Home with Amanda

Small, simple steps to timeless design

... continued from page D8



Small pops of color, like this green dresser, pillow and plant, can make a simple elegant statement, while the organic weave in this rug adds texture. Photo provided



Organic Materials

There has been an increase in natural organic elements being brought into the home. Natural stone, rustic wood pieces, petrified wood, natural fabrics and live green plants are all actively in use. Bringing these pieces into your home can create both warmth and texture and create a great “layered” look if paired with warm metals like brass.

And while we are on the topic of trends, next month I will be attending High Point Market in North Carolina. High Point is the largest home furnishings industry trade show in the world, with over 10 million square feet of showrooms by roughly 2,000 exhibitors. In other words, it’s Disneyland for designers.

I will be posting my market finds on social media and providing those who follow along a sneak peek into all the best new items the home furnishings industry has to offer. You can follow me both on Instagram @amandacarolinteriors and on our Facebook page: Amanda Carol Interiors

Until next time dear friends!

As the Owner and Principal Designer of Lamorinda-based Amanda Carol Interiors, Amanda Eck believes your home’s interior should be both approachable and well-appointed. She often asserts, “Beauty is a necessity.”

With a distinct sense of style that mixes contemporary and classic design she fashions spaces that are both elegant and inviting. Her design aesthetic is inspired by anything visual but especially fashion, architecture and art.

Visit <http://amandacarolinteriors.com> for more design ideas.



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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Outside in

By Cynthia Brian

"I went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in." John Muir



View of Mt. Diablo through the olive tree.

Photos Cynthia Brian

As summer draws to a close, it's natural to want to grab the last rays of outdoor living. With temperatures in the triple digits, however, unless we are splashing in a pool, many people are staying indoors with the air conditioner turned on high. I tend to march to a different drum, preferring to sweat through the heat to enjoy the hazy, hot days of the season al fresco.

Since harvest time is quickly approaching, I tromped through the hills with Andrea Wood, a former financial broker turned entrepreneur who in 2010 purchased 22 acres above Campolindo High School with the dream of planting a vineyard, olive orchard, and building a local winery. A few years ago, she planted 125 olive trees but, alas, in June, a fire blazed to the top of her property burning many of her young trees. As we hiked her hills, we were surprised to witness the resiliency of the olive as new shoots sprouted from the trunks of the scorched trees. Three cheers for Mother Nature's ability to rebound from devastation. Trees that were untouched are filled

with fruit which will ripen and be harvested in November by her family. From the top of the drive, olive trees sway in the wind with views of Mt. Diablo in the background. In May, she will plant her southern facing hillside with cabernet sauvignon in a manner reminiscent of Tuscan vineyards. Plans for her winery are forthcoming. In the meantime, deer and turkeys call her hillsides home.

With this hot and dry weather, there is a high danger of fire. Be proactive and remove flammable objects, debris, brush, and wood from around the perimeter of your dwelling. The National Weather Service has been issuing red flag and heat wave warnings that may continue through the month of September. Stay hydrated, wear a hat when outdoors, provide plenty of water to your pets, and watch your plants for signs of stress.

It's been extremely enjoyable watching the colorful sunsets from the comfort of my patio chairs. Although I maintain my distance, observing the plethora of wildlife that prance and glide through my own landscape is mes-



A burned olive tree sprouts again.

merizing. Deer, turkeys, skunks, raccoons, lizards, snakes, hawks, hummingbirds, and even coyotes and foxes are constant visitors, not all welcome.

... continued on next page



Pull up a chair to watch a September sunset.

Striped skunks have been increasingly bold, coming right up to my back door. These nocturnal mammals, although adorably cute from afar, should not be approached as they can spray as a defense mechanism their strong musk several times with an accuracy of 12 feet. In addition, skunks are carriers of rabies. As much as their smell is disgusting, skunks are beneficial for reducing rodents and pesky insects. However, once they take up residence in your yard, garage, shed or deck, they are problematic. Do your best to secure entry holes in and under buildings and decks. Skunks can burrow as they forage to go from outside to in. If skunks are bothering you, call Vector Control at (925) 771-6190 to request a skunk inspection.

In case your pet is sprayed, try this homemade neutralizer recipe:

Stink Remover Recipe

1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide

¼ cup baking soda

1 teaspoon dishwashing detergent

(Mix together and wash your pet keeping the concoction out of the eyes, nose, and mouth. Rinse with water. If necessary, wash again. Do not bottle or store this solution as a chemical reaction could cause an explosion.)

Blue-tailed lizards, also known as skinks, have provided hours of entertainment as they sprint from rock to rock. Some veterinarians state that skinks may be poisonous to pets, specifically cats, although there are no concrete published studies. Having bright coloring on the skin often indicates that an animal is venomous or unpalatable but in the case of the blue tailed skink this quality is a useful decoy inviting birds to attack the tail and not its vital organs. Lizard tails regenerate. Lizards are excellent garden protectors eating many of the bothersome insects that plague our landscapes. Welcome them.

Grapes are ripening on the vine as the sun kisses the clusters. Bunches resemble still life paintings with their colors of blue, purple, absinthe and rose. (Next month be on the lookout for my article on our Lamorinda grape harvest.) Hydrangeas that were originally a deep vermilion are showing florets of lime green mottled with pink. Green is the most prevalent color in nature. It's enlightening to take time to truly immerse your senses in the multitude of shades and hues before the leaves turn amber, gold, crimson and red.

When the weather allows, get outside to enjoy the call of the wild. Bring the breath of the earth into our souls by soaking in nature outside. Out is in. Inhale deeply.

... continued on next page



A blue-tailed lizard can regenerate its tail



Turkeys trotting across the field.



Palms and verdant landscaping are an oasis from the heat.

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide Tips for September

FEED Monarchs with enriching nectar for both the caterpillars and butterflies by planting Swamp Milkweed, Pink Common Milkweed, Asters and Liatris.

EAT ugly and imperfect fruits and vegetables. About one-third of all food produced worldwide, worth around \$1 trillion, gets lost or wasted in food production and consumption systems. Deformed produce tastes the same and is as nutritionally viable as perfect pieces. For bruised fruit or vegetables, cut off the bad bits, make a sauce or a soup.

WATER deeply when your garden is thirsty in the early morning or evening. Do not water during the heat of the day or you'll be wasting H₂O and may burn your plants.

TAKE 20 percent off new season vegetable seeds from Renee's Garden. Enter code 18INTRO at checkout. Offer ends Sept. 15. Receive 50 percent off 2017 seeds. www.reneesgarden.com

USE vegetable stems and trimmings for sauces, sautés and soups. Broccoli stalks can be shaved for a salad, potato peels baked for chips, carrot and cilantro tops made into a pesto. Get creative and don't waste any part of an edible vegetable. Note: do not eat the leaves of rhubarb as they are toxic.

AVOID aches and pains while gardening by stretching before and after your work.

CHOOSE plants for color, shape, size, visual texture, and foliage when planning your garden.

VISIT the Pear and Wine Festival on Sept. 23 at the Moraga Commons. Make sure to stop by the Be the Star You Are! booth for fun activities for the kids. Thanks to Michael VerBrugge Construction, The Lamorinda Weekly, and MB Jesse painting for making the booth possible. Consider making a donation to Operation Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief to help the displaced in Texas. <http://www.bethestaryouare.org/events>

DIVIDE crowded perennials once they have finished blooming. This includes Naked Ladies.

FERTILIZE your acid loving plants including roses, rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, fuchsias, ferns and begonias.

PICK Asian pears and apples that are ripe.

The best way to get in contact with me is via email at Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com. As much as I appreciate your questions and concerns, I am unable to respond to the numerous phone calls. Thanks for understanding!

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



Grapes ripening on the trellis.

Photos Cynthia Breian



Close-up of green olives.



Perennial sweet peas are still adding color to the summer garden.



Cynthia Brian sits on the dock of the bay.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is a New York Times best selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are1® 501 c3.

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ORINDA

New Listing

7 Ardilla Road Charming 1939 home on a beautiful and mostly level .38 acre lot, featuring 4 beds/2.5 baths in approx. 1722sq.ft. Updated kitchen & baths, hardwood floors, open floor plan & views of the O.C.C. golf course. Large 3 car garage. **\$1,195,000**



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1 Hidden Lane Well maintained Sleepy Hollow home - custom built by original owner of quality craftsmanship. Lovely view setting. Vaulted ceilings, large windows and patio doors lead to private setting of spectacular sunset views. **\$1,455,000**



ORINDA

23 Overhill Road Fabulous single level living in stunning totally renovated mid-century contemporary w/bonus 4th BR/family rm on lower level. Walk to town. Stylishly updated kitchen, baths, huge private deck, panoramic views. Level yard area. **\$1,475,000**



ORINDA

New Price

12 Crestview Ct. Contemporary inspired home on private cul-de-sac with panoramic views of Orinda hills. Spacious home, 2 master suites. Pool, pool house & full size water slide. Easy commute to BART, schools. **\$1,625,000**



ORINDA

5 Hilary Way Beautiful apx. 2854 sq. ft. home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Highlights include updated kitchen with stainless appliances. Close to elementary school and Rim Trail. **\$1,649,000**



ORINDA

51 Donna Maria Way Beautifully landscaped & remodeled single story ranch style home in highly desirable Del Rey neighborhood w/ amazing creek side yard. Light & bright Living Room, Chef's kitchen, & the perfect yard/deck for entertaining. **\$1,895,000**



ORINDA

2 Scenic Drive Exquisite custom estate in sought-after Glorietta neighborhood. Meticulously expanded & renovated by the artist owner. Fabulous kitchen opens to family room w/ French doors leading to patio & enchanting gardens. **\$1,995,000**



ORINDA

50 Orchard Road Fabulous 1930's Hacienda style with exquisite charm! Pool, spa, putting green and garden inside central courtyard. Updated kitchen with wine cellar, media room, and private master suite. **\$1,995,000**



MORAGA

New Listing

292 Birchwood Drive Wonderful home on professionally landscaped gorgeous half acre lot. Meticulously maintained & updated with high end finishes throughout. Private master bedroom suite plus 3 bedrooms & a separate office/guest house. **\$1,530,000**



MORAGA

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

3176 Surmont Drive Casual, elegant and inspired by Mid-Century Mountain home design, this amazing property has a 2642 sqft, 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath residence, plus spacious decks and patios, pool, spa and fabulous outdoor pavilion. **\$1,295,000**



LAFAYETTE

18 Toledo Court Great Happy Valley neighborhood! .94 acre private setting at end of cul-de-sac with level yard, 2 tennis courts. High ceiling, walls of glass, large living & dining rms, kitchen opens to family rm, bonus rm. Top schools. **\$1,950,000**



LAFAYETTE

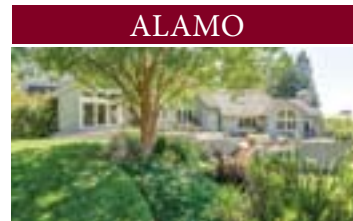
New Price

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. **\$2,195,000**



LAFAYETTE

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, outdr kitchen & pergola. **\$4,895,000**



ALAMO

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! **\$2,095,000**



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