

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY



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The 90-year old Lafayette Reservoir tower slated for retrofit.

Photo courtesy East Bay Municipal Utility District

## State deems Lafayette icon seismically unstable

By Nick Marnell

The California Division of Safety of Dams released new classifications and assessments of its statewide jurisdictional dams, including the 22 owned by the East Bay Municipal Utility District. All of the EBMUD dams were given a “satisfactory” rating in September, except for one: the Lafayette Reservoir.

“We had a recent survey done and we passed,” said EBMUD Director John Coleman, whose district includes Lafayette. “After the Oroville Dam breach, the state redid all of the state dams.”

The redo resulted in a “fair” rating for the reservoir, meaning that the dam can be operated safely in current conditions, but could be imperiled in events like earthquakes. The Lafayette Reservoir received the low grade due to the seismic vulnerability of its outlet tower.

According to a district advisory, because of the small size of the reservoir and its low runoff, the limited water flow through the outlet, and the planned reduction of reservoir levels, “The impact of a tower failure that affects EBMUD’s ability to release water from the reservoir is expected to have limited im-

pacts to the Lafayette community.”

The reservoir was built in 1927 as a standby supply of drinking water, and rather than a spillway for drainage, the outlet tower was erected in the middle of the 1.4 billion gallon watershed. “The tower acts as a spillway for the reservoir. When the reservoir gets full, water gets released without flowing over the dam,” said Jimi Yoloye, EBMUD construction division manager. “The water goes into the Lafayette creek in a controlled manner.”

... continued on page A12

Advertising

<b>LAMORINDA WEEKLY</b>	
Letters to the Editor	A9
Community Service	B4
Not to be Missed	B8-B9
<b>HOW TO CONTACT US</b>	B9
Classified	C2
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## Lafayette determined to clean up commissions

By Pippa Fisher

Members of the public made their voices clear to the Lafayette City Council: It is time to clean up conflict of interest and unethical behavior in the commissions, specifically in the Design Review and Planning Commissions.

City Council Member Ivor Samson presented his progress on the subject at the Sept. 11 meeting. He and Council Member Cam Burks were tasked with creating a new policy designed to eliminate conflict of interest following a council meeting in July during which several cases of conflict and perceived conflict were discussed. (See the July 26 Lamorinda Weekly article, “Conflict of interest in commissions is causing trust issues in Lafayette,” in the archives.)

Samson, who said he believes this is the most important issue facing the city today, presented his draft of the resolution and policy with

changes intended to clarify that commissioners may not represent clients coming before any board. Currently they may represent but must recuse themselves – a practice which, according to Samson, on a couple of occasions has not happened.

The proposed policy prohibitions would extend to firms employing immediate family members. It would stipulate a one-year post-service period of exclusion, except in cases where a member is representing a personally owned property.

During the public comments, attorney and Lafayette resident Scott Sommer listed multiple violations going back over years – at least one of which resulted in a commissioner being fined by the Fair Political Practices Commission for violation of the California Political Reform Act back in 2008.

... continued on page A3

## Process launched to recruit new town manager

By Sophie Braccini



Bob Priebe participated in the recent Moraga Chamber golf tournament to support the Moraga Orinda Professional Firefighters Association  
Photo Wendy Scheck

Moraga town manager Bob Priebe is adamant: He says that the snafu that followed the town’s declaration of fiscal emergency and the questioning of staff’s pay raises at the time have nothing to do with his resignation this month.

The manager, who will be 66

in a few months, explains that the impact on his family life was beyond what could be expected when he signed a three-year contract in 2016 taking the town manager position. He will retire on Dec. 17.

The Moraga Town Council approved signing a contract with Peckham & McKenney on Sept. 13 for the recruitment of a new manager. The search is expected to last six to nine months, probably past Priebe’s last day in office.

Priebe says that he wished to make the announcement himself, after the vacation he took for the birth of his fourth grandchild in Oregon. The town council was informed of his decision and according to Council Member Dave Trotter, the town’s attorney advised against making a public announcement immediately, though the news about Priebe’s resignation had been posted by a

resident on social media.

When Priebe replaced departing manager Jill Keimach as interim in Feb. 2016, he climbed the stairs that separated his former chief of police office to the town manager’s office with great pride and excitement. In March of 2016, the massive sinkhole formed on Rheem Boulevard, and Priebe and his team rose to the challenge. He says that emergency situation management is in his DNA. The following September he signed a three-year contract to hold the permanent position.

Then in April of 2017 the Canyon Bridge was closed and Moraga’s reserves thinned so much that Priebe, with his administrative director Amy Cunningham, decided to propose declaring a fiscal emergency to the council.

... continued on page A4

<b>Civic News</b> A1-A12	<b>Life in Lamorinda</b> B1-B10	<b>Sports</b> C1-C4	<b>Our Homes</b> D1-D16
Airbnb reaches tax agreement with city of Orinda – page A5	Campos alum helps pets in Houston – page B1	Girls volleyball back at the net – page C1	Local roots of Lamorinda wineries intertwined – page D1
<b>Fire Districts</b> A8			
MOFD secures new contract agreement for Station 43 – page A8			



**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Monday, Sept. 25, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

Monday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**

Monday, Sept. 25, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, Oct. 4, 7 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

**Lafayette School District**

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
District Office Board Room  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

**City of Lafayette:**

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

**Chamber of Commerce:**

www.lafayettechamber.org

LAFAYETTE POLICE	
<b>Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 27-Sept. 2</b>	
<b>Alarms</b>	35
<b>911 Calls (incl hang-ups)</b>	4
<b>Noise Complaints</b>	5
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	96
<b>Suspicious Circumstances</b>	8
<b>Suspicious Subjects</b>	11
<b>Suspicious Vehicles</b>	12
<b>Service to Citizen</b>	14
<b>Abandoned Vehicle</b>	
1000 Block Circle Creek Dr.	
1500 Block Silver Dell Rd.	
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.	
<b>Animal Cruelty</b>	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1st St.	
<b>Barking Dog</b>	
1600 Block Reliez Valley Rd.	
<b>Civil Disturbance</b>	
3600 Block Bickerstaff St.	
<b>Civil Problem</b>	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1100 Block Nogales St.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
<b>Civil Standby</b>	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
<b>Drunk In Public</b>	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
<b>Fire/Ems Response Info</b>	
200 Block Lafayette Cr.	
<b>Fireworks</b>	
3300 Block Mildred Ln.	
<b>Found Property</b>	
Police Department	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Hampton Rd.	
<b>Fraud False Pretenses</b>	
1000 Block Lindsey Ct.	
<b>H&amp;S Violation</b>	
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.	
10 Block Brookdale Ct.	
<b>Harassment</b>	
3300 Block Victoria Ave.	
<b>Hit And Run Misdemeanor</b>	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
<b>Panhandling</b>	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
<b>Patrol Request</b>	
Camino Diablo/Stanley Blvd.	
<b>Petty Theft</b>	
900 Block S Thompson Rd.	
3300 Block Mildred Ln.	
<b>Phone Harass</b>	
700 Block Las Trampas Rd.	
<b>Public Nuisance</b>	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.	
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	
Glenside Dr./St. Marys Rd.	
Springhill Rd./Quandt Rd.	
Moraga Rd./Moraga Blvd.	
<b>School Assembly Check</b>	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
<b>Unwanted Guest</b>	
1000 Block Aileen St.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
<b>Vandalism</b>	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1000 Block Serrano Ct	
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.	
<b>Verbal Dispute</b>	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	

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## 'Being Mortal' author focuses on what's important toward the end of life

By Pippa Fisher



Dr. Atul Gawande, bestselling author of "Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End" Photo provided

With today's fastest growing segment of the population being 85 years old and up, there has never been a better time for planning how and on what terms one wants to live a full life through the "golden years."

There are few people in the country better able to steer a conversation in that direction than bestselling author and surgeon Atul Gawande. Lamorinda residents will have an opportunity to attend a telecast by Gawande Sept. 25 in Lafayette.

The live-streamed event featuring an interview with Gawande, author of "Being Mortal: Medicine

and What Matters in the End," is being put on by Beacon Hill Village in celebration of 15 years of the "village movement." Gawande wrote his book to open a discussion about how people might "live successfully all the way to their very end."

Boston's Beacon Hill Village started the movement in 1999. The founders wanted to stay engaged in their own neighborhood but recognized they would need support as they aged. A Village comprises a group of residents who form a non-profit to provide connections and services to support the elderly aging in their own homes, as opposed to being moved to senior care fa-

ilities. There are now close to 250 villages in the country.

Lamorinda Village Executive Director Anne Ornelas says that Lamorinda Village has not done anything like this event before. "The telecast is something special and may not happen again anytime soon with Dr. Gawande. We are thrilled to have been invited by our sister village in Boston to join in on this event."

Following the telecast there will be small group discussions facilitated by Walnut Creek Eldercare Services Founder Linda Fodrin-Johnson.

"We think this is a truly special opportunity for all Villages who are taking part. Dr. Gawande will be talking about the concept of community and why it's so important particularly for those in their 70s and beyond," says Ornelas.

"The Village movement is an important part of the aging journey, particularly for those who are alone or have few social connections to help them with things. I hope this event brings more awareness of the resources available to older adults in Contra Costa. Villages are part of a network of resources that can help you stay independent and aging in your home or community."

When asked specifically about the book "On Being Mortal" Ornelas says, "I've read the book. I've given it to my mom to read as well. Many of our members have read it. Personally, I think that illness, death and dying are topics that make people uncomfortable and we need to get over that as a society. Dr. Gawande brings a humanistic approach to how people can plan to live until they die. It's as simple as deciding that if you become ill, what are the things that are important to you during the treatment, or when to end treatment. Or if you can't do the things you used to be able to do or enjoy, finding new things that can replace them."

Ornelas says her mother has made some decisions that have changed how the rest of her life will be handled and says, "It's great, because we as a family now know what's most important to her in a different way than what we expected."

The event takes place from 2 to 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive in Lafayette. Residents should register for the free event online at www.lamorindavillage.org, as seating is limited.

### Rent Review Discussion at Lafayette City Council Meeting Sept. 25

The Lafayette City Council will discuss the merits and disadvantages of establishing a multifamily residential rent review program at its Sept. 25 council meeting. The proposed program is based on the program recently approved by the City of Concord. The public is invited to attend the meeting and offer comments. No formal action will be taken at this meeting.

To review Concord's rent review ordinance and staff report on the subject prior to the meeting, visit <http://www.ci.concord.ca.us/pdf/city-gov/agendas/council/2017/0502/6A.pdf>.

## Lafayette Chamber of Commerce finds new digs after the fire

By Pippa Fisher



The new location of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce beginning Nov. 1. Photo Pippa Fisher

Nothing slows the energy of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, not even a catastrophic fire that burned the building down for a total loss. Now, rising from those ashes, the Chamber has announced its new home will be just around the corner from the old location in an existing office building at 251 Lafayette Circle. It hopes to be in the new space on Nov. 1.

Chamber offices had been relocated temporarily to the Lafayette School District office since the fire on July 13 that caused damage estimated at over \$1 million and displaced several businesses, including La Finestra

Restaurant along with the Chamber of Commerce offices.

Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson says that he is glad to take this job off his "to do" list. He says they looked at over 25 locations.

"We had set up a list of priorities and the new digs qualify on nearly every detail: core downtown, visibility, parking, conference room, windows, no stairs, a kitchenette, air-conditioning."

The property, which they will lease from Pacific Coast Proper-

ties, needs some work. Lifson says they will be removing some interior walls, doing some painting and some flooring work.

Lifson is delighted that it is just around the corner from the old location. He points out all the advantages, "It is on the ground floor, easy access, good parking and wonderful people to work with. Layout is a little different with a few offices and a smaller conference room."

"Now," he says, "it is our job to make it warm and inviting."

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"Now," he says, "it is our job to make it warm and inviting."



## 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](http://www.lovelafayette.org)  
Or call City Clerk Joanne Robbins, City Clerk 925-284-1968  
Application deadline September 30, 2017. Positions open until filled.

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

### Winner of the 50th anniversary art contest



Photo provided

Lafayette Council Member Cam Burks, Mayor Mike Anderson and Acalanes High School student Sofia Cruz at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival with her winning 50th anniversary design. – Pippa Fisher



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## Lafayette determined to clean up commissions

... continued from page A1

With detailed documentation from commission meeting minutes in hand, Sommer provided many other examples of commissioners voting for each others' projects in an implied "you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours" arrangement. As many as five commissioners recused themselves on an ongoing basis, according to the documents.

Sommer drew the council's attention to ex-Design Review Commissioner Gordon Chong's comments following the Stanford Commission's report – an independent pro-bono consulting team brought in to examine the working of the commissions earlier this year. Chong referred to "... second rate developers" who "know how to co-opt the process and hire commissioners on the two commissions."

Sommer also took time to point to Planning Commissioner Thomas Chastain's and Design Review Commissioner Bob Cleaver's involvement on the Woodbury Highlands development. Notably, Cleaver's resignation, along with that of Design Review Commissioner Richard Marshall, from the DRC was also on the night's agenda.

Fifteen members of the public spoke up, overwhelmingly in favor of the revisions to policy, with one resident recalling her own experience when she witnessed commissioners, clients and staff colluding both before and after a DRC meeting. "It didn't matter that he (the commissioner whose project was being discussed) had recused himself. It was so blatant we almost took a photo," she said.

However one resident warned that the city would lose good people or end up with unqualified people on the boards. He urged the city council to "lead by example" if policy is changed. Another resident suggested that the city was taking "a sledge hammer to a thumb tack" in its approach and said that the policy changes are really only needed for DRC and LPC.

And in fact that became a recurring question: should the new policy be applied to all commissions and the city council?

City Council Member Mark Mitchell noted that while most are referral bodies, the DRC and PC are quasi-judicial, having the ability to make decisions and thus may need a stronger standard. Mitchell said that he would be fine with the new restrictions at the city council level, and pointed out that he already adheres to it in his real estate business by deliberately choosing never to accept work in Lafayette, but said he thought the policy would be hard to implement at city council level.

Lafayette Mayor Mike Anderson agreed with Mitchell that the focus should be on the DRC and PC. He said there was a need to clarify policy and build confidence and that although there are currently FPPC policies in place for recusals, "if they are not being followed, that's an issue."

Vice Mayor Don Tatzin appeared to have more reservations, raising theoretical "what if" questions to Samson about exactly what would constitute conflict, such as

relationships to vendors, for example. Samson in turn acknowledged, "It needs fine-tuning" but said he thought it important to draw a bright line or clearly defined rule, as the city needs transparency.

President of Save Lafayette Michael Griffiths said, "I would underscore the long list of commissioner violations, condoned by the city attorney and city manager. The ordinance is a first step." He says that an independent ethics commission needs to be established. "City staff, city council, commission/committee members, project applicants need to sign project-specific compliance agreements. Recusals should be for a minimum of two years. Finally, there is the ongoing investigation by the FPPC, which will shed even more light on the situation," Griffiths said.

Deborah Callister and Mary Jo Cass of The Coalition to Save Leigh Creekside Park said via email that CSLCP supports the council's proposed resolution "for representations related to commission and committee positions" to mitigate conflict-of-interest issues in the city. "Numerous speakers at Monday night's city council meeting expressed concerns about the pervasiveness of conflict of interest and related problems. For example, the CSLCP is working to protect Lafayette's critical riparian and natural habitat at Leigh Creekside Park, but we have encountered problems with substandard and flawed environmental studies, pre-determined outcomes, a broken covenant between the city and residents, inherent bias, and conflict of interest at the commission level. These problems have led to faulty decision-making and the erosion of public trust in city governance. We are hopeful that this proposed conflict of interest policy will help restore trust and open governance in the city of Lafayette."

Sommer commented after the meeting, "A number of groups are now 'connecting the dots' between how this group of architect commissioners has worked for their clients and the multiple projects approved in Lafayette, which have significant adverse impacts on traffic and the city's character."

"I am pleased with the initial draft language that will enhance the current requirements in place to prevent conflicts of interest in our planning and design review processes," said Anderson. "The trick will be to simplify the draft to make sure that commissioners can clearly determine how this affects their firm or associates ability to pursue projects in Lafayette. The effort here is to improve the perception of these processes by the residents of the city, while recognizing that our commissioners are typically practicing professionals of regional, if not national acclamation, that have been essential to the thoughtful yet vibrant development of the city."

In the end, the council (minus Burks who was absent) decided to send it back to the subcommittee together with the city attorney to refine language and to give clarification on the relationships with vendors and other possible related parties. It will come back to the city council at the Oct. 23 meeting.



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## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 7 p.m.  
 Wednesday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m.  
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Monday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m.  
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Design Review

Monday, Sept. 25, 7 p.m.  
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### School Board Meetings

**Moraga School District**  
 Thursday, Oct. 10, 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

Summary covers Aug. 29 to Sept. 12

#### Accident

S/B Canyon Rd  
 motorcycle involved  
 Saint Mary's College  
 pedestrian

#### Alarms

total 7 calls

#### Assault

Aegis caretaker/resident

#### Civil

Golden Palace Rest.  
 Car door scratched

#### Dog Bite

Rheem Center woman bitten  
 breaking up dog fight

#### DUI

Moraga at Draeger  
 location n/a  
 Moraga Star Gas

#### Domestic Dispute

location n/a spouses with  
 memory problems

#### Forgery

Aegis

#### Larceny

Skate park gift cards  
 Safeway \$300 diapers

#### Lost/Stolen

phone report firearm  
 reported to police  
 motorcycle license plate

Campolindo High iPhone  
 location n/a bicycle

#### Psychiatric Hold

location n/a 43 year old male  
 Campolindo High

14-year-old female

location n/a female

#### Recovered Vehicle

Moraga parking lot



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## Surveillance cameras in Moraga confirmed for the end of the year

By Sophie Braccini



Town receives \$60,000 check for security cameras, from left: Kymberleigh Korpus, Tom Schnurr, Teresa Onoda, Bob Fritzky, Chief Jon King, Roger Wykle and Dave Trotter. Photo Andy Scheck

Chief of Police Jon King confirmed after receiving a \$60,000 check from the Moraga Community Foundation that his team would install six new security cameras on Moraga's busy traffic arterials before the end of the year. One is already in use on Moraga Way. The chief said, during the Sept. 13 Moraga Town

Council meeting when the check was accepted by the council, that along with the cameras installed in Lafayette and Orinda, the six new license plate readers and video cameras will be sufficient to cover suspicious vehicle spotting. The chief detailed after the meeting that the system will not be part of a larger connected database

that can identify stolen and suspicious vehicles and send automated alerts to officers. King said that a number of town residents did not want to have the local data travel on the internet. He adds that the online system is costly, but that Moraga will update its system with data regarding suspect cars. Also, when a vehicle suspected to be

implicated in a crime is identified, the information can be transmitted orally to surrounding agencies.

King would not divulge where exactly the cameras will be installed, but he explained that signs will be placed at the entrances to the town saying that active camera systems are in use. He believes it can be a deterrent to crime.

Moraga police will use the data, license plate reader and videos only in connection with active investigations. The existing camera was recently used to retrieve a stolen vehicle and identify the perpetrators. King recounts how his officers were given the time of the theft and how the license plate reader was not able to read anything.

"The license plate had been bent and was not readable," says King, "so the puzzled officers looked at the video that is installed alongside the plate reader and saw the vehicle." On the video, a second vehicle following the stolen one and driven by an accomplice was also identified. The information led to an arrest.

## Process launched to recruit new town manager

... continued from page A1

The decision alerted the residents about a situation that has been a reality for years: The town is underfunded and has not maintained its assets and infrastructure to the necessary level.

The dramatic move attracted a lot of media attention across the country, sometimes spreading misleading or inaccurate news such as a potential bankruptcy of the town, or that Orinda spends only 14 percent of its budget on employees – that percentage includes only direct payroll and not the police force that is contracted through the county.

Several residents and media also started questioning the salaries paid to the town's employees. Priebe, as well as the council members, have always been very supportive of staff, highlighting the long hours and quality of the work of the 36 staff members. The manager said that what he calls a smear campaign is the work of a minority of misinformed people. If anything, he says that the attacks would make him want to stay longer.

But Priebe says that the impact on his personal life has been exces-

sive. He cites his last stay in a hospital in Oregon where his daughter was giving birth and where he spent hours in a quiet spot of the hospital talking to media, responding to emails, preparing documents and not being able to be there for his loved ones. He has now made his choice, and will leave the position when possible to enjoy his family, read books, pick up his trumpet and smell the roses.

The council decided to appoint Peckham & McKenney without competitive bidding to handle the recruitment. The same firm handled the enlistment of Jill Keimach seven years ago, as well as tens of

top public service executives in the Bay Area. Cunningham said that all the recruitment firms cost about the same, and that the \$27,000 payment to the firm will be funded by savings accrued when employees agreed not to reclaim some vacation days. Priebe explains that for some years the number of vacation days given to employees was uncommonly high, up to eight weeks, and that he was able to negotiate going back to a more traditional benefit level.

Council Member Kymberleigh Korpus asked if it would make sense to save the money spent on the recruitment firm. Priebe re-

sponded that agencies that post jobs online are inundated with hundreds of irrelevant resumes; Cunningham added that specialized recruitment firms are connected, know the potential candidates and can reach wide through specialized media.

The idea that the recruitment of the next person would be public was dismissed because it would preclude currently employed personnel to apply, but Mayor Teresa Onoda asked that public input be collected to hear what people will expect from the next town manager; Trotter agreed that the profile would be defined during a public session to be announced.

## Sinkhole and Canyon Bridge on their way out



On Sept. 18 WC Maloney Inc. started preparation work for the removal of Canyon Bridge. On Sept. 20 the heavy duty equipment should arrive and demolition will begin. The first two days of the week were used to protect the creek bed so debris is not carried

by the current. At the same time installation of the concrete replacement culvert began in the sinkhole. Once this is finished, the sections will be sealed before the hole is closed and the road repaired.

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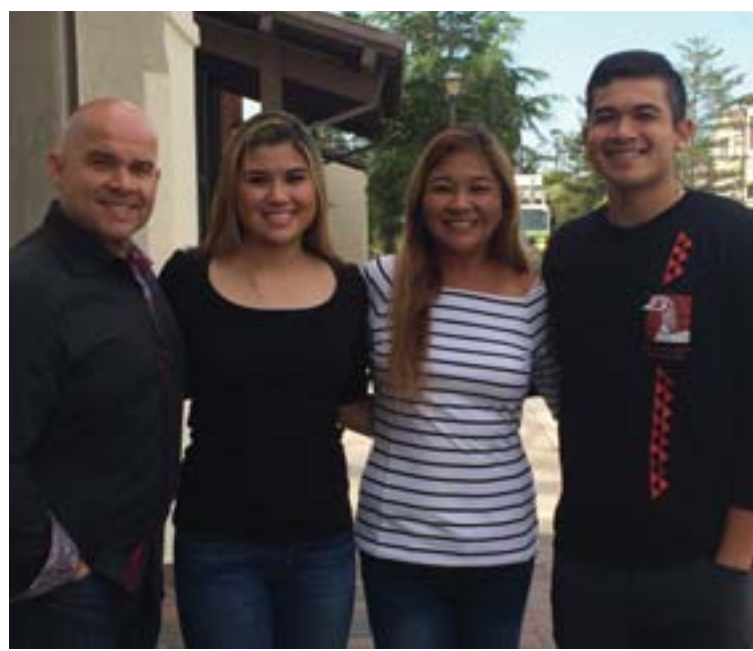
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# Country Club's new general manager Ron Haas

By Sophie Braccini



From left, Ron Haas with his daughter, wife and son. Photo provided

The Moraga Country Club has hired a consummate hospitality professional to replace Andrew Scott as general manager. Ron Haas is not boastful, but behind his ready wide smile one can detect the iron hand in the velvet glove. He is keenly aware that the club accommodates a large portion of the Moraga population and he plans to lead the club in the spirit of penultimate manager Frank Melon, mixing exclusivity and flawless service to members with involvement with the town. "My role is to create a great community here," he says.

Haas explains with pride that he is a third generation hospitality professional, from his grandfather who owned a bed and breakfast with a restaurant and gas station in Austria, and his father who worked in that industry starting in Vienna, moving to Bermuda where Haas was born. Haas completed his education in Austria before getting a job in Hawaii where his father worked. He says that his favorite part of hospitality is interacting

with people: clients and staff.

His wide experience includes working on boats – he says that is the ultimate way to learn the trade – hotels (Sheraton, Hilton, Hyatt), private clubs (Desert Mountain, Lake Las Vegas, Santa Lucia Preserve) and a health club/spa (Carmel Valley Athletic Club, Refuge). He met his wife in Hawaii; she is an educator and grant writer. He wants to create the experience people expect at the club, adjusting to different situations: at times relaxed and casual, at other times more formal. He wants his staff to understand and always provide the right experience for each patron. He believes that the "MCC product" is great, that it just needs some return to the basics and fine-tuning.

Haas has had his eye on the Moraga Country Club for a while, even when managing the Santa Lucia Preserve in Carmel Valley, because his son, while attending Holy Names College in Oakland, worked for the club's tennis director Mark Orwig. Haas says he will

take a clear sky on a warm day in Moraga any day over Carmel ocean fog. He also really appreciates the mix of challenges that represent MCC as both a homeowners association with 521 homes and a private country club. He adds that the board immediately made him feel like a welcome partner.

Haas' mantra is one club, one member, one experience. His father used to say what was important was to create the processes and the culture that make people want to work for the general manager. He is aware that MCC needs to mend some relationships, and he adds that he feels this has always been his strength.

Haas explains that the tennis and swim clubs are doing better, and that the process has started to hire more tennis pros and a new swim director. His vision is to make all the members, HOA or sports members, feel taken care of. He wants to create a harmony from the top down encompassing everyone. He adds that is why he had to let the swim director go, to have a clean slate to rebuild trust.

He notes that attracting people to work in Moraga is difficult because of the lack of public transportation. On Sept. 11 MCC held a job fair and Haas says that 11 very good candidates came, but he still has plenty of openings: six in "grounds and greens," and about as many on the hospitality side of the house. MCC is the second largest employer in Moraga, after Saint Mary's College.

Haas declares that what he likes about Moraga and the club is the comfortable and down to earth feel where you can be yourself. He relates that the board confirmed its desire to have the club be included and active in the town.

## Pear & Wine Festival

### Sat., 9/23, 11am-4pm

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## Orinda

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Tuesday, Oct. 3, 6 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Planning Commission

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

#### Citizens' Infrastructure

##### Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### School Board Meetings

##### Orinda Union School District

Monday, Oct. 9, 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. 27 to Sept. 9

<b>Alarms</b>	60
<b>Noise complaints</b>	10
<b>911 Calls (includes hang-ups)</b>	8
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	50
<b>Suspicious Circumstances</b>	6
<b>Suspicious Subjects</b>	13
<b>Suspicious Vehicles</b>	21
<b>Animal Cruelty</b>	
Bevmo	
<b>Battery</b>	
60 block Brookwood	
<b>Burglary, Auto</b>	
Don Gabriel Way/ El Camino Moraga	
Bryant Way/Moraga Way	
<b>Burglary, Residential</b>	
Orinda Senior Village	
<b>Credit Card Fraud</b>	
100 block Coral Dr	
<b>Death, Non-criminal</b>	
10 block Altarinda Rd	
<b>Disturbance</b>	
Donald Dr/Hall Dr (2)	
Hwy 24/Camino Pablo	
70 block Donald Dr	
Del Rey School	
<b>Dispute</b>	
Chevron	
10 block Aspinwall Ct	
<b>Fish &amp; Game</b>	
El Ribero/Camino Sobrante	
<b>Drunk in Public</b>	
500 block Moraga Way	
Wanda Ln/Muth Dr	
<b>Fireworks</b>	
El Toyonal/Loma Vista	
<b>Hazmat</b>	
200 block Alice Ln	
<b>Hit &amp; Run</b>	
30 block Orinda Way	
Vista del Mar/Camino don Miguel	
10 block Darnby Ct	
<b>ID Theft</b>	
100 block Coral Dr	
Reported to police	
<b>Injury Accident</b>	
Moraga Way/Coral Dr	
10 block La Vuelta	
10 block Bien Venida	
<b>Missing Adult</b>	
50 block Crest View Dr	
<b>Medical</b>	
80 block Van Ripper Ln	
Reported to police	
Bevmo	
Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd	
<b>Public Nuisance</b>	
Bevmo	
Safeway	
10 block Hacienda Cir	
Starbucks	
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	
Camino Pablo/Claremont	
Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr	
Wagner Ranch Elementary	
St Stephen's/Hwy 24	
Bear Creek/Camino Pablo	
70 block Donald Dr	
Wildcat Canyon Rd/Camino Pablo	
Tara Rd/Overhill Rd	
Moraga Way/Lloyd Ln	
<b>Shoplift</b>	
Safeway (2)	
<b>Theft, Petty</b>	
Bevmo	
Safeway	
60 block Brookwood Rd	
<b>Theft, Vehicle</b>	
Moraga Way/76 Station	
<b>Warrant Arrest</b>	
Hwy 24/St Stephen's Dr	



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## Mayor in a minority of one on streetscape plan; traffic calming proposal postponed

By Sora O'Doherty



Although Orinda Mayor Ev Phillips voted against it, the rest of the city council fully supported approval of a draft letter seeking Measure J funds for the Orinda Streetscape Master Plan and allocation of \$50,000 in matching funds at its Sept. 5 meeting.

Phillips opposed the measure because she thinks that Orinda has

enough existing plans that cannot be implemented, but Council Member Inga Miller pointed out that the city has a great outdoor living room because they planned the civic streetscape in the past.

Council Member Dean Orr explained that the measure is the vehicle for staff to seek more grants. Planning Director Drummond

Buckley noted that the last time Orinda got a grant offer, the city finished the streetscape plan.

On Sept. 7 the city of Orinda received the final report from the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Technical Assistance Panel, which addresses the vision for downtown Orinda, potential changes to downtown development and land use provisions, suggestions for San Pablo Creek restoration, and streetscape design concepts.

Staff will return to the city council with a report regarding potential next steps, both in terms of the process as well as the range of options that may be considered based on the findings and recommendations of ULI and the National Main Street Center, which has been conducting a parallel study. NMSC presented its final report to the council on July 5. Printed copies of the final ULI report are available for review at the planning department counter of Orinda City

Hall as well as at the Orinda library.

Another matter the council considered at its Sept. 5 meeting, but decided to delay, was for traffic calming on Camino Pablo between Monte Vista Road and Bear Creek Road/Wildcat Canyon Road. Three alternatives were presented: the installation of a radar speed display sign, reducing the width of the travel lanes or installing flexible delineator posts to separate bicycles from vehicles (see image).

While the council members seemed to think that the delineator posts would be the most effective, they questioned whether they would be compatible with Orinda's semirural feel. Ultimately they decided to consider this proposal at a later date, so that it could be prioritized within the totality of the Capital Improvement Plan. The measure was requested by Reed Carter, who lives along Monte Vista Road.

## Airbnb and the city of Orinda reach tax collection agreement

By Nick Marnell

Starting Oct. 1, Airbnb, a website that lists residences and rooms for short-term rental, will collect and remit to the city of Orinda its 8.5 percent transient occupancy tax on all eligible bookings in the city. Guests will be charged the tax on the Airbnb bill and the company will make the payment to the city.

“This will be helpful, because otherwise, we would be dealing with each individual person,” said Steve Salomon, Orinda interim city manager.

Orinda has long had the 8.5 percent TOT on its books but never posted guidelines for how residents could operate their short-term rental properties. The city adopted an ordinance effective Oct. 5 that requires registration and imposes rules on short-term rentals, including the number of people and rooms available for rent at one time, noise limits and parking regulations.

“We want to make sure these short-term rentals are acceptable to the neighbors,” Salomon said.

Though Airbnb is the only company that has agreed to collect the TOT, Salomon advised that the city will monitor all of the short-term rentals for compliance. He estimated that between 100 and 200 of the units exist in the city.

“We need to consider this as a revenue source,” Salomon said, projecting between \$50,000 and \$100,000 in annual TOT receipts.

The city will publicize the new short-term rental regulations through its website and in its news-

letter, and Salomon said there will be a grace period of 90 days before the city will charge a penalty on unremitted taxes.

“Orinda is a great option for business travelers and for families looking for affordable Bay Area accommodations and we look forward to continued work with the city to welcome more guests to the region,” said Marisa Moret, Airbnb public policy manager, in a press release.

## The Year of the Czechs continues in Orinda with St. Wenceslas Festival

By Sora O'Doherty

It has been a year filled with Czech activities as Orinda joined with the Orinda-Tabor Sister City Foundation to celebrate the year of the Czechs in Orinda. On Sept. 29 the three-day St Wenceslas 2017 Czech Festival begins with the Czech Festival Gala Dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the Quarry House in Wilder, hosted by OTSCF in collaboration with Sokol SF.

Honoring over 25 years of citizen diplomacy between Tabor, the Czech Republic and Orinda, the dinner features a host of special guests, including a presentation by William Lobkowicz, American-born prince of Lobkowicz, current heir to most of the Lobkowicz lands and preservationist of four castles in the Czech Republic, including Lobkowicz Palace at the Prague Castle.

Born just outside Boston, Lobkowicz grew up an American and attended Harvard University before entering the world of finance. His life was turned around, however, after the wall came down and his amazing family history, which began in the 14th century, emerged. As the current proprietor of seven castles, and with the responsibility of centuries of artifacts, he and his wife, Sharon, and their three children moved part-time to Prague, determine to sort out and share their fortunes with the public.

Ambassador Marie Chatardova, Czech Permanent Representative to the United Nations, will

offer an introduction. Other dignitaries will attend the event, including Czech Consul General from Los Angeles Pavol Sepelak, Czech Honorary Consul General from San Francisco Richard Pivnicka, Slovak Honorary Consul General from San Francisco Barbara Pivnicka, and Czech-American Olympian Rink Babka.

Entertainment will be by Muzicka, a Prague-based folk music group, and dinner choices of goulash, roast pork or a vegetarian dish will be offered, in addition to a no-host bar with Czech beer and wine. Tickets are \$100 per person. For tickets, visit <https://czechfestivalgala.eventbrite.com> or send a check to: O/TSCF, P.O. Box 265, Orinda, CA 94563, indicating your dinner preference.

Prior to the gala, there will be an opening ceremony with music and vendors at 4 p.m. Sept. 29 in Orinda Community Park. The Czech Museum will also be open. The festival will continue starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30 and ending with the free showing of “Amadeus” beginning at 7 p.m. in Orinda Community Park, including a question and answer session with the producer.

During the day on Saturday there will be music, dancing, vendors, egg decorating and wheat weaving classes, children's storytelling, marionette shows and Czech Christmas ornaments. Other activities include a Czech lunch

offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., a presentation about Lobkowicz, an American in Prague, at 2 p.m. in the Community Center, and food trucks at 5 p.m. near the park.

The Festival will conclude at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1 with a concert of Czech composers Dvorak and Smetana in the Orinda Library Auditorium.

## Meet visiting Czech student Marek Vybiral

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo provided

At age 17, Marek Vybiral is Orinda's 17th visiting student from Tabor in the Czech Republic, and like his predecessors, he's having a blast. Brought to Orinda by the Orinda-Tabor Sister City Foundation, and staying with Orinda Union School District board member Cara Hoxie and her family, Vybiral arrived about two weeks

before high school started at Miramonte.

“Orinda is awesome,” he enthused, “the weather is great and the people are kind and helpful.” They are curious about him, too, when they learn he is visiting from Europe, and offer to help him.

... continued on page A12

We offer both a relaxed atmosphere and a sports bar, something for families, couples, students and seniors. On the menu you'll see many of Roman Italian specialties, from the classic bruschetta made with melted fontina cheese and sautéed mushrooms to mista and arugula salads, an array of wood-fired pizzas and paninis, and no shortage of primis and seconds. The restaurant has full bar and a generous wine list.

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## Wagner Ranch Nature Area committee discusses future use at inaugural meeting

By Sora O'Doherty

The excitement in the room was palpable Sept. 14 as a group of teachers, scientists, administrators and members of the public who are part of the Orinda Union School District Wagner Ranch Nature Area Committee held its inaugural meeting to explore how to make the nature area accessible to more students, and to more of the general public, while preserving it as a place of natural beauty for future generations.

One of the first opportunities this year to explore the nature area will be at the Eighth Annual Orinda Olive Festival presented by the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 1. The event is free, and includes olive oil tastings, nature arts and crafts, food and music, cooking demos, docent tours of the historic ranch, pond and garden activities, as well as turtles and goats.

Ex officio members of the committee are Chair Carol Brown, OUSD vice president; Jason Kaune, OUSD president; David Schrag, director of curriculum; and Stuart House, director of facilities. Other members include Bill Hudson, Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area; Craig Strang, Lawrence

Hall of Science; Sue Boudreau, teacher at Orinda Intermediate School; Marta Wallace, teacher at Del Rey; Liliana Spindler, garden aid at Wagner Ranch; and Linnea Burnett, teacher at Wagner Ranch and parent. Although Jason Kaune was not at the meeting, Superintendent Carolyn Seaton quietly observed the proceedings. Schrag agreed to take the position as secretary and Hudson agreed to be vice chair.

Schrag showed a short film and gave a presentation on next generation science standards, which emphasize the use of authentic phenomena and problems, and Strang talked about the work he is doing at Lawrence Hall of Science and for the state of California, and specifically about the BEETLES program (Better Environmental Education, Teaching, Learning & Expertise Sharing) and the importance of outdoor science and learning. Brown asked everyone present to share their wildest dreams for the nature area.

Most wanted to open the area to students in Orinda as well as to those in less well resourced districts like Richmond and Oakland, and to adults and seniors. There was an awareness of the

need to balance wide accessibility (including making the site compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act) and taking precautions to assure protection of the site. House said for sure the site needed bathrooms and ADA-compliant pathways, and recommended consultation with a landscape architect.

Words heard repeatedly included continuity and history, citizen science projects, stewardship of the land, and balanced use.

Jim Strickler, an OUSD substitute teacher, liked the idea of deep science taught through experience. Involving the children in the process he said, creates the future "us." Sarah Butler, former OUSD board member with a degree in environmental planning, said she had worked for the national parks and focused on preservation versus capacity. Marta Wallace said that protecting the land while using it is doable, and cited Yosemite's crowd control as an excellent example.

The committee agreed to meet monthly. The next meeting will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Oct. 17 in Room 4 at Wagner Ranch Elementary School. The meetings is open to the public.

## Orinda aims to help hurricane victims, teach empathy

By Sora O'Doherty

Hurricane Harvey left devastation in its wake, with many students in need of school uniforms and school supplies. Orinda hopes to help through a joint effort by the Orinda Union School District, the city of Orinda, Miramonte High School, and nonprofit Mindful Littles, called Orinda Cares. The group's first project, Helping Hands for Houston (HHH), is focused on supporting the student victims of Hurricane Harvey.

Partnering with HHH is Moraga-based backpack company, Sydney Paige, which is dedicated to promoting the importance of education and enriching the lives of children in need. Courtney Brockmeyer, CEO and founder of Sydney Paige, has been in contact with the department that serves homeless children in Houston. Normally, Brockmeyer explained, Houston has 6,000 to 7,000 homeless students; this year it is over 21,000.

People have been standing in lines for hours, she said, just to get a school uniform and a bottle of water. The providers in Houston have run out of everything.

According to Richard A. Carranza, superintendent of the Houston Independent School District, "Children will be dealing with the aftermath of a natural disaster, working to overcome fears of recurrence, loss, and other issues causing anxiety. ... Many of our students have lost everything, including basic school supplies. Providing them with quality backpacks and the tools to do their work in school will help them feel loved, cared for, and prepared."

... continued on page A9

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Carol Russell | CalBRE#02001215



**44 HONEY HILL RD | ORINDA**  
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Patti Camras | CalBRE#01156248



**25 MAYFIELD PL | MORAGA**  
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Suzi O'Brien | CalBRE#01482496



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## Fire Districts

### Public Meetings

#### Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors  
Wednesday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m.  
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

#### ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 1:30 p.m.  
Board Chamber room 107,  
Administration Building,  
651 Pine St., Martinez  
For meeting times and agendas,  
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

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# Healy reflects on his years with MOFD

By Nick Marnell



MOFD Fire Chief Stephen Healy: More mountains to climb Photo Andy Scheck

Stephen Healy spent barely any time talking about what he accomplished as fire chief of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

Rather, a relaxed Healy, who leaves the district Sept. 20, talked over coffee and toast almost exclusively about those he worked with in his 12 years with MOFD.

"I'll most miss the people," the chief said. "Since 2006, I have been involved with the hiring or promotion of just about everyone in the district."

His interactions with people gave Healy his highest highs, but also provided his top challenge once he moved into the fire chief seat. "Deciding who to hire," Healy said. "The final say on hiring a firefighter was the biggest difference I felt as chief. You have the responsibility to hire the best people, and for some, it was tough telling them this was not a career for them."

From day one, the chief set out to establish trust in communication. If Healy had the chance to improve one aspect of his job, it would have been figuring out a way to better communicate. "We've always struggled with this. Do I send emails? Do I do station visits? Should I go through the battalion chiefs? Hold more captain meetings? The firefighters still bring it up — communication (stinks)."

The human resources and the legal aspects of the fire chief job Healy struggled with the most. "It's unpleasant, and it's all gray. That's where you sink or swim — how you handle personnel issues. The public knows nothing about those issues. The firefighters know nothing. The board knows nothing. I will not miss that."

When Healy took over as fire chief in 2013, he jumped right into the firefighter contract nego-

tiations. The chief bore the brunt of the rhetoric and emotion along the way, as he tried to remain sensitive to both the board and the union.

His peers helped him through that tough time, and Paige Meyer, fire chief of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, sat at the top of the help list. "During negotiations, I would call Paige, worried that the whole thing would blow. I'd call him at the end of the day, 'Dude, I'm worried, I'm nervous.' Paige was empathetic. 'I've been there. I've done it. You'll be OK. You're doing the right thing.' He was always there when I needed him."

As for the negotiated contract, "I felt good about everything except the pay cuts. The emotional impact had a big effect on a lot of people."

Operationally, Healy said he was happy with the district's lowered score assigned by the Insurance Services Office, which improved the district rating from a 3 to a 2, helping lower fire insurance premiums for some residents. And the chief repeated with pride that not one home in the district has been destroyed by a vegetation fire since 1988.

The rift between the two municipalities of the eponymous district over a perceived inequitable tax allocation barely registered on Healy's radar. "It's exaggerated. A small group of people are trying to make something more than what it

is. I respect their passion, but I do not agree with their philosophy. MOFD is more than just Moraga and Orinda. We cover the reservoirs, Tilden Park, Canyon, what is it, 38 different tax zones?"

The chief may have downplayed his efforts, but others recognized his legacy. "It was great working with Chief Healy," said Local 1230 President Vince Wells. "He understood the importance of a good labor-management relationship."

"Chief Healy came in at a very difficult time and did a tremendous job getting everyone together to save the district," said Kathleen Famulener, MOFD board president. "The lights in the district remained on because of him."

Healy will continue to announce the football and lacrosse games at Monte Vista High School, where his son plays both sports. As a highpointer, the chief has scaled the highest peaks in all of the western states except for those in Wyoming, Montana and Colorado, and he intends to complete the list. "And I want to see a Steelers football game in Pittsburgh, a Denver Broncos game and a hockey game in Montreal."

But he likely will not have a lot of free time. "You can let everyone know that I am definitely looking for a job," the chief said, as his phone buzzed with another inquiry from a recruiter.

## Higher costs and protracted completion date for MOFD Station 43

By Nick Marnell

After the absence of construction activity over the last summer of 2017, the projected costs to rebuild Moraga-Orinda Fire District Station 43 jumped more than \$1 million and completion of the station has been delayed until late 2018.

At a Sept. 6 special meeting, the district terminated its agreement with Pacific Mountain Contractors, the company originally chosen to rebuild Fire Station 43, and awarded a new construction contract to Federal Solutions Group, a San Ramon-based minority-owned federal contractor.

Pacific pulled out of its agreement with MOFD over what it cited were significant errors in the plans and specifications for the rebuilt fire station. Rather than litigate, the district attempted to renegotiate, but MOFD determined that Pacific was unwilling to build the station at any price, demanding release from the contract in June.

According to the separation agreement, Pacific paid MOFD \$54,000 to walk away and agreed to assign \$110,000 of preparatory work owed to its subcontractors. The district absorbed the subcontractor charges and built them into

the terms of its \$3.34 million contract with Federal.

Adding costs incurred by Pacific, legal charges and the projected increases for labor and materials, the estimate for the rebuilt fire station rose from \$4 million to \$5.4 million, though the district has not approved \$500,000 of the recommended architectural, construction manager and contingency costs.

Things could have been worse.

The district was able to quickly secure the agreement with Federal, one of the original bidders on the station project, which resubmitted the lowest revised pricing to

complete the fire station. That saved MOFD from another round of competitive bidding to select a contractor, likely pushing the project completion into mid-2019.

"It's a very unfortunate situation," said Kathleen Famulener, MOFD board president. "The original contractor underbid the project, and we couldn't continue. We are lucky to have worked out a deal and the new contractor is ready to go to work within weeks."

Louis Parsons, who signed the Pacific termination agreement, did not return calls seeking further explanation for the company's action.

## Spirited assistant chief takes over ConFire operations division

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District promoted Battalion Chief Ed Gonzales to assistant chief of emergency operations in a restructuring of the district divisions in August. Gonzales replaces Assistant Chief Lon Goetsch, who takes over the district training division.

Gonzales climbed the rungs from firefighter to engineer to captain to lead the district's busiest battalion, No. 8, since 2014. It makes one wonder how the energetic assistant chief will adjust to the office in Pleasant Hill, away from the action in east Contra Costa County.

"On a day like today, I ask myself that," said Gonzales, waiting

over an hour in the lobby for a preceding meeting to end.

Gonzales said that the staffing for Fire Station 16 in Lafayette is a priority, and that the problem with the sewer line at the station site has been resolved with the Contra Costa Central Sanitary District. The fire district expects to reopen the station in November 2018.

ConFire will find out this fall if it receives a federal grant for the hiring of another company at Fire Station 1 in Walnut Creek. "If we qualify, that will help our response into Lafayette," Gonzales said.

The new assistant chief said a huge priority will be to develop the ConFire personnel. "The average age is lower than in any time in my career," said Gonzales, a 28-year district veteran. "There is not a lot of experience among the personnel, and call volumes are going up

every year. We have firefighters on the staff who were not even born when I started."

The newest firefighters will not be assigned to the district station with the lowest call volume, Lafayette Fire Station 17, Gonzales said. ConFire does not like to put new firefighters there, as they need to gain experience at a busier station.

Gonzales said that those who choose to work at Station 17 — and not many bid for the assignment — include firefighters who are recovering from injuries, those who have worked at a busy station and may need a down year, and those who are studying for a test. It's the same job, with the same demands, just fewer of them.

Not only will Gonzales spearhead the development of new firefighters, he will also mentor new battalion chiefs. Of 10 battalion chiefs,



New Assistant Chief Ed Gonzales addresses the ConFire board Sept. 12.

Photo Nick Marnell

six will soon be retiring, he said.

Gonzales scored No. 1 on the promotional lists for both his 2003 appointment to captain and his 2014 battalion chief appointment. "I've got a chance to impart my years of operational experience to a new group who can benefit," Gonzales said.

## A somber ceremony at MCC



The Moraga-Orinda Professional Firefighters Association presented the Posting of the Colors during the 9/11 ceremony at the Moraga Country Club. The color guard, front to rear, comprises Capt. Steve Gehling, firefighter-paramedic Jeff Keena and firefighter-paramedic Anthony Stephens. Across the front of Truck 41, from left, stand firefighter Mark DeWeese, engineer-paramedic Matt Epperson and Capt. Mike Rattary.

— Nick Marnell

Photo Nick Marnell



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**Town Hall in Orinda**

Assemblywoman Catharine Baker will be hosting a Town Hall in partnership with Contra Costa Supervisor Candace Andersen and Orinda Mayor Eve Phillips on **Monday, September 25 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm in the Orinda Library Auditorium.**

Come share your thoughts on the issues you care about and get an update on the legislature’s plans for 2017.

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Request for signal evaluation from concerned citizen**

Since reading about the fatal accident involving a pedestrian at the intersection of Moraga Boulevard and Moraga Road, I have looked at the operation of the traffic signal at that site. The intersection is a T intersection with Moraga Boulevard ending and turns to the right or left are the only options. As right turns can be made regardless of whether the light is green or red when no traffic is coming down Moraga Road, the only use of the light being green is to turn left from Moraga Boulevard onto Moraga Road. There is a crosswalk from the left side of Moraga Boulevard across Moraga Road which has a walk permitted signal that allows pedestrians to cross the street. My concern is that when the pedestrian signal allows crossing the light allowing vehicle traffic to turn left across the crosswalk is green. Unfortunately when cars are coming to the intersection they often will hurry up when the light is green or just turning yellow to allow them to get onto Moraga Road. Sometimes they are not paying attention to the crosswalk when this happens. Since this is a crosswalk used by Lafayette elementary school students, the pedestrians often are not paying attention to cars that could cross the crosswalk. I would like the city to evaluate this signal and alter the configuration so the lights

are all red when the crosswalks allow pedestrians to cross. Hopefully this will help prevent future car vs. pedestrian incidents.

Robert L Linville, DVM  
Lafayette

**Response to letters about Lafayette and its city manager**

In response to recent letters printed in a competing newspaper from a friend of the City Manager (CM), perhaps a few facts would help. Citizen groups oppose the City on numerous issues, including CM compensation (\$360,000) and severance (\$540,000+), which coincidentally are currently under review by the City Council.

Lafayette was a fine community long before the current CM took office. However, during the past decade much has changed. The Fair Political Practices Commission has commenced an investigation into illegal activities by a Planning Commissioner, fined another commissioner, and now other commissioners may be included in this investigation. The City is facing three citizen lawsuits for improper decisions, a new low in the City’s history. The amount of wrongdoing is appalling.

A City Council and CM-sponsored tax measure was defeated overwhelmingly. City projects have run millions of dollars over budget. Traffic congestion and

parking issues abound. All of this and more under the management of the CM.

The CM often refers to how fiscally strong the City has become under his tenure, implying it was due to his financial management. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Lafayette was incorporated as a “no property tax” city, and when Prop 13 was passed they paid the same proportionate amount as other cities, but were allocated by the State Legislature the same amount as prior to Prop 13, i.e., nothing. About 25 years ago through the efforts of Richard Holmes and others, Lafayette was able to obtain going forward a portion of the property taxes they lost. The current CM had nothing to do with obtaining these property tax revenues.

On the City \$12 million budget, these property taxes now amount annually to over \$4 million, which were nil 20 years ago. Since that time the CM has managed to spend most of this now annual \$4 million increase, or over \$30 million in the last ten years. Clearly, not frugal management and not something for which he should take credit.

Maybe it is time for the CM to move on and for the City to recover its moral character.

Michael Griffiths  
Lafayette

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](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for submission guidelines. Email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

**Orinda aims to help hurricane victims, teach empathy**

... continued from page A7

During the HHH project, service learning initiatives will be launched at all OUSD sites and at Miramonte High School. The backpacks cost \$31.75, which includes the cost of bag and shipping. Sydney Paige will bring backpacks and supplies to Orinda for the backpack “Assembly Party” from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15 at the Orinda Community Center where students and community members will come together to fill each purchased backpack with supplies. Also included with each backpack will be student-created messages of hope and compassion from the

Orinda students to those in Houston. The company will box the filled backpacks and ship them directly to the Houston department for distribution.

Orinda Cares hopes to raise enough funds to provide 1,000 backpacks filled with necessary school supplies, while educating and inspiring children to be compassionate global citizens, and engaging students in hands-on service learning projects to help Houston children in need.

For information, visit [signeypaigecare.com/orindacares](http://signeypaigecare.com/orindacares).



**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](http://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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## Looking Good in Lamorinda

## Falling for fashion

By Moya Stone



Fashion items available at Glamorous Boutique in Lafayette

Photos Moya Stone

Eliza Jamkochian from Glamorous Boutique in Lafayette says, "There are so many options now" for this year's fall fashions. But to narrow it down, Lamorinda ladies are enjoying Jamkochian's new daywear additions, including denim jeans and jackets, cotton T-shirts, and comfy cotton sweaters. Cocktail dresses and simple straight-line day dresses are still staples for the store and Jamkochian tells me that lace is big as are animal prints, "denim on denim is huge" and get ready for it ... cigarette pants! You can see for yourself what Glamorous Boutique has to offer at the upcoming Ladies Night event from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19.

New fashions need new lipsticks. Right? Bluemercury beauty store in Lafayette says that mauve is what's trending in lip color. An off-pink shade, mauve is a refreshing alternative to the usual reds and berries we see this time of year. For a complete new makeup look, Bluemercury is having a Fall Beauty Festival Oct. 19-22. Stop by the store for details, 3543 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

For the guys this season, Venture in Lafayette says it's all about the sock. Store manager, Perry, calls them spicy socks and explains that guys are continuing to sport colorful patterned socks with their conservative attire to show some personality. Also popular for Lamorinda fellas this fall are all-over print Oxford shirts and stretch

jeans.

Bel and Bunna's bookstore in Lafayette stocks many a fashion book for young fashionistas. According to store owner Clarabell McNeill, one of the biggest sellers is "Descendants 2: Evie's Fashion Book," a close-up look at the many costumes featured in the popular Disney movie. Another favorite is "The Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them Fashion Sketchbook," an activity book inspired by the 1920s fashions in the film based on JK Rowling's fantasy novel. Additionally there are vintage fashion coloring books and "Build Your Own Superheroes Sticker Book." McNeill reminds us that she is happy to special order any book.

Speaking of books, fall is perfect for mysteries. My latest read is a fashionable mystery by New York Times bestselling author and fashion journalist Plum Sykes. "Party Girls Die in Pearls" (Harper Books) is set in 1985 in Oxford, England where college roommates Ursula Flowerbutton and Nancy Feingold stumble upon the dead body of India Brattenbury (even the names are stylish) their well-dressed glamorous classmate. Of course the pair must solve the murder mystery and away we go on an English adventure full of humor and cultural references not to mention lots of fashion detail. I particularly appreciate the nod to pearls given that it's the jewelry trend of the season.

Calling all hat lovers! There are

a few more days left to see Degas, Impressionism and the Paris Millinery Trade at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco. This popular exhibit is an exploration of hats in Paris reflected in the works of impressionists including Degas, who himself came from a fashion oriented family, Renoir, Cassatt, Monet, and Toulouse-Lautrec among others. Each of these artists took an interest in the making of hats and the women who wore them. Among the 40 works of art are images of milliners at work, hat shops, and women in conversation donning spectacular chapeaux often draped in ribbons or topped with colorful plumes. You can see the exhibit through Sept. 24.

Enjoy the new fall threads and go forth in style!

(Moya Stone is a fashion writer and blogger at overdressedforlife.com.)



## Longtime Lafayette resident gets Lifetime Award

By Pippa Fisher



Kathryn Lyddan, winner of this year's Sustainable Contra Costa Lifetime Award Photo provided

The seeds for 15 years dedicated to conservation were sown in the Moraga Community Garden, at least for this year's Sustainable Contra Costa's Lifetime Award recipient, longtime Lamorinda resident, Kathryn Lyddan.

"Kathryn has been a strong advocate for farm land preservation and sustainable agriculture for many years," explains Sustainable Contra Costa Senior Advisor Mark Westwind.

Indeed Lyddan, who was born in Canada but raised in Davis where her father taught at the university, has an impressive list of conservation achievements to her credit.

Lyddan currently works as Director of the Land Resource Protection Division at the California De-

partment of Conservation, a job she took last year. Working with state and local governments, land trusts, landowners, farmers, researchers, nonprofits and local governments they aim to conserve farmland, natural resources and open spaces, promote local agriculture, and build a sustainable California food system.

From 2003 through 2016 Lyddan served as the executive director of the Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust, a nonprofit established to permanently protect Contra Costa productive farmland and build a vibrant local agricultural economy on the urban edge of the Bay Area.

Lyddan has overseen a wide range of projects promoting food and farming through agricultural enterprise zoning and regional marketing, such as the Contra Costa Buy Fresh Buy Local marketing campaign and the Brentwood-Richmond Farm-2-Table Community Supported Agriculture.

She coauthored "Sustaining Our Bounty" (2011) and "Triple Harvest: Farmland conservation for climate protection, smart growth and food security in California" (2013).

Following her undergraduate degree at Davis, Lyddan graduated from Hastings Law School

and spent 10 years working as an attorney bringing a background of legal land use and public finance experience to her future direction in conservation.

Lyddan, who served on the Lafayette Planning Commission, lived for 10 years in Moraga and another seven in Lafayette. She raised two daughters here, both of whom attended Campolindo High School. She recently moved to Sacramento when she started her job at the California Department of Conservation in 2016.

Lyddan says emphatically that her longstanding involvement with the Moraga Gardens was hugely impactful on both her and her two daughters and certainly steered her towards farmland conservation. In particular she says that the garden's founder Dava Rajan was very influential.

She credits Rajan and also John Chapman, a previous chairman of the Greenbelt Alliance who passed away in 2016, as mentors. "This award is particularly sweet because I have devoted myself to protecting Contra Costa farmland for the past 15 years," Lyddan says as she notes that Chapman himself was a previous recipient of the award, making it all the more meaningful.

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# Andersen initially opposes interim district attorney appointment

By Nick Marnell



Photo National Association of Women Judges

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors appointed Diana Becton as interim district attorney to replace DA Mark Peterson, who resigned in June. The supervisors interviewed five candidates at their Sept. 12 public board meeting

and appointed Becton by a 3-2 vote.

Supervisors Diane Burgis, John Gioia and Chair Federal Glover voted for Becton, with Karen Mitchoff and Candace Andersen initially selecting county Senior Deputy District Attorney Paul Graves.

"While my first choice was Paul Graves because of his years of experience as a prosecutor, the strong support he received from county law enforcement agencies, and the stability he would bring to the office over the next 15 months for this interim appointment period, I look forward to working with Diana Becton," said Andersen, whose district includes Lamorinda. "She brings a wealth of experience from

her role as a judge and is fully committed to improving our county justice system."

Andersen and Mitchoff later changed their votes, making Becton's appointment unanimous.

The county received 12 applications for the DA position, and the supervisors narrowed the list to five on Aug. 1. The candidates took part in a three-hour public forum Aug. 15 and after passing a background check, they were invited to the final interviews Sept. 12.

Becton's term of office expires Jan. 7, 2019. The next election for the district attorney will take place in June, with a potential runoff election in November 2018.



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# A few local politicians' best friends

By Cathy Dausman



Orinda City Council Member Inga Miller with her apple headed Chihuahuas, Apple, 10, (left) and Melvin, 9.

In this dog-eat-dog world of politics, it is imperative to have a pack of loyal followers. Who better than those who are always by your side and only occasionally growl at the media? Saturday is national Dogs in Politics Day, a celebration first unleashed Sept. 23, 1952 when vice presidential candidate Richard Nixon appeared on national TV to defend accusations of his improper use of political funds. He vowed to keep just one gift – a black and white cocker spaniel his daughters had named Checkers.

White House residents have hosted four-footed friends right from the beginning. More recently Lyndon Baines Johnson kept beagles named Him and Her. President Clinton's chocolate Labrador retriever Buddy was his companion throughout the Monica Lewinsky scandal. George Herbert Walker Bush's English springer spaniel Millie was the subject of two books, and President Barak Obama popularized the Portuguese water dog breed, bringing Sunny and Bo to the White House.

Having a canine sidekick is a reality today in Lamorinda politics,

too. Moraga Mayor Teresa Onoda has a golden doodle, Lafayette Council Member Cameron Burks has Dori, Vice Mayor Don Tatzin has a collection of border collies, and Orinda City Council Member Inga Miller keeps apple headed Chihuahuas.

Aspiring politicians should note that a dog might just be their ticket for generating some all-important "paws-itive" press.



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Lafayette Vice Mayor Don Tatzin with border collies, from left: Tioga, Cloud and Greylock.



Moraga Mayor Teresa Onoda calls her golden doodle, Toby, "the smartest dog we have ever had." She adds, "He is also a calm, quiet dog."

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## Lafayette icon seismically unstable

... continued from page A1

But Russell Bowlus, DOSD northern regional engineer, offered this assessment: "Since the outlet tower also serves as the spillway for the dam, failure of the tower could cause an uncontrolled release through the spillway or outlet conduits - or both - or could block the conduits and not allow EBMUD to control the reservoir."

In its capital projects budget, EBMUD has approved modifications to the Lafayette Reservoir that include "seismic and gate control upgrades, and modification of the tower to act as a spillway capable of handling the revised probable maximum flood," meaning, the largest flood that could conceivably occur at the reservoir location. The district estimates the

probable maximum flood for the Lafayette Reservoir at a volume of approximately 4,300 acre-feet. One acre-foot of water equals 326,000 gallons, enough to cover an acre of land - a little smaller than a football field - one foot deep. The largest runoff at the reservoir over the past 10 years was 770 acre-feet.

The reservoir modifications were slated for construction in 2022, but in a June 30 letter to the district from Sharon Tapia, DOSD chief, she advised that "continued delays in addressing these issues are increasing the potential risk to public safety. Consequently, EBMUD's proposal to begin construction in five more years is unacceptable."

"It could be started by 2019,"

Coleman said.

Lafayette Council Member Cam Burks, the council EBMUD liaison, said he would like the district to hold a public forum to explain the technical details of the state rating and to fully outline the risks to the community. The city plans to agendize this topic at a council meeting.

Not everyone appeared worried about a potential catastrophe. "If it goes, we'll be the first to swim, but we aren't losing any sleep over it," said Ricardo Vitery, who lives in the Village Center neighborhood, the closest community below the reservoir. "We're more concerned for the victims of hurricanes Harvey and Irma."

## Fun at Lafayette's 22nd Annual Art and Wine Festival

By Pippa Fisher



Younger attendees of the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival enjoy bobbing around in human-sized hamster balls at the Kids' Zone. Photo Pippa Fisher

With absolutely perfect weather on tap, this past weekend once again saw Lafayette's downtown converted into a bustling art marketplace with residents and visitors alike enjoying the perfect wines and beers also on tap at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce's 22nd Annual Art and Wine Festival.

More than 50,000 guests were expected to throng the streets over the two days. Although the more than

250 booths featured mostly art and crafts for all tastes, there was plenty for the younger members of the community from the floating, spinning hamster balls to slides to bouncy castles between the two kid zones.

All this, plus delicious food and continuous great live entertainment on four stages, just goes to show it takes more than a fire to slow down the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

## Meet visiting Czech student Marek Vybiral

... continued from page A7

Vybiral, who is a schoolmate of the last visiting student, Adam Kraus, says that school here is easier, but he thinks that American education is better. At home he takes 14 subjects in school, while at Miramonte he takes only six: sports medicine, Spanish 3, French 4, English 4, economics and psychology, which he finds to be the hardest, with its many technical terms. At home there is more emphasis on memorization, but here he likes the combination of memorization and debate or discussion of the issues.

In the Czech Republic, Vybiral is an avid athlete who swims, skis, hikes, and cycles. At Miramonte

he'd like to try cross country running, and his host family plans to take him skiing this winter.

Not homesick yet, Vybiral has spoken with his family several times and sends frequent text messages. His little brother, David, 6, keeps asking for him. He also has a sister, 20, who is at Prague University, where Vybiral would also like to do his undergraduate studies. But he'd also like to do graduate work somewhere else in Europe, somewhere English speaking. He thinks he'd like to study law and international relations and speculates that it is possible that would lead him into the world of politics,

where he'd like to see improvements made in the Czech Republic. For example, he was disappointed in the turnout at the last election.

Vybiral has been invited to Orinda's St. Wenceslas 2017 Czech Festival and is looking forward to it. Of course, like any 17 year old, Vybiral is interested in food. At home his mother, who is a contract manager in a heating plant, cooks international dishes and traditional Czech cuisine like svickova na smetane (beef sirloin in sour cream sauce) and vepro-knedlo-zelo (pork roast with bread dumplings and sauerkraut.) But here he is enjoying cheeseburgers and Philly cheese steaks.

## Lifetime Award

"We've been increasingly understanding how important it is to have farmland in urban areas," she says, explaining that farming in Contra Costa County is important precisely because of its proximity to urban areas.

Lyddan points out that research is showing that agriculture has the potential to protect us and make us more resilient to climate change.

She sees a continued need for protecting farmland against housing development but says, "We

need to balance the need for affordable housing. I believe we can do it by sticking within our urban footprint for housing."

Westwind notes, "Through her work as the executive director of the Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust, she built bridges between farmers and conservationists that led to the protection of many acres of valuable farm land."

She will be receiving her award at the SCOCO gala on Wednes-

... continued from page A10

day, Sept. 20 at the Hilton Hotel in Concord. Registration is online at Sustainable Contra Costa's website www.sustainablecoco.ning.com.

The Gala's theme this year is "Our Choices. Our Impact." It is the annual fundraiser supporting SCOCO's work to educate and inspire people to grow food, save water, conserve energy and create a healthy resilient community.

Lyddan is certainly doing all of that.

# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Rescuing Harvey's Pets

By Sophie Braccini



Leanne Taylor and Liesl Peterson in the Houston pet shelter.

When Liesl Peterson started seeing rescue operations in Houston on TV, her veterinarian eye immediately noticed that most people did not have pets with them. The realization was enough to send her searching for ways to go to Houston and support rescue operations there, as the pets would be in need of rescue as well.

A 1988 Campolindo High School graduate, Peterson is the daughter of Bobbie Preston, Moraga's 2016 Citizen of the Year, and was raised with a focus on community service. She will be at her mother's home on Sept. 24 to help raise money for the Habitat for Humanity hurricane relief fund.

Peterson and her friend, Leanne Taylor, are both veterinarians in San Ramon. They decided to leave for Houston right after work on Thursday, Sept. 7. They arrived in Houston Friday morning, and were directed to a pop-up shelter in an abandoned grocery store. She says that there were at least 300 animals there when they arrived at 9 a.m., and 500 by the time they left on Saturday evening.

"It was more than I expected," she said, adding that she was glad she went.

On site, she and her friend endlessly worked assessing the health of the cats and dogs arriving in the shelter.

"There was no veterinary oversight, so six volunteer vets and a handful of techs set up and just started vaccinating as fast as we could," she explained. The vets separated animals into obvi-

ous contagious groups like kennel cough, ringworm, cat upper respiratory; severe medical needs like severe bite wounds, or nursing moms; and clearly aggressive pets. She added that the pets were much calmer overall than would have been expected. "They are less emotional and more adaptable than one might think," she said.

The pets were either transfers from other animal shelters that had been there for a long time to make room at that shelter, or owner surrenders that just showed up, or people dropping off strays that were lost in the aftermath of the hurricane.

Peterson found that the organization was better than during Hurricane Katrina, but she noticed that there were no government re-

sources, American Red Cross or FEMA representatives present, just random volunteers.

Peterson and Taylor had connected with the Austin Pets Alive group, which organized the shelter where they worked and other pet rescue operations in Houston. Peterson is a small animal vet, but going to Houston was the first time she was involved with an emergency operation and she said that it clearly took her out of her comfort zone. She felt so useful, however, that she is trying to organize her schedule and family duties to be able to go back again. She is sure that the needs are still big.

She described how difficult the conditions were, with no bathrooms (a few portable restrooms), no running water and a mountain of trash just outside the front door that was at least 20 feet long, 8 feet high and 6 feet wide, but she shared how heartwarming it was to witness when someone came to the shelter and was reunited with her two dogs that had fled and stayed together.

Peterson will be at her mother and stepfather's home in Moraga on Sept. 24 to tell her story and support Preston's fundraising event, which will benefit the Habitat for Humanity East Bay Silicon Valley Hurricane Relief Fund.

The Wine, Heirloom tomato, and cheese tasting is \$25 per person with wine donated by members of the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association, and organic heirloom tomatoes donated by Moraga Gardens Farm. Preston says that Habitat for Humanity has a long history of efficient, effective rebuilding after natural disasters with over 30 years of experience in community-based development.

For information about the hurricane relief fund, visit <https://give.habitatsv.org/Hurricane-Relief>. Registration for the event can be done at the door, or online. The donation is tax deductible. To RSVP, email Preston at [moragamama.bp@gmail.com](mailto:moragamama.bp@gmail.com).



Liesl Peterson takes a look at a stray dog someone brought to the Houston shelter.

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# Walking, rolling, running – fundraising fun on the trail

By Pippa Fisher



Walk n' Roll participants at a prior year's event.

Photo provided

Lafayette residents may notice a whole lot of fun happening on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail this weekend as Las Trampas takes to the trail for the Eighth Annual Walk n' Roll.

Members of the community are welcome to join in the family-friendly one-mile or 5K event, which kicks off at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23 from Las Trampas, 3460 Lana Lane in Lafayette, along the leafy trail.

Las Trampas Executive Director Daniel Hogue is looking forward to the day. "The energy of this event is always so fun and hopeful," he says. "Seeing clients, families, staff, and neighbors

come together for a morning of community and enjoy the wonderful resources we all share is really special. I wish everyone could experience that feeling of joy and belonging."

They welcome members of the community to join in the fun event. Hogue says, "There is always a small but mighty group of neighbors who join us for the Walk n' Roll. We would love to have more community members come out to enjoy the trail with us and stay for the music, refreshments, and other Walk n' Roll festivities."

He says that about 80 clients and family members participate

each year and about 30 staff members.

New this year is peer-to-peer participation. "We heard from our families, staff members, and community friends that they wanted an easy way to help support the Walk n' Roll, so we organized a peer-to-peer campaign this year," says Hogue. "Participants set up a fundraising page where they talk about why they support Las Trampas and the Walk n' Roll. They share it with their communities through email or social media and ask their friends and family members to sponsor their participation. It's a great way to share your support for Las Trampas."

Las Trampas is a center for the support of adults with developmental disabilities established in Lafayette in 1958. Their many programs allow individuals to reach their highest potential and lead full lives in their homes, at work and in the community.

Registration for this event is available online at [www.lastrampas.org](http://www.lastrampas.org) and costs \$25 per person, with children under five free. The fee includes a T-shirt, raffle ticket, goodie bag as well as face painting, refreshments and live entertainment after the event.

Says Hogue, "Come and join us on Sept. 23!"

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# Rotary trailer anything but campy

By Cathy Dausman



Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club member John Fazel demonstrates the trailer at the Moraga Community Faire.

Photo Andy Scheck

Streamlined. Compact. Lightweight. Those words define a standard teardrop trailer, but when it is an artisan version handcrafted by Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary members, you can add "gorgeous" and "drop dead handsome" to the list, says Rotary member Tom Black.

The organization's two hand-built canoes of the past were legendary woodworking accomplishments-cum-fundraisers; this year is no exception.

Dubbed the Teardrop Inn, the trailer, though small, represents thousands of hours of manual labor, "every minute of it contributed by members of our Rotary club," Black says proudly. Project manager Gary Fulcher readily admits, "This one was a lot more work than the canoes!"

It's been a long haul since a trailer prototype was introduced at last year's Lafayette Art and Wine Festival. Work began in earnest in January. Built atop a modest 5-by-

10-foot base, the trailer exterior is ash and Sapele wood sealed with three coats of urethane.

The hatchback kitchen features quartz countertops, a sink, two-burner propane stove and ice chest. Inside six touch-sensitive LED lights illuminate a memory foam queen bed nestled between cambered door cabinetry. Double doors allow plenty of fresh air in.

The trailer was showcased at the Orinda Classic Car Show Sept. 9, and appeared again at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival. Fulcher says market price for custom-built teardrop style trailers can be as high as \$25,000.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary built this for less, since labor was donated, but the Rotary Club hopes to clear an additional \$30,000.

With single raffle tickets selling for \$20 and six tickets for \$100, the lucky winner will tow home a sweet abode. And wouldn't that look nice topped with a Rotary-built canoe!

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# Positive Aging: Blueprint for Your Future?

By Linda Fodrini-Johnson

If you could design the final 10 to 20 years of your life, what would that look like? Do you see yourself traveling, healthy, learning and energetic? Or is it a life of body aches, illnesses, medications, less energy, not engaged, lonely and forgetful?

The Lamorinda Village and the Villages all over the country will be hosting a “virtual” event with Dr. Atul Gawande, author of “Being Mortal,” at 1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 49 Knox Drive in Lafayette. Dr. Gawande will speak on the power of designing communities that support “positive aging” through engagement and enrichment. His premise is living life every day; not being isolated but engaged by your design and values.

What if you could manage that trajectory to a more positive future with fewer deficits and more joy? Research is producing lots of reports on how we can slow down the negative parts of aging and enhance the positives of living our lives until they end – instead of disengaging years before.

As a professional care manager specializing in working with older adults for over 34 years, I have met many people on both sides of this journey of aging. Your attitude guides that journey, and it can go in one of two directions. Some fall into the role of “patient,” resigning to a diagnosis instead of being mentally healthy and working on any deficit with the attitude of “I can recover.” Others say, “I will enjoy my life” despite these setbacks. Be you and not your “illness” or condition.

If you want to write your own “blueprint” for a healthy future, it could include adjusting your attitude to being less pessimistic and more positive with intention. That does take work, and maybe with a little professional coaching and counseling, it can be done every day for those who want the best life can bring.

It does not cost a lot to invest in a better future, and even if you inherited some genetic factors that can’t be manipulated yet, scientists are working on those options.

Here are eight areas for you to start:

1. Exercise daily and factor in two important aspects of that with weight and balance training. The latter two become more important as we age. Start slow just 10 minutes twice a day of walking will help you attain your goal of at least 45 minutes of aerobic activity five days a week.

2. Diet: Whole foods (avoid processed foods), lean meats that are cage free and grass fed, wild fish, lots of veggies, legumes, fruits, and whole

grains – not just whole wheat, but whole grains. Then be sure to have healthy fats like olive oil, nuts and avocados. Before drastically changing your diet, be sure to consult your doctor. Genetic testing is an option to learn what your body needs for optimum health.

3. Have regular check-ups. Take advantage of the Medicare healthy aging examination every year. Be proactive against family illness, seek second opinions, have medications reviewed – you often don’t have to take a medication forever.

4. Mindfulness/Spirituality. Yes, this old practice of meditating daily reduces stress, enhances brain functioning and could be curative to some conditions. Individuals that practice a spiritual tradition can find opportunities to quiet the mind in prayer. Nature can be a place to sit or walk and empty the mind.

5. Engagement. Are you out and about meeting and socializing? Social engagement can add years to your life and often gives you purpose. Volunteering has been shown to reduce pain as well as increase endorphins. Being isolated is more negatively impactful on your health than smoking a pack of cigarettes a day. Even if you are homebound, there are activities and volunteer tasks you can do to stay engaged.

6. Brain Health. The statistics show that 50 percent of those over 85 are being affected with a dementia like Alzheimer’s disease. Maybe a family member was a victim of this disease, and you are worried – more the reason to do steps 1-4. Plus, continue to learn new information – take classes, read, join a book club, and play computer games that are action packed. Look for brain enhancing classes through the senior centers, Villages or Eldercare Services.

7. Forgiveness. Do not harbor hate or resentment of others. Learn to forgive others and yourself for the times you might have hurt others by your words or actions. Carrying old hurts is like carrying a ball and chain. Like the words in the “Frozen” song: let it go. If you struggle with this, make an appointment to see a counselor now.

8. Generosity. Giving to others in time, donations or financial gifts are ways in which to express your gratitude for what has been given to you. Just be sure to check out those who request funds or really know the organization you are giving to; scams are targeting older adults. When I have volunteered for mission trips or given to a charity, I have always come away with so much more than I gave. I see my gift as part of “life integrity” – helping to

make a footprint of good in a world of need.

Designing a blueprint for a good long life takes intention and sometimes a little coaching. Our lives are short, make yours the best it can be and seek out professional guidance if you are stuck, bored, depressed or anxious. Be positive, and have joy in every day. It is your life!



Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC is a Licensed Family Therapist and Certified Care Manager. She has been practicing professional care management (now called aging life care) since 1984. Linda founded Eldercare Services, a full-service care management and home care company in 1989, which now employs over 200 caring people. Eldercare Services has been providing Bay Area families with care management, home care services (caregiving), advocacy, counseling, support groups and education for 28 years.



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## AAUW Tech Trekkers thrilled by their experiences at STEM camp

Submitted by Jan Cushman and Sandy Fox-Sohner



From left: Katerina Bonderud, Kiara Kofoed, Maia West, Cathy Kenderski, Namratha Kasalanati, Olivia House, and Isabelle Lurie.

Seven eighth-grade girls from Lamorinda and their families were honored Sept. 5 at a reunion and reception following their July Tech Trek camp experience on the Stanford University campus. Katerina Bonderud, Kiara Kofoed, Namratha Kasalanati, Isabelle Lurie, Maia West, Olivia House, and Cathy Kenderski attended camp on scholarships sponsored by the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of the American Association of University Women. The OML Branch has been sending middle school girls to Tech Trek camp since 1998; to date, it has sponsored 79 girls.

Tech Trek math/science camp is designed to encourage rising eighth-grade girls to persist with their excitement about science, technology, engineering and math through high school, college, and into their careers. The program features numerous hands-on activities as well as a chance for the girls to make friends with other girls interested

in STEM and to meet professional women in STEM fields. At the reception, the girls shared that it was a very special experience to bond with "like-minded girls" who love science and math and to see their future in a variety of possible STEM careers.

In the opening motivational presentation, retired judge LaDoris Cordell encouraged the girls to stand up and speak out for their values: to be "upstanders" rather than "bystanders." Core classes included computer coding and cyber sleuthing, marine biology, CSI forensics, and engineering motion. The girls also took apart computers, wrote computer code, built mouse-trap and balloon cars, solved problems using DNA code, measured vitamin C in chemistry lab, and attended field trips to a marsh, VMWare, the Stanford blood lab, Google, and Stanford Bing Acoustical Concert Hall. They also met numerous professional women scientists and engineers.

## Japanese-American internment focus of OLLI course at LLLC

Submitted by Jennifer Monohan



LC-USZ62-17124 Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA

Starting Sept. 26, John Tateishi will be teaching a course 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 was interned as a young child with his family. As an adult, he led the campaign to seek redress for Japanese Americans interned during WWII; this campaign culminated in 1988 with an apology from the

President and Congress as well as financial redress for internees, many of whom lost homes and businesses. As executive director of the Japanese American Citizens League, Tateishi was a valued voice in discussions of the treatment of Muslim communities in the wake of 9/11.

The course is offered by UC Berkeley's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and is open to anyone over 50. More information is available at [olli.berkeley.edu/courses](https://olli.berkeley.edu/courses).

## Additional OLLI Courses in Lafayette

New courses from UC Berkeley's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute begin Sept. 28 at Lafayette Library and Learning Center:

"Documentary Touchstones 2" surveys documentaries of lasting power and influence. Taught by film critic Michael Fox. Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

"A Living Shakespeare" looks at Shakespeare the man and his explorations of the human psyche. Taught by dramaturg and author Philippa Kelly. Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. To register, visit <https://olli.berkeley.edu/courses> or call (510) 642-9934.

## Documentary highlights search for toxic link to disease

Submitted by Judy Shallat



Image provided

The Orinda Garden will be presenting a documentary film "Toxic Puzzle: Hunt for the Hidden Killer" at 7 p.m. Oct. 4 at the Orinda Theatre. Why is a garden club focusing on health issues? According to club member Deb Stephenson, "The Orinda Garden Club is dedicated to the protection and

conservation of our natural heritage. In this instance the community is extended to the entire earth and all who dwell on this planet. What we put into our earth, what we put into our water matters to everyone."

Narrated by Harrison Ford, this medical detective story by filmmaker Bo Landin follows the work of ethnobotanist Paul Alan Cox Ph.D. and team in their investigation of the role environmental toxins play in neurodegenerative illnesses such as ALS, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Their research demonstrates a close link between environmental health and human health. Time Magazine has named Cox one of 11 "Heroes of Medicine" for his work in ethnobotanical drug discovery. The film shows the pieces coming together in a toxic puzzle where cyanobacterium in our waters becomes the culprit. Is it possible that this link may also provide clues to a cure? Dr. Cox offers hope.

The screening of the documentary will be followed by a Q&A session lead by Dr. Cox. Advance registration is required; for details go to Eventbrite, call (925) 257-0668 or email [program@orindagc.org](mailto:program@orindagc.org). Tickets are free; a \$5 donation is requested.

## Upcoming AAUW-OML Restaurant Walk and Shredding Fundraisers

The Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk is scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3, with over 20 restaurants providing food. Tickets are \$30. Send your check made out to AAUW-OML Community Outreach Fund by Sept. 26 to Jan Cushman, 143 Meadow View Road, Orinda 94563 ([jancushman@comcast.net](mailto:jancushman@comcast.net)).

Bring your papers to be securely shredded at the Shred Fest 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14 at 5A Rent-A-Space, 455 Moraga Road, Moraga. Cost: \$7 per file box.

The American Association of University Women, empowering women since 1881, was the first organization to provide educational scholarships for women. See the OML-AAUW website for more information: <http://oml-ca.aauw.net/tech-trek/>

## Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley contributes to Moraga Rotary's All-Access Playground project

Submitted by Dick Olsen



From left: KCMV members Barry Behr, Sam Sperry and Mike Metcalf, Moraga Rotary President Dianne Wilson and Rotarians Kevin Reneau and John Erickson. Photo Stan Holcenberg

Representatives of the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley recently presented a check to the Rotary Club of Moraga in support of Rotary's All-Access Playground Project, which is to be constructed at the Moraga Commons Park.

Current KCMV President, Sam Sperry, congratulated the Rotarians on the remarkable success of their Club's 50th Anniversary Project – the building of an All-Access

Playground for which the Rotarians have contributed \$285,000 to the Town of Moraga. Sperry noted: "Our Club and Moraga Rotary have a long history of supporting each other's fundraising endeavors in order to foster the greater good of our local communities. In particular, both of our organizations focus on supporting the needs of our region's children."

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

## Grab a pizza at Patxi's and help grant a wish

Submitted by Audrey Price

The Make-A-Wish Club at Campolindo High School will be hosting an "Eat for a Cause" fundraiser all day Sept. 26 at Patxi's Pizza, which will donate 10 percent of all their sales, excluding alcohol, catering and restaurant taxes to the organization. If local residents already had plans for dinner, Campo's Make-A-Wish Club president Audrey Price says they can order one of Patxi's half-baked frozen pizzas and 10 percent of that cost will go to the Make-A-Wish Club. Gift cards are also part of the fundraiser, as long as they're used on the day of the fundraising event.

"We want to earn the most money we can, because it goes to granting the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses," said

Price, who was diagnosed with a brain aneurysm in 2014 and complications confined her to a hospital ward for six weeks. Her wish to see her favorite band, One Direction, was granted by the Make-A-Wish Foundation. "I had a wish back in 2014, and I can truly say it was a magical and incredible experience that I will never forget."

Price started the Make-A-Wish Club in her junior year at Campo. Last year, the club held several fundraisers, such as various Eat For A Causes, selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts, selling Make-A-Wish stars, Santa letters, and holding a bake sale. In total, the club raised over \$5,600 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

## Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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



# A forceful 'Measure For Measure' closes CalShakes' 2017 season

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Lindsay Rico (Isabella), Adam Schroeder (Lucio), Rowan Vickers (Duke) and David Graham Jones (Angelo) in California Shakespeare Theater's "Measure for Measure," directed by Tyne Rafaeli.



Tristan Cunningham (Escallus) and Patty Gallagher (Provost)

Photos Jana Marcus

CalShakes ends its 2017 season in the Bruns outdoor theater with the enduring 1604 play by William Shakespeare, "Measure For Measure." The play is set in Vienna, where the ruler, Duke, decides to delegate all his powers to his deputy, Angelo, while he pretends to hiatus, but Duke's real intent is for Angelo, whom he trusts, to restore moral order in Vienna, while he in fact stays in Vienna under a friar's disguise.

Embolden by his new sense of power and convinced of his own moral rectitude, Angelo cracks down on vice: he orders brothels closed and decides to make an example of Claudio by condemning him to death for having impregnated his betrothed before marriage. When Claudio's sister, Isabella, a maiden intending to become a nun, comes to beg for mercy, Angelo is gripped by lust and demands that she give up her virginity to him in order to save her brother.

Tyne Rafaeli directed the play for CalShakes. She took the 17th century play and stripped it of its courtly good manners, giving it a sharp edge – loud and violent, filled with noise, movement and colors. Everything screams at the spectator. The scene where Angelo tells Isabella that in order to save her brother, she will have to give herself to him is led with forceful violence. Actors who are able to embody such troubling emotions are to be highly praised; one wonders how they can come out unaffected.

The text speaks of violence, but when he wrote the play Shakespeare had to soften it somewhat, to make sure King James I, his patron, would approve of it. The violence in the staging here is pedagogic; it uses 21st century body language and physical broad presence to express what Shakespeare said 400 years ago: power corrupts, sexual harassment is an easy temptation to those who have the influence

and good reputation – and it is easy to blame it on the victim. The play shows how convenient it is for the powerful to punish others' sins while secretly partaking in the same turpitudes. And how forgiveness and mercy have the power to heal.

Rafaeli and her actors did magnify the farcical aspects of this comedy, with secondary characters providing a pleasant respite in between some of the more dramatic moments.

Adam Schroeder as Lucio has a unique and funny stage presence, magnified by his bleached hair and extreme punk outfit. Annie Worden embodies a series of disjointed characters: as Barnadine, she has just one short appearance, but it is so over the top, rising from what seems to be the inferno and spreading havoc on stage with a mixture of physical power and sex appeal; as Elbow, she shows a great mastery of slapstick art.

Lindsay Rico as Isabella and David Graham Jones as Angelo are the central duo of the play. Rafaeli chose to dress her in a long white robe, and him in a black military uniform, reminiscent of fascism. The black stocking and silver heels that complete Isabella's outfit add an interesting element of contrast and disruption. At first glance, she is whole and unwavering, but she does not hesitate to send another woman in her place to do what she would not.

Angelo, the archetypal villain, is a deceitful liar, however his very last words are those of redemption. His punishing acts on others' lust may well be because of his own repressed desires. The act of mercy bestowed upon him at the end seems to redeem him at last. He confronts his demons, and accepts that he is no better than everybody else.

During the illuminating CalShakes' pre-talk, Dr. Philippa

Kelly explained that the title of the play came from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount: "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged:

and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Matthew 7:1-2. Kelly noted that the phrase is still relevant and applicable to today's leaders.

This is a piece of theater not to be missed.

"Measure for Measure" runs through Oct. 8. For ticket information, visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

## MIKO PELED, *Israeli Peace Activist*

speaks about

### Trump & Prospects for Peace: What is Next for Palestine/Israel?

Miko Peled believes that the separation of Israel and Palestine should end and be replaced by a secular democracy where Israelis and Palestinians live as equals in their shared homeland.

Peled is an Israeli-born writer and activist born to a prominent Zionist family including a grandfather who was a signer of the Israeli Declaration of Independence and a father who was a general in the Israeli army.

After a 30-year career teaching martial arts, Peled found himself confronted with the Israeli Palestinian issue in all of its horror: His 13-year-old niece was killed by Palestinians in a suicide attack in Jerusalem. This brought about a major shift in thinking that he describes in his 2016 updated memoir, "The General's Son, Journey of an Israeli in Palestine." More at [www.mikopeled.com](http://www.mikopeled.com).

**Friday October 6th, 6 PM reception, 7 PM lecture**  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

Pre-register at: [www.ourpeacecenter.org](http://www.ourpeacecenter.org)

Cost: \$10 in advance, \$15 at door, Students FREE

Sponsored by: Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center



From left: Lindsay Rico (Isabella) and Tristan Cunningham (ensemble). Photo rr Jones

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NEWSPAPER

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## Orinda creeks are cleaner, thanks to volunteer effort

Submitted by Adriane Bosworth



Photos provided



Twenty-one Friends of Orinda Creeks volunteers spent their Saturday morning picking up trash and recyclables from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 16 along a half mile of creek and creek banks in downtown Orinda as part of the annual beach and inland watershed Coastal Cleanup Day. 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. The group collected 150 pounds of garbage, including 12 bags of trash and eight bags of recycling.

## In Memory

### Walter Earle Cunha

Sept. 12, 1920 – Aug. 3, 2017



Goodbye Walter Earle Cunha: music man, military man, family man, businessman, and gentleman. You lightened the hearts of many throughout your life, which spanned nearly 97 years until you exited the stage. Son of Ella Mae McGovern and Walter Charles, younger brother of Jane Eileen. Berkeley was your hometown and that of your beloved CAL Bears, where you sold football programs as a boy.

Before graduating from Berkeley High School in 1938, your music career began with the violin, but your vocal talents as a “swooner” could not be denied. You appeared with Jimmie Howard’s Orchestra at Oakland’s Sweet’s Ballroom and hotel venues in San Francisco including The Palace, St. Francis, Sir Francis Drake and the Mark Hopkins. Your singing career continued every weekend at the Claremont and Alameda Hotels until you joined up with Buddy Maleville’s NBC Orchestra. A tour to South Lake Tahoe, State Line Country Club (now Harrah’s) and Rio Del Mar (now Aptos) soon followed. Performing at the Rio Del Mar gave you “air time” Coast to Coast and landed you a regular Saturday night gig at the Hotel Del Monte, the West Coast’s premier resort in Monterey, where Bob Hope and Bing Crosby were masters of ceremony. Faced with the dilemma of whether to tour the nation with the band or attend college to further your education, you wrote to Bing Crosby (after finagling his address from a desk clerk), who advised in a written reply, “Go to school; the music will always be there. Don’t pass up the opportunity to pursue a top-notch education.”

So off to UC Berkeley you went and became engaged in the ROTC program. After graduation in 1944, you went to Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, Georgia and achieved the rank of captain. Chinese language school followed, which was a bit wasted as you were eventually stationed in India. You stayed in touch with your Army buddies, who remained some of your closest friends. You all skied together in Switzerland and France into your early 80’s.

After completing military service, you returned to Berkeley and Boalt School of Law for your next chapter. However, the lawyer track was unrealized upon meeting and marrying Mary Ellen Goepfert on July 31, 1948. Meg (d. 2003) was one of only five women in the class and a wise choice! A large family of six children followed and was predominantly raised in Orinda: Jim (Christine d. 2002), Anne (Dick Jacobberger), Paul (Carol), Stephen (Mary), Catherine Soso and Elizabeth (Fred Ehmke). As a father, you strongly encouraged us to do our best, used humor to make a point and set an example on how to live. You also welcomed 11 grandchildren: Maggie Jacobberger, Camille Wolfman, Katie Heaps, Kevin, Catherine, Rob, Jack, Alex, and Elaine Cunha, Carter and Grant Soso, and three great-grandchildren: Morgan Heaps, Connor Wolfman, and Riley Cunha.

When not changing diapers, you could be found on the ski slopes or on the golf course. Orinda Country Club membership fulfilled your volunteer inclination, where you served on various committees and for two years as President. You provided many members fun memories by producing “The Foolies” from 1963-1966. This vaudevillian spoof of life at the club and the community of Orinda was performed to packed audiences who roared with laughter and applause.

Your professional life was all about automobiles. A district manager position with the Pontiac Motor Division eventually led you to become a partner with Don Doten at his dealership in Berkeley. When Don moved on to open a dealership in Oakland, you became the owner of Cunha Pontiac on Telegraph Avenue for five years. Campus riots during the late 1960’s and early 70’s forced the doors to close. Involved with the Berkeley City Council you even had a bodyguard at one point. You completed your career teaming with Chris Maggini at his Chevrolet dealership in Berkeley.

Your later years had you often on the golf course, ski slopes (taking your last run at age 90) and back on stage with the Big Band of Rossmoor and at Lafayette’s Stanley Middle School, where you quickly achieved icon status as “Mr. Plaid Pants” by singing your various favorites and Christmas songs for students and parents. “I still see him running around the room getting high fives from all of the kids. To them, he became a rock star,” remembered Stanley Middle School music teacher Bob Athayde.

Your sense of fairness, humor, and integrity are your legacy. You never lost the ability to find joy in the every day and to laugh at yourself. You were an exceptional role model on how to age gracefully and pass with dignity. We will hold a Celebration of Life on Friday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m., Church of Santa Maria in Orinda, California, to honor your wonderful spirit your life well lived.

## College Advisor

### What exactly is FAFSA and why should you complete it?

By Elizabeth LaScala PhD

Beginning Oct. 1 college-bound families may file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to be approved for federal direct student loans as well as need-based scholarships for the 2018-19 school year. It considers your family’s income and assets, excluding home equity and retirement savings as well as your student’s savings and potential to earn money to help cover college costs. It takes a little time to complete the online form, but it is surely time well spent. The FAFSA uses information from your 2016 tax return to estimate your family’s Expected Family Contribution, the lowest amount that your family will be expected to pay for college, no matter if the college is public or private, in-state or out-of-state. That’s certainly useful information in planning for your child’s college education.

A family that accurately completes a FAFSA qualifies for low-interest federal direct student loans; and they may also qualify for federal, state and college-based scholarships and grants. The FAFSA is not only reviewed at the federal level; in California it is also shared with the California Student Aid Commission as well as the financial aid offices at the colleges on your list.

Within one to three weeks following the completion of the FAFSA your family will receive a student aid report. That report will show your EFC. It should also confirm that you will qualify for a federal direct student loan. It might also list other programs that you might access, including scholarships and grants that you do not need to repay. You might also learn that you qualify for an interest subsidy for part of your student loan, which means interest on the loan is deferred while your student is in college. And you can have all of this information available before you complete a single college application.

It is up to the college’s financial aid office to decide if it will offer need-based scholarships, also called “gift aid,” to make up the full difference between the EFC derived from your FAFSA and a college’s estimated total cost of attendance. The estimated TCA would include tuition and fees, room and board and incidentals such as books and transportation to and from home. Each college uses its own calculations for need and costs. Most colleges will not meet a family’s full financial need. But some come much closer than others.

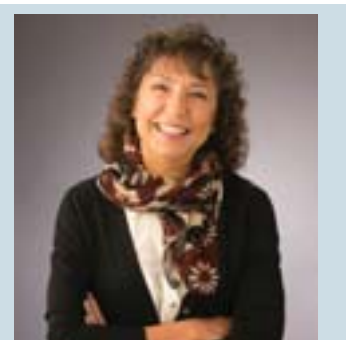
You might also learn that some schools will use merit-based aid to fill part, even all of a student’s financial need. Merit-based aid (grants and scholarships that do not have to be paid back) can be quite generous, depending on where an admitted student’s grades and test scores rank within a college’s prospective freshman class. Merit-based awards may also be renewed, based on college grades. It’s important for students and their families to consider the minimum grade point aver-

age required to maintain a merit scholarship against the academic demands of your student’s intended major. You don’t want to risk losing the scholarship, nor do you want to feel pressured into a less demanding major in order to keep it.

Since colleges have their own methods of estimating costs, financial need and aid, you might want to hedge your bets in admissions by applying to a good number of schools as well as different types of schools (e.g. public, private, in state, out of state). The FAFSA allows you to select up to 10 to receive your student aid report. You may add more colleges later. The college financial aid offices see only the report. They do not see the other colleges on your list.

The FAFSA is also a starting point if your financial situation changes during the senior year of high school or the summer before college begins. While the online form cannot be updated after it is electronically signed and submitted to the schools, you may use the completed FAFSA along with other important financial aid information to meet with the financial aid officers at the colleges on your list. The FAFSA can be useful both before and after applications are submitted. Before, as mentioned, to prepare you for college costs and what you may be expected to pay, and later, if you try to appeal a financial aid offer and/or negotiate for a better offer. In both cases, be prepared to answer questions thoroughly and thoughtfully so the college can understand your situation and try to help.

Along with a well matched, realistic college list, a strong academic record and authentic well-written essays, the FAFSA is one of the most important parts of the college admissions process. Don’t let financing college be an afterthought. Go to <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> and get started now!



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

# Locals decry DACA's looming end

By Cathy Dausman



Cynthia Howard at her protest perch above Highway 24 Sept. 7 in Lafayette. Photo Pippa Fisher

With Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA, potentially placed on the chopping block, Saint Mary's College president James Donahue, as well as members of a local political organization, and even a lone protestor, are making their displeasure known, despite what may now

be its slightly less than uncertain future.

Donahue says SMC is one of hundreds of Catholic colleges and universities opposing the decision to terminate DACA. In a Sept. 6 letter Donahue assured his faculty, staff and students of the college's ongoing commitment to protecting the rights of all students. Donahue, who met with Congressman Mark DeSaulnier earlier this month to discuss possible protection for undocumented students, said the college is also conferring with legal counsel "about the constitutional protections institutions of higher education" have.

Saint Mary's College vows to maintain "a safe and welcoming campus for each and every one of our community members," he said.

Contra Costa (County's) Young Democrats added its voice as well. "DACA has provided an opportunity for nearly one million children across the country to come out of the shadows and participate fully and freely in American society. To see their legal status ripped away is heartbreaking," says CCYD President Jonathan Bash. The DACA program was never presented as a permanent solution, Bash continued, but as a way to protect "deserving residents who have not called any other nation their home."

"Immigrants are America's past, present and future. We cannot let fear and prejudice become the law of the land. CCYD stands with our immigrant brothers and sisters, and will continue fighting on their behalf," Bash said.

Cynthia Howard took her

DACA protest to a Lafayette overpass Sept. 7 after the decision, vowing to make Thursday afternoons "This is so not okay" day. Although DACA does not directly affect her, Howard says she was raised "to believe that every person has the right to be respected and that this country is rich and vibrant because of our diversity."

Flags and lettering in hand, Howard says the Lafayette Police Department "has been very accommodating" when she mounts her regular freeway overpass protests above Highway 24.

Pro-DACA response from the traffic below has been "overwhelmingly positive," she says. "Just 10 minutes into the cars honking I am back believing that one person can make a difference."

## Get your olive on with this special salsa and Mediterranean BLT

By Susie Iventosch



Kalamata Olive Tapenade BLT

It's almost time for the Eighth Annual Orinda Olive Festival, which is always a fun event complete with games, crafts, music and food. And, of course, local growers will provide plenty of olives and olive oils for tasting. There will be cooking demonstrations as well as tours of the historic Wagner Ranch olive groves.

I always love it when this festival rolls around, because it reminds me to conjure up a new olive dish. My family would eat

an entire diet of olives, if it were possible. This year, since we also have so many gorgeous, ripe tomatoes, I decided to make an olive salsa and it turned out to be delicious and perfect served over grilled salmon. Also, with garden fresh tomatoes, the idea of an olive tapenade BLT sounded amazing and it was. It was simple and simply delicious, and a great twist on the traditional sandwich.

This year's Olive Festival will be held from 11:30 a.m. to

4:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1 in the Nature Area at Wagner Ranch, 350 Camino Pablo in Orinda. Proceeds and tax-deductible donations benefit Friends of the Wagner Ranch outdoor environmental science and social studies programs.

For more information about the Orinda Olive Festival or the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, please visit [www.fwrna.org](http://www.fwrna.org).



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

## Moraga's Got Chalk!

By Sophie Braccini



Having a mayor who is an artist definitely helps to foster vibrancy in the local art scene. Kathe Nelson, Moraga Chamber's executive director, immediately got a positive response and added impetus from Moraga Mayor Teresa Onoda when she suggested a chalk festival in Moraga.

Onoda put her weight behind the project and decided to make it part of this year's Pear and Wine Festival. Several groups of budding and confirmed chalk artists will for the first time create visual art with the evanescent medium Sept. 23 at the Moraga Commons Park. While some school teams are already created, interested youth can join in the fun starting at 10:30 a.m. that Saturday.

Nelson says that she was always been mesmerized by three-dimensional chalk art. Her first discussion with Onoda started eight months ago. Cheri Grant, who works at Saint Mary's College and is a member of the local Kiwanis was involved and received a grant from the service group to fund the idea. It was not enough to invite professional artists, but enough to buy chalk and invite local schools to participate.

Onoda suggested locating the chalk event artists on the basketball court, next to the skate park during the festival, and to have the artists focus on existing art in town: the statues that are part of the Art in Public Spaces program, and installed at the library and in front of the town's chamber offices. The idea, Onoda explains, is for the groups of artists to choose a statue, imagine a magical setting for it, and make a chalk image of it.

The mayor contacted parents, going to the Orion Academy and to Saklan School to present the project.

Kristin Lamb who teaches art at the Orion Academy said that the project immediately resonated with her. The Moraga school is a college prep institution for ninth- to 12th-grade students with Asperger's Syndrome. Lamb explains that many of the alumni are now in art schools in the Bay Area and wanted to be part of the Moraga project. Marianne (who asked that we not use her last name), is an Orion alum studying in Oakland at the Cali-

fornia College of the Arts, and will be the leader of the project with five or six other students. The students have already chosen the statue they will reproduce within a magical environment: David Mudgett's Drain 2. Lamb adds that art is used consistently at the academy and incorporated with other areas of study, such as history. She loves the idea of the students' art being showcased in the community where they study.

At Saklan the project was met with similar enthusiasm. The Moraga school teaches children pre-K to eighth grade and art teacher Natalie Palms said that the challenge was to not only find young talented artists, but students who work well in a team with different age groups. She selected five students from third to eighth grade, with a cooperative artistic temperament. Palms explained that the children were very excited to be producing art outside of the school, in public. She explained that the discussion process taking place before Sept. 23 will include choosing the sculpture, and defining the magical environment that will incorporate everybody's personality in the final project.

The students will arrive on site at 10:30 a.m. and are anticipated to work for several hours. They will also write poems near their art.

Onoda confirmed that all children are encouraged to come, even if teams were not formed prior to the event. On site they will be given images of the sculptures and a round space to create their own magic.

The mayor stresses that this is not a competition. It is a way to inspire and share art in the town. Nelson adds that the East Bay Municipal Utility District hired a 3D chalk artist who will create chalk art representing the underlying pipes going from the basketball court to the fountain, while artist Suzanne D'Arcy will chalk a pear tree at the end of the pipe.

Local children's book authors will also be part of the event, reading their stories to visitors. Onoda hopes that this event, creating art for art's sake, will become a tradition in Moraga and help develop the branding of the small town as a vibrant place to live and create.

### Olive Salsa

(Yields about 2 cups of salsa)

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup large whole Spanish olives with pimientos
- 1 cup whole pitted Kalamata olives
- 3 large basil leaves
- 1 red bell pepper, roasted, peeled, seeded and chopped (can roast yourself or buy already roasted)
- 1 yellow or red onion, chopped (can either sauté in a little olive oil, or use raw. I like my onions cooked.)
- 1-2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and finely diced (more or less depending upon heat tolerance)
- 2 large tomatoes, chopped into small pieces
- ¼ cup sundried tomatoes, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- Salt and pepper to taste

#### DIRECTIONS

Place olives in a food processor and process just until chopped but not mushy. Add basil and process for just a couple of seconds longer. Place olive-basil mixture in a small mixing bowl. Add remaining ingredients and season to taste with salt and pepper. Store in airtight container in refrigerator until ready to use. It's great with pita chips, but also delicious served on grilled salmon or on burgers.



Olive salsa on grilled salmon

### Mediterranean BLTs

(Makes 4-6 sandwiches)

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 baguette, cut into sandwich sized pieces, sliced half length-wise, and toasted
- 8-12 slices of pork or turkey bacon
- 2-3 ripe tomatoes, thinly sliced
- 1 cup pitted Kalamata olives, processed into a tapenade consistency
- 3 Tbsp. basil leaves chiffonade (sliced into small strips)
- 5 ounces feta cheese, sliced as thinly as you can - it's a crumbly cheese!

#### DIRECTIONS

Toast bread. Spread tapenade on one side and sprinkle basil chiffonade on top. Place bacon and feta slices on other side of bread and cover with tomato slices. Season with salt and pepper. Carefully close sandwich. Garnish plate with basil leaves and extra Kalamata olives.

### Cooking Term of the Week

#### Nap or Nappe

This is a French term meaning to lightly coat food with a sauce so that the food is completely covered with a thin, but even layer of the sauce. It derives from the French verb "napper," which means to coat.



When I say "good,"  
you say "neighbor."

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Now that's teamwork.  
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## Lamorinda's Religious Services

### LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Where all are welcome, nobody is perfect,  
and anything is possible with God.



- Sunday Worship 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
- Programs for all ages
- Guest Speakers & Workshops
- So much more! Connect with us today!

49 Knox Drive • Lafayette, CA • (925) 283-8722 • LOPC.org • #LOPC

### 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  
Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 11 - 2  
[www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)

### JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

*all are welcome*

Sunday mornings, 9:30 am  
new! » Sunday evenings, 5 pm



10 Moraga Valley Lane  
[www.mvpc.org](http://www.mvpc.org)  
925.376.4800

### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 [www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)



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

### SAINT GILES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

9am Sunday School &  
Communion Service  
in the SMC Chapel



[stgiles-moraga.org](http://stgiles-moraga.org)  
(925) 376-5770  
traditional liturgy +  
inclusive theology



### Sunday Sacrament Service at 10AM

Scripture Study &  
Youth Programs

Everyone welcome!

3776 Via Granada, Moraga



10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | [www.orindachurch.org](http://www.orindachurch.org)

"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's  
journey, you are welcome here!"

Join us Sundays at 10 a.m. | Sunday School 10 a.m.



### Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 [thelumc.org](http://thelumc.org)  
Sunday 10am Worship and Faith Formation for all ages

Opportunities to Love God, Love Others,  
and Serve the World

### St. Anselm's Episcopal Church A Loving Community

**Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM**

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

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

### ART

**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. The show runs through Oct. 21. [www.jenniferperlmuttergallery.com](http://www.jenniferperlmuttergallery.com)

**The Lamorinda Arts Alliance** presents its 3rd Annual Art Show and Sale from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14 at the Lafayette Christian Church at 584 Glenside Dr., Lafayette. Twenty-four artists will display and sell their artwork including ceramics, jewelry, printmaking, painting, photography, weaving and sculpture. Jacqueline Proulx will show her beautiful ceramics and George Ehrenhaft will display his exquisite watercolors. Maria Santostefano, a plein air painter, and K. de Groot with her unique jewelry will also display their work. There will be live music from a local jazz pianist, Michael Granat. The artists will all be on site to answer any questions you might have about technique or what inspires and motivates them. [www.laa4art.org](http://www.laa4art.org)

### MUSIC

**A new series of live concerts is coming** to the Orinda Theatre beginning in September. Bringing music and art to the small, intimate venue will provide the audience with world-class performers and an opportunity to interact directly with the artists during a special Q&A session. The first artist to perform will be Pete Escovedo, renowned Latin jazz percussionist at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21. This will be a special evening of music and stories from his life and career. [www.lamorindaconcertseries.com](http://www.lamorindaconcertseries.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. 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.

**St. Paul's Concert Series kicks off** its fall performance at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23 with Flute and Piano Concert: "Amsterdam" with Laurel Zucker, flute, and Dwight Stone, piano. Original compositions from the album "Amsterdam" by Dwight Stone. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Ave., Walnut Creek.

### THEATER

**Town Hall Theatre Company** presents "The Song of the Nightingale: A Musical Fairy Tale," a new pop musical based on the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, with book, music and lyrics by Min Kahng; directed by Michael Mohammed with music direction by Margaret Halbig. The show runs from Sept. 28 through Oct. 21. For ticket information and showtimes, visit [www.townhalltheatre.com](http://www.townhalltheatre.com).

**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](mailto: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 through 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](http://www.calshakes.org), or at the Bruns box office on the day of the performance. (See story on B5)

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**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. Sept. 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](mailto:42queens@gmail.com). To view entire schedule click on Congo Mission Network Annual Meeting, CMN Conference.

**Practical Advice for Those with Osteoporosis and Osteopenia**, a free lecture from 7 to 8 p.m. 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.

**Miko Peled, Israeli Peace Activist** speaks about "Trump and Prospects for Peace: What is Next for Palestine/Israel?" at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Cost: \$10 in advance; \$15 at door; students free. Pre-register at: [www.ourpeacecenter.org](http://www.ourpeacecenter.org). For more info visit [www.mikopeled.com](http://www.mikopeled.com).

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**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](http://www.lastrampas.org). (See story page B2)

**Carr Ranch property dedication and public** opening of 604-acre Carr Ranch 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14 in Moraga. Guided hikes, a family square dance, food trucks, and other activities. Carr Ranch will serve the community as vital wildlife habitat, a source of clean drinking water, and beautiful public open space for recreation. Park at Rancho Laguna Park located at 2101 Camino Pablo in Moraga and follow the signs. More details available at [www.jmlt.org](http://www.jmlt.org).

**Visit the Be the Star You Are!@ booth** at the Pear & Wine Festival from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23 for free activities for kids. Donate to help the victims of the Hurricanes. [www.BetheStarYouAre.org](http://www.BetheStarYouAre.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 website at <https://acalaneshs.revtrak.net/color-run-1/> to sign up. If you don't have a website account, you may check out as a guest by using the code 9999999.

**Feed Your Children Well: A Workshop** for Parents of Preschool and Elementary School Children from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30 at the Orinda Library. Food can become a fraught topic during the teen years. Lisa Bograd, MFT, will discuss how to set up good food associations in young children. Register under "events" at <http://ccclib.org/locations/orinda.html>.

**Eighth Annual Orinda Olive Festival** from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1 at Wagner Ranch Nature Area, 350 Camino Pablo, Orinda. This free event has activities for all ages - games, crafts, music, raffle, and food. Learn about and taste a variety of olives, olive oils & products from local growers. Attend cooking demos and docent tours through the historic ranch and olive grove.

**For the second year in a row, Lamorinda Moms** is proud to present Dr. Laura Markham, who will discuss how to facilitate a loving, connected relationship between siblings, based on her recent book, "Peaceful Parent, Happy Siblings: How to Stop the Fighting and Raise Friends for Life." This year's event will take place from 7 to 9 .m. Wednesday, Oct. 11 at Orinda Intermediate School. The cost to attend is \$20 for non-members and \$10 members. Tickets can be purchased at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/>.

### OTHER

**Be prepared to handle all-hazard emergencies.** Take Lamorinda CERT classes in Orinda this fall. Your \$25 registration pays for eight 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>.

**Join Las Trampas for our Eighth Annual Walk n' Roll** 1 mile or 5k walk, roll or run from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 23 at 3460 Lana Lane on the Lafayette Moraga Trail. Register at [www.lastrampas.org](http://www.lastrampas.org) or call (925) 310-2363 - \$25.00 includes breakfast, live entertainment, goodie bags, raffle prizes and a T-shirt. (See story on page Bx)

**Fourth Street Fashion: A Runway Show** - A benefit for the Berkeley Food and 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. <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 Riggsby, many more faculty, and alumni. And, as befits a symposium, it will end with wine and conversation.

... continued on next page

# New Community Theater at the Rheem

By Derek Zemrak



After the success of recent plays performed this year at the Rheem Theatre, Ann Montgomery and I have decided to start a Rheem Community Theater.

Montgomery has a bachelor's degree in theater from The State University of New York and attended Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theater in New York City. She worked as a professional actress in New York for 10 years prior to relocating to the Bay Area where, in 1993, she opened her San Francisco SAG/AFTRA agency, Montgomery Talent and Literary. In 2001, her company became Montgomery Talent Casting and was a member of the Casting Society of America.

Montgomery casts celebrities as well as new faces for film, print and TV in union and nonunion

projects in San Francisco and Los Angeles. She has been involved with the California Independent Film Festival for 20 years and previously served on the board of this international film festival.

After being a judge at the first Annual Playwright Contest during the 20th California Independent Film Festival, and seeing the community's love for the arts, Montgomery decided to come out of retirement so she can give back to the aspiring actors in the Bay Area with the formation of a community theatre at the Rheem.

I am excited to once again work for Montgomery on this wonderful project. The arts are always the first to be cut in schools and it will be great to have a place for kids to learn and perform in live theater.

Auditions will be held on two Saturdays – Oct. 7 and 14 – at the Rheem Theatre. All ages are needed for the roles. Anyone who is interested in auditioning, please contact Ann Montgomery by email: ann@RheemCT.com.

The first plays will be performed on Sat. Dec. 9 with matinee and evening performances. The plays are the following:

“Christmas Every Day,” by Dean Howells, adapted by Adele Thane: In this charming fantasy, a girl discovers that there can indeed be too much of a good thing. The cast of seven males and four females includes all ages.

“Davita’s Hanukkah,” by Renee C. Rebman: Children who celebrate Christmas gain a new perspective on holiday customs, thanks to a new Jewish girl in town. The cast of five females and five males includes all ages.

“Christmas Diva,” by Earl J. Dias: After a hit on Broadway, a haughty young woman returns home only to discover she has a lot to learn from the locals. The cast of six females and five males includes all ages.

If you want to be a part of this new community theatre, do not miss the auditions. It will be great to see live theatre on a quarterly basis at the Rheem.


## Service Clubs Announcements



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

September 22	September 29
<b>It's the Oakland Athletics Dan Feinstein</b> , Assistant General Manager giving us the low-down on the A's, their future, and the backroom deals!	Featured member of the month Jamie Textor shares stories of her life as mother, wife, and equine veterinarian.

*Bringing People together to Provide Humanitarian Services Locally and Globally*



Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting.

Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

September 21:	September 28:
<b>Troy Feddersen</b> Get ready for Octoberfest	<b>Michael Mendonca</b> Evolution of the LN-4 prosthetic hand projects.

[www.rotarylafayette.org](http://www.rotarylafayette.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366](https://www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366)

SOROPTIMIST OF 24/680



"Improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment"

Please join us for our next meeting:

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Oct. 4th  
 Social 5:30-6:00 p.m.  
 Meeting 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Buttercup Grill  
 660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek.

**For more information, contact:**  
 Regina Englehart @925-876-9076  
 or go to: [soroptimist24-680.org](http://soroptimist24-680.org)

## Not to be missed

OTHER... continued

**Friends Corner Bookshop has its half off sale** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23 at First Street and Golden Way, Lafayette.

**The Moraga Pear & Wine Festival 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** on Sept. 23 is a family-friendly event with activities for all ages celebrating the Town's pear history. Featuring DJ Ryan O, wine tasting with the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association featuring Captain Vineyards, Meadow View Winery, and Vincenza Ranch Winery, pear pies, jumpies, food, local artist booths, community booths, and more. The schedule is available at [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us).

**Middle Eastern Festival 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.** Saturday, Sept. 23 and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. 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; children under 12 free. For information, visit [www.stjohnorinda.org](http://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 bestselling 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](mailto:RSVP@LamorindaVillage.org). Event held at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr, Lafayette. (See story page A2)

**Assemblywoman Baker will be hosting a Town Hall** in partnership with Contra Costa Supervisor Candace Andersen and Orinda Mayor Eve Phillips from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 25 in the Orinda Library Auditorium.

**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 specializing in cancer will address radiation treatment, MRI and biop-

sies, surgical management, androgen deprivation therapy, bone health, and integrative medicine. Samuel Merritt University in the Fontaine Auditorium.

**Stephen Healy, fire chief of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District**, will be stepping down on Sept. 20. The Board of Directors is in the process of preparing a position description for the Fire Chief. A public workshop has been set at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27 at the Moraga Library so that the residents of the district may offer their views on the background and experience, as well as the personal and professional qualities of the new fire chief, and the issues likely to confront MOFD during the tenure of the new chief.

**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. 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.

**Learn about Solar and Electric Vehicles** by attending Sustainable Lafayette's first annual Residential Solar and Electric Vehicle Open House, Sept. 31 and Oct 1. This free event provides the opportunity to visit homeowners to see for yourself how it all works and what their experiences were like. Is going solar and EV cost effective? What are the benefits? Any pitfalls? Visit [SustainableLafayette.org](http://SustainableLafayette.org) for times and locations.

**Orinda Garden Club invites the Community** to a documentary film presentation of "Toxic Puzzle: Hunt for the Hidden Killer" at 7 p.m. on Oct. 4 at the Orinda Theatre, which follows the work of ethnobotanist, Paul Alan Cox Ph.D., and team in their investigation of the role environmental toxins play in neurodegenerative illnesses. The screening of the documentary will be followed by a Q& A session lead by Dr. Cox. Advance registration is required; for details go to [orindagc.org](http://orindagc.org), call (925) 257-0668 or email [program@orindagc.org](mailto:program@orindagc.org). Tickets are \$5.

## Not to be missed

**Monthly Dinner with the American Legion 517** beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 4 at the Lafayette Veteran's Memorial Building on 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Social hour starts at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is at 6:15. All veterans welcome. Assemblywoman Catharine Baker will be the speaker. It is \$15 per person and \$25 per couple. Any questions, call Mike at (925) 766-6114.

**Restoring Creeks in Difficult Urban Sites** at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Dr. Ann Riley, author of Restoring Neighborhood Streams, will talk about creek restoration projects in the San Francisco Bay Area and share with us what projects like this entail.

**4th annual Art of Mixology Fundraiser** from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7 at the Orinda Theatre Square. More than 20 well-known and upcoming East Bay mixologists will come together and attendees will have the opportunity to sample unique cocktails from exceptional mixologists as well as vote live on-site to help determine who will be named Mixologist of the Year, Top Amateur and Audience Favorite. Tickets are \$45 in advance and can be purchased online at [www.lamorindaarts.org/mixology](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/mixology). Day of tickets can be purchased at the event for \$55.

**Serbian Food Festival from noon to 10 p.m.** Saturday, Oct. 7 at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church 1700 School Street, Moraga. Live Serbian Music, delicious homemade

pastries, plus a bounce house for the kids!

**Orinda Academy will be hosting an open house event** for fall 2018 enrollment from 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 22 and Dec. 9. Come and see what makes OA a Best of Parents Press winner (independent high school/alternative learning high school). Our small class sizes, college prep curriculum, and full-time learning support coordinator help all students be successful!

### SENIORS

**Orinda Senior Health and Wellness Fair** from 1 to 4:30 p.m. 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, connectiveness and alternative medicine. For more information see [www.orinda-chamber.org](http://www.orinda-chamber.org) or call (925) 254-3909.

**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.

**Lunch n' Learn: That Elusive Thing Called Sleep**, presented by Linda Fodrini-Johnson from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at Merrill Gardens Lafayette, 2nd St. at Mt. Diablo Blvd. Changes in sleep patterns are normal as we get older. It's a common misconception, however, that sleep needs decline with age. In fact, studies have shown that our sleep needs remain constant throughout adulthood. So, what's keeping us older adults awake? And what can be done to combat these issues to get a good night's sleep? Lunch generously provided by Merrill Gardens. Space is limited; RSVP required by Oct. 17: [Seniors@LoveLafayette.org](mailto:Seniors@LoveLafayette.org) or 284-5050.

### GARDEN

**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.

## Lamorinda Weekly

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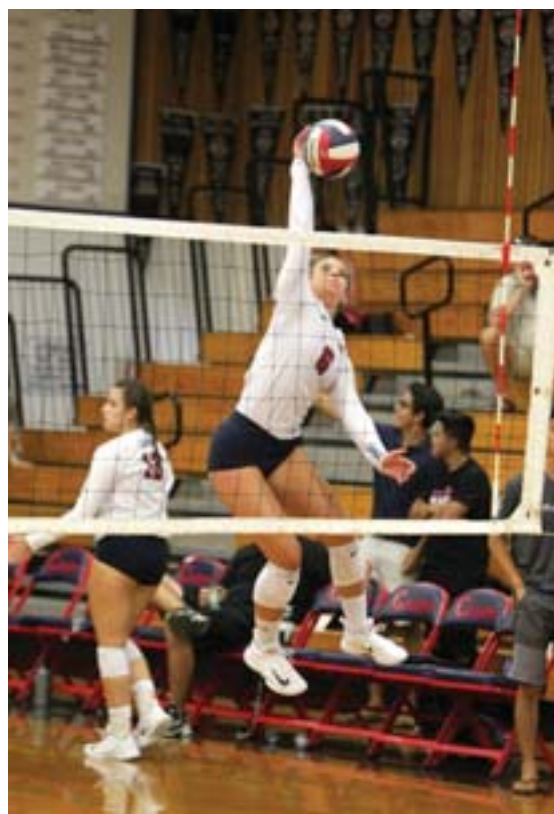
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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Lamorinda girls volleyball preview

By Jon Kingdon



Theresa Nevins

Photos Gint Federas

Vanessa Vaisnor

Coming off a very successful 2016 season with a state championship, Acalanes High School girls volleyball faces a real challenge to match that success having graduated four starters. Knowing that the Dons are going to be targeted due to their prior success, Coach Ernie Rodriguez is trying to keep it simple: "I expect the girls to play hard and to do their best. I want us to work well as a team and be cohesive. Just as important, I want the players to enjoy our team as a team. All the players are involved with each other. There is a great commitment from the players."

Rodriguez is relying strongly on the talent and leadership of seniors, middle blocker and three-year starter Theresa Nevins, three-year starter setter Maddi Kalil, and Zoe Mc Phail, the team's libero. New starters, junior Grade Higgins as outside hitter and Kaitlyn Mckendell as a defensive specialist, will also be key players on the team.

Rodriguez wants his team to "manage situations – putting the ball where it needs to go. Our front line needs to understand the other team's defense and get kills. I feel that we have depth at all positions, however we need to make sure that we finish games when the game is on the line."

The defense may well be the strength of the team, as the team will be carrying four defensive specialists this year.

Rodriguez is pointing to the Nike Tournament, which will be played in Arizona. The team departs for the tournament on Sept. 28. "There will be 98 teams from 33 states and three countries. Due to our success last season, we were honored (to be part of) this tournament. It should be a great

tune-up for us."

After another successful season at Campolindo High School, having won the NCS championship, the Cougars have lost six starters to graduation. Such a loss of so many starters would keep most coaches up nights, but head coach John Vuong just rolls with the punches and reloads with another group of seniors.

There were 80 players who tried out for the Campolindo volleyball teams and Vuong had the difficult task of cutting the teams down to 16 on the varsity and 12 each on the JV and freshmen teams. With so many players, Vuong is able to use a lot of rotation and "we have some very competitive practices."

On offense, the Cougars will be led by outside hitters Vanessa Vaisnor and Cameron Blakely.

Sophomore Audrey Pak will be counted on as the team's setter.

Though smaller than last year's team, Vuong believes the team's strength "will be more quickness and our tempo game. Our defense should be very consistent as well."

Vuong is confident that this team will be able to come together in spite of all the new personnel: "The girls have all been playing together for the last three years and I feel that we are ahead of where we were in many other seasons. We have had a lot of success bringing the girls together with team bonding sessions, retreats and even meditation exercises."

In spite of playing in a very competitive league, Vogue welcomes "the bulls-eye on our back. We will be playing in the Nike tournament down in Torrey Pines against a number of top teams, but that's how we learn to compete."

Miramonte High School head coach Lisa Bachtold comes into the

season having to replace four starters.

Having lost their main offensive weapons, Bachtold's first goal is to come up with the right combination of players to fill out the starting lineup.

The two senior co-captains this year, middle Claire Swan and setter Tatiana Lucvano, bring a combined seven years of varsity experience.

Bachtold will be looking to a collection of returning players and the new additions to step up and fill open roster spots. With so many potential new players, Bachtold says, "It will be important for all players to contribute this season. Our philosophy is to work hard and have fun while being mindful of the situation at hand."

When faced with any type of adversity this season, the Matadors can always fall back on what they feel is the strongest aspect of their game: excellent ball control.



Clare Swan

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## High hopes for Gaels men's soccer

By Gerardo Recinos



Filippo Zattarin

Photos Tod Fierner



Frederick Karman

This season is going to be a journey for the Saint Mary's College men's soccer team – not just in the hyperbolic sports-speak sense of the word, but in actual miles traveled.

In order to make it toward the top of the West Coast Conference league table, the Gaels' men will need to get through what coach Adam Cooper is calling "one of the toughest road trips in the country," among many other challenges facing the young team.

And to make matters worse, the Saint Mary's men have started the season off in less than desirable fashion, placing that much more importance on how they play outside of Moraga.

"We've got a pretty resilient group," Cooper said of the players on his team. The 12th-year head coach said that although the slow start isn't ideal, he's got proof that they can turn it around.

"We started off in a similar fashion last year as well, and we

were able to put it together and get results," he said. "I'm not discouraged by any stretch of the imagination."

And why would he be? After starting last season's campaign with only a single win in their opening six contests, the Gaels were able to finish in the top half of the West Coast Conference.

That resurgence itself from a team full of underclassmen stepping into important roles shows

that this team is one that's going to continue to grow together as they log more time on the pitch.

Players like freshman Filippo Zattarin have immediately stepped into the fold. The Italian transfer has made it into every one of Cooper's teamsheets so far this season, and has yet to come off the pitch for the Gaels.

"Last year we brought in 10 or 11 guys, and this year we brought in another 11 or 12 guys," Cooper said.

Right now what the two-time WCC coach of the year sees is a team that's lacking the killer instinct to finish the chances they're creating.

But that's what leaves the team with high hopes.

They're doing the difficult part, creating chances from the middle of the park. What's currently plaguing the team is what Cooper called the killer instinct.

"It's really in the 18-yard box that we need to do a better job," Cooper said. "We kind of need to reward ourselves for that hard work in possession."

That too can be put down to the continued meshing of younger players with less experience, and guys who have played together for multiple years. While young upstart players have been doing

a job for Cooper this season, it wouldn't be as effective without the stability provided by players like Fred Karman.

Karman has been a vocal leader for the team, as has Acalanes graduate Max Mirner in the midfield. The two are the team's captains, and both are having excellent seasons as older role models and leaders for the club – all necessary to form a cohesive unit that can not only finish in terms of scoring, but finish in terms of dictating the program's overall success this season.

With a tough schedule leading up to conference play that includes successive road games in Colorado, the Gaels should be battle-tested by the time they arrive in Spokane on Oct. 7 to take on Gonzaga and it will be 20 days until they play a home game in WCC play.

By that time the fate of their season can be decided.

"I think that's an advantage," Cooper said. "At the end of the day you still want to get results, but as we move into conference that's a challenge."

"I think the West Coast Conference is better from top to bottom than it has been in the last 10 years," he said.



Max Mirner

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# Rowing to Lithuania

By Jon Kingdon



Photo taken at the World Championships in the semifinals of the women's quadruple sculls. Third from left: Kate Miles Photos provided



US Men's 8 after receiving their silver medals, fourth from left: Nikita Lilichenko

Oakland Strokes members Kate Miles, a Campolindo High School senior, and Nikita Lilichenko, a recent Miramonte High School graduate and incoming Stanford freshman, made the 2017 Under 19 US Rowing National Team and competed in the World Rowing Junior Championships Aug. 2-6 in Trakai, Lithuania.

Miles did not begin rowing until her sophomore year and Nikita began as a freshman. Eight of Miles' Campo classmates also participate at Oakland Strokes.

Both rowers were inspired to start the sport by family members: Miles' mother rowed in college and Nikita's older brother was a competitive rower.

"I participated in the Learn to Row summer camp for a one week session and I really fell in love with the sport," said Nikita, who added, "You don't have to start at a young age to be successful. If you are committed to it, you can begin to show results immediately."

Miles learned early that you get out what you put into it. "There are no short cuts. You can't cheat." The satisfaction she found was "knowing you put in the effort necessary to be successful. There is a lot of working out and practice on your own but it is the team effort that is necessary to make everything happen. We win and lose together. Your boat is only as fast as your slowest rower. I always found new challenges to face on the water and it really held my interest."

Managing Director of Oakland Strokes, Dana Hooper said, "The sport rewards hard work more than any other sport I've seen. Rowing as a sport is the most direct relationship with how hard you worked and how you ranked in the sport. Every rower learns that it is the ultimate team sport with 2, 4 or 8 rowers in a boat. You can show up with an ego but you will learn quickly to work as a team." There are single scull boats for those who want to row individually.

The racing seasons are in the fall and the spring with training between these seasons. As members of the National Team, it became a year-round training routine for Miles and Nikita.

Oakland Strokes coach Allison Ray saw the potential in Miles quickly: "It was clear early on that Kate was special. She had the physiological tools to be a top rower - she is (5 feet 11 inches) tall with long arms and legs, which make her set up to be a good rower. She is also very athletic having a strong his-

tory in basketball and swimming. I couldn't wait for her to get to the varsity team. She is wired to be a competitive athlete."

Brian De Regt, Nikita's coach at Oakland Strokes, said, "It did not take long for him to develop. Nikita has the frame (6 foot five inches) to be able to produce the power output. Physiologically he is world class. He has the ability to push himself when it is uncomfortable."

Hooper says handling the discomfort is the hardest trick. "You don't talk about the pain. The most successful rowers learn how to manage it."

The key to De Regt is to get "an understanding of how to work with the water. It's not complicated. You can learn 90 percent of the proper technique in the first week but it may take 10 years to learn the finest points."

Nikita attributes his improvement in technique to De Regt and to Jesse Foglia, an assistant coach at Harvard who was his coach with the national team.

Being invited to try out for the Junior National Team was just the first step. Making the team was even more difficult. Miles saw it as a real challenge: "It was very competitive because everyone there was very talented and athletic." She was chosen to row in the quadruple sculls, a four-person boat with each of the rowers handling two oars, ultimately finishing in fifth place.

Last year was Nikita's second year on the national team. Each year he was on the team, he rowed on the eight man crew, finishing second twice in the international competition, losing out to Germany by one second in this year's finals. The most difficult part of working with the national team was the fact that his teammates came from all over the country. "Since there were a number of techniques used by the rowers, the first thing the coaches had to do was to get everyone to row with the same technique," he said.

Just getting to Lithuania was difficult: the team had to take three connecting flights to get there.

Regardless, it was worth it to both rowers. "Once there, it was a great experience," Nikita said. "We were one of the first teams there, arriving about a week before the competition. It was great to see the various teams - the languages and the colors. It was an honor to represent the United States amidst the various countries. That was the highlight of the experience."



Third from left: Nikita Lilichenko

# Building on successes will be key for Gaels women's soccer

By Gerardo Recinos



Hannah Diaz

Photos Tod Fierner

With the ebbs and flows of how the Saint Mary's College women's soccer team can sometimes perform on the pitch, patience will be a key virtue this season for the Gaels.

At times the team can put it all together, even with a side full of underclassmen. Of the team's five wins last season, four came against teams that were ranked in the top 50 in the country. That includes a 2-0 victory against a California side ranked 12th in the country at the time.

Their 1-0 loss to Washington State on Aug. 25 came after the Cougars converted a penalty in what coach Travis Clarke called a virtually evenly matched contest.

But the team came back and beat a solid Idaho team on the road only two days later.

In fact, that's something they've done five times dating back to last season: rebound after a Friday afternoon loss with a Sunday win.

"What that tells you is they're young and don't quite know how to mentally prepare themselves for a game on Friday," Clarke said. "But when they get pushed up against a wall, they know they have to recover and have a good performance after a bad performance on a Friday. They can do that."

It's all about continually getting better, in the eyes of Clarke - an obvious benchmark for a coach to set, but the second-year gaffer is eyeing an overhaul for the way the program works, and that is going to require some time, and many different puzzle pieces to put together.

Take senior forward Hannah Diaz. The team's leading scorer has accounted for most of the team's offense so far this season.

However that's led to opponents accounting for her ability and marking her more aggressively.

Her role in the grand scheme of the rebuilding effort is to make a mark as a Gael, something she's been successful in doing so far. But she's also present as a beacon for the transition. The team's second leading scorer is Vanessa Gaitan, a freshman who has done a good job so far taking the load off Diaz's shoulders - a passing of the guard, if you will.

That emergence of a recently recruited player is part of what will make or break the rebuilding efforts to push the Gaels higher up the table in the WCC pecking order.

Currently underclassmen occupy many important positions on the pitch.

For example, redshirt sophomore goalkeeper Sarah Sawatzky has played a huge role in the immediate success of the program.

In a loss against Bakersfield, a mistake between the keeper and the back line allowed a late goal that hurt the young Gaels. Clarke was adamant to make sure the mistake made was something the keeper was never going to make again.

The margin for error has been razor-thin for the Gaels so far this season.

If a few things had gone their way in a match, Clarke fully believes the team could be 5-2, a solid mark considering the disastrous 1-5 start last season.

"I think our improvement from last year to this year is already showing, on the field, results and everything," Clarke said. "And we just want to build on that and move forward."



Vanessa Gaitan



Sarah Sawatzky

# Karate Kids Score Big at Competition

Submitted by Cindy Atwood



From left: Colin Beugelmans (Kata Silver / Kumite Bronze), Jacob Beugelmans (Kata Gold / Kumite Silver), Joshua Friedman (Kata Bronze / Kumite Gold), Selma Ahmed (Kata Gold / Kumite Silver), Julian Cohen (Kata Bronze / Kumite Bronze), Nathan Funk (Kata Silver / Kumite Gold), Albert Qiang (Kata Gold); not pictured: Juneaux Maeder (Kata Gold / Kumite Bronze), Alix Maeder (Kata Bronze) and Xavier Maeder (Kata Bronze / Kumite Bronze)

Ten Lamorinda kids from The Karate and Fitness Place, USA in Lafayette participated in the 2017 Fall Invitational Championships held in San Jose on Sept. 3. The stu-

dents competed in Kata (forms) and Kumite (sparring), and returned with a total of 18 medals (6 Gold, 4 Silver, and 8 Bronze).

# Acalanes football goes to Florida

Submitted by Suzanne Campillo



Photo provided

Acalanes varsity and JV football teams spent Labor Day weekend in Orlando, Fla. It was an action packed weekend for the Dons. In addition to playing an exciting game, the Dons spent time at the Energy and Waves Physics Lab at the Disney Youth Educational Series, had a team dinner and watched the IllumiNations light show over

Epcot and enjoyed time in DisneyWorld parks.

On Sept. 2, the Dons got three passing touchdowns from Robby Rowell, and held off a late rally from Suncoast-Riviera Beach, Fla., to emerge victorious down at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando. Final score 21-14.

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# 14U Sorcerer team goes undefeated in Modesto tournament

Submitted by Kwon Lee



Photo provided

Moraga's Abbie Lee, Campolindo High School and her 14U Sorcerer team went undefeated at the 1st to 3rd "The Patriot" Sponsorship Event in Modesto, beating some of Northern and Central California's premier softball teams.

On Sept. 10, they won all three games defeating NorCal Firecrackers (12-0), CA Grapettes Anchundo (8-1) and Valley Venom (9-1) in the championship game.

On Sept. 9, they defeated CA Grapettes Anchundo (7-2), Central Valley Swarm (9-

2), and NotCal Shockers (6-0), and on Sept. 10, they won all three games defeating NorCal Firecrackers (12-0), CA Grapettes Anchundo (8-1) and Valley Venom (9-1) in the championship game. The team is practicing at Saint Mary's College and Foothill High School in Pleasanton.

# Campolindo High School Frosh girls' volleyball team wins tournament

Submitted by Kristin Miller



Back row, from left: coach Chad Abbott, Natalie Brouhard, Lauren Miller, Jacqueline Artiaga, Julianne Colachico, Emma Dillard, Tyler Oliver and Maddie Xiong; front row: Justine Ellery, Nicole Kennedy, Maddie Abbott, Danielle Whisnant and Erika Riedel

The Campolindo High School Frosh girls' volleyball team won the 16-team Dougherty Valley Frosh Tournament on Sept. 9, with hard-fought victories over Acalanes, Castro Valley and San Ramon Valley in the finals round. Coach Chad Abbott noted that San Ramon Valley had an extremely well-

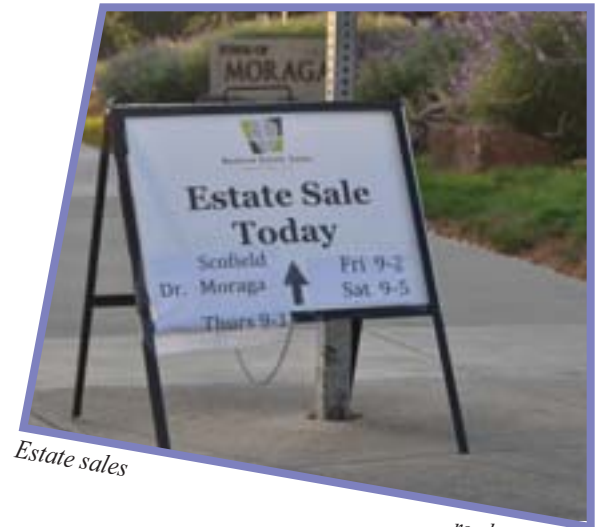
rounded team who knew their game well, so it was great for the Campolindo Frosh girls to get the win against that championship game opponent. The team is very proud to bring home another first-place trophy for Campolindo.

# LMYA KINDERGARTENERS TAKE THE FIELD



# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 15 Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2017



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...read on page D4

*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

## Lamorinda winegrowers join a long distinguished line of grape cultivation

By Cynthia Brian



Lamorinda growers enjoy a glass of wine in the Captain's Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard, from left: Eero Teerikorpi of Noet Vineyard in Moraga, David Ledesma, an Orinda grower, Michel Smith, and Orinda grower, Susan Captain, holding a bottle of Captain's Petit Verdot 2011, Sal Captain, Tiina Teerikorpi of Noet Vineyard, and dogs Cleopatra and Shea.

Photo Cynthia Brian

Wherever you travel in California, you'll witness miles and miles of beautiful vineyards. Over 90 percent of all the wine made in America is produced in our golden state. The cultivation of *Vitis vinefera* dates back to the Neolithic period, more than 7,000 years ago. Grape growing and the making of wine are as old as civilization itself.

In California, Father Junipero Serra planted the first vineyard at Mission San Diego Alcalá in 1779 and the Spanish continued planting grapes at each mission they founded to provide wine for the Mass and the masses. The Gold Rush ushered in a time of great demand for wine as prospectors and settlers increased the population of California.

Lamorinda became a wine region in 1880 when the Trelut brothers became squatters at the top of Bollinger Canyon in Moraga, cultivated grapes, and readied the wine. In 1887 Theodore Wagner (Wagner Ranch in Orinda) supplied grapes to immigrant Italians in San Francisco's North Beach. By 1907, Serafino Rossi made the four- to five-hour trek to Oakland over Fish Ranch Road from Lafayette to sell his grapes and produce.

... continued on page D13





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<p><b>6 Cresta Blanca, Orinda</b></p>  <p>represented Seller</p>	<p><b>33 Bates Blvd., Orinda</b></p>  <p>represented Seller</p>	<p><b>44 Lost Valley, Orinda</b></p>  <p>represented Seller</p>
<p><b>4 Owl Hill, Orinda</b></p>  <p>represented Buyer</p>	<p><b>67 Corte Yolanda, Moraga</b></p>  <p>represented Buyer</p>	<p><b>59 Canyon Green Way, San Ramon</b></p>  <p>represented Buyer</p>
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# Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	13	\$1,165,000	\$4,500,000
MORAGA	9	\$580,000	\$2,265,000
ORINDA	15	\$815,500	\$2,650,000

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

- 921 Diablo Drive, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 2125 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 8-18-17;  
Previous Sale: \$569,000, 07-24-00
- 3702 Happy Valley Road, \$3,550,000, 5 Bdrms, 4079 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 8-10-17;  
Previous Sale: \$2,771,000, 07-13-06
- 2 Leeward Glen Road, \$1,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 3285 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 8-14-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 04-06-12
- 592 Michael Lane, \$1,365,000, 3 Bdrms, 1634 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 8-18-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 07-29-14
- 3359 Mildred Lane, \$1,165,000, 4 Bdrms, 2109 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 8-17-17;  
Previous Sale: \$136,500, 05-02-84
- 688 Old Jonas Hill Road, \$1,920,000, 3 Bdrms, 3114 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 8-17-17;  
Previous Sale: \$82,500, 09-25-70
- 12 Park Gate, \$1,335,000, 5 Bdrms, 3258 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 8-15-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 04-25-14
- 1560 Rancho Del Hambre, \$2,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 5213 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 8-18-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,056,500, 06-27-96
- 369 Read Drive, \$1,905,000, 5 Bdrms, 3578 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 8-15-17;  
Previous Sale: \$2,050,000, 09-14-15
- 816 Solana Drive, \$1,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 2245 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 8-14-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,370,000, 09-12-13
- 27 Southampton Place, \$1,394,000, 4 Bdrms, 2924 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 8-18-17;  
Previous Sale: \$965,000, 03-30-12
- 3540 Springhill Road, \$4,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 3402 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 8-15-17;  
Previous Sale: \$860,000, 05-26-00
- 3714 Sundale Road, \$1,259,000, 4 Bdrms, 2093 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 8-17-17;  
Previous Sale: \$865,000, 03-14-06

... continued on page D11



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## BACK TO SCHOOL

The hustle and bustle of Fall is here but the moms and dads of Lamorinda get a moment to catch their breath now that school is back in session. Summer vacations are in the rear-view mirror, weekend trips to Tahoe make way for Saturday soccer games, fall basketball and parent school parties. September traditionally brings an increase in real estate activity as parents or soon-to-be parents are back in town and can focus on where they want to live for the next twenty years. In recent weeks, an uptick of new listings and fresh inventory has hit the market in hopes of capturing the attention of parents in between weekend activities and after school practice or music lessons.

As September has come around we have seen the market remain strong throughout the Summer and into Fall. Inventory remains tight as Buyers continue to out-number Sellers. The stock market is back to hitting all-time highs as the S&P recently closed just shy of 2,500. Mortgage rates also remain close to historical lows as according to Freddie Mac, on September 7th the 30-year mortgage rate was down to 3.78%, down from 4.30% in March. The job market remains strong as evidenced by what seems to be increasing traffic during commute times. The unemployment rate is 4.4%, down from 4.9% a year ago and 10.0% at the peak of the recent great recession.

The light drizzle in early September is also a good reminder to start preparing for rainy season by clearing gutters, checking that your drainage is intact and functioning properly, your crawl space below your home remains dry, and windows and doors are sealed to prevent dry-rot and leaks. Also, if you have not done so already now is a good time to replace any aged roof that might have leaked during the record rains last Winter. Keeping up with regular maintenance is the best way to avoid expensive repairs or challenging disclosures when it comes time to sell your home.

Please feel free to call or email us with your real estate questions or for a free home evaluation. We can be reached at (925) 951-3817 or by email [erin@martinhomesteam.com](mailto:erin@martinhomesteam.com) or [darrick@martinhomesteam.com](mailto:darrick@martinhomesteam.com).



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# Estate sales: a lifetime of belongings going, going ... gone

By Cathy Dausman



*Estate sale signs lead customers to the door.*

*Photo Cathy Dausman*

**T**raffic came and went on a Friday morning along a quiet Lafayette side street in a neighborhood of 1950s-built ranch homes. The printed sign near the door read “Warning: You are entering an Estate Sale.”

A handful of baby boomers wandered the common rooms and garage searching for something of value. One man’s excess is often another man’s – or woman’s – treasure. Nowhere is this more obvious than at an estate sale.

The season was just heating up but Hazel Kravariotis, of Senior Sorters & Estate Liquidators was booked two months out. Kravariotis and her coworkers spent four sales hours Friday and again Saturday overseeing that particular event, but before the doors even swung open they were already on the clock to make the sale most beneficial for dual clients – the family who hired them and the customers, both collectible dealers and private citizens who frequent these events.

Clearing clutter. Downsizing. Transitioning to se-

nior housing. Dispersing a deceased loved one’s lifetime possessions. Those are all possible reasons for holding an estate sale. It can be overwhelming to dispense with the “stuff” accumulated during someone’s lifetime. While a yard or garage sale may be manageable minus professional help, an estate sale is generally of broader scope and therefore more complex.

Kravariotis explains that most families go through such a thorough liquidation process only once or twice in a lifetime. It is comprehensive in scope, and company and customer both hope everything goes – from laundry detergent to tea towels, lamps, video games and music, furniture, fine art and flashlights.

What doesn’t sell is generally passed on to charities. Vicky Kearsley runs her Beehive Estate Sales company with an eye toward reusing, recycling and repurposing; she explains that incurring more than a few hundred dollars in hauling fees on leftover items means she has not done a good job liquidating the estate.

... continued on page D10

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## Feng Shui

# Feng shui fixes for energy-draining bathrooms

By Michele Duffy



A marble vanity in this bathroom underscores the earth element.

Photo Michele Duffy

Summer bathrooms have earned a poor reputation in feng shui circles – they leak positive energy and accumulate lower vibrations – but there are practical ways to mindfully balance the draining chi or energy most often associated with our bathrooms and mitigate much of these challenges through a bit of elbow grease and modern design.

The ancient Chinese never built bathrooms inside their homes because they were impossible to keep clean, and with all of the draining energy associated with

the physical drains in a bathroom, including the toilet, sink, shower and bath, bathroom placement inside a home was considered “bad” feng shui. But by utilizing the many modern designs of the 21st century, including state-of-the-art plumbing, lighting, ventilation, fragrance and colors, we can create a spa-like atmosphere that can shift how we spend time in our bathrooms, allowing for our most intimate personal care moments to be supported and nourished in luxurious surroundings.

While bathrooms may still represent draining energy, the energetic challenges of any bathroom can be easily overcome. Bathrooms are closely associated with the water element, so incorporating the wood element in this space is a great way to enhance the water element. Live plants and flowers symbolize the wood element and continual, upward growth, countering much of the “draining” chi in the bath.

It is also important to note where the bathrooms are located in your home per the Feng Shui Bagua (see diagram on page D12). Are your bathrooms in the far left “wealth” area, ruled by the wood element? Or in the far right “relationships” area, ruled by the earth element?

Weakened, draining energy in any area can be problematic, but if the bathroom is located in the wealth area, it can be destabilizing, or conversely, can create rocky relationships. A bathroom placed in the center of the home is one of the most challenging locations since this is the “health” area, so if health is compromised or weakened, it affects all the other eight areas of the Feng Shui Bagua.

But even if the bathroom is located in the center or “health” area, it does not have to mean a sentence of ill or declining health for residents. For example, one of my clients in Lafayette with compromised health had a guest bathroom in the center of her home. We remodeled to freshen the bath space, painted the walls a bright tomato red (fire creates earth), installed a crystal chandelier (earth), marble vanity (earth), a vibrant orchid (live upward growth, wood element), a Doterra essential oil diffuser, and the bathroom is kept spotlessly clean.

... continued on page D12



Adding a crystal chandelier to a bathroom space enhances the earth element, which can bring balance to a location associated with the water element.



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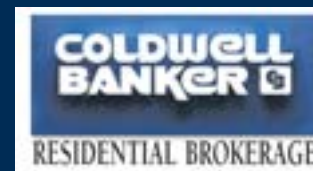
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## Estate sales: a lifetime of belongings going, going ... gone

... continued from page D4



Beehive Estate Sales staff, from left, Pam Bishop, Barbara Kearsey, Vicky Kearsey and Robert Lovelace work an estate sale in Moraga

Photo Cathy Dausman

When Lamorinda Weekly caught up with a Beehive sale it was the dog days of late summer – so hot that Kearsey actually saw their customer base erode slightly. Those who braved the triple digit heat found furniture, paintings, bedding, fine china – even a stair lift chair for sale.

The latter was the company's first such item to be sold and it did sell.

Kearsey says other medical aids for seniors – canes and walkers, for example, are always popular items. She and her crew work six days a week to prep and hold a single estate sale, starting with an appraiser visit mid-week. Then Kearsey personally goes through every drawer in every room to ferret out any hidden treasures, such as money, coins or passports, perhaps, before sending staff in to process the room.

Prior to one estate sale three volunteers discovered a U.S. flag with only 48 stars. They deemed it “faulty,” not realizing it was instead a collectible item. Then “everything is priced,” Kearsey says. Her company has even

sold light fixtures and at least one porcelain sink.

Estate sales companies are commission based; most expect to gross a minimum amount before they will accept a job. Kravariotis says it is important to select a licensed, bonded and insured company which can provide good references. Hiring someone who is professionally accredited as a property appraiser, estate liquidator or gemologist is a plus.

Make sure to get a written contract detailing home preparation, advance advertising, what occupants need to do before and during the event, and how leftovers are to be distributed. On the other end, a courteous estate sale company will distribute door tags to neighbors asking for their patience with extra traffic on sale days. Sandwich board signs go up the day of the sale, directing traffic, and customers may line up hours before the house actually opens. Kearsey says she has seen some of her regulars cueing up before dawn.

Occasionally there are reasons an estate company

will decline to take on a job. Perhaps the house has a pest infestation or mold problem, possibly street parking or access is too limited or the road is too difficult to navigate, or perhaps family members have unrealistic sale expectations or intend to occupy the home during the sale itself. A company may also refuse to bid the work if proof of home ownership cannot be verified.

Kravariotis says there are currently no federal laws or governing bodies dictating the operation of estate sales, so buyers must do their homework. If you're a potential seller, be prepared to wait, because lead time to book your estate sale usually runs several weeks.

And remember, “Each house is its own challenge,” Kearsey says.

Ready to attend your first estate sale? Sign up on these websites and get notified of events coming to Lamorinda:

<https://estatesales.org/>

<https://www.estatesales.net/>

## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

### MORAGA

- 1986 Ascot Drive #D, \$580,000, 3 Bdrms, 1473 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 8-9-17;  
Previous Sale: \$489,500, 07-03-06
- 504 Augusta Drive, \$1,065,000, 3 Bdrms, 2059 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 8-10-17;  
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 12-22-92
- 754 Augusta Drive, \$950,000, 2 Bdrms, 1556 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 8-16-17;  
Previous Sale: \$315,000, 04-11-96
- 121 Brookline Street, \$1,695,000, 4 Bdrms, 3327 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 8-18-17
- 1057 Camino Pablo, \$2,265,000, 4 Bdrms, 4373 SqFt, 2010 YrBlt, 8-18-17;  
Previous Sale: \$955,000, 06-16-08
- 1401 Camino Peral, \$719,000, 3 Bdrms, 1440 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 8-18-17;  
Previous Sale: \$226,000, 04-28-94
- 1954 Joseph Drive, \$1,685,000, 5 Bdrms, 2729 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 8-15-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 07-23-04
- 240 Scofield Drive, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 1426 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 8-22-17;  
Previous Sale: \$660,000, 07-12-02
- 3 Stewart Court, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2023 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 8-14-17;  
Previous Sale: \$830,000, 09-21-04

### ORINDA

- 147 Ardith Drive, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2050 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 8-11-17;  
Previous Sale: \$499,000, 06-13-03
- 245 Camino Pablo, \$815,500, 4 Bdrms, 1591 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 8-16-17;  
Previous Sale: \$395,000, 12-29-99
- 6 Cresta Blanca, \$965,000, 3 Bdrms, 1813 SqFt, 1930 YrBlt, 8-18-17;  
Previous Sale: \$840,000, 09-01-05
- 4 De Soto Court, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 3279 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 8-18-17;  
Previous Sale: \$595,000, 04-23-99
- 58 Evergreen Drive, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2270 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 8-10-17
- 3 Gardiner Court, \$2,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 5156 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 8-17-17;  
Previous Sale: \$985,000, 12-30-92
- 205 Glorietta Boulevard, \$885,000, 3 Bdrms, 1524 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 8-17-17;  
Previous Sale: \$750,000, 03-29-06
- 188 Hall Drive, \$1,635,000, 4 Bdrms, 2548 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 8-11-17;  
Previous Sale: \$10,000, 06-15-98
- 90 Hillcrest Drive, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 2129 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 8-14-17;  
Previous Sale: \$880,000, 11-01-16
- 9 Las Piedras, \$1,752,000, 5 Bdrms, 3745 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 8-9-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,483,000, 05-13-04
- 89 Oak Road, \$1,310,000, 2 Bdrms, 2040 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 8-15-17;  
Previous Sale: \$820,000, 06-01-11
- 11 Patricia Road, \$1,110,000, 4 Bdrms, 2442 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 8-14-17;  
Previous Sale: \$385,000, 11-14-97
- 51 Valencia Road, \$1,305,000, 3 Bdrms, 1959 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 8-9-17;  
Previous Sale: \$440,000, 12-01-98
- 17 Via Las Cruces, \$1,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 2256 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 8-10-17;  
Previous Sale: \$930,000, 12-18-02
- 35 Wilder Road, \$2,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 4283 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 8-9-17

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## Feng Shui

# Feng shui fixes for energy-draining bathrooms

... continued from page D8

It is now a bright, cheery, uplifting and stylish bathroom space. My client also embraced yoga and mindfulness practices with ease and grace, and her health continues to improve each day.

Remember, each home is unique and the family that lives there is, too, so while general tips abound, there is no substitute for receiving specific and personalized feng shui advice for the difficult chi of bathroom area placement within your home.

Here are a few tips for creating spa-like, intimate, nourishing and supportive bathroom feng shui:

- 1) Keep your bathroom beautiful, spotlessly clean and clutter free.
- 2) Hold the intention that your bath is a sacred place to purify mind, body and spirit.
- 3) Choose a color that will activate the element that rules the area of the Bagua or watery blues or woody agave greens.
- 4) Keep the toilet seat down, the bathroom door closed, and drains closed when not in use.
- 5) Bathrooms need ventilation, open windows or get a small fan.
- 6) Place live plants to purify air and bring in vital continual upward growth energy (a silk plant will do).
- 7) Upgrade your bathroom lighting and also include candles and sconces and low lights for lingering in the bathtub.
- 8) Invest in lavender essential oils, bath salts, Epsom salts and get grounded with a rejuvenating soak in the tub.
- 9) Dress up your bathroom windows with easy care and privacy wielding plantation shutters or blinds.
- 10) Place images that represent purification and relaxation like the ocean, rivers, flowers, nature and trees.

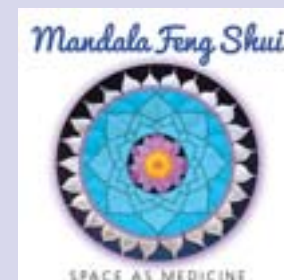
For more complicated issues like seeing a bathroom upon entry to the home, or above the entryway, or bathrooms off master bedrooms, it is important to apply all of the above tips or consider consulting with a professional feng shui expert for more specific ideas on how to address the challenges that all bathrooms present.

Taking a look at your bathrooms and making even a few of these small enhancements can help transform in big ways, and remember to slow down and enjoy your bath like a five-star resort.

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

*The Bagua Map: Front Door*

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2017 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to [spaceharmony@gmail.com](mailto:spaceharmony@gmail.com).



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

## Lamorinda winegrowers join a long distinguished line of grape cultivation

... continued from page D1



*A row of Cabernet Sauvignon.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

In the late 19th century a parasite that feeds on and destroys the roots of vines, Phylloxera infested vineyards. The national Prohibition Act of 1919 uprooted vineyards, destroyed cellars, and outlawed the sale and consumption of alcohol. Between these two major calamities, the wine industry in America collapsed.

The resurgence for demand of California wines didn't occur until after 1976 when California wines won top awards for both red and white varieties in a blind tasting at the historic upheaval competition against the best of Bordeaux vintages known as "The Judgment of Paris." The renaissance of viticulture in California began anew.

Here in Lamorinda, amateur farmers were experimenting with growing grapes again, too. The climates and microclimates are protected from coastal cooling, the slopes are carved from young sedimentary rock, the soil's content is mostly clay, sunshine is abundant, and drainage is satisfactory. With homes built on large lots, small vineyards began to flourish.

Having grown up in the vineyards of Napa County, when I first heard about Captain Vineyards, I thought the name was a charming play of viticulture publicity. Then I learned that "Captain" was the surname of the owners, Sal and Susan Captain who moved to Moraga in 1989 to raise their four children. Sal was a vice president, engineer, and researcher at a multinational medical device company, while Susan spent her days carpooling, volunteering, and juggling kids as a hands-on mom. Being wine aficionados, they had traveled extensively to many wine regions of the world and realized that their hillside in Moraga possessed the perfect terroir, soil, slope and climate to grow grapes. Susan, with a bachelor's in statistics, especially admired the farming culture and went to work to learn as much as possible about enology and viticulture, taking classes at UC Davis, Sonoma City College, Napa Community College as well as attending symposiums and conferences in



*Petite Sirah grapes are netted when sugars reach 15 Brix to keep the birds from devouring them.*

related subjects. By forming friendships with vintners from many states and countries, the Captains learned quickly.

Following cultivating techniques from Tuscany, the French Rhone Valley, and the German Heidelberg region as well as Napa Valley their hillside acreage was planted on their 20-35 percent slopes ensuring 10 hours of summer sunlight, excellent drainage, and soil erosion prevention. The vines and rows of their six red varieties – Pinot Noir, Petite Sirah, Grenache, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, and Cab Franc – are established in a 3 by 5 foot matrix with vines spur trained to limit production to less than five pounds per vine resulting in a complexity of flavor and body. As dry farmers, the grapes rely on rainfall or minimal watering only to keep the vines alive, not to increase production. Dry farming results in bolder body, richness and character.

When Sal retired in 2008, he devoted himself to becoming a winemaker with a bonded winery. Captain Vineyards was the first green winery in Contra Costa County dedicated to utilizing sustainable vineyard practices. Sal and Susan have designed and established 12 vineyards for other landowners ranging in size from 35 vines to over 3,000 vines.

Sal's "grape escape" hasn't allowed him to desert his engineering background. He orients vineyards to the topography while maintaining aesthetics. Soils characteristics are never adjusted with chemicals. Synthetic pesticides or herbicides are not used or recommended. Instead all vineyard and winery waste and output is recycled back to the soil. Although his expertise is in demand, he says that he talks more people out of planting a vineyard than planting one.

In 2005, The Lamorinda Winegrower's Association was established to create a community of people who share a passion for grape growing and wine making.

... continued on page D14



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

## Lamorinda winegrowers join a long distinguished line of grape cultivation

... continued from page D13



*The cellar and barrel room at Captain Vineyards.*

*Photo Cynthia Brian*

One of the stated missions of the LWGA was to establish an AVA (American Viticultural Area) for Lamorinda. With Susan Captain as president of LWGA, with the help of Dave Rey, AVA committee leader, and all of the members of LWGA, that goal was accomplished on March 25, 2016. At application 139 acres of planted vines and future planned plantings were recorded. The AVA for Lamorinda covers 29,369 acres making Lafayette, Orinda and Moraga official wine country destinations.

There are currently 76 members of the LWGA although there are many households who grow grapes but have not joined the group. By federal law, for a winery to post the "Lamorinda" AVA on a bottle, 85 percent of the grapes must be grown in Lafayette, Moraga or Orinda. If a winery needs other grapes to blend with their wine, it is

allowed as long as the outside grape content is less than 15 percent. This protects the unique qualities and individuality of a region.

Two other intriguing local growers, both members of the LWGA, have vineyards planted and managed by Sal and Susan Captain. NOET Vineyard, owned by Kristiina and Eero Teerikorpi, grows solely Cabernet Sauvignon. Eero and Tiina continue the great tradition of excellent California Cabs grown by immigrants from Finland, started by a sea captain and an entrepreneur Gustave Niebaum. In the late 1800s, Gustave was one of the early premier wine growers in California on his Inglenook winery. (As an interesting side note, my mother was born across the street in Rutherford from Inglenook on the property of Beaulieu Winery.) To fully close the circle, Eero

Teerikorpi is also an entrepreneur, navy officer and avid sailor. After 15 years living in London and commuting to Milan working in the fashion industry, Michel Smith, with her husband David Ledesma came to Northern California where they discovered a hidden gem of a mid-century home complete with a vineyard planted with Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot on an Orinda hillside. They credit the Captains with passionately training, teaching, and managing the vineyard while making the wine that comes from their grapes.

When to harvest is a combination of science and taste. Now that the grape skins are soft, the seeds are brown and crunchy, the berries exude that elusive bouquet of blackberry, plum and blueberry. Once the sugar content or Brix has been measured (never more than 24 Brix or the alcohol buzz is overpowering), the harvest commences with clusters picked by hand. In recent years it's been challenging finding reliable and knowledgeable pickers for hire. Families, friends and wine members assist in this time-consuming, centuries old ritual.

After the grapes are picked, the artistry begins. Grapes are the only fruits that possess the necessary esters, acids, and tannins to make a consistent and stable wine. The acidity, flavor and sweetness need to be perfectly balanced. Although every wine master varies the technique, the five basic steps to the winemaking process are harvesting, crushing and pressing, fermentation, clarification, and aging and bottling. Sal Captain likes to use new French oak barrels for the first 12 months. He then transfers the juice to older barrels for 36 to 50 months for his Petit Verdot, Petite Sirah, and Cabernet. The Pinot Noir is aged for 24 to 30 months.

The 2017 vintage will produce excellent wines as the bloom was fantastic and the berries are spectacular. How privileged we are to have dedicated grape growers who share their talents and time to bring us the gift of wines from the vines.

Dionysus, the Greek god of grapes, wine, and wine-making and his Roman counterpart, Bacchus raise their mutual glasses in admiration after a visit to the vineyards of Lamorinda.

Salute!

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



Captain Vineyards offers tours and tasting by appointment only. Call (925) 330-2440, or visit captainvineyards.com for bookings. Classes are offered through the Moraga, Orinda, and Lafayette Parks and Recreation Departments on the second Sunday of each month. A Viticulture 4H project and high school wise programs are offered.



Susan Captain, Cynthia Brian, and Sal Captain outside the Moraga winery.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, is a New York Times best selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Please make a donation to help with hurricane disaster relief at www.BetheStarYouAre.org.

Tune into Cynthia's Radio show and order her books at www.StarStyleRadio.com. The new book, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, is delayed. Thanks for your patience.

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## ORINDA



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## ORINDA

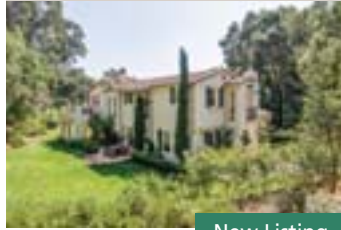


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## LAFAYETTE

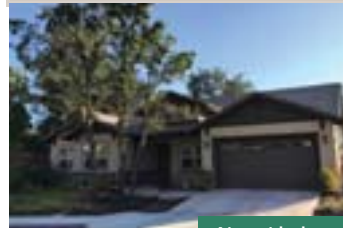


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