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Mike Moran looks down at the 40-foot slide area. Left: the new drainage pipe sits behind newly planted trees along the creek bed.

Photo Andy Schreck

Lafayette's proactive measures prevent road collapse

By Pippa Fisher

In a race to beat the winter rains, the recent major road stabilization project on St. Mary's Road in Lafayette was completed in the nick of time, just one day before the first significant rain of the season. Funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and completed 11 days ahead of schedule, this comes as a relief to the

Lafayette Public Works Department. In early January amid all the heavy rain, the shoulder of the road slid about 40 feet down to the Las Trampas Creek, taking with it a tree and laying vulnerable a high pressure gas line. Public Works Director Mike Moran says the work was a permanent stabilization project and should

prevent a recurrence. "If it were left undone St. Mary's Road at that location would have collapsed. Maybe within this winter but certainly sometime in the near future." Moran added that if the road had collapsed it would have impacted not only the gas main but also a sewer main and a water main. ...continued on page A12

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| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
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Local firefighters reflect on recent major disasters

By Nick Marnell



A rescued dog gets decontaminated in Texas. Photo courtesy MOPFA and California Task Force 4

Lamorinda fire personnel spent weeks outside their jurisdictions during a busy fall that included disaster responses in Texas and Florida and strike team deployments to the North Bay wildfires. But what impacted the responders most was the appreciation and gratitude of the local residents whom they came to help, many of those

locals having lost everything. Both the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District are participating agencies in the Urban Search and Rescue response system of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The two local agencies are assigned to California Task Force 4, sponsored by the Oakland Fire Department. Task forces step in when states seek federal assistance, as did Texas following Hurricane Harvey and Florida for the onslaught of Hurricane Irma. MOFD responded with two personnel to Texas and three to Florida; ConFire sent five to Texas and six to Florida. **On to Texas** The Hurricane Harvey convoy left Oakland Aug. 26 and drove 44 hours to Texas. "We become FEMA employees upon deployment. Our local titles no longer matter," said MOFD firefighter Steve Rogness, a task force rescue specialist. ... continued on page A8

Town takes next steps toward storm drain fee; timing still uncertain

By Sophie Braccini

Many questions were left unanswered after the Moraga Town Council agreed Nov. 8 to move forward with a rate study to tax residents for storm drain maintenance and repair. When will this mail-in ballot be sent to property owners? In March? Later? How much will single-family residents be taxed? What is the impact for commercial owners and the school district? How will outreach to residents be done? Beyond the technicality of the measure itself, a few residents questioned the wisdom of asking for the new fee. The method chosen by the town council and staff to tackle the town's high priority storm drain repair project backlog has been to first survey the residents to gauge what type of measure and level of funding would be acceptable. The

survey results, according to consultant Godbe Research, indicate that a storm drain fee would be acceptable to a majority of property owners and the recommended level is not to exceed an average of \$144 per parcel. A storm drain fee taxes properties depending on their specific impact on the storm drain system. For example, a home on a small parcel would impact the drainage system more than a large open space parcel: the first has a lot of impermeable surfaces such as roof and concrete slabs that create runoff, while the second contains mostly vegetation and dirt that absorbs water. On the other hand, that same small parcel impacts the systems much less than a commercial property, which is mostly roofs and parking lots. ... continued on page A4

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Civic News A1-A12 | Life in Lamorinda B1-B10 | Sports C1-C4 | Our Homes D1-D12 |
| New winemaker regulations discussed – page A5 | Carr Ranch hills open to hikers – B1 | SMC basketball season starts – page C1 | Avoiding trouble with trees – page D1 |
| Fire Districts A8 | Archer Circle house fire investigated – page A8 |  |  |



Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Nov. 27, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Nov. 27, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, Nov. 15, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org




Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Oct. 22-28

| | |
|---|-----|
| Alarms | 47 |
| 911 Calls (incl hang-ups) | 4 |
| Noise Complaints | 3 |
| Traffic Stops | 125 |
| Suspicious Circumstances | 3 |
| Suspicious Subjects | 10 |
| Suspicious Vehicles | 7 |
| Service to Citizen | 15 |
| Accident Property | |
| Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd. | |
| Animal Cruelty | |
| 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Auto Burglary | |
| 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| 4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Civil Problem | |
| 50 Block Lafayette Cr. | |
| 1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd. | |
| 30 Block Los Arabis Cr. | |
| Computer Fraud | |
| 3900 Block S Peardale Dr. | |
| Disturbing the Peace | |
| El Nido Ranch Rd./Sunnyhill Rd. | |
| Fire/EMS Response Info | |
| 3600 Block Deerhill Rd. | |
| 3500 Block Plaza Way | |
| Golden Gate Way/Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Fireworks | |
| 700 Block Los Palos Dr. | |
| Found Property | |
| 3700 Block Mosswood Dr. | |
| Fraud False Pretenses | |
| 1200 Block Franklin Ln. | |
| Grand Theft | |
| 500 Block Silverado Dr. | |
| Hailed by Citizen | |
| 3300 Block La Caminita | |
| Harassment | |
| 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. (2) | |
| 900 Block 4Th St. (2) | |
| 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Hit and Run Misdemeanor | |
| Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dewing Ave. | |
| Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd. | |
| 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| 900 Block Reliez Station Rd. | |
| Identity Theft | |
| 3200 Block Glenside Dr. | |
| 3200 Block La Canada Rd. | |
| Litter | |
| 3600 Block Bickerstaff St. | |
| Lost Property | |
| Police Department | |
| Occupied Stalled Vehicle | |
| Pleasant Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Ordinance Violation | |
| Happy Valley Rd./Upper Happy Valley Rd. | |
| 3600 Block West Rd. | |
| Petty Theft | |
| 3200 Block Ronino Way | |
| Prom Shoot | |
| St Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr. | |
| 1300 Block El Curtola Blvd. | |
| Reckless Driving | |
| Pleasant Hill Rd./Acalanes Ave. | |
| Moraga Rd./School St. | |
| Deer Hill Rd./Brown Ave. | |
| Glenside Dr./Reliez Station Rd. | |
| Happy Valley Rd./Upper Happy Valley Rd. | |
| Deer Hill Rd./N Thompson Rd. | |
| 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Shoplift | |
| 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Threats | |
| 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Trespass | |
| 3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2) | |
| Unknown Problem | |
| 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Unwanted Guest | |
| 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. | |
| Vandalism | |
| 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. | |
| Verbal Dispute | |
| Hawthorn Dr./Beechwood Dr. | |

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Immediate solutions sought to combat speeding drivers on dangerous Lafayette road

By Pippa Fisher



A Lafayette police officer monitors traffic with a radar gun on a straight stretch of Reliez Valley Road where motorists pick up speed. Photo Pippa Fisher

What to do about the Reliez Valley Road traffic? Either reckless drivers are endangering life by speeding or, during peak rush hours, the road resembles a parking lot and driver tensions run high. City officials continue to ponder the question but push for improvements on the safety issue right now, saying that it is only a question of time until there is a fatality.

Concerned members of the Reliez Valley Road corridor community met with city council members Cam Burks and Ivor Samson and the chief of police on Nov. 6 in an unprecedented emergency meeting of the public safety subcommittee in order to expedite tangible action.

"The circumstances in my opinion are exigent in nature, compelling us to move quickly and per-

haps around some of the standard city processes in an effort to protect the public by engaging and executing quickly," said Burks, who called the emergency meeting. "My primary goal here is life safety, period – and we need to engage and execute action in a substantive way right now."

The problem on Reliez Valley Road is two-fold: safety and congestion during peak hours. But it was the question of safety that prompted the city council to instruct Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen to begin a directed enforcement campaign along the stretch of Reliez Valley Road from Withers Avenue to Pleasant Hill Road, following the many residents who spoke of their concerns for safety at the Oct. 23 city council meeting.

Christensen explained to the

residents that there are two areas of concern: the route itself and driver behavior.

As expected Christensen found drivers indeed behaving badly, clocking speeds significantly over the 30 mph speed limit, including one motorcyclist recorded at 65 mph. Another officer wrote a ticket for a teenager doing 53 mph.

Additionally, officers have been writing tickets for rolling through the stop signs and for attempting to get around school buses on the route. Roughly 85 percent of all the tickets written have been to residents of the area. Of the 264 traffic stops within Lafayette during the Oct. 25 to Nov. 5 timeframe, 161 were made on Reliez Valley Road.

Christensen explained the one thing the police cannot enforce is courtesy and that is something that

is in short supply, with the peak hour congestion adding to driver frustration and road rage, which in turn prompts risky driving behavior such as using the left turn lane at the Pleasant Hill intersection to in fact turn right onto southbound Pleasant Hill Road.

Regarding what actions could feasibly be taken immediately, Christensen recommended painting "30 mph" by existing speed signs and painting a "no left turn" sign at the Pleasant Hill Road intersection, as well as creating two more stop signs at Fairholm Road and My Road in order to prevent long straight strips where drivers pick up speed. He further recommended painting a crosswalk at Green Valley Drive.

More than a dozen residents also gave their opinions on the solutions proposed with not all agreeing about more stop signs and crosswalks. Several appeared in favor of speed bumps, but Christensen pointed out that speed bumps would take more time to implement.

This meeting however was about immediate action and, as a result, Burks and Samson agreed that the matter should come back before the Nov. 13 city council meeting for its approval on the painting of crosswalks and speed limits, bypassing the circulation committee and to further examine the possibility of temporary speed bumps and electric speed warning signs.

Lafayette school district seeks to quickly rectify parcel tax error

By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette taxpayers will be getting a refund as a result of an error recently discovered on the Measure B parcel tax bill.

Measure B passed comfortably in 2014 with 73 percent voting it in as a means to support the high quality education that Lafayette expects. However, the initial parcel tax rate was incorrectly calculated when it took effect in July 2015.

Additionally the 2017-18 inflation rate adjustment exceeded the permitted 3 percent consumer price index cap by 0.8 percent.

Lafayette School District Superintendent Rachel Zinn says, "As a result the district owes a total of approximately \$400,000 for 2015-16 and 2016-17. For 2017-18 the county will be issuing revised tax bills to those who have not already paid their taxes this year. For those who have already paid, the county will be issuing reimbursements to taxpayers.

... continued on next page



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Lafayette denial of big home remodel upheld in court; plaintiff to pay costs

By Pippa Fisher



The Woodalls' plans for a large two-story, Tudor-style mansion were found to be incompatible with the character of this Hilltop Drive neighborhood in Happy Valley. Photo Pippa Fisher

The Court of Appeal of the State of California announced its decision on Nancy and Michael Woodall's lawsuit over their denied plans to build an English-style mansion in favor of the city of Lafayette and furthermore ruled that the city is entitled to recover all costs.

The court's decision, announced Oct. 26, follows several years of wrangling over the Woodalls' plans to demolish their existing single-story 4,111 square-foot ranch home and replace it with a two-story construction of a 5,595 square-foot Tudor-style country house featuring steeply pitched roof lines in the Happy Valley Dell subdivision of Lafayette.

Despite changes made to the plans when first presented in 2013, including bringing the proposed roof height down by 17 inches and an initial approval from the Design Review Commission, both the Planning Commission and the City Council agreed with the many neighbors who appealed on the grounds that the project was not compatible with the mostly smaller, single-story ranch homes in the neighborhood and would reduce

views of adjacent properties. The proposal was denied.

The Woodalls brought the lawsuit against the city of Lafayette, arguing that the council's decision was not supported by substantial evidence.

The court, finding in favor of the decision made by the city, ordered the plaintiff to reimburse the city for all of its costs to defend the case, approximately \$15,000, which as Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk points out, should serve as a deterrent to others who would file frivolous lawsuits against the city.

"Those costs are substantive and, since they were funded by taxpayers, this is a win for the city and for all Lafayette residents," said Falk.

"We were very pleased with the decision," commented Lafayette City Attorney Mala Subramanian. "The city council and its commissions each take their responsibility to review and evaluate property matters, including the design of structures, seriously. The Court of Appeal decision confirms the city's due diligence in evaluating and ultimately denying the permit."

Lafayette school district seeks to quickly rectify parcel tax error

... continued from page A2



Photo Pippa Fisher

This calculates out to about \$26 per year, per taxpayer."

The errors came to light when a resident new to the area was examining his annual tax bill and brought questions to the school district.

Zinn says they are very grateful that the resident brought it to their attention so that they can rectify the problem as fast as possible.

"The refunds will come from the general fund or reserves, or some combination of the two," said Zinn. Taxpayers will be receiving a letter when the district has worked out the mechanics of refunding the money, including a process for "opting out" as a choice. The district is now working with SCI Con-

sulting Group as they straighten out the problem.

Zinn says the reaction she has received so far has been overwhelmingly positive with many people suggesting they would rather the district keep the money.

Zinn, who says that no programs will need to be cut as they issue refunds, points out that the district really needed the parcel tax to support programs in the face of inadequate state funding.

"I am so grateful to the community for even passing a parcel tax to enable us to provide such a high quality education. We really regret that this happened and want to get it taken care of as quickly as possible."



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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Nov. 27, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

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

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Moraga Police Report

Summary covers Oct. 23 to Nov. 6

- Alarm Calls 16
- Noise complaints 3
- 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 8
- Traffic Stops 18
- Suspicious Circumstances 14
- Suspicious Vehicles 3
- Accident, Property reported to police
- Animal Cruelty Haven Ct./Williams Dr.
- Battery Rheem Elementary
- Battery, Sexual reported to police
- Burglary, Auto 100 block Miramonte Dr.
- Disturbance 1900 block Ascot Dr. Location n/a
- Excessive Speed Rheem Blvd./Fernwood (3) Larch Ave./Canyon Rd. Saint Marys/Rheem Moraga/Saint Marys Moraga/De Moraga Way/Alta Mesa Corliss Dr/York Pl.
- Fire/EMS location n/a 500 block Center St.
- Mentally Ill Commitment Saint Mary's College 20 block Lynch Ct.
- Medical, Hospital 100 block Alta Mesa Ct.
- Reckless Driving Alta Mesa Rd/Moraga Rd.
- Theft, grand 300 block Glen Alpine
- Theft, petty 1100 block Rimer Dr. Safeway 100 block Miramonte Dr.
- Theft, vehicle location n/a
- Welfare check location n/a (2)

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Moraga proposed firearms regulation attracts attention beyond town's borders

By Sophie Braccini

The topic of firearms regulation was on the Nov. 8 town council meeting agenda. At the beginning of the meeting, Moraga Town Manager Bob Priebe asked that the ordinance be put on hold to allow enough time for the town attorney to study new arguments put forth by an attorneys' group representing the National Rifle Association. The postponement led to some verbal disorder before the mayor ordered a meeting recess that allowed parties to leave the premises.

The correspondence was received by staff from Michel & Associates on the day of the meeting, not giving enough time to prepare a substantial reply. The attorney's letter was sent on behalf of the NRA and stated that the proposed ordinance would create an unconstitutional burden to the right of self-defense, and is unenforceable. The text establishes requirements for the safe storage of handguns in residences within the town. Priebe indicated that the town's legal team was aware of these arguments, but that a few new elements were added that required more scrutiny.

Priebe suggested continuing the topic to the Dec. 13 meeting. Mayor Teresa Onoda supported this idea, wanting to finish 2017 with a topic that some residents have been working on for a year. But Council Member Dave Trotter opposed the idea, explaining that the December meeting is a festive occasion, not appropriate for this highly contentious topic. The decision was made to hold the hearing either on Jan. 24 or in February.

In addition to the letter from the Los Angeles law firm, the town has received several pieces of correspondence from residents living outside of Moraga, such as Pleasanton, Rancho Santa Margarita, La Canada Flintridge and Laguna Niguel, and they are all in opposition to the text (some Moraga residents also oppose the text). A resident sent to the town a link to the group Calguns.net that encourages its members to voice their opposition to the Moraga proposal either in person or via a letter.

Town takes next steps toward storm drain fee; timing still uncertain

... continued from page A1

| CIP Category | High Priority | Moderate Priority | Low Priority | Overall Cost |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Capacity | \$ 2,964,000 | \$ 5,314,400 | \$ 3,068,000 | \$ 11,346,400 |
| Condition | 1,497,600 | 41,600 | 780,000 | 2,319,200 |
| Street Pavement | 291,200 | 104,000 | 156,000 | 551,200 |
| Recurring Problems | - | 156,000 | - | 156,000 |
| Creek Culverts | 4,461,600 | 5,751,200 | 2,381,600 | 12,594,400 |
| TOTAL | \$ 9,214,400 | \$ 11,367,200 | \$ 6,385,600 | \$ 26,967,200 |

Storm drain master plan

Graphic provided

The council approved an \$80,000 contract for SCI Consulting Group, the consultant that will compute the rate study for the town. Jerry Bradshaw for SCI gave the example of a few 10,000 to 20,000 square foot lots, which would be studied to determine an average percentage of impervious surface on them. That percentage would determine a fee that would be applied to all such parcels. For commercial properties, the tax would be a rate per acre. Open space lots would be exempt. Owners of residences that are part of an HOA would get a lower rate, because they already pay for the drainage in their HOA and impact the overall system less. Bradshaw added that an appeals process would be administered by town staff for the property owners feeling unjustly assessed.

Bradshaw noted that the proposed storm drain fee is not widespread in the state. He said that the survey, which showed a majority of support for this mechanism, did not take into account the commercial property owners or the schools. With the schools being made of concrete, but also including many sports fields, it is going to be interesting to see how the proposed fee for the district incorporates these factors.

Residents Scott Bowhay and Brent Meyers expressed reservations about the town using this mechanism to fund the drain repairs. Bowhay spoke for a new group in town called Smart Moraga, which wants to be part of the decision-making process. Meyers questioned what he felt was a rushed solution. He said he was not sure this was the only alternative that should be studied and that the town should engage in a larger discussion.

Meyers noted that the survey also shows that over 40 percent of residents do not believe that the town is going in the right direction, and that proposing the new fee was not addressing this recent

distrust. Mayor Teresa Onoda somewhat echoed these remarks when she asked to postpone the ballot for one year in order to re-establish trust with residents first. But her fellow council members stated that the storm drain situation was an emergency, as demonstrated by the Rheem sinkhole, and that it would be irresponsible not to seek means to prevent further disasters. There was no majority among

council members to determine timing for the tax measure. The consultant suggested mailing the ballots in March for results in April. Council Member Jeanette Fritzky noted that the time to inform residents would be too short. Resident Ellen Beans who had been a part of the successful 1 percent sales tax ballot measure, Measure K, also stressed the importance of informing and educating residents. The budget allocated to the

consultant includes only a few thousand dollars for outreach. It was clear to the council that most of the communication would have to be done by volunteers, like for Measure K. That 2012 outreach campaign was done over a period of two years, however, not four months.

Bradshaw confirmed that his complete work could be done in stages and that it would not cost more to the town if a decision was made to hold the election later. The consultant indicated that the results of the rate study would be available in December and could be heard at the Dec. 13 meeting. This last meeting of the year has traditionally been dedicated to the election of a new mayor. This time, it will also be the last meeting of town manager Bob Priebe who has served the town for 35 years. It is not certain that the council will agree to disturb the festive tradition with this hearing.

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Celebration planned to mark end of the Moraga sinkhole, Nov. 16

By Sophie Braccini



Moraga Public Works Director Edric Kwan with Project Manager Senior Civil Engineer Shawn Knapp in the trench as the culvert is repaired.

Town staff decided to hold the reopening of Rheem Boulevard party on Nov.16 after all the different pieces are in place, giving the town a finished product: a repaired culvert, a repaved arterial, reconstructed sidewalks, new and cured pavement, new striping and new street lights.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the corner of Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard. Just before the official ribbon cutting, emergency vehicles will pass through before the roadway is open to all traffic. The town staff and the Chamber of Commerce are inviting residents and businesses to celebrate the end of the long ordeal, which was delayed by many administrative and meteorological challenges.

Merchants bordering the boulevard will hand out goodies in bags that say, "I survived the sinkhole." Public Works Director Edric Kwan, who has been in charge since the culvert collapsed 20 months ago, says that all the goodies were do-

minated by either utility companies, contractors or local merchants.

Kwan is confident that the demanding process the town was subjected to by the Federal Emergency Management Agency will result in a reimbursement of the close to \$3 million that was spent to repair the hole, but notes that the reimbursement may take years before it returns to the town's reserve fund.

Normal circulation at the intersection will resume soon after the celebration is over.



A worker in the old culvert.

Photos provided

New winemaker regulations get final planning commission review

By Sophie Braccini

The problem is simple to state: regulating commercial wineries is about balancing the needs of light industrial operations in residential districts with the neighbors' rights and concerns. But it took four hours for the planning commission to reach a consensus, after years of study and outreach, because the questions raised are complex and somewhat ambiguous, according to the commissioners. Throughout the discussion, commissioners questioned the fairness of creating rules that would apply to winemakers only, and would be different from what is asked of other residents or groups.

The neighbors of the few commercial wineries in town have engaged in the regulation process and their concerns center mostly around traffic and parking, noise, and pesticide use. The commission reviewed a proposed regulation addressing only commercial winemakers, not residents making wine for their own use, or grape growing, however large it might be. Staff noted that the vast majority of winemaking and grape growing in town does not fall into the commercial winemaking category. This pertains only to bonded wineries that are licensed with the state. At this time there are only three such operations in town: one on Joseph Drive (the Bluffs), one on Laird Drive and one on Rheem Boulevard. There was also one on Hansen Court, but the new owners indicated that they were not renewing their license.

The winemakers who came to the meeting are part of the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association, the group that went through the long process of having the Lamor-

inda area recognized as a distinct American Viticultural Area. Susan Captain reminded the commissioners that her vineyard was established over 10 years ago with the planning department's blessing, and that the economic development committee had recommended developing winemaking as an opportunity for making the town a destination.

Neighbor Jacques Blumer, however, compared winemaking with tomato canning and tried to explain that this type of industrial activity would never be authorized in Moraga.

On one side, neighbors wanted complete disclosure regarding pesticide use, limits in terms of promotional and large events, no parking impact on public or private roads, and more stringent noise regulation. On the other side, LWGA claimed that the proposed restrictions would kill the budding economic sector, and asked for allowing larger production, not limiting planted acreage, and allowing more events for larger crowds. The planning commission tried to strike a balance.

The question regarding pesticides is a thorny one. Residents claim that spraying is a hazard for

children and adults' health and can have impacts on the watershed. They asked for disclosure, testing and possibly restriction to only organic products. Staff was clear that the matter is a privilege of the state and cannot be further regulated by cities. There were only two ways that were found compatible with the state rules to control pesticide use at the city level: ask winemakers to send the town a copy of the pesticide report they have to submit to the district, and require setbacks to limit impacts on neighbors.

Commissioner Karl Davis gave his personal testimonial from when he lived in Guerneville, next to a large wine grower, and said that a 50-foot setback made a difference. He qualified his remarks by saying they were anecdotal and not scientific proofs of the benefit of such a setback. His fellow commissioners asked that staff researched the efficacy of setbacks on neighboring pollution before bringing the text to the town council. Davis also noted the ambiguity of the proposed text that would regulate the spraying for winemakers, but not for wine growers who can just as easily impact their neighbors.

... continued on page A9

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Moraga Commons Park



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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 6 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

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

School Board Meetings

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

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

Oct. 22 to Nov. 4

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Alarms | 36 |
| Noise Complaints | 4 |
| 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) | 5 |
| Traffic Stops | 45 |
| Suspicious Circumstances | 8 |
| Suspicious Subjects | 13 |
| Suspicious Vehicles | 31 |
| Abandoned Vehicle | |

Spring Rd./Knickerbocker Ln.
10 block El Toyonal
Del Valle/Vista del Orinda

Accident, Injury

Sanborn Rd./Moraga Way
400 block Dalewood Dr.

Accident, Property

Shell gas
Miramonte High School
90 block Moraga Way
Moraga Way/Buena Vista

Arson

70 block Brookwood Rd.

Barking Dog

200 block El Toyonal
10 block Southwood Ct.

Burglary, Auto

40 block Oakwood Rd.
20 block Bryant Way
Wagner Ranch

10 block Moraga Way
50 block Moraga Way (2)

Burglary

90 block Camino Encinas
30 block Rio Vista
Orinda Country Club

200 block Canon Dr.
50 block La Cresta Rd.

Civil

10 block Valley View Rd. (3)

Death, Non-criminal

100 block Crest View Dr.

Defraud Innkeeper

Moraga Way/Bryant Way

Disturbance

10 block Donna Maria Way
10 block La Cintilla
Camino Pablo/Hwy 24

Oakridge Ln./Tahos Rd.

Dispute, Verbal

400 block Manzanita Dr.
CVS

10 block Yosemite Rd.

DUI

Moraga Way/Glorietta
Shell

Fire/EMS

40 block Donald Dr.

Forgery

10 block Kittiwake Rd.

Health & Safety Violation

Nation's
Donald Dr./Hall Dr. (2)

Hit & Run

100 block Crest View Dr.
100 block Ardith Dr.
Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd.

200 block Moraga Way

ID Theft

10 block Corte Holganza (2)

Indecent Exposure

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Orinda city manager highlights midyear financial challenges

By Nick Marnell

While not threatening the declaration of a fiscal emergency, Orinda City Manager Steve Salomon outlined at the Nov. 8 City Council meeting some of the financial challenges faced by the municipality.

Salomon explained to the council that according to the State Board of Equalization, the city receives only 7 percent of each Orinda property tax dollar, with over half of the tax dollar going to the local schools, 23 percent to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and 10 percent to the

county itself.

"That is very low," Salomon said of Orinda's share. Moraga receives 5 percent of every property tax dollar and Lafayette 6 percent.

Salomon also compared sales tax revenue versus other Contra Costa County municipalities, with Orinda coming in third from the bottom at \$45.61 per capita, above only Oakley and Clayton. "Other cities can provide the same services with twice the revenue," Salomon said, noting that Lafayette recognizes \$98.96 per

capita and Moraga \$49.79.

What's more, Orinda sales tax revenue is projected to increase only \$88,000 over the next seven years, according to a study done for the city. "That figure could be improved if the project across Orinda Way is built," Salomon said, referring to the planned 18,000 square foot Bella Oaks development of restaurants, retail and offices.

Lastly Salomon explained that the cost of the natural disaster to have befallen the city this year has significantly reduced

the city general fund reserves. Orinda budgeted \$3.75 million to cover expenses of the 2017 storm damage, including the Miner Road sinkhole, and that as of October, the city had spent \$3.35 million of the money with more expenses expected.

"It's taken more than half of the reserves we've accumulated over the years," Salomon said, with the city having reported \$5.9 million in its reserve fund as of June.

Potential breakthrough to the parking logjam at Orinda BART

By Nick Marnell



BART board president Rebecca Saltzman explains Scoop partnership to Orinda City Council. Photo Nick Marnell

Commuters who carpool to the Orinda BART station using an app from Scoop Techno-

gies will be guaranteed a parking space until 10 a.m. in permit parking areas at the station,

BART board president Rebecca Saltzman announced at the Orinda City Council meeting Nov. 8.

Saltzman said that the district goal was to maximize the limited number of parking spaces at the Orinda station by increasing the number of BART riders using each parking space. "We're trying to get more than one person to show up in each car so that there will be more parking spaces available for those who need them," Saltzman told the council.

To qualify for the guaranteed parking space in the permit lot, users first download the app from Scoop, a managed carpool program based in San Francisco. The night before the trip to BART, drivers schedule a trip to the Orinda station and the app will attempt to match the driver with a rider nearby. "About 90 percent of people are getting matched," Saltzman said, based on data from five BART stations already enrolled in the program.

... continued on page A12

Seasonal treasure seekers to converge at annual Holiday Bazaar this Saturday

By Jennifer Wake

Hunting for the perfect gift will get a lot easier in Orinda this weekend. Individuals will be able to browse and purchase handmade holiday items, clothing, jewelry, cosmetics, candles, home decorations, homemade knit ware, organic food items and more from over 50 vendors at the 41st Annual Holiday Bazaar from

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18 at the Orinda Community Center on Orinda Way.

Orinda Recreation Supervisor Jennifer Weiss says, "This year we have 30 percent new vendors and beloved return vendors bringing one-of-a-kind goods like handbags, hand-made jewelry and knitted goods, flannel PJ's,

holiday ornaments, stationary, silverware, fashion accessories, custom made jewelry, T-shirts, metal work and signs for home décor, pottery, scarves and shawls, as well as unique children's toys and puzzles and well-known vendors like Sima's Foods, Hofssi Chocolates, Captain Vineyards, Perfectly Posh, Jamberry and Arbonne,

just to name a few!"

Scooter the Clown will be found roaming the bazaar, making free balloon animals and doing magic, added Weiss, and there will be a free children's craft area in Room 6 of the Community Center.

The free event will be held rain or shine.



Scooter the Clown will make an appearance at this year's event. Photos provided



These colorful knit caps are some of the many offerings at this year's bazaar.

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Orinda seniors support Giving Tuesday

By Sophie Braccini



Orinda Senior Village residents write notes to North Bay fires victims.

There is not a dull moment after Thanksgiving: Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday and, since 2012, Giving Tuesday or #givingtuesday, a movement created to try to counterbalance the hyper-mercantilization of the post holiday fever.

The Orinda Association, the nonprofit that manages the Seniors Around Town program, decided to become a moving force of #givingtuesday and has started a collection of gifts for North Bay fire victims that will culminate on

Tuesday, Nov. 28. Seniors from Orinda Senior Village decided to join in and write personal notes of support to the future recipients.

On a Tuesday afternoon, a group of residents living in Orinda Senior Village got together to write encouraging notes to victims of the North Bay fires. Some wrote simply from the heart, conveying thoughts of compassion and friendly support, while others wrote from a model letter as English was not the easiest vehicle for them to express their feelings. All felt moved

by what they think fire victims must be going through, as they face the complete devastation of their communities. About 60 cards were handwritten by the seniors on notecards provided by OA board member Kate Wiley.

Eartha Newsong from Orinda Senior Village worked with the association to rally a group of willing scribes. Wiley explains that the idea is comparable to that of writing notes to soldiers for the holidays. The notes will accompany gifts collected through Nov. 28 at the Orinda Association office.

Wiley says that North Bay authorities have been overwhelmed with donations in the first weeks following the fires, but that thinking of victims later in November would be welcomed. Cindy Powell, OA president, brainstormed with her board the best gifts to collect for seniors and children. The plan is to gather books for both ages, new toys, and reading glasses.

The collection bins are accessible during business hours from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 26 Orinda Way on the library plaza, next to Cafe Teatro, until Nov. 28.

Orinda Tree of Lights planned for Dec. 2



Last year's tree lighting event

Photo Sora O'Doherty

The annual Hospice Tree of Lights events give loved ones a chance to honor those who have passed on with the twinkle of light adorned on one of 12 trees lit each year throughout the East Bay. The Orinda Tree of Lights is scheduled from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2 in Orinda Village by Bank of America, as part of the Orinda community's holiday celebration. Participants dedicate a Memorial Light for a loved one; the suggested dona-

tion of \$30 honors that loved one while directly supporting end-of-life patient care through Hospice East Bay. Unlike the event recently held at the Moraga Country Club on Nov. 12, because the Tree of Lights is part of a holiday celebration, no names will be read at the Orinda event. The trees will stay lit throughout the holiday season. For more information about this event, or about Hospice East Bay, visit www.hospiceeastbay.org. - J. Wake

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Nov. 15, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors

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

Please...



House destroyed, one dead in Archer Circle fire

By Nick Marnell



Archer fire contained

Shortly before dawn on Oct. 30, Ferenc Kovac heard pops and sparks, looked out his window and saw smoke and flames shooting from a house afire in a nearby Moraga cul de sac. Kovac called in the alarm at 4:48 a.m. and within six minutes, Capt. Mike Rattary and

his engine company from Moraga-Orinda Fire District Station 41 arrived at 9 Archer Circle to a house fully engulfed in flames.

Battalion Chief Felipe Baretto immediately called for a second alarm because of the potential for the fire spreading into the adjacent

Photo courtesy Felipe Baretto, MOFD trees and uphill to neighboring homes. A total of 41 firefighters from MOFD and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District responded to the incident. Because drums possibly containing nitric and hydrochloric acid were reported in the garage, the Contra Costa

County Hazardous Materials Team was called to the scene. Wires were reported down and PG&E secured the electrical and gas lines.

"I was impressed that they could contain the fire to the one structure," Kovac said.

One resident was rescued from the rear of the structure and transported to John Muir Hospital. The victim later died due to the severe burn injuries he received in the fire, according to Interim Fire Chief Jerry Lee. Another resident escaped unharmed.

Total property damage was estimated at \$1 million. The fire remains under joint investigation by officials of MOFD and the Moraga Police Department, who have yet to announce the cause of the fire.

The Alford family evacuated their nearby home because of the Archer Circle fire danger. In 2016, the Alford family evacuated their country club home on Augusta Drive after it was red-tagged as uninhabitable because of landslides along a regional park trail.

"This time, it was only for 30 minutes," Ray Alford said.

Local firefighters reflect on recent major disasters

... continued from page A1

The 80-person task force, whose members must meet rescue certifications and must be able to depart on three hours notice, was deployed in San Antonio, Katy, Simonton and Wharton, Texas. The responders stayed in makeshift dorms at school gyms and stadiums.

"The response from the citizens when we got there left the biggest impression on me," said Capt. David Watson of ConFire. "They were more concerned for us than they were for themselves. And these were people who lost everything."

"Texans brought out home-cooked meals," Rogness said. "A family came to our truck stop with a full Texas barbecue - for 70 of us."

The work in Texas included repairing rain damage and performing rescue operations. Wharton experienced severe flooding, and the task force searched for and evacuated residents and animals from the flooded areas. Rescue officer David Mazaika, a veteran MOFD engineer who orchestrated the district's original participation in the task force, discovered something in Wharton that he had not expected.

"What I learned is that you're not only there to handle the big issues. It's the little things that people appreciate the most. The local fire chief in Wharton was so appreciative that guys from halfway across the country came to his small town.



Task force workers crash inside high school gymnasium at Key Largo, Florida.

Photos courtesy MOPFA and California Task Force 4

The people were shocked and amazed," Mazaika said.

U-turn to Florida

After the completion of the Texas deployment, Rogness sensed what was on deck. "I saw the writing on the wall. Irma was coming. Guys who were driving home made it to El Paso, and had to turn around, to Atlanta. Then to Florida," Rogness said.

"Ten days in Texas, home for 30 hours, 12 days back to Florida. With a baby daughter just born July 5," Mazaika said.

The task force arrived in Florida before the Sept. 10 hurricane,

with the opportunity to work on preparation unlike the catch-up it performed after 40 inches of rain in Texas. Most of the damage was from wind and surge and the group did most of its work between Marathon and Key West. Again, the resiliency of the local communities stunned the task force.

"This guy had a mobile food company in the Keys, he came by and cooked lunch for all of us," Mazaika said. "Not until afterward did we find out that he had lost his home, his clothes, everything. He only had his truck and trailer left. We took up a collection to try to get him going again. He broke down and cried."

The work in Florida was tougher because the Keys were so isolated from the mainland, with most residents having evacuated. Responders had to pick up their own food, their own water, their own fuel. Watson noted that the time in Texas was easier on his family, because in Florida, there was no cell service, no Wi-Fi, no way to communicate back home.

"I was energized, watching people who had never met each other working together to get the job done," Rogness said. "It's so cool for a small fire department like ours to be able to contribute to something this massive."

The North Bay

MOFD Capt. Mike Lacy had never been to Santa Rosa until his strike team arrived after the Oct. 8 North Bay wildfires. "I thought, this seems like a lot of houses that are burning really fast. When I got there, it only compounded my confusion," Lacy said. "Houses aren't

supposed to burn like this. Not 5,000 stucco-sided homes with tile roofs. I wouldn't have even batted an eye at that. I would have said, your house is safe."

ConFire sent two wildland units on an initial attack the day of the fire, along with four engines, as part of a strike team. "A total of 24 of our personnel responded to this incident," said ConFire Operations Chief Ed Gonzales.

Recognizing the amount of destruction and the speed with which it occurred was horrific to Lacy and the strike team. "It's a miracle that none of us got hurt," Lacy said, yet again overwhelmed by the gratefulness of people who had lost so much.

Lacy himself experienced a personal loss. "One of my friends lost his house. I met him when I was 4, while he was dating my mother. He was the reason I joined the fire service," Lacy said.

His biggest takeaway was that you do not have to live in the hills and forests to confront a disaster like the North Bay wildfires. "Where there are homes and major vegetation, this type of fire can hit," Lacy said, a not-so-veiled reference to Lamorinda.

The rush of disaster response is exciting, but responders agree that it's nice to return home. Not only are the responders heroes to the people whose lives have been turned upside down, they are heroes at home as well.

"Being away takes its toll," Watson said. "But when I saw my daughter running up to me when I landed at the Oakland Airport, it was a moment I will never forget."

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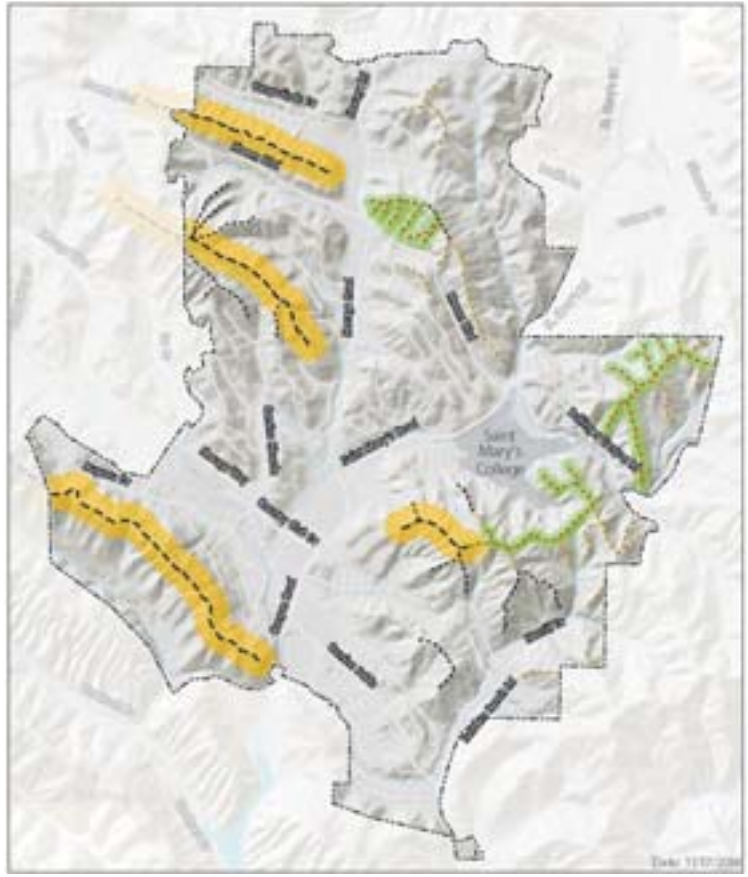


Photo Sophie Braccini

Moraga police officer Michael Dreyfuss shows the new red emergency phone located next to the police department's office at 329 Rheem Blvd. Chief of Police Jon King explains that the phone is accessible 24/7 even if the department's offices are closed and con-

nects people directly to the emergency dispatch. The chief adds that if someone needs immediate access to police services and does not have a cell phone handy, this red emergency phone will always be there. - S. Braccini

Hillside and ridgeline town council study session Wednesday, Nov. 15



Designated ridgelines figure CD-1 Image provided

Date Source: Team of Maps, 2013; Contra Costa County, 2013; USGS, 2006, 2013; Planitalks, 2016. MOSO Ridgelines: MOSO Major Ridgelines (dashed black line), MOSO Minor Ridgelines (dotted black line), 500 Foot Buffer for Major MOSO Ridgelines (yellow shaded area). Non-MOSO Ridgelines: Significant Non-MOSO Ridgeline (dashed red line), Other Non-MOSO Ridgeline (dotted red line), 200 Foot Buffer for Significant Non-MOSO Ridgelines (green shaded area). Town Boundary (dashed black line). Scale: 0 to 1 Miles.

After several years of meetings and study sessions the planning commission submitted its recommendation to the Moraga Town Council regarding new hillside and ridgeline regulations. The commission recommended most of the text with some exceptions, such as a new rule limiting development in high-risk areas to one dwelling unit per 20 acres, even when haz-

ards such as landslides have been mitigated or new ways to calculate visual impacts of new buildings on hillsides. The council will hold a study session about the new body of texts at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15, in the council chambers, 335 Rheem Blvd. The final amendments to existing regulations are still slated for adoption before the end of the year. - S. Braccini

New winemaker regulations ... continued from page A5

All agreed that winemakers should send a copy of their county pesticide disclosure to the town. It was noted that it was an after-the-fact document and not a warning to neighbors.

The commissioners supported the restriction to a maximum of 1,000 cases of wine per winery. A producer would have to ask for a specific authorization to produce more. The commission did not support the concept of limiting the number of acres or a percentage of a property dedicated to grapes. They agreed to limit the num-

ber of large events to a maximum of five per year with notification to the town 10 days in advance. They also found it reasonable to limit wine tasting and tours to 10 guests, up to three times a day. The noise level will have to be limited to a maximum of 70 dBA - a weighted decibel level - during events, harvest or use of machinery, and to 60 dBA otherwise.

The next step is for the town council to review and adopt a final ordinance. It should not happen before January, depending on other priorities.


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Contra Costa Recycles

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- Cardboard packaging (for toothpaste or bar soap)
- Toilet paper rolls and tissue boxes

America Recycles Day is Nov. 15
During the month of November, pledge to recycle more, and vote for a local community project to receive a \$1,500 waste reduction project grant!
www.ContraCostaRecycles.com
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New business instills the love of books in local children

By Diane Claytor



Moraga's Trudy Deutz shows off the books and special packing that Elephant Book Club members will receive. Photo provided

It's one of the best antidotes to a hectic day spent rushing from one activity to the next, one place to another: cuddling on the sofa or snuggling in bed with your freshly bathed, clean-smelling toddler beside you, reading his or her favorite story (even if it is for the 25th time). These are the moments that reinforce that very special bond, create wonderful memories and often elicit meaningful conversations. And no matter how easy or convenient an e-reader may be, for a child especially, it doesn't compare to holding a book, turning a page, feeling the furry bunny or soft kitten that's the star of the story.

We all know bookstores are, unfortunately, disappearing, making it more difficult to find that perfect book for the children in our lives. That's what Moraga's Trudy Deutz realized last year when looking for a gift for a friend's 5-year-old. Wanting to purchase a book

but not knowing what books the recipient may already have, Deutz started thinking about the concept of a kids' book club, finding new, undiscovered authors and offering beautiful, vibrant hard-covered age-appropriate books.

Deutz, who has more than 20 years of consumer product, entertainment and digital media experience, contacted a former colleague, Stephen Murray, like Deutz, an avid reader, who now lives in London. The two reminisced about the books they read as children, their memories of childhood visits to the library and checking out books, using the old library check-out card included in every book. They talked about the current retro trend where, as Deutz said, "everything is new again" and the idea of creating a book club for the younger set. Deutz and Murray did their due diligence, researching what the experts say about the importance of reading. Almost all agree that books stimulate imagination and play, curiosity and discussion. FirstfiveCalifornia.com reports that books are one of the most effective learning tools for children, starting from infancy. "Studies have shown that encouraging a child's comments and responses during story time can actually accelerate a 2-year-old's language development by up to nine months," the website states.

Valerie Friedholm, another friend with marketing, sales and

financial experience, joined the group and, after more research and many conversations and virtual meetings, the three book lovers brought to life The Elephant Book Club, geared to children from infants to 6-year-olds. (The name, according to Deutz, came to them because elephants are such gentle, sweet animals with great memories and said to be devoted to their offspring.) "We all believe that an early introduction to books played a critical role in our own development by encouraging curiosity, love of learning and, perhaps most of all, imagination," the co-founders state on their website. Their goal is to help today's young families make that same discovery.

The co-founders have built relationships with several publishers who provide books to review. Friedholm, who lives on the East Coast, meets with the publishers to personally source the books and make sure each one meets the high standards wanted for the Elephant Book Club members. "We're looking for quality books we think parents will want to read and kids will want to keep," Deutz explained.

Each month, club members in the 0-2 year age range receive three high-quality colorful and stimulating board books; 2- to 6-year-olds receive two exceptionally written and designed hard-covered picture books. In addition to the premium books sent, each delivery includes reading tips and a set of fun activities designed to make family reading even more meaningful and engaging. Beautifully crafted bookplates are sent for the younger children while the older ones receive custom-designed library cards. Deutz explained that toddlers can scribble something on the bookplate or a preschooler can write the name of the person who read him or her the book for the very first time on the library card. "These are simple ways to make a library of personalized memories," she noted.

As Deutz continued, "We're excited to offer these new, beautiful books and having them mean something to both parents and children. They can bond over the books and then save them, knowing the kids have a real – not digital – library they can cherish and some day pass on to their kids."

For more information or to subscribe and receive books the children in your life will want to read, share and keep, go to elephant-books.com.

A good match for the holidays: Hollie's Homegrown and Hofssi Chocolates at Cine Cuvée

By Sophie Braccini

At a recent Lamorinda Business Women group meeting, Hollie Lucas-Alcalay participated in a panel discussion about partnerships. For the Moraga entrepreneur who grows and sells her herbs and derivative concoctions, it was a topic she understands well; she recently created a common boutique with Lamorinda chocolatier sisters Susan Hofmeister and Linda Rossi of Hofssi Chocolates in Orinda's downtown Cine Cuvée.

The three women are all mothers of young children, living in Moraga or Orinda and driven by a similar desire to create high quality gourmet products for a demanding market. Lucas-Alcalay has been in business for seven years, growing all kinds of herbs in her garden, drying and packaging them, creating teas, culinary salts, olive oils and herb infused bath and body products that she sells herself in farmers' markets

or online.

Hofmeister and Rossi create their chocolates through Cottage Food Operator licenses in their homes. Their range of products include gourmet caramels, toffees, mint meltaways, chocolate covered almonds and the signature gianduja – an Italian concoction mixing chocolate and ground roasted hazelnuts or almonds.

The three women rubbed shoulders at different events, such as the Hacienda de las Flores Holiday Fair, and Lucas-Alcalay noticed that the chocolatiers were business women with the same ethics: looking for organic, flawless production, and delivering what had been promised on the terms that were agreed upon.

The trio also explains that they are in the same economic bracket with similar constraints: their volumes are still small, so selling wholesale does not pencil out.

... continued on page A11



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Cannabis in Bollinger Canyon

By Sophie Braccini



Cannabis growing on a legal medical grow farm in Washington Bigstock images

On an early October morning, two deputies from the county sheriff's office knocked on the door of a farm located toward the end of Bollinger Canyon Road. The owners were not happy to see the two officers but knew why they were there; the crop growing on the property was an illegal one: a flowering plant of the Cannabaceae family, more commonly known as marijuana. The owners were given two weeks to remove the crop. But will the year-end legislation that makes the recreational drug's commerce legal permit growing the crop? That remains to be seen.

Residents claiming to live close to several large cannabis farms located off Bollinger Canyon Road sent the sheriff's office an anonymous letter alerting them of the operation. The letter identified one of the growers, indicating that this activity had been going on for years and claimed it was linked to Mexican cartels dismantled five years ago.

Since then, the writers contend, the number of farms has increased, cultivation happens in plain view, and in late fall a large number of pickup trucks running up and down that narrow country road at high

speed have been spotted day and night, as well as blacked-out SUVs carrying seasonal workers at harvest time. The whistleblowers also complained of large movement of earth and containers, and the sounds of frequent gunshots that frighten nearby families.

Another area resident, who also asked to remain anonymous, confirmed the allegations contained in the letter.

The Moraga side of Bollinger Canyon in question is accessible only through the road that branches off St. Mary's Road, at the corner of the local college, but it soon becomes unincorporated land, regulated and policed by the county.

Come January, the commerce of marijuana will be legal in California, but does that mean that these farms will be able to operate legally? It may not be that simple.

Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen explains that the county still has to regulate what will be and will not be permitted within the county limits and is in no hurry to do so. She explains that many aspects of the cultivation will have to be regulated, as is done for any farming activity.

Andersen adds that it is a good

thing, since at this time no control is undertaken of potential environmental hazards impacting local streams and creeks with runoffs of pesticides and fertilizers in what ultimately becomes our drinking water.

The anonymous letter writers also alleged that pesticides and fertilizers are used unchecked in the Bollinger farms, polluting Bollinger Creek that is part of the large Walnut Creek watershed.

Andersen also noted that the county is likely to be sensitive to what local jurisdictions authorize as far as cultivation, and will regulate specific areas with similar restrictions as those imposed in adjacent communities. Moraga has adopted policies that do not allow for open field and large scale cultivation of cannabis.

The Moraga police department confirmed that its jurisdiction does not extend to unincorporated Contra Costa County. A few years ago, however, Moraga police officers took action alongside East Bay Regional Park District rangers when shooting presumably attributed to outdoor cannabis growing happened in the wilderness area off Rancho Laguna Park.

A good match for the holidays

... continued from page A10



Hollie Lucas-Alcalay, Susan Rossi and Linda Hofmeister set up their holiday store at Cine Cuvée in Orinda. Photo provided

They want to grow but will have to make crucial decisions in terms of investments and more partnerships. Both businesses are also developing online sales, as well as working on fundraising activities where part of the proceeds go to a school or charity.

They decided to look for a retail space to share during the holidays. October through December are three crucial months for both their businesses, generating more than 50 percent of their annual sales. They talked to different landlords and commercial agents, but could not find the space that would combine good foot traffic and affordability. Then one day, while going to the movies, Lucas-Alcalay noticed that the wine bar, Cine Cuvée, next to the Orinda theater, was only open in the evening. The women contacted owner Derek Zemrak, and struck a deal.

Hollie's Homegrown and Hofsi Chocolates now have a storefront through Dec. 23, open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in downtown, at 2 Orinda Theatre Square.

It is a bit of work every day to set things up and transform a cozy

bar into a gourmet boutique at 10 a.m., then turn the space back into a wine bar by 5 p.m., but the ladies are up to the challenge. Every day, they also come to run the store – something that is a bit of a challenge when running a booming business, since online sales and farmers' markets do not stop during the holidays, and neither do raising families. They all acknowledge that their husbands support them handsomely, with meal prep and management of most of the children's extracurricular activities. Several Saint Mary's students also intern at the boutique. The three businesswomen say that the students enjoy learning the ropes of a small business.

Lucas-Alcalay, Hofmeister and Rossi say that depending on how things go at the holiday boutique they might look for a common permanent space in the future.

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As seen in Lamorinda...



Members of Boy Scout Troops 212, 234, 246, and 249 watch Piper Steven McElhane of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco's Prince Charles Pipe Band during Veteran's Day ceremonies at Moraga Commons Park.



Mayor Teresa Onoda (center) surrounds herself with Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts from Orinda Moraga Service Unit #327 before the Veteran's Day ceremonies at Moraga Commons Park. This is the first year Girl Scouts have taken an active role in the commemoration. Photos Cathy Dausman

Lafayette's proactive measures prevent road collapse

... continued from page A1



St. Mary's Road at the point of slide – exposed pipe visible. Photo provided

"The gas is located near the failed shoulder of the road and that was my biggest immediate concern."

"We needed to prevent any additional erosion or we could lose that section of St. Mary's Road into the creek (we were able to do that by covering the slide with plastic sheeting). Almost simultaneously, my thoughts went to how can we fix this and how fast can we get it done," said Moran, explaining how shocked he was when he first saw the slide.

Valentine Corporation of San Rafael was awarded a contract in

the amount of \$493,369 at a city council meeting in August. "We are fortunate that this slide occurred during a declared disaster because this made our repair eligible for federal funding," Moran said.

"For our job, FEMA has said they will reimburse 75 percent of qualifying expenses," Moran explained. "They will only pay to restore to previous condition, no betterment. Additionally, the California Emergency Management Agency will also reimburse 75 percent of the remaining 25 percent, or 18.75 percent. So theoretically the

city can complete this project and be reimbursed for 93.75 percent of the costs."

Moran credits the contractors saying they did a great job and brought in the right equipment to reach down the steep slope to the creek, using a Gradall loader with a 60-foot reach from the roadway at the top.

Although drivers might experience frustration while held up in traffic, there are perhaps many aspects to a public works project that residents do not consider. Moran refers to the flaggers who were controlling traffic. "I did receive a request to use a timed temporary signal but denied that request for a couple of reasons. One reason is that two flaggers can adjust the amount of time they let through northbound or southbound traffic based on actual traffic loads. Humans will be more efficient than a timed signal."

"Another reason is that we still had to hold traffic in both directions when equipment was blocking both lanes and they would still need a traffic controller to operate the signal so that it would show a red light in both directions when both lanes were blocked."

Moran points out, "Because this repair is on a creek bank, the city needed to work with Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. This is quite a process and took months to get all required permissions. We will also have to monitor and report on the planting and riparian restoration for five years following the completion of the project."

With water from the rains now starting to flow in the creek, Lafayette is ahead of the game on St. Mary's Road.

BART parking

According to the Scoop website, most rides will cost a few dollars, and a ride home is guaranteed. If a rider is "Scooped" into the Orinda station, and for any reason, Scoop is unable to fulfill the ride back, Scoop will reimburse the cost of alternate transportation home up to a maximum of \$50 per month.

"This is also a great way to serve our parent community," said Vice Mayor Amy Worth, noting that parents who drop off kids at school in the morning would likely never get to the BART station by the typical 7:30 a.m. fill-up time and are even less likely to secure a coveted parking permit.

Those who could be negatively affected by the program are the BART parking permit holders, who pay \$105 monthly for the right to park in the Orinda station permit lot if they arrive by 10 a.m. By adding spaces for Scoop commuters, the district would be constricting the spaces available to permit holders, said Council Member Darlene Gee.

"So far, we've been able to avoid that," said Saltzman, explaining that data provided by Scoop has allowed the district to prudently manage parking space availability. After 10 a.m. any empty spot in the

... continued from page A6

BART permit area becomes available to the general public for a fee on a first-come, first-served basis.

BART said it will make every effort to deliver the guaranteed parking spaces to Scoop users, but during certain events, like a San Francisco Giants afternoon baseball game, demand may be such that protecting parking spaces will be extremely difficult.

The BART-Scoop carpool program, a partnership with the nine-county Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission, debuted in Orinda on Nov. 13.

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Beyond beauty alone, Carr Ranch adds significant habitat to Lamorinda open space

By Sophie Braccini



Glen Lewis, left, guides the group through a new gate onto the Carr Ranch land.

Photos Andy Scheck

The dedication of a new piece of land to open space preservation in perpetuity is a special moment that brings a lot of satisfaction to the hearts of those who have worked on the project, and those living nearby with a consciousness of what they owe to nature. Giving back to beauty and preserving it to future generations elevates the soul. This was indeed the mood of the celebration of the opening to the public of the Carr Ranch preserve in Moraga.

The celebration itself was a two-part event, due to the air's high fine particle content on Oct. 14 resulting from the then raging North Bay fires. The officials' discourses and presentations were still held that day at Rancho Laguna Park, while the first official walks were conducted on Nov. 11, exploring the unique beauty of this site.

The large wild expanse belonged to the Carr family, one of the rancher clans who once developed Moraga as an agricultural community. During the official ceremony, Moraga Historical Society member Dave Trotter retraced the significance of the family and its land. Since these early days, the only inhabitants of Carr Ranch have been wildlife, with cows grazing peacefully.

According to Jake Schweitzer, wildlife biologist with Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting who accomplished John Muir Land Trust's Resource Area Report(s) for Carr Ranch, the property is not just any piece of land, it harbors unique ecosystems and natural plant and animal resources, and it also creates a complete watershed ensemble with neighboring properties belonging to East Bay Municipal Utility District. The agency donated to JMLT a significant portion of the agreed purchase price. That money comes from open space fees developers pay EBMUD when they develop other lands.

When Schweitzer investigated the conservation value of the ranch, he discovered that Carr Ranch is a particularly interesting site. It includes ridge tops in a zone that receives more precipitation than

surrounding ridges. The biologist explains that it is located in a gap where the winds come through carrying higher precipitation. The result is the existence of the year-round productive Buckhorn Creek with a tall riparian corridor, and a wide variety of tree species providing a good wildlife habitat.

During the Nov. 11 hike, it took the group of about 40 walkers about an hour to reach the creek and the entrance of Carr Ranch. The hike started at Rancho Laguna Park, and up the Rocky Ridge EBMUD trail, from which the Carr Ranch loop trail branches off after 2.5 miles. The views and the lush vegetation along the creek provide a wonderful opportunity to communicate with nature and marvel over the beauty of the East Bay.

Vollmar Natural Lands conducted a live observation of the property, but also installed wildlife cameras that take pictures day and night when movement occurs. Many animal species were observed on the property, either in the riparian corridors, near the multiple springs that exist within Carr Ranch, or roaming the open expanses: mountain lions, Alameda whip snakes, American badgers, red legged frogs, California newts which Schweitzer says are an indication of good water quality, and western pond turtle, to mention some of the land wildlife besides all the species of birds such as woodpeckers, owls, quails, vultures, cranes, hawks or golden eagles to name a few.

On the Nov. 11 tour, birds were easier to spot than other wildlife. Walking Carr Ranch requires good stamina, or time, in order to climb the heights of the property. It took four hours for those who did the entire hike. They were rewarded by views of the San Mateo Bridge and the bay, the delta area and Benicia Bridge, Tilden Park, or Bollinger Canyon. They spotted numerous birds and a coyote leisurely inspecting his kingdom. The trail is now open to the public; an EBMUD trail permit is required to access the ranch, which can be purchased on the agency's web site.



A hiking map for the Carr Ranch loop trail can be found at [www.jmlt.org/downloads/JMLT Carr Ranch Trail Map.pdf](http://www.jmlt.org/downloads/JMLT_Carr_Ranch_Trail_Map.pdf).

Budd MacKenzie: "It's time we all got off the couch"

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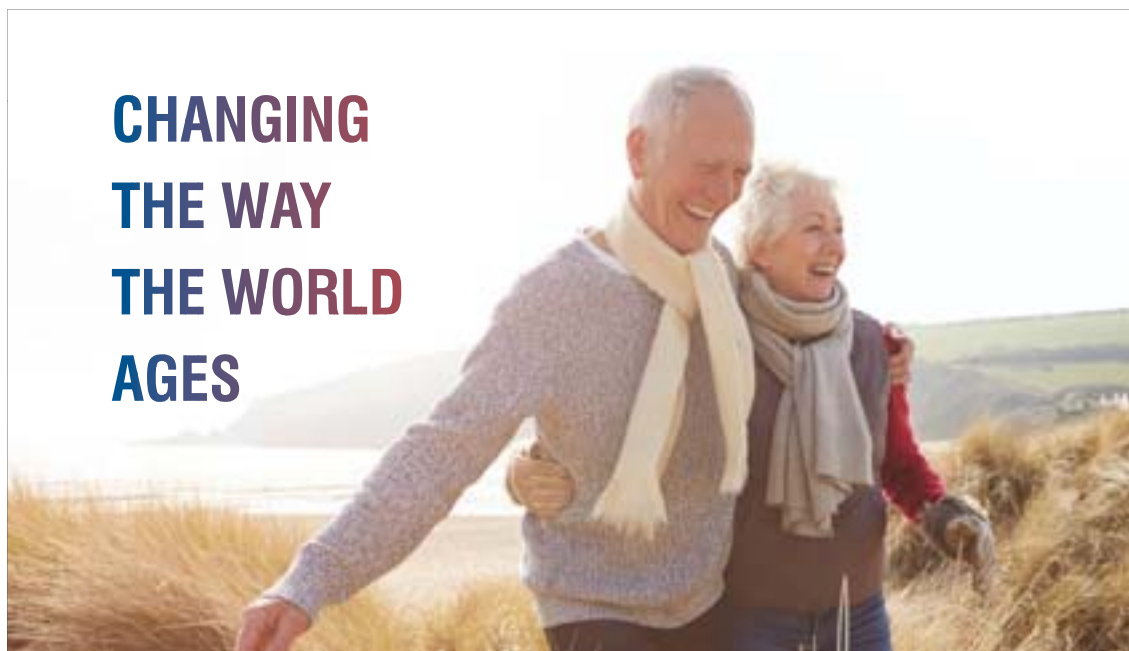
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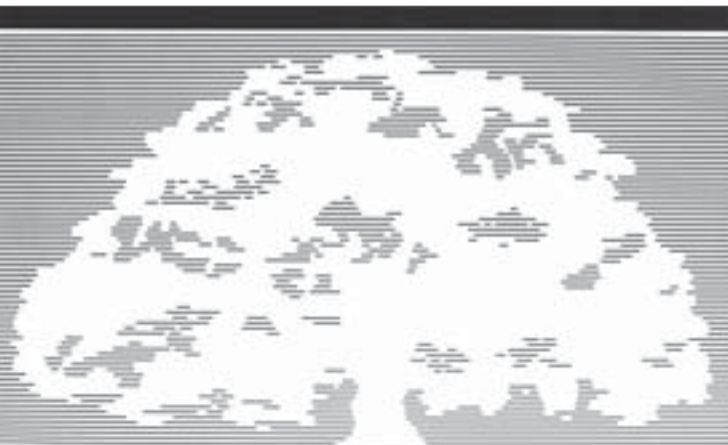
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One woman's hobby captures Lafayette history in miniature

By Diane Claytor



Nancy Flood stands in front of the colonial-style house which began her 40-year love of making and furnishing miniature buildings.
 Photos Diane Claytor

Walking through Nancy Flood's charming house on a quiet, tree-lined Lafayette street, it's obvious that she collects things – table tops, shelves and cabinets display her collections of glassware, salt shakers, paper punches, mice, antique bottles and souvenir spoons. "I've always been a collector of small things," Flood, a lifetime Lafayette resident, acknowledged. "I remember having a 'what not' shelf of little things when I was a child."

Over the years, the effervescent Flood continued collecting small items. Forty years ago, she was in a local crafts store and spotted a kit for making miniature colonial-style bedroom furniture. "The box said any 12-year-old could make it, so I figured if a 12-year-old could do it, so could I," Flood said with a laugh. She soon added a tiny Queen Anne-style table, creating a lovely miniature sitting room she placed on a bookshelf. "All of a sudden, I had this desire for a dining room table," she said with a sparkle in her eye. "I don't know why, except it looked so cute."

The miniature furniture collection was quickly outgrowing the bookshelf. So what did Flood do? She purchased a shell of a colonial-style house, "which was in need of some repairs," she admitted, and proceeded to fix it, furnish it, decorate it and make it into an incredible miniature home that she has proudly displayed in her dining

area all these years. It was a family project, Flood said. "My step-father made a new chimney, my mother created paneling and she and I individually stained the shingles for the roof." Flood made chair coverings, needlepoint rugs, and wall hangings. She found hand painted dishes, hung wallpaper and cross-stitched pictures. "One thing leads to another," she stated. "Family and friends started finding – or making – items to add to the house."

Flood's family first settled in Lafayette in the 1850s; 53 years ago, her father, a construction worker, built their family home where the Cooperage now stands; her grandparents lived where LaFinestra had been. "Lafayette used to be a small town in the middle of nowhere," Flood remembered fondly.

Flood's familiarity with, and love of, Lafayette provided her with the impetus to take her hobby of creating miniature buildings to the next level. "It was always in the back of my mind to develop a miniature Centerville," one of the early names chosen for Lafayette, she stated. And so she did.

On dressers and tabletops in a bedroom of her home, Flood enthusiastically pointed out, sits the miniature "town of Centerville in the spring of 1898, inspired by the early days of Lafayette. Most of the buildings," Flood explained, "represent an actual structure that was part of the town at the time and some even look like the original buildings;" however, Flood admitted, "some are from my imagination and a good deal of artistic license has been taken."

Much like Lafayette in the days of yore, Flood's Centerville includes a general store, blacksmith shop, church, saloon and dress shop. Her general store closely resembles the Robert E. McNeil General Merchandise store, which sat where Sideboard is today; Flood's version contains candy, household items and boots – all in miniature, of course. Next to that was the Geils Building, which included a dress shop Flood warmly remembers. Her adaptation includes a dress-maker and milliner store, complete with very small bolts of fabric, tiny fancy hats and mannequins wearing dresses Flood made.

Her Blacksmith Shop is filled with items that took her "years to collect." She made the Black-

smith's clothing and was able to find a real leather apron and hat. She sent a colleague a picture of the original shop and after doing some research, he made the bellows and, using actual tiny bricks, built the forge.

Her Dead Horse Saloon, Flood admitted, may not be authentic. "While there were plenty of drinking establishments in Lafayette at the time, I don't know if there was actually a saloon that looked like this." Her church, on the other hand, looks very much like photos of the old Good Templar's Hall, or "Church on the Hill" as it was known locally. "I was told that a red chandelier hung in the original building," Flood noted, so, of course, her church also includes a red chandelier.

What began, all those years ago, as a simple Lafayette bicentennial project, took on a life of its own. Over the years, this "hobby" has grown into what is now an amazing collection of miniature houses, filled with tiny people, furniture and accessories.

Having retired 15 years ago after 41 years of teaching primary school (30 of those at Springhill), Flood now has much more time to work on her hobbies. She's still making and acquiring miniature pieces, still fixing up some of the houses, which, she said, "in some cases need a lot of work." She still does some needlepoint and cross-stitch, but acknowledged that it's getting harder to see those small pieces.

"I have a need to do crafty-type things," she noted and now does more scrapbooking and card making. "Time really flies when I'm working on these projects."



The inside of Centerville's blacksmith shop.

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To Lamorinda singles over 40: There's hope!

By Nick Marnell



Lori Fowler and John George enjoy the fun at the Nov. 7 Lamorinda singles event Photo Nick Marnell

World Series over. No Sharks game. No Warriors game. Still plenty of time to procrastinate writing my own articles for the paper. It was Tuesday night and I had nothing to do, so I went to dinner at Rancho Cantina on Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette.

The place was mobbed! The first Tuesday in November, and not just mobbed, but buzzing. Three dozen-plus people drinking and talking and laughing and forcing me to sit at the counter. Co-owner Julie Mitchell walked over to me and explained: Her bar-restaurant was hosting a singles event, put together by the irrepressible Kim Thanh, a Lafayette commercial banker.

"Lafayette is so boring. It's so hard to be single in the suburbs," Thanh said, as smiling and upbeat and positive as one would expect of an event planner. So Thanh reached out on Nextdoor, a pri-

vate neighborhood social network, and organized the Nov. 7 get-together. She promoted a singles event at Metro a month earlier, which drew only 10 people, albeit with a suggested age range of 28-48. The event at Rancho Cantina buried the earlier one: Rancho was promoted as a 40-65 event. And did the 40-65 singles respond.

"Way better than I thought it would be," said Cyndy Ayers of Saranap. "It's great to meet with people who have something in common from the same area."

Kristi Buckley of Lafayette, who works for an architectural firm in San Francisco, praised the turnout. "We need this. It's so hard to meet people in our city," Buckley said.

A faithful reader of our paper offered her special take to the evening. "Widows and widowers have no organization," said Lori

Fowler of Lafayette, a widow herself. "People assume events for widows are for people only in their 80s. There are plenty of us in their 50s too," Fowler said. John George, a retired widower, agreed. "I've lived two and a half years in Lafayette, and I didn't think there were any singles here," George said.

About the only professed negative was the gender mix, as proclaimed by one attendee who wished to remain anonymous, who said the men didn't have the guts to show up. The turnout was 75 percent female. (I was working, so I didn't count.)

Thanh and Mitchell plan to host a similar event for the 40-65 age group on the first Tuesday evening of each month. No official title, still a work in progress.

And guys: On Dec. 5, there are no Warriors or Sharks games on television.

Classic manners being taught in the classroom

By Cathy Dausman



One student works on a thank you card. Photos Cathy Dausman



Tina Hayes discusses proper utensil use.

Can behavioral rules established 400 years ago in France's Louis XIV court possibly be relevant today? Just ask the kindergartners and fifth-graders taking Tina Hayes's etiquette classes. Those students might not ex-

pect to be addressed as "beautiful young ladies and gents" (in fact, the sobriquet elicited a round of giggling from the fifth-grade girls) but they have learned how their manners, both good and bad, reflect on their family.

In a world of instant gratification and self-importance, teaching classic etiquette may be a hard sell, but Hayes believes starting at a young age is the key to doing things right.

Hayes was at Husky House, a year-round school held on the Happy Valley Elementary School campus, to develop another group of good citizens. She has been at this location for four years and in business as founder and owner of The School of Etiquette and Decorum in Northern California for the last 10.

After 20 years in corporate management Hayes realized that if she was intimidated about making manners missteps in business settings, it made sense to train others to avoid making similar mistakes. After all, she reminds her charges, each student represents his or her family to the outside world.

The class begins with hats (and one Halloween mustache) doffed, students sitting upright, making proper eye contact and responding with a pleasant "good afternoon, Miss Hayes!"

The art of the handshake is broken into six steps (use your right hand, lock thumbs, make eye contact, smile, pump hands three times and include a verbal greeting) and table manners are dissected, from napkin selection (better restaurants will offer black or white, to minimize lint on clothing) to its proper placement during and after a meal (never on the chair seat!), and how to set a proper place.

The speed-setting contest near the end of the fifth-grade class was a challenge – not because the students hadn't mastered where each knife, fork and spoon was placed, but because they also needed to be well mannered throughout the event itself.

Hayes also explains, humorously, why burping, using a toothpick at the table or using your napkin as a bib won't do.

"She (Hayes) is doing a fantastic job. It is a charming class," said Anne Reardon, Husky House executive director. Reardon says it helps create all around citizens "the old school way."

And for that, a thank you note is due.

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Troop 249 honors three new Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Emily Larsen



From left: Grant Larsen, Ben DeLange, Kyle Davis

Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 249 will honor three new Eagle Scouts for attaining Scouting's highest rank. Ben DeLange, a senior at Miramonte High School, Kyle Davis and Grant Larsen, both seniors at Campolindo High School, will be recognized in an Eagle Court of Honor held on Nov. 19. Scoutmaster Craig Anderson will present the awards.

For his Eagle Project, DeLange provided school kits for 50 children in a remote region of Guatemala. He organized a car wash to raise funds, then purchased and assembled the kits with his fellow Scouts, and finally delivered the kits to the school. DeLange loved meeting the director of the school and also the kids who were in need of basic supplies like pencils and notebooks to succeed in school.

With a challenge to do an Eagle Project that was both meaningful to him, and something that would help others, Davis chose to help provide a permanent and safe environ-

ment for kids to play basketball at the Bay Area Rescue Mission in Richmond. His project included the installation of a new in-ground basketball standard and court-side landscaping. This project was an opportunity to meld his love for basketball and his desire to impact the lives of others through his passion for the sport.

Larsen's Eagle Project was completed at Moraga Retreat Care Home, the place where his ailing grandfather lived after suffering a stroke. At the request of the Moraga Retreat Directors, Larsen designed and built a wheeled, raised planter box for the residents to enjoy. With the help of his fellow Troop 249 scouts, he also beautified the landscaping of the care home by planting bushes and mulching the grounds.

These young men are grateful for the dedication and support of their Troop 249 leaders.

MCC Senior Men's Golf Association raises over \$48K for food bank

Submitted by Gary Irwin



2017 Turkey Shoot winning golf team, from left: Craig Oden, Kathy Reaves, Darlene Martel, Dan Alipaz and Dennis Martel. Photo Gary Irwin

The fifth annual Turkey Shoot charity golf tournament held on Oct. 30 at the Moraga Country Club raised more than \$48,000 to benefit the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. This amount is about a 14 percent increase over the \$42,800 raised by this event in 2016, and the total amount raised for the Food Bank over the five years is almost \$168,000. It was hosted by the Senior Men's Golf Association, and was led by originator and chairman Doug Brown and his committee, and assisted by many SMGA members, Director of Golf Jason Woodworth, spouses, and friends.

The winners of the golf tournament were the team of Darlene and Dennis Martel, Dan Alipaz, Craig Oden, and Kathy Reaves, who each received gift cards for a turkey. A new Audi sedan, provided by Concord Audi, was displayed on the seventh tee as the prize for anyone making a hole-in-one, but it went unclaimed.

The 100 participating men and women golfers enjoyed coffee and freshly-baked pastries at morning registration, a box lunch, an open bar, and a delicious dinner. They

participated in the live and silent auctions, entered the raffle, sponsored a hole, generally underwrote the event, or just donated to the cause. MCC resident Craig Oden volunteered his skill as professional auctioneer, and he prompted a lot of spirited bidding for the live auction items and extra donations.

Food Bank Executive Director Larry Sly thanked the donors, participants, MCC staff, and organizers for their excellent work in raising so much money for the community. He remarked that the various food banks in northern California had just completed a "mutual aid" agreement this year, just in time for the Food Bank to provide backup food relief for victims of the recent Napa/Sonoma and other disastrous fires. The Food Bank has grown from 36,000 pounds of food distributed in their first year to more than 20 million pounds of food distributed last year, of which about half was fresh produce. Sly is active in state and national food banking organizations, and he received the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from Sustainable Contra Costa.



These 2017 Turkey Shoot contestants tried to win the new Audi, from left: Steve Roath, Gary Irwin, Roy Elliott and Steve Oliver. Photo John Corona

New or used bikes needed for Cycle Recycle

Submitted by Bobbie Preston



Lafayette resident William Grace delivers bikes for refugees for No One Left Behind. Photo Yvonne Grace

hind (which resettles Afghan refugees that worked for the U.S. Government in their native countries); Oakland International High School's; Earn-A-Bike program; Marsh Creek Detention Center (which repairs and provide bikes to Cambridge Community Center in Concord and other Contra Costa County charitable programs as Christmas gifts for low-income kids); and to Trips for Kids in Marin (which repairs bikes for their Christmas giveaway to children of needy families).

New and/or used bikes and trikes - in working order or repairable - or usable bike parts may be delivered to the side driveway of the Preston's home at 1307 Larch Avenue in Moraga throughout the month of November only. No skateboards or plastic bikes please; no need to call beforehand, but for more information contact Bobbie or Tom Preston at (925) 376-8474.

For the 20th year, Moraga Residents Bobbie and Tom Preston will be holding the Cycle Recycle, collecting repairable bikes to be refurbished and given to charitable groups to distribute at Christmas. To date, over 3,150 bikes have been collected. This year the recipient organizations include Fire Victims in the North Bay; No One Left Be-

Swim-a-Thon nets over \$40K for firefighters and their families

Submitted by Michelle Bea



Pictured: Calvin Stoddard, Jacqueline Stoddard, Samuel Stoddard, Xavier Portet, Sylvie Portet, Johnny Bo-ca-bella, Sydney Scott, Nicholas Bea, Kelly Landers, Kyle Pe-ter-son, Marcus Es-car-zega, Katelyn Lu, Lily Yung, Casey Yung, Johnny Antman, Sam Antman, Logan Letulle and Ellie Letulle. Photos provided

Over 60 swimmers from Orinda's Meadow Swim and Tennis Club, young and old participated in a Swim-a-Thon fundraiser Friday, Nov. 3 in support of the firefighters and their families that lost their homes in the devastating fires (Go Fund a Hero: Sonoma Firefighters).

With Coach Kyle Peterson leading the charge, the swimmers came out on the rainy day and swam a whopping 4,854 laps, raising more than \$40,000 - all for an amazing cause. Meadow's "hostess with the mostess," social chair Emily Stoddard kept the swimmers fueled with hot cocoa, cider, popcorn and energy bars. Four members of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District came with their ambulance and fire truck to cheer on the swimmers in the afternoon.

The two youngest swimmers were minidolphins: Xavier Portet (age 5) and Sam Stoddard (age 4) swam 8 and 10 laps each. Kellie Williams and Sarah Cunningham tied for the most laps - each swam an amazing 200 laps (Paul Sagara came in close behind at 186); while Coach Kyle swam a total of 150 laps. A dedicated group of 11 & Up swimmers set out to beat Coach Kyle's total

and all swam 150 laps or more (John Williams, Nicholas Bea, Elizabeth Hua, Jewel Mendiola, and Mina Lim).



Xavier Portet



Participating swimmers included:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Ali Drasin | Gena Schwartz | Lily Yung | Reid Schwartz |
| Alison Stout | Iam Kim | Logan Letulle | Ryan Mak |
| Allison Sagara | Ian Kimball | Luke Sagara | Sadie Bond |
| Ann Elliott | Jackie Stoddard | Marcus Escarzega | Sam Antman |
| Ariel Drasin | Jake Bishop | Mia Kimball | Sam Stoddard |
| Ben Feldman | Jake Williams | Michelle Holcenberg | Sarah Cunningham |
| Calvin Stoddard | Jewel Mendiola | Mina Lim | Sarah Pittenger |
| Casey Yung | Joe Bocabella | Montana Topping | Shailla Dhingra |
| Coach Kyle | Johnny Williams | Natalie Mak | Sofia Burgoyne |
| Coach Sean | Johnny Bocabella | Nicholas Bea | Sulian Holman |
| Derek Bond | Jonny Antman | Nico Burgoyne | Sylvie Portet |
| Dylan Kan | Julio Dolorico | Nicole Portet | Thomas Hua |
| Elizabeth Hua | Katelyn Lu | Olivia Metz | Vinny Yu |
| Ellie Letulle | Kelly Landers | Oskar | Xavier Portet |
| Finn Drasin | Kelly Williams | Paul Sagara | Zoe Orr |
| Finn Taylor | Kim Morrow | | |

More photos can be found on the Meadow Facebook page. For more information about the campaign, visit <http://gofundahero.com/campaign/detail/4913>.

Turkey Trot: a new Moraga tradition?

By Sophie Braccini



Ron Haas

Photo provided

The Moraga Country Club with the support of the Chamber of Commerce will host this year's first annual Thanksgiving Turkey Trot on Nov. 23, exemplifying the club's renewed desire to be involved with the town's recreation scene. The purpose, according to MCC general manager and Chief Operating Officer, Ron Haas, is to launch a new tradition of family friendly community connectivity.

In order to preburn calories and build an appetite for the feast to come on Thanksgiving day, local residents are invited to participate in either a fun 3K trot or a serious 5K run within the country club. The giving portion of Thanksgiving is not forgotten since all the event's proceeds will go to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties.

Both runs will start at 8:30 a.m. in the driving range parking lot, off Country Club Drive. The first 2.4 miles meandering through the club's streets and golf cart paths will be mostly flat and can accommodate strollers, and gentle runners/walkers. The serious runners will continue past the range and into more hilly and challenging terrain around and through the club's golf course.

The two circuits were designed by Bob Fritzky, who is an avid runner, a country club member, and vice president of the Chamber. He explained that Haas' idea immediately resonated with him, as well as with the rest of the Chamber's board, which will provide volunteers for the event.

Haas, who is always on the lookout for creating new ways to engage his membership

in interesting recreation avenues, jumped at the possibility when he recognized no such event existed in Moraga. He said that the question was either to make it an exclusive club event or to open it to the community. This latest option carried the final decision with the involvement of the Chamber.

Fritzky says that it is a very good sign that MCC, the second largest employer in Moraga, is showing its desire to be a part of the town and the business community. He hopes that the trot will become a regular Thanksgiving morning event.

Haas, of course, hopes for nice weather, but his experience tells him that families with young children, young adults and serious runners all enjoy the opportunity and have a good time, no matter if the weather cooperates or not. He remembers fun-filled mornings at the different private clubs he managed before working for MCC, with people pushing strollers, bringing visiting family members and pets, including a beloved pet pig.

Participants can enjoy the beautiful scenery and views of the country club while MCC treats them to warm drinks and munchies.

Turkey Trot registration can be made online at www.runsignup.com/moragaturkeytrot.

The company powering this site provides the management of the registrations, and bibs with an electronic chip for automatic recording of participants' performances. The costs per person is between \$20-\$30, depending on the type of run.

OIS fall production of 'Spamalot' opens Nov. 30

Submitted by Jeanette Lipp



Lancelot cast and crew

Photo provided

This fall, the Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater presents the production of "Monty Python's Spamalot" Young@part edition, beginning Nov. 30.

This version of the 2005 Tony Award winning musical, "Spamalot," is designed for youth theaters. The story centers around King Arthur and his search for the Holy Grail. After a rather silly bit of miscommunication leads us briefly to Finland, our king and his ever-faithful squire, Patsy, begin to search for knights to accompany him on his quest. He finds his first in the unlikely guise of Dennis, a hideous local mud farmer. After convincing the locals that he is the king by conjuring the Lady of the Lake to prove it, Dennis is transformed into Sir Galahad. The rest of the knights are found far and wide and

The Lady of the Lake and her Laker Girls, send our stalwart band on their way. They meet up with an unforgettable slew of outrageously kooky characters and musical hilarity ensues as Arthur and the knights make their journey.

There are two casts, which include approximately 60 OIS students along with an additional 14 OIS students serving on tech crew. Performances will run Nov. 30 through Dec. 2 at the OIS Bulldog Theater. The performance lasts approximately 90 minutes, with one intermission. For show time information and to purchase tickets, visit www.showtix4u.com. Tickets are also available at the OIS Theater a half hour prior to show times.

Celebrations

Lafayette resident receives 'Lawyer of the Year' award

Lafayette resident R. Lewis Van Blois was recently named the 2018 Best Lawyers "Lawyer of the Year" for Product Liability Litigation – Plaintiffs in Oakland. Van Blois has over 40 years of experience as a practicing attorney. After earning an undergraduate degree from George Washington University, Van Bois worked in the U.S.

Senate as a legislative assistant. A law degree from the University of California Law School at Berkeley followed, as did more than 150 jury trials. He was voted Top Attorney in Northern California for seven years and was ranked in the Top 100 National Trial Lawyers in the U.S.

In Memory

Stephen Roy Holbrook

1949 - 2017



Stephen Roy Holbrook of Moraga, Calif., beloved husband of Libby and father of Bryan, passed away Aug. 12 from pneumonia. He was 68. Despite early health issues including contracting polio at age 4 resulting in lasting mobility and lung effects, he earned his bachelor's in chemistry and his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of Oklahoma.

He worked as a postdoc at Duke University and met his wife, a biochemistry graduate student. They married in 1978, moved to Oakland in 1979, welcomed a son in 1987 and moved to Moraga in 1993. Steve worked as a staff scientist at Berkeley National Laboratory, first in Prof. S-H. Kim's lab and then as head of his own group that

researched nucleic acid and protein crystal structures, and prediction of novel RNAs. He and Libby shared an office and worked together.

He authored 100 scientific papers and mentored countless undergrads, grad students, technicians, and postdocs during his career. He received the DOE Outstanding Mentor award and a Division award for Scientific Excellence by an Underrepresented Member. He volunteered with youth sports and scouts, was a lifelong fan of the A's, Warriors, 49ers, and OU Sooners, and loved March Madness and fantasy baseball. He also sang exuberantly in church, was co-founder of an investment club, and enjoyed science fiction books and movies. He became ill in 2007, spent a year and a half in the hospital, and eventually returned to work.

He retired in 2012 after being seriously injured in a 2010 fall. He was then confined to a wheelchair and dependent on a ventilator. Despite these challenges, he remained optimistic, always had a big smile, and exuded a true joy for life. He leaves behind his wife Libby, son Bryan, daughter-in-law Jamie, sister Debbie, in-laws Lee, OJ, Marianne, and Mary, nephews Ryon, Andrew, Jonathan, and Larry, nieces Megan and Ashley, great nephews Ethan and Zachary, great nieces Millie and Lauren, caregiver Brittney, grandpup Flapjack, and numerous friends and colleagues. He lived a full life and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. The family welcomes memorial donations to Zion Lutheran in Piedmont, Calif., or to your favorite charity.

In Memory

Mary Riggle

Aug. 16, 1923 – Nov. 5, 2017



Mary Riggle died peacefully Nov. 5 at 94 after a long full life.

Mary met her first husband, Capt. Ed Crane at an officers' dance in Richmond during the war. Soon after, he was in a terrible car accident and not expected to walk again, much less fly. Determined, he indeed flew again, many missions, only to die tragically when an officer he was ferrying to another base pulled rank and flew, uncertified, and crashed. While stationed in Panama, Mary taught school, gave birth to Linda and then to a son who was born with spinal bifida and died. These losses created a strength and fight that showed until the end of her life.

With 5-year-old Linda in tow, Mary moved to rural Orinda and bought a house on Greenwood Court with creeks in front and back (and snakes). As a single woman she was not invited to join the neighborhood association. She met and married William "Chris" Christiansen, a 6 foot 10 inch giant of a man in kindness as well as height and before long Susie and Nanci were born. Those were years of swimming at Carroll's Ranch, a cabin at Twain Harte and bridge and golf as often as she could find babysitters.

Many years later she and Chris parted and started new lives. Mary married an old Air Force friend, Glen Riggle, also living in Moraga, gaining as well his two grown daughters, Barbara and Peggy, and grandchildren who she treasured as she did her own.

Years after Glen's death, Mary met and couldn't help but fall for Angelo Petropoulos, a charismatic and hilarious Greek gentleman whose warmth and humor made her laugh again. Together they kept young and healthy into their 90s, with Thai Chi, Angelo's salads, and funny cocker spaniels.

An only child, Mary was especially dedicated to her friendships and her extended family. She inspired us all with her energy, youth, and tremendous can do spirit. She will be missed.

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, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Share the warmth of holidays with this perfect pumpkin sage soup

By Susie Iventosch



Pumpkin sage soup

Photo provided

Pumpkin Sage Soup

(Serves 4-6)

INGREDIENTS

- 2 sugar or pie pumpkins (to yield approximately 4 cups pumpkin meat or any kind of squash you prefer)
- 3 Tbsp. olive oil
- 3 shallots, peeled (two chopped and one thinly sliced for garnish)
- 1 small onion, peeled and chopped
- 1 tsp. poultry seasoning
- 1 tsp. dried sage
- ½ tsp. dried thyme
- 2 Tbsp. dry sherry
- 1 can low-fat or non-fat coconut milk (13.5 or 14 oz.)
- 3 to 4 cups chicken broth, depending on how thick or thin you prefer your soup
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup kale leaves for garnish (plus sliced shallot from above)

DIRECTIONS

Remove the stem from the pumpkins (or squash) and cut in half. Scoop out seeds and pulp. Coat inside of flesh with a thin layer of olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Turn upside down on a greased baking sheet and bake at 350 F until skin and flesh are easily pierced with a knife. Remove from oven and cool. Scoop out pulp and place in a bowl.

Meanwhile, sauté chopped shallots and onion in a large pot. Add seasonings and continue to cook until onions are translucent. Add pumpkin pulp and mix well with veggies. Puree this mixture in a food processor one batch at a time until smooth. Return to soup pot.

Add sherry, coconut milk and enough chicken broth to arrive at desired consistency. Bring to a boil and serve immediately, or cool and refrigerate until ready to heat and serve.

For garnish: Toss sliced shallots and kale leaves with olive oil and a bit of sea salt. Spread out on a tray and bake at 400 F until crispy and beginning to brown. This will take approximately 10 minutes or so. Turn them over with a spatula halfway through. Sprinkle on top of each bowl of soup. Garnish can be made several hours ahead of time.

Frosted Pumpkin Spice Cookies

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup butter
- 2/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup canned pumpkin
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ¼ tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- Pinch nutmeg
- ¼ tsp. cardamom
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup chopped nuts (walnuts and pecans)

Frosting Ingredients: (can double if you like more frosting on each cookie)

- ½ stick of butter, softened to room temperature
- 2 Tbsp. canned pumpkin (you will have some leftover from the cookies)
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 cups powdered sugar

DIRECTIONS

In a large mixing bowl beat butter with both sugars until fluffy. Add egg and beat well. Stir in pumpkin and vanilla extract. Mix in all dries (including spices) until well blended. Fold in raisins and chopped nuts.

Drop by large spoonful onto greased baking sheet and bake at 350 F. Remove from oven and cool completely before frosting. Store in airtight container.

For frosting: Place butter in a mixing bowl and beat until creamy. Add pumpkin and vanilla and mix well. Beat in powdered sugar a bit at a time to desired consistency. If too thick, add a bit more pumpkin and if too runny add a bit more powdered sugar.



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



Miramonte and Campolindo win Contra Costa County Model UN event awards

Submitted by Jonathan Lance

Instead taking part in their schools' football games, dances, and other fun weekend activities, 360 Bay Area high school students (representing 70 countries) buckled down Nov. 3-4 to discuss and provide workable solutions to many of our world's biggest challenges, at the 27th annual Contra Costa County Model United Nations (UN) Conference, held at Diablo Valley College.

This academic event is produced and directed by the Contra Costa County Office of Education and coordinated by Kevin Felix Chan, of Best Delegate,

along with members of the Model United Nations Club at UC Davis. The two-day event enhances high school students' understanding of the United Nations and its role in global issues. Participating students (delegates) each represent a nation and negotiate on that country's behalf.

This year, California High earned the Outstanding Large Delegation Crystal Gavel Award, with Foothill High following with Exceptional Large Delegation Plaque. Miramonte High received the Outstanding Small Delegation Crystal Gavel Award, and

Campolindo High brought home the Exceptional Small Delegation Plaque.

During the conference, delegates debated international issues in 10 committees, including Disarmament and International Security Committee, Security Council, United Nations Women, World Health Organization, and United Nations Children's Fund. Topics discussed included Biological and Chemical Weapons, The Question of North Korea, Access to Clean Water and Sanitation, Children in Armed Conflict, and many more.

"Model UN is an excellent

opportunity for students to display all the hard work and preparation they have put in, as they successfully discuss, persuade, and work with fellow committee members on real-world problems and complex international relations," says Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools Karen Sakata. "The skills they are currently refining with this program will be the same ones they'll use in college and/or in their future careers."

Model UN differs from other CCCOE academic-event programs, such as Mock Trial, in

that it is not so much a competition as it is an event. Participants are commended for outstanding committee work and certificates are awarded to committee rapporteurs. Individual delegate winners are recognized for their debate skills, leadership skills, knowledge of the issues, and presentation of key resolutions. The event closes with a ceremony that recognizes the outstanding delegates.

Numerous individual awards were earned, and will be listed on the Model UN Web page in the very near future.



Miramonte High School receives the Outstanding Small Delegation Crystal Gavel Award.

Photos Diane Morrell, CCCOE



Campolindo brings home the Exceptional Small Delegation Plaque.

Saint Mary's Chamber Musicians concert a perfect respite for the holiday season



Photo provided

The Saint Mary's College Chapel will serve as a beautiful backdrop for the first of two free concerts offered by the Saint Mary's Chamber Musicians. The Nov. 20 evening performance will feature beautiful instrumen-

tal and vocal music by Bach, Telemann, Massenet and more, beginning at 8 p.m.

"The program will include a vivacious sonata by Bach, played by Megan Pineda (flute), Sarah Roscoe (violin), Patrice Young

(cello) and Lino Rivera (key-board). Massenet's sumptuous Elegie for soprano, cello and piano, performed by Madeline Vine, Joyce Lee and Jas Chok," said Saint Mary's Performing Arts professor Martin Rokeach. "The same musicians will then perform Bach's iconic 'Ave Maria.' Delightful and intimate duos by Telemann and Berger for two violas, performed by Jillian Hubbard and Joyce Lee. The world premiere of music major Evelyn Rumsby's 'Ashes,' for soprano, saxophone and piano. A poignant, beautiful composition, it will be performed by the composer, Evan Bernardy, and Renee Witon. And Carl Reinecke's seldom-heard 'Trio' for horn, clarinet and piano, played by Joseph Goolkasian, Erica Wilson and Lino Rivera. Admission to this wonderful concert is free — your presence is priceless."

The second concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26 will be a lovely way to spend a post-Thanksgiving Sunday afternoon. — J. Wake

Family Focus

Signs you may be overindulging your children, part two

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

Finding balance in parenting is always a challenge. You don't want to be too authoritarian or too permissive. Sometimes, of course, you may veer too much in one direction or the other, but then it's important to get back to aiming for the middle ground.

If you sometimes indulge your child a little too much, there's no problem. This is to be expected. However, if you find yourself catering too often or feel like you've lost control and authority, it's time to make a shift.

Here are more indications that you may be overindulging your child:

1) You are not trying to implement the concept of the family bed, but your child continues to come in at night and sleep in your bed. Or your child refuses at bedtime to sleep in his own bed, so you give up and let him sleep in yours.

Of course, children will need to come in at night to seek comfort and reassurance at times. Overindulging takes place when you allow this to become a regular, routine practice.

One client, "Amanda," a single mom of an 8-year-old son admitted that she always let "Josh" sleep in her bed because it was too hard to get him to stay in his own bedroom. He didn't have many nightmares or safety concerns; rather he just preferred to sleep in her bed with her. Amanda worried that she might inflict emotional distress if she rejected Josh when he wanted to be with her.

Josh had developed other issues, such as stealing candy and small toys from the local stores and lying to his mother, teachers and others in positions of authority. I suggested to his mother that some of these problems could start to resolve once she established healthy boundaries for Josh.

We worked on incentives for Josh to sleep through the night in his own bed and a new bedtime routine giving him a lot of his mom's attention before bed. Amanda needed to sacrifice sleep for a while in order to escort Josh back to his room several times per night. I encouraged her to have a sleeping bag and pillow available to put on the floor by the foot of her bed for very occasional emergencies when needed. It was important that the sleeping bag arrangement not be too comfortable and cozy.

After a period of time, with

many failed attempts, Amanda was finally able to develop the new norm for Josh to sleep in his own bed. Then she went to work on the other ways in which she had been overindulging her child.

2) You provide too many toys and games when your child is young, and then too many new clothes, electronics, and a new car when your child is older.

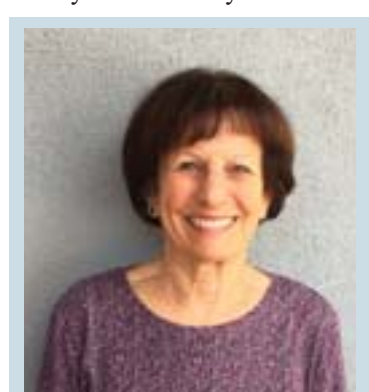
When children are too indulged with material goods, they can lose sight of the value of what they have. The focus can become more on what they want next instead of being content and grateful with what they have. They can become too self-centered, entitled and demanding.

In addition, a parent can inadvertently condition a child so that he or she needs a new stimulus (i.e. toy or new clothes) in order to feel happy and satisfied. With each new object the desire for something new and exciting can grow, so that a child has difficulty being content with the smaller things in life.

As always, we parents serve as role-models for our children. If you shop often, in stores or online, and use "retail therapy" as a pick-me-up, you may be demonstrating to your children that purchasing and owning material goods is necessary for maintaining satisfaction in life.

It is relatively simple to make adjustments in this area, if need be. Your children will protest, of course, but if you are determined to change the direction of their focus, you can help them find other ways to achieve gratification.

They can donate their unused toys, games, and clothes to charity. They can set aside a portion of their allowance or gift money to donate to a good cause. They can go with you to volunteer, or if they're older they can volun-



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

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LAMORINDA AUDIOLOGY

Lamorinda Arts Council calls for poet laureate applications

Submitted by Christy Mack

Lamorinda Arts Council president Lawrence Kohl announced the formation of a Poet Laureate Program, which marks the first opportunity of its kind for our local literary community. Thanks to endorsements from the city councils of Orinda and Lafayette, the Lamorinda Arts Council PLP will manage and support the poet laureate who will serve both Lafayette and Orinda.

The poet laureate will be called upon to write theme-based poetry and read poetry at civic and other events such as public ceremonies and dedications. They will also support the Lamorinda Arts Council PLP activities in the schools and community and serve as a liaison with literary organizations. Goals of the program include: Encourage poetry and the literary arts in our communities; stimulate and inspire residents of all ages in their writing; and present poetry in non-traditional venues to expand its reach

Members of the Poet Laureate committee include Connie Post, former Livermore poet laureate, who has assisted area communities in creating laureate programs, Janice Peacock, who is a member of the Lafayette Public Art Committee, LAC Board member Denise Nomura, Gail Entekin of Hip Pocket Press in Orinda, Jennifer Shaw with the Institute for Poetic Medicine who's work also appears in The East Bay Times, Sue Janet

Clark of Lincoln, poet and founder of Lincoln's Poetry Open Mic, Robin Moore of AC5's Poetry Out Loud program and Elana O'Loskey of The Orinda News.

The selection committee will review potential candidates and recommend a poet laureate to the two city councils to be appointed in early 2018. The poet laureate will serve a two-year term and receive a yearly \$3,000 stipend. Professional poets who live and/or work in the cities of Lafayette or Orinda are eligible. Duties include poems of occasion for community and civic events, poetry events including K-12 schools and more.

According to Lamorinda Arts Council president Lawrence Kohl, "We are very excited to be able to work with the cities of Lafayette and Orinda to create this important post. Poetry is both personal and public; using words in rhyme and rhythm to uncover emotional truths that bind us together."

Poets interested in this position are invited to apply online at <https://lamorindaarts.org/poet-laureate-application/>. The deadline to receive all online applications is at 5 p.m. Dec. 31.

If you are interested in volunteering to become involved in the Poet Laureate Program and help organize poetry events and activities, go to <http://lamorindaarts.org/> volunteer and check the Poet Laureate box.

Advertising Opportunity

Healthy Lifestyles

— special section in Lamorinda Weekly

This special section will be published inside the January 27 issue of Lamorinda Weekly and will focus on healthy habits such as eating right, exercise, and preventing injuries as well as information related to managing mental and physical health, chronic ailments and disease.

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

Worship Schedule November 26 – December 31
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
Coffee Fellowship at 10:30 a.m.

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

Valley Art Gallery 52nd "Artful Giving" Holiday Exhibition Opens Nov. 18, with a reception from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. From objects found to impressions visualized, our artists have been busy creating our Fall 2017 show of more than 300 works of art for sale or for rent. The show will run through Dec. 23. 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek. www.valleyartgallery.org

Small Things Holiday Pop-Up Gift Shop at Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery Nov. 16 through Dec. 23, with an opening reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Nov. 16. Imagine stepping into a local gallery and finding the perfect gift. Then discovering that your purchase supports local artists! It's all possible at "Small Things" - The Holiday Pop-Up Gift Shop. Discerning shoppers will find an array of unique handcrafted items from original art to jewelry, porcelain, wood sculptures and even mixed media shadow boxes.

Lafayette artist Suzy Elsworth-Heithcock will be featured together with artist Linda Huffman in a new two-man show at the Boundary Oaks Golf Course located at 3800 Valley Vista Road in Walnut Creek Nov. 16 through Jan. 14. There will be about 30 paintings on exhibit, with many very detailed local nature scenes as well as other subjects ranging from Italian door knockers to Hawaiian Banyan trees.

MUSIC

Saint Mary's Jazz Band Concert at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16 at the Soda Activity Center, Claeys Lounge, 1928 Saint Mary's Road. Treat yourself to a lively concert of up-tempo numbers, dance tunes, and instrumental jazz soloists under the direction of maestro John Maltester. Tickets: \$5.

Amici Lyric Opera presents Russian Romances, a concert featuring soprano Elena Yakoubovsky at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Beloved songs by Russian composers will be included in the program, including Rachmaninoff's Spring Waters, In the Silence of the Night, and It is Fine Here, Rubinstein's Night, Tchaikovsky's None But the Lonely Know, and Pimpinella, among others. Tickets: \$30 general; \$25 Seniors/students; children under 12 free. www.brownpapertickets.com/events/3121354

The Diablo Women's Chorale invites you to join them in celebrating 75 years in the community with their fall concert "Season of Light," to be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, in Lafayette. From classic to contemporary, reverent to joyful, DWC's music will warm the heart, uplift the spirit, and soothe the soul. Advance purchase tickets are \$18 General admission, \$10 Student, and \$24 Premium seating. Purchase at the door for \$25. Call 1-800-838-3006, or go online at www.DiabloWomensChorale.org

Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble will present "Rejoice! Rejoice!" – three performances of stunning sacred renaissance and baroque masterworks, featuring the Jubilate Baroque Orchestra and soprano MacKenzie Covington, and showcasing works by Bach, Porpora, Hasse, Charpentier, Cozzolani, Vivaldi and Victoria. Voci's Artistic Director, Mitchell Covington brings particular expertise in the Baroque style. Voci will perform at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9 at St Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito Avenue, Oakland and at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10 at St. Mary Magdalen Church, 2005 Berryman Street, Berkeley. Tickets: \$30 at the door, \$25 advance, \$15 students, free for children between 6 and 12. Available at the door or online at www.vocisings.org.

THEATER

Orinda Intermediate School Bulldog Theater stages Monty Python's Spamalot Young@part Edition Nov. 30 through Dec. 2 at Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive. This version of the 2005 Tony Award winning musical, "Spamalot," is designed for youth theaters. Tickets are \$3-\$10. Visit www.showtix4u.com for show times and tickets. Tickets are also available at the door.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Saint Mary's College MFA presents An Evening with Gabrielle Selz, distinguished visiting writer in creative nonfiction at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15, Hagerty Lounge, SMC Campus.

The Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center announces a talk entitled *Vision for the Trump Era* by author and activist, George Lakey. It will take place beginning at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Lakey is the author of "Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians Got it Right – and How We Can, Too." Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, free for students. For more information please contact the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center office at (925) 933-7850. To pre-register online go to www.ourpeacecenter.org.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Bring your family, bring your friends and enjoy the start of your Thanksgiving Day with the First Annual MCC Turkey Trot Fun Run at 8:30 a.m. Nov. 23. As you are running/walking the 1.5 miles of road and paths of the beautiful Moraga Country Club you will be working up an appetite for turkey and the fixings, you will know that you are helping others less fortunate. Your race contributions go to the Food Banks of Contra Costa and Solano Counties. Registration: \$20 before Nov. 20; \$30 after. https://runsignup.com/moragaturkeytrot

It's a Wonderful Life in Lafayette from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1. The fun includes a visit from Santa, photo ops, live musical entertainment, a tree lighting ceremony and a holiday sing-along. Hot chocolate and other goodies will be available and there will also be crafts for the kids. For the full entertainment schedule, visit www.lafayettechamber.org.

Saklan Middle School Open House from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 1 at 1678 School Street, Moraga. Get an inside look at the advantages of Saklan's middle school program, including project-based, hands-on learning curriculum and an active social and emotional educational program. Please RSVP to admissions@saklan.org.

North Shattuck Association presents Snow? In Berkeley? from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3 at Gourmet Ghetto, Shattuck Ave., 1451-1495 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Bring boots and mittens. Snow Queen, Pony Rides, DIY Crafts, Holiday Craft Vendors. Cost: Free. For more info see http://www.anotherbullwinkeshow.com/holiday-berkeley/holiday-gourmet-ghetto.html or call (510) 334-6523 or email Lisa@AnotherBullwinkeshow.com.

OTHER

KPEA Radio 94.1 FM presents Alice Waters: Coming to My Senses: The Making of a Counterculture Cook from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16 at First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. Alice Waters will discuss with Steve Wasserman, "Coming to My Senses: The Making of a Counterculture Cook," answer questions and sign books. Host Kris Welch. Cost: \$15 advance, \$18 door.

For more info see <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3094009> or call (510) 967-4495.

Celebrate the completion of the Rheem Boulevard Sinkhole and Storm Drain Replacement Project scheduled from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16 at Rheem Boulevard/Center Street. Public parking will be available behind the Rheem Theatre. Event sponsors will provide activities for all including a mini-sinkhole photo opportunity, informational booths, project timeline displays, giveaways, and more! The Chamber of Commerce will host a booth to accept nonperishable food, cash or check donations for the North Bay fire victims and the Food Bank.

The 39th Annual Lafayette Community Thanksgiving Breakfast will be held from 7 to 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 17 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center. Keynote speaker will be Deanne Pearn, MPP Executive Director of Contra Costa Interfaith Housing. The event will be catered by Jeff Assadi of La Finestra! Music provided by Wendy Tamis, harpist. Please make your reservations by Nov. 15 at www.LafayetteChamber.org.

Holiday Boutique to benefit A New Day for Children - providing restorative care to American girls rescued from human trafficking from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18 at St. Mary's College, Dryden Hall. Free admission; free parking. For more boutique info email HolidayBoutiqueforNewDay@gmail.com. www.NewDayForChildren.com

An Artistic Masterpiece Comes to Walnut Creek – "Loving Vincent" is the first film made using oil paints. Altogether there are 66,000 frames that took 10 years to paint. The film is a biopic of Vincent Van Gogh, the tortured Dutch artist, and focuses primarily of his last days. It is a bit of a mystery as to how, exactly, he died and the narrator seeks to solve it. The film will be show at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18 in the Oak View Room at the Walnut Creek Library, 1644 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek. Tickets: \$12 General Admission tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. <http://mountainshadow.org>

Adopt a beautiful black cat or kitten from Community Concern for Cats from 1 to 4 p.m. on Black Friday weekend, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 25 and 26. Locations are Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see www.communityconcernforcats.org.

Herbal Gift Making for the Holidays at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 30 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Elana O'Losky will help us make herbal vinegar and mini wreaths using fresh herbs and greens. Materials and handouts provided. Space is limited. Register online, by phone or in person at the Orinda Library.

Contra Costa Tale Spinners at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Join a story swap with featured teller, Suz Shampianier, who will share "Theodosia and Burr," inspired by the musical "Hamilton," by Lin Manuel Miranda. Share, listen, expand your universe.

Recycle Those Bicycles! For the 20th year, through the month of November, Bobbie and Tom Preston will collect bikes for Cycle Recycle to be refurbished and given to charitable groups to distribute for the holidays. New and/or used bikes and trikes in working or repairable order, or useable bike parts (no skateboards or plastic bikes please), may be delivered to the side driveway of the Preston's home at 1307 Larch Avenue in Moraga. No need to call before drop off, but for more information contact the Prestons at (925) 376-8474.

... continued on next page

'The Treasure of the Sierra Madre,' 'Justice League' and 'Wonder' at Lamorinda Theatres

By Derek Zemrak



Image provided

The Rheem Theatre will screen "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre" at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15. The film won three Oscars in 1949 (Best Actor in a Supporting Role, Walter Huston, Best Director John Huston and Best Screenplay) and it will be the last Moraga Movers Classic Movie hosted by Moraga resident and film historian, Larry Swindell. With his wealth of film history, Swindell has introduced the Moraga Mover's Monthly Classic Series over the past eight years at the Rheem Theatre.

Swindell was born in rural north Texas in 1929 (nine years after Mickey Rooney) and has been a Californian since 1940. He graduated from UCLA in 1952, where he majored in English with a history minor. After graduation, he served a two-year conscription in the U.S. Army from 1952-54.

Mr. Swindell's professional newspaper career spanned 45 years in New York, California, Pennsylvania and Texas, respectively. His newspaper career included two years as editor of The Orange County Illustrated magazine in Newport Beach. During his years in New York, he was the Broadway drama critic for a chain of eight suburban newspapers, all in New York's Westchester County. He served as literary editor for the Philadelphia Inquirer from 1967 to 1979, and for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 1980 to 1999. Larry was also a founding director of the National Book Critics Circle.

Interspersed with his newspaper career, Swindell also taught composition and literature

courses at five universities: Maryland; UC Irvine; LaSalle University (Philadelphia); Delaware; and Texas Christian University for 19 years in Fort Worth. He has had a lifelong love affair with the movie industry, and is the author of five film biographies, all heavily rooted in Hollywood history. In publishing sequence, they are:

- "Spencer Tracy" (national bestseller)
- "Body and Soul: The Story of John Garfield"
- "Screwball: The Life of Carole Lombard"
- "The Last Hero" (this biography of Gary Cooper was a national bestseller and Literary Guild selection).
- "Charles Boyer: The Reluctant Lover"

This entire collection has been published in eight languages. "While still in my teens, I was a regular panelist for screenings of The Great Films Society, the first seriously constituted study of movies both domestic and foreign, silent and sound."

His service to the community is real. His dedication to Lamorinda, especially through his hosting and championing of the Moraga Mover's Classic Movies at the Rheem Theatre, has maintained an important link to the cinematic past. The audience can always rely on Swindell's "additional information" about the cast, the directors/producers and how the movie was enjoyed by the industry in general.

Swindell was inducted into the Classic Film Hall of Fame in May 16, 2013.

Thank you, Larry, for sharing your stories and knowledge to the Lamorinda community over the past eight years. You will be missed at the Rheem Theatre.

New Movies This Week at Lamorinda Theatres

The Rheem Theatre will be showing the highly anticipated super hero film, "Justice League." Fueled by his restored faith in humanity and inspired by Superman's (Henry Cavill) selfless act, Bruce Wayne (Ben Affleck) enlists the help of Diana Prince (Gal Godot), to face an even greater enemy. "Justice League" also brings Aquaman (Jason Momoa) and The Flash (Ezra Miller) to the big screen.

There will be a special early screening of "Justice League" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16.

The Orinda Theatre will be getting "Wonder," based on the New York Times bestseller. "Wonder" tells the incredibly inspiring and heartwarming story of August Pullman, a boy with facial differences, who enters fifth grade in a mainstream elementary school.

A special early screening is scheduled at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16.

See you at the movies!

Service Clubs Announcements



BREAKFAST MEETING: Friday mornings, 7:00 am. The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. More info. at www.lamorindasunrise.com

| November | December 1 |
|---|---|
| Nov. 17: - Club Assembly Nov. 24: - No meeting Happy Thanksgiving to all. | THE BIG RAFFLE DRAWING. Last chance to get in on the Teardrop Trailer Raffle at The Lafayette Holiday Celebration. Lafayette Plaza Park 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. |

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Lafayette Rotary Club

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

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

| | |
|--|--|
| November 16: Duncan Seibert Lamorinda CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) | November 30: EBMUD water supply and/or conservation. |
|--|--|

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

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◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

Hacienda Holiday Faire - Find all your handcrafted holiday gifts and support local artisans at the annual holiday faire from noon to 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1 and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec 2 at the historic Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. Hand-crafted gifts, décor and specialty foods by over 45 local artisans. Complimentary wine tasting with Captain Vineyards. For more information email HaciendaHolidayFaire@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/HaciendaHolidayFaire/

Budd MacKenzie of Lafayette will speak at Commonwealth Club in San Francisco about his work with women, children and the needy in war-torn Afghanistan at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 4 at the Commonwealth Club, 110 Embarcadero, San Francisco. Tickets available online or at the door. www.commonwealthclub.org/events/2017-12-04/couch-war-hearts-and-minds

Coping with the Holidays from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 3470 Buskirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill. A class that presents ideas and strategies to help those experiencing grief during the holiday season as this time of year can be difficult for those who have lost a loved one. hospiceeastbay.org

The Saint Mary's College Guild will present its annual festive Christmas luncheon beginning at 11 a.m. on Dec. 6 at Saint Mary's College, Dryden Hall 1928 St. Mary's Road. The festive affair will

have music, provided by the SMC award-winning choir, a bake sale, and raffle baskets galore, including the infamous Christmas Money Tree. Cost: \$45 per person. Make checks payable to: SMC Guild, Send to: Susan Hooks - 120 Ardith Drive - Orinda, CA 94563. For further information, call Pat Mc Enaney at (925) 376 - 3306.

SENIORS

Eldercare presents The Elusive Thing Called Sleep by Linda Fodrini-Johnson MA, MFT, CMC from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17 at 1808 Tice Valley Blvd. Walnut Creek. Good Night, Sleep Tight! Learn ways to help achieve that deeply desired REM sleep! No fee. Advanced registration required. Classes are intended for family caregivers or those dealing with the challenges of aging. Questions? Call 866-760-1808 or email info@eldercareanswers.com.

Branch 116 Sons in Retirement, for retired or semi-retired men, will be holding its 11:30 a.m. lunch meeting Nov. 20 at the Clubhouse at Boundary Oak, 3800 Valley Vista Road, Walnut Creek. The guest speaker will be Jim Darby. He will discuss his book "Right Off The Bat" which deals with his experience selling, marketing and dealing with a myriad of sports entities. The cost of lunch is \$25. For reservations or information call (925) 322-1160 or email branch116@gmail.com. www.branch116.org.

Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) pro-

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GARDEN

The Moraga Garden Club will hold their next meeting at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 16, at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The guest speaker will be Ann Leyhe, co-owner of Mrs. Dalloway's Books in Berkeley. The store features an extensive collection of garden books, which will be the topic of her discussion. Interested parties are welcome to attend the 9:30 a.m. social hour, 10 a.m. meeting, and the presentation by Ann Leyhe immediately following the meeting.

Montelindo Garden Club Meeting (third Friday of every month, September through May) will be at 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 17 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Everyone welcome. Presentation: Floral Design: A Demonstration by David Mulkey. www.montelindogarden.com.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda Weekly

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Saint Mary's Basketball opens season play

By Jon Kingdon



Jordan Hunter

Photos Tod Fierner

When a team is coming off a 29 and 5 season and returns their top three scorers, one would think that optimism would be flowing.

Saint Mary's College basketball coach Randy Bennett feels good about his team but still has his reservations, having lost to graduation West Coast Conference Defensive Player of the year Joe Rahon and forward Dane Pineau. According to Bennett: "They were the grit and toughness of last season's team."

The statistics from last year's team reveal the strength of Bennett's system – on average the team scored more points, shot a better percentage, outrebounded, had

more assists and blocks than their opponents. Though the Gaels had 10.7 turnovers to their opponents 9.4 per game, Bennett saw no concern in this area: "If we can keep our turnovers to 10 or fewer per game, we're doing fine there."

With nine players on the roster that have had a redshirt season, this is a naturally mature team that is very familiar with the system that Bennett has installed since coming to Saint Mary's in 2001. In fact, Bennett anticipates playing no true freshmen this season. Kristers Zoriks, a freshman from Latvia, might have played but will, in all likelihood, take an injury redshirt season.

Senior Jock Landale, the team's 6'11" center, was the Gaels' leading scorer last season, averaging 16.9 points per game along with 9.5 rebounds and 4 blocks. Bennett believes that Landale has the ability to play in the NBA: "Jock can take it to the next level. He has the size and ability. He just needs to keep improving in each area."

Junior Jordan Hunter and 7'0" redshirt freshman, Jock Perry, will be the backups at center.

Starting at one forward spot will be 6'6" senior Calvin Heranson who has increased his points per game average each of the past three seasons and was the team's second leading scorer last season and led the team in 3 point field goals. Evan Fitzner, a 6'10" junior who can be a force inside and an effective outside shooter as well, will be the other starting forward for the third year in a row.

Bennett will be relying on senior Emmett Naar, who was honorable mention all WCC last season, to run the team's offense. Naar averaged 9.4 points per game last season along with 5.6 assists.

Sophomore Jordan Ford, a backup in all 29 games last season is going to be asked to fulfill the difficult task of replacing Rahon at the other guard spot.

Cullen Neal, a 40 percent shooter from 3 point range playing for the University of Mississippi last season, is going to be counted on to provide the offensive threat off the bench.

Bennett feels that the depth of the team is going to be a real strength if "we can avoid injuries. We are going to know pretty soon how good we are as a team."

Following in the footsteps of Australians Patty Mills and Matthew Delavedova, both of whom went from Saint Mary's to the NBA, there are seven Australians on Saint Mary's team this season along with Zoriks who will be redshirting this season. With players from California, Arizona, Oregon and New Mexico, somehow it all comes together for Bennett: "I don't do anything special to bring them together. It just works." It also helps, according to Bennett, that "these are high character, intelligent young men."



Jock Landale

Bennett signs new 10-year contract

Over his 16 seasons at Saint Mary's, Bennett has led the Gaels to the post season 11 times, six times in the NCAA tournament and five times to the National Invitational Tournament with an overall career record of 365-158 (.698).

Bennett's success during his tenure has not been overlooked by the Saint Mary's administration. The school announced Nov. 10 that Bennett has been given a new 10-year contract.

SMC President James Donahue showed his high regard for Bennett in announcing the contract extension. "Randy represents what Saint Mary's College is all about. He exemplifies the college's ongoing commitment to the development of our student-athletes," Donahue said in a school statement. "He is not only a remarkable coach, but he is a valued and respected leader on our campus. We are excited to have him committed to this long-term agreement and look forward to him leading Saint Mary's basketball for the next decade."

Bennett looks forward to being at Saint Mary's for a long time: "I'm appreciative and thankful to President Donahue, Athletic Director Mike Matoso and the Saint Mary's administration for their support. It's an honor to have this opportunity to work at such a great institution. We've had great student-athletes and assistant coaches who have put a lot of hard work and effort into building the program to this level. My family and I truly enjoy being in such a supportive community and raising our family around this institution. We are excited to continue what we have started here 17 years ago," Bennett said in the school statement.



Photo Tod Fierner

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Swimming with the Heidarys

By Jon Kingdon



Ron and Don Heidary

Lamo archive

Pacific Swimming, the third largest of USA Swimming's 59 regional associations, which comprises 120 swim clubs and more than 16,000 swimmers, named Ron and Don Heidary (Ronnie and Donnie to their swimmers) Oct. 11 as the "Age Group Swimming Coaches of the Year."

With both having received awards and accolades too numerous to mention, having coached and taught swimming for over 40 years, it was just another reminder of what an institution the Heidarys have been to the swimming community in the Lamorinda Area.

It began at the age of 9 for the twin brothers, according to Don Heidary. "We began swimming at Pinole," he says. "As we progressed, along with swimming ourselves, we began helping out with the team, beginning when we were 16. We both fell in love with coaching and working with

kids and we have been coaching together every day since then."

In 1984, with swimming primarily in the summer season, the Heidarys saw a need to provide a fall swimming program for the community and began The Polar Bear Club. Starting with 12 swimmers, this program has grown to over 350 members.

In 1995, the Heidarys co-founded Orinda Aquatics. It was their goal from the start to be more than just coaches to their swimmers. According to Don Heidary, "Our philosophy from the beginning was that integrity and character was not only relevant for the team but for the athletes' personal lives as well. We have tried to make that the center point in everything that we do. In doing that, our swimmers find value in the team and they grow closer and stronger and learn that integrity is important in everything you do. We teach them work ethic, humility, compas-

sion, selflessness and teamwork. Fortunately, these ideas have been embraced wholeheartedly by the kids. They have learned that leadership is being selfless and humble. It is important that as coaches we get to know the kids well and what differentiates them from others, and make the subtle adjustments for each swimmer personally, emotionally, technically and physically."

Ronnie Heidary echoes that sentiment. "We are trying to help the young men and women grow through character and discipline and provide the life values to help them become better, more productive and happier adults. We want to be impactful in their lives. The most important thing to us is that what we do makes a difference and helps the parents in the maturation of their kids."

Channing Hanley, a freshman swimmer at Orinda Aquatics and Campolindo High School, began swimming at age 4 and appreci-

ates the atmosphere engendered by the Heidarys. "Besides being excellent teachers of technique, they create a positive environment for the swimmers and they make us feel confident and relaxed when we are competing."

Vince Castillo, the board president of Orinda Aquatics, discovered how well the Heidarys are respected not just in the Bay Area, but how "they have a very close relationship with a number of the college swim coaches around the nation."

Castillo's son, Vincent, also swims at Orinda Aquatics and he appreciates how they coach his son, not only as a swimmer, but as a person. "Even though this is a very competitive sport, where Donnie and Ronnie have been very successful, it starts with the swimmers being trained to be good people," he said. "You will see all age groups cheering on their teammates. They teach values and skills that apply both in and out of the pool and will stay with them throughout their lives. They learn time management and hard work will lead to success."

Hanley can vouch for the need for time management. "I train six days a week and on three days a week, I train twice a day," she says. "With such a schedule, time management is crucial. Donnie and Ronnie realize that school does have to be the priority."

As a senior in high school, University of California freshman and former Orinda Aquatics swimmer Rishabh Roy was the team's co-captain and was awarded the Impact Swimmer of the Year by Pacific Swimming. He intends to continue swimming for the California swim club this year. Having learned under the Heidarys, Roy was exposed to different training techniques. "Ronnie practices on quick, fast speed work and Donnie was

more focused on drills and then a longer main set – threshold and endurance base," he says. "Their training is long-term oriented – you work on everything and over time you see their training pay off."

Roy has not forgotten the lessons that were taught by the Heidarys. "Their philosophy is character first. They teach that in everything; being a good person, supporting the team, be willing to help out where you're needed. They teach their swimmers how to be better people."

Ron Heidary appreciates how fortunate he and his brother have been to be able to coach in the Lamorinda community. "The swimming facilities in the area are ubiquitous, which leads to a heavy concentration of swim clubs in the area," he says. "The parents understand that this is a healthy sport and if nothing else, they know that their kids are going to learn how to swim."

Working together at Orinda Aquatics is one thing, but Ronnie Heidary, who coaches at Campolindo, and Donnie Heidary, who coaches at Miramonte, face off against each other when these schools compete against each other.

"It is a unique situation," Don Heidary said. "It is an intense meet with the rivalry between the schools but we support all of the kids that are swimming. It's a win-win situation."

As for their legacy, Don sums it up this way: "We believe our commitment to the kids, the leagues, character and team cultures has made a positive difference. It is what we focus on and think about every day."

Says Ron: "It's been a privilege and tremendously rewarding for us to have been and to continue to be a part of these kids' lives."

Submit stories and story ideas to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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St. Perpetua CYO 5th grade American girls basketball team wins

Submitted by Rhodora Del Rosario



Bottom row, from left: Ella Del Rosario, Natalie Frechman, Mylie, Jacquet, Leila Hamadi, Clara O'Connor; top row: Dulci Vail, Addi Ames, Maddie Ingham, Megan Churchill, and Campbell Evans
Photo provided

The St. Perpetua CYO 5th Grade American girls basketball team won the October 2017 MVP Flight Fall Classic tournament.

Lafayette Bay Area Blitz 5th grade girls team undefeated

Submitted by Rhodora Del Rosario



Bottom row, from left: Ella Del Rosario, Clara O'Connor, Jadee Salvador, Natalie Frechman; top row: coach Mark Del Rosario, Kalli Crowder, Addi Ames, Campbell Evans, Jazlyn Alcantar, and coach Brian Frechman.
Photo provided

Lafayette-based Bay Area Blitz fifth-grade girls AAU basketball team finished the summer/fall season undefeated. The team recently won the October NBBA Fall Classic Tournament held in Marin, California.

St. Perpetua 4A team wins MVP pre-season tournament

Submitted by Tim Jones



Photo provided

St. Perpetua fourth-grade boys American Team won in a three-game sweep at the 17th annual MVP preseason basketball tournament.

Karate students recognized by state

Submitted by Cindy Atwood



From left: Sophia Hong (second place Kata/second place Kumite), Liam Funk (second place Kata/third place Kumite), Cameron Atwood (first place Kata), and Nathan Funk (third place Kata/third place Kumite).
Photo provided

Four karate students from The Karate and Fitness Place in Lafayette were recognized by the state of California for their participation and placing at The Fiestas 44th Annual Invitational International Karate Championship held in Los Angeles on Sept. 17. The certificates were signed by Assemblywoman Catharine Baker.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Campolindo cross country teams sweep DAL Meet No. 2

Submitted by (hopefully coming request is out)



Photos provided

Campolindo cross country teams swept wins in every race on the final regular Diablo Athletic League meet of the season in Newhall Park in Concord. The Frosh/Soph Girls and Junior Varsity Boys both tallied perfect scores as Campolindo runners all finished in the first top five scoring positions. Sydney Roberts (21) led the girls' Frosh/Soph race from the start, but Catherine Zhang (20) moved up several spaces to challenge Roberts in the final mile. Roberts took the win and Zhang finished a very close two-tenths behind.

The Junior Varsity boys' top five were equally dominant and were never challenged in their race. After running as a pack for most of the race, Jeremy Ahn (18) finally took the lead and race win. Teammates Max Essl (19), Colin Lekki (19), Charlie Woidat (19) and Casey Chambers (18) all finished within 20 seconds of their leader. The Varsity teams also produced

race victories with individual wins by Isabella Chao (18) and Edward Buckley (19). Chao ran unchallenged from start to finish, winning the girls' race by over 30 seconds while Buckley produced a strong surge in the middle mile of the Varsity boys' race his rivals could not match.

The second crucial scorer was Varsity Freshman Dylan Gunn (21), who was fifth overall in his first ever DAL Newhall Park race. The Campolindo wins were impressive considering the loss of several key scoring runners who were sitting out due to injury.

The late-season high school cross country team continue to prove the depth of the program directed by coaches Chuck Woolridge and Andy Lindquist. The strong performance by Campolindo will make for an exciting NCS Championship in Hayward on Nov. 18.



Stanley Middle School 7A Girls Volley wins championship tournament

Submitted by Jenifer Paul



Following a season of impressive teamwork, the 2017 Stanley Middle School Girls 7A volleyball team went into the tournament seeded first. The cohesive team kept up their power-

ful momentum all week long and on Oct. 27, in the final match of the action-packed tournament, they beat Orinda Intermediate School in a nail-biting game to win the championship.

Back row, from left: Bella Montero, Parker Reiner, Lauren Kuo, Anne Kaidantzis, Maya Paul, Keilly Kilpatrick, coach Brooke Clark; front row: Sierra Lashinsky, Hanna Hageboeck, Sofie Foster, Maddie Kearney, Olivia Wiseman, Mara Korzeniowska
Photo Gina Hageboeck

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 19 Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D9

Taking care to prevent damage to (and from) trees

By John T. Miller



This rotted tree had potential of toppling nearby powerlines. Photos Pippa Fisher

With last winter's considerable rain following three years of drought, many large trees toppled, causing considerable damage throughout the Lamorinda area. Homeowners and residents are anxious to know what measures they can take to prevent more of the same this year.

According to a pair of arborists interviewed, the bad news is that it may be too late to save your tree, and it will take swift action to save your – or your neighbor's – house.

Once signs of disease or decay appear above ground, the damage to the roots may have progressed too far and cannot be undone.

Certified arborist Thomas Raeth, with Lafayette Tree and Landscaping, gives a list of some of the practices that can lead to disease: “When we have a drought and people cut back on water it can manifest stress in different ways. It may take time for trouble to develop.”

While conserving water is necessary, mature trees need to have deep watering to maintain their health, says Raeth. “Pines are a good example. The drought stretched their health, allowing beetles to invade and consume the trees.”

Raeth cautions that when mulching trees, it's important to use properly composted chips. “People cut down trees because they're diseased, and if you put those chips back on the ground without sterilizing them, the disease goes back into the ground.” Also, if the chips are fresh, they use up nitrogen to decompose, depriving your

trees of nutrition. Proper composting can take up to two years, with temperatures needing to reach 400-500 degrees in the pile.

A common mistake is pruning while the sap is active in the tree. The best time to prune is from December to February.

Another error is leaving the stake from the nursery attached to a newly planted tree. A new stake should be placed at least 6 inches from the tree, allowing for wiggle room. “The movement of the trunk stimulates the tree to strengthen its roots,” says Raeth. When the tree is sturdy enough to support itself, the stake should be removed.

... continued on page D4



The split in the trunk of this tree reached all the way to its base.

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

| City | Last reported: | LOWEST AMOUNT: | HIGHEST AMOUNT: |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| LAFAYETTE | 5 | \$735,000 | \$2,450,000 |
| MORAGA | 2 | \$650,500 | \$900,000 |
| ORINDA | 2 | \$1,290,000 | \$2,290,000 |

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

- 21 Burnt Oak Circle, \$2,090,000, 4 Bdrms, 3166 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 10-13-17; Previous Sale: \$1,080,000, 01-28-16
- 4051 Fiora Place, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2497 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 10-16-17; Previous Sale: \$415,000, 06-11-93
- 933 Janet Lane, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1814 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 10-10-17; Previous Sale: \$18,500, 11-10-70
- 1408 Meadowlark Court, \$2,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 3442 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-10-17; Previous Sale: \$2,005,000, 08-20-14
- 3279 Mt. Diablo Court #20, \$735,000, 2 Bdrms, 1386 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 10-16-17; Previous Sale: \$552,000, 10-24-14

MORAGA

- 1501 Moraga Way, \$630,500, 2 Bdrms, 1635 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-20-17; Previous Sale: \$575,000, 04-20-07
- 275 Paseo Bernal, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2018 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 10-20-17; Previous Sale: \$750,000, 08-01-07

ORINDA

- 7 Bates Boulevard, \$1,290,000, 3 Bdrms, 1900 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 10-17-17; Previous Sale: \$335,000, 06-27-90
- 83 Donald Drive, \$2,290,000, 5 Bdrms, 5762 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 10-10-17; Previous Sale: \$1,537,000, 06-20-05

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CALBRE 01968803

LISA TICHENOR



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SHERRY HUTCHENS



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123 BELVEDERE CT., WALNUT CREEK \$1,010,000



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1029 HAMPTON DRIVE, LAFAYETTE \$1,375,000



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1143 SANDERS DRIVE, MORAGA \$998,000



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10 PARROT COURT, WALNUT CREEK \$1,288,000



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805 TANGLEWOOD DR., LAFAYETTE \$1,610,000



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255 THARP DRIVE, MORAGA \$1,195,000



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Taking care to prevent damage

... continued from page D1

Homeowners should also avoid letting ivy or other vines crowd out the stump and climb the tree. Clear away shrubs or vines from the base of the tree and pull down parasitic vines.

John Traverso, certified arborist and owner of Traverso Tree Service in Saranap, recommends a visual inspection to detect potential problems. He warns, however, "Looking for something and having the knowledge to know what you're looking for are two different things."

Included in his visual inspection are the shape of crotches; elongated, poorly tapered branches sticking out of the canopy; heavy leans; cracks in the soil or uplifting and mounding on the backside of a lean; and fungal brackets on the lower trunk.

Traverso recommends periodically measuring the lean of a tree with a level to find out if the angle is getting worse. "Bark compression or folding on the leaning side of the tree along with bark separation on the backside indicates trouble."

Another indication of decay can be holes made by birds. He says, "The birds are making use of an already existing cavity, which means decayed wood already exists inside."

Traverso recommends pruning and/or crown reduction to mitigate some problems. Poorly tapered limbs are highly prone to failure, especially if decay is present.

Fungal growth on trunks and mushrooms around the base of a tree can indicate



A brave soul, in red, climbs the trunk of this rotted pine tree, cutting away branches to prepare to take the tree down.

Photos Pippa Fisher

compromised wood tissue and shouldn't be ignored. This can also be an indication of too much water (e.g.: putting the tree on a lawn watering schedule throughout the summer).

While old, diseased trees may need to be removed, here are some tips for raising a new one:

- 1) Pick a tree appropriate for our conditions.
- 2) Remove decayed trees and roots from the planting site and use composted mulch to top dress. Traverso states, "Healthy raw material such as tree chippings, especially those with leaves and carbon materials mixed, tends to bring to life the process which benefits the soil and trees in the long run."
- 3) Do not water too often. Native trees prefer deep watering during the winter months. If subjected to a dry winter, supplemental irrigation should be applied in February through March for most trees, especially oaks, and not in summer.
- 4) Fertilizing should be performed in the fall or winter so nutrients can be processed and ready for absorption by the roots in the spring.
- 5) Use judicious pruning techniques in young trees to thin, shape and direct growth. Different trees have different demands and proper pruning methods are crucial, especially in the first few years.
- 6) Be mindful of the tree's drip line and allow for drainage. A tree's root structure is generally equal to or well beyond its growth aboveground.

When in doubt, call a certified arborist. Most will give a free estimate.



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A fresh look at holiday décor

By Amanda Eck



Photo Amanda Eck

Can you believe the holidays are upon us? We haven't even finished off all the Halloween candy and the stores are already bombarding us with Christmas décor.

Well, as the saying goes, "If you can't beat them, join them!" So today I wanted to share some thoughts on how to bring some holiday cheer into your home without it necessarily looking like Santa's workshop.

I have clients ask after we have created a beautiful new space for them, "How will I decorate for Christmas and still coordinate with my new décor?" While I love all things red and green just as much as the next person, sometimes this bright palette can clash with your space. I prefer to use everyday items you already have and pull colors from your décor. I am also a believer in keeping it simple.

I use three simple elements in my holiday decorating: fresh greenery, ribbon and glass ornaments.

For the coffee table we used a silver tray filled with gold and silver ornaments surrounding silver candlesticks and tucked in a few fresh sprigs of greenery. During the day, the ornaments gave off a wonderful shimmer and in the evenings we enjoy the candlelight.

In the dining room I went with bold color, but not the usual red and green. Here I used dinner plates in cobalt blue, emerald green and gold and layered them on top of a bold graphic black and white runner. ... continued on page D8

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917 Lee Ln, Concord Offered at \$1,699,000

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5040 square feet living space | 6 bedrooms | 6.5 bathrooms | Rebuilt from ground up in 2006

The location of this lovely property is ideal in accessing shopping, restaurants, entertainment, BART, 24/680 Freeways and all private schools including Carondelet and De La Salle High Schools, all within 5 minutes.

51 Martha Rd, Orinda

Offered at \$1,799,000

This approximately 3000 square foot home includes 4 bedrooms, 4 baths (one a spa), and custom made office on a very special .80 acre lot within walking distance to the sought-after Glorietta Elementary School.

Just minutes to Downtown, Highway 24 and BART



What the GOP Tax Plan Means for Lamorinda Homeowners

As we move into the holiday season the GOP has provided a topic for the Thanksgiving dinner table, a new tax plan. The recently released House Republican tax bill contains significant changes that are important for Lamorinda homeowners to understand if this bill passes. Californians already face the nation's highest state income tax rate of 13.3% and when combined with the highest Federal rate of 39.6%, you end up paying income taxes of 52.9% of your income.

Under the proposal there are three changes for homeowners: First is a reduction in the amount of mortgage interest that can be deducted; Second is a new cap on property tax deductions; Third are limits to the capital gains exemption used by homeowners when they sell. Current homeowners are allowed to deduct interest paid on mortgages valued up to \$1.1 million, but the proposal cuts the cap to \$500,000 for future purchased homes. Also, the bill limits the mortgage interest deduction to only your primary residence, ending the deduction for vacation homes. For anyone with a mortgage more than \$1.0 million this would effectively cut your deduction in half. Mortgages over \$1.0 million are commonplace in Lamorinda where the average home price is now \$1.6 million.

Under the tax plan the deduction for property taxes will be capped at \$10,000. With local property tax rates close to 1.2% the proposal would effectively eliminate any deduction for assessed home value more than \$830,000. Likely the most important change, is the limitation of capital gains exemption on the sale of your home. Currently married couples can exclude up to \$500,000 in capital gains from the sale of their primary residence if they have lived in their home for two of the last five years. Under the bill the period will increase to five of the last eight years and you will begin to lose the gain exemption if the income of married couples exceeds \$500,000. Combined with the deterrent that CA Prop 13 provides to potentially selling your home (e.g. the step-up in your assessed value of your home) this provision will put further handcuffs on families looking to move up into larger homes and empty nesters looking to downsize.

Please feel free to contact us with your real estate questions - Erin at erin@MartinHomesTeam.com or Darrick at darrick@MartinHomesTeam.com.



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A fresh look at holiday décor

... continued from page D6



Photo Amanda Eck

The centerpiece was filled with fresh tulips and greenery and a pair of faux boxwood balls sit atop gold candleholders. Again use what you have and adding simple embellishments. The only purchase I made was the dinner plates and everything else I had on hand.

The dining room and living room are not the only spaces reserved for Christmas decorating. I love adding some holiday cheer to the master bedroom. This space was full of creams, blues and soft browns. So we brought out the blue with a silk ribbon. We hung a fresh wreath on the mirror and decorated the nightstands with an ivory stocking and small wreath. We opted for faux greenery above the bed, because no one wants pine needles falling on their head while sleeping, right?

I also love having a small tree in the bedroom, especially at night. I love crawling into bed after a long day to read by the light of the tree. There is something magical about turning off all the lights, except the lights on the tree.

Last but not least is the front door. Every year I try and dream up new ideas for my front door. One year it was a trio of fresh wreaths tied with red velvet ribbon; another year it was a black and white velvet stocking filled with fresh greenery. And my favorite was from a few years ago. I choose a simple green

and white palette. Instead of the trio of wreaths I added a gold sunburst mirror to mix things up. Fresh greenery was draped over the outdoor console table and a paper mache deer was spray painted white.

I hope this inspires you to try some of these ideas in your own home and you won't be afraid to try new colors in your holiday décor. I wish you and your family all the best this holiday season.

Until next time!

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

With a distinct sense of style that mixes

contemporary and classic design she fashions spaces that are both elegant and inviting. Her design aesthetic is inspired by anything visual but especially fashion, architecture and art.

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



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

A cornucopia of gratitude

By Cynthia Brian

"A person of power embraces challenges in complete gratitude. No matter the situation life may bring, discontent is never justified, rather all is experienced as an opportunity and a privilege to adventure and grow."

– James Ray



An arrangement of succulents, Brandy roses and ribbons.

Photo Cynthia Brian

It's raining! Hurray, hurray for the nourishing drops from heaven. I have always been a sunshine goddess; however, after a summer and autumn of extreme heat, I am so grateful for the sweet smell of the musky earth after a shower and the pile of fallen saffron hued leaves that transport me to my childhood days.

To feel gratitude after an angry Mother Earth has unleashed her fury on our planet for the past several months is heroic. My heart has been heavy with the multiple hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, fires, windstorms, as well as the horrific terrorist attacks and lone wolf concert massacre. Despite efforts to shake off the terror, a sense of loss and personal sadness permeates every pore. As I respond to readers and speak to strangers, a deficit of hope clouds the air. With catastrophe after catastrophe ... politically generated, humanly engineered, or natural disaster ... is there any wonder that confusion and division reigns?

Yet, what the world needs now is love, sweet love. As Jackie Deshannon so eloquently sang, "it's the only thing that there's too little of." We can begin sharing the love by beginning to grow gratitude for what we have instead of wallowing in what we lack or what we've lost.

Enter the garden.

The garden is and always has been a safe place – a secret refuge from the concrete jungle. In the garden we can take a deep breath, delight in the perfume of the flowers, and relish the tactile experiences when touching smooth blades of grass, the fuzzy leaves of lambs ear, or digging our fingers into the dirt. We forget about time in the garden as we witness butterflies, bees and bugs going about their pollination business while listening to the rustling of the leaves and the eloquent music of the songbirds. A garden creates community and hugs us with affection. We have the unique opportunity to cultivate and connect to our native roots ... earth.

... continued on page D10

**Patti
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I believe in the art of living well.

Whether helping first-time home buyers & move-up buyers or downsizing empty nesters & seniors, I want my clients to live well at every stage of their lives. I'll do whatever it takes to help them enjoy a seamless transition from one of life's passages to the next. This is my promise.

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

A cornucopia of gratitude

... continued from page D9



The pistache tree berries are turning colors in time to deck the halls.

Photos Cynthia Brian

As we celebrate November, the month of being thankful, let us look to our garden sanctuaries with gratitude. In this month's column, I offer you a collection of my favorite photos that commemorate the sass of the season. These images reflect the colorful cornucopia of happiness and tranquility on our journey through autumn. I hope you will feel energized and inspired by their beauty, originality and simplicity.

Gardens are powerful teachers. They comfort and console. They evolve and advance with our loving care. When we collaborate with our surroundings, we sustain and increase our humanity and humility. The garden is with us always and the gifts it dispenses are unlimited.

May your Thanksgiving be a day filled with giving thanks and espousing love.



The last vestiges of leaves on the grapevines.



Wild turkeys are part of the Lamorinda wild kingdom.

Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Reminders

... continued from page D9

RAKE leaves to mix into your compost pile. Do not put them in the green bin unless they are diseased as leaf mould adds valuable nutrients back into the soil.

REFRAIN from raking an area completely clean as bare soil is not a natural state. Allow a small covering of leaves to slowly decompose where they fell. By clearing the soil completely, erosion and leaching are invited.

TRENCH plant your bulbs of muscari, tulips and hyacinths to get the job done swiftly.

ADD healthy houseplants to your interior décor to clean the air, lower blood pressure, help with concentration, and reduce stress.

FORCE amaryllis, hyacinths and paperwhites as thoughtful green holiday gifts.

SCATTER wild flower seeds for a surprise spring showing.

CHECK trees for stability before winter storms arrive. Call in a professional arborist to help you prune any unwanted or dangerous branches. Safety is of the utmost importance.

FERTILIZE your entire landscape. An especially auspicious time to throw fertilizer or pre-emergent is right before a rainfall for maximum absorption.

PICK the last of your grapes and use the colorful grape leaves in your autumn arrangements.

THROW snail and slug bait before the crawlers devour your precious plantings.

DIVIDE perennials such as daylilies, dahlias and iris.

EXPLORE the diversity of our local hillsides with an invigorating Thanksgiving hike.

TAP into your inner child and roll in the fallen leaves. Make angel wings as if the leaves were snow. Remember how fun that was when you were just a kid!

ARRANGE dried grasses, mushrooms, acorns, magnolia cones, moss and lichen-covered branches for an elegant tabletop setting.

MEDITATE outside in the chilly autumn air and breathe in the aromas of the earth.

CLEAN, sharpen and oil tools before putting away for the winter.

ADD a cornucopia of gratitude to your daily fruit basket.

Wishing you a blessed Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

Cynthia Brian



Cynthia Brian thanks you for reading *Digging Deep*. Happy Thanksgiving.

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 & fire disaster relief at www.BetheStarYouAre.org. Tune into Cynthia's Radio show and order her books at www.StarStyleRadio.com.

My new book, *Growing with the Goddess Gardener*, is available at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store.

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ORINDA



New Listing!

19 Tarabrook Drive

Updated throughout, this delightful 4 bed/2 bath, 1693 sqft home. Beautifully landscaped .50 acre lot.

\$1,250,000

ORINDA



New Listing!

44 Knickerbocker Lane,

Large 4 bedroom/ 2.5 bath home nestled in one of Orinda's most convenient neighborhoods.

\$1,430,000

ORINDA

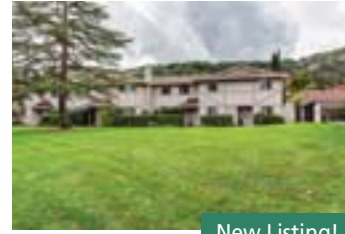


40 Los Altos Road

This 4605sf handsome custom contemporary is the quintessential restorative retreat in OCC. Views/ Pool/Tennis/Gardens – all on 2.27ac.

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MORAGA



New Listing!

76 Miramonte Drive

Popular Miramonte Gardens townhouse! 3 beds/1.5 baths conveniently located to the clubhouse & pool. Walk to school!

\$585,000

MORAGA



New Listing!

1735 Saint Andrews Drive

Moraga Country Club – 5th Hole View! This single level detached home features 2 beds, 2 baths, in 1444 Sq. ft. Peaceful setting & top schools!

\$975,000

MORAGA

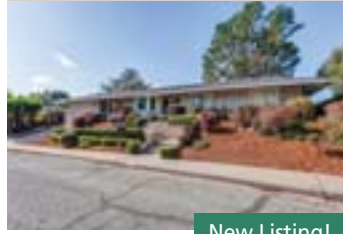


1822 Saint Andrews Drive

Lovely detached single family home in Moraga Country Club. 3 Beds, 2 Baths +Den. Fully remodeled eat-in kitchen & baths. Top Schools!

\$1,075,000

MORAGA



New Listing!

722 Crossbrook Drive

Big Sunset Views - 4bd/2ba, 2,352 sq.ft. on .73 acres: Updated rancher w/ kitchen/Family overlooking level backyard. Top schools!

\$1,375,000

MORAGA



23 Indian Wells Street

Moraga Country Club Bruzzone built Wimbledon Expanded. 4 Bedrooms/ 3 bathrooms/ 3122 SqFt. Top-Rated Schools!

\$1,400,000

MORAGA



5 Lisa Lane

Beautiful Sanders Ranch estate with rolling hill views is an entertainers dream. Level backward, pool & sports court.

\$1,775,000

LAFAYETTE

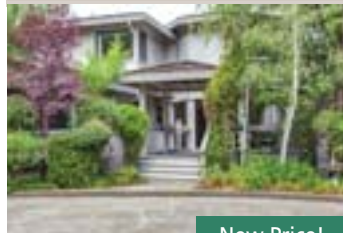


961 Oak View Circle

Complete fixer with approved plans for Beautiful Craftsman Style home in amazing location.

\$1,290,000

LAFAYETTE



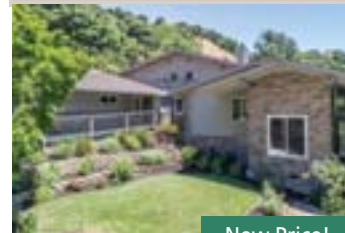
New Price!

18 Toledo Court

Happy Valley neighborhood, .94 acre with level yard. Walls of glass, kitchen opens to family room. Bonus room.

\$1,750,000

LAFAYETTE



New Price!

1200 Glen Road

Fabulous location & views! Multi-gen living close to town/BART. 5bd +library +bonus room +full apartment attached.

\$1,995,000

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