

LAMORINDA WEEKLY



26,000 copies delivered biweekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses

925-377-0977

www.lamorindaweekly.com

FREE



Photo Gint Federas

Best sports pics of 2017

Sports photography is not a forgiving art. Capturing emotion, movement, a specific play or the right player can make the difference between print and cut – and not many visual artists face a throng of athletes rushing at them at full speed, either, so this art form is not for the faint of heart. But Lamorinda Weekly sports photographer Gint Federas, who takes up to 1,200 shots per game, knows when you get it right, it's golden, like in this instance, when Federas captured the euphoria of the Campolindo High School foot-

ball team winning the NCS Championship on Dec. 1.

"I stood in front of Campo's likely path as it makes for a more dramatic shot," Federas said. "The team lined up at the 40-yard line, but Campo fans lined up on the goal-line. I took photos from the 50 yard-line, then ran around to the 20 yard-line expecting something might happen. That's when the whole team started running at me."

Federas says he has never been knocked over ... yet. "There have been a few close calls in football games on the

sidelines. I keep both eyes open when shooting to adjust to the action faster, and get out of the way when bodies come hurling my way."

Lately Federas says he's been teaching his son Andrew the art of sports photography. "He has been knocked over more than once when a sideline tackle knocked his legs out from under him." (See Lamorinda Weekly's best sports photos of the year on page C2.) - J. Wake

Advertising

LAMORINDA WEEKLY	
Community Service	B4
Not to be Missed	B6-B7
HOW TO CONTACT US	B7
Classified	B7
Shop Orinda	C4



Patricia & Ashley Battersby

Ashley: 925-323-9955
Patty: 925-330-6663



EXPERIENCE AND RESULTS COUNT!

45+ Years Combined, Top Producers

www.ashleybattersby.com

ashley@ashleybattersby.com

pb@patriciabattersby.com

BRE# 01407784 & 00854469

Follow Ashley On Instagram for Lamorinda Local Life: @ashleybattersbyhome

State throws down caution flag over tower repair plans

By Nick Marnell



Photo courtesy EBMUD

The base isolator design being considered by the East Bay Municipal Utility District to retrofit the Lafayette Reservoir outlet tower has received lukewarm support from a state regulatory agency.

The California Division of Safety of Dams this summer released new classifications and ratings for its statewide jurisdictional dams and the agency found that, of the 22 dams owned by EBMUD, all received a satisfactory rating but one: the Lafayette Reservoir. DSOD said that the Lafayette dam can be

operated safely in current conditions, but the reservoir outlet tower was vulnerable to a seismic event. Though EBMUD had planned to retrofit the tower by 2022, the state agency said the proposed timeline was unacceptable, with continued delays "increasing the potential risk to public safety."

EBMUD and its consultants worked on several models for retrofitting the tower and submitted the base isolator option to the agency for review in August.

... continued on page A8

LimeBike coming to Lamorinda?

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo provided

LimeBike is a relatively new company that launched last January. The company provides rental bicycles in many locations in the U.S., including college campuses and cities. The scheme is different from others because LimeBike doesn't use docks or racks. Customers can locate the bikes with an app that uses GPS technology to show where available bikes are located, and can then take the bike for a rental charge of \$1 per half hour, leaving the bike locked at their destination for another user to find and use.

LimeBike is investigating whether its product is suitable for communities such

as Orinda, Lafayette, Moraga and Walnut Creek. A LimeBike representative presented its plans to the Orinda City Council on Dec. 19. The obvious appeal to the council is that the city is not required to make any financial contribution to this plan, and there is no need to build or allow special racks for the bikes, which are, predictably, painted a vivid lime green.

Should the company decide to proceed, and the governments of those jurisdictions approve, LimeBike would launch what would probably be a six-month trial period to see how the service fares.

... continued on page A11

Civic News A1-A12

Moraga Town Council discusses costs of storm drain repair – page A4

Fire Districts A8

Station 16 demolition planned – page A8

Life in Lamorinda B1-B8

Family fights for "Strong Will" – page B1.



What it takes to be a football official – page C1.



Sports C1-C4

Our Homes D1-D8

Get fit in your garden gym – page D1.





Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 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



The Lafayette Police Department has changed their reporting and we were unable to get the complete information before press time.

Lafayette city council reorganizes for 2018

By Pippa Fisher



Incoming Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin. Lamo archive

Lafayette's new mayor for the coming year will be Don Tatzin with Council Member Cam Burks moving to the role of vice mayor in a shuffle that this year sees no change of faces.

Tatzin is no stranger to the mayoral gavel – this will be his seventh term as mayor. Burks, who was absent from the Dec. 11 meeting when the council voted unanimously for him and Tatzin, is the relative rookie of the group as he goes into his second year.

Tatzin opened his remarks by saying that with the tactics of alienation and tribalism that other levels of government seem to be resorting to currently, it falls to local government to respect others and act honestly and ethically.

This was the recurring theme of his comments as he touched on his hopes for 2018, including continuing to earn the trust of residents and businesses with transparency and getting lawsuits – which he likened to a “festering wound” – resolved. He included his hopes to see increased conversion to clean energy through MCE.

Tatzin acknowledged the other “incredibly qualified council members” and the very talented citizens in Lafayette and thanked his wife, Ellen, for her continued support of him.

... continued on page A12

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2017!



**NEW YEAR
+ NEW HOME
EXCITING
NEW CHAPTER**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE
DANA GREEN TEAM!**

PACIFIC UNION

925.339.1918 | LICENSE # 01482454

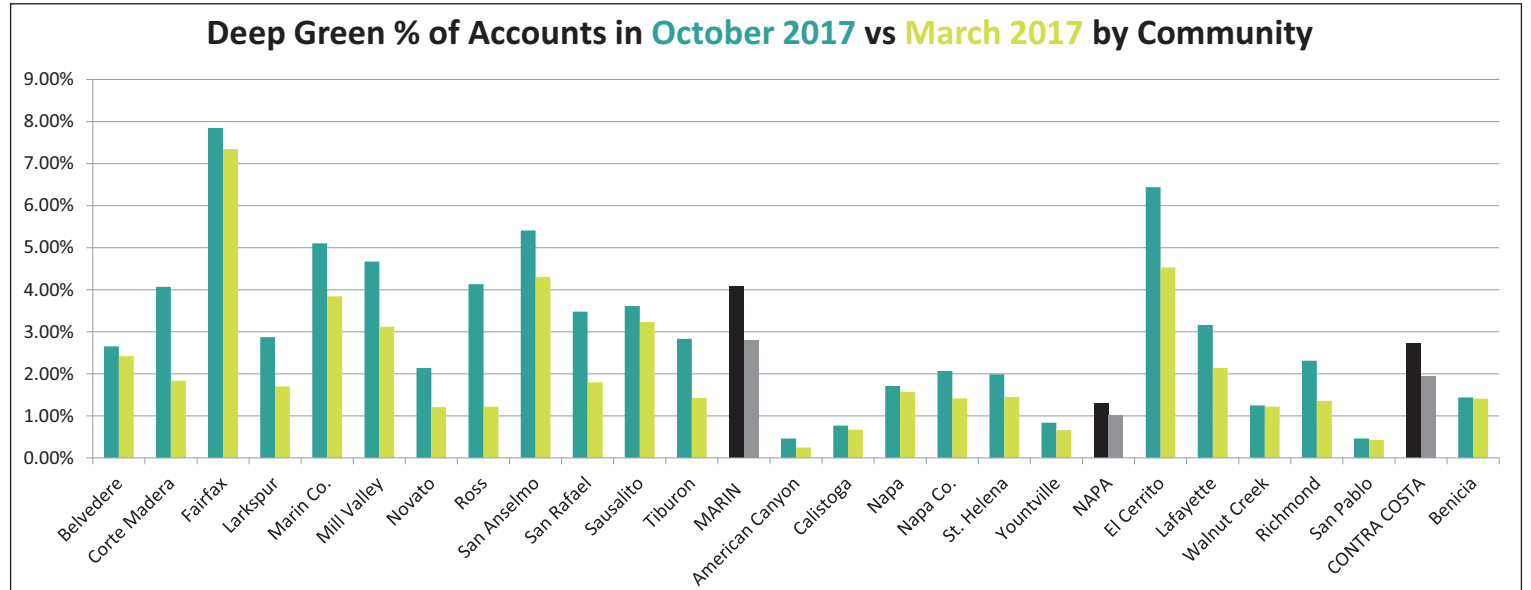
LAMORINDA'S #1 REALTOR SINCE 2011

DANA GREEN

DANAGREENTEAM.COM

Lafayette encourages residents to opt up to Deep Green energy

By Pippa Fisher



Lafayette's opt-up rate among private households reached 3.16 percent in October, up from 2.14 percent in March.

Image provided

Lafayette is set to continue its push to become cleaner and greener in 2018 as the Environmental Task Force and Sustainable Lafayette brainstorm ways to get residents to opt up to 100 percent renewable energy through MCE.

Since September the city has enrolled all its electricity accounts in MCE's deep green service that provides electricity from pollution-free, renewable sources such as solar. Sustainable Lafayette board member Brad Crane says that the switch was smooth. “The city accounts include the Lafayette Library and Learning Center with (funding) support from the LLLC Foundation, all the street lamps throughout the city, the community center, Buckeye Fields and other city owned facilities. Once the city council unanimously voted in favor of opting up, its job was done. MCE switched the accounts and the city of Lafayette became a Deep Green customer overnight.”

Mayor Don Tatzin's goal for 2018 is to get 1,000 accounts to opt up to Deep Green – an increase of roughly 700 accounts.

Assistant Planner Julia Koppman Norton says that the city along with Tatzin, Sustainable Lafayette, MCE and the Environmental Task Force would like to push for a 2018 Deep Green Campaign using the momentum of the city's opting up in order to spur more private households and businesses to opt up as well.

In fact, just one month following the decision to make the city Deep Green, Lafayette's opt-up rate among private households reached 3.16 percent in October, up from 2.14 percent in March.

Crane is not convinced that it's just the city's decision that has persuaded more residents to opt up. “Those of us who were aware of the city's switch were already Deep Green,” he says. “But, the city opting up does put peer pressure on other local towns, like Moraga and Orinda, to do the same. Local city leaders watch what neighboring towns do and follow suit once they realize the benefits. So, in that sense, the Lafayette City Council has demonstrated tremendous environmental leadership.”

Crane points out that in addition to going Deep Green, the council has recently enacted a plastic bag ban, installed multiple electric car charging stations, and partnered with other cities to provide bulk rates on residential solar installation through Bay Area Sunshares. “The impact of these policies and initiatives cannot be overstated.

When combined, these actions make Lafayette an environmental leader in the Bay Area,” he says.

Crane believes the biggest barrier to more people opting up is awareness. “Being Deep Green is a negligible cost difference. It's also quite simple to sign up. The issue is that the majority of people in Lafayette aren't even aware that they're already MCE customers. The switch to MCE was so seamless, most people didn't notice at all. Nothing changed about the billing process. We still pay PG&E for our electricity use. They just pass it on to MCE.”

Going Deep Green costs a penny more per kilowatt-hour than Light Green (which is 50 percent renewable energy). Typical homes spend \$4 on Deep Green per month, according to MCE.

At the Nov. 13 meeting the city council adopted the Environmental Action Plan, a policy document that includes among its goals encouraging residents to opt up.

ETF members along with the outgoing President of Sustainable Lafayette Wei-Tai Kwok recently discussed ideas at the Dec. 14 meeting, including working with major community groups and signage in the Safeway banner box.

Crane is optimistic. “I truly believe that once people realize that 1) they're already MCE customers, 2) how easy it is to go Deep Green and 3) the benefits of Deep Green, opting up is a no brainer. It's a ‘why didn't we do this before' moment.”

Plastic packaging film can be recycled

While many Lamorindans recycle like champs, Recycle Smart Program Manager Ashley Louisiana is getting the word out that, along with plastic bottles, toys and containers, plastic packaging film can also be recycled.

By simply bundling plastic film into one plastic bag, the following can all be tossed in the blue recycling bin:

- Grocery bags
- Clean produce and meat bags
- Bread bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Newspaper bags
- Film packaging around toilet paper and paper towels
- Zip lock style bags
- Clean film packaging around food/meat products
- Film packaging around DVDs/CDs
- Bubble wrap and shipping air pockets (deflated is best)
- Plastic garbage/recycling liners
- Ice bags
- Six-pack beverage holders (cut)
- Thick plastic around beverage containers

– P. Fisher

BRYDON & IVES

REAL ESTATE TEAM

Best wishes for a
Very Merry Holiday Season

May the coming year bring you and yours
constant joy and ever increasing happiness

If you are considering selling or buying in 2018,
The Brydon & Ives Team should be your first call!

Lisa Brydon 925.285.8336 | Kristi Ives 925.788.8345

www.BrydonIvesTeam.com

BrydonIvesTeam@apr.com

CUBREHO1408025
CUBREHO1347466



CREATE A POSITIVE CHANGE
in a foster child's life.
BECOME A CASA VOLUNTEER.
www.cccocasa.org



Hanukkah celebrated at the Plaza

By Pippa Fisher



A crowd of over 200 gather to light the giant menorah on the first night of Hanukkah. Photo provided

The Lafayette Plaza was packed on the first night of Hanukkah as crowds gathered to light the menorah on the Jewish holiday that celebrates perseverance, faith and the power of light over darkness.

The annual event is sponsored by the Chabad Jewish Center of Lamorinda. The eight-day festival commemorates the Jews' victory over Greek rule more than 2,000 years ago. After driving out the powerful military, the Jews were able to rekindle the menorah in the Jerusalem temple – one day's worth of oil burned for eight nights.

Rabbi Israel Labkowski, regional director of Chabad Lubavitch of Lamorinda, encouraged the families who gathered around the giant menorah to bring

their own light by being kind and helping others.

"The ancient story has a modern message, especially for those weary of a seemingly endless stream of violence, corruption and crime," said Rabbi Mendel Weinfeld, a rabbinical student who came in from Brooklyn to help organize the event.

"There is so much darkness all around us, there are so many bad things around the world," Weinfeld said. "But if you bring even a little bit of light, just a tiny bit, the darkness is pushed away."

Families enjoyed songs and music as well as traditional Hanukkah food – potato latkes and jelly doughnuts.

Dana Green named Lafayette's Business Person of the Year

By Pippa Fisher



Dana Green Photo provided

This year's Business Person of the Year award goes to Lafayette realtor Dana Green.

Last year's Business Person of the Year together with both the Chamber's outgoing board presi-

dent and the incoming board president selected Green from a list of seven nominees. Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson says that they could not ask for a better representative.

"Dana models excellence for every question we ask about our nominees," says Lifson. "She runs a successful business, is involved with the community, helps maintain and enhance quality of life in Lafayette, and makes us proud to be a member of this community."

The award will be formally presented at a dinner on Feb. 2. Registration details can be found on the chamber website at <http://www.lafayettechamber.org/event/business-person-year-2018-dinner/>.

Outgoing Mayor Mike Anderson praised for ruling with decorum and grace

By Pippa Fisher



Outgoing Mayor Mike Anderson receives a proclamation from Supervisor Candace Andersen. Photo Pippa Fisher

Supervisor Candace Andersen presented outgoing Mayor Mike Anderson with a proclamation recognizing his third term as mayor.

Andersen noted that while La-

fayette has been quiet this past year compared to the other cities in Lamorinda with no sinkholes or collapsed bridges,

... continued on page A12

Happy Holidays From The Hood Group

Best wishes for a joyous Holiday Season and a New Year filled with peace, health and happiness!

We want to thank all our clients for another outstanding year. We are delighted to have helped so many wonderful people fulfill their home needs and dreams.



ORINDA • MORAGA • LAFAYETTE
ELENA HOOD
REAL ESTATE GROUP

(925)254-3030 WWW.ORINDA.COM
CAL BRE: 1221247

Find your Joy!

Call us to discuss how we can help **you** buy or sell and find **your joy** in 2018!

Happy New Year!



PRICE GALLEGOS GROUP

Amy S. Price & Christine Gallegos

925 997 6808 | 415 606 2047

pricegallegos.com

amy.price@pacunion.com

christine.gallegos@pacunion.com

License # 01433269 | 01896511

PACIFIC UNION
INTERNATIONAL
License # 0186677



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Thursday, Jan. 9, 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
Dec. 12 to Dec. 17

Alarms	8
Traffic	41
Noise Calls	1
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service To Citizen	18
Patrol Request	6
Abandoned Vehicle	
200 Block Scofield Dr.	
2000 Block Donald Dr.	
Scofield Dr/Harold Dr.	
Accident Property	
100 Block Corliss Dr.	
Barking Dog	
200 Block Scofield Dr.	
Beat Info	
10 Block Juniper	
Civil	
Twenty Four Hour Fitness	
Disturbance-Domestic	
Not Available	
Excessive Speed	
Joaquin Moraga Int School	
Medical Hospital	
300 Block Rheem Blvd.	
Petty Theft	
10 Block Haven Ct.	
1000 Block Country Club Dr.	
Public Assembly Check	
St. Marys College	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/Canyon Rd.	
Rheem Valley Shopping Center	
Supplemental Report	
1000 Block Country Club Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr.	
No House Number	
No House Number	
Safeway	
Traffic - Major Injuries	
Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr.	
Traffic Hazard	
Corliss Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Corliss Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Verbal Dispute	
Not Available	
Welfare Check	
300 Block Rheem Blvd.	
400 Block Tharp Dr.	

David Trotter is Moraga's new mayor

By Sophie Braccini



Dave Trotter

Photo Andy Scheck

Becoming the new mayor is neither a surprise nor a first for Moraga Council Member Dave Trotter; not counting his 7-minute mayorship last year – which abruptly ended when Trotter was incapacitated for weeks after a fall in the town office's stairwell – this is the third time the Moraga lawyer will become the top official in town. He sounded genuinely excited about the year to come, however, and has started to brand his tenure with one word: "reimbursement."

The election of Trotter as mayor proceeded smoothly, as expected, despite some online opposition. No one at the council or in the public on Dec. 13 contested Trotter's right to the center chair, once nominated. Teresa Onoda was elected vice mayor. Trotter graciously accepted the honor and briefly highlighted his priorities.

With his first priority being reimbursement, Trotter explained a few days after the meeting that he

expects over a million dollars from the sinkhole repairs to come back to the town's reserves soon. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved all of the bridge and most of the sinkhole repairs for reimbursement, but Moraga is just one of many agencies that are seeking funds. Building on the principle that the squeaky wheel gets the grease, Trotter promises a team effort, with elected officials supporting staff, to get the money back sooner, rather than later.

Trotter also in his brief inaugural speech referenced a recent article published in Lamorinda Weekly. The article documented the growth of property tax revenue that the town has received in recent years, beyond its expectation, but had not used the funds to reduce its storm drain or infrastructure maintenance deficits. The new mayor indicated that he would agendize discussing having some portion of the increased property tax revenue put

aside to attack the capital replacement and infrastructure maintenance needs, and not allocate all of the surplus to salaries and benefits.

He later elaborated that since the town is about to ask residents to pay a new fee for storm drains, the town should do its part to support the needed investment in the infrastructure. The new mayor said that he had faith in his fellow citizens and that he expected that the storm drain fee should be approved before mid-year (see related article below).

Trotter has been involved in crafting the amendments of the town's hillside and ridgeline regulations from the start. He was on the subcommittee that developed the text with staff, and each of his campaigns focused on open space protection. He says he is looking forward to having these new rules approved during his mayorship.

The new mayor has also been a supporter of Moraga joining Marin Community Energy and he has been the town's representative on the Community Choice Aggregation's 24-member board since September; he sits on the rate setting and the executive committees. He believes that giving people a choice is a good thing and that MCE is a very sophisticated entity, the first CCA in California. He likes that MCE is a public entity that is motivated by providing the best service possible, not maximizing shareholders profits, and he is impressed with the large solar facility that MCE is building in Richmond.

During this year, the new may-

or and his fellow council members will hopefully approve a plan to make the Hacienda de las Flores a well-used and well-maintained public facility. As a member of the Hacienda subcommittee, Trotter has participated in efforts to create a public-private partnership for the Hacienda and open a top-notch restaurant there. The mayor has no doubt that the uniqueness of the property will attract an operator and that clients will come. Trotter notes that recreation facilities such as the parks and the Hacienda are services provided to the residents and that it is normal to have a cost associated with them. Plans for the Hacienda and attempts to lower the town's annual upkeep costs for the building have come and gone over the past 10 years.

One other task that the mayor has given himself is to have the East Bay Municipal Utility District acknowledge its share of responsibility in the hillside failure that caused the damage of the Canyon bridge. He indicated that the town filed an administrative claim against the agency two months ago, and that if EBMUD denies the claim, the town will seek its lawyer's advice regarding a lawsuit. If such a recommendation were given, the final decision would be made during a public session of the council.

The town council and staff will convene at the beginning of the year to define the detailed roadmap for 2018, during the traditional goal-setting meeting. No date has yet been announced.

How much will Moragans pay for storm drain repair?

By Sophie Braccini

Two and a half years ago Moraga adopted an unfunded storm drain master plan to keep up its infrastructure. After the Rheem sinkhole, and the resulting increase in the public's awareness of the risks associated with disrepair, the maintenance plan is now finally on the verge of being funded. But how much will it cost per household? What will it cost to commercial and institutional property owners? Will members of homeowners associations get a big discount? Some responses were given at the Dec. 13 Moraga Town Council meeting, but faced with HOA backlash the council decided to give it one more month of massaging. If a decision on fees is made in January, property owners should receive mail-in ballots in March for a result in May.

The Dec. 13 meeting started on a positive note. The cost to fix high-priority storm drain problems should be lower than originally anticipated. Consultant Jerry Bradshaw worked with Public Works Director Edric Kwan on the estimate that was done two and a half years ago. New factors, such as consideration of how developers fees will be directed to storm drain maintenance, led to a reduction of the total estimated cost for high-priority problem spots from \$8.9 million to \$7.3 million.

The consultant explained that the fee would be different for small, medium and large property owners to tie it to the impact each property has on the storm drain system as a whole. Properties under 10,000 square feet and condominiums would be charged an \$81.34 fee; medium-sized properties, 10,000 to 22,000 square feet – the major-

ity of Moraga properties – would be charged \$119.23; large property owners would see a \$144.09 cost for drains. Institutional, commercial, parks and multifamily residential properties would be charged a per acre fee, variable depending on the average amount of impervious surface they tally. Commercial zones would get the highest rate with \$931.89 per acre, while schools and churches' fees would be \$405.40 per acre and \$29.62 for parks and golf courses.

The fees presented by the consultant were calculated to cover the cost of all the high-priority projects, clean water obligations and general maintenance, not to be acceptable for voters, as some commentators who came to the meeting suggested.

All the council members seemed to be in favor of moving

forward and starting a campaign to put the new fee on a mailing ballot at the beginning of the year, but representatives of the two largest HOAs in town, Moraga Country Club and Sanders Ranch, raised some concerns. Two of the council members live in Sanders Ranch, however since granting special discounts to HOA members is part of the law that pertains to these types of fees, there is no conflict of interest for the two members.

Anne Willcoxon, board president of Moraga Country Club's homeowners association, shared her concern about a high-priority storm drain project located under Saint Andrews Drive, the only in-and-out way for the thousands of residents living at MCC. She noted that if work would start there, staff would have to make sure that in-

gress and egress would not be impacted. Willcoxon did not mention any concern about what would happen if that culvert under Saint Andrews Drive should fail, or about the storm drain fee proposed in the plan. MCC represents close to 20 percent of the homes in Moraga.

The discount for HOA members is about 10 percent of the total homeowners fee. Bradshaw explained that the fee includes three different elements: water quality investments that are required by law, operation and maintenance of the total system, and finally the capital improvement cost for the high-priority projects. Based on 30-year financing, the CIP load represents about half of the annual storm drain fees; it is that CIP cost that is discounted by 20 percent for HOA members.

... continued on page A5

Local Knowledge | Extraordinary Results

Concierge Real Estate Services

- ✓ Combined 40+ years of unparalleled service
- ✓ Representing buyers & sellers in Lamorinda
- ✓ Trend setting marketing customized for each home
- ✓ Committed to helping you achieve your goals

Bernie & Ryerson Team

Are you considering selling your home?

If so, please give us a call for assistance. We would be happy to provide you with a complimentary market analysis of your home's value, as well as a comprehensive marketing plan detailing how to get you the highest sale price in today's market!



Bernie & Ryerson Team
925 200 2222 or 925 878 9685

gabernie@pacunion.com
ken.ryerson@pacunion.com
License # 00686144 | 01418309

PACIFIC UNION INTERNATIONAL
License # 01866771

LIVING TRUST

\$695
COMPLETE
Valid until February 7, 2018

Plan Includes:

- Trust Agreement
- Pour Over Will
- Guardianship of Minor Children
- Power of Attorney for Finance
- Community Property Agreement
- Transfer of Real Property into Trust

Advanced Medical Directives, Including

- Power of Attorney for Health Care
- Living Will
- HIPAA

Notary Services Included!

(925) 257-4277
www.smykowskilaw.com
laurensmy@gmail.com
Office Located in Walnut Creek

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

Law Offices of
Lauren Smykowski

IT'S APRIL IN LAMORINDA FOR REAL ESTATE



Consistently Representing Buyers and Sellers in Successful Transactions

Buy • Sell • Live • Lamorinda

925-253-2147

aprilmat@comcast.net

CalBRE#01221153

93 Moraga Way, #103, Orinda



Giving Dreams an Address

April Matthews

www.villageassociates.com

www.dreamhomelamorinda.com

Sign up for Winter/Spring Classes and Activities Resolve to recreate locally!



MORAGA PARKS & RECREATION

925-888-7045 • www.moragarec.com

The challenges of planning Moraga: Ellen Clark's last interview

By Sophie Braccini

Ellen Clark worked in Moraga for five years, first as senior planner, then as planning director since August 2014; her last day was Dec. 8. Over this period several projects have been completed, but she also recognizes that the town still has work to do in order to exorcise its inner demons and realize its potential.

As director, Clark oversaw the Livable Moraga Road project, the approval of the City Ventures project off Moraga Way, and Via Moraga across from the Rheem Shopping Center, the approval of Harvest Court and the other Summerhill project, Bella Vista (Rancho Laguna II), and the adoption of a new commercial planned development process; she led most of the work for the revision of the hillside and ridgeline regulations, and started the zoning process for the Moraga Center Specific Plan. Due to lack of time and resources, some of Clark's long-term goals, such as

the update of the Municipal Code, did not materialize.

One element of the town's planning that she sees as key to the future of Moraga is the zoning of the Moraga Center Specific Plan. That area in the center of town where Moraga Way and Moraga Road meet will deserve, according to Clark, more community conversation. She believes that the Bruzzone family, which owns the majority of that land, does not agree with the zoning and the process the steering committee recommended. She was confronted with their vision that is more in line with what was developed in the past, and what the General Plan included when it was adopted: either single family homes or larger multifamily units. For Clark what is missing is the "in-between" style housing that would better fit Moraga's character while achieving similar density. She says that what has been proposed by the

town is quite different in terms of scale and pattern, even prescribing how the streets would be laid out. These would be smaller-scale buildings, such as fourplexes or sixplexes. The challenge for Clark was to bridge the gap between the property owner's vision and what the town desires. She expected that the plan should have come back at the beginning of the 2018, but that because of the changes in personnel and gap in leadership, it might be delayed.

Clark regrets not seeing the new hillside and ridgeline regulations to completion, but she believes that the text is close to being finalized. She assumes that the council will finish the work in January. Here too there are possible difficulties with large property owners that have projects in hilly undeveloped land. One contentious issue was to decide whether a piece of land that was previously high risk but was remediated, should still be

considered high risk ad infinitum. Clark noted that the final status of a piece of land is made at the time of the application, and that it would make sense to consider the state of the land at that moment, not what it was years before. The council was divided on that issue and has not yet made a decision. One development that could be partially impacted by the new rule is the Bollinger Canyon project that has been in the makings for 13 years. Clark anticipates this development project to reach the beginning of the public planning process next spring.

Clark said that the Palos Colorado project will be ready to break ground in the spring as well. It is a 123-home development planned to be built on 460 acres off Moraga Road, close to the border with Lafayette. The developer will pay the town a deposit of \$2.5 million following the Moraga Town Council approval of the final map. Another

million dollars will be due within 120 days of the issuance of the grading permit. This is not the first time, however, that such a prediction has been made.

Besides these new projects and code changes, Clark said that Moraga's Municipal Code needs to be revisited. "Parts are outdated," she said, adding that it would be great to continue to make improvements, and that the town would benefit from the update of its design guidelines to align it with the look and feel most residents want.

She adds that the town has come to like its complicated and long process, partially due to the fact that the rules are not that clear. The consequence is that the process is painful, onerous and uncertain, and that it does not benefit anyone. Clark proposed to the council last year to update the regulations, but there have not been enough time and resources to get to that work.

How much will Moragans pay for storm drain repair?

... continued from page A4

Brent Meyers, who said he was representing the Sanders Ranch HOA board of directors, explained that this discount was not commensurate with all the work on storm drains that their HOA has made over the years. Mayor Teresa Onoda noted that Sanders Ranch homeowners had paid several thousands of

dollars to insure the safety of their culverts, creeks and drains. Surely, the residents argued, all their maintenance resulted in a lesser impact on the town's global storm drain system and more discount should apply to them. Sanders Ranch includes about 250 homes, or about 5 percent of properties in Moraga.

Council members were understanding of the two HOA's concerns and acknowledged that this entire process was being somewhat rushed, even if everyone recognizes the need for finding a solution for the storm drains under repair. The need to educate and be fair was deemed most important and

the council decided that the project would be delayed by a month to allow the public works director's team to meet with differing HOA members to hear their concerns.

The final fee proposal should get back to council by the end of January. If the proposal is approved, an intense effort of information and

outreach will be conducted, including four mailings and at least two general meetings. Each property owner will receive one ballot (dual owners will have to be in agreement), which will be mailed to the town for counting. Since it's an election year, staff wants a result before June to avoid confusion.



Get in sooner. Feel better faster.

Injuries and illnesses don't take holidays. So neither do we. Sutter Urgent Care in Orinda is open 365 days a year to treat non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries. No appointment needed.

Proudly caring for Northern California. Birthplace of pioneers.

12 Camino Encinas, Orinda
510-204-8075

Monday – Friday:
Noon to 8 p.m.

Weekends and Holidays:
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



sebmf.org/urgentcare



Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

School Board Meetings

Orinda Union School District
Monday, Jan. 8, 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 Dec. 3 to Dec. 16

Alarms	66
Noise Complaints	2
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	4
Traffic Stops	106
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subjects	11
Suspicious Vehicles	18
Patrol Request	19
Service To Citizen	57
Supplemental Report	20
Abandoned Vehicle	
San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek Rd.	
Accident Injury	
Rheem Blvd./Zander Dr.	
Accident Property	
10 Block Rheem Blvd.	
10 Block Wanda Ln.	
Brookwood Rd./Camino Pablo	
Glorietta Blvd./Rheem Blvd.	
Miramonte High School	
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.	
Police Department	
Battery	
40 Block Las Cascadas Rd.	
70 Block Orinda Way	
Beat Info	
600 Block Miner Rd.	
Wb Sr 24 At Camino Pablo	
Civil	
100 Block Camino Don Miguel	
100 Block Camino Pablo	
Civil Problem	
10 Block Dolores Way	
Disturbing The Peace	
Holden High School	
Drunk In Public	
Casa Orinda Restaurant	
Dui Misd	
80 Block Moraga Way	
Found Property	
Police Department	
H&S Violation	
20 Block Wilder Rd.	
H&S/Tr Sale Drugs	
Chevron Ori	
Investigate	
Duncan Ct./Donald Dr.	
Minor Rd.	
Rite Aid	
Wb 24/ Orinda Exit	
Wb Sr 24 At Oak Hill Rd.	
Wilder Development	
Litter	
200 Block Camino Pablo	
Loitering	
St. Stephens Dr./Tahos Rd.	
Medical Hospital	
30 Block Charles Hill Cr.	
Ordinance Violation	
20 Block Ramona Dr.	
40 Block Camino Del Diablo	
Safeway	
Other Infraction	
Miramonte High School	
Other Non Criminal	
600 Block Miner Rd.	
Orindawoods Dr./Kite Hill Rd.	
San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek Rd.	
Panhandling	
Safeway	

Experienced Mayor Amy Worth takes the helm in Orinda for 4th time

By Sora O'Doherty



Incoming Mayor Amy Worth
Photo Sora O'Doherty

Amy Worth, elected to the Orinda City Council for five consecutive terms since 1998, took the reins as mayor for the fourth time on Dec. 5. Formerly known as "The Fourth Bore Mayor," as she presided over the opening of the new bore of the Caldecott Tunnel, Worth has also presided over discussions of downtown development, and looks forward to continuing that work, particularly in the face of the challenge presented by Senate Bill 35, which goes into effect Jan. 1. A bill designed to encourage cities to approve more affordable housing will, in theory, cause cities to lose some control

over their planning process.

Looking back on her year as the "sinkhole" vice mayor, Worth said she was proud of how Orinda staff responded to community demands for information and did a really good job at communicating. In her upcoming term, staff will continue to work on the issues around the flooding caused by the storms and sinkhole, and navigating federal reimbursement of the \$3.5 million that Orinda had to advance for the sinkhole repairs. Worth noted that while the detours required to avoid the sinkhole had caused additional stress on other roads in the area, the repaving of some of those roads was brought forward from the original schedule.

The mayor's priorities for this term include settling library funding for the future, making progress on Orinda's roads and drains, and continuing to keep Orinda financially prudent. Worth is proud of Orinda's record as a small city with limited funds of stewarding a balanced budget. She would also like to see greater emergency communication capabilities in the future.

Like most Orindans, Worth is excited by the concept of restoration of San Pablo Creek, and says that the city is working with property owners to see how that might be accomplished.

The mayor acknowledges that the issue of housing development is a difficult one, with many factors favoring differing concepts. However, she noted that some older residents find that their homes are now too big, and would like smaller homes closer to downtown. That, she suggested, would also allow their children with growing families to move back to Orinda, into those bigger family homes. Similarly, Worth sees that those who grew up in Orinda would like to be able to live in the community, but many find housing too expensive. She favors consensus, but acknowledges that the discussions are really complex. Also, she said, cities don't build housing; developers build housing. There is a real housing crisis in California, she said, and Orinda wants to have housing for those who work in the city, such as nurses, even doctors, teachers, and so on.

She doesn't see the possibility

of a new city of "Lamorinda." As three separate entities, she says, Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga enjoy the best of both worlds: they cooperate closely on matters such as fire and transportation, but maintain three distinct voices, which gives them the stronger voice with three votes rather than one on regional issues.

Worth, who graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in history and obtained a master's degree in counseling from Cal State Hayward, has a keen interest in the historical development of Orinda. Worth's history of volunteering in Orinda began with the library, and she is an ardent supporter of that institution. Orinda has one of the oldest community libraries in Contra Costa County; it is jointly funded by the county and the city.

Worth grew up in Portland, Oregon, where her grandfather Edward Miller was the Managing Editor of The Oregonian newspaper. She met her husband Tom Worth at Cal and they settled in Oakland after marriage until moving to Orinda, where they raised their three daughters.

New Vice Mayor enthusiastic about Orinda downtown development

By Sora O'Doherty



Incoming Vice Mayor Inga Miller
Photo Sora O'Doherty

Like the "yang" to Mayor Amy Worth's "yin" new Vice Mayor Inga Miller has only been on the Orinda City Council for one year. She ran on a platform of downtown development, and she is feeling re-

ally good about the city's progress on first steps. She is very happy with the Thursday night food truck event that has been extremely popular with city residents.

She is also excited about the possible restoration of San Pablo Creek. She went to San Luis Obispo to look at their creek walk and talk to city staff. What used to be a dumping ground and had an "auto row" along the waterway has been transformed, although it took 30 years to accomplish. She also took the creek walk in Denver. Orinda is having serious dialog with the Friends of Orinda Creeks, and talks with owners of property adjoining the creek about things that could benefit both the property owners and the public. Next steps include obtaining hydraulic stud-

ies and finding the funds necessary to accomplish the restoration. The concerned parties are actively meeting. It is the beginning of a partnership, Miller says, and it involves the Streetscape Master Planning with which the city is going forward.

Miller feels that the negative views of downtown development are based on fear, but she believes that change can be done in a way that will make things better. She wants to keep the views of the hills, but bring more opportunity to do the things that residents want to do. The downtown subcommittee is very special, she says, and people feel that they can bring their views and really be heard. Miller sits on the subcommittee along with former mayor

Eve Phillips.

Miller believes that incorporation makes zoning easier. Before incorporation, Orinda had no city hall, the community center did not have the same level of activities, the roads were falling into disrepair, there weren't building restrictions and the community had no local control. Incorporation made zoning easier, and Miller praised the city's "extremely adept" planning department.

However, Senate Bill 35 is a real challenge, she says. She also says that the author, Scott Weiner, wants to go back and make changes. As it stands, Miller believes that the law actually is counterproductive to its primary purpose, which is to encourage more housing. ... continued on page A12

Special Storage SALE

YEAR-END CLEARANCE BLOWOUT!

Family coming for Christmas?
Need to store stuff & make room?
The NEW YEAR is coming,
Are you having a party? Cleaning up for an organized 2018?
Storing your Holiday Decorations after Christmas? 5A's got the perfect Storage Place!

20% OFF ...Prices Hold for 3 Mos.!

Example: 4 x 6 reg. \$107 **NOW ONLY...\$85.⁶⁰**

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from 5A!

We Move you in with our **FREE Van** when you rent a unit!

Discounts Expire Dec. 31st, 2017

Keep tuned in for our next event on Social Media!

SHOP OUR COMPLETE PACKING SUPPLIES INVENTORY

455 Moraga Rd. Ste. F
(925) 643-2026
www.5Aspace.com

Rodent Proofing

Learn about Honest Rodent Proofing's industry-leading 4-step process to get rid of rats, mice and other rodents.

GUARANTEED

FREE In-Home Inspection,
Mention Lamorinda Weekly for a 10% discount

Call 925-433-3988

www.honestrodentproofing.com
Servicing the Bay Area to Sacramento



Happy New Year!



Wishing our clients, friends and neighbors great health, prosperity and enduring happiness in 2018!



Integrity ♦ Knowledge ♦ Results

Frank Woodward

Realtor®, Previews Property Specialist
T. 925.788.4963
E. Frank@FrankWoodward.com



©2017 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.

Residents on private roads hit with second tax benefiting only public road residents

By Sora O'Doherty

Many residents who live on Orinda's private roads came to the Dec. 19 city council meeting to ask the council not to approve the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission report until the council had resolved the issue of private roads. They succeeded to the extent that the council postponed approval of the report, but at the same meeting the

council adopted an additional fee to be added to refuse collection bills that will go toward repairing the damage that garbage trucks do to public roads. Although all residents will pay the fee, which Council Member Dean Orr acknowledged is definitely a tax, and although all roads will be equally damaged by the large, heavy vehicles, only public roads

will benefit.

Some 23 percent of Orinda's roads are private. Vice Mayor Inga Miller asked that approval of the CIOC report, which was highly praised by the council and by Orr in particular, be postponed for a short while to allow the addition of some history of private roads in Orinda.

... continued on page A11

Orinda marks passing of former mayor with moment of silence

By Sora O'Doherty



Former Orinda Mayor Gregg Wheatland Photo provided

Former Orinda Mayor Gregg Wheatland died Sunday, Dec. 17, after a brief illness. His passing was marked by the City Council with a moment of silence in his honor at the conclusion of its Dec. 19 meeting.

Wheatland served on the city council for three full terms, serving as mayor twice between 1992 and 2004. Wheatland was an attorney, a partner at Ellison, Schneider and Harris LLP.

According to Laura Abrams, who served on the city council with Wheatland for 10 years, he died after a brief illness and his wife, Shirley, an Orinda native, and his daughter Tara, an attorney in Alaska, were at his side. The Wheatlands met when both were attending UC Santa Cruz. Wheatland later earned his law degree at UC Davis. In addition to his career as an attorney, Wheatland served as a public utility judge.

Abrams described Wheatland as a very private person, but a brilliant person. "I served on a pretty smart council, high IQs," Abrams said, "but Gregg stood out.

"He had amazing ability as a legislator," Abrams said. "He was an enormous resource, a fierce environmentalist, a real superhero." Abrams considered Wheatland not just a colleague but a friend and praised him as very kind and generous, a person who would step up and offer his tremendous

skills to help you. He always had an answer, Abrams added, as well as unimpeachable integrity. "He was one of a kind," she concluded.

Wheatland and Joyce Hawkins negotiated the compromise that built Gateway Valley (now Wilder) and obtained \$10 million that the city received years before groundbreaking and used to build the gymnasium at Wagner Ranch Elementary School, remodel the community center and build the city offices and the library. Mayor Amy Worth used the moment of silence to remember Wheatland for the gifts he gave to the Orinda community, which will continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

Former Orinda City Manager Bill Lindsay remembered that he really enjoyed working with Wheatland, who cared so much about the Orinda community. "He was very creative at looking at issues and coming up with solutions to problems, and I learned a lot from him," Lindsay said, adding that he was part of a wonderful team of council members during Lindsay's tenure.

In a resolution that marked the conclusion of his time on the city council, Wheatland was credited with turning around public opinion on Wilder and establishing a paramedic program for the community. He was also cited for improving the city's solid waste programs, and Contra Costa County's transit systems through his leadership on joint powers agencies.

The resolution stated that Wheatland had a particular passion for customer service, and helped initiate programs in the city's organization that would more effectively reach out to the community and that his positive impact on quality of life in Orinda and in Contra Costa County would be a legacy well beyond his 12 years on the council.

The family plans to hold a memorial on the afternoon of Jan. 13 at the Orinda Community Center.

Better Business Bureau aims to help seniors avoid scams

By Sora O'Doherty



Pearl Yon of the Better Business Bureau speaks to seniors Dec. 13 at the Orinda Library. Photo Sora O'Doherty

Telephone, mail and online scams have become more prevalent over the years, with more seniors falling prey to the devious tricks of the trade each year. Pearl Yon, communication specialist of the Better Business Bureau, offered advice about what scammers do, and what seniors can do to stop it during a Dec. 13 seminar at the Orinda Library.

Yon said to never answer yes to any questions on the telephone, as scammers can record your "yes" and use it as proof that you agreed to their scam. She also told her audience that scammers can make any number appear on your caller ID; they can fake any number, be it your son's or daughter's or the real number of the IRS. But, she noted, the IRS does not conduct business over the phone, so they would never be calling you directly.

There are various other common scams Yon says seniors often fall prey. In the lottery or sweepstakes scam, you might receive a check and a letter saying that you have won a large sum of money. The letter goes on to say that you need to deposit the check and wire funds to cover fees, insurance and taxes. The check will be counterfeit and any money sent will be lost. In the medical alert scam, you might be notified that you are eligible to receive a free medical alert system, and all you have to do is recommend the product to a friend. Despite being told that everything is paid for, the recipient finds later that they have been registered for a service with fees of up to \$400 per year. In the grandparent scam, people receive calls from someone claiming that they have your grandchild, who is in trouble in a different state and needs you to wire money for bail or damages. Victims of this scam have lost thousands of dollars.

The Better Business Bureau advises that if something sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't true. Don't wire money to anyone who tells you that you have to send money to collect a prize. If you get a call from a medical alert company, don't press any buttons on your phone and hang up immediately. Contact your grandchild or your children to assure that they are safe; do not wire funds. If in doubt, you can call the BBB for advice.

Yon noted that she hoped she wasn't just addressing the people

in her audience, but that each of them would spread the word on how to avoid scams. The top "red flags" for seniors are: receiving a phone call asking for your personal information, bank account, credit card numbers, or Medicare ID number; receiving a check with a letter stating that you have won a prize; door-to-door sales offering discounts on products or services, magazine subscriptions, or home alarm installation; being asked to wire money or return an overpayment; finding unexpected charges to your bank account or credit card; receiving an email from a financial institution asking you to update your account information; high-pressure, emotional requests from a charity with a name that sounds similar to a recognized charity; invitations to estate planning seminars; and calls from someone claiming to be your grandchild asking you to wire money.

The BBB urges seniors to register their telephone number with the National Do-Not-Call Registry at 1-888-382-1222, to keep careful records of all transactions and shred documents before discarding them, to trust your instincts and, if in doubt, research a business at bbb.org prior to doing business with it. Seniors should also be on the alert for charities with names that sound like real, well-know organizations. You can check out charities with the BBB's Wise Giving Alliance at bbb.org/charity.

Happy New Year!

We would like to thank all of our clients, friends, and fellow agents in our Wonderful LAMORINDA community for your trust during 2017. We wish you all joy, love, health and happiness in 2018.



Suzie Tinsley
925.787.3072
CalBRE#01253559



Lisa Shaffer
925.528.9278
CalBRE#00996886



Sheri Wedlake
925-324-2091
CalBRE#00872175



Julie Georgiou
925.200.8246
CalBRE#01043977



Tania DeGroot
510.367.1422
CalBRE # 01094898



Regina Englehart,
Broker-Manager
925.876.9076
CalBRE# 01308462



Better Homes and Gardens
REAL ESTATE

RELiance PARTNERS

925.254.0440
www.bhghome.com/Orinda
Look for an announcement soon
with our new office location!

Our Orinda office is uniquely positioned as a gateway for sellers and buyers around the Bay Area; a central hub for our 30 Better Homes and Gardens offices.



Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Jan. 3, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107,
Administration Building,
651 Pine St., Martinez
For meeting times and agendas,
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

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

MOFD cautiously welcomes in the new year

By Nick Marnell



Superior Court Judge John Kennedy, left, swears in new MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker at the Hacienda de las Flores. Winnacker's wife, Corrie, looks on. Photo Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District board moved on from a difficult 2017 by ushering in a change in district leadership, including the election of board officers, retention of a new law firm and the approval of a contract for the recently hired fire chief.

It was one bit of bad news after another in 2017 for MOFD, which fired its auditor over misap-

plying \$20 million on the district financial reports, was stunned by the unexpected departure of its fire chief and experienced numerous setbacks in the construction of Fire Station 43 in Orinda. Newly elected board president Brad Barber said that potential litigation over the fire station chaos helped convince the district that it needed a law firm with public real estate

experience, and MOFD hired San Francisco-based Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai LLC as district counsel effective Dec. 20.

Barber named the rebuild of the Orinda station as one of his top goals for the district in 2018. "We want to do everything possible, as quickly as possible, to finish Station 43 on budget and on time," said Barber, stopping short

of promising a completion date. He noted that the Local 1230 labor contract is also a top priority and Barber said the district looks for a smooth, fair process during negotiations. The current contract with the firefighters expires at the end of June.

"From where I sit, Station 43 is the most pressing district need," said Fire Chief Dave Winnacker, sworn in at the Dec. 20 district meeting. "If not properly managed in a hands-on manner – by me – there could be a less than desirable outcome." Neither the chief nor district union representative Lucas Lambert would comment on labor negotiations.

Also for the new year, Barber said that he had not forgotten about the low water pressure delivered by many fire hydrants in north Orinda, but that the problem was more complicated than he originally thought because of the unclear timeline for the East Bay Municipal Utility District to upgrade the hydrants. "Should the public have to wait 20 years? We may need those resources," said Barber, citing the concern of a North Bay-type wildfire in the north Orinda area.

All systems go for ConFire Station 16 construction

By Nick Marnell



If every celestial body aligns perfectly.

Photo Nick Marnell

To demolish Fire Station 16 in Lafayette, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District hired Federal Solutions Group of San Ramon, the same company that the Moraga-Orinda Fire District fired in November as the contractor to build Fire Station 43 in Orinda.

The company could not secure a performance bond for the MOFD project and the district said it could

not take the risk and terminated the FSG contract. "We're aware of the local issues," said ConFire Assistant Chief Aaron McAlister, who oversees the Station 16 rebuild for the district. "We did the due diligence (on FSG). But they're only doing the demolition, which is about a \$150,000 job."

The district pulled the demolition permits in December and

expects the job to be completed by mid-January. "A 100 percent demolition, including the slab," McAlister said.

Before the building is razed, recruits from ConFire Academy 51 will use the structure for training exercises. Recruits will cut holes in the building with chain saws, breach the exterior walls and practice ripping through the roof and

climbing through the windows. MOFD conducted similar training exercises at Fire Station 43 before it was demolished in 2016.

The ConFire board of directors approved the advertising for bids for the construction of Fire Station 16 and McAlister said the solicitations should be sent out in early January. The district has identified five preferential bidders, and by the first week of February, ConFire should know the lead bidders and a realistic cost estimate for the project.

"We're holding to the official estimate of \$3.5 million," McAlister said, but Fire Chief Jeff Carman warned his board Dec. 12 that construction costs are soaring. "The more time that goes by, the higher the costs go up," Carman said.

ConFire has hired Kitchell Northern California as construction manager, and though the sign outside Fire Station 16 suggests a completion date in 2018, the board packet issued Dec. 12 says that "construction is estimated to begin in April 2018 and take 11 months to complete."

State throws down caution flag over tower repair plans

... continued from page A1

The base isolator would separate the tower from its foundation, with the foundation absorbing the earthquake force and causing the tower to feel less of the shaking.

In a December letter to the district, Sharon Tapia, DSOD chief, questioned using the base isolator concept as it has not been used on any of the state agency's jurisdictional towers. "Consequently, we

caution that the isolator shown ... may not be an appropriate solution for a tall slender tower, such as the one at the Lafayette Dam," Tapia wrote.

The agency told the district it needs to submit technical reviews of the base isolator, including research, testing and analysis; build a large-scale structural model; and engage an independent board of

consultants to provide oversight.

"We will fully support the district if you move forward on this concept; however it may be prudent for the district to concurrently develop other design concepts," Tapia wrote.

Xavier Irias, EBMUD director of engineering and construction, explained to the Lafayette City Council Dec. 11 that the district needs to

look at how complex fulfilling the requirements for the base isolator would be and how that might delay construction, while at the same time considering other alternatives for the tower retrofit. Irias said that EBMUD has issued a request for proposal for help in modeling, environmental impacts, permitting and outreach for the tower project, and he confirmed that a consultant

is coming on board to help navigate the DSOD requirements.

"DSOD doesn't want an operational fix. They want the tower to be failsafe, and we do too," Irias told the council.

Irias said the district plans to finish the tower retrofit by the end of 2020.

As seen in Lafayette ...



Sunrise over Mt. Diablo last Friday.



Photos Jennifer Spalding

Letters to the Editor

Celebrating Christmas in Moraga

I have some thoughts about the celebration of Christmas in Moraga. I note that we have a very large lot selling trees that are called, and advertised, as Christmas Trees. That some retail establishments make mention of Christmas as they try to capitalize on the tradition of people giving Christmas gifts and hope that those people will make purchases in their stores to use as their gifts. The town also has an opportunity for children to meet "Santa Claus" and have their pictures taken with him.

I find it odd that the town sponsors this, ignoring that Santa Claus is based on the real, historical man named Nicholas – a Saint in the Catholic Church – and his life story is the background of Santa Claus bringing gifts. That fact seems to have escaped the town fathers as they don't object to that – yet they persist in having a town "Holiday" Tree.

We have a big celebration for the lighting ceremony and yet we refuse to call it what it is, a Christmas Tree. Yes, the holiday of Christmas is a Christian holiday, based on the birth of Jesus Christ. Without that, there is no Christmas – and that is what Moraga is doing. Wanting to have it both ways – the celebration, yet remain politically-correct and try to eliminate the religious aspect of the day.

As a Roman Catholic, I want to officially register my view that what Moraga is doing is offensive to me and my religion. I am offended and I request that Moraga change the policy and get back to reality and have the town celebrate Christmas, as it was historically, should be now, and will continue – call it

'Christmas.'

If the town refuses to face this reality and finds it acceptable to continue to offend me, then I suggest there should be no mention of the holiday whatsoever. And by the way, this also goes to how Moraga ignores the reason for Easter. It is not about rabbits and eggs – it is a Christian religious holiday, regardless of the politically correct games the town continues to play. At the very least, call it what it is – Easter – which Moraga conveniently ignores.

Bottom line, I am offended and request a change in policy. Thank you.

Barbara Simpson
Moraga

Are trees an issue of safety?

Efforts continue to save community trees from unjustified removal per PG&E's tree removal agreement with the City of Lafayette. As a concerned resident, I asked the CPUC to scrutinize PG&E's pipeline management practices since PG&E failed to identify the glaring hazard of an exposed pipeline segment off the Lafayette Moraga trail before they deemed trees a danger. The Safety Enforcement Division of the CPUC is now investigating pipeline safety concerns in Lafayette.

If PG&E is destroying trees to comply with safety laws, they have yet to produce that proof. The City of Palo Alto and County of Santa Cruz declined tree removal agreements with PG&E, siding with residents to protect their environment. Some private residents refuse agreements with PG&E, while others take the initial offer of a 15-gallon "replacement" tree or negotiate more generous agreements

for tree removal and landscaping. There is no rhyme, reason, nor fairness to this "safety" program.

Meanwhile, City leaders credit their discretionary agreement for keeping PG&E "at the table", stating it holds PG&E accountable to city permit processes. Yet, the City waived some tree ordinances to make the agreement and applied others ensuring receipt of a whopping \$530K for tree removal. We believe our lawsuit, not the agreement, keeps the City and PG&E accountable to public interest, otherwise, trees would've been destroyed this past summer.

The City owns only 18 trees of the 272 trees slated for removal. Residents, who collectively own over 1/3 of the targeted trees, were not consulted before the City signed the agreement waiving protections for their private property. The City could regain credibility on this matter and rescind the agreement. In the least, until the fate of the trees is fully determined, the City should give PG&E back the \$475K tree removal money parked in a "landscaped median island fund", so residents know municipal project funding is not an issue here.

It has been a pleasure getting to know others in the community through this endeavor. Lafayette is truly a special place. Cheers to all in the New Year.

Gina Dawson
Lafayette

Orinda does not need a Downtown Specific Plan

I disagree with Tom Trowbridge and Kirsten Larsen, who wrote on behalf of OrindaVision and What's Up Downtown Orinda, that the passage of Senate Bill 35 means that Orinda should

create a Downtown Specific Plan because otherwise the state or developers will do it for us.

This kind of scare argument is based on a misunderstanding of SB 35. In fact, SB 35 does not require Orinda to make any zoning changes. SB 35 does not allow the state or developers to change our zoning. All that SB 35 does is to speed the approval process for projects that comply with existing zoning.

Existing zoning includes the height and density limits that most of us cherish. A Downtown Specific Plan would be a Trojan Horse that would ultimately undo those vital limits. Supporters of a Downtown Specific Plan want to raise the height limit and increase density. Don't be fooled or misled into supporting a Downtown Specific Plan.

Nick Waranoff
Orinda

Deer Hill Road

Hi,
My name is Chase and I am an 11 year old who lives near Acalanes. I wanted to voice my opinion on adding homes on Deer Hill Road. I ride my bike and feel like there is so much traffic already on Deer Hill and Pleasant Hill Road. I can't imagine what it will be like when the new homes are built. I am writing because I don't think we should build homes there. My Mom and Dad also drive Pleasant Hill Road every day and it sometimes takes them 15 minutes to get from the freeway exit to Reliez Valley Road, I can't imagine what it will be like with the homes. I am really against the homes at Deer Hill.

Chase R
Lafayette

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



Happy New Year

with love | your diablo foods family

What a wonderful year! In 2018 we will be celebrating our 50 year anniversary.

A BIG thank you to our loyal customers and the entire Diablo Foods Family!

Love, the Stokes and Collier Family

IT'S OUR BIGGEST SALE OF THE YEAR
BIG SAVINGS ON THE STYLES YOU'LL LOVE.



Custom Hardwood Shutters

Incredible Savings, Promotions, and Upgrades On Shutters & More Going On Now!*

Contact your local Style Consultant for amazing offers in your area!

Schedule your FREE Consultation today!
925-216-4857 // BudgetBlinds.com

Budget Blinds
The Best in Custom Blinds and Window Coverings

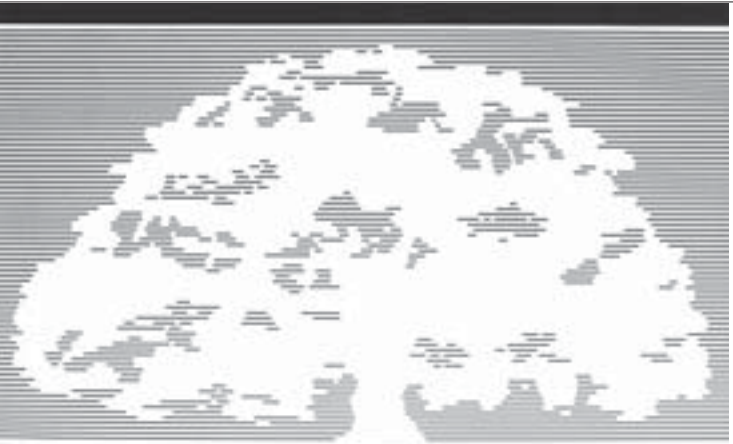
*Applies to selected window treatments and Roman and Pleated shades sold through Budget Blinds. Ask for details. Not valid with any other offers, discounts, or coupons. Valid for a limited time only. Offer good at retail time of entire sale. At participating franchise only. ©2018 Budget Blinds, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Budget Blinds is a trademark of Budget Blinds, LLC, and a Home Franchise Concepts Brand. Each franchise independently owned and operated. Franchise opportunities available.

TAXI BLEU All Airports Served 24/7

Dispatch:
925-849-2222

Direct:
925-286-0064

www.mytaxibleu.com
mytaxibleu@gmail.com



TREE SCULPTURE

COMPLETE TREE CARE

Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!

Fully Insured ❖ Certified Arborists ❖ License #655977
(925) 254-7233 ❖ www.treesculpture.com

BAD INC. Bay Area Drainage, Inc.

Have You Checked Your Crawlspace Lately?

- French Drains
- Underfloor Drains
- Downspout Systems
- Subdrain Systems
- Sump Pumps
- Retaining Walls
- Pavestone Driveway & Walkways

**A General Engineering Contractor
Locally owned and Operated
Contractor LIC # 762208**

925•377•9209

visit our website

www.bayareadrainage.com



Grocery store trends shift to the tech-savvy shopper

By Lou Fancher



A screen kiosk in the wine and beer department allows customers to scan barcodes to see ratings and information about beverage selections.

Photo Lou Fancher

Retail grocery is a moving matrix. In Lamorinda, the action swings from family-owned Diablo Foods to corporate Safeway to healthy food Trader Joe's and Whole Foods Markets—now owned by Amazon—to specialty food purveyors and farmers' markets. Local residents have seen stores come and go—Moraga used to boast more than its single Safeway; Lafayette once had an Albertsons, and so on.

Obvious to experts or casual observers of the industry, constant change isn't unique to our community. Cutthroat competition everywhere means supermarkets and grocery stores operate like animated sudoku or nimble jigsaw puzzles: constantly shifting to create bottom-line solutions and complete brand images. Because brick-and-mortar businesses survive only if the numbers add up exactly—only if their perspective is near-perfect—retailers constantly evolve. To keep and attract customers in an everything-on-demand era, new technology and trends must be integrated—but always without sacrificing the mom-and-pop, user-friendly experiences customers continue to expect.

So when Amazon recently bought Whole Foods Market—and opened Dec. 6 the East Bay's first 365 Whole Foods at the Veranda shopping center in Concord—curiosity about the impact of the two moves led to a case-study examination. What are the ripple effects

caused by Amazon's move? Will the value-driven slant or novelty of Northern California's first 365 store draw customers from Lamorinda, despite the 10-mile commute? What general trends are driving the industry?

For people unfamiliar with 365, the value-centric stores share WFM's mission (since the company's founding in 1980) to bring healthy food to customers. Unique to the 365 markets are smaller footprints, emphasis on in-house generic 365 products and quick, in-and-out convenience. At 29,200 square feet, the Concord 365 offers a reduced floor plan with open sightlines. Unlike the Lafayette WFM, a person at the entrance can see to the back wall and each corner of the store, making it easy to navigate with purpose.

There are other highlights: a taqueria with order-at-a-screen tacos, burritos, and other items; Detroit-style pizza; a do-it-yourself taco bar; full-size produce section with weigh-it-yourself scanning scales; and most notably, partner businesses known as "Friends of 365." Richmond-based Urban Remedy, makers of plant-based packaged meals and beverages, occupies a 619 square foot space and Oregon-based Next Level Burger, with vegan burgers available at their 1,149 square feet in-store eatery.

But it's technology and self-serve options that reflect broader trends and features introduced in response to customer demand,

says Senior Marketing Director Kate Neu, during a private tour. "Experiential shopping," she says, "is increasingly defined by convenience." At a screen kiosk in the wine and beer department, customers scan barcodes to see ratings and information about beverage selections. "If they don't want to find an employee but want to know more about their purchase, this makes it easy, instant," says Neu.

Community Relations Leader Paul Barron outlines reasons the 365 store might appeal to Lamorinda customers. "They already know the Whole Foods experience: they'll get the streamlined version here. It won't supersede Lafayette's WFM, but they'll jump in on the way home from work for things like the meal kits, flash finds picked by our buyers, 10 percent membership discounts, the value-added 365 brand—and here, we have a great parking lot."

Increased automation will surely result in job loss—right? Neu says Amazon's purchase of WFM stabilizes and establishes the brand as permanent in the ever-changing food retail industry. Concord 365 Team Leader Chris Tiger says the new store has approximately 90 employees. Two-thirds were new hires from the area and 70 percent of the jobs are full-time, with benefits. "We create jobs in a community," says Tiger.

At a Nov. 14 community symposium sponsored by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce at Saint Mary's College, Jay Kerner, President/CEO of U.S. Realty Partners, said retail establishments have suffered "an apocalypse." Kerner represents the regional commercial real estate operating company that owns the Rheem Shopping Center. He said, "Everyone is trying to reinvent themselves to keep up with technology, to keep up with Amazon." Supermarkets and discounters are sectors that are surviving well, if not easily. Shopping centers with known names, like Starbucks and Whole Foods, attract new businesses that bring valuable tax revenue to communities, according to Kerner.

Which makes the recent purchase of Whole Foods Markets by Amazon an interesting maneuver. The first evidence of the purchase's impact in Lafayette were price reductions on WFM products. The next wave might be Amazon lockers. The company's self-service parcel pickup and delivery service allows consumers to retrieve or return items ordered from Amazon. "Anyone who's worried something might be stolen from their front doorstep will love the security of picking up their package and groceries in one location," says Neu.

TK and Kindergarten registration for 2018-19 school year

Registration for Lafayette students entering TK and Kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year will take place Jan. 16 and 17. In addition, an informational presentation, "A Roadmap to Kindergarten" will be held at the Springhill Elementary Multi-Purpose Room from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Jan. 11 for all interested parents in the Lafayette School District. Further information can be found at www.lafsd.org.

Lafayette Kindergarten/TK registration times: Jan. 16-17

Burton Valley Elementary: 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., 561 Merriewood Drive, Lafayette (925) 927-3550

Happy Valley Elementary: 9-11 a.m., 3855 Happy Valley Road, Lafayette (925) 927-3560

Lafayette Elementary 9-11 a.m., 950 Moraga Road, Lafayette (925) 927-3570

Springhill Elementary 9-11 a.m., 3301 Springhill Road, Lafayette (925) 927-3580

The Moraga School District TK and Kindergarten registration is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Feb. 1-2 at Camino Pablo, Donald Rheem and Los Perales elementary schools. For information about 2018-19 registration, visit the MSD website at <https://www.moraga.k12.ca.us/childcare>.

The Orinda Union School District Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration for children entering an Orinda public school in August 2018 will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at each of four elementary schools starting Monday, Feb. 5 through Thursday, Feb. 8. For additional information regarding registration instructions, please check the OUSD website: www.orindaschools.org.

Kindergarten students must be at least 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2018, and if a child has their 5th birthday between Sept. 2, 2018 and Dec. 2, 2018 they are eligible for Transitional Kindergarten.

Celebrating an Anniversary?

If your business is celebrating a significant anniversary (5, 10, 20 years or more ...) send us a photo of your business, the owner(s) or the staff with specific information about your business and what you're celebrating, and we'll include them in an upcoming issue.

School Board to appoint replacement for Craig Cheslog

By Pippa Fisher



Craig Cheslog Photo Lamo archive

The Acalanes Union High School District Governing Board has voted to appoint a new member to replace Craig Cheslog, who handed in his resignation Dec. 14.

Cheslog is resigning after one year on the board following recent allegations of sexual misconduct. As a result of the allegations he was terminated from his job at Common Sense Media and has resigned from his position as regional director and as a delegate to the California Democratic Party.

“CDP Chair Eric C. Bauman and the other statewide officers

formally initiated the process of removing Mr. Cheslog from his position as regional director, after receiving complaints about an alleged pattern of behavior that included non-consensual sexual contact with other members of the Executive Board of the CDP,” said Communications Director of the CDP John Vigna. “The chair and the statewide officers initiated this process out of an abundance of caution and concern for the well-being of our party activists.”

At a Dec. 18 special governing board meeting members had to decide between two options for replacing Cheslog – either to call a special election in June or to make an immediate interim appointment until the regularly scheduled election in November 2018.

The board voted to make an interim appointment. Governing Board President Bob Hockett said the decision to seek an immediate replacement was made chiefly to avoid being short a member, down to only four until June which would be the soonest

they could hold a special election and also keeping in mind costs associated with holding an election then.

The board will be accepting applications for the provisional appointment until 4 p.m. Jan. 8, with an orientation for eligible applicants on Jan. 10, and will be holding a special board meeting, open to the public, to interview and appoint a new board member by majority vote on Jan. 11.

Hockett said that the school governing board is a very cohesive group. “We all have the mindset to provide oversight and approve policy to support the great teachers, outstanding administrators and really motivated students,” he said, referring to the school district as outstanding and noting the tremendous parental support.

Application forms and requirements for applying for the board position can be found on the Acalanes Union High School District website at <https://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us> under District, Governing Board.

LimeBike coming to Lamorinda?

... continued from page A1

Council Member Dean Orr noted that the service could benefit employees who work in or for Orinda who could ride the bikes to and from BART, although that also raised the question of whether bike riding is allowed on the BART connector. LimeBike bikes are being used at the BART stations in South San Francisco, San Bruno and at Fruitvale, along with Caltrain stations and in Alameda.

Mayor Amy Worth inquired about the company’s marketing plans, and company representative Sam Dreiman explained that

they would use local sources, such as farmers’ markets, local police departments, fairs and festivals to try to raise awareness of their product. Also in response to Worth, Dreiman explained that the company utilizes active management throughout the day to reposition the bikes from remote locations to places where demand is expected to be highest.

In response to a question from the public, Dreiman also explained that they provide a “healthy” wage and workers’ compensation. Employees start as independent contractors, but

eventually become full-time employees. City Attorney Osa Wolff explained that the city would be free from any liability under any future indemnity agreement. Following further talks between LimeBike and neighboring communities, the matter may be brought back to the council at a later date.

Residents on private roads hit with second tax benefiting only public road residents

... continued from page A7

Council Member Darlene Gee also sought clarification on several points when the matter next returns to the council.

The council annually deals with the CIOC Report and Approved Updated Road and Draining Repair Plan. The purpose is to keep Orinda residents up to date on how the city is proceeding to repair its roads and drainage, and how the money is being allocated. Money for roads and drainage has been raised by the Measure L sales tax approved in 2012 and the \$25 million Phase 3 General Obligation Bond approved by the voters in 2016. The report shows that dramatic progress has been made in repairing the city’s roads, particularly residential roads. However, there is considerable work remaining, particularly on arterial and collector roads. According to Director of Public Works Larry Theis, storm drains present a significant problem because some may be very deep and/or very long and beyond the capability of staff to survey. An additional \$7 million will be required to address the storm drain problems, including the hiring of a specially trained consultant to identify the drains and culverts in need of repair.

At some point, additional funding will be required for the roads, but staff recommended to the council that there was not a need to discuss or decide future funding now for several reasons: There is uncertainty about how the city will deal with the question of private roads, and if the city accepts responsibility for the private roads, it would increase the cost of road maintenance. Also, there are a number of pending additional funding opportuni-

ties, such as grants, which could reduce the amount of additional funding required.

The report, which garnered high praise from all the council members, is available on the city’s website as part of the Dec. 19 meeting agenda packet (<https://www.cityoforinda.org/221/City-Council>).

Several residents who live on private roads spoke about how unfair they feel it is that they pay the same taxes as everybody else in Orinda but don’t receive the same services, since the city provides no maintenance for private roads. One resident, Charles Porges, noted that the large, heavy garbage trucks continue to wreak havoc on the city’s roads and do more damage to private roads than other vehicles.

In response to the damage caused by garbage trucks, the council moved to impose a 7.74 percent impact fee, in addition to a 2.1 percent service charge increase. Gee made it clear that the impact fees get passed along to residents and Council Member Eve Phillips stated that the impact fee is a tax back on the community. Vice Mayor Inga Miller noted that the fee does not even cover the full extent of the damage caused by these heavy trucks, but the council did decide unanimously to approve the increases.

The issue of how the city might make it easier for the city to acquire private roads is being studied and will be brought back to the council in the future. The council decided, however, that it did not wish to link approval of the CIOC report to solving the private road problem, so the issues will be dealt with separately.

LeapFrog Plumbing

To all our Lamorinda customers:



Head Frog Mo Williams

The one-call plumber Gas, Water & Sewer

- Emergency service
- Repairs & installation
- Video sewer inspection
- Copper re-piping
- Preventive checkups
- Water heater specialist
Tank, Tankless, Hybrid

You're the best! We thank you for the privilege of hoppin' to it for you this year! We wish you true peace, love and joy. May you have a safe and Plumb Hoppy Holiday.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

LeapFrog Loot
\$150 off
tankless/hybrid
water heater installation*

LeapFrog Loot
\$89 off
Any tank-type
water heater installation*

LeapFrog Loot
\$25 off
Any new faucet or
fixture installation*

*1 coupon per service Exp 1/15/18

We Hop To It!

Family-owned and serving
Lamorinda since 1993

LeapFrog is a vendor
for PG&E gas service.



(925) 377-6600

www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com

CA Lic 929641



Bridging the journey from
Lamorinda to Rossmoor
“One satisfied client at a time!”



Maria Eberle, REALTOR®

(925) 478-7190
Maria@MariaEberle.com
www.MariaEberle.com
CalBRE #01798906



Call today for a personalized tour of
Rossmoor and a Market Analysis of your home.

Rossmoor senior real estate specialist and
Lamorinda resident for 20+ years!



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Drysdale Properties

Good to know:

Specializing in Swimming Pools

Lamorinda Solar

36 Years in Business



Call For Winter Special Pricing

Be ready for a great Summer in your pool

New Solar System, Solar Panels Replacement

Removal & Reinstallation of Panels (for new roof) Discount until Feb. 28

Save up to \$100 per month

A New Variable Speed Filter Pump Can Save
You 90% on Your Monthly Energy Bill!

Programable for desired speed for filter, SPA, waterfall & solar.

\$200 off
Removal and
Reinstallation

\$75 off per
Panel Replacement

\$75 off
any repair (over \$200)



The Best Service Under
the Sun Since 1981!

Mark Frey, Owner
Local family owned business

925-952-9239

www.LamorindaSolar.com

CA Lic. # 416616



"A little bit of myself goes into every job."

Michael Verbrugge,
President,
Moraga Resident

925.631.1055

www.MVCRemodeling.com

**Specializing in kitchens & bathrooms.
All forms residential remodel/repair.**

Lic# 681593



**MICHAEL VERBRUGGE
CONSTRUCTION INC.**
General Contractor



**Clean | Courteous | Conscientious
On-time | Trustworthy | Local References**
Full design team resources available

~ HE'S ALL ABOUT LAMORINDA ~



CLARK THOMPSON

REAL ESTATE BROKER
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES

Office: 925-254-8585
Cell: 925-998-7898
www.clarkthompson.com
ct@clarkthompson.com



Giving Dreams an Address

Lafayette city council

Although unable to attend the meeting, Burks commented via email. "I'm honored to have been elected by my colleagues as vice mayor. I look forward to continued, productive engagement with my fellow council members

and the people of Lafayette. We live in a special place and our residents, businesses and visitors rightfully expect and deserve the absolute best in their elected representatives – and this is what I intend to deliver."

... continued from page A2

"Under Mayor Tatzin's leadership and the support of our fantastic city staff," said Burks, "I'm confident and excited about the future of our city."

Outgoing Mayor Mike Anderson

... continued from page A3

the outgoing mayor had worked effectively to manage development and its impact on traffic and praised his ability to "rule with decorum and grace."

In his remarks as the incoming mayor, Don Tatzin also spoke of Anderson's ability to make people feel more comfortable, enabling substantial progress.

Tatzin pointed out accomplishments from the past year under Anderson's term, including roads fixed, lawsuits won and a healthy budget.

Anderson recognized each of the other council members that he said forms a cohesive group. He especially thanked Council Member Ivor Samson who

stepped up to the task on short notice and whom Anderson said had been especially helpful to them in what was a fairly litigious year.

Tatzin remarked that he was delighted that they are all just "shifting chairs" with no one stepping down from the council.

New Orinda Vice Mayor

While Weiner very much wants to make more opportunities for more affordable housing, his bill provides a disincentive for cities to zone for multi-family housing because it allows developers to bypass city rules if they build multi-family residences and pay prevailing wages. SB 35 only applies to land already zoned for multi-family dwellings, and Mill-

er doesn't see the city adding any multi-family zoning in the foreseeable future.

When asked if she could envision a time when Orinda would join with the jurisdictions of Lafayette and Moraga, Miller said she could not. Orinda is not Lafayette, she said, with better traffic control. Additionally, Orinda is more fiscally conservative than either Lafayette

... continued from page A6

or Moraga. With its small tax base, Orinda provides employees with a 401(a) investment plan but is not a PERS city, like Moraga. Orinda puts an amount equal to 10 percent of each employee's salary into a 401(a) account, and matches an additional 3 percent contributed by the employee.

Miller is married and practices transactional real estate law.



Building Foundations

- Lifting
- Leveling
- Stabilizing

707 310-0602
www.bayareaunderpinning.org

GENERAL CONTRACTOR LIC. 067128



Dudum Real Estate Group would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a Happy New Year! We hope that this coming year is filled with peace and joy.

If a change of address is on the horizon for 2018, our market is certainly filled with wonderful opportunities for both buyers and sellers. Opening Doors of Opportunity is what we do. We look forward to opening those doors for you!

Wishing all of Lamorinda continued blessings and great happiness throughout the New Year.

<p>THE CHURCHILL TEAM</p>  <p>RANDY 925.787.4622 SERETA: 925.998.4441 CALBRE 00524249/01138237</p>	<p>JANET POWELL</p>  <p>925.876.2399 CALBRE 01973545</p>	<p>JOHN FONDAZIO</p>  <p>925.817.9053 CALBRE 01938194</p>	<p>JON WOOD PROPERTIES</p>  <p>JON WOOD: 925.383.5384 HOLLY SIBLEY: 925.451.3105 CALBRE 01474293/01435618</p>	<p>JULIE DEL SANTO BROKER/OWNER</p>  <p>925.818.5500 CALBRE 01290985</p>	<p>KAILEY GRAZIANO</p>  <p>925.404.4361 CALBRE 01968803</p>
<p>LAURIE HIGGINS</p>  <p>925.876.7968 CALBRE 01322819</p>	<p>LISA TICHENOR</p>  <p>925.285.1093 CALBRE 01478540</p>	<p>MATT McLEOD</p>  <p>925.464.6500 CALBRE 01310057</p>	<p>SHERRY HUTCHENS</p>  <p>925.212.7617 CALBRE 01320608</p>	<p>TERESA ZOCCHI</p>  <p>925.360.8662 CALBRE 01907345</p>	<p>TINA FRECHMAN</p>  <p>925.915.0851 CALBRE 01970768</p>



LAFAYETTE
999 OAK HILL RD., #100
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549
O: 925.284.1400 F: 925.284.1411

WALNUT CREEK
1910 OLYMPIC BLVD., #100
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596
O: 925.937.4000 F: 925.937.4001

DANVILLE
100 RAILROAD AVENUE, #A
DANVILLE, CA 94526
O: 925.937.4000 F: 925.937.4001

BRENTWOOD
60 EAGLE ROCK WAY, #B
BRENTWOOD, CA 94537
O: 925.420.5717 F: 925.937.4001

WWW.DUDUM.COM
CALBRE #01882902

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

“A Strong Will” becomes Moraga family’s mantra

By Kara Navolio



Will, wearing his “superhero vest,” poses with his mom’s half-marathon medal. Photo provided

The lives of Moraga residents Kathy and John Walton changed forever on March 2 when their 2-year-old middle child, Will, was diagnosed with a rare form of blood cancer called Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis. The disease affects 1 in 200,000 children.

middle of the night. The next morning he woke up screaming and could barely walk,” recalled Kathy Walton. The tumor in his spine caused his vertebra to fracture, which created additional complications for Will, who is now 3. He must wear a back brace, his “superhero vest,” at all times when he is awake.

Walton, who is an attorney, took a leave of absence to stay home with Will and their youngest child, since Will can no longer attend preschool due to his compromised immune system and the risk falling presents for his fractured back. She has turned their home into an art and activity center for the two youngsters, while their oldest child now attends kindergarten. Despite Will’s chemotherapy treatments, he is still an active, curious boy who loves music, art and the solar system. He also enjoys his special swing, which allows him to soar without the risk of falling.

John Walton, a radiologist at Kaiser Oakland, has the unique responsibility of being part of his own child’s care team as he administers Will’s chemotherapy at home. Will has three more treatments to go and is now in remission.

The Waltons, who met in

2008 at a Team in Training event for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, decided to run in the Walnut Creek half-marathon on Dec. 9 with the goal of raising \$3,000 for the HistoCURE foundation. Since this cancer is so rare, there is not a lot of funding for research. The organization is 100 percent volunteer-run, which means all the money raised goes directly to research. In September they started training and telling family and friends. The exercise and focus helped Kathy recover emotionally from the incredible events the family has been through this year. Kathy posted some information on Nextdoor.com and a Lamorinda Moms blog and soon had raised over \$20,000 with nine people joining them to run with “A Strong Will” team.

“The incredible support that Kathy and I have received through Facebook messages, emails, texts, prayers and donations to the HistoCURE foundation in honor of our son has been nothing short of amazing,” John wrote on Facebook. “I cannot thank you all enough for your generosity and kindness. We have truly been moved.”

All 11 members of the team completed the half-marathon, raising \$34,055 from 205 donors for the HistoCURE foundation. “John and I finished the race together in about two hours and 20 minutes,” Kathy reflected after the race. “Thoughts of Will and what he had been through was the only thing keeping me going the last two miles. John and I talked

about how we could run for 20 more minutes because Will is such a champ during his chemo. We said we could keep running for Will who couldn’t walk for weeks. We also sang his current favorite song about the states and capitals in the United States.”

At a post-race party, generously sponsored by Noah’s, Peet’s, Whole Foods and the Hideout Kitchen & Café, Kathy stated, “My optimism about the future is a direct result of your help in making this campaign a huge success. A few months ago, I hit rock bottom as I began to feel the aftershock of Will’s diagnosis. I was angry that he had to go through this; I feared that his tumors would return and claim another bone, or worse; and I felt isolated from the outside world. It was time to do something to take control over the uncontrollable. With your help, we have raised an amazing amount of money to fund research to improve treatment for Will and patients like him. My hope is that Will’s cancer will never recur, but I am comforted that if it does, we have done everything we can to ensure his treatment plan will be based on hard science and trial studies. Also, with your help, my spirits have been lifted as I realized that I am surrounded by amazing friends, neighbors, and family who have rallied around Will as if he were their own child.”

Donations to the HistoCURE foundation can still be made at: www.histocure.org/page/events.



A “Strong Will” team completes Walnut Creek half-marathon, raising over \$28,000 for the HistoCURE Foundation. Team photography courtesy Catherine Hall



Will gets a visit from Spiderman during a stay at Kaiser Oakland. Photo provided

Sympli®

Our #1 Best Selling Women’s Travel Wear

Shop Online or Call Annie to Schedule a Personal Shopping Appointment
925-900-3441

10% OFF + FREE SHIPPING!
enter promo code ROSSMOOR at check out



www.SpecialteesBoutique.com

Ware Designs

Fine Jewelry since 1977

Expanding our Services with

Two Goldsmiths

- Custom Designs
- Appraisals
- Expert Repairs
- Pearl Restringing

All your jewelry is insured with Jeweler's Block Insurance.

\$5 off Watch Battery

Reg \$15, Now \$10

1 watch battery per person. Exp. 2/15/18. Usually installed while you wait. W/coupon. Restrictions apply.

3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette between Trader Joes & the Post Office
283-2988 www.waredesigns.com Tuesday-Saturday 10-6

GET AHEAD IN MATH THIS FALL



WHEN MATH MAKES SENSE, YOU SUCCEED!

MATHNASIUM
The Math Learning Center

GRADES K-12

Pre-Algebra • Algebra 1 & 2 • Geometry
Pre-Calculus & Calculus
SAT/ACT Preparatory
Individualized Instruction

HOMEWORK HELP FOR ALL LEVELS

Flat Monthly Fee

Drop-in any time, no scheduling needed!

**1 WEEK FREE TUTORING
& HOMEWORK HELP**

Must present coupon. New students only.

3435 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette
(Golden Gate Way at Mt. Diablo Blvd.)
(925) 283-4200 www.mathnasium.com

'The Divine Order' offers unique look at a moment in history

By Sophie Braccini



Photo provided

Petra Volpe, a Swiss film director living in Berlin and New York, knew when she created the film "The Divine Order" about the Swiss women's freedom movement in the 1970s that it would resonate with people today. The story starts in a

small rural part of this lovely country, set in its stubborn ways, and shows the transformation of an ordinary woman into a political activist. Going from the very local to the universal, this unique film, full of humor, tenderness, drama and emotion,

reminds us of the battle previous generations of women fought, and that as far as sexism is concerned, nothing can ever be taken for granted.

"The Divine Order" is the first movie made about a woman's right to vote at the federal level in Switzerland, which was the second to last country in Western Europe to grant that right to women (Portugal was last in 1976). The moving film is set almost entirely in a small agricultural and very patriarchal German-speaking Switzerland, where Nora is an ordinary housewife raising two young boys and serving a husband and a father-in-law. The young mother is not particularly interested in politics; she is simply bored with her repetitive domestic life and wants to get a part-time job. When she realizes that her husband can, by law, forbid her from getting a job that would take her out of her routine, her political awareness starts to grow and she is moved to action.

Volpe explained in the Swiss newspaper Le Temps that her objective with this movie was to find, in local events, what can resonate with the universal human experience. She believes that there are people everywhere who become politicized when they realize, like Nora in the movie, that the actions taken by decision makers impact their own everyday lives. Part of the charm of the movie is seeing how this humble person finds in herself the courage to take her own destiny in her hands, whatever the cost.

Volpe's film is also an historical tale, created after the director studied historical documents collected by feminist militant Marthe Gosteli. The woman who died last year at age 99 gave her access to brochures, articles, flyers, academic papers and photographs, illustrating the difficult battle Swiss women had to fight to have access to the political arena. Volpe does not hide the role that some women played

in the undercutting of the liberation movement. "Women are not necessarily better human beings than men," commented Volpe. "Some educated women already had an advantageous status and did not want to share, others were concerned that if they started to be political it would undermine their position inside the family."

All these women are represented in the movie: the courageous ones, the humble ones, the privileged, the frightened ones, and in the middle of it all, a few hippies talking about the sexual revolution.

The adventure of Nora, her growth as an independent thinker and then as a leader, is painted with a lot of humanity and keen understanding. Marie Leuenberger as Nora portrays the transformation with tact and finesse. The role got Leuenberger the 2017 Best Actress award at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York. She and her partners do not look like movie stars, which is refreshing. The men featured in the movie do not have the lion's share of roles; some are brutal, others stupid, or unhappy. In the movie men are redeemed only when they submit.

There is a great love and tenderness in this movie expressed by the director for this generation of women who came before her, and fought for rights we now take for granted, and even do not always exercise. The movie also reminds us that too many women around the world are oppressed today, in their lives, in their intimacy, denied not only equal rights, but dignity as well.

The movie will represent Switzerland at the Oscar competition. As it did last year, the International Film Showcase brings high caliber foreign films to Orinda once a month. "The Divine Order" will be presented at the Orinda Theatre for at least one week starting Jan. 5. For showtimes and information, visit Lamorindatheatres.com.

Families Without Borders trains future civic leaders

By Sophie Braccini



Family Without Borders students during a recent retreat with Terri Khonsari.

Photo provided

During a fundraising luncheon in her Moraga home last September Terri Khonsari told her supporters of her coming West Africa trip to Sierra Leone to visit her nonprofit to support students and select the next group of future leaders. A few weeks ago she returned, exhausted, but with renewed determination and faith that combining scholarships with community service is a sustainable model that can have lasting societal impact.

Khonsari is proud to say that Families Without Borders is now the largest provider of higher edu-

cation scholarships in Sierra Leone – the Chinese government is second. She is also fast to point out what makes a difference with the system she created just a few years ago. "We do not just select students and give them scholarships," she explains, "we engage in a process with them where they learn to pay back by volunteering in their own country as they study."

During her trip, she personally met with the students who applied for a scholarship with her organization. Khonsari says that it is a somewhat complex process, but she wants to make sure that

the selected youth are very good students with no other means of financial aid. Their stories, which are sometimes quite emotional, impact her. "When Sahr Musa Binkoe came to the interview, he told me why he wanted to become a lawyer," she remembers. The young man needed to drop out of high school when powerful tribal leaders seized his father's land. He is now determined to become a land lawyer and become an expert at defending dispossessed farmers.

Motivation, aptitude and real needs are not the only requirements. The key for Khonsari is the

spirit of community service the students commit to even before the university school year begins. "This year we have recruited 25 new students from all over Sierra Leone, with a new emphasis on sciences," she explains. "Between next February and the beginning of the school year in the fall of 2018, they will go to villages and start teaching literacy to children and adults." The rate of adult literacy has improved over the last 10 years, according to the World Data Atlas, to 48.4 percent in 2015. It was only 34.8 percent in 2004; the youth literacy rate is 67.4 percent.

Not counting the new recruits, Khonsari says that the program now sponsors 51 students. All of them, as part of their contract with Families Without Borders, are engaged in volunteering where it is needed, such as Ibrahim, the nonprofit's first graduate who has now raised his own funds to build a school in a village. "The place he chose is not even his own village," explains Khonsari. "As part of our training sessions and retreats, we mix up ethnicities so the young people learn to know each other and empathize with all."

From this year's retreat with a visit at Banana Island, the historic slave deportation site in Sierra Leone, another project came from the students: creating their own nonprofit to eliminate childhood slavery that sadly persists in most parts of the country. Khonsari is still deeply moved by the story she heard, and comforted by the determination of these young

people who are taking on some of the challenges of their country.

After her stay in Sierra Leone, Khonsari went to speak at a philanthropy conference in Nigeria where she met people from all over the continent. She said that she got a lot of interest when people understood that what she is trying to do is support the emergence of new community-minded leaders, who will continue to grow the program themselves organically. She adds that she is not in a hurry to sign with just anybody with a big wallet for the sake of growing the program.

The cost of one year of college, including room and board is \$2,000 for one student. Right now, the nonprofit is funded almost exclusively by donations from people who attended either an annual gala or a luncheon. She and her husband, a doctor with a medical clinic in Antioch, are two of the biggest donors. Khonsari's current dream is to bring the program to other African countries, but she is aware that doing this will require a larger foundation's backing to plan and recruit. She thinks that some of the graduates of her program, showing the leadership and service spirit, will be able to take on responsibilities as the program expands.

Right now Khonsari is looking for a space for her next gala and other operational support in the U.S. to sustain her cause. To learn more about Families Without Borders, visit familieswithoutborders.org.

A matter of balance: overcoming the fear of a fall

By Sophie Braccini



Lamorinda Village volunteers and members.

Starting Jan. 12, Lamorinda Village is offering the senior community an innovative eight-week fall prevention program: “A Matter of Balance.” What makes this program different is that it addresses the fear of falling and aims at changing the perceptions as well as the material elements and empowers seniors to live a safer and more active life.

Anne Ornelas, the executive director of the Village, first heard of the program through Meals on Wheels’ fall prevention program. She says that she was interested to see an approach that would combine overcoming feelings of negative helplessness, the fear of falling, with material strategy and physical exercises. Lamorinda Village volunteer Cynthia Robey was trained in the program and will start the first Lamorinda session along with Skip Bradish, another volunteer.

Robey, a Lafayette resident and long-term Village volunteer, was convinced that an approach simply focusing on balance was not enough and that this program fits the bill. She was trained by master trainer Alayne Balke, program manager for fall prevention at Contra Costa Meals on Wheels. Robey says that fall prevention has been an important concern for her; she believes that her father died as a result of a fall at age 92. She explains that she was enthused by the fact that the program uses a cognitive behavioral approach to retrain the

brain. “If you think that you are going to fall, then it will happen,” she says. Ornelas adds that the program is effective because it helps retrain the brain, helping seniors become more in control of their health and physical activity.

Balke, who became a trainers’ trainer in Maine, says that “A Matter of Balance” is a nationally recognized program that has been evaluated for its efficacy at preventing falls. It was born from combined efforts of Maine’s therapists in the ‘90s and taken over by that state’s association for healthy aging in 2003. It includes a detailed eight-lesson plan that participants follow. She adds that the group training is restricted to 12 to 15 participants, because one of the important elements is the connection and support that form during the two-month program.

Fighting the fear of falling and taking charge of preventing fear is done through the sharing of stories and strategies in the home and around town, and also includes physical exercises. Robey notes that the physical activity presented is not just for the legs, but addresses the whole body.

The first session in Contra Costa County were led in Rossmoor and Pleasant Hill. The eight weeks starting in January will be the first in Lamorinda. Ornelas says that hundreds of trainings have been conducted all over the

country and that 97 percent of participants reduced their fear of falling after the training and felt comfortable increasing their activity.

The program is offered to the entire community, not just Lamorinda Village members. Ornelas adds that the organization charges \$15 for the eight weeks to cover the cost of refreshments. Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr. in Lafayette has offered the location, and Meals on Wheels provides the manuals. The participants should be available for eight consecutive Fridays, from 10 to 12 a.m. starting on Jan. 12.

Lamorinda Village is a local nonprofit that actively builds a community that embraces connections, caring, and choices in how seniors live and thrive. Registration for the training can be done on the Village’s website at lamorindavillage.com.

Photo Lily Dong Photography



Window opens for local filmmakers to compete in Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest

Submitted by Christy Mack



Award-winning local documentary filmmaker Reka Pigniczky will serve on the Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest production committee this year. Photo provided

Lamorinda Arts Council will host its 3rd Annual ShortDocs Film Fest at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center at 3 p.m. Feb. 11. This documentary film festival provides local filmmakers an opportunity to create new work as well as showcase it at a community screening.

Entries for the Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest will be accepted from now until Jan. 14. The competition is open to anyone 5 years of age or older who

is living, working or attending school in Orinda, Lafayette or Moraga. Film submissions will be judged in one of four categories: elementary school, middle school, high school, and adult. One student-made film will also be selected as an Audience Favorite.

Previous Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest judges – filmmaker Julie Rubio (“East Side Sushi,” “Too Perfect”) and TV Producer Joel Patterson (“Pawn Stars,” “The Unknown Flag Raiser of Iwo Jima”) – will be joined by other judges new to the 2018 festival. Award-winning local documentary filmmaker Reka Pigniczky will also serve on the Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest production committee this year. Pigniczky was the winner in the adult category of the 2017 festival and her son, Lukacs Gero, won the elementary school category.

Pigniczky looks forward to working on the 2018 festival with the hope of providing guid-

ance to more novice filmmakers. “In the 21st century, you really have a powerful tool if you can tell a visual story, and I’m looking forward to coaching some of the more novice filmmakers who need that support to take an idea and turn it into a watchable film,” Pigniczky said.

The Feb. 11 community screening will feature selected films and accompanying award presentations. To learn more about the Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest competition and to enter go to <http://www.lamorindaarts.org/shortdocs>.



When I say “good,” you say “neighbor.”

Mike Rosa
Agent
925-376-2244
Insurance Lic. #: OF45583
346 Rheem Blvd., Suite 106
Moraga

Now that’s teamwork.
CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7



State Farm Home Office, Bloomington, IL

Theater View Veterinary Clinic



“Dr. Laurie” Langford

Theater View Veterinary Clinic, owned by Dr. Laurie Langfold, is excited to announce a new addition. Dr. Amelia Ausman has joined our team. Come check us out.



Phone: (925) 317-3187

Fax: (925) 334-7017

Email: theatervieworinda@gmail.com

www.theaterviewvetclinic.com

1 Bates Blvd., Suite 200, Orinda

Premier Residential Neighborhood... Only Blocks From Downtown

Reserve by December 31st & Move-in by February 28th to receive over \$10,000 in rental savings!

Our Walkability Rating of 100 = Better Health & Social Engagement!

- It’s all about Location, Location, Location
- Savory Restaurant-style Dining
- Heated Pool, Spa, & 24-Hour Fitness Center
- Continuing Education & Social Events, Weekly off-site Excursions
- Optional In-Home Care, if needed, can age-in-place to 120+



Call 943-7427 Today to schedule a Tour!
www.TheHeritageDowntown.com

Lafayette Care Home

A Residential Care Home for the Elderly

Lafayette Care Home features six private rooms in a beautiful setting. We pride ourselves in giving personal and individual care. Please contact Linda at (925) 451-6456 to arrange a visit.

Testimonial from Marian M.

“Our mother has been with the Lafayette Care Home for over 3 years, and we are more than pleased with the loving care provided. We highly recommend this exceptional care home.”



Linda

Lic # 075600841

Lafayette Care Home • 3640 Baker Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549 (925) 451-6456 • www.lafayettecarehome.com

Thanks for helping!

We want to bring you local news, interesting stories and local advertising.

Please patronize and keep on telling our advertisers to support this paper. Encourage others to give it a try.

925-377-0977 www.lamorindaweekly.com



Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda

Lafayette war veterans announce plans for 9/11 monument

Submitted by Michael Gilson



Photo rendering of monument.

Image provided

The Lafayette War Veterans, comprised of members of American Legion Post 517 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8026, have announced plans to erect a monument to honor service members from Contra Costa County who have lost their lives in service to our country since 9/11. According to a recently compiled list there are 18 service members from the county, ranging in age from 18 to 43, who will be honored on the monument when it is dedicated and the design will allow for the inscription of additional names when the circumstance arises.

The monument is to be constructed of three large slabs of granite and will be installed in the circle near the entrance to the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center and plans are to illuminate it at night as is currently done with the flags. Plans for a suitable way to honor the sacrifice of local service members has been discussed for many

years and much credit for helping to move this project along goes to Lafayette resident Yolanda Vega whose son Jonathon lost his life in 2008 in Afghanistan. The target date for dedication of the monument is April to coincide with the 10th anniversary of Jonathon's passing.

A fundraising effort has been launched this week with an anonymous gift of \$25,000 to support an estimated total cost for the project of \$50,000. The Lafayette War Veterans have guaranteed to make up any shortfall in the project cost to ensure its timely completion.

Contributions for the project can be directed as follows: Lafayette War Veterans – Memorial Fund, PO Box 501, Lafayette, CA 94549. For more information, contact Mike Gilson at (925) 766-6114 or info@lafayette-veterans.org.

Campo Leo Club donates to Moraga Education Foundation

Submitted by Robert Murtagh



From left: Campolindo High School principal John Walker, Brigitte Marinier, president of Campolindo Leo Club, Dana Glasgow, Moraga Lions Club treasurer, Mr. John Baitx, Leo Club advisor. Photo provided

Campolindo Leo Club President Brigitte Marinier presented a check for \$500 payable to the Moraga Education Foundation to Campolindo High School principal John Walker on Nov. 17. This is the 12th year that the Leo Club has made a substantial donation to MEF. The Campolindo Leo Club is a service club sponsored by the Moraga Lions Club and Leo members pro-

vide about 500 hours of community service annually. Together with Lions, Leos help prepare and serve food at the Moraga Fourth of July event and Pear Festival, as well as working the annual pancake breakfast at the Moraga Fire House. The Leo Club motto is "We serve."

For more information about Lions and Leos, contact Bob Murtagh (925) 283-1841.

The Burton Valley AIM class rallies behind teacher to raise money for California Breast Cancer Research Program

Submitted by Cathy Martinsen



Burton Valley Elementary students present a check to CBCRP after a highly successful Book Bonanza. Photos provided

The Book Bonanza is an annual fundraiser and long-standing tradition at Burton Valley Elementary School. Every year, the AIM class collects, prices, and, of course, sells books... at incredibly low prices (some books are as cheap as 5 cents). All proceeds go to a charitable cause, and this year the students chose to support their teacher's current battle with breast cancer and donate their earnings to the California Breast Cancer Research Program. In partnership with the University of California, the mission of CBCRP is to prevent and eliminate breast cancer through innovative research, communication, and collaboration in the California scientific and lay communities.

The whole class banded together to complete each step in the process, and after three weeks of collections and pricing of over 6,000 books, the three-day sale was on! Classes from the Burton Valley community came to support the AIM class, buying books, handmade bookmarks and origami, and dropping in donations to the donation jar. After the frenzy, the students counted their change bags and were thrilled to realize they



had surpassed their goal and raised a record-high amount of \$1,600.21. The students presented a check to Mhel Kavanaugh-Lynch of CBCRP right before winter break. They felt good about the positive impact their donation will make in the fight against breast cancer and thank the Burton Valley community for their support.

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

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.

www.Lamorindaweekly.com Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:



- A town on the brink
- Mayor Phillips completes the year of the sinkhole with kudos
- Saranap factions come together to plan future
- Reliez Valley residents may soon resort to protests over congestion
- ConFire chief and his deputy share a special bond
- Orinda urgent care center back in operation
- Transitions in Moraga - interim town manager to be hired on Dec. 13
- Lafayette's Kathy Wharton - happiest when hiking
- Dispatch supervisor explains proper 911 call etiquette
- Letters to the Editor

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

Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Add warmth to the holidays with Southwest crab or shrimp cakes

By Susie Iventosch



Southwest Crab and Shrimp Cakes

Photo Susie Iventosch

This is the time of year when I start to think about new crab recipes. For some reason, January and crab go together in my mind and crab cakes came up in conversation at a recent holiday luncheon.

Oddly enough, this conversation was prompted by the delivery of a lovely slice of tiramisu.

Lynn Ballou, who writes Lynn's Top Five, a column offering financial planning advice, told

me she'd love to travel the globe in search of the perfect tiramisu and crab cakes. In fact, when she and her colleague, Marilyn Plum, first met they attended many business luncheons together and very

quickly discovered that Marilyn always gravitated toward the crab cakes on the menu, while Lynn was tempted by the tiramisu.

"Our favorite place to have both was the wonderful restaurant in Walnut Creek — Speidini's, which is no longer there, but a favorite for both of us," Lynn recounted.

Now that Marilyn is semi-retired, she's traveling the globe and Lynn says that instead of sending pictures of herself and her husband in some famous, far-away destination, she sends photos of the most amazing crab cakes or tiramisu they've enjoyed along the journey.

I really love this idea and

would love to join in the adventure, but in the meantime, I traveled to my kitchen put together a recipe that works both for shrimp and crab cakes. I had never made shrimp cakes before, and they were awesome. We served them with blue cheese-yogurt dressing spiced up with hot sauce. Just add a salad, and you have a beautiful dinner ready to go.

If you have a favorite crab cake or tiramisu recipe, or have had an amazing one in a local restaurant or in your travels that you'd like to share, please email it to me so we can expand our quest!

Cooking Term of the Week

Timbale

Timbale is a drum-shaped mold that is slightly tapered toward the bottom. Usually the food that is made in this mold is a custard-based recipe that is turned out of the mold before serving. Both the dish itself and the recipe made in the dish are referred to as a timbale. A timbale can also be a high-sided pie crust that holds meat or fruit.

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.



Southwest Crab or Shrimp Cakes

(Makes 8 crab or shrimp cakes)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound, (roughly 3 cups) chopped cooked shrimp or crab meat
 - 1 Tbsp. grated red onion
 - 1 clove garlic, minced or pressed
 - 1 Tbsp. fresh-squeezed lime juice
 - 2 Tbsp. finely chopped cilantro leaves
 - ½ jalapeño pepper, very finely diced (optional)
 - 1 egg
 - 1 tsp. hot sauce
 - 1 Tbsp. mayonnaise (need for crab cakes, but not necessary for shrimp cakes)
 - 1 cup panko, divided into 1/3 cup for inside cakes and 2/3 cup for exterior coating
 - ½ tsp. each salt and pepper
 - 2 Tbsp. olive oil for cooking
- Garnish: Lime wedges and cilantro leaves
Blue cheese dressing with hot sauce for dipping

DIRECTIONS

Remove tails from shrimp and place in the bowl of the food processor. With the metal blade pulse 8 to 10 times, until shrimp is chopped but not too pasty. (For crab, don't process meat.) Transfer meat to a medium-sized bowl.

Add 1/3 cup panko (reserve 2/3 cup for coating exterior of cakes) and all remaining ingredients except olive oil. Mix well and divide into eight equal portions. Form into patties and then coat on all sides in panko crumbs seasoned with salt and pepper.

At this point, you can cook the crab cakes and serve, or you can refrigerate them ahead of time to cook later in the day.

When ready to cook, heat oil on griddle over medium-high heat. Place cakes on griddle and cook for about 3-4 minutes per side, or until golden brown.

Garnish with lime wedge, cilantro leaves and a spoonful of spicy blue cheese dressing.

Pressures on high school students

By Sophia McManus

Junior year is infamous among students as the hardest year of high school. Juniors are expected to challenge themselves with the most rigorous courses and maintain a schedule of extracurriculars in the hopes of admittance to a good college. There is a mounting pressure to succeed, which stifles the passion for learning.

Many students have grown to believe that a high GPA is the only indicator of success. They are hesitant to challenge themselves, worried that a poor test score will be detrimental to their grades. It takes a large influence to deter students from this level of thinking.

For me, my physics teacher helped me rediscover how to view learning. She opened my eyes to see testing as a learning experience, rather than a way to demonstrate knowledge. She gave tests that forced students to apply material to new situations, favoring the experience over results. Despite the poor scores, she never made the tests easier. Instead, she encouraged test corrections where students had to explain the physical implications of their incorrect answer, and their correct answer. In her class, students were forced to think critically, and embrace their mistakes. My teacher even agreed to add money for an end-of-the-year party if students caught her mistakes. This normalized mistakes, ensuring students would value learning material more than messing up.

Despite the teacher's emphasis on learning rather than testing, she often had to combat the fear of failure instilled by parents. When the first physics test was returned most students immediately asked the teacher, "Can you email my parents and explain that everyone got this score?" The threat of punishments left students terrified of a bad test score. Rather than helping their

children succeed, strict parents prevented students from embracing the failure associated with learning.

Even with supportive teachers and parents, the stress of school pervades. Pressure from fellow peers, an often-overlooked factor, is suffocating for many students. Since classmates spend so much time inside classrooms, many students incorporate their academic success with social standing. Students tend to know where they stand compared to others even when there is no ranking system. They know who got the least amount of sleep, who was accepted to prestigious colleges, who aced the final exam.

The problem with this competitive mindset is the desire to be the best. Students find themselves wishing others to fail a test, to have a better comparative grade for colleges. Although thoughts like these are fleeting, there is still a divide in friendships caused by grades. The competitive atmosphere between peers undermines the sense of community and camaraderie that students desperately needed.

Furthermore, the self-awareness of the pressures within school leads students to prove their self worth as the one that "struggles the most." Many view lack of sleep as an indicator of success. The association of poor mental health with success leads students to extenuate their own mental health problems. This inevitably contributes to the perpetuated notion that unhappiness is necessary in high school.

In response to this competitive atmosphere, some students ridicule others that are seen to work too hard in classes, calling them "try hards" as an insult. With the ongoing academic competition, those unwilling to compete for a top spot choose to make fun of those that are.

The academic competition ultimately causes a sense of un-

happiness and division between students. To mitigate the sense of competition, students must support each other, and help each other to do their best. It should not be about who got an A, but how many people are able to get an A. The community around the school should

take pride in educating everyone, not providing a list of elite students.

Schools alone are not responsible for changing the pressure on students. It is up to the community to change the perspective around grades. The emphasis on grades deters from the importance of education, since it



discourages any mistakes. Of course grades matter, it would be ignorant to say otherwise, but receiving worse grades with challenging courses far exceeds the benefits of an "easy A." Motivation and a passion for learning are more important lessons than one bad test score.

Advertising Opportunity

Healthy Lifestyles

— special section in Lamorinda Weekly

This special section will be published inside the January 24 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.

When you need a doctor and you need one now

Diablo Acupuncture
Experience the Difference

Prostate Relief With Rezum
By Jason Brandeis, MD

Healthy Lifestyle


Advertorial Feature

This is an opportunity to submit content to share with our readers: up to 700 words with a photo, logo and contact information.

Display ads

Promote your health related service or professional practice: yoga, meditation, injury prevention, physical therapy, nutritional counseling, massage, health screening, mental health, health insurance

Please call or email:
Wendy Scheck
 925-377-0977
wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
www.lamorindaweekly.com



Sophia McManus is a junior at Bentley Upper School in Lafayette. She is member of the Lafayette teen advisory board and the Touchstone competitive climbing team. Sophia enjoys reading, logic games, and writing.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



... from the Lamorinda Weekly team.

Illustration Jaya Griggs, www.jayagriggs.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

New Year's Eve at 9:30 am
Sundays starting January 7 at 9:30 am & 5 pm

10 Moraga Valley Lane | www.mvpctoday.org | 925.376.4800

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 www.holyshepherd.org



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

Worship Schedule November 26 – January 7
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
Coffee Fellowship at 10:30 a.m.



Sunday Sacrament Service at 10AM

Scripture Study &
Youth Programs

Everyone welcome!

3776 Via Granada, Moraga



10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org
"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

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



Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 thelumc.org
Sunday 10am Worship and Faith Formation for all ages

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

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



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

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

ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

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

Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 11 - 2

www.christianscienceorinda.org

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

Moraga Gallery Holiday Boutique. The current show at the Moraga Art Gallery, featuring the K. De Groot's Asia-accented jewelry, continues through Jan. 6. In addition, member and guest artists are displaying a bounty of one-of-a-kind gifts: jewelry, paintings, scarves, ceramics, photographs, woodware, tree ornaments, greeting cards, and more. The gallery, 522 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Christmas. For more information, go to www.moragaartgallery.com, call (925) 376-5407 or email moragaartgallery@gmail.com.

MUSIC

In the Name of Love, The 16th Annual Musical Tribute Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 14 at Oakland Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakland. Tickets: \$25- \$40; children 12 and under- \$8-\$12. Purchase at Livingjazz.org/mlktribute. Additional information- (510) 858-5313 or visit <https://www.livingjazz.org/mlktribute/>

San Francisco Performances presents Alexander String Quartet with host and lecturer Robert Greenberg from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13 at St. John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, 2727 College Avenue, Berkeley. San Francisco Performances presents the final concert of Part 1 in the Saturday series with the Alexander String Quartet and Robert Greenberg. Cost: \$45. For more info see <https://sfperformances.org/performances/1718/ASQBerkeley.html> or call 415-392-2545 or email info@sfperformances.org.

Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, the Bay Area's premier women's vocal ensemble, has openings for experienced women singers for its Spring 2018 season – particularly altos. Voci rehearses Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 10 p.m. in Orinda and performs primarily in the East Bay. Auditions will be held through Jan 17. Spring concert dates are Feb. 11, April 15 and April 21. For more information or to schedule an audition please contact Artistic Director Mitchell Covington at music@mitchellcovington.com. More info at www.vocisings.org.

Ensemble ARI, a group of Korean American musicians in the Bay Area dedicated to classical music that connects to the community, will be collaborating with Calystone, an early music ensemble that specializes in the music of Western Europe from the 13th through the 15th centuries, for a performance at 8 p.m. Jan. 26 in the Saint Mary's College Chapel. Strings will play with non vibrato, as if they are

gut strings (in the style of 15th century). The free concert will feature music by Brahms, Gordon, and 15th century German composers.

THEATER

Days Without End by Eugene O'Neill at 8 p.m. on Jan. 6 and 2 p.m. on Jan. 7 at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. John Loving's life is in crisis and he is trying to cope with it through the act of writing a book about it. The end of the story is the battleground over which the multiple sides of his personality fight. Days Without End is a fascinating look at the parallel emotional crises of an artist and his life and the interaction and blurring of the lines between. Tickets are \$25 and are available at <http://www.eugeneoneill.org/>.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

The Lafayette School District will be holding two Community Engagement Meetings at 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 8 in the Stanley Middle School Library, 3455 School St., Lafayette. With state funding for local schools in constant flux, this will be an opportunity to learn more about the current state of local funding for Lafayette Schools and provide input on Lafayette School District's feasibility study, currently underway, to identify local funding solutions that will help protect Lafayette's local quality of education. Both meetings will provide the same information.

Registration for Lafayette students entering TK and Kindergarten for the 2018-2019 school year will take place Jan. 16 and 17, 2018. In addition, an informational presentation, "A Roadmap to Kindergarten" will be held at Springhill Elementary, Multi-Purpose Room from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 11, for all interested parents in the school district. Further information can be found at www.lafsd.org.

OTHER

"Israel's Place in the World" with Shlomi Kofman - Israel's Consul General in San Francisco to the Pacific Northwest at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11 at the Temple Isaiah Sanctuary at 945 Risa Road, Lafayette. This event is free of charge and open to the public. Community dessert reception to follow. More details and R.S.V.P. at temple-isaiah.org/israelandworldjewry.

KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents Bandy X. Lee and Dee Mosbacher: The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 17 at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Avenue, Berkeley. Bandy X. Lee and Lee Mosbacher

er discuss The Dangerous Case Against Donald Trump, answer questions and sign books. Hosted by Joanna Manqueros. Cost: \$12 advance, \$15 door. For more info see <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3210560> or call (510) 967-4495.

Free Bankruptcy legal workshop available through the Contra Costa Bar Association from 5 to 6:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18 at the CCC Bar Association, 2300 Clayton Road, ste. 530 in Concord. RSVP by calling (925) 370-2540 or online at <http://www.cccbba.org/community/calendar>.

SENIORS

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 174 lunch meeting at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10 at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School Street, Moraga. The guest speaker will be Rick Cronk, who is one of the founders of Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream. For attendance and membership info, call Tyler at (925) 963-5741. Please visit: www.branch174.sirinc2.org.

Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. A Matter of Balance is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. A program of MOWSOS in partnership with Lamorinda Village, the 8-week program starts at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 12, at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church - Davies Room, 49 Knox Drive Lafayette. Registration is \$15. Call (925) 283-3500 for more information. <https://lamorinda.helpfulvillage.com/events/1498>

GARDEN

Lafayette Garden Club General Meeting "Raptors" from 9:45 to noon on Thursday, Jan. 4 at the Lafayette Veteran's Building located at 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Lafayette Garden Club is pleased to present Jenny Papka, the founder and keeper of Native Bird Connections. She is a highly respected expert in raptor handling and education. Ms. Papka will speak about her work with raptors, their habitat, and how our gardens play a role. Visitors are welcome! Please email Carolyn Poetzsch cpoetzsch@gmail.com for information.

Montelindo Garden Club Meeting (third Friday of every month, September through May) will be at 9 a.m. Friday, Jan. 19 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Presentation: Fresh Ideas for Your Front Yard; speaker Janet Sluis, director of Sunset Western Garden Collection and a Berkeley-based horticulturist who will look at new trend-setting ideas for your California front yard.

Film Clips

Lots of great movie options at local theatres during the holidays

By Derek Zemrak

M
O
V
I
E
R
E
V
I
E
W



Happy holidays and a very prosperous 2018! The Orinda and Rheem theatres will be busy over the next week and we have something for everyone.

"The Greatest Showman" is now playing at The Rheem. It has received three Golden Globe nominations (Best Motion Picture-Musical, Best Original Song – "This Is Me," and Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture – Hugh Jackman). Inspired by the imagination of P.T. Barnum, "The Greatest Showman" is an original musical that celebrates the birth of show business and tells the story of a visionary who rose from nothing to create a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation. It is rated PG – suitable for all ages. The total running time is 1 hour and 45 minutes.

"The Shape of Water" received seven Golden Globe nominations – (Best Motion Picture – Drama, Best Director – Guillermo del Toro, Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture Drama – Sally Hawkins, Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture Drama – Richard Jenkins, Best Original Score, Best Performance by an Actress in a

Supporting Role in a Motion Picture – Octavia Spencer and Best Screenplay – Motion Picture). What a treat to have this movie masterpiece showing in the main theatre at The Rheem. "The Shape of Water" is Oscar Nominee Guillermo del Toro's homage to the great Universal monster film from 1954 – "Creature from the Black Lagoon." Set in a 1960s research facility, a mute janitor forms a relationship with an aquatic creature. The creature is played by the "Man of Many Creatures," Doug Jones. Jones has a connection to the Rheem Theatre because he made a video there four years ago to help with the ADA campaign. Also, Jones hosted the very first Sci-Fi Day at the Rheem Theatre in 2015 which ironically screened "Creature from the Black Lagoon." Small world! You can see Doug Jones' signature on the Wall of Fame at the Rheem.

Looking to laugh your way through the holiday season? Well we have you covered with "Pitch Perfect 3" also playing at the Rheem Theatre. Following their win at the world championship, the now separated Bellas reunite for one last singing competition in an overseas USO tour where they face a group that uses both instruments and voices. Who doesn't laugh at the comic talent of Rebel Wilson? She is funny. "Pitch Perfect 3" is rated PG-13 with a TRT of 1 hour 33 minutes.

Playing at the Orinda Theatre this week is "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" rated PG-13, "Darkest Hour" rated PG-13, and "Ferdinand" rated PG.

Enjoy the holiday season with family, friends and movies!



Photos provided

Service Clubs Announcements

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

January 12	January 19
KPIX Chief Meteorologist Paul Deanno. Here to sort out all the floods and hurricanes!	Our Contra Costa Homicide inspector has had numerous fascinating and high-profile cases to unravel. Inspector John Conaty will give us inside scoop on the "who, what, and where?" of homicide investigations. You won't want to miss this!

Community, Service, Fun and Friendships

Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA
26,600 printed copies, delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

Contact us:
Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com
Delivery issues: homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com
Event listings: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Business press releases: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
General interest stories/Community Service: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
School stories/events: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Publishers/Owners: Andy and Wendy Scheck;
andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Editor: Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com
Copy Editor: Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com
Sports Editor: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Advertising: 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Staff Writers:
Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com, Cathy Dausman; cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com
Pippa Fisher; pippa@lamorindaweekly.com, Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com
John T. Miller; john@lamorindaweekly.com, Sora O'Doherty; Sora@lamorindaweekly.com
Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com
Thoughtful Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com
Contributing Writers: Conrad Bassett, Diane Claytor, Michele Duffy, Amanda Eck, B.B. Kaye, Michael Lupacchino, Mona Miller, Kara Navolio, Alexandra Reineke, Victor Ryerson, Moya Stone, Jon Kingdon, Derek Zemrak
Calendar Editor: Jaya Griggs; calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Photos: Tod Fierner, Gint Federas
Layout/Graphics: Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.
Mailing address:
Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133
Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 925-263-9223; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com
website: www.lamorindaweekly.com

Please submit:
Events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Stories: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Letters: letters@lamorindaweekly.com
Opinion: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Please... ...thanks

Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

Music Lessons
Piano/guitar w/ Robbie Dunbar
All levels welcome!
I travel to your home.
M. A. Music Composition
Piano tuning as well!
925-323-9706
robbednrb@gmail.com

Office for Lease
Lafayette Office for LEASE
460 sq. ft., 2 room office suite for lease at 242 Lafayette Cir. Parking and utilities included! Avail. 1/1/18. File cabinets and desk avail. at no charge. Subletting one of the suites possible. Contact Ken Kosich for more information. 925-284-3911 or KKosich@kosich.com

Hauling
Haul Your Junk Away
925-435-3492
Call or Text Don

Painting
Inside and outside. Father and Son, 40 years experience. Local references. Licensed, bonded, insured. (925-285-0370) Don

Weed Cutting
Tall Weed Cutting
Hillsides, Free Estimates
925-938-9836

Fun Piano Lessons
Learn your favorite song! I teach Certificate of Merit. BM & MM in Piano. Lessons in your home. 925-984-8322. lynnf253@gmail.com

Collectibles
Buy or sell collectibles
Call or Text
925-435-3492

Rototilling
Ken's Rototilling
• 4 W/D Tractors
• Hillside Weed Cutting
• Mowing • Discing • Rototilling
Free estimates! 925-938-9836
licensed, bonded & insured. CA#667491
www.kensrototilling.com

Handyman
HANDYMAN SERVICE
Plumbing, Electrical, Carpentry, Etc., Etc. **(925) 934-0877 Jim**

Drainage Systems
5 yr. no standing water guarantee sump pump maintenance & repair
925-944-5263 drainagepros.com

Insurance
Totalintegrityinsurance.com
20+yr Lamorinda resident. My independent insurance brokerage is here to serve you. Over 100 top carriers = great pricing and coverage for Biz Gen Liability, W Comp, Homes, Auto, Life. **Call Henry at (925) 247-4356** OE90108

House Cleaning
www.totalclean.biz
Serving Lamorinda since 1985. Insured and bonded 376-1004.

Rain gutter
Vickers Rain Gutter
Installation, repair, roof & gutter cleaning
Serving Lamorinda since 1984. Many styles of gutters with soldered downspouts.....Senior discount...free est...lic 677426. I do the work myself & take pride in it.....Ken 925-687-8831

Rusty Nails Handyman Service
Repair • Restore • Revamp
Call Rusty- (925) 890-1581

Construction
Concept Builders
Remodeling, Home Repair & New Construction
Bonded & Insured. License no. 842563 (925) 283-8122, Cell: (925) 768-4983

reach 60,000+ with your ad

Impeccable Interiors
House Cleaning Service
1 Hour FREE
with 4 hours or more of service
Call for FREE estimate
925 736 9600
www.impeccableinteriors.com

Tile Setting
Baths, Showers, Floors, Walls, Counters
Cliff 510-697-1125

Tree Service
East Bay Tree Service.
377-8733. Fine pruning, large tree removal, stump grinding
License #805794

Plumbing

WE HOP TO IT!
(925) 377-6600
LeapFrogPlumbing.com

Tree & brush removal.
Poison Oak removal. 376-1995, Licensed, insured & bonded

Lamorinda Weekly Advertisers in 2017

THANK YOU

Please Join us in Thanking Our Advertisers for Their Support and for Making This FREE Local Newspaper Possible for Lamorinda.

5A Rent-A-Space	First Church of Christ, Scientist	Lynn Molloy	Professional Eyecare Optometry
a runner's mind	Floral Arts Florist	Manzone Team	Queen of Heaven/Holy Angels
Adam Hamalian	Frank Woodward	Maria Napoli Eberle	Rachel Moran, MA, MFT
Adler Tutoring	Garden Lights	Marilyn Monroe Spas	RE/MAX Accord
Adventure Day Camp	Golden Gate Sotheby's	Mark Bellinham Painting	Red Carpet
AG Realty	International Realty	Mark Zinman	Reflexion Skin Care
Alain Pinel Realtors	Great Clips	Mary Beth MacLennan	Republic Services
Alicia Klein Leathergoods	Gutter Guard	Mary Robbins	Rheem Valley Auto
All Seasons Drainage	Hacienda Foundation of Moraga	Massage Envy-Moraga	Rheem Valley Pet Shoppe
Aloha Aesthetics	Hacienda Real Estate	Mathnasium	Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Amy Rose Smith	Hair by Renee	Maureen Wilber	Richard Filinson Homeopathy
AMZ Holdings	Hall of Taxes	Max Auto	Ristorante Amoroma
Ana Zimmank	Henry J. Gannett	McCaulou's	Robbie Dunbar
Anandi Martinez Yoga	Hilton House	McDonnell Nursery	Roughing It
Andi Peterson Brown	Holcenberg Team	Meadow Swim & Tennis	Round Table Pizza
Ann Sharf	Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church	Medicine Shoppe	Saint Mary's College Alumni
Antigua Doors	Holy Trinity Cultural Center	MEF	Engagement
April Matthews	Home Care Assistance	Melanie Snow	Saint Mary's GAELS Athletic Dept.
Arrive Ride Service	Honest Rodent Proofing	Merrill Gardens	Sasser Investment Management
Artemis Rowing	Humble Yoga	Meryl's Skincare	Scott Winburne
Ashley & Patricia Battersby	Indigo & Poppy	Michael Heller	Senior Helpers
Aspen Network	James Phillip Wright Architects	Michele Rowson	Sentinel Newspapers
Audrey Neale	Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery	Mike Rosa	SewNow
Avid4 Adventure summer camp	Jim Baca Handyman	Millie's Kitchen	Sharp Bicycle
BAD - Bay Area Drainage	Jim Colhoun	Miracle Method of Alameda /	Shellie Kirby
Baja Cali Taqueria & Grill	Joan Evans	Contra Costa	Sherman Swim School
Bay Area Festivals	John Lucasey	Miramonte Swim Club	Sherrie Perlstein
Bay Area Home Companions	Jon Wood & Holly Sibley	Mojgan Kaviani	Shiva Jafarzadeh
Bay Area Underpinning	Judy's Nails	Molly Smith	Siggy's Carpet Cleaning
Berkeley Rep School of Theatre	Justin Bundy	Moraga Art Gallery	Sisi Caffe
Better Homes and Gardens	K&W Builders, Inc.	Moraga Barber Shop	Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis
Reliance Partners	Kaaren Brickman	Moraga Baseball Association	Soraya Golesorkhi
Bistro Burger & Grill	Kailey Graziano	Moraga Chamber of Commerce	Soroptimist
Block Advisors	Karen Richardson Group	Moraga Garden Center	Specialtees
Blodgett's Abbey Carpet & Flooring	Kathie DiMaggio Stein	Moraga Hardware and Lumber	St. Anselm's Church
Blue Ridge Landscape Co.	Kattenburg Architects	Moraga Jewelers	St. Giles Parish
Brydon Ives Team	Keith Katzman	Moraga Motors	St. John's
BSA Troop 224 Christmas Tree Lot	Glen & Kellie Beaubelle	Moraga Orinda Fire Department	St. Mark's Preschool
Budd MacKenzie	Kelly Crawford	Moraga Parks and Recreation	St. Monica Church
Budget Blinds	Ken Ryerson & Gary Bernie	Moraga Retreat Care	St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Byron Park - Kisco Senior Living	Ken Tamplen	Moraga Rotary	Studio E
CAIFF	King Florist	Moraga Royale	Sue Layng
Cal Shakes	Kiwanis International	Moraga Star Smog	SummerHill Homes
Camp Bow Wow	Kristi L. Doberenz, D.D.S.	Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church	Supercuts
Camp Doodles	Kurt Piper Group	Moraga Valley Swim & Tennis Club	Suzanne Toner Geoffrion
Care Indeed	Lafayette Auto Body	Mormon Church of Latter-Day Saints	Suzi O'Brien
CASA of Contra Costa County	Lafayette Beauty Store	Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center	Tara Rochlin
CCCSWA	Lafayette Chamber of Commerce	MV Construction	Taverna Pellegrini
Chateau Lafayette	Lafayette Community Foundation	Mycra Pac Designer Wear	Taxi Bleu
Chef Chao	Lafayette Girls Lacrosse Association	Nancy Rothman	Temple Isaiah
Children's Hospital & Research	Lafayette Pack and Ship	Nancy Stryker	Terri Bates Walker
Center Oak	Lafayette Partners in Education	Natasha Grasso	Terry Wolff Stratton
Chris Swim and Tracey Keaton	Lafayette Physical Therapy	Neil Morse	TG Hardwood Floors
City of Lafayette	Lafayette Rotary	Nurtury Preschool - MVPC	The Art Room
Clark Thompson	Lafayette School District	Oakland Strokes	The Cashmere Store
Climb Real Estate Group	Lafayette United Methodist Church	OLLI Berkeley	THE Crucible
Coldwell Banker Orinda	Lamorinda Bahali Community	Olsen Team	The Heritage Downtown
Computers' Best Friend	Lamorinda Crossfit	Open Water Pilates	The New Home Company
Concept Builders	Lamorinda Floors	Orinda Academy	The Saklan School
Cougar Football Camp	Lamorinda Hauling	Orinda Association	The Writing Studio
Dana Green Team	Lamorinda Lacrosse Club	Orinda Books	The Yarn Boutique
Dana Reedy	Lamorinda Soccer Club	Orinda Chamber of Commerce	Theater View Veterinary Clinic
Danny's SMC camp	Lamorinda Solar	Orinda Classic Car Show	Tom Stack
Debra Alber	Lamorinda Spirt Van	Orinda Community Church	Total Clean
Destination Wealth Management	Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club	Orinda Farmer's Market	Total Integrity Insurance Services
Diablo Acupuncture	Lamorinda Theatres	Orinda Theatre Square	Town Hall Theatre
Diablo Valley Carpet Care	Lamorinda Web	Orinda Union School District	Tree Sculpture Group
Dick Holt	LARC - Holy Shepherd	Orinda Village Antiques	Truitt & White
Divine Consign	Larry Duson & Jeanne Jones	Orion Academy	Twist and Twirl
Don Garofulo	Laura Abrams	Pacific Union	Tyler Hargan
Dr. Mary Smith, DDS	Law Offices of Lauren Smykowski	Pacific Urology	UC School of Optometry
Drainage Pro	Leap Frog Plumbing	Paddy Kehoe	UPS Store
Dudum Real Estate Group	Leslie Lomond	Pamela Halloran	Valerie Durantini
East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club	Level 33 Entertainment	Park Place Wealth Advisors	Viking Pavers
Edward Keech- Chora Nova	LevLane Advertising-Viamonte	Patrizia Marrone	Village Associates
Elena Hood	Linda Ehrich	Patti Camras	Vino Restaurant
Emily Estrada	Linda Friedman	Perfect Services	Virginia Varni-Ratto
Erik M. Breitling, Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA	Lisa Schoenhouse	Peter Liu	Viva l' Espaniol
Erin Martin	LMYA	Piano Studio	Vlatka Bathgate
Exera Fitness	LMYA Swim	Piedmont Choir	Ware Designs
Fastframe of Lafayette	LOPC	Potomac Association	Willow Spring Church
Finola Fellner	Lorne Smith Lacrosse	Premier Kitchens	Windsor Auction House
Firecracker Math	Lynda Snell and Jeff Snell	Price Gallegos Group	

(partial list based on revenue /frequency)

SAINT MARY'S MEN'S HOOPS



THE RISE TO MARCH STARTS NOW!

VS. LMU, 12/28 8PM

VS. PACIFIC, 1/4 7PM

VS. SAN DIEGO, 1/6 8PM

Free RANDY BENNETT GNOME to first 1000 fans
courtesy of Common Interest Management

PURCHASE TICKETS AT SMCGAELS.COM/TICKETS



LAMORINDA SPORTS

What it takes to be a football official

By Jon Kingdon



Rich Broad Photos provided

Help wanted: Looking for someone with a love of sports. Willing to take verbal and occasional physical abuse, have their eyesight, brains, ancestry and overall existence continually questioned. Willing to stand among 22 testosterone driven teenagers dressed in armor and be able to withstand the occasional collision. Payment will cover your golf outings and beer consumption each week. Male or female. If interested, please contact the Contra Costa Football Officials Association.

Longtime Lafayette resident Rich Broad is one of those people that answered the call to be an official, though not through the above fictitious ad, and he has never looked back. Broad, who works in the beverage and food industry, has been working as an official for the Contra Costa Football Officials Association (CCFOA) for the past 15 years.

Working with colleagues that range in age from the early 20s to those in their 70s, Broad has found great satisfaction in his officiating pursuit and speaks for

his fellow officials: "It's a hobby and a challenge. It's something that's fun to do and at the same time, it's giving back to the kids and the schools in the community. I was exposed to refereeing by a roommate whose father was a Pac 10 referee. I thought it would be interesting and was referred to the association."

The CCFOA has a president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, assigning secretary and training coordinator. If one is interested in becoming a football official, it's simply a matter of applying to the association. However, becoming an official requires more than just showing up with a striped shirt.

It all begins with a gentleman named Bert Michalczyk who is in charge of training the first and second year officials. He holds a number of sessions during the summer prior to the season. The association sets up a set of summer study sessions, which Broad organizes, utilizing videos of prior high school games. There is also a preseason all-day clinic and refereeing at least two preseason high school scrimmages. The aim is for constant improvement for each official as they are expected to continually study the rule books and other trade publications throughout the year.

There are two books that the officials need to know forward and backward. First is the 100-page rulebook. Second is the mechanics book – this is a book that defines where each of the officials needs to be at all times and in all situations to assure maximum

coverage of the field and allow each official to communicate verbally and nonverbally with each other.

As in most things, some officials are better than others. What is it that makes a top official? There are a number of factors, according to Broad: "First and foremost, there has to be a willingness and desire to learn and improve. Physical conditioning is important to assure that you will be in the right position to see and make the correct call."

Mastering the skill of officiating does not come quickly. According to Broad: "You constantly learn more and more things to be looking out for. It takes between four and eight years before you really feel confident and the game becomes second nature to you."

There is a strong human factor as well that Broad feels can be as important as knowing the rules: "You have to be able to manage people, particularly the coaches and players. I hold the coaches to a high level of sportsmanship; they are teachers and we expect them to act as role models to the 'students.'"

Safety is also a priority for the officials and with experience, one learns the techniques to help avoid contact, though, at times, it's something that simply can't be avoided. Broad says: "In general, we hope that everyone prioritizes their own safety over putting themselves in a risky situation."

Many of the officials have full-time jobs and others are retired. About half of the football officials

will officiate other sports. There have been female officials in the past and there is currently one female official in the association.

The association is constantly on the lookout for new referees. There are some days during the season that will call for as many as 85 officials. Broad says that they particularly welcome people who have worked other sports because "those who referee other sports will come in understanding the nuances of officiating."

The CCFOA takes great pride in Johnny Jenkins who began refereeing high school games in Contra Costa and is now an official in the National Football League. There are a number of officials in the CCFOA that also work at various levels of college football. Dave Cutaia, a retired police chief in the Martinez Police Department, is also an Arena Football Official, has refereed a college national championship game and is the rules interpreter for ABC and ESPN on their nationally televised games.

With the players and the coaches constantly yelling at the officials, how does one block that out? "For me, it's pretty easy," says Broad. "I grew up blocking



out my mom when she told me to do the chores around the house. Actually, it's a matter of having confidence in what you're doing and also knowing that as human beings, we are going to make mistakes sometimes."

How does Broad define a successful game? "It's those nights when you walk off the field and you feel that you did a really good job in controlling a game that was very physical and competitive," he says. "Officiating has been a great experience because it allows

What's Gint Federas' craziest sports photography experience?

Campolindo winning the State Championship in 2014. "When Campolindo miraculously won an exciting game by scoring four touchdowns in the last 12 minutes, the winner being an 85-yard fumble return where I was waiting in the wrong end zone," sports photographer Gint Federas said. "I caught Adam Remotto running away from me as no one expected a fumble when El Capitan was in scoring position to end the game."

After taking photos of an amazing game, Federas had the privilege of presenting the State trophy as a Farmer Insurance agency owner, when Farmers was a CIF title sponsor. "As a sponsor, I also had locker room access to take after-game photos," Federas added. And, of course, he did. — J. Wake



LMYA

SPRING SPORTS

Registration Open

January 10th-20th



Teeball
Kindergarten Coed

Softball
1st - 8th Grade Girls

Volleyball
4th - 8th Grade Girls

Baseball
2nd - 6th Grade Boys

All skill levels welcome!

www.lmyasports.com


UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals
 Oakland | San Francisco

SPORTS MEDICINE CENTER FOR YOUNG ATHLETES

OAKLAND (510) 428-3558
SAN FRANCISCO (415) 353-2808
SAN RAMON (925) 979-3450
WALNUT CREEK (925) 979-3430



f 2017

Special thanks to our photographer Gint Federas, who takes so many of Lamorinda Weekly's photos printed in each issue.



2017-18 DAL All-League – Foothill Division and Valley Division



Robbie Rowell



John Torchio



Peter Stehr



Rob Vanderlaan



Max Thrasher



Brian Merken



Audrey Pak



Maddy Risch

Football - 2017-18

Most Valuable Player Offense- All-League

Foothill Division
Robbie Rowell Acalanes

Most Valuable Player Defense- All-League

Foothill Division
John Torchio Campolindo

First Team - All-League - Foothill Division

John Torchio Campolindo

Peter Stehr Miramonte

Rob Vanderlaan Miramonte

Max Thrasher Acalanes

Brian Merken Acalanes

Vince Mossotti Campolindo

Chris Brahney Campolindo

Ryan Nall Acalanes

Sam Walker Miramonte

Grant Larsen Campolindo

Nick Henderson Acalanes

Trenton Tso Acalanes

Second Team - All- League

Foothill Division

Will Cassriel Miramonte

Cole Berzins Campolindo

Cole Brant Acalanes

Eric Larson Acalanes

Justin Ehrenberger Campolindo

Parker Windatt Campolindo

Aidan McNamara Acalanes

Mark Mezody Miramonte

Nicholas Bettencourt Acalanes

Gabe Middleton Acalanes

Jake Hassard Miramonte

Ryan Regan Campolindo

2nd Team All-League - Foothill Division

Theresa Nevins Acalanes

Paige Johnson Campolindo

Medghan Holman Miramonte

Honorable Mention - Foothill Division

Lane Webster Acalanes

Vanessa Vaisnor Campolindo

Clair Swan Miramonte

58

58

67

19

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

11

DAL list will be continued on our next edition on Jan. 10.

Girls Volleyball - 2017-18

Most Valuable Player - Foothill Division

Audrey Pak Campolindo

1st Team All-League - Foothill Division

Maddy Risch Acalanes

Cam Blakely Campolindo



Cam Blakely



Tatiana Luevano



Lauren Lim



Theresa Nevins

SHOP ORINDA



Winter Painting Sale
10% Off Interior Painting

Book your interior painting. Work must be completed December 1st - February 28, 2018.

925-247-0092
MarkBellinghamPainting.com

Exterior & Interior Painting
Deck Refinishing Dry Rot Repair

Local Moraga Resident
California Contractor License 456414
Fully insured

See our reviews on Yelp, Nextdoor, Houzz



65 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 925-258-4200
659 Columbus, Ave, SE, CA 415-397-7355



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

Find Us On  

www.tavernapellegrini.com - www.piazzapellegrini.com

Mexican Restaurant



Open 7 Days a Week
We serve breakfast all day!
(open at 10:30 a.m.)

Authentic Mexican Specialties
Mixed Fajitas
Shrimp and Salmon Tacos,
Baja Cali Diablo New York Steak Burrito
Margaritas, Wine & Beer
Kids Menu

23 Orinda Way, Orinda (925) 258-9987

Park Place
WEALTH ADVISORS, INC.
A Registered Investment Advisor

- Retirement & Income Planning
- Estate Planning
- Charitable Planning
- Educational Funding

401K Rollover Specialists
18 Orinda Way, Orinda • 925-254-7766

Registered Principals with and Securities offered through Securities America, Inc.
Member FINRA, SIPC. Park Place Wealth Advisors Inc. and Securities America are separate entities

ORINDA TAXI

24/7 AIRPORTS & LOCAL
(925) 482-7112
(925) 253-TAXI (8294)
orindataxi@gmail.com www.orindataxi.com

FINE CUSTOM HOMES & REMODELS



ORINDA

925-253-7828
WWW.KATTENBURGARCHITECTS.COM

The Medicine Shoppe
PHARMACY
Caring beyond prescriptions.

Alan Wong, R.Ph.

282 Village Square, Orinda (925) 254-1211
The Pharmacy That's All About Your HealthSM

We're more than a dependable health professional. We're also your personal health advisor.

The UPS Store

Hours:
Mon-Fri 8:00-6:00
Sat 9-5, Sun closed

Our location:
21 Orinda Way Ste C
Orinda, CA 94563

- Shipping
- Copying, Finishing
- Printing Services
- Notary Services
- Postal Services
- Business Services

store2643@theupsstore.com
www.theUpsStoreLocal.com/2643

Orinda Village Antiques

Taking Tea in the English Manner



Mon. - Sat. 11 to 6 or by appointment
107 Orinda Way • Orinda • 925.254.2206

ORINDA BOOKS

The Bookstore in village square!

276 Village Square, Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-7606
www.orindabooks.com

YOUR COMPLETE COMMUNITY BOOKSTORE

McCaulou's

Save Gas
Save Money
Save Time

Shop your local McCaulou's

To advertise on
Shop Orinda call
925.377.0977

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 22 Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017



Feng Shui tips for winter

...read on page D4

Cynthia Brian's gardening guide for January

Yuletide yearnings

By Cynthia Brian

"First say to yourself what you would be, and, then do what you have to do." ~Epictetus



A pink striped azalea looks like a post-holiday candy cane.

Photo Cynthia Brian

As the holidays melt to a warm memory, we find ourselves gearing up for a new beginning. The number one New Year's resolution made by the majority of people has to do with fitness. Do you yearn to lose weight? Fit into a smaller size? Get stronger? Exercise more? Be happier?

Good news. The garden gym awaits your arrival. Gardening tasks qualify for a moderate to intense exercise program. If you are the type of person who wears a device to track your steps and your heart rate, you are in for a healthy surprise when you start gardening.

For the most powerful, full-body workout, get out your shovel and start digging. Other gardening chores that will give you positive results include weeding, planting, hoeing, seeding, watering, pulling hoses, pushing lawnmowers, pruning, carrying buckets and even harvesting your crops. Raking and trimming can burn 300 calories an hour. You'll tone your body and your mind.

I start each morning with a brisk walk around my property to inspect my plants, pull errant weeds and the occasional dandelions as well as check on my birdhouses, bird baths, bird feeders and fountains. As I breathe the clean morning air, this jaunt has become my daily meditation. Climbing the hill to the orchard gets my heart pumping and moving rocks that have tumbled in the night strengthens my arm muscles. After 30 minutes of invigoration, my mind is clear, my heart is open, my body feels nimble, and I'm ready to tackle the day.

... continued on page D6





Happy Holidays!



Paul & Virginia Ratto

925.998.9501
 vvarni@pacunion.com
 www.RattoandRatto.com
 License #: 00900621 | 01361537



Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	6	\$812,000	\$2,755,000
MORAGA	4	\$644,000	\$1,306,000
ORINDA	6	\$980,000	\$2,800,000

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

- 4144 Canyon Road, \$2,755,000, 4 Bdrms, 2970 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-22-17
- 3168 Diablo View Road, \$1,355,000, 4 Bdrms, 2639 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 11-22-17;
 Previous Sale: \$775,000, 10-06-05
- 1123 Garden Lane, \$1,045,000, 3 Bdrms, 1636 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 11-21-17
- 3110 Gloria Terrace, \$812,000, 3 Bdrms, 1757 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 11-21-17;
 Previous Sale: \$230,000, 06-16-93
- 17 Hidden Valley Road, \$1,860,000, 4 Bdrms, 2353 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 11-21-17;
 Previous Sale: \$317,500, 08-12-85
- 3626 Mosswood Drive, \$960,000, 3 Bdrms, 1593 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 11-21-17;
 Previous Sale: \$305,000, 08-06-97

MORAGA

- 22 Arroyo Drive, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1813 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-21-17
- 327 Constance Place, \$1,306,000, 4 Bdrms, 2055 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 11-21-17;
 Previous Sale: \$63,000, 09-23-71
- 27 Miramonte Drive, \$644,000, 3 Bdrms, 1447 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 11-22-17;
 Previous Sale: \$560,000, 10-23-14
- 1143 Sanders Drive, \$1,075,000, 2 Bdrms, 2113 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 11-22-17

ORINDA

- 57 Charles Hill Road, \$1,600,000, 2 Bdrms, 4057 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-21-17
- 77 El Toyonal, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2154 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 11-22-17;
 Previous Sale: \$427,000, 11-16-99
- 48 Lost Valley Drive, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2359 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-21-17
- 110 Orchard Road, \$980,000, 3 Bdrms, 1610 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 11-21-17;
 Previous Sale: \$57,000, 04-13-73
- 118 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$2,800,000, 11-22-17;
 Previous Sale: \$2,175,000, 03-18-16
- 10 Tarry Lane, \$1,755,000, 4 Bdrms, 2809 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 11-22-17;
 Previous Sale: \$1,697,500, 06-23-15

*Happy
 New
 Year*



Drainage Systems

- Standing Water Problems Eliminated
- Sump Pump Service, Repairs & Replacement
- Drainage Inspections & Reports
- Retaining Walls
- Grading

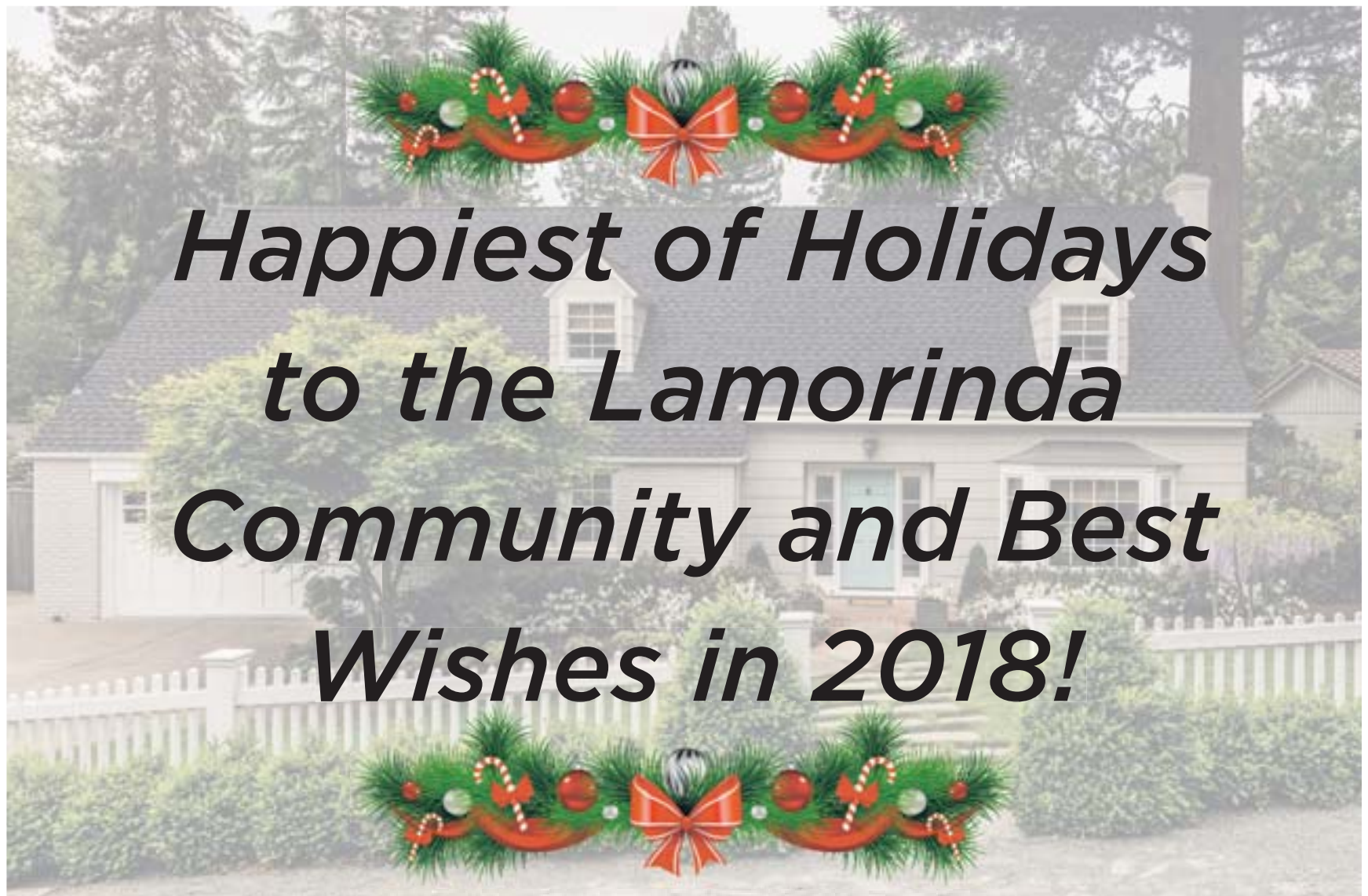


925-944-5263
 drainagepros.com





BRINGING LAMORINDA HOME



Terri Bates Walker

Broker, J.D.

510.282.4420 | terri@terribateswalker.com

terribateswalker.com | Follow me on: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [i](#)

License# 01330081

**PACIFIC
UNION
INTERNATIONAL**



Feng Shui tips for the winter months

By Michele Duffy



Decorative mirrors symbolize the water element.

Photos provided

The nights are long and dark now, with winter's chilly breath whispering frosty remembrances marking the season of stillness. No wonder winter is connected to the water element! The qualities of the winter season and water element are powerfully intertwined, including frozen water turning up as sparkly seasonal snow and ice, or knowing that if you gaze at the surface of a body of water it may appear like not much is going on, but as in winter, life's dormancy often reveals much activity happening beneath the surface.

Once the dreamy and thoughtful pause of a winter freeze thaws, water also nourishes new life, fresh starts, new ideas and beginnings often connected with springtime. Both water and winter play very important roles in the cycles of the ages, in our lives, and on our planet.

Feng shui integrates all of the Five Elements skillfully into our spaces and reintroduces us to living more aligned with nature and paying attention to the natural cycles and seasons. Feng shui introduces you to its benefits by analyzing every level of your space including

healthy chi flow, floor plan and yard analysis, furniture placement, symbolism, artwork, texture, color, and so on. What you surround yourself with, you become.

The Five Elements include water, wood, fire, earth and metal. In each life area of the Bagua (see diagram, next page) all five elements ideally should be present and the carefully trained eye of a professional can help ensure that the right proportion of each element is maintained for balanced activation. Sound feng shui connects us to the essence of this natural source of positive chi flow. Each of the five elements rules each of the nine Bagua areas, such as Health and Wellness, which is ruled by earth, or Children and Completion, ruled by metal.

In Feng Shui we utilize in every space the "creative or productive cycle" (water creates wood, wood creates fire, fire creates earth, earth creates metal and metal creates water) and also the "controlling" or "overcoming" cycle, when one element is too dominating in your environment.

The water element symbolizes flowing, unstructured, seeking chi, intuitiveness, rejuvenation, ease, purity, refreshment, spirituality, adventure, nourishment, money, mystery and courage. Water has different types of energy too and can be both yin and yang. Water can be gentle, calm or still (yin) like small rivers, streams and ponds or fluid and moving (yang) like

oceans, waterfalls and large lakes. Having too little water represented in your space will create stress, anxiety, money issues, lethargy, stuck life force and money chi, while having too much water can create a chaotic, unproductive, unpredictable and spacey environment for residents.

Placing a water element or water symbolism near your front entrance and in the career area is important to activate healthy chi for your entire home and also for your career. Water flows and so keeping it actually flowing in the front of your home will ensure a steady flow of life force energy to your home. If your career is in a slump, activating the water element is a first step to restoring balance in that area of your life. Since water creates wood it is also very beneficial to place the water element in the wood-governed areas of Wealth and also Family. Placing too much water in the fire or earth areas (see Bagua) will weaken those vital areas of Reputation, Relationships, Health & Wisdom and should be done so quite skillfully.

Use actual water elements like fountains, koi ponds and fish tanks. Use blues, and black colors, which are linked to water energy, and include mirrors, glass, artwork depicting water. Purchase blue rugs, pillows, bedspreads, or sofas, or incorporate wavy, curvy watery shapes or sculptures to your décor.

... continued on next page



Adjust the water element with the warmth of a roaring fire.

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

The Bagua Map: Front Door

And remember, if your space feels like it needs warming up after activating all this water element, simply add some fire and earth elements to balance the water. Make warmer (yang) foods and drinks to counter the cold (yin) of the winter season. Everything should feel balanced so if your décor feels too chilly and wintry, simply adjust the space room by room, by adding warm red pillows or cozy throws, then light some candles or make a flickering fire.

Your home will feel alive and vibrant but also cozy and inviting, and you truly will enjoy and share this holiday season, a home retreat that creates nourishing space as medicine. Incorporating feng shui into your home enables a time-tested wisdom to shelter you, creating a cocoon from winter's harsh breath. From your perch it is easy to draw inspiration, share the seasons joys and dream contentedly.

Happy Holidays!

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



Happy Holidays from PREMIER KITCHENS

While we specialize in Kitchens, our team is able to design custom, quality cabinets for any room in your home meeting all your aesthetic and functional needs... all within your budget.

Stop by and see our newly re-designed Showroom Today!

(925) 283-6500

3373 Mount Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette, CA 94549
Info@premierkitchens.net
www.premierkitchens.net



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for January

Yuletide yearnings

... continued from page D1



A robin's nest nestles in a bare tulip magnolia with a camellia beginning to bloom in the background.

Here are few safety tips for "exercising" in the garden:

1. Like any exercise, warm up before you go outside. Stretch.
2. Use a cushion when kneeling to plant, weed, or dig.
3. Bend at the knee when you need to lift something. This decreases stress on your neck, shoulders and back.
4. Keep your back straight as much as possible. Minimize lumbar strain by refraining from slouching.
5. Use lightweight tools that suit your body type.
6. Pull branches to your eye level or use an extender when pruning. Don't twist or try to reach too high.
7. Don't overload the wheelbarrow or the buckets. Make more trips.
8. Wear gloves, boots with treads, a hat, sunscreen, and clothes that you don't mind ruining. (Personally, I have three drawers of old ratty tatty garden clothes that I love because they are comfortable and disaster proof. When they are too worn out or too ripped, they become gardening rags!)



Cyclamen red and white.

9. Employ a spotter whenever you climb on a ladder. Severe injuries and even death can occur when a ladder fails or falls.

Research has indicated that gardening helps with lowering blood pressure and cholesterol, prevents heart disease, osteoporosis and diabetes. It also boosts your creativity, reduces stress, and fights depression. Gardening is a physical, mental and spiritual sport. When you garden, your entire body gets a work out from the bottom of your feet to the top of your head. All of your senses will be awakened as the sights, sounds, tastes, textures and scents are stimulated by the natural world. The added attraction is that you can harvest what you grow – flowers, herbs, vegetables, fruits, branches, even weeds.

You'll burn calories, work your muscles, and enhance your senses by working in your garden. If you don't want to join the green thumb tribe, go outside to hike in the beautiful hills. Trails abound throughout our area. Anytime you walk in nature (also known as forest bathing), you will be rewarded with a plethora of benefits that will keep you in good health and more satisfied with life.

Become a green, lean, gardening machine! Happy New Year!

<p>DESIGN INSTALLATION IRRIGATION DRAINAGE STONEWORK CONCRETE WORK DECKS FENCES PATIOS LAWNS PONDS CLEANUP & HAULING</p>		<p>BLUE RIDGE</p> <p>510-847-6160</p> <p>LANDSCAPE COMPANY INC. BLUE JAY FELDMAN OWNER/OPERATOR WWW.BLUERIDGELC.COM</p>	<p>LICENSED INSURED Lic# 818633</p>
--	--	---	---

Cynthia Brian's gardening guide for January

Although you still will enjoy plenty of downtime during winter, the Yuletide January garden requires a bit of attention as you clean out the old to prepare for the new.

- **PRUNE** your deciduous trees, including fruit trees while the weather is cold and the trees are dormant to maintain the tree's food supply.
- **CUT** budding branches of flowering quince. The buds will open when brought indoors providing plenty of red or pink flowers for your enjoyment.
- **PERUSE** spring seed and summer bulb catalogues to find ideas for ordering and next season planting.
- **MULCH** to keep the ground warm and erosion from emerging.
- **PICK** bouquets of narcissi. The strong perfume is especially welcome in bathrooms and dressing rooms.
- **BURN** calories by getting physical in the garden. Do your own work.
- **MOW** lawns at least every two weeks.
- **BLOOMS** begin now on camellias, azaleas and orchids. Soon you'll find many colors to choose from at your local nursery.
- **MOVE** your Christmas tree to the curb on pickup day for your area. Make sure to remove all ornaments, tinsel and lights. If you miss your day, you'll need to cut up your tree and put it in the green organic cart for a later pickup.
- **MAKE** end of year tax-deductible donations at www.BetheStarYouAre.org as the 501 c3 charity continues work for Operation Disaster Relief.
- **ARRANGE** pots of cyclamen on your front porch as a bright and cheery greeting.
- **CUT** your final rose blossoms and prepare for heavy pruning of roses toward the end of the month. Tune in to my live radio broadcast on Wednesday, Jan. 24 from 4 to 5 p.m. when I'll be interviewing renowned rosarian Michael Marriott of David Austin Roses in England. He'll give us the tips we need to prune as well as how to plant bare root heirlooms. <http://www.voiceamerica.com/show/2206/be-the-star-you-are>
- **ORDER** roses from David Austin before Feb. 28 and get a 15 percent discount with this code: UPA at www.DavidAustinRoses.com
- **ENJOY** the birds, especially the sea birds when you visit the coast.
- **GIVE** my newest gift book to yourself or someone you love. "Growing with the Goddess Gardener, twelve months of inspiration and gardening tips to sustain your inner gardener with a full year of kindness and happiness in nature" is available with both black and white or color photo interiors. For best prices, buy directly from www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store and 25 percent is a donation to Be the Star You Are!® charity PLUS you'll receive extra goodies and an autographed copy. Pick up at my office to eliminate shipping costs!
- **CONTROL** runoff, clean the water, and enjoy colorful specimens by planting a rain garden. High Country Gardens offers two preplanned, ready to go kits. <http://www.highcountrygardens.com>
- **HARVEST** Swiss chard for a quick, nutritious sauté.
- **PREPARE** for a year of cheer, good will, and gardening news as we celebrate the Yuletide together.

Do what you need to do to be what you want to be!

Happy Gardening! Happy Growing!



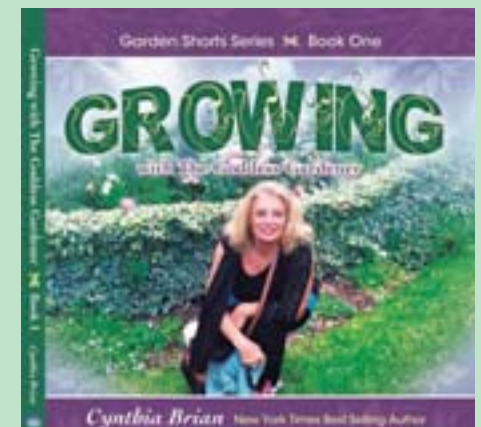
Narcissi add a sweet scent to the January atmosphere.



Harvest Swiss Chard for a winter sauté.



Orchids are showing up in stores in January.

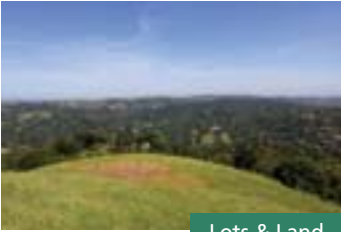


Cynthia Brian's gift book, Growing with the Goddess Gardener. www.CynthiaBrian.com

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. 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. Available for hire. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

ORINDA



Lots & Land

40 Dos Osos

Incredible Orinda, San Pablo Dam, Mt. Diablo forever views Once in a lifetime opportunity raw land sale.

\$489,000

ORINDA



Coming Soon

150 La Espiral

Extraordinary living comes alive in this fabulous renovated home of high style design integrity. Total privacy.

Call for Price

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.

\$2,495,000

ORINDA



18 Charles Hill Circle

Wonderfully Private, Enchanting Estate in a Great Orinda Location. Gated premium property with lovely views & setting.

\$3,795,000

ORINDA



10 Winding Lane

A setting like no other. A tasteful estate situated up a winding lane of 8.6 acres. 3 main structures of apx. 23,422 sq.ft.

\$16,500,000

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

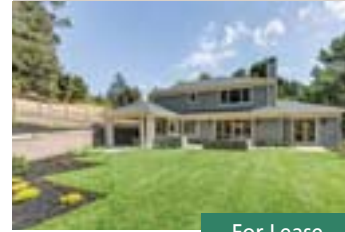


23 Indian Wells Street

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

\$1,400,000

LAFAYETTE



For Lease

1601 Reliez Valley Road

Breathtaking new custom by SpringHill Homes boasts 5bd/4.5ba, 4323sf of incredible living spaces on scenic 1.23acres.

\$9,000/ Month

ALAMO



212 Dorchester Lane

Traditional +/- 4,500sf grand estate w/ incredible setting & views! .62 acre prime lot backs to Mt. Diablo.

\$2,095,000

DANVILLE



130 Mattos Court

Unique opportunity to customize single level cul-de-sac home. 4 Bedrooms/ 3 Baths /2887 sq ft.

\$995,000

OAKLAND



407 Hiller Drive

Stunning Hiller Highlands end unit townhome with versatile open floor plan. Beautifully renovated kitchen.

\$889,000

ROSSMOOR



1840 Tice Creek Drive, #2432

Bright & cheerful 4th floor Chatsworth Model with western views of Mt. Diablo. Spacious floor plan.

\$360,000

The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby
Patricia Battersby
Shannon Conner
Meara Dunsmore
Linda Ehrich

Joan Evans
Linda S. Friedman
Dexter Honens II
Anne Knight

Susan Zeh Layng
Charles Levine
Darrick Martin
Erin Martin

April Matthews
Hillary Murphy
Karen Murphy
John Nash

Ben Olsen
Sue Olsen
Tara Rochlin

Jaime Roder
Altie Schmitt

Judy Schoenrock
Ann Sharf

Amy Rose Smith
Molly Smith
Jeff Snell

Lynda Snell
Steve Stahle

Clark Thompson
Angie Evans Traxinger

Ignacio Vega
Ann Ward

Jenny Lyons Wilhite
Margaret Zucker

facebook.com/VillageAssociates
twitter.com/villageassoc
instagram.com/VillageAssociates

93 Moraga Way, Suite 103 • Orinda, CA 94563 • Phone: (925) 254-0505

Visit www.villageassociates.com Click on **Sunday Open Homes**

Village
ASSOCIATES
REAL ESTATE