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Residents stand and turn their backs during Council Member Kymberleigh Korpus' 30-minute argument against locking up firearms at the Feb. 28 council meeting.

Photo provided

## Moraga passes mandatory firearm lock ordinance

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga Town Council members approved 4 to 1 at its Feb. 28 meeting a new ordinance that will require firearm owners in town to secure weapons when not in their immediate control. The ordinance that some called a common sense measure, or a first step to improve the safety of children, garnered large public support over a year of debates, research and discussions. This final public meet-

ing that led to the adoption was conducted in a mostly civil manner; it was an opportunity, however, for Council Member Kymberleigh Korpus to monopolize the dais and build an opposing case, albeit a failed attempt.

Mayor Dave Trotter indicated that it was the first time in all his years on the council that the city clerk ran out of speaker cards. The town meeting chamber was overflowing with

residents that night who wanted to make the final push and have their position recorded on the topic of firearm storage. Over 70 people spoke or wrote a statement that night, with 65 supporting and six opposing the text.

Emotions ran high in the town chambers when gun violence survivors made a plea to the council to approve the text. ... continued on page A5

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## DeSaulnier gun violence conversation draws large crowd

By Pippa Fisher



Attendees queue up outside Stanley Middle School Feb. 24 prior to the town hall meeting on gun violence. Photo Pippa Fisher

U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier's message at the recent town hall meeting was clear – the time for silence is over.

DeSaulnier was addressing the issue of gun violence, including suicides, homicides and unintentional shootings. But much of the focus was on mass shootings.

Stanley Middle School's multi-purpose room was packed Feb. 24 for the discussion on preventing gun violence, just 10 days after the tragic high school mass shooting in Park-

land, Fla. that left 17 dead. Nearly 900 people attended the town hall, including many children.

Joining the congressman on the panel was Griffin Dix, co-chair of the Oakland/Alameda County chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, and Rose Kagawa, from Violence Prevention Research at the University of California, Davis.

The three took questions from the audience. A 16-year veteran teacher brought the

crowd to its feet in agreement when he said, "Arming teachers is a B.S. idea."

DeSaulnier agreed. "It's a sad day in America when we have to arm our teachers," the congressman said.

Many in the audience asked how stricter gun laws and assault weapon bans can be brought about.

"The only way we will have this discussion nationally is if you, citizens of the United States of America, are engaged in a passionate civil discourse with people who disagree with you and force us to have that discussion in the open with evidence based on research to drive the discussion and pass the laws," said DeSaulnier.

Over and over DeSaulnier repeated the need to be engaged and to pay attention. He answered one member of the public who asked if signing petitions makes a difference with an unequivocal yes. He urged people to mobilize and to join the national "March for our Lives" on March 24.

Amid the overwhelming support for tighter regulations and a ban on assault weapons was one lone vocal dissenter. For the most

part DeSaulnier was preaching to the choir.

DeSaulnier expressed some hope that Senator Diane Feinstein's assault weapon bill might have real possibility and said that, given comments the president has made recently, he is optimistic of at least getting rid of the loophole on background checks.

On the subject of mental health DeSaulnier pointed to California's attempts to address this, especially at the high school level.

Schools in the Lamorinda area are well aware of the importance of monitoring mental health issues among students and identifying those at risk. Los Lomas High School has recently opened a Wellness Center, which works with the counseling department and health office. The other three high schools will be opening their own over the next few months. And all the high schools now conduct "active shooter" drills.

As lawmakers head back to Washington D.C., DeSaulnier expects the conversation on gun control to continue. He says he is inspired by actions taken by surviving Parkland high school students as they continue to make their voices heard.

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Voters in June to decide fate of Deer Hill land in Lafayette – page A2.	Hands-on teaching of history at local schools – page B1.	Fun-filled spring and summer camp listings – page B5.	Basketball season wraps up – page C1.	Simple greenhouse gardening – page D1.
<b>Fire Districts</b> A8	Pet rescue bill could allow CPR for pets – page A8.			



**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Monday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

Monday, March 19, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**

Monday, March 12, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

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

**Lafayette School District**

Wednesday, March 21, 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

Due to a change in reporting by the Lafayette Police Department, we were unable to get complete information before press time.

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**Lafayette teachers demand fair pay**

By Pippa Fisher



Springhill Elementary School teachers have been wearing black to show solidarity to their union and draw attention to their demands for fair pay. Photo provided

It was clear at a recent Lafayette School District board meeting that teachers are not prepared to wait silently while the union and district continue to negotiate teacher contracts.

The meeting room was packed

with teachers, parents and a few students at the Feb. 21 meeting. Using the public comments time slot of the school board meeting, the board heard from multiple teachers about how they can no longer afford to live in the area in which they work.

While all the teachers agreed they were not in it for the money, the educators pointed to increased duties and responsibilities, with more and more expected of them such as integrating technologies, professional developments, student council, and meetings. With aids' hours cut by the district, many of those duties now additionally fall on teachers, they said.

A parent spoke, showing a chart to illustrate how far behind the cost of living teachers say their salaries have fallen. Springhill Elementary fifth-grade teacher Christina Churchill says that from 2010 to 2016 Lafayette teacher salaries averaged five percent lower than the consumer price index and dropped an additional five percent in 2017.

The teachers took issue with information posted by the district which cites raises given between 2012 and

2016, saying the district was neglecting to mention 2007-2010 when they had no salary increase apart from a one-time annual bonus of one percent.

Churchill explains, "When the economy took a dive, the district asked us to take furlough days and raise our health insurance co-pay with the promise that we would be made whole when the economy was better. They have yet to 'catch us up' as promised."

Churchill said that 68 percent of teachers take second jobs to make ends meet.

Following the speakers, LAFSD School Board President Teresa Gerringer acknowledged the large number of people who had turned up and said that while the board couldn't comment or respond at that time, "We are listening. We do hear you." ... continued on page A12

**Zoning of Deer Hill to be decided in referendum on June ballot**

By Pippa Fisher



Illustrative site plan for the proposed development "Homes at Deer Hill" Photo provided

Lafayette will place a referendum on the ballot in June, effectively giving voters a say in the fate of the land on Deer Hill.

The State Appeals Court ruled on Feb. 21 in favor of the preservationist group known as Save Lafayette, overturning a previous ruling. Save Lafayette had brought the lawsuit to force the referendum over land use zoning in order to block the city's approval of a 44-home development, which they deemed too dense.

The city can now either appeal the decision at the state supreme court or place a referendum on the ballot to accept or repeal ordinance 641, adopted by the city in 2015

which changed the zoning on this parcel from administrative professional office to low density single family residential zoning, in order to make it consistent with the general plan.

Conversely, the city had faced a lawsuit over the same project from the San Francisco Bay Area Renters Federation who claimed the development was not dense enough. The city won that case in 2017.

In a meeting that went to midnight Feb. 26, city council members debated whether to place the referendum on the November ballot or whether to move forward with a ballot at a special election in June.

City Attorney Mala Subramanian explained that if voters chose to allow ordinance 641 to become effective, the developer would be able to move forward. Should the public

choose to repeal the ordinance, the land use would keep the status quo of administrative/office zoning, theoretically allowing the developer to reactivate the application for the 315-unit apartment complex.

Save Lafayette spokesperson Michael Griffiths urged the council to slow down, saying that the group wants to work with the city for a "win, win, win." He said he believes they can work on an attractive solution but pointed out that "a positive outcome for all parties ... takes time" and urged the council to wait until November to put the referendum on the ballot.

The project manager for the Homes at Deer Hill Dave Baker also spoke. He told the council he would like to see an election as soon as possible.

Attorney for Save Lafayette Gary Garfinkle said the case is complicated enough as it is. "If you rush to put this on the June ballot you're inviting substantial complications," he warned.

Two members of the public spoke in favor of moving ahead in June, saying they value the amenities that are part and parcel of the proposed development - a dog park, tot-lot, ball-field and parking.

In the end the decision to put this to the voters in June was 4 to 1 in favor with Council Member Ivor Samson voting against it.

Conversation around ballot language continued at a special meeting March 2, to be continued to a further meeting March 7, in order to allow the public more time to evaluate the issues.

**March 8 named Erling Horn Day**



Photo Pippa Fisher

Mayor Don Tatzin recognized Erling Horn for his 40 years of service to Lafayette at the Feb. 26 city council meeting by proclaiming March 8, Horn's 80th birthday, to be "Erling Horn Day in Lafayette." Horn has been involved with the city in many capacities

over the years including serving eight years on the city council with two terms as mayor, on the parking commission, the planning commission, and many advisory boards. He continues to be active and is in his fifth year on the public art committee. - P. Fisher

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# No parcel tax on June ballot

By Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette School Board decided at their Feb. 21 meeting not to move forward with the parcel tax measure on the June 2018 ballot following a 4 to 1 vote against it.

School Board President Teresa Gerringer says, "While there is unanimous agreement about the need to identify a sustainable, long-term funding source, there was not a clear path to success for a measure that would adequately bridge the gap in state funding."

LAFSD Schools Superintendent Rachel Zinn said in a letter to the community that the vote came after a lengthy and thoughtful discussion about running such a measure.

Zinn points to the high degree of uncertainty that exists including the "unknowns of the new federal tax law, the election of a new governor, the selection of a new superintendent, and changes to the current Lafayette School Board with four seats up for election in November."

Formal polling conducted at the end of last year showed a high degree of community support for the schools but Zinn says the amount that was favorable to voters was not sufficient to balance the budget. She says that, thanks to a small allocation of one-time monies and

gap funding that districts will receive from the state in 2018-19, the district will be granted a reprieve for one year giving the board time for consideration of a future parcel tax measure.

Zinn says that the need to close a substantial funding gap isn't going away.

"Even with slight increases allocated to school districts as part of Gov. Brown's January budget, the Lafayette School District will need to continue to identify sustainable ways to significantly enhance revenues," she says, adding that strong advocacy at the state level is needed if the funding model is to change and adequate funding for districts like Lafayette is made a priority.

Zinn says that money raised by Lafayette Partners in Education becomes even more critical at this time.

"I cannot emphasize how important it is to build a base of understanding about the district's budget and the challenges we face, all which could require us to have to make difficult decisions as we work to maintain our outstanding educational programs," says Zinn. She encourages people to contact her for additional information. Budget information can also be found on the district website.

# Citizen of the Year exemplifies 'service above self'

By Pippa Fisher



Don Jenkins

Photo Pippa Fisher

This year's Citizen of the Year does not sit still and let life come to him; he makes things happen. Don Jenkins was given the honor this year in a unanimous vote, selected from an extremely talented pool of nominees.

Jenkins has taken on leadership roles in so many organizations over the years it is hard to keep track of them all. He says it all started soon after he graduated, with the Junior Chamber of Commerce – an organization for the young in business – and their efforts on a project to get seat belts in all cars.

Born in Berkeley and raised in Danville, Jenkins, the son of a naval chaplain, spent some time in Rhode Island where he graduated from high school before returning to California, graduating from UC Berkeley in 1963 and marrying his wife Linda (Becky) the same year. Linda, a nurse, is no slouch herself with much of her volunteer work done overseas.

"She's as much a part of this as I am," Jenkins says.

The couple moved to Lafayette in 1970, and have two daughters, Renee and Diana, who attended Acalanes High School. Jenkins coached soccer, "despite not knowing any of the rules," he says. He also coached softball and baseball for his daughters through their junior year. He and Linda now have three grandchildren.

Jenkins owned and operated Lafayette Square Insurance Services until he retired three years ago. He received the Business Person of the Year award in 1996 and was the Chamber of Commerce President in 1995.

Jenkins served on the Mt. Diablo Estate Planners Coun-

cil and Planned Giving Council of Northern California and has helped countless people find what they want to make as their legacy, through foundations. He says by sharing his financial expertise he is able to act as an intermediary between organizations and individuals.

He was a founding member of the Lafayette Community Foundation in 1999, which led to involvement with the financial planning for the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

LCF Board President Cheryl Noll says that Jenkins gets more accomplished in one day volunteering than most people do in a month or even a year.

"The Lafayette community has been so fortunate to be on the receiving end of his generosity and spirit. Part of Don's energy has been funneled into the Lafayette Community Foundation, where he was an integral part of raising money for the Lafayette Library and Learning Center," comments Noll.

Jenkins says he enjoys being involved in the early stages of projects. He was part of the fundraising team that made the California Shakespeare Festival in Orinda a reality, and is a member of the Sunrise Rotarians, where he served as both Rotary president and national advisor to the Rotary Foundation.

Last year's Citizens of the Year, Dick and Robin Holt say the community is the better for his accomplishments. "Don has given so much to our community over many decades.

He epitomizes the Rotary motto of service over self," says fellow-Rotarian Dick Holt.

... continued on page A12



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## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Wednesday, March 7, 6 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 14, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Monday, March 19, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Design Review

Monday, March 12, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### School Board Meetings

**Moraga School District**  
Tuesday, March 13, 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

#### Department

#### Incident

#### Summary

#### Report

#### Jan. 30 to Feb. 12

Alarms	16
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	87
Suspicious Circumstances	13
Suspicious Subject	0
Suspicious Vehicle	6
Service To Citizen	31
Patrol Request/ Security Check	67
Noise Complaint	4
Supplemental Report	15
Welfare Check	7

#### Abandoned Vehicle

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#### Accident Property

Moraga Way/Orchard Rd.

#### Battery

Not Available

#### Civil

Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.  
300 Block Rheem Blvd.  
100 Block Brookline  
2000 Block Donald Dr.  
1300 Block Camino Pablo  
3900 Block Campolindo Dr.  
Not Available  
Campolindo High School

#### Court

Walnut Creek Superior Court  
Walnut Creek Traffic Court

#### Death Non Criminal

30 Block Kinston Ct.

#### Dependent Child

Shuey Dr./Rimer Dr.

#### Disturbing the Peace

300 Block Rheem Blvd.

#### Excessive Speed

Rheem Center  
Moraga Way/Hardie Dr.  
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr.

#### Fire/EMS Response Info

700 Block Crossbrook Dr.

#### Found Property

Subway

#### Grand Theft

Canyon Bridge

#### Grand Theft From Building

St. Marys College

#### H&S Violation

Greenfield Dr./Camino Ricardo

#### Identity Theft

60 Block Lynwood Pl.  
600 Block Rheem Blvd. (2)  
10 Block Magee Ct.

#### Juvenile Disturbance

20 Block Idlewood Ct.

#### Lost Property

Moraga Country Club  
Police Department

#### Mentally Ill Commit

Campolindo High School

#### Ordinance Violation

1000 Block Alta Mesa Dr.

#### Other Felony

Police Department



# Cynthia Battenberg is ready to take on Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

She may be small in stature, but new Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg is tough and she comes to her position with determination and a large ambition. She will meet residents, like the folks of Viva Moraga, who want increased economic vitality and plans to confront the roadblocks her predecessors faced: a limited budget, unyielding groups for and against development, historical complex processes, and residents that seem to relish a good controversy now and then.

Battenberg worked for the city of San Leandro where she progressed up the ladder over the last 16 years. A large part of her experience, including her latest responsibility as Community Development Director, pertained to economic development and planning.

As the development director,

Battenberg worked on very large and significant projects for the city, such as the Shoreline development: 75 acres being developed with private partnerships to build a 220-room hotel and restaurants, apartments, single family homes and condominiums, a golf course, a boat-launch, plazas and pedestrian and bike paths, and 15 acres of park land. She explains that the process took years of collaboration with multiple stakeholders. She also worked with industrial operators such as Torani, the syrup company that is transforming a part of the industrial community and creating jobs.

Battenberg has also worked on city finances, including revenue measures passed in San Leandro. She worked to set up assessment districts. Prior to her career in San Leandro she was an avid environmentalist. She started solid waste

diversion programs, including one with the city of Beverly Hills. She considers herself a businessperson, something she discovered when she was working on her bachelor's degree at UC Berkeley and decided to continue with an MBA at UCLA focusing on finance.

An energetic and optimistic woman, Battenberg believes that even if the situation has been somewhat stale in Moraga, previous efforts have set the stage for change and that new blood and new energy can be the catalysts for transformation. She believes that the town's job is to establish a vision for what the community wants and get buy-in. She believes that the Moraga Center Specific Plan is a fantastic opportunity to generate excitement, and she believes that people want a more vibrant retail scene, some choices for restaurants and more places to hang out.

Battenberg says that Moraga has been on her radar for some time for her professional progression. The town has what she wants: a smaller size where she could get to know most people and become a part of it all, close to home in Oakland's Crocker Highlands with her two teenage children, and a town full of charm and potential. Battenberg does not think that she will get bored in Moraga. The new town manager spends some of her high energy on hikes, on her bike or doing yoga.

Battenberg starts officially in Moraga on March 12, but has started to participate in the recruitment of new department directors for the vacant positions: planning, administrative services and parks and recreation. Her priority when she puts her bags down at 329 Rheem will be to work on the passage of the storm drain fee.

## Stormwater assessment fee public hearing March 14

The Town of Moraga is seeking residents' support to pass a stormwater assessment fee. The process for approval is for the town to garner a majority of supporting ballots sent to the town clerk. Before the mailing of the ballots to residents even starts, the town has to make sure that a majority is not opposed to the measure. To voice possible objection residents can file a written protest with the clerk at the public hearing scheduled for March 14, or before that date by mailing it to her. The March 14 hearing will start at 7 p.m. in the town chambers at 335 Rheem Blvd. For more information, visit <http://www.moraga.ca.us/StormDrainFunding>.

# Betting on quality and creativity, Moraga family opens new Town Bakery & Cafe

By Sophie Braccini



John and Rose Reyna (front) and two of their children, with team members. Photo Sophie Braccini

John and Rose Reyna opened their doors to the public for the first time at 5:30 a.m. Monday, March 5, giving day-breakers the opportunity to taste the organic coffees and teas, and the homemade breads and pastry of the new restaurant in town. Town Bakery and Café in Moraga is now opened for breakfast, lunch and early dinner (until 5 p.m.); later hours will be added this spring and summer.

Located at 337 Rheem Boulevard (across from the theater), the new entity replaces HomeMade Kitchen Cafe and Bakery that closed a few months ago. The business owners come with a simple but quality-oriented formula and want to please the residents in their hometown and beyond.

Only coffee, teas and pastries

are available in the early morning hours, but at 7 a.m. the full breakfast/brunch menu becomes available with classics like buttermilk pancakes, house-made pork sausage and eggs, Yukon gold potato hash, egg sandwiches or bacon and mushroom quiche, as well as more unusual fair like the Anson Mills Polenta and Eggs with roasted vegetables, fried eggs, maitaki mushroom, Veggie Madame, with

sprouted bread, roasted eggplant, fried egg, gruyere cheese, or the Wild Mushrooms and Anson Mills Farro Bowl, with fried eggs, arugula and English peas.

The bakery and cafe will feature breads and pastries made in the kitchen daily. Reyna says that his grandfather was the first in the family to open a bakery in his native Philippines; he is simply carrying on the tradition, with additional flavors such as the challah bread that will be baked every Friday.

Lunch hour will feature an entirely different menu, with flatbreads, sandwiches and toasts (open face sandwiches). There are lots of fresh and interesting vegetable combinations on the lunch menu like the Eggplant and Burrata with caper toast, roasted garlic puree, basil, golden raisins, sweet balsamic, parsley, toasted pine nuts, and sourdough whole wheat. But Reyna does not forget the omnivores in town, offering Mary's Chicken Breast Panini, Grass Fed Beef Hamburger, or Rocky Jr. Buttermilk Fried Chicken.

Reyna already has a following in town as owner of Sliders Truck, a food truck that was featured several times last year during the now famous Hacienda Nights. The bakery is his first brick-and-mortar restaurant, but he comes to it with over 15 years of cooking and restaurant management experience gained in Las Vegas with Roy Yamaguchi, at Black Oak Grill in Danville where he met his mentor Scott Sasaki, and more.

The restaurateur says that over the years he has developed his touch with simple yet flavorful dishes and he says that it has to start with the quality of the ingredients that are chosen - as local and organic, or at least hormone and pesticide free, as possible.

In the restaurant patrons will have a chance to meet Rose Reyna, John's wife and, Campolindo schedule permitting, one of their three children. Reyna says that he loves to be working where he lives, involving his family and hiring other community youth and adults.

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### Nominate a 2018 Moraga Citizen of the Year

Now is the time to consider who you would like to nominate for Moraga's 2018 "Citizen of the Year." The selection committee is made up the 2017 Citizen of the Year Bobbie Preston as well as representatives from the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, Saint Mary's College, Moraga Citizen's Network and the Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club.

The basic criteria for selecting this year's Citizen are:

1. The nominee must be someone who has given of their time, talent and energy to make Moraga a vibrant community, one where people want to live, work and shop.
2. The nominee must be someone whose body of work has brought the community together and makes folks proud to be Moraga residents.
3. Nominees may include any resident with a Moraga address other than paid public officials, current elected members of the Moraga Town Council, or other elected officials.
4. In making your nomination, please include examples of their contribution to Moraga.

Please email your nominations to [nominations@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:nominations@lamorindaweekly.com) or send them to "Moraga Citizen of the Year Nominations," Lamorinda Weekly, PO Box 6133, Moraga CA 94556.

The deadline for receiving your nomination is March 15.

The celebration dinner will be held on Saturday, April 28 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center.

### More art coming to Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



"Urus Redivivus" and Torenski Kokey's "Journey" now on display near the Orinda Library.

Photo Sophie Braccini

A timeless question the Moraga Arts in Public Spaces committee grapples with is this: What is art? The all-volunteer group meets quarterly and has on its charter the delicate mission to select the statues that adorn the town's public places. New statues are getting ready to be approved for installation in the spring of 2018; they will be added to the ones that initially found a place in Moraga at the end of 2016.

Over a year ago the town of Moraga approved a type of free leasing of large statue contracts allowing local artists to set their creations in public places for a year or two. There is no cost to the town, aside from transportation costs, and in return the artists get exposure and sometimes sell their art to residents. The city of Orinda was the pioneer of this activity in Lamorinda and the Moraga group has benefited from that city's experience and support.

Like in 2016, many of the proposed statues will be coming to Moraga after they have graced Orinda. But it is still quite a painstaking task to select the statues and find an appropriate location for display.

Take for example the magnificent bear statue call Ursus Redivivus (bear reborn) by Alex Nolan, Phillip Glashof and his son Chad that is currently erected next to the Orinda Library. Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda, who launched the sculpture program and chairs the committee, thought of it for the Rheem Center, but the owner of the center, Jay Kerner and his team, who said that they wanted to be part of the art program, thought Ursus might be frightening to children. Also the piece that is made of recycled metal weighs a ton.

Torenski Kokey's Journey by Glenn

Takai will come to Moraga, however. But Onoda questioned where it should be placed. She suggested the new West Commons Park, but this location, which was developed by SummerHill Homes as part of its development agreement to build Harvest Court, had not yet been officially transferred to the town. At the Feb. 26 meeting Onoda said she was confident that ownership would be transferred in time for the March sculpture installation.

Other sculptures coming to Moraga include: Imagine by Amy Evans-McClure at 335 Rheem Blvd.; Rosette by Susannah Israel, 329 Rheem Blvd.; Briar by Susannah Israel, 329 Rheem Blvd.; and Solar Horn by Alex Nolan & Justin Grant, West Commons Park.

The sculptures are scheduled to be installed on March 20 and the committee is seeking volunteers to help. If interested, contact the parks and recreation department at (925) 888-7045.

The first sculptures were installed at the end of 2016 and include pieces that are still on display around town, at the library, at the city offices (329 Rheem) and city chambers (335 Rheem) such as the two horse sculptures by Evans McClure or "Asymmetric Loveseat," a bench by Colin Selig.

The commissioners decided to take a field trip together to the city of Cloverdale in the coming months. That town is part of the Creative Sonoma initiative and displays tens of sculptures along its "Sculpture Trail." The commissioners expressed their gratitude to Ted Urban in particular and to Orinda Art in Public Places, which is helping in so many ways. They will also reach out to different artists for Moraga.

### Firearm lock ordinance

... continued from page A1

High school students, numerous parents of school-age children and two pediatricians stated that an ordinance requiring firearms owners to lock weapons securely when not in their immediate control would be a first step in decreasing the risk of accidental use by youth or suicide by firearms. They agreed with the chief of police, Jon King, that this law is a first step in the direction of increased safety, and will need to be accompanied by a public education campaign.

The chief's position has evolved over the year it took to get the ordinance text approved. When he first spoke about it at the council in September he stated that if such a rule was in the municipal code, he did not see a way for his officers to enforce it. When asked the question of enforcement by Korpus this time around, he gave the example of an unruly teen party where his officers could enforce the new local law if an operational firearm was seen unlocked on the premises. He added that if his department received a complaint involving a resident not keeping firearms locked, his officers would knock on that door and question that person, but would not be allowed to conduct a search of the premises. King added that since all the local PTAs published their support of the new text, he would reach out to them to discuss how to best educate the children.

The text states that no person shall keep any firearm within a residence owned or controlled by that person unless the firearm is stored in a locked container or disabled with a gun lock that has been approved by the California Department of Justice. King reminded the audience that his department makes free gunlocks available.

Six people at the meeting who opposed the text said they feared for their safety if they did not have time to reach for their locked firearm fast enough, in case of an aggressive altercation. Others implied that anti-

gun activists seeking to abolish the Constitution's Second Amendment had manipulated Moraga residents.

Korpus used similar arguments against the text. She spoke continually for 30 minutes, describing how she valued liberty above all else, an American value weaved in the fabric of this country by its founders, that would be threatened by this text since it aims at regulating what people do in the sanctity of their home. She added that even if a majority of the population was supportive of the text, majorities are not always right and it was her duty to fight a measure carried by extreme liberalism.

The mayor asked Korpus several times to conclude her remarks to give other council members an opportunity to speak. Seemingly frustrated by her long diatribe, people began to stand and turn their backs to her. Trotter stopped Korpus after 30 minutes and she finished her presentation after others were able to talk.

Council Member Jeanette Fritzky said she was offended by Korpus' insinuations that she and her fellow council members were extreme liberals driven by emotions. She said that the text made sense as a first step in the direction of increasing the safety of Moraga residents. Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda reiterated that her priority was the safety of the youth and that locking firearms was a good thing. Council Member Roger Wykle said that this new text would not regulate people's freedom in their homes more than the marijuana ordinance did and that he supported it. Mayor Trotter also said that his support was not an emotional reaction but the result of careful study of the topic, including its constitutional implications.

The text will return to the council for a second reading and will become a part of the municipal law a month later.

### Sculpture Funding

The Art in Public Spaces committee has an annual budget of \$5,000, which may be enough to move the statues, but not to purchase any. Moraga Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda asked the committee about fundraising to purchase one of the metal benches by Colin Selig, suggesting titling the piece "Strong Women of Moraga" and reaching out to Moraga women for donations. Onoda can be contacted at [tonoda@moraga.ca.us](mailto:tonoda@moraga.ca.us).

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# Orinda

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, March 20, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 13, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

### Citizens' Infrastructure

**Oversight Commission**  
Wednesday, March 14, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

### School Board Meetings

**Orinda Union School District**  
Monday, March 12, 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 Feb. 11 to Feb. 17

Alarms	39
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	2
Traffic	70
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subjects	4
Suspicious Vehicles	8
Patrol Request/ Security Check	47
Service to Citizen	21
Vacation House Check	11
Welfare Check	5

### Accident Injury

50 Block La Campana Rd.

### Accident Property

Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo  
Moraga Way/Brookwood Rd.  
Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo  
10 Block Valley Dr.

### Auto Burglary

Rite Aid Ori

### Civil

Police Department  
Shell Gas Station

### Death Non Criminal

20 Block Irwin Way

### Forgery

70 Block Claremont Av  
Police Department

### Hit And Run Misdemeanor

10 Block Wilder Rd.

### Identity Theft

60 Block Boeger Ranch Rd.

### Juvenile Disturbance

Glorietta Elementary School

### Loud Party

10 Block El Camino Moraga

### Medical Hospital

10 Block Donna Maria Way

### Ordinance Violation

30 Block La Campana Rd. (2)  
Wild Rye Way/Rabble Rd.

### Prom Shoot

20 Block Bates Blvd.

### Public Assembly Check

Orinda Library

### Reckless Driving

Camino Pablo/Sol Brae Way  
Lombardy Ln./Irving Ln.  
Moraga Way/Leslee Ln.  
Moraga Way/Woodland Rd.  
San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek Rd.  
Donald Dr./Hall Dr.

### School Assembly Check

Miramonte High School (4)

### Traffic Hazard

La Campana Rd./La Espiral

### Traffic Stop

Ivy Dr./Lavina Ct.



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## Nonprofit group ready to build more senior housing in Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty



Site of new senior housing in Orinda

When it came time to refine the Orinda Senior Village in order to achieve savings on interest, the organizers realized that they could pull out enough equity to possibly make another senior housing project in Orinda feasible. Thus, with \$14 million from the first project, the Orinda Senior Village has begun planning a second senior housing project to be located on land leased from Orinda Community Church. The land in question is the highest parking lot, rarely used by the church, which borders a PG&E easement for high

voltage towers.

On the other side of that easement are the homes on Watchwood, whose residents would be the most directly affected by the new building. Mark Roberts, president of the Orinda Senior Village and the Orinda Senior Housing Foundation, said that they are working with the neighbors on adjacent streets to address their concerns.

Unlike Orinda Senior Village, the new project will not be a Section 8 development for very low-income seniors, but will be intended for low- and middle-income

Photo Sora O'Doherty

seniors. Orinda Senior Village has 150 units, while the new development may be 35 to 40 units of varying size from one to two bedrooms, available on an annual lease basis. The property would be managed by the same company, Walnut Creek-based Barcelon Associates, which manages Orinda Senior Village as well as about 20 other senior housing developments.

The project would have to be economically feasible, and studies are currently underway. Whereas OCC originally donated the land for Orinda Senior Village, for the

new project a lease will provide an ongoing income stream for the church and lower expenditures for OSHF. OSHF is being assisted by consultant John Wyro, who has decades of experience, and Dahlin Group Architects. In addition, OSHF is looking at an environmental study and is working with the Orinda planning department.

Roberts said that he knows a lot of people with mobility concerns who would be interested in downsizing in Orinda. The proposed project will probably be five stories terraced into the hillside. A shuttle would be provided to take residents into downtown Orinda. He also noted that the project will require a general plan amendment. Senior housing overlay provides for somewhat higher density. In addition, the church property would need to be subdivided.

As for traffic, Roberts said that Orinda Senior Village opened about three years ago with no noticeable increase in traffic. Also close to the Orinda Community Church is Monteverde senior apartments, which won the Orinda Mayor's Award for Architectural Excellence in 2016 and provides another 67 one-bedroom units for seniors.

## Library parcel tax increase to be on June ballot

By Sora O'Doherty

A compromise on the parcel tax to fund the library resulted in the Orinda City Council unanimously agreeing to put a straight \$30 per year increase on the June general election ballot, but without built-in inflation increases. If passed by a two-thirds vote in June, this would bring the library parcel tax up to \$69 per year for each property subject to the tax. At that level, the library is expected to be able to continue to maintain the 17-year-old library building for another seven years before having to go back and ask the public for another increase. With the increase, the library will continue to provide the extended hours currently enjoyed by Orindans. Without it, hours would have to be cut.

Owing to previous cuts to the Contra Costa County library budget, the county only funds 30 library hours per week; the remaining 25 hours per week that the library remains open are funded by the Friends of the Orinda Library. The Friends now number 400 members, and put up \$5 million to build the library. The library is clearly a very popular institution, with Linda Landeau of the Friends saying that her son brought his first date to the

library. Volunteer Lauri Patel noted that different types of patrons use the library at different times of the day, meaning that cuts could impact some groups more than others. Landeau told the council that the Friends supported the increase to \$69 per year as the best choice, although she noted that the parcel tax for the Oakland Library is \$75 per year.

Earlier, Orinda had undertaken polling on a \$25 increase, but with

an inflation factor. This would have put the library parcel tax at \$64 per year. While the increase polled positively, the inflation factor did not, and put passage of the measure in doubt. At the Feb. 20 meeting, the council considered proposals to raise the tax by a range of numbers. A \$30 per unit increase would result in a positive fund balance for the next seven years, while an increase of \$34 per unit would have resulted in a positive fund balance

for the next 11 years. The council opted for the lowest proposed amount, which means that it will have to return to the electorate in a shorter time.

The calculations for the tax were based on the assumption that operating expenses will increase by three percent and utility costs will increase by four percent annually. A maintenance reserve funded at a level of \$100,000 per year was also counted.



Laura Abrams

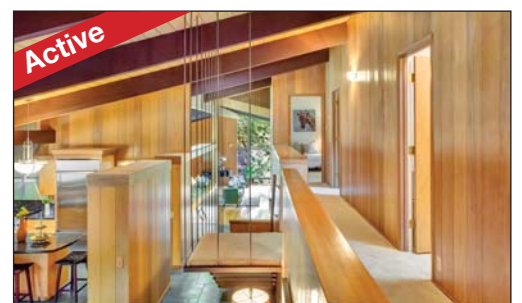
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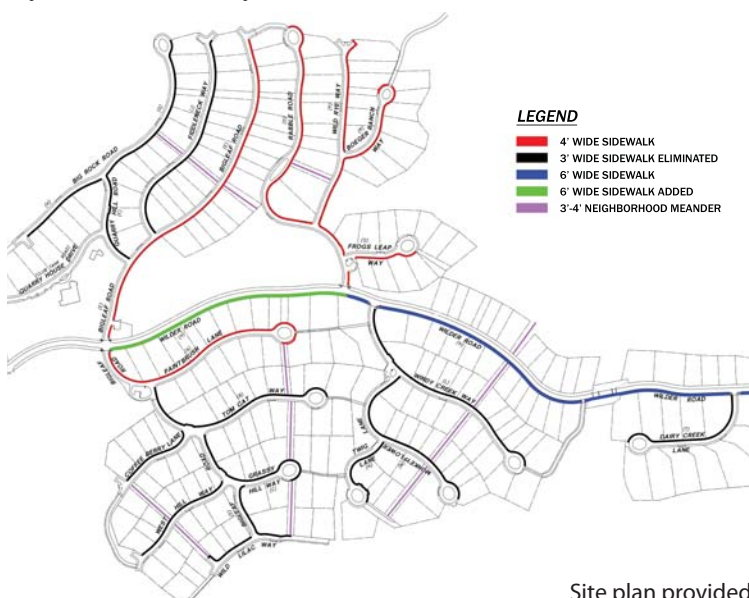
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# Wilder Development Agreement Amendment approved by council, but not by residents

By Sora O'Doherty



Some Wilder residents were frustrated by a change to the Wilder Development Agreement that will, if finalized on March 20, authorize the developer to eliminate planned walkways to offset losses caused by the installation of noncompliant sidewalks in other parts of the development.

Originally, pathways beside the streets in Wilder were to be constructed of decomposed granite, but that was later changed to asphalt. The builders, however, thought that

asphalt was not a good choice for long-term maintenance and instead installed cement sidewalks on many streets, which was verbally approved by the city planning department. While the 3-foot sidewalks comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, they fail to meet the accessibility requirements of the California Building Code, so they must be removed and replaced with 4-foot wide sidewalks at the expense of the property owner, OG Property Owner, LLC.

Reached after the meeting, Bruce Yamamoto, Wilder project manager for OGLLC, estimated the costs involved to remove the constructed 3-foot sidewalks and replace them with 4-foot sidewalks at between \$160,000 to \$200,000. If you include necessary landscaping replacement, and construction of the 6-foot section on Wilder Road, overall costs rise to around \$700,000. To construct sidewalks on the streets proposed for sidewalk elimination would cost nearly an additional \$400,000 to \$500,000, Yamamoto estimated.

Since having no sidewalks does not violate either the CDC or the ADA and is consistent with Orinda's "semi-rural" character, eliminating further sidewalks was proposed, with the exception of a 6-foot wide sidewalk on Wilder Road, the subdivision's public collector street. Opinions from various groups were gathered prior to proposing the pathway or sidewalk elimination. According to Planning Director Drummond Buckley, the modified circulation plan has the support of the Wilder Homeowner's Association, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, the Orinda Po-

lice Department and the East Bay Regional Park District. Developer Scott Goldy agreed that everybody is concerned with safety, but stated that they sought a lot of advice that supported the proposed changes. The Planning Commission, however, split 2-2 on the sidewalk issue.

A number of current Wilder residents attended the Feb. 20 city council meeting to ask that the elimination of sidewalks not be approved, citing extra property taxes that residents pay, a hefty special assessment for amenities that other Orinda residents do not pay, safety concerns, and prior commitments made by the developer. Christophe and Sophie Davis, aged 9 and 7, appealed to the council to support sidewalks and their father Vincent felt compelled to speak up as well. Mark Bresnik said that he is a doctor of infectious diseases, and sees sidewalks as necessary measures to prevent accidents. He drew an analogy to seat belt laws: the risk of accidents may be low, but the degree of harm would be high. Bresnik and Madelyn Mallory also submitted extensive written comments in favor of sidewalks, as did other Wilder residents.

Explaining the rationale behind the sidewalk elimination proposal, Yamamoto said Wilder was always planned to be a semirural community under a dark sky ordinance, with no streetlights on the private roads, only at major intersections. Most of the streets for which sidewalk elimination is proposed are dead end cul-de-sacs, while most of the streets that lead down to Wilder Road are in the section that will have sidewalks. Further, he emphasized that few of the lots on the sidewalk-elimination streets have been sold, and that the vendors are engaging in full disclosure to potential buyers. Davidon only recently started selling homes, and have obtained signed disclosures from all their buyers. Taylor Morrison has thus far only sold on Wilder Road, which will have a sidewalk on one side.

Mayor Amy Worth voted against the DA amendment. Vice Mayor Inga Miller voted in favor, but strongly favored sidewalks. She noted that sidewalks were never planned for Wilder and that sidewalks are not consistent with Orinda's semi-rural environment, but added that "semi-rural is a thing of the past. ... continued on page A10

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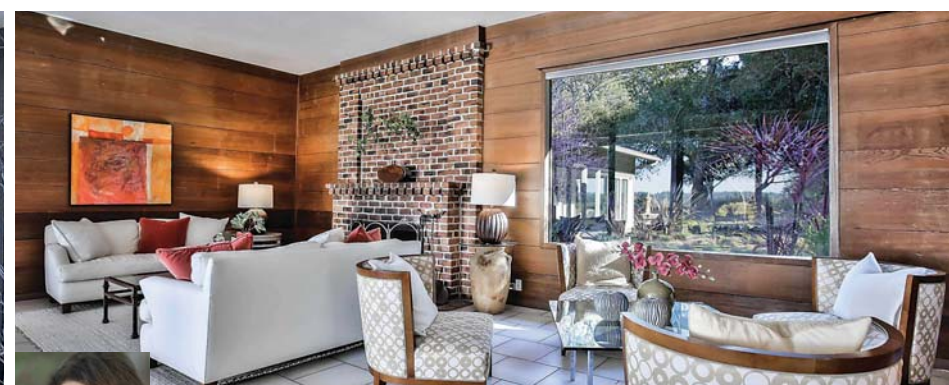
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## Fire Districts

### Public Meetings

#### Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors  
Wednesday, March 21, 7 p.m.  
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

#### ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, March 13, 1:30 p.m.  
Board Chamber room 107,  
Administration Building,  
651 Pine St., Martinez  
For meeting times and agendas,  
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

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# New MOFD chief tackles a longstanding Orinda problem

By Nick Marnell



MOFD aides Connor Rowan, left, and Pete Stathakos conduct hydrant testing in north Orinda. Photo MOFD

Fire Chief Dave Winnacker outlined his plans to maximize the available water supply in north Orinda and to mitigate the hazards presented by the area's wildland terrain at the Feb. 21 meeting of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. The chief's presentation made clear that the district, whose hands have been tied by financial limitations, outside agency policies and voter indifference, will focus on what it can do, rather than complain about or remain hostage to what other parties say they cannot or will not do.

The East Bay Municipal Utility District, which owns most of the fire hydrants and water infrastructure in the fire district, replaces underground pipes on its own terms, on its own timetable. "EBMUD

will not, as the only participating agency, undertake system modifications solely to improve fire flow," the district states in its Fire Flow Improvement Program. Since 1999, the water district has replaced 19 miles of the 130 miles of underground pipe in Orinda, according to David Rehnstrom, EBMUD manager of water distribution.

Studies concluded that \$50 million was needed to update the inadequate piping infrastructure, which Orinda voters declined to fund via three different ballot measures. So Winnacker began the search for the worst of the worst of underperforming north Orinda hydrants by doing fire flow measurements with EBMUD, which will insert the calculations into a shared database.

MOFD will test 15 hydrants per week, with hydrants flowing at less than 500 gallons per minute as the top priorities. "Once these are completed, we will have an updated report on where the problems are," the chief said.

Concurrently, MOFD will prominently label acceptable water sources, so that when outside agencies flood into the area to help fight a major fire, suppression personnel will be able to easily identify reliable water sources. The district will also identify supplemental water sources, like pools and ponds, privately maintained water tanks, and water supplies along Bear Creek Road and the Briones Reservoir.

The second part of Winnacker's plan features heightened levels of fire mitigation. A wildfire spreading down from the Bear Creek Road and Briones areas is a major threat to north Orinda, and noting that the best fire attack is fire prevention, the chief said the district will quarterback the efforts of wildland fire mitigation among various agencies and private citizen groups.

EBMUD owns open space adjacent to north Orinda, PG&E owns several large parcels in north Orinda and the county road maintenance crews are responsible for maintaining the shoulder of Bear Creek Road. Winnacker said that the district will assist the agencies to make sure that mitigation efforts are reinforced and complementary,

such as arranging for the Cal Fire Delta Crew to trim back vegetation in the Bear Creek area. The chief noted that, though often not popular, the PG&E tree trimming efforts have real value for fire prevention.

MOFD will also coordinate efforts of neighborhood groups to carry out fuel mitigation efforts, and will encourage homeowner associations to create safe, defensible spaces. Notification and evacuation plans have been updated, though the chief said that an early warning is needed for a wildfire that starts on the north side of the ridge.

"We want to identify things we can do now within our existing budget, utilizing and leveraging people's money though the grant process and engaging the community to buy in to everything they can do to prevent a catastrophic wildfire from spreading," Winnacker said. The chief pledged that, though north Orinda has been identified as the No. 1 target area, the water flow and mitigation programs will eventually be rolled out into the rest of the district.

Dick Olsen, a former MOFD director and a revered founding father of the fire district, praised the chief's attempt to fix a problem that has frustrated the district since its 1997 inception. "This is way beyond what anybody else has ever done," Olsen told the board.

## ConFire chooses general contractor for Fire Station 16

By Nick Marnell

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Assistant Chief Aaron McAlister announced that D.L. Falk Construction of Hayward submitted the winning bid for the Lafayette Fire Station 16 construction project. Falk's bid came in at \$3.43 million, just under the \$3.5 million estimate, a minor miracle of sorts considering the sky-high construction costs in the

Bay Area. Five other bidders were prequalified by the county, but only Falk submitted a number.

ConFire has four fire stations in various stages of construction or design, but because of its small size and location, Fire Station 16 will be the only station of the four with a back-in apparatus bay. The district prefers a drive-through bay because it lessens the probability of

damage to its trucks and engines. "This station will not become a future ConFire template," McAlister said at the Feb. 26 Advisory Fire Commission meeting.

The general contractor appeared undaunted by the unique specifications of the Lafayette fire station. "We've built fire stations the size of a house, within a housing development," said Greg

Schmidt, Falk director of operations. Schmidt said the company has also built a fire station in San Jose with a back-in apparatus bay.

The formal award of the bid for Fire Station 16 should occur at the March board of directors meeting. Kitchell Northern California remains the station construction manager.

## New Academy graduates



After months of high-intensity training, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Academy 51 recruits graduated Feb. 23. The 24 probationary firefighters will each ride as the fourth person of an engine company until the middle of March, when they will be assigned to their own stations.

This influx of new firefighters will allow the district to staff Lafayette Fire Station 16 with three engine companies early next year.

— Nick Marnell

## New pet rescue bill would allow firefighters to administer emergency care to dogs and cats

By Nick Marnell

Imagine firefighters putting out a fire at your home and saving your residence, with minimal damage, except that your dog remains unaccounted for. After a few agonizing minutes, a firefighter races out of the smoky home, cradling your small dog. The dog suffers from smoke inhalation and desperately needs oxygen, but should the firefighter attempt to resuscitate the animal using a pet oxygen delivery pack, that heroic effort could be met with legal action.

That is because it is unlawful for anyone — including first responders — to practice veterinary medicine in California unless they are a licensed veterinarian. Firefighters and paramedics are not allowed to provide first aid to dogs or cats rescued from a fire or other emergency. A violation is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000, or imprisonment, or both.

Upon enactment of Senate Bill 1305, introduced by Sen. Steve Glazer in February, neither first responders nor their employers will be liable for damages or criminal prosecution for providing emergency care to an injured dog or cat

at the scene of an emergency.

Jay Kerr, a veterinarian and a director of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, came to Glazer with the idea for the bill. "We don't want our firefighters to hesitate to treat a pet because they're worried about it," Kerr said. "This legislation will allow them to provide these services legally."

Glazer said that at a recent town hall he asked how many in attendance had a dog or cat. "Seventy percent of the audience raised their hands," said Glazer, who grew up with dogs and cats in his home, and has had dogs throughout his marriage.

"Imagine someone who has the training and ability to save the life of a pet and wants to, but can't because it is illegal," said the bill's co-author, Assemblywoman Catharine Baker. She talked about Max, the mixed-breed dog she rescued from the pound and kept for 16 years, as if he were family. "Providing comfort for pets provides comfort for family members," Baker said.

"From my perspective, anything that allows our first responders to effectively care for the public during their time of need is a

positive," said Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker.

Kerr's fire chief, Lafayette's Paige Meyer, knows all too well the scenario described in the opening paragraph. "We are committed to saving life and property, and pets check off both boxes," Meyer said. "Actually, some people would be happier that we rescued their pet than saved their home."

The bill does not require first responders to treat the animals. If the emergency providers choose to, they can administer services like opening and maintaining an airway, giving mouth-to-snout ventilation, immobilizing fractures and bandaging.

According to Glazer's policy analyst, SB 1305 will likely be voted on after spring break, which ends April 2.

This is not Glazer's first legislation to aid animals in need. The state senator from Orinda coauthored the 2017 Right to Rescue Act, which exempts a person from criminal liability for actions taken reasonably and in good faith to remove a dog or cat from an overheating vehicle.

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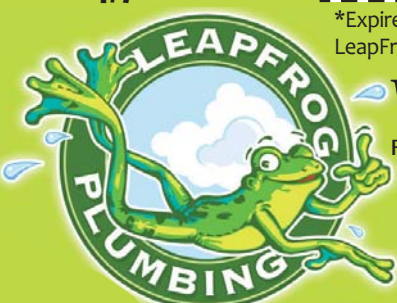
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# Letters to the Editor

## Vote yes! Save our storm drains!

Moraga's need for this user fee is rooted in history. Since the Town's very inception it has been forced to live on an economic starvation diet. The county collects our real estate taxes and then returns a portion to us – and it is a very modest portion! In our case, 5.32% is returned to us. Our return is the lowest in the entire county! For Lafayette the return is 6.66%, for Orinda 7.39%. In dollar terms, for every \$1.00 we receive, Lafayette receives \$1.25 and Orinda \$1.39.

Does that seem fair? Whether it is or not, it is our reality. Our current problem is not that we have spent foolishly over the years as some would have us believe. It is because inequities have left us starved for adequate funds over these years.

Whether you are a household or a town, when your income is limited you spend it on what you must and defer what you reasonably can. But we can no longer reasonably defer storm drain maintenance. Our storm drains are now 50 – 60 years old. To address this problem we need a fair and sustainable income stream. With the proposed user fee, most homeowners will pay only \$120 per year. That \$10.00 per month is about the price of two lattes at Starbucks. Is that asking too much?

Ignoring the problem is not an option. To do so just invites more sinkhole types of disasters and would be financially irresponsible. Repairs not undertaken now will be substantially more expensive later.

Vote yes! Save our storm drains. It is the only reasonable and responsible thing to do.

Robert Foxall  
Moraga

## Climate change as property rights issue

Recently, I read about the concept of climate change is a property rights issue and, as such, the government has a duty to ensure that Industry A's property rights does not violate someone else's property rights. Take for example, the people living near the coastal areas within Louisiana, Miami Beach, Chesapeake Bay area, or near the coastal areas of Alaska. These areas have been homes and businesses of many people living and thriving for generations. Now, for many their homes and businesses are either damaged or lost due to sea level rise.

Does the property rights of the petroleum companies override the property rights of these people in Louisiana, Florida, Virginia or Alaska? The protection of property rights is within the purview of government to level differences between the power and influence of the petroleum industry to the people that have suffered from property loss. So how come the executive branch of our government is not stepping in to help?

It is now for the Congress to step up to take the leadership position. Our representatives should join the House Climate Caucus and pass a carbon fee and dividend program in order to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions.

Clifton Louie  
Orinda

## Local teacher salaries

Lafayette schools are some of the best in the state and one of the main reasons families move to Lafayette. Lafayette teachers are experienced and dedicated professionals who go over and above their job requirements to meet the needs of every student. Despite our desire to settle, Lafayette teachers are still negotiating with the Lafayette School District over the 2016-2017 contract. Our last raise on the salary schedule, for only 1.5%, was for the 2015-2016 school year. The

LAFSD has only offered 0% on the salary schedule since then, despite rising inflation.

The LAFSD has ended up with more revenue than their projections in each of the last five years. In four of the five years, revenue has been over \$1 million dollars higher than projected. While the state only requires a 3% reserve, the LAFSD has over 14%. The Governor's proposed budget for next year continues that trend. Since they clearly have the money, we can only conclude the District does not value its teachers.

Lafayette teachers are not unreasonable. During the Great Recession, teachers accepted three years of 0% raises, furlough days, and increases in out of pocket health insurance costs. We were told when the economy improved, we would be made whole. Unfortunately, we have only fallen farther behind after subsequent years of small bonuses and small raises which have not kept up with inflation. Now, with the economy booming, the District continues to offer us 0%.

This is no longer sustainable for Lafayette teachers. Other districts that currently pay more than LAFSD continue to give raises to keep up with the high cost of living in the Bay Area. To make ends meet, 68% of teachers at Springhill Elementary now work second jobs. If we want to continue to have top-notch teachers in Lafayette, we need to keep pay comparable to neighboring districts.

You can support Lafayette teachers by emailing the school board at [LSDBoard@lafsd.org](mailto:LSDBoard@lafsd.org) or attending the next Lafayette School Board meeting on Wednesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. in the Stanley Middle School library. More information is available at [LafayetteEducationAssociation.org](http://LafayetteEducationAssociation.org).

Brittany Buchel  
Springhill Elementary teacher

## Private roads

I want to thank the Lamorinda Weekly for reporting on the issue of private streets in Orinda and the inequitable treatment given the 20 percent of Orinda residents and taxpayers who live on these streets. I want to make it clear to the community that the creation of this separate class of street was not the doing of the developers of these streets or of the taxpayers who live on them. It was the result of the City, and before incorporation the County, being unwilling to pay to maintain these streets while collecting the same property taxes from the new homes as everyone else pays. Since 2012 Orinda voters have voted in \$70 million of new taxes, payable over 20 years, to repair the 64 miles of public residential streets which the City had let deteriorate. The 1,500 homes that are on "private" streets will pay their "fair" share of these taxes; \$15 million in total. Not one cent of these taxes will go to repair any of the 30 miles of "private" streets these taxpayers live on. The latest draft of the CIOC's Road Plan informs the City that it will have to raise an additional \$2.5 million per year to maintain the public roads it has spent so much to repair. Everyone will be expected to pay for this additionally needed tax. But, again, not one cent of it will be used to maintain any of the 30 miles of streets that 20 percent of Orinda lives on. This is not fair and, if those 20 percent reject the tax, the City will not obtain sufficient funds to maintain the existing public roads. We have asked the City to form a Task Force to address this inequity. If you want to know more about this go to the web site [www.OrindaRoadFacts.info](http://www.OrindaRoadFacts.info).

Steve Cohn  
Orinda



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- Creeks Committee
- Crime Prevention Commission
- Downtown Street Improvement Master Plan Implementation Committee(DSIMPIC)
- Emergency Preparedness Commission
- Environmental Task Force
- Senior Services Commission
- Youth Commission

For additional information visit the city's website: [www.lovelafayette.org](http://www.lovelafayette.org) Hot Topics Or e-mail City Clerk Joanne Robbins, [jrobbins@lovelafayette.org](mailto:jrobbins@lovelafayette.org) Application deadline March 31, 2018. Positions open until filled.



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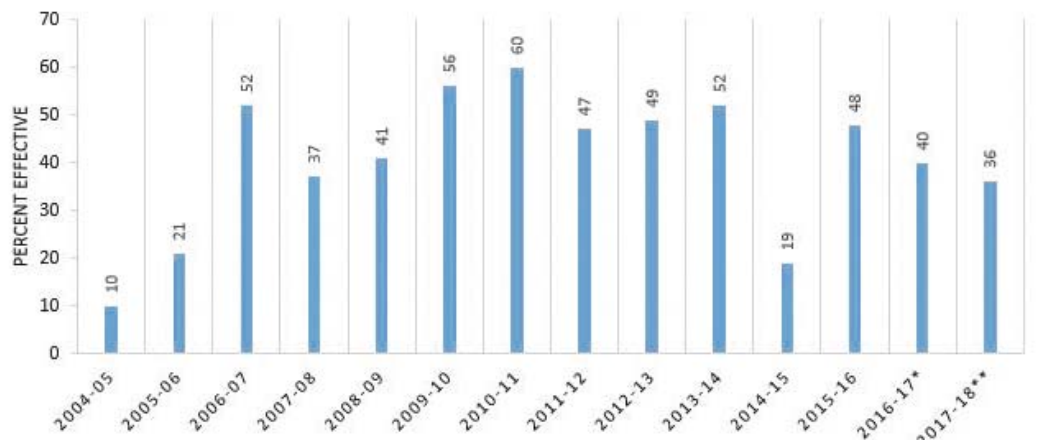
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**Local urgent care besieged by flu cases**

By John T. Miller

**SEASONAL FLU VACCINE EFFECTIVENESS**



This graph from the CDC represents the effectiveness of seasonal flu vaccines from the 2004-05 season through 2016-17. The numbers presented for the 2015-16 season were CDC estimates from Nov. 2, 2015 through April 15, 2016, while the numbers presented for the 2016-17 season are from a draft of a manuscript in progress. Interim early estimates for 2017-18 may differ from final end-of-season estimates. Image provided

In this particularly drastic flu season, even the staff at a local urgent care center isn't immune to the inconvenience. When another doctor at Stat Med called in sick via text message at 3 a.m. on a Saturday, Dr. Armando Samaniego had to scramble for coverage at his three sites.

Samaniego, a Lafayette resident and founder of Stat Med in Lafayette, says, "The incidence and prevalence of the flu has been much, much higher this year. We are seeing at least three to six positive readings at each of our clinics every day for the flu."

He cites two main reasons for the increase in cases: "This particular flu is much more aggressive, and the vaccine may not be as responsive as last year's."

Even though the vaccine does not totally ensure that you won't catch the flu (see graph), a 2013 study published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases* found that people who got the flu shot were less likely to be hospitalized. Effectiveness is also dependent on age, with a 2013 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention finding that people over 65 who got the vaccine were just as likely to visit the hospital for flu symptoms as those who did not get the vaccine.

Samaniego also cites studies finding that symptoms are far less severe for people who have the flu

shot and yet still contract the disease.

The weather contributes to the spread of the virus, which explains why the flu season corresponds to winter. "When it is cold or wet, people tend to gather inside and huddle in the same rooms, increasing the chances to spread the germs," said Samaniego. "Once the weather warms up and people can go outside, the chance for it to spread is reduced."

Another factor causing the rapid transmission of the flu is the incubation period. After coming in contact with the virus, it may be at least 24 hours before symptoms begin to show. Even though unaware of the infection, a person is already contagious to others.

After the incubation period, flu symptoms may appear as a fever, or feverish chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, and fatigue. Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though that is more common in children.

Asked when someone should go to the doctor, Samaniego replied, "You should come in as soon as you have classic muscle aches and fever chills. Treating the sickness with Tamiflu [a prescription medicine], will help suppress the symptoms and speed up recovery."

The flu can often progress to something more serious, especially

if there are any predisposing conditions, such as diabetes, asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD, sometimes called emphysema), heart conditions, or in the very young or elderly, according to Samaniego. "We're seeing a lot of pneumonia, plus other types of infections, especially in the sinus and ear areas." In the young and healthy, the flu symptoms will typically last between a few days and a couple of weeks.

The CDC warns of other, more serious complications on its website, further indicating a need for a hospital visit and a doctor's care.

Samaniego graduated from the Harvard School of Medicine and settled in Lafayette to practice emergency medicine 25 years ago. He received his HealthCare Executive MBA and launched his own small business, Stat Med Urgent Care, first in Lafayette four years ago and now in Pleasant Hill and Livermore.

"I started Stat Med Urgent Care with ER doctors to provide greater care outside of a crowded ER at an affordable price," says Samaniego.

He is also active in the community, having volunteered as a team physician for Campolindo High School, where his three sons went to school, and as a premed advisor at Saint Mary's College, as well as team doctor for the Gaels rugby team.

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**POETRY**

**LAUGHTER**  
by James A. Garvey  
(submitted by resident Ursula Garvey)

Laughter is a sound failing on the ear, stirring joy to leap, unbound and keep hope recurring.

Laughter is a flower, dancing to the eye, inviting thought to move with color and prove love's sighting.

Laughter is a song, ringing in the air, beseeching moods to shift along and sift joy's teaching.

Laughter is a place, gentle in its power, proffering refuge from the dark a trace to mark life's offering.

**Wilder Development Agreement ... continued from page A7**

"People want sidewalks," she concluded.

There was some disagreement about whether or not all of the residents on Frog's Leap Way agreed that they wanted the nonconforming sidewalk removed but no replacement provided, and Council Member Dean Orr wanted that to be clarified. Otherwise, Orr was completely satisfied that sidewalks could safely be eliminated, citing the low level of traffic expected on the residential streets. Darlene Gee agreed that it isn't a large safety hazard and viewed the solution as reasonable. She also said that she could see how residents might feel that things had been misrepresented, but that, she said, was between the homeowners and the developer.

The matter was placed on the consent calendar for March 20. Residents gathered outside after the meeting were told by the mayor that if they object to the matter on the consent calendar, it will be pulled for further discussion, according to Ben Zarrin, a real estate agent and developer and a resident of Wilder, who was contacted by the Lamorinda Weekly after the

meeting. Wilder residents have been meeting to see how they can best advance their desire to have sidewalks in the entire Wilder area, which they believe are an important safety factor for the neighborhood. Residents hope that with more time they can negotiate a solution with the developer that will be a win-win: sidewalks that the community wants and a way to reduce the financial impact on the developer.

In its report to the city council, staff said that residents have expressed that streets are particularly unsafe at night, because the private streets in Wilder do not have any streetlights. Nevertheless, staff concluded that the elimination of sidewalks in parts of Wilder will not constitute a safety hazard.

**Shuttles**

Less contentious amendments included removing the requirement for school shuttles, leaving that issue up to the residents' homeowners association, and removing the requirement that BART shuttles also stop at school bus stops. The council also agreed to extend the level of the BART shuttle until the level of homes ready for occupancy

reaches 200, rather than the existing requirement of 100. The planning commission recommended keeping the school shuttle requirement.

**Art & Garden Center, playfields**

The eighth development agreement sets revised opening dates for the Art & Garden Center and playfields 4 and 5 to June 1, a year after the previously set opening dates. The reasons for the delay were listed as significant rain coupled with low temperatures, a significant amount of rock that delayed site grading, and the requirement of a new fire hydrant, among others. The DA also corrects the previous amendment that had stated that playfield 4 would have lighting; in fact, it won't.

**Accessory Dwelling Units**

Provisions for accessory dwelling units will be updated to conform to changes in state law and applicable city code changes made in response. State law changes were made last year to encourage the provision of additional housing, given the scarcity of housing units available.

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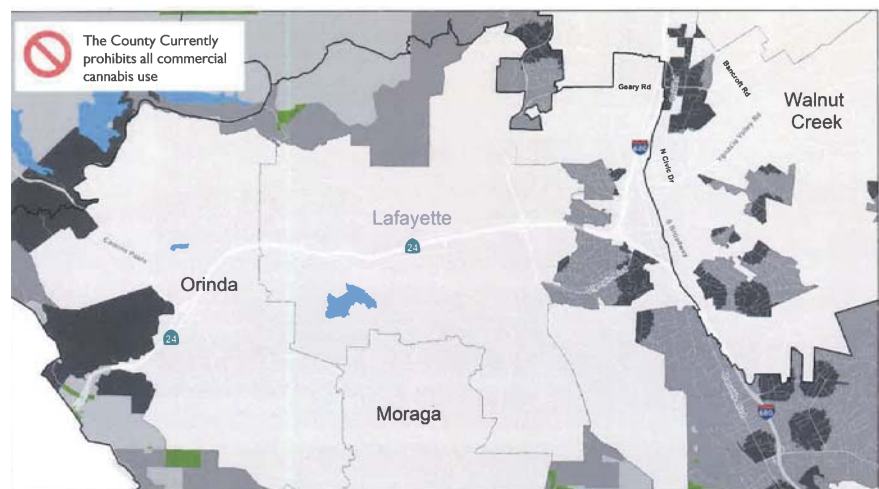
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**WHAT'S YOUR HOUSE WORTH IN 2018?**

## Is the county rushing to bring in commercial cannabis regulations?

By Pippa Fisher



Map provided

The county is seeking feedback from municipal councils and members of the public as it looks to prepare regulations around cannabis in the unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County.

County Supervisor Candace Andersen and Director of Conservation and Development John Kopchik gave a presentation of the county's preliminary framework, addressing commercial cannabis and outdoor personal use growth at the Feb. 26 Lafayette City Council meeting as part of the supervisors'

efforts to receive feedback from towns and cities across the county.

Lafayette already has some of the most restrictive laws pertaining to cannabis in the area. Residents are allowed indoor growth of up to six plants for personal use, deliveries are allowed but only with electronic payment transactions, and no commercial activities are permitted within the city.

Currently the county also prohibits all commercial cannabis. The question of whether to allow commercial or outdoor personal

use growth in unincorporated areas with different land-use permits, such as the Saranap area, that are adjacent to the city was being explored at the meeting.

Kopchik showed maps of the county illustrating buffer zones of 1,000 feet around sensitive sites (such as schools, parks/playgrounds, libraries, drug treatment centers and homeless shelters) and 500 feet around residential sites.

Kopchik explained that an unincorporated county cannabis tax initiative could be considered by

voters at the next general election in November. Unincorporated voters would vote on the tax ballot and he added the intent is that the commercial cannabis ordinance would only take effect if and when voters pass a tax initiative.

Many speakers took their turns making it clear that they completely oppose any commercial cannabis activities, referring most often to the effect on teenagers as well as potential for increased crime and car accidents.

Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention Team Director Jaime Rich urged the county to keep the ban. She said students she has worked with have reported kids having seizures in the classroom as a result of marijuana. Rich spoke specifically about the issue of delivery, the problems of keeping the drug out of the hands of those under 21 and suggested they look very closely at the language surrounding delivery laws. In Lafayette deliveries must go into a secured location.

Andersen and Kopchik were specifically seeking input on the buffer zones, caps on permits,

outdoor personal growing and the council's overall reaction.

While council members Mike Anderson, Ivor Samson and Mark Mitchell approved of the plan in theory, Mayor Don Tatzin was a little more cautious saying he hopes the county would adopt the same rules as the adjacent cities. Anderson urged residents to make their voices heard at county meetings, reminding the audience that what they had heard that evening pertained only to unincorporated areas and not to the city of Lafayette.

Vice Mayor Cam Burks was absolutely clear in his message. He said he saw no need to hurry and that the county should come back to this in a year. "Why the rush? Why not wait to see the impacts on law and order?"

"I am completely opposed to moving forward," he said, to the audience's delight.

Supervisor Andersen will be presenting the framework to Moraga on March 14 and to Orinda on March 20 (this date is tentative).

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## An Open Letter to the AUHSD Governing Board Members

We represent a large number of parents from Lamorinda and Walnut Creek with children ranging from elementary through high school ages. We are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed calendar changes. In particular, these issues have come to light:

- The Calendar Task Force is composed of 48 high school stakeholders and only 41 K-8 stakeholders, leading to a lopsided view of the best interests of the community as a whole.** Our community is composed of 16,937 students, including 11,592 K-8 students and 5,345 HS students. While we understand this is an initiative driven by the high school level, the outcome affects the entire student population and the unrepresentative makeup of the Calendar Task Force is concerning. According to the Task Force's own internal survey, 85% of its members favor a shift in the calendar to an earlier August start, a number that far exceeds the percentage in favor from the overall community. To give an indication of the level of disagreement with a calendar shift, even with the bias built into the survey, our community still came out 50-50 against an earlier August start. The Task Force has been blinded in its echo chamber and has dismissed opposing views as "aggressive" and has even referred to community members with opposing views as "ignorant" and "uninformed."
- The survey presented to the overall community was biased in favor of promoting an earlier school year start; its results are unreliable and not indicative of the community's sentiments as a whole.** The survey was written without transparency and never even presented to the whole Calendar Task Force for review and feedback. The use of partial survey results within the survey itself (as done with question 7 in the parent survey), as well as a video presentation to HS students stating potential benefits of an earlier shift right before they took the survey, breaks the most basic guidelines as to how to create a survey without bias. Please see <https://surveytown.com/10-examples-of-biased-survey-questions/> for the very minimal guidelines this survey did not follow.
- The argument that moving finals before break would decrease stress for students dur-**

**ing December has been presented without anything beyond purely anecdotal and speculative evidence.** Indeed, even the recent survey results from San Ramon, which recently implemented the calendar changes being discussed, indicate minimal, if any, benefit in terms of student stress levels (Question 11 for students on the 2017 Instructional Calendar Student Survey); a) The excessive emphasis placed on stress due to finals is unsubstantiated. Although finals constitute no more than 20% of the grade, they are in actuality only 10 to 15% of the grade for most classes. The impact is negligible unless a student is right on the border. Additionally, school districts that have implemented finals before winter break do not cap the percentage of the grade that finals constitute (eg. Palo Alto, San Ramon, etc.), whereas AUHSD caps finals as a percentage of the grade at 20% so the stress associated with finals in the AUHSD district is distinctly different from other school districts; b) AUHSD only began the block system this year and the school systems has not yet had the time to evaluate whether it has had a positive impact on reducing overall stress levels; c) Many seniors will be coming out of the stress of early admission college applications directly into finals, while many other high school students will be facing ACT/SAT testings in early December; d) Most members of the community participate in family and friend gatherings, concerts, and other holiday performances, while students who celebrate Hanukah will, in many years, have to endure finals during the holiday itself. December is already a very busy month for a large majority of people, adding finals during the week leading up to winter break would in no way reduce stress for students. The benefit of moving finals before winter break is marginal at best and even then, would only benefit a small number of students relative to the overall school district.

**4. We support the idea of a true break during winter break for student wellness and health; this can be accomplished by enforcing a strict no-homework policy over winter break, something that does not seem to be strictly enforced at this time.** Additionally, a post-Labor Day school start could give students an additional true break in early February between first and sec-

ond semesters. The post-Labor Day start option was never even offered in the survey as an option to decrease stress and give students a true break between the two semesters. Equating a true break with an earlier August start is another example of the shortcomings of the survey.

- There are no benefits for K-8 students that would come from starting the school year earlier, but there are several disadvantages:** a) **Heat:** Many schools in the Orinda Union School District do not have air-conditioning and many other schools throughout our districts are not equipped with solar panels yet to cover the additional cost. Heat is a real concern for elementary school parents and teachers, both in the classroom and on the playground during the sunny and hot month of August. b) **Loss of August family vacation:** August is one of the best summer months to explore the Bay Area and many other places worldwide. There are many people in this community who have ties outside of California, where schools are still in session in June and family visits are only possible in mid-July and August. Many kids attend camps or hold summer jobs in other states and even other countries in July and August. Families with current high schoolers have grown up benefitting from the additional August weeks for vacation - taking it away from the young families with elementary school children now that their children are in high school discounts the experiences of the K-8 community. c) **Kindergarten age cut-off:** The current cut-off is September 1, regardless of the first day of school. More kids would be starting kindergarten before they are five and even more parents will be inclined to hold them back. d) It is disingenuous on the part of the AUHSD Governing Board to point to the K-8 districts' ability to start the school year whenever they want as a reason to dismiss K-8 concerns. Parents want all the calendars to be closely aligned and starting the AUHSD calendar even a week earlier directly affects K-8 calendars.
- Additional time for AP instruction as a justification for starting the school year earlier is unfounded.** Many high performing districts in the country have a post-Labor Day start and have not found it a problem to cover the same nationally mandated material. AP students account

for roughly 14% of the entire student population, which is a very small percentage to warrant such a drastic change for the entire community. Moreover, with a May school end date, AP students would be faced with AP exams and second semester finals in the same month at the end of the school year, which is unnecessary additional stress for those students.

- We could not agree more with the AUHSD Board Member that stated that sports should not be taken into consideration when looking at the academic calendar.** Only 10-15% of the student population takes part in fall sports, the majority of which start after mid-August, and only about 5% start in early August with volleyball and football. Playing a sport is a student's choice and involves many sacrifices. We do not require other students who are not playing a sport to make the same sacrifices in their schedules.
- Our kids need to know that we value their quality of life; they need a healthy outlook regarding test pressures and the many different stresses of life.** By moving the calendar earlier in August and putting finals during a busy holiday season, we are conveying to students that all that matters is more time in school before AP exams and the importance of finals grades. We are telling them that we do not care about their summer vacations, family travel, summer camps and jobs, or decreasing their stress while they are in school. As long as we continue to make policies that place academic performance over quality of life, our kids will internalize those values and high school stress, depression, and other alarming issues will continue to rise.

Based on all these considerations, we ask that the AUHSD Governing Board listen to what our community is saying and vote to uphold our values. We also urge other concerned parents to attend the upcoming AUHSD Governing Board Meetings on March 7 and March 21 at 7:00pm in the AUHSD Community Room (1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette) and declare their opposition to this earlier start during public comment.

Sincerely,  
Lamorinda and Walnut Creek parents

Arran Schultz, Aude and Stefano Gaudio, Caroline Creasey, Anna Juliet Brown, Amber Golik, Jennifer Rosen, Lindsay Beck, Alexis Coyle, Shaday Berrios, Rich Scarpitti, Cavan McCarthy, Lorie Comerford, Jonathan Butler, Stefani Gray, Jon Weber, Claudia Gohler, Amal Mehio, Liza Koukoku, Eirini Papastergiou, Suzanne and Garrett Shore, Ioanna Papadimitriou, Jennifer Kaufman, Brad Williams, Lise Shin, Tricia Moy, Christine Curtis, Maya Vasudevan, Jenn Keohane, Sharyn Harrington, Arian Brackett, Meems Gillette, Jennifer Telford, Lauren Turner, Kristel Rochios, Linda Bowers, Lauren Rubenstein, Stephanie Stevens, Thomas Fraser, Colleen Devine, Nora Nicholson, Jean Follmer, Petet Cole, Jen DuBorg, M. Watanabe, Jeanne Hughes, Jill Rohde, Christina Kutzscher, Caroline Stevens, Susan Lehner, Myeue Capozzi, Joanna Allen, Ginger Stambaugh, Kari Speltz, LeAnna Kievning, Rodica Bizgu-Juwono, Gianna Capozzi, Elaine Cable, Wendi Giordano, Deborah Feeley, Rose Bkeharski, Jennifer Kaplan, Laura Zellmer, Isabella Capozzi, Kelli Bacher, Tiffany Seitler, Deborah Sheng, Rory DeShazer, Kimberly Grover, Jenifer Balducci, Rachel Blatt, Misha Wolfe, Abigail Levin, F. J., Mike Jackson, Kim Wampler, Jamie Patterson, Tiffany Lewis, Julie Hulin, Susan Oppelt, Julia Greenwell, Tina Weber, Sharon Murphy, Anonymous, Amal and Cyril Chombaund, Jennifer Duffi, Stephanie Levine Snyder, Petros Karasakalidis, Karyn Caruso, Julie Jageman, Julia and Michael Wolbinski, Joe Capozzi, Danielle Gnestro, Beth Hayes, Michelle Dutra Rumberg, Jennifer Kamal, Judy Nebb Schoenrock, Rebecca Burt McAuliffe, Julia Mater, Michele Kong, Brenna Butler, Rachel Resnick Dreyer, Erica & Zia Shook, Daniel Grover, Kirsia Phillips,

James DeMent, Muna Shadfar, Elizabeth Johannesen, Nin Tang, Nicole Smith, Celeste Ferber, Deirdre Donadio, Cheryl Sabnis, Brandon Brown, Deborah Diehl, Ada Sheng, Jack Schultz, Megan Dey-Toth, Gayle Taylor, Elizabeth Marquez, Lacey Deal, Thomas Selfridge, Jennifer Selfridge, Peter Parkin, Ethan Kutzscher, Jen Schnayer, Morgan Hansen, Amy Peterson, Derrick Roth, Paul Kalas, Aspasia Gkika, Emily Muro Pitts, Dawn Horrocks, Michelle Yeager, Robin Mathers, Natacha Cohen, Liv Hassett, Wilber Weber, Christina Weber, Yvonne Ling, Susan Corkery, Kathryn Yrueta, Michelle Bricker, Agnes Szegedi, Nadine Lusch, Marker Lovell, Steve Lucas, Kay Gertmenian, Robyn Lewis, Chelsea Estrada, Lisa Foster, Kristin Kaune, Jenny Hill, Jennifer McCarthy, Alice Warren, Heather Rascher, Colin Elliott, Eric Flett, Jeff Mills, Laurie Lowery, Ilana Fontes, Nicole Hayes, Dane Lewis, Lisa Stern, Amy Perusse, Caryn Javinsky, Rickie Pratt, Stefanie Murphy, Julie Campanelli, Sara Cherry, Libby Sagara, Linda Peters, Mark Atlas, Anonymous, Kirsten Engs, Madelene Nabi, Shanti Ariker, Janet Moga, Andrew Pierce, Diana Volovelskay, Maria Filonova, Salab Amirdelfan, Kasra Amird, Deb Hearey, Virginia Ziegler, Sandi Johnson, Heather Greenning, Henry Engs, Aaron Osmonson, Christine Tucker, Steven Berg, Kathi Torres, Barbara Price, Carolyn Kahler, Mary Kuhn, Carol Singer, Leslie Baird, Betsy Hume, Gaëlle Vialle, Monica Brun, Bonnie Elings, Deb Isola, Yvonne Gardner, Benoit Vialle, Juliana Dunlavey, June Lee, John Gonsalves, Jill Orr, Eric Thompson, Mary Lee, Kay Colman Collins Babb, Mark Speltz, John Edelen, Heather Ottobre, Whitney Firestone, Stacy Charlesworth, Charles Foster, Nancy Estes, Irene Chang



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## Lafayette teachers demand fair pay

... continued from page A2

The Lafayette Education Association, the union representing about 200 Lafayette teachers, counselors and speech therapists, and LAFSD are negotiating a new contract.

Teachers have been wearing black in protest to draw attention to their needs. Churchill says that parents have been supportive. "Most of them had no idea we were working without a contract for two years

or what our pay was," she says, adding, "The assumption is an affluent area equals high pay."

The district recognizes the need to retain high quality teachers, ensure quality programs and fairly compensate teachers but says that unfortunately the district's projected budget deficits have put them in a difficult position to guarantee ongoing increases in the absence of

additional revenues or reduction in current spending.

The two sides met for mediation Feb. 26. They will be reconvening in mid-March.

Gerringer says that the teachers and district continue to work on reaching an agreement with both sides mutually agreeing to mediation.

## Citizen of the Year

... continued from page A3

Jenkins has traveled with Linda to many countries to deliver artificial (LN-4) hands – a project sponsored by Rotarians worldwide. He has also accompanied Linda teaching English to non-English speakers, most recently to Taiwan.

He was a founding member of the Lamorinda Village and says that Marshall Duncan, whom he met at the Lafayette Community Foundation, has been a role model for him and is one of the reasons he co-chaired the Senior Symposium for five years. Duncan thinks Jenkins is very deserving of the honor and notes his ability to "keep things going," adding, "He's helped an awful lot."

Jenkins is active within the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church and was a founding trustee. He said following his election as an elder, his responsibility was for seniors. He brought in "Thurs-

day Fellowship," a weekly lunch, with activities and speakers for seniors. He points to work that was being done by the Rotarians on a monthly basis providing home care to seniors that he introduced at LOPC and which eventually led to Lamorinda Village.

It is really in the service to seniors, he says, that he has found his passion. He says it is about helping people as they age find where they fit. His work with Lamorinda Village helps people stay in their own homes, and he stresses the importance of creating meaningful service work for seniors, too. "Their activity gives them meaning and purpose," he explains.

Jenkins is currently involved with the new Cancer Support Community, working to bring the new building to Lafayette, which he says will offer so much. His family has been on the receiving

end of such support. He wants to see Lafayette set the precedent with this new facility.

Somehow this man manages to find time for other interests too. He enjoys sailing, which he says he took up at age 16 in Rhode Island. He has more than 18,000 miles of ocean sailing experience, including trips from New Caledonia to New Zealand and Fiji to New Zealand plus coastal sailing, delivering boats from the Caribbean to New York and from Canada to New York.

Linda Jenkins says that she considers herself so privileged to live so many years with this man. "He does so much for so many," she adds.

Jenkins' service will be celebrated at a dinner at the Lafayette Park Hotel on April 13. To register, visit the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce website: [www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org).

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# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Fifth-graders learn history by living it during Colonial Days

By Pippa Fisher



Springhill Elementary School fifth-graders during the March 1 Colonial Day.

Photo Pippa Fisher

It was like stepping back in time in a corner of Happy Valley last week – students from Springhill Elementary School got the chance to spend a day living as colonial-era children. It was all part of their fifth grade experience, and everyone – students, teachers and parents – dressed the part with bonnets, aprons and britches as far as the eye could see.

Even the pouring rain couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of the 106 fifth-graders and their teachers as they got into the spirit of Colonial Days.

"It seems to rain every year," reflected coordinator-parent Yumi Chelemedos. Fortunately the event takes place in the shelter of a barn located next door to Happy Valley Elementary School, which holds their Colonial Day the following day. The location is perfect for the gathering.

The event is the result of two months planning and preparation by Chelemedos and coordinator-parent Sara Carter. It takes their

hard work plus the efforts of around 30 other parent-volunteers to bring it all together.

"Colonial Day is an annual event for the entire fifth grade, where the students can experience what life was like in Colonial times," says Chelemedos. "This ties in well with their history study of Colonial times in America."

The young colonials start the morning off in an assembly, which is opened by "George Washington," otherwise know as fifth-grade teacher Martin Wong. As part of the assembly the students got a chance to practice marching to the tune of a fife.

"It's great that the classes all get to mix together and do things they wouldn't normally experience," said Wong, adding that they are fortunate that Dr. Jon Sammann, a Lafayette orthodontist, allows the school the use of his two-story barn each year.

The children cycle through 25-minute rotations at different stations, staffed by parents, exper-

riencing activities from the era. Downstairs, at the noisiest station by far, children were busy hammering nails into tins to make lanterns, while next to them another group was busy making candles. Upstairs was a quilting station and next to it, joyful dancing accompanied by a fiddle. Nearby, bonneted heads were bent over in concentration at the cross-stitch station.

Parent Kate Mason, working on the lunch station, said that her son Cole had been looking forward to the day. "It is a fun thing to see history in action," she said.

Parent volunteers prepared a turkey lunch with assistance provided from Diablo Foods and Luardi's.

## Film festival features short films by, for and about women

By Sophie Braccini



Sometimes 10 minutes of film can pack a powerful punch. Created by the owners of Luna Bar in 2000 as a way to showcase short movies by, for and about women, the LunaFest short film festival is a gift to the community: Clif, the current owner of Luna Bar, selects nonprofits interested in screening the movies and all proceeds go to charity. This year, the Intuitive Writing Project was selected for screening LunaFest in Lamorinda. It will be presented one night only at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, March 22 at the Orinda Theatre.

This year's festival features nine short films, each about 10 minutes in length. Lisa Wood, who sits on the Intuitive Writing Project board and has seen all the movies

says she loves the variety they offer: entertainment, amusement, food for thought, emotion and creativity. Inspiring women from throughout the world were selected for this year's lineup. "They cover such a wide range of topics told by a diverse array of women," she says. One is a comedy about Sarah who manages a Korean-owned nail salon, another tells the story of a girl following her dream, one presents the tale of a girl who survived the Boko Haram kidnapping in Nigeria, and another talks about overcoming grief. Wood also liked the tribute to silent film director Lois Weber. She says that after watching the movies with was inspired, educated, touched and proud.

... continued on page B2




### Help Wanted

The City of Orinda is looking for an Administrative Assistant I/II for the Parks & Recreation Department.

This full-time, benefited position serves as the initial contact/resource person at the front lobby counter, taking registrations, answering phones, and assisting clients who drop in and require assistance. Also performs a wide variety of responsible and complex administrative duties. Must have high school diploma, minimum three years of administrative assistant or related experience. Monthly Salary range \$3,825.64 - \$4,994.67 DOQ. Please log onto City website [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org) for additional position details, application process and benefit description. **Deadline to apply: 5:00 p.m. 3/16/18.**



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## Locanda Positano – simple food, quality ingredients ... and ‘famiglia’

By Pippa Fisher



From left, Mimmo (Pizza chef), Renato Lopez (partner), Enzo Rosano (owner), and Raffaele Espisito pose outside the new restaurant.  
Photos Pippa Fisher

In downtown Lafayette great restaurants are literally right around every corner and yet the city’s newest eatery looks set to fill its own unique spot.

Locanda Positano, an authentic Italian restaurant, has gone into the old Artisan Bistro property on Brown Street. Its appeal is clear as soon as you walk past the little Fiat at the entrance to the restaurant.

Owner Enzo Rosano has completely renovated the inside of the small space. Where there used to be multiple rooms and areas, he has knocked down walls. The feel is open, and the décor is clean with crisp blue and yellow accents. The fireplace remains. There are scenes from Rosano’s Amalfi Coast home on the walls and a notable blue chandelier in one corner. The full bar has a TV, usually showing soccer.

Outside Rosano has made the old patio into a year-round space, with tables and heaters and, during the colder weather, tent-like sides to the space to retain heat. This makes the area a perfect place to dine with your kids or maybe even bring your dog.

Rosano himself is the youngest of nine children. He and his siblings learned to cook from their mother, “Mamma Carmela.” Infused with a love of cooking from a young age, Rosano went to culinary school in Verona. From there he spent time in London, learning English and working as a bartender at Jean-Georges Vongerichten’s Vong at the prestigious Berkeley Hotel.

“But my plan was always to come to America,” says Rosano. With some basic English under his belt, he came to the states in 1998 and helped open the popular Mezza Luna in Half Moon Bay. Rosano and his brother, Tullio, opened Aqua Pazza in 2006 in San Mateo. In 2011 Locanda Positano opened in San Carlos and in 2015 Locanda Ravello opened in Danville.

Locanda Positano in Lafayette is Rosano’s first solo venture.

Viewing the restaurant as an extension of his home, Rosano explains that his philosophy is to treat his customers like personal guests.

And it is a family affair. Many of the recipes come directly from Mamma Carmela who, when she visits from Italy, can be found back in the kitchen creating dishes such as Mamma Carmela’s famous meatballs.

It was still crowded at 8 p.m. when this reporter

visited. We were shown straight to a table and ordered wine from a menu that includes a large selection of Italian wines, and cocktails including the Positano Royale – a homemade lemoncello with prosecco. We shared an appetizer – the burrata, which was perfect, light and creamy, to enjoy with fresh bread.

I ordered the branzino – Mediterranean sea bass served with cherry tomatoes and white wine with clams and vegetables. It was fresh, bursting with flavor, and light, despite the generous portion size.

We finished with tiramisu, which was melt-in-your-mouth delicious and perfect with a cappuccino.

Diners will most likely be treated to a spontaneous burst of operatic singing by the pizza chef, Mimmo. Incongruous for Lafayette, maybe, but it works somehow.

The candles on each table gave a soft feel to the restaurant. A real mix of age groups were enjoying the food – from older folks, to families with children, a few couples and a group of college students.

Rosano says he aims to welcome all members of the community. He wants people to come back. The ambience is many steps above a basic pizza place but less formal than a “white tablecloth” restaurant. The prices are moderate, with the pasta dishes mostly under \$20, the thin crust pizza \$14 or less and nothing over \$25.

Rosano maintains that the best food is simple food prepared with fresh, high-quality ingredients.

The restaurant is open Tuesday thru Sunday, from 11:30 a.m. until 10 p.m. Reservations can be made through Yelp or by calling (925) 310-4337, but walk-ins are welcome too. Parking is easy and free on the street or in the rear parking lot.



Enzo’s favorite branzino, Mediterranean sea bass

## Film series continues in Lafayette with ‘Years of Living Dangerously’

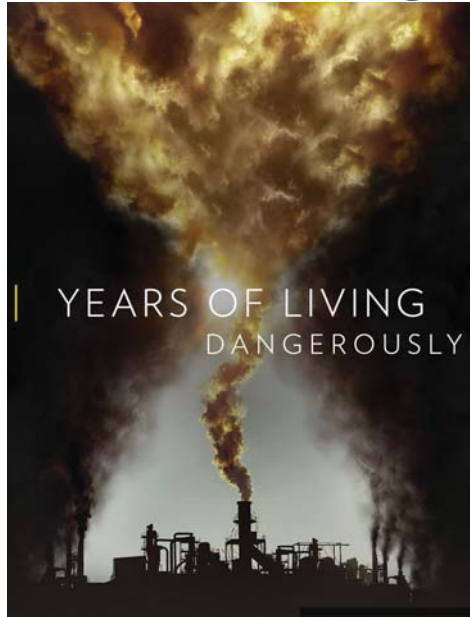


Image provided

Town Hall Theatre will be screening the next in Sustainable Lafayette’s 2018 film series, “Years of Living Dangerously,” the highly acclaimed National Geographic series that covers crucial issues, such as climate change, deforestation, historic droughts and the rapidly increasing extinction rate of the planet’s wildlife.

Sustainable Lafayette says that the film will feature an episode of the series focusing on energy production and the tactics traditional energy producers have used to slow down the growth of solar energy in the U.S. and around the world. Bryan Miller, a Lafayette resident and a former lobbyist for Exxon who joined the solar industry, is interviewed in the episode. He will be a guest speaker during a Q&A session following the screening.

The film will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St., Lafayette. There will be a pre-show reception at 6:30 p.m. Admission to the film is \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth and seniors. Refreshments and beverages will be served. – P. Fisher

## Film festival features short films

... continued from page B1

Clif Bar spokeswoman Juliana French-Arnold says that there are about 200 hosts this year screening the festival across the country. She adds that Clif Bar is thrilled to have the Intuitive Writing Project choose LunaFest to be part of their fundraising event, because Clif Bar’s mission aligns with the charity’s, and Orinda is in the Emeryville-based company’s backyard.


The founder of the Intuitive Writing Project, Elizabeth Perlman, thinks that LunaFest is the perfect embodiment of everything her nonprofit teaches local girls,

helping them to realize their power as the authors and heroines of their own lives. She cites Marian Wright Edelman who once said, “You can’t be what you can’t see.” She believes that it is important for girls to see women being powerful, creative leaders, like the female filmmakers featured at LunaFest. “The more we can celebrate the stories of women, the more we will all be able to reassert our value in the world,” she adds. “And the more girls realize their value and tell their stories, the more we will bring the world back into balance.”

Proceeds from the movie night will go to the Intuitive Writing Project, with a percentage given to Chicken & Egg Pictures, a nonprofit chosen by Clif Bar that supports women nonfiction filmmakers.

The Intuitive Writing Project offers empowerment workshops for girls in middle and high school. For information, visit [www.intuitivewritingproject.org](http://www.intuitivewritingproject.org). An optional VIP Reception will start at 6 p.m. March 22 at The Fourth Bore.

To learn more about LunaFest, visit [www.lunafest.org/our-story](http://www.lunafest.org/our-story).



**The Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) is looking to hire its first-ever Executive Director. The core proven competencies and experiences we seek in applicants are the following:**

- Fundraising experience with a proven track record of developing and executing multi-million-dollar volunteer-led campaigns. Major gifts experience is a plus.
- Exceptional communication skills including writing, public speaking, meeting facilitation, and consensus building. Naturally persuasive and passionate.
- Financial and/or business management with similar revenue streams, including budgeting and oversight, nonprofit compliance and reporting.
- Demonstrated capacity to build alliances and sustain collaborative relationships with community members from diverse cultural, economic and political perspectives.
- Senior management experience in a comparably focused educational and/or fundraising organization. Ideally having built an organization in size, scope and impact.
- Experience working and partnering with a highly-engaged community-based Board of Directors.

**EFO Executive Director applicants should send their qualifications to [EFOEDSearch@gmail.com](mailto:EFOEDSearch@gmail.com)**

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# A unique and relevant play opens at Town Hall Theatre

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Suzie Shepard and Erin Gould in "Woman in Mind"

Photos Jay Yamada

“Woman In Mind” is a 1980s play that tells the story of a frustrated housewife who finds relief from her dull and emotionally deprived existence in a fantasy world where she has invented a parallel family that has a life of its own, and will finally submerge her sanity. The play, which runs through March 24 at Town Hall Theatre, provides spectators with many moments of lightness and humor on the dark backdrop of a mental breakdown. It is served up by a remarkable group of actors.

Written in 1985 by prominent contemporary British playwright Alan Ayckbourn, known for writing many plays about marriages and also for experimenting with different forms on the stage, “Woman in Mind” has the particularity of being written entirely from the perspective of Susan, the housewife. Dennis Markam, who directs the play at Town Hall, says that this is one of the reasons he wanted to present this work in Lafayette; he believes it is the only play of its kind.

The play takes place in Susan’s garden – very lovely scenic design, in her presence only, and we see what she thinks. There is no explanation, no commentary about what is happening to her; the audience has to figure it out. This is where knowing where the play is going, in fact, helps in appreciating it.

It all starts as the story of a frustrated housewife who uses benign and rosy, soap opera-like day-dreaming to compensate for the lack of emotional fulfillment she gets in her real life. But slowly, the fantasy takes control of her reality, and she tips into madness.

The way Susan loses ground, unable to control her daydreaming, becoming controlled by it, transitions very slowly, but with great mastery.

There are Freudian accents to the play. Susan is frustrated emotionally, but she is also sexually

deprived. When she confronts her cold and boring clergyman of a husband on the topic he answers that he thought that after a certain age, meaning menopause, women just lose interest. Her fantasy with her dreamed-husband takes on a very erotic turn – “sleeping with the devil” – just before the tipping point of her folly.

While the subject of the play is dramatic, spectators laugh constantly. The group of actors that were selected to embody the characters holds the success of the play. They are all excellent. Suzie Shepard as Susan brings her natural exuberance to the role and adds all the nuances of despair and anger that it demands. She is on stage from the first minute to the last, in her average dress and sad sweater, a powerful presence.

All the actors revolving around her are perfectly cast. Erin Gould embodies the funny, touching and clumsy doctor, who brings a touch of real humanity into Susan’s life. Gretchen Lee Salter is the annoying live-in sister-in-law. She brings the annoyance to an almost palpable level and adds some surprises at the end. Michael Sally plays the boring and insensitive husband perfectly, giving him no redeeming quality. Domonic Tracy as Susan’s son has a smaller role but adds his touch of lack of compassion to Susan’s deadly paradigm. The fictional family of Craig Souza, Tim Holt Jones and Brooke Silva, with their shallow soap lives and colorful attire, become increasingly and tactfully menacing.

The play does not hit too far from home. Susan’s mental imagery and the way it takes control of her life could be a metaphor for today’s prescription pill epidemic among mothers reported in Parents Magazine or The Washington Post.

“Woman In Mind” plays at THT until March 24. For more information and tickets go to www.townhalltheatre.com/woman-in-mind/.



From left: Brooke Silva and Suzie Shepard in "Woman in Mind"

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## Troop 219 honors 11 new Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Janis Workman



Front row, from left: Liam Morley, Michael Terentieff, Henry Huchingson, Parker Henderson and Nicholas Krozek; back row: Drake Fettig, Henry Rogers, Nicholas Stevenson, Foster Jones, Nicholas Price and Kenny Workman. Photo provided

Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 219 will honor 11 young men who have achieved the Eagle Scout award, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America, at 2 p.m. March 17 at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church.

Led by Scoutmaster Tyler Higgins since 2010, Troop 219 has held its meetings at Lafayette United Methodist Church for 66 years and produced 206 Eagle Scouts.

"Troop 219 is blessed to have so many terrific families involved in our program, and together, we have built something special for the boys in Lafayette," said Higgins, who earned his Eagle in Troop 219 in 1982. "I am so proud of these young men, and know each is headed for great things."

As part of earning their Eagle badge, the 11 newly minted Eagle Scouts of Troop 219 completed the following Eagle service projects:

**Drake Fettig** constructed and installed a Friendship Bench at Happy Valley Elementary, providing a place for children to resolve conflicts and make new friends; **Parker Henderson** renovated the science garden at Stanley Middle School and created and mounted signs to inform and direct visitors to activities at the school; **Henry Huchingson** built a large cabinet for the Lafayette Historical Society to house its antique fire truck equipment, and organized and cleaned a historical display area; **Foster Jones** removed and rebuilt an 80-foot redwood fence at Lafayette United Methodist Church, correcting a fire hazard and ameliorating a public safety concern; **Nicholas Krozek** and other scouts he directed spent over 200 hours at the Lafayette Community Garden, designing and building a shed for hay, and remodeling the chicken coop; **Liam Morley** built over 150 feet of fence in a Bay Area wetland

to protect both a nesting zone for endangered species and a historical ferry house; **Nicholas Price** partnered with the Environmental Science teacher at Acalanes High School to relocate, rebuild and enlarge the program's chicken coop, adding a new nesting box and enclosed run for the chickens; **Henry Rogers** designed and organized the construction of two benches in the courtyard of Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, using specialized Ipe hard wood which required special tools and is difficult to cut but will provide beautiful and long lasting seating; **Nicholas Stevenson** overhauled the irrigation system at Lafayette United Methodist Church, by replacing outdated and broken pipes and equipment, and digging holes and running new lines for a planter box; **Michael Terentieff** built a large redwood picnic table and completely refurbished an old table to match for Shelter, Inc., providing much needed outdoor seating for families who live at a transitional facility in Pittsburg; and **Kenneth Workman** designed and constructed a large wooden and enclosed Communication Center at the Lafayette Community Center, where community members now post notices of events and inquiries, to help others learn of opportunities and stay informed.

To attain the rank of Eagle Scout, a Scout must earn his way up the scouting ranks from Tenderfoot to Life Scout. As a Life Scout, he must be active in the troop for at least six months, earn at least 21 required merit badges, serve in a Leadership position, show Scout Spirit, and plan, develop and offer leadership to others in an approved Eagle service project helpful to any religious institution, school, nonprofit organization or the community.

## Acalanes High School team ranked third at CCC High School Mock Trials

Submitted by Jonathan Lance



Acalanes High School Mock Trial Team

Photo provided

During seven Tuesday and Thursday evenings last month, 15 Contra Costa County high school Mock Trial teams, including those from Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte high schools, battled it out with each other inside the superior courthouse courtrooms of Martinez. As like their fellow Mock Trial Teams throughout the nation, the teams presented *People v. Davidson*, a criminal case involving first-degree murder and a pretrial argument on the Fourth Amendment.

This year's top four teams were ranked: 1) California, 2) Alhambra, 3) Acalanes, and 4) Monte Vista. The California High School team beat Alhambra High School Feb. 20 in the final round of Mock Trials, inside the Bray Courthouse, in Martinez. The final match was judged and scored by First District Court of Appeal, Division Five, Justice Terence Bruiniers, along with seven Bay Area attorneys, serving as Mock Trial scorers. Acalanes High School defeated Monte Vista High School during the same evening's consolation match.

Honored guest Judge Mary Ann O'Malley was on hand to address the large crowd with accounts of this year's Mock Trials. "You proved that nothing substitutes for hard work. During the past month, many of my fellow judges who participated with your Mock Trials, said over, and over, and over again, how you guys were so much better than the professional attorneys they saw earlier in the day." O'Malley continued, "I've always been impressed with the participants of Mock Trials ... but this year, it was really something extra special with your outstanding preparation and delivery."

ing preparation and delivery."

For numerous Mock Trial seasons, O'Malley has always been known for providing a very positive learning environment in her courtroom, taking and passing along useful notes, and giving motivational comments to every participant, after the trial concludes.

Most of the teams begin their Mock Trial training when they began the new school year – which makes Mock Trials one of the longest seasons of all the participating schools' sports and academic activities.

The purpose of the Mock Trial program is to teach students about the law and the workings of the legal system. To prepare, the students conducted legal research and received guidance on courtroom procedures from their schoolteachers and volunteer attorneys and judges, to acquire a working knowledge of the judicial system.

This year, an impressive 91 Bay Area practicing and retired attorneys, senior law students, and sworn judges volunteered their time to serve as Mock Trial Attorney Scorers and Judges. These volunteers represented judges from Bay Area Superior Courts, the California Bankruptcy Court, the California Supreme Court, and the California Appellate Court. Attorney Scorers included Bay Area attorneys from county District Attorney and Public Defender offices, the State Attorney General's Office, and the California Department of Justice. Also assisting, were nonprofit, public, private, and corporate attorneys. In addition, senior students from five Bay Area law schools lent a hand in scoring.

## Saklan announces new Head of School

Submitted by Christine Kuckuk



Photo provided

After an extensive nationwide search, The Saklan School Board of Directors recently announced the appointment of David O'Connell, a dedicated and inspiring educational leader with over 20 years of experience in independent schools all over the world, as the next Head of School to begin in July.

Most recently, O'Connell served as Head of School at the Jerusalem American International School and as the Middle School Division Director at the Duke School in North Carolina, both preschool through eighth grade independent schools. He is originally from Michigan and holds a master's in educational administration as well as a master's in international education. He is currently completing a certificate in nonprofit management and philanthropy at Harvard.

## Local nonprofit chosen as A's 'Game Charity'

By Chelsea Pelchat

The Oakland A's baseball team is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2018 and for the first time in its history, they have selected a few Bay Area charities to be "The Game Charity" for a home game. Moraga's Be the Star You Are – an all volunteer charity with no paid staff that empowers women, families, and youth through increased literacy and positive media messages – will be the featured nonprofit for the Friday, June 15 baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels, one of the chief rivals of the Oakland Athletics.

"We are so thrilled and grateful to be selected as The Game Charity," said BTSYA Executive Director Cynthia Brian. "This is an unique opportunity to celebrate an evening of family fun on the field including a phenomenal fireworks display with our local volunteers, supporters, and community."

The entertaining family night will begin at 6:30 p.m. with field-level seating in sections 128-132. Be the Star You Are ticket holders will get to go on the field to watch the Dinosaur Fireworks with a Jurassic Park theme following the game. Attendees will receive some swag plus several other special surprises to be announced. Raffle tickets will be sold for an experience for two individuals to go on the field on a different day to watch batting practice and meet the players.

Discount tickets are \$34, which includes the service fee; a portion of the proceeds will benefit Be the Star You Are. For information and purchasing links, visit [www.BetheStarYouAre.org](http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org) or email [info@BetheStarYouAre.org](mailto:info@BetheStarYouAre.org). Tickets will also be available between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. March 17 at the Be the Star You Are booth at LaGaelrinda Day at Saint Mary's College.

## In Memory

### Suzanne Fleury Warrick

1952-2018



On January 3, 2018, three days after her 66th birthday, Suzanne Warrick passed away peacefully at her home in Lafayette surrounded by family – husband Doug Warrick, daughter Dr. Ali Warrick, and Ali's boyfriend Mark Stefanik. She had been battling cancer for a mere eight weeks when a stroke suddenly took her from us.

Suzanne liked to say she "woke up happy." She was quick-witted, fun, rambunctious, and genuine. "It is free to give a smile," she said. "Unconditional love conquers all." She loved to cheer people on, celebrate the joy in every day, and make angel food cakes for friends' birthdays.

As owner of the Contra Costa design firm Interiors, Suzanne spun at the center of a large circle of clients, suppliers, and colleagues, many of whom became

lifelong friends. Although she focused on others' accomplishments, her own designs were regarded as works of art by her clients.

Her passion was in supporting others, including her daughter Ali through college, medical school, and now residency at UC Davis, specializing in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate gifts to the **Suzanne Warrick Memorial Scholarship Fund** to support future health care providers at the UC Davis School of Medicine. Mail donations to the Office of University Development, One Shields Ave., Davis, CA 95616, payable to the UC Regents. Or visit [give.ucdavis.edu/medi/324165](http://give.ucdavis.edu/medi/324165). A celebration of Suzanne's life will be scheduled later.

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

## Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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



# SUMMER CAMPS 2017

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Camp Guide

### Part 1, Full Day and Overnight Camps (Part 2, half-day camps, April 5 2017)

**25** camps listed

#### Adventure Day Camp (Walnut Creek, San Ramon, & Alamo)

see ad

A traditional summer day camp for children ages 3-15. In a relaxed atmosphere, children gain confidence and skills in a wide range of camp activities including: swimming, horseback riding, sailing, skateboarding, woodworking, science, arts, sports, archery, drama, music, rock climbing, hiking, overnight camping, and camp games. Home transportation is available from most areas. Dates: June 11-Aug.18 (925) 937-6500 www.adventuredaycamp.com

#### Avid4 Adventure (Moraga, Oakland, Walnut Creek)

see ad

This summer, experience the power of authentic outdoor adventure. Avid4 Adventure's experienced instructors teach pre-K - 7th graders of all levels to climb, paddle, bike, hike and thrive in the outdoors. 9 - 3 p.m. with before & after care with camp locations in Oakland, Moraga, Walnut Creek and other Bay Area cities. Dates: Weekly June 19-Aug. 18 (800) 977-9873 www.avid4.com

### Get ready for summer!

It may only be March, and the rain is clouding our lives, but summer is just around the corner. And with summer comes the wonderful opportunity for our children to experience summer camps. In this issue of the Lamorinda Weekly, we kick off our annual guide to summer activities and programs in and around Lamorinda, featuring full daycamps and overnight camps. Look for our listing of half-day camps and programs coming in April.

Get your children ready to have the summer of their dreams!

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#### Berkeley Rep School of Theatre (Berkeley)

see ad

Discover the art of theater-making with professional playwrights, directors, and teaching artists in a dynamic, four-week camp for all levels. Create an original play to be performed professionally. Dates: Summer Theatre Intensive for entering grades 6-8, June 19-July 14; Summer Theatre Intensive for entering grades 9-12, July 15-Aug. 11; Filmmaking & Acting Intensive for entering grades 9-12, July 17-Aug. 4. (510) 647-2972 berkeleyrep.org/summerintensive

#### Camp Awesome (Lafayette)

Camp Awesome is a fun, flexible and affordable, 11 weeks of summer, day camp (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.). Early care (7:30 a.m.), aftercare (2 to 5 p.m.), by the week, drop-in, sports, games, crafts, Games2U (laser tag, hamster ball, video games twice a week), magicians, jugglers, friends - a summer full of memories!

Dates: June - August (925) 284-2232 www.LafayetteRec.org

#### Camp Doodles (Orinda, Berkeley, SF, Mill Valley)

see ad

After 15 years in Marin and San Francisco, Doodle is crossing the tunnel and coming to Orinda. We are an incubator for kids to grow their creative intelligence through Making and art. Weekly programs are designed around themes such as basic engineering, biomimicry, renewable fuels, and the always-popular Play-scapes carnival. ACA accredited. Dates: weekly sessions June 26 - Aug 18 (415) 388-4386 www.campdoodles.com

#### Camp Hacienda (Moraga)

Moraga Parks and Recreation presents Camp Hacienda, a day camp for children ages 5-10 that will incorporate sports, games, crafts and lots of other fun activities in the safe, secluded environment of the Hacienda de las Flores! Extended care also available. Dates: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 19 - Aug. 11, Extended care: 7:30 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. (925) 888-7045 www.moragarec.com

#### Camp Kefli (Lafayette)

Camp Kefli offers a wide range of programs that are appropriate to each age group, grades K-8, filling our two one-week sessions with fun. Some programs utilize the Temple Isaiah facility while others take place off site. We offer creative theme days and adventures that enrich and delight our campers. Dates: July 31 - Aug 11 (925) 284-9191 www.temple-isaiah.org/kefli

#### Camp Orinda (Orinda)

This camp for ages 6-12 offers one adventure after another. It includes games, arts, crafts, hiking, skits, sports, and twice-weekly field trips to such places as Waterworld, Lawrence Hall of Science, the Exploratorium and the Oakland Zoo. Full day and extended-care options available. Dates: June 12-Aug. 4 (925) 254-2445 www.cityoforinda.org



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- Drama
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- Camping
- Hiking
- Canoeing
- Dance

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SUMMER CAMPS 2017

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**SUMMER CAMPS 2017**

**The Crucible Youth Summer Camps (Oakland)** see ad

Kids can explore a wide range of arts—blacksmithing, glass blowing, ceramics, jewelry, neon, welding and robotics—all under one roof. Week-long youth camps, for ages 8+, let imaginations soar while teaching hands-on skills overlapping science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Morning and afternoon camps with after care available.  
 Dates: Weekly sessions June 19 - Aug. 4  
[www.thecrucible.org/youth-camps](http://www.thecrucible.org/youth-camps)

**iD Tech Camps (Moraga)**

Students ages 6-18 can learn to code apps, design video games, mod Minecraft, assemble laptops, discover cyber security, engineer robots, create websites, 3D-print models, and much more! Campers are taught in small groups of just 8 students per instructor—guaranteed—for personalized instruction every time.  
 Dates: June 12–Aug. 25  
 1-888-709-8324  
[www.iDTech.com](http://www.iDTech.com)

**Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop (Lafayette)**

This weeklong music workshop provides an intimate and inspiring environment for learning and playing jazz. Students, ages 11 to 80-years old, receive master classes, improvisation workshops and jazz combos led by some of the preeminent, professional musicians in the field.  
 Dates: One week only, July 30 to Aug. 4.  
[www.lafsmw.org](http://www.lafsmw.org)

**Orion Academy Summer Adventures for Teens with Asperger's (Moraga)**

Orion's popular summer sessions were developed and are run by Orion faculty to improve the social skills of teens with Asperger's in a fun and supportive environment for ages 12-16. Find common interests while learning to paddle board, geocache, navigate a ropes course and hike with llamas.  
 Dates: July 17- 21, July 24- 27 (925) 377-0789  
[www.orionacademy.org](http://www.orionacademy.org)

**Randy Bennett Basketball Camps (Moraga)** see ad


The Randy Bennett Day Camps held at Saint Mary's McKeon Pavilion are a great way for boys and girls ages 4-13 to receive top-class instruction on every aspect of the game. Throughout the week Coach Bennett will lead instruction on every aspect of the game. Morning, afternoon and full day options available.  
 Dates: June 6 - July 14  
[smcmensbasketballcamps.com](http://smcmensbasketballcamps.com)

**Roughing It Day Camp (Lafayette)** see ad

Roughing It is a traditional all outdoors summer day camp for children aged Pre-K - 16 at the Lafayette Reservoir. Activities include horseback riding, swimming, fishing, canoeing, kayaking and other adventures. Free transportation and home pick up from the Lamorinda area. Free extended care is available too.  
 Dates: June - August (925) 283-3795  
[www.roughingit.com](http://www.roughingit.com)

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**CAMP YOUNG WRITERS** is open to students in grades 3-12 who strive to improve their writing skills. Projects consist of first person narratives, historical biographies and literature analyses. Our camps will take place **June 12-30** and **July 10-August 4**; sessions will be held three days per week, 2-5 pm.  
 For further information, please call **925-385-0211** or visit us at [www.lafayettewritingstudio.com](http://www.lafayettewritingstudio.com).



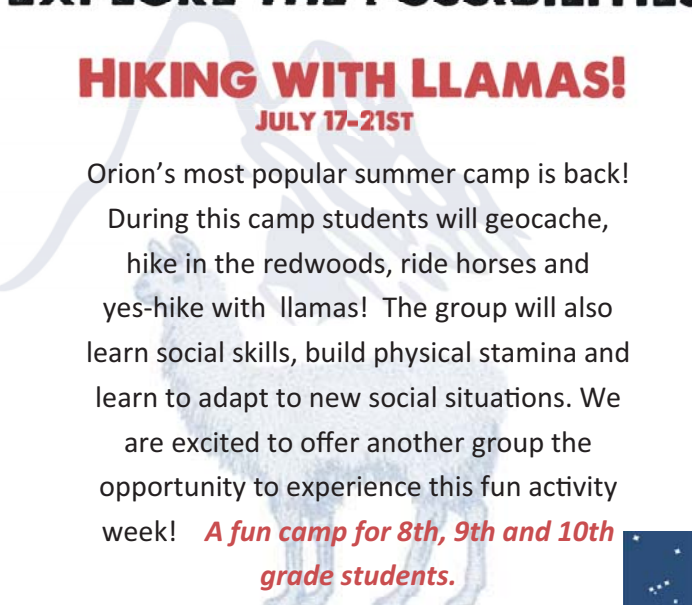
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 JULY 17-21ST

Orion's most popular summer camp is back! During this camp students will geocache, hike in the redwoods, ride horses and yes-hike with llamas! The group will also learn social skills, build physical stamina and learn to adapt to new social situations. We are excited to offer another group the opportunity to experience this fun activity week! **A fun camp for 8th, 9th and 10th grade students.**



Phone: 925-377-0789  
[www.orionacademy.org](http://www.orionacademy.org) 350 Rheem Blvd. Moraga, CA



# OVER NIGHT SUMMER CAMPS

## Aspen Network Team Camp (Sierra Nevada Mountains) see ad

Teens and young adults with social differences that include anxiety, spectrum behaviors, OCD, ADHD or Non-verbal Learning Disorder have discovered a safe space at our camp located in the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains of Northern California. Activities include river rafting, sailing on Lake Tahoe, backpacking, hiking and campfires.  
 Dates: July 9-13  
 (925) 262-3135  
 www.aspennetwork.net

## Avid4 Adventure Overnight (Rocky Mountains, Colorado) see ad

First-12th graders take on a range of adventure sports—rock climbing, mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding—and strike out on eye-opening, character-building overnight expeditions. An immersive experience that makes a deep imprint on kids and teens, leaving them with lasting skills and new reserves of confidence.  
 (800) 977-9873  
 www.avid4.com

## Lorne Smith Lacrosse Camps (University of Oregon, Lake Tahoes) see ad

One of the most highly regarded teachers - and players - of the game of lacrosse, Lafayette resident Lorne Smith offers overnight camps (with day option) for boys ages 12-18.  
 Dates: University of Oregon, July 8-12  
 Lake Tahoe, July 15-19 (high school only, rising freshmen okay)  
 www.lornesmithlacrosse.com

## The Randy Bennett High Potential Camp (Moraga) see ad

The Randy Bennett High Potential Camp is designed for boys entering 6th-12th grades who would like to achieve at the highest levels of basketball. Coach Bennett and his staff personally direct this overnight camp as they coach each participant as if he were a player at Saint Mary's College. Each athlete will participate in daily competitions, skill development, and scrimmages.  
 Dates: Aug. 1-3  
 smcmensbasketballcamps.com

### Viva Español! Spanish Immersion Camps

- ★ Week-long day camps
- ★ Choose from a variety of kid-friendly themes
- ★ Camps include games, arts & crafts, science, music, cooking and more!
- ★ Option for half or full day, with before and after care
- ★ Experienced, dynamic teachers

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BayAreaParent Family Favorite 2016

Several camps include fieldtrips to the Lafayette Reservoir!

www.vivaelespanol.org • 925-962-9177  
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**APRIL SWIM CONDITIONING** - begins April 10th

**SUMMER SWIM TEAM** - begins May 1st (early registration discount!)

**GUTTER GUPPY PROGRAM** - begins in June

Want more info about recreational swimming in our community?

Join us at an **INFORMATIONAL MEETING**, hosted by LMYA Swim, to have all your questions answered.

**March 14th @ 6:30p in the Acalanes High School Cafeteria**



[www.lmyaswim.com](http://www.lmyaswim.com)

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Aspen network is an exciting program for youth and young adults with social differences, which includes a great summer camp.

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- Leadership skills
- Friendships and camaraderie
- Meeting challenges and personal goals
- Making smart decisions

Aspen network programs include: Living Community, Groups, Summer Camp and Weekend Programs

[www.AspenNetwork.net](http://www.AspenNetwork.net)  
 Tel: (925) 262-3135



# THE BEST WEEK OF SUMMER



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**JULY 15-19 | LAKE TAHOE**  
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#LSL18



**LORNE SMITH LACROSSE CAMPS**

## DONS Youth Football Academy

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open to all athletes entering 5th-9th grade in the Fall of 2018  
Goal is to teach fundamentals, develop skills, and help kids with the transition to tackle football in a fun, fast-paced, and non-contact environment.



**Camp Dates July 9-12**  
**5th - 8th Grade 1-4pm**  
**9th Grade 6-9pm**

- Combine Stations • Hands Drills • Trench Wars • Film Study
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[www.acalanesdonsfootball.com](http://www.acalanesdonsfootball.com)

# FULL DAY SUMMER CAMPS 2018

### Roughing It Day Camp

(Lafayette)

see ad

Discover the outdoors at Roughing It Day Camp! An all outdoor summer camp experience for children ages 4-16. Enjoy the wonders of our lakefront location: canoeing, fishing, hiking and more. Swimming and horseback riding instruction included. Free transportation. Free extended care. Learn more or schedule a camp tour at [roughingit.com](http://roughingit.com).  
Dates: June - August  
(925) 283-3795  
[www.roughingit.com](http://www.roughingit.com)

### Saklan School

(Moraga)

see ad

Summer @ Saklan provides culture, language and summer fun for ages 3-11. Mornings on campus are filled with enrichment in Mandarin, French, Japanese, Spanish and Italian. Afternoons are packed with summer fun, including field trips, swimming, art and music. Three-week sessions 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Full or half days, with extended care available.  
Dates: June 11 - Aug. 10  
(925) 376-7900  
[www.saklan.org](http://www.saklan.org)

### Sewnow! Fashion Design

(Lafayette)

see ad

Have a blast, learn to design, sew, and illustrate like a pro and walk away with unique personalized fashion items. Camps include FashionKit patterns and digital instructions, fabrics, notions, custom embroidery, and participation in our end-of-summer fashion show. One-week, half-day and full-day camps for juniors (second and third grade), kids, and teens.  
Dates: June - August  
(925) 283-7396  
[www.sewnow.com](http://www.sewnow.com)

## Summer @ Saklan



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Culture, Language, and Summer Fun!

Ages 3-11  
[saklan.org](http://saklan.org)

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Play sports and calculate your statistics
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Clarify/review current year's math and prepare for the next
- **Classes to Attack Algebra**  
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- **Get a Jump on Geometry:**  
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\*\*\*\* **Warning** – These classes might trick students into believing that math is fun \*\*\*\*

If you have further questions feel free to contact Michael at [m.adler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.adler@sbcglobal.net)

Classes taught by teacher & experienced math instructor, Michael Adler

To enroll contact the Moraga Parks and Rec. Department at [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us) or call (925) 888-7036

Want a great tutor who is fun? Individual/small group summer or year round tutoring available  
[m.adler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.adler@sbcglobal.net)



Michael Adler

Thank you Advertisers!  
Lamorinda Weekly.

### Sienna Ranch

(Lafayette)

Camp choices at Lamorinda's own ranch camp include morning Farm Hands and Nature, and Horseback Riding camps as well as afternoon pottery, woodshop, archery, art and animals, horses and more. Serving campers entering grades PreK-8 with select teen programming, Sienna Ranch offers weeklong, full-day or half-day camp options.  
Dates: various dates and times available  
(925) 283-6311  
[www.siennaranch.net](http://www.siennaranch.net)

### Spanish Immersion Summer Camps with Viva el Español

(Lafayette)

see ad

Learn or improve Spanish language skills through games, music, arts and crafts, science projects and cooking. During each weeklong camp students learn vocabulary related to a specific kid-friendly theme such as Wondrous Outdoors at the Reservoir or Mission Impossible. Full day, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Before/after-care available. Half-day options also available.  
(925) 962-9177  
[www.vivaelespanol.org](http://www.vivaelespanol.org)

### Summer Shakespeare Conservatories at Saint Mary's College

(Moraga, Oakland)

Give your child the memories and skills of a lifetime! In this intensive 4-week conservatory, students work with theater professionals to create a live performance while learning stage combat, physical comedy, vocal studies, and more. Space very limited, register today!  
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Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga  
[www.calshakes.org/learn](http://www.calshakes.org/learn)  
(510) 809-3293

The Lamorinda Weekly Summer Camp listings are not paid advertising. Our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. In the event we have inadvertently printed misinformation, please let us know. LW is not liable for errors or omissions.

### GET AHEAD IN MATH THIS YEAR



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## Family Focus

# Eight ways to help your underachieving child

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

Nancy Anderson alternately wept and raged in my therapy office. Her 12-year-old son, Jake, had failed two subjects in the first semester of seventh grade. Jake had a history of struggling in school, despite performing well above average on standardized tests. Nancy explained that she and her husband, Bill, had tried everything at one time or another: rewards, restrictions, daily backpack checks for assignments, and frequent teacher conferences. They had Jake tested in sixth grade for learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder, and there was no indication of any problem.

Jake refused to go to a tutor or see a counselor for help. He remained a happy, fun-loving child at home except for conflicts with his parents over schoolwork. Athletically talented and socially adept, Jake seemed relatively well-adjusted. He had a good relationship with his two older brothers, both of whom were excelling in high school.

As children begin to mature, they search for their own sense of identity and control. If parents inhibit this process by being too intrusive or demanding, a child may rebel. Often, the rebellion is unconscious in that the child is not aware of why he or she behaves the way they do. It is important

for parents to avoid reacting to the child's behavior as a personal challenge to their authority. This kind of reaction only sets the stage for a full-scale power struggle. The unfortunate result of family power struggles is that no one really wins.

Here are the strategies we used to help Jake turn around his low academic performance:

1) Never let your child see that you are more worried and concerned about their schoolwork and grades than he or she is! Of course you may be quite upset, but you need to hide your reaction. Most children derive a sense of power from the ability to upset authority figures. Think back to your own childhood, to a time when you felt frustrated your parents, and see if you can recall having this feeling. Watch not only your words, but also your tone of voice and overall body language when you are communicating your new sense of calm.

2) Work at having a positive, loving relationship with your child, despite your (hidden) frustrations. Because the topic of school is probably highly charged, stick to safe, neutral subjects for discussion. Have fun together, laugh, and enjoy your child's company. Let him or her know all the qualities they possess that you admire and appreciate. Find what they are doing

well and focus on that. Be sure they have positive pursuits that they enjoy so that they can have a feeling of accomplishment and pleasure in areas other than academics.

3) School is your child's responsibility, not yours. After all, you already finished seventh grade successfully, so this is not really about you. Let him or her know, in a calm, caring tone of voice that it is their decision whether or not they do well in school. If your student struggles with the work, you can tell him you know he will do well with extra assistance at school, from you at home, or with tutoring. Ask him if he's receptive to having help, and if so, what form of help? Ask him if he wants you to check in and offer assistance from time to time, or if he wants to be the one to approach you for help.

4) Be consistent. Be sure other family members are following the same approach. Otherwise, you will lose time and need to start the process all over again. One pique of anger about schoolwork will undo much of the effort you have already made. Inform teachers and school personnel of your approach and ask them for help in making sure they apply consequences at school if she doesn't turn in work or gets low grades. Your child will be accountable to them for neglecting his work, not to you.

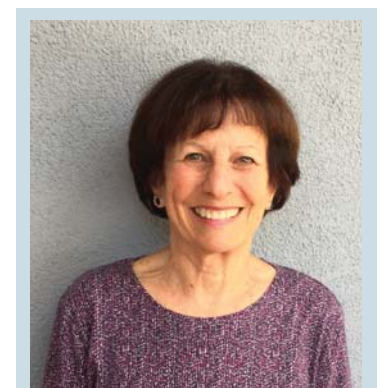
5) Be patient. Lower your immediate expectations. Your child's patterns developed over time, and will take anywhere from one school semester to two years to improve. Think in terms of the big picture – your child's future happiness and success – instead of dwelling on the current situation.

6) Keep trying to get to know your child and to help him learn about himself. After your new approach has been in place for a few months, ask him how he feels about his life in general – his activities, friends, school, etc. Ask about his goals. Be nonjudgmental and loving. If he does not want to have this conversation, don't persist. Try again in a few months.

7) Avoid lecturing or giving unsolicited advice about school. Listen to your child as you would to one of your close friends. If she complains about school, be sympathetic. Sometimes a child's low performance in a class is related to his dislike of a teacher. If she tells you she didn't study, forgot to hand in an assignment, or got a low grade, be sympathetic. (This is when it's especially hard for parents to stifle themselves. But I can tell you that most kids resent parents' negative or nagging reactions to their mishaps, and wind up directing anger towards you instead of where it belongs – at themselves). You want to

leave room for her to figure out if she wants to do anything differently. And for her to understand that the power to change resides within herself.

8) Don't hesitate to get support for yourself and other family members if following these rules becomes too difficult. Talk to the school counselor or set up an appointment with a family therapist.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a marriage and family therapist in Orinda and Walnut Creek. She is the author of "Appetite for Life: Stories of Recovery from Anorexia, Bulimia and Compulsive Overeating" and "Treat Your Partner Like a Dog: How to Breed a Better Relationship." Contact her at (925) 376-9323 or [margierye@yahoo.com](mailto:margierye@yahoo.com).

# Devour this devilishly divine chicken dish

By Susie Iventosch



Pollo alla Diavola

Photo Susie Iventosch

We recently visited our daughter in New York City, and one night we dined at a really cozy, neighborhood restaurant called Lupa. It seems that most of us were craving chicken that night, but there was only one option on the menu — Pollo alla Diavola (devil's chicken) so called for the spicy nature and flame-grilling of the dish. To me it didn't sound particularly interesting, but three out of four of us ordered it anyway. Even when it arrived, it didn't look all that amazing, but as soon as we took one bite, we were all hooked. This may have been the best chicken dish I've ever eaten in a restaurant, and it registered such a high

note with us that we have made it every, single week ever since. I made it for a dinner party one night, and even though most recipes call for the whole chicken, we purchased Mary's bone-in, skin-on chicken breasts from Diablo Foods and it was devilishly divine. Our son suggested it as an alternative to my regular hot and spicy wing recipe, and it was awesome as a rub on wings, too. If you like spices and chicken, you just can't go wrong with this recipe. Last time I made the rub, I quadrupled the recipe and made a whole spice jar full. This makes it super easy when you have a craving for this dish at the last minute.

## Pollo alla Diavola

(Serves 4)

### INGREDIENTS

- 4 chicken breasts (bone in and skin on)
- 6 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 tsp. ground Himalayan pink salt, or your favorite salt
- 1 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp. paprika (smoked, spicy or Moroccan)
- 4 bay leaves, left whole

### DIRECTIONS

Mix all spices, salt and herbs in a small bowl. Set aside 4 teaspoons of the spice mixture and stir into olive oil. Save for later.

About one hour prior to cooking, rub the remaining spice mixture over each chicken breast to cover the entire breast on both sides. Tuck one bay leaf between the skin and meat of each chicken breast.

Grill over medium heat on the barbecue for approximately 5-7 minutes per side. Remove from grill and place in a baking dish. Brush chicken breasts with olive oil-spice mixture. Continue to cook in the oven at 350 F for approximately 20 to 25 minutes, or until desired doneness.

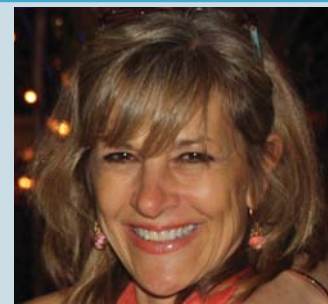
Serve hot and spicy!!!

## Cooking Term of the Week

### Albumen

Albumen is another name for the white of an egg. It is interesting to note that albumen contains albumin, which is a water soluble protein.

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



## Community gathers to clear fire blight from JM Orchard

Submitted by Bobbie Preston



From left: Sam Whipple, Ollie Wendt, and David Berkes, all of Boys Team Charity.

Photos provided

In the summer of 2014 Bobbie Preston noticed that the Pear Orchard next to Joaquin Moraga Middle School was heavily damaged by fire blight, a bacterial disease that affects pears, apples and members of the rose family. That August, 4,500 pounds of pears were gleaned by the Moraga Park Foundation for the Contra Costa/Solano Food Bank.

In the past, pruning of the JM orchard has been performed by the Moraga Parks Foundation, mainly aimed at architectural pruning and removal of dead wood; the first community pruning aimed at fire blight removal in the Orchard was in September of 2014. Since then, there have been eight community prunings of the orchard, and in 2016 interested Moragans funded the placement of organic fertilizer in the orchard to increase the vigor of the 93 remaining trees, and thereby increase their ability to fight the infection.

On Feb. 24 over 50 volunteers from Boys Team Charity, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Joaquin Moraga and Camino Pablo students and parents, and members of Moraga Gardens Farm pruned out every bit of visible fire blight and cleared a large pile of landscape debris dumped illegally in the orchard. This event was sponsored by the Moraga School District, which owns the orchard, and the town of Moraga; green bins

to collect the debris were provided by Republic Services and Expert Tree Services chipped and hauled away the debris.

The JM Orchard was part of the original DelMonte Pear Packing site and is over 100 years old; the pear has become the icon of Moraga and not only is on the Town Seal, it is the reason for the annual Moraga Pear Festival in September.

Fire blight is rapidly destructive and can kill a whole orchard in one season. The only feasible way to control fire blight in a large Orchard is by pruning out the infected wood; spraying must be done as each blossom opens, and since the blossoms don't open all on the same day, spraying would need to be repeated day after day until all blossoms have opened. Once an orchard is infected, the best one can hope for is control with vigilant pruning. Consultants at UC Davis have said that, with proper care, our 105-year-old pear trees could make it to 200.

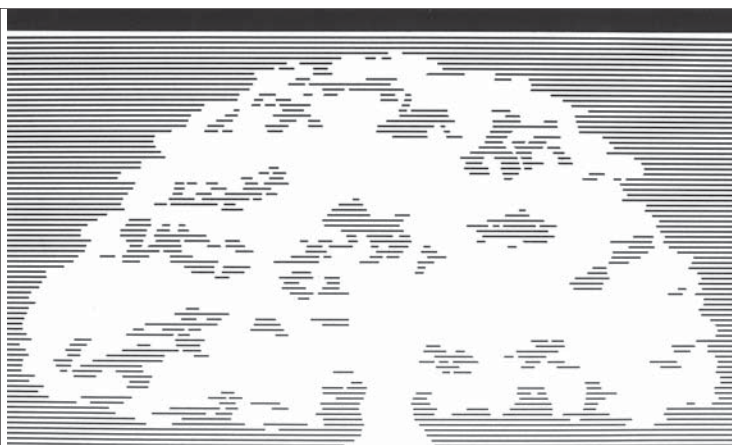
There is extensive fire blight throughout Moraga and it is spread by bees, insects, birds, splashing rain, and wind, and movement of infected twigs and branches to the area of healthy trees. Check out your home trees and be aggressive pruning if you find fire blight (You must remove 8-12 inches of good wood below the infected wood to prevent recurrence; the infected areas can be identified by the blackened leaves, and the black,

shriveled stems).

By August 2017 only small amounts of fire blight remained at the JM Orchard and the happy trees provided almost 8,000 pounds of pears to the food bank.

"It takes a village but our iconic pears look great ... here's hoping for 10,000 pounds of pears for the food bank this August," said Preston. "Watch the Town Newsletter for information about picking pears in August."

For more information, call Preston at (925) 376-8474.



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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



### St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda  
254-3770. www.ststephensorinda.org

#### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

March 25 Palm Sunday: 8am and 10am  
March 25 Supper Sunday: Holy Week Sampler Platter!  
March 28 Tenebrae Service: 7pm  
March 29 Maundy Thursday: Supper & Service: 6pm  
March 30 Good Friday: noon and 7pm  
March 31 The Great Vigil of Easter & Sacrament of Holy Baptism: 7pm (A festive reception follows in the parish hall)  
April 1 Easter Sunday: 7am, 9am, 11am

### LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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and anything is possible with God.



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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

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3454 Hamlin Road | Lafayette | stperpetua.org  
925.283.0272 Parish | 925.284.1640 School

### 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

### THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

#### Sunday Sacrament Service at 10AM

Scripture Study & Youth Programs

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

### ART

"Darker Shades of Red" provides a rare opportunity to revisit the Cold War Era through the exploration of the Soviet Union's official imagery through May 20 at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art. The collection of 55 posters reveals the economic, social and political ideology of the Soviet Union during the Cold War. The Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum

Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents "Bio-Genesis" - Jill Taffet and Judith White Marcellini from March 8 to April 7. New work by Taffet and White Marcellini explores the intersection of art and science. Their curiosity extends to the moment of creation and consciousness, and results in work that asks questions, and entertains. Immerse yourself in the projections and moving imagery of Taffet's hand-drawn cel animation. View with wonder the detailed paper sculptures of White Marcellini's creatures inspired by the Cambrian Explosion. There will be an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on March 8, with an artist talk at 5 p.m.

"Garden Abstraction" continues at the Moraga Art Gallery through March 17. Its title derives from the panorama of fleeting colors, shapes, shadows and light found in the course of a day in artist Lisa Gunn's Orinda garden. Along with paintings, photographs, ceramics, and jewelry by the gallery's other artists, the exhibit features a collection of functional and sculptural stainless steel baskets created by Alejandro Santamarina of Petaluma, as well as a unique collection of photographs by the late Wayne F. Miller chronicling post-war Lamorinda through the eyes of then school-age baby boomers. www.moragaartgallery.com

### MUSIC

Gold Coast Chamber Players concert, "Czech Mate" at 7:30 p.m. (pre-concert talk at 7 p.m.) on March 10 in the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Musicians: Boston Trio; Irina Muresanu, violin; Jonah Ellsworth, cello; Heng-Jin Park, piano; Pamela Freund-Striplen, viola. Tickets: \$45 general; \$40 senior; \$15 student. Purchase online at www.gcplayers.org or by phone at (925) 283-3728.

The Armed Man - A Mass for Peace, honoring veterans at 4 p.m. on March 18 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. In paying tribute to the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, the Cantare Con Vivo Chorale will present Welsh composer Karl Jenkins' powerful and relevant anti-war extended work. Also included is the Islamic call to prayer, selected texts from the Bible and from the Mahabharata from ancient India, along with extracts from the Ordinary of the Mass. In addition, we will present a film that was designed to correspond harmoniously with the theme and tone of each individual piece with the footage edited in precise synchronicity with Jenkins' music. Tickets: general \$38, senior \$33, student \$10. Tickets available for purchase online at www.cantarecon-vivo.org, by calling (510) 836-0789, or at the door.

Diablo Choral Artists presents a concert featuring choral works by Bach, Brahms, Haydn, and Mozart, with string ensemble. Mark Tuning, Music Director, John R.S. Walko, Accompanist. The concert is at 8 p.m. on March 16 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Hill, and at 4 p.m. on March 18 at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, Walnut Creek. General Admission: adults \$25, seniors 60+ \$15, students \$5, children 5-12 free. Details and ticket purchase on website: www.dcachorus.org, (925) 680-7089, info@dcachorus.org.

### THEATER

East Bay Children's Theatre is raising the curtain on the musical adventure "It Must Be Pinocchio!" The beloved tale of the little wooden puppet is brought to magical life in EBCT's production of Ron Lytle's EXUBERANT musical. Audiences will be dazzled by the high-energy sing-

ing and dancing, cutup comedy, and imaginative special effects that they've come to expect from EBCT productions. Showtimes are 1 and 3 p.m. on March 11 in the Orinda Library Auditorium. Tickets are \$12-\$17, and may be purchased online at: www.EBCTonline.org.

Town Hall Theatre presents Ayckbourn's dark comedy "Woman in Mind" through March 24 at Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street, in Lafayette. Tickets are \$18-\$30, and are available through the Box Office at (925) 283-1557 or online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

Special guest lecturer from Italy Shakti Caterina Maggi "Awaking to Life" at 7 p.m. Monday, March 19 at Radiance Family Wellness 914 Dewing Avenue, Lafayette. For more information visit www.shakticaterina-maggi.com or www.radiancefamily-wellness.com, or call (925) 878-2644.

Saint Mary's College presents "Terrorism, Privacy, and Security in the Digital Age," featuring Laura Donohue, author of "The Future of Foreign Intelligence: Privacy and Surveillance in a Digital Age," and Betsy Cooper, executive director of the Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity. The timely discussion will examine privacy in today's environment of widespread data breaches, Russian election meddling, and our government's surveillance of digital communication by U.S. citizens to fight terrorism. The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 19 in the Soda Center at Saint Mary's College.

Charitable Gift Annuity Seminar at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 24 in Delphine Lounge, adjacent to Café Louis (Saint Mary's College campus.) Learn how you can make a charitable donation that will also earn you income for life, receive tax benefits, and provide support for yourself or a loved one. Charitable gift annuities are a tax-savvy way to support your favorite causes and care for loved ones.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

The 2018 Friends of the Lafayette Library Bookmark Contest entry deadline is Friday, March 9. The contest is open to all Lafayette students, grade K-8. Entry forms will be available at school libraries in the Lafayette School District and St. Perpetua School, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center and the Friends Corner Book Shop. Winners will receive a gift certificate for a local book shop, the Friends Corner Book Shop and complimentary framing of their winning bookmark at Fastframe of Lafayette. The award ceremony is planned for April 24. For more information please contact Kay Pekrul: kae865@hotmail.com.

Critter Compassion: Shelter Workshop with Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) from 4 to 5:45 p.m. Friday, March 9 at 2890 Mitchell Dr., Walnut Creek. The Critter Compassion series teaches our littles about kindness to animals. At the end of the workshop, you will receive some heartfulness resources and tips to take home. Cost: \$15. Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/critter-compassion-shelter-workshop-with-animal-rescue-foundation-tickets-42542235973.

"Kids and Snacks: Setting Healthy Habits" from 6 to 7 p.m. on March 20 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Free event for parents presented by Cooking With Kids, please join us for a Children's Healthy Snack discussion by Dr. Nazia Sheriff from Olive Leaf Pediatrics and Snack Demo by Chef Lynda Rexroat from Cooking with Kids Foundation. Hear about Children's health in the U.S. today and the healthy solutions Dr. Sheriff and Chef Lynda are teaching.

Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center 20th annual Peace through Art and Writing Challenge. This year's topic: "The Next Chapter of the American Dream." Using your unique, artistic voice, create a visual and/or literary interpreta-

tion that conveys your response to these thoughts. The contest is open to middle and high school students in Contra Costa County. They may submit works in three categories: Essay, Creative Writing and Art. The deadline for entries is March 26. Detailed information on the contest requirements is available at www.creatingpeacefulschools.weebly.com or you may contact the Center office at (925) 933-7850.

### OTHER

Lafayette resident, Papa John Kiefer, will, again, offer workshops on "How to Raise Your Own Chickens." Topics will include raising young chicks, laying hen maintenance, and sustainable coop construction. Workshops are free and will be held in Lafayette from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 18. Reservations are required. Contact: chickenspajohn@gmail.com.

Respite Night at MVPC from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, March 9 - Respite Night provides a fun night out for special needs children and siblings while their parents get a few hours off. No cost or religious affiliation, but registration required; contact Mary Kay Stephens: grammykaye@sbcglobal.net. Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga.

All are invited to celebrate with the Saint Mary's College Guild at its St. Patrick's Day Dinner/ Auction Fundraiser from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 10. Featuring a delicious, traditional, Irish corned beef dinner with all the trimmings. Guinness, Harp, wine, Irish coffee available. Cost: \$50 per person. Make checks payable to: SMC Guild, Send to: Shirley Bohuslav, 782 Augusta Drive, Moraga, CA 94556. For more info: (925) 284-7750.

Persian New Year Chaharshanbeh Souri: Festival of Fire - Persian Center will be hosting its 19th Annual Chaharshanbeh Souri from 6 to 10 p.m. on March 13 at the 2000 block of Durant Avenue in Berkeley. Jump over bonfires to celebrate the change of seasons and welcome spring. Enjoy Persian food, music, dancing, and children's activities. Rain or shine. Free. https://www.facebook.com/PersianCenterOrg/

Acalanes High School's student-run Students for the Advancement of Global Education (SAGE) Club is hosting a fundraiser at Chipotle in Lafayette from 4 to 8 p.m. on March 13. Mention SAGE at the checkout and half of the proceeds will go to benefit Trust in Education, a non-profit organization that works to increase access to education for young women in Afghanistan.

Cars and Coffee at The Veranda from 8 to 10 a.m. on March 18 at The Veranda, 2001-2003 Diamond Blvd., Concord. "The Café-Petrol Automotive Gathering" is a Cars and Coffee style event located at The Veranda on the third Sunday of each month. If you have an exotic, specialty, or unique car, or if you're a car fanatic, we would love to see you. To showcase your vehicle, please register at www.cafe-petrol.com. https://www.facebook.com/events/337524360084955/

17th Annual Women's Film Festival LunaFest at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 22 at the Orinda Theatre. This unique film festival highlights women as leaders in society, illustrated through nine short films by women filmmakers. The films range from animation to fictional drama, and cover topics such as women's health, body image, relationships, cultural diversity and breaking barriers. There will be a VIP reception starting at 6 p.m. in the Fourth Bore Tap Room. Tickets are \$25. Advance tickets only, purchase at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lunafest-film-festival-tickets-43121612905?aff=es2.

Contra Costa Tale Spinners at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 22 at the Orinda Community Center Room 6. Join us for a story swap with featured teller, Bill Zarchy, writer, teacher, film and video photographer, and natural raconteur. Share, listen, expand your universe.

... continued on next page

# 'Wrinkle in Time' now playing at Orinda Theatre

By Derek Zemrak

MOVIE REVIEW



Photo copyright Walt Disney Pictures

Now that the Oscars have come and gone, it's time for Hollywood to focus on releasing big box office movies. The first, "A Wrinkle in Time," is currently screening in the main 750-seat auditorium at the Orinda Theatre.

The film is based on the science fiction novel of the same name written by Madeline L'Engle and was first published in 1962. Meg Murry is a typical middle school student struggling with issues of self-worth who just wants to fit in. The daughter of two world-renowned physicists, she is intelligent and uniquely gifted, as is her younger brother, Charles Wallace, but she has yet to realize her gifts. Complicating

matters is the mysterious disappearance of her father, an event that has left Meg devastated and her mother brokenhearted. Charles Wallace introduces Meg and her fellow classmate Calvin to three celestial beings (Mrs. Which, Mrs. Whatsit and Mrs. Who) who have journeyed to Earth to help the family search for their father and husband. They all embark together on their formidable quest. Traveling via a wrinkling of time and space known as tessering, they are transported to worlds beyond their imaginations where they must confront a powerful evil force. To make it back home to Earth, Meg must face the darkness within herself in order to harness the strength necessary to defeat the darkness rapidly enveloping the universe.

"A Wrinkle in Time" is directed by Ava DuVernay ("Selma"). DuVernay was nominated for an Oscar in 2017 for her documentary "13th." If you have not seen "13th," I highly recommend taking the time to watch this powerful film. DuVernay has assembled a cast of veterans (Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon, Zach Galifianakis) along with very talented up and coming actors which include Storm Reid ("12 Years a Slave") and Levi Miller. If you attended the 2017 California Independent Film Festival and saw the outstanding Australian film, "Jasper Jones," you got to see Miller in the lead role as Charlie Bucktin. If you missed "Jasper Jones" at CAIFF, it is another film worth taking the time to locate and watch.

The showtimes for the weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) are 1:15 p.m., 4 p.m., and 6:45 p.m. There will be an additional late show on Friday and Saturday nights at 9:30 p.m.

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

### OTHER ... continued

**Give Back in Lamorinda Style at the Moraga Valley Kiwanis Lobster Fest** taking place at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center from 6 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, March 24. The evening includes a silent auction, music, dancing, Lobster Pot Drawing, Wine Cellar Raffle, lots of lobster and tons of fun! Local high school Key Club members serve the dinner and join in the dancing. Tickets are \$55 per person at moragavalleykiwanis.org or (925) 388-0492.

**Free workshop "Are your 1099 workers really employees? A reality check"** is being offered from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28 at the Contra Costa Small Business Development Center, 300 Ellinwood Way, Bodega Room, 2nd Floor in Pleasant Hill. Please register for the free workshop by March 27 with Marjorie Wallace at maw@worklawmaw.com. There will be a raffle and refreshments will be served.

**What's up down there?: The role of Physical Therapy in Pelvic Floor Dysfunction** with Allison Romero, PT, Pelvic Health Specialist on March 27 at Lafayette Physical Therapy. The workshop explores the pelvic floor and how to enhance your pelvic health and awareness in all stages of life. This workshop will teach you how to identify when there is a problem and what can be done to fix it. You will leave with a deeper knowledge of how to engage your pelvic floor muscles and the correct way to do a kegel (it's about time right?!). Seating is limited, call to register your spot today: (925) 284-6150.

### SENIORS

**Senior Scam Workshop presented by Pearl Yon**, Better Business Bureau from 10:30 a.m. to noon on March 22 in the Lafayette Community Center Cedar Room. This workshop will educate you on the scams that most frequently target older adults. You will learn to recognize the red flags and receive tips on how to avoid the scammers' tactics. Additionally, you will be provided with useful resources that will help lower your chances of falling victim to these scams. Handouts of the information will be yours to take home. Members: Free; Non-Members: \$10

### GARDEN

**Lafayette Garden Club General Meeting** from 9:45 a.m. to noon Thursday, March 8 at the Lafayette Veteran's Building located at 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Program: "Ikebana" Lafayette Garden Club is pleased to present speaker Gail Emmons who will share her knowledge and passion for Ikebana flower arranging. She studies Sogetsu Ikebana with a dynamic sculptural style that mixes the traditions of both East and West in new and daring ways. Visitors are welcome! Please email Carolyn Poetzsch cpoetzsch@gmail.com.

**Walnut Creek Garden Club presents: "The Importance of Backyard Pollinators"** featuring Steve Gentry, Master Beekeeper, Mt. Diablo Beekeepers Association starting at 9:45 a.m. Monday, March 12 at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek. 9:45 a.m. - Business Meeting; 10:30 a.m. - Social; 11 a.m. Program. Questions: mslittle44@gmail.com.

**The Moraga Garden Club will hold their monthly meeting** at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 15 at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Guest speakers will be Susan and Barry Hofer. The topic of their discussion will be "Maples for All Seasons". Interested parties are welcome to attend the 9:30 a.m. social hour and the 10 a.m. meeting, as well as the presentation by the Hofers immediately following the meeting.

**Montelindo Garden Club March Meeting (third Friday of every month, September through May)** will be at 9 a.m. on Friday, March 16 at Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Presentation: "Big Ideas for Designing Your Small Back Yard" by Susan Morrison. Susan is a nationally-recognized landscape designer and authority on small-space garden design. Her most recent book, "Less Is More in the Garden," was released early in February. Ms. Morrison's presentation will focus on how to create unique small-space gardens that are lovely, family friendly, and low maintenance.

**Workshop: Sustainable gardening and water wise plants** at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 17, McDonnell Nursery, 196 Moraga Way, Orinda. Free, but please RSVP to (925) 254-3713.

**Moraga Gardens Farm will be selling sustainable grown heirloom tomato, eggplant, pepper, and herb plants** March 24 - April 15 on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., (closed Easter Sunday). These are varieties that have proven to do well in the Lamorinda climate. 4-inch pots are \$3. The sale is at the Farm, 1290 Moraga Way, between the Moraga Fire Station and School Street.

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## 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

**March 9**  
**SUPERHEROES FROM COMICS TO MOVIES. STEVE ENGLEHART:** Creator of Star-Lord, Mantis and the upcoming Nomad just to mention a few, discusses how comics came to be.

**March 16**  
**CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY FREE SERVICES**  
**CAROL LOUISELL** showcases the many programs and services provided to people and their families facing cancer.

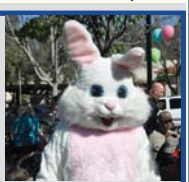
Happy Saint Patrick's Day and The Luck O' the Irish to Ye!

## Lafayette Rotary Club

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

**March 8:**  
**Dan McGovern**  
**Eugene O'Neill Foundation**

**March 31, 10 a.m.**  
**Candy Scramble at Lafayette Plaza Park**



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

## Local singer vies for top spot in talent series



Elizabeth Becker Photo provided

Moraga teen Elizabeth Becker is no stranger to competitions. With first place wins at Lamorinda Idol in 2014 and 2017 under her belt, the singer, songwriter, performer, and musician who plays the guitar, piano and violin, was one of 14 contestants from across Northern California competing in the Celebration of Music talent search contest, which gave her an opportunity to perform in a televised live performance at the Crest Theatre in Sacramento March 4. Her audition video was also featured on the PBS station, KVIE, in Sacramento in a lead up to the event. To see Becker's audition, visit www.celebrationofmusic.com/elizabeth-becker. - J. Wake

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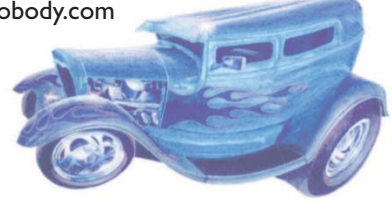
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## High school basketball league season ends

By Jon Kingdon



Trevin Kroichick

Photo Gint Federas

At the beginning of the season, there was one constant among the Lamorinda coaches: they were playing in a very difficult and competitive division. With the top two teams Las Lomas and Clayton Valley finishing the regular season with 25-2 and 24-2 won lost records respectively, the battle for the locals was to make the North Coast Section playoffs. Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte had a combined league record of 8-22. As a testament to the strength of their

division, these three teams had a combined non-league record of 37-16. If there was a particular highlight of the league season, it would have to be Campolindo's double overtime victory over Clayton Valley by a score of 100-98.

The German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche said, "That which doesn't kill us, makes us stronger."

Campolindo head coach Steven Dyer has taken that philosophy to heart and appreciates how it has turned out so far: "We had a very

challenging schedule. We had a difficult nonleague schedule and played in a very competitive league as well."

Making it to the NCS finals before losing to Salesian College Prep 67-53, Dyer stayed true to his coaching schemes that have enabled Campolindo to be so successful in the postseason: "We just stayed the course. We did not make a lot of adjustments during the season, knowing our league and non-league schedule was preparing us for the playoffs and now the state tournament."

Four teams Campolindo played – Clayton Valley, Las Lomas, St. Joseph and St. Mary's (Stockton) – went well into the playoffs, certainly evidencing the point Dyer is making. How well the competition has prepared Campolindo for the post season is shown in how they have dominated their prior playoff games, with victories over San Marin (83- 39) and Albany (64-43), prior to the NCS championship game.

Relying on his core seniors, Trevin Kroichick, Will Cummins and John Torchio enabled the Cougars to handle any setbacks, according to Dyer. "These three-year varsity players brought a lot of experience to the team and we looked to them as our main leaders. We did not let a loss spill over into our next game and we came away with a lot of good wins."

Sophomore Carter Mahaney has stepped in as the leader on the floor, running the offense and David Ahazie has proven to be the most consistent player on the team in his overall play.

Campolindo has called up five

players from the JV team for the playoffs and with such one-sided victories, Dyer has been able to utilize these players: "They have gotten some good experience. We will be strong in the future but by no means are we looking beyond this season."

Acalanes' head coach Sol Henik had to hit the ground running, having lost two key players early in the season due to injuries, co-captains Mitchell Smith and Carson Etnyre. Henik sang the praises of his team and its ability to adjust to adversity: "Our guys came together and we grinded out a number of wins playing our style. We used a slower-paced tempo, which gave us the best chance to win. The team bought into the system and believed in each other and the coaches."

With a 12-4 non-league record and a 3-7 in league, it certainly spoke to the strength of the league with Acalanes making the playoffs, losing to Alameda, a team finishing with a 24-5 record.

Henik saw this as a successful season: "We experienced a lot of success. We made the playoffs and earlier in the season we made four championship games in four tournaments and won two of them."

While losing so many seniors to graduation, Henik is counting on two returners, point guard Ian Archer and guard Matt Healy. Says Henik: "Ian was one of our most improved players. He took over the starting role and handled the responsibilities quite well. We are looking for him to improve his game even more. Matt provided so much effort and spark to our team. He just loves to play and I look forward to him re-

ally stepping up next season."

The Dons will be counting on several players that played on the JV team this season. Henik is particularly looking to forward freshman Scott Ruegg who Henik describes as "a great outside shooter with a very high basketball IQ."

In spite of the Don's league record, the league did not overlook his team according to Henik: "With Aidan McNamara and Robbie Rowell both named second team all-league, it shows the respect the other coaches had for our team in spite of our league record."

Miramonte head coach Wayne Hunter said entering into league play in such a tough division, "It's a good way to get battle tested." And sometimes it's a bad way to get battle tested. Going winless in league play was likely not the type of test Hunter was looking to confront.

Hunter approached the league season with some optimism with a 9-7 nonleague record. Though lacking in a division win, going 0-10, Miramonte did not go down easily, losing four of these games by five points or less.

Despite utilizing a number of seniors, the Matadors will be returning a number of underclassman that played a great deal of the season.

Junior captain and point guard Jayson Fernbacher will be counted on for his leadership both on and off the court.

Freshman Niyi Olabode was called up early in the season and showed constant improvement throughout the season and should certainly prove to be a force next season.

## Lamorinda girls basketball season summary

By Jon Kingdon



Clair Steele

Photo Gint Federas

With Miramonte, Campolindo and Acalanes finishing 1-2-3 in division and all three making the playoffs, it would have to be considered an overall success for Lamorinda.

Coming into the North Coast Section championship game with 15 straight victories, Miramonte came up short at the end, losing to Bishop O'Dowd by a score of 75-71.

With a 21-4 regular season record and 10-0 in league play, the Matadors were seldom challenged after a Jan. 6 loss to Carondolet. Thus, a tense, back forth game in the championship game could prove to have some benefit for the team.

Is there a positive to a game like this, as the Matadors begin their march into the state tournament? "Yes there is," says head coach Kelly Sopak. "After winning so many games by large margins,

this will be a good experience for us going forward."

Going very deep on his bench every game, playing several underclassmen, Sopak has been able to provide a foundation for the future, starting a freshman, two sophomores, a junior and only one senior. Senior co-captain Clair Steele provided the leadership and ran the offense, taking charge when necessary. In the Bishop O'Dowd game, Steele attacked the basket with abandon which was by design. According to Sopak: "In the big games, we want to get Claire rolling downhill early."

The Matadors had a balanced offense attacking inside, outside and off the fast break. A key addition during the season was Jordyn Bryant who proved to be a real force on offense and off the boards.

Maintaining a steady demeanor and composure on the court has become a trademark of Sopak's play-

ers: "That's true. I try and set that example for them and make it clear to them that the most important thing is that they play hard."

If there is a specious way to look at the loss to Bishop O'Dowd, had Miramonte won their game, which would have been their 16th straight win, they would have had to have won 21 games to win the state tournament. Now they only have to win five games in a row.

With Campolindo making it into the third round of the playoffs and qualifying for the state tournament, head coach Art Thoms took great satisfaction in what was a season that had as many injuries as a MASH unit.

In spite of this, the Cougars

found a way to overcome the loss of so many key players. With co-captain Kailey Meyer, Kiana Thorson, out with an ankle injuries and second leading scorer Ashley Thoms lost with a wrist injury,

Thoms said: "There was a lot of adversity we had to deal with and the girls reacted to it very well. It's been important for the kids to learn how to deal with tough times.

... continued on page C3



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# Boys soccer recap

By Jon Kingdon

Having lost to Bishop O'Dowd in last year's NCS playoff game and having defeated that same team in the regular season, Miramonte head coach Masood Ahmadi had to feel optimistic as they confronted Bishop O'Dowd once again in this year's NCS championship. Unfortunately Ahmadi was unable to match his counterpart Marco Plascencia, losing decisively 4-0.

Still, as Miramonte heads into the next round of playoffs, the Matadors have to feel positive about their season despite their last game. With a 17-3-2 overall record, 8-1-1 in league play, there should be few complaints.

With 12 shutouts during the regular season, the Matadors leaned heavily on their defense. Senior defensemen Sam Pinto and Ben Andrews, both of whom led the team in minutes played with 1,665 and 1,687 minutes played, respectively, provided a wall of protection for goalie Cole Kelez who averaged six saves a game, giving up only 14 goals in 22 games.

Leading the offense with six goals each were seniors Gavin Pitt, Owen Reed and junior Charlie McIntyre. Senior Andrew Byrne was the clear leader on the team in assists with eight.

With a 17-8-1 overall record and losing to the eventual NCS champion Bishop O'Dowd in the playoffs, Acalanes head coach Paul Curtis came away with a positive feeling about his team: "It was a strong season. We played well down the stretch and ended up second in the league to a team that made it to the finals."

Senior, Alex Topping, a three-year starter was named the most valuable player on offense in the league. Says Curtis: "Alex did a great job in marshaling the offense to generate a lot of goals."

Travis Stevenson and Chris Rogers were also named first team all-league. Stevenson's versatility proved to be very valuable to the Dons, says Curtis appreciatively: "Travis focused on offense this year though at times we had to move him to defense due to in-



Gavin Pitt (Miramonte)

juries and he did so without missing a beat playing alongside Chris who was the leader of the defensive unit."

Besides Stevenson and Rogers returning next year, Bernard Adri and Nick Geannacopulos will also be counted on. Geannacopulos flashed his talent on offense when given the opportunity but had to miss time due to injuries.

Keeping his perspective, Curtis took great pleasure in coaching this team: "There was a real camaraderie among the team members. They were very respectful of each other. Life isn't soccer; soccer is a part of life and the boys did a nice job of helping each other to manage the season."

With a 6-13-4 record, Campolindo head coach Aaron Girard saw this as a rebuilding season: "I think we have to take the season in perspective. It was the youngest team in the history of the program. We only fielded 2-3 seniors each game. Under the circumstances, I was very proud of the way we fought and battled."

Despite their record, Campolindo was competitive in most games, scoring 32 goals while giving up 37 goals. Says Girard: "9 of our 13 losses were by one goal. We were

just missing that little intangible you need for success. It's the little details that matter and make the difference which was a good lesson for the players and coaches."

Playing top competition is one thing but according to Girard, Campolindo had the strongest schedule of the 26 teams in Division II in the North Coast.

With 17 of the 21 players on the roster returning, Girard feels they should not have the problems they had this past season standing in against the bigger teams.

The success of the football team kept two key players, senior goalie Lucas Allen and Seppi Ortman (4 goals), off the team for the first third of the season. Allen's departure will leave a big hole in goal says Girard: "Lucas brought an awesome attitude to the team. I would match him up with any goalie we played against. He was all the more impressive in that he also plays baseball and is focused on soccer only three months a year. Seppi did a great job on offense battling through a foot injury."

Jose Carra-Hernandez led the team with 11 goals and according to Girard was "outstanding in setting the tempo of the game. Still Girard is looking for more of-



Alex Topping (Acalanes)



Seppi Ortman (Campolindo)

fensively: "We will be searching for someone to have the ability to put the ball in the net consistently, someone to step up at the forward position to take control of the offense."

Returning to lead the defense is sophomore Jamiel Liu. Says Girard: "Jamiel was very strong on defense. He was very tough and

did not back down from anybody. He played like a boss."

Girard is confident things will be much smoother next year: "We were a new staff this year. Knowing my players from the start of the season will facilitate things next season. We will be able to hit the ground running."

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# Season roundup for Lamorinda high school girls soccer

By Jon Kingdon



Kierra Krawec (Acalanes)

Photo Gint Federas

As the United States rallied around the Olympic Curling team that had a 2-4 record and went on to win their next five matches and the gold medal, the residents of Moraga were able to get behind the Campolindo girls soccer team that was 4-7 and then went 9-0-1 in the next 10 games, ultimately defeating Analy High School 3-0 to win the North Coast Section championship and qualify for the state regional tournament.

How does a team turn it around so abruptly? Head coach Ernesto Silva does not have a simple answer: "It's a combination of many things - the leadership of the team's captains and the seniors; the girls buying into the program; supportive parents and the team peaking at the right time."

With most of the players participating in club soccer, playing

for different clubs with different coaches, techniques and philosophies, Silva credited the girls with buying into his system: "The girls allowed me to mold them the way I needed them for the team to be successful. When they all went along, the change came."

It was a balanced effort for the Cougars starting with the defense. Goalies Mallory Louis and Ashley Mulakaluri and center backs Devon Ortman and Nicole Huebner worked together to only give up 21 goals in 22 games. Says Silva appreciatively: "We were in every game due to our defense."

The improvement in the team's offense was a group effort. Ortman and Huebner were effective in getting the ball to midfielder Molly Ikeya who Silva praised for being "instrumental on the creative side and advancing the ball downfield

and scoring herself."

Bringing it all together downfield was sophomore, forward Celia Campo. Says Silva, "Celia grew significantly, becoming the go-to player that got things done. She is very confident and the team rallied around that confidence." Against Analy, a team that had given up only five goals all season, Campo scored two goals.

As Silva waits to learn who his team will play in the regionals, he can't help but be optimistic about next season: "We have a great foundation for the future with a good number of players with great potential who got a lot of experience this year."

Playing in some early tournaments against bigger schools, led to a poor early season record for Miramonte. When the team's record was 3-9-1, coach Barry McQuain wanted his players to keep their eye on the prize, making the NCS playoffs. The Matadors met that goal. Though losing their playoff game to Alhambra 2-1, McQuain felt it was a successful season: "Making the playoffs and going 5-5 in league play are both positives." McQuain also found satisfaction in the team having split their games with NCS champion, Campolindo.

With the team battling through numerous injuries and illness, things improved as the season progressed. Says McQuain: "Though we did rebound from the early season injuries, there was only one

game when we were able to dress all 22 girls on the squad."

When the team chose their most valuable offensive player (junior striker Taylor Walthall), most valuable defensive player (sophomore defender Sabrina Grant) and overall most valuable player (sophomore midfielder Olivia Grillo), it was not lost on McQuain that all were underclassmen.

Says McQuain: "Sabrina brings great calm and control on the field, Taylor is super quick with good body control and was our leading scorer and Olivia was our overall most valuable player."

With so many underclassmen returning next season, McQuain puts it simply: "We should have a strong team next year."

Despite a 4-13-2 record in his first year as Acalanes head coach Sasha Chalak came away with an optimistic outlook for the future. With a large number of underclassman and bringing in a new system, it was a matter of taking one step back to take two steps forward. Says Chalak: "It was a difficult season that comes with a transition in culture and mentality and mental approach to the game that was not in place before. I was pleased that toward the end of the season the team really came together."

On the positive side having to play so many underclassmen who had not played on varsity before, it did provide a foundation for the Dons to build on. Chalak saw the

positive in all this: "It turned out to be a good thing. We have a very promising future. Though the record was not what we wanted, in our league play, we improved against every team that we played the second time."

Citing his team's play against Alhambra when his best defender, Caitlin McDonagh, went down with an injury, Chalak saw it as evidence of the growth of the Dons: "When Caitlin went down, the defense pulled together for the rest of the season."

Acalanes had to rely on seniors Emily Smith and Kierra Krawec for most of the scoring early in the season. As the season progressed, a number of the younger players became more inclusive in the offense, helping their confidence.

Chalak is excited about a number of his returning players: "Our leaders for next season will be junior defender Malika Haji, who was a co-captain this year, and sophomore forward Jordan Pratt who was a great worker and who set a great example for her teammates. It always brings value to a program when you have a player like Jordan to push her teammates. Freshman defender, Samantha Hansen led the team in minutes played, starting every game and never leaving the field." Chalak is also anticipating contributions from the Acalanes JV captains, freshman Olivia Parnell and sophomore Maile Broad.

## Lamorinda girls basketball season summary



Photo Gint Federas

This is the most resilient team I have had. To see them step in and improve has been really rewarding."

Ironically, Thoms maybe took the most pride in the teams third round playoff loss to Salesian College Prep (53-44). So short-handed, with two additional players out

sick, Campolindo had to bring up five girls from the junior varsity. It wasn't easy according to Thoms: "We had to have a Saturday practice with just the JV girls and they all played. To only lose by nine points under these conditions, the effort from the team was impressive. Not to be overlooked, if

that is possible, was the play of senior and Washington bound, Haley Van Dyke who took on even more responsibility. In the playoff win over Moreau Catholic (73-50), Van Dyke scored 60 points, 54 in the last three quarters, the third highest total scored among Northern California girl players.

... continued from page C1

Complimenting Van Dyke's play was senior co-captain Grace McGuire described by Thoms as "our team leader vocally. She played great against Salesian. Sara White was another player that came up big and was fantastic on defense."

With Meyer returning from her injury, Mariella Crudele's outside shooting and the development of sophomore point guard Kate Brown, Thoms finds real satisfaction with his players: "This team really gets along better than any other kids I have ever had. There have been no issues. It's the tightest group I have ever had."

Acalanes head coach Michelle Sasaki headed into the season with a very young team. On top of that, the Dons lost two key players to injuries, senior Olivia Toth and sophomore Kaylee Pond. Still Acalanes finished with a 16-11 season (11-6 non league and 5-5 in league play, finishing third behind Miramonte and Campolindo).

Says Sasaki: "I thought the season was challenging but it much exceeded my expectations for such a young team. We had all new starters in a highly competitive league. In January we were down to six players and yet we continued to win half our games. This was a very gritty group that did a nice job in valuing the process."

Freshmen Gaby Schneider and Grace Gebhardt laid the foundation for the team. With so many underclassmen playing this season, Sasaki sees the positive: "For the young kids to get so much playing time each game, will prove to be invaluable next year. It's experience you can't get in practice."

With the maturation of the young players and the return of Pond next season, Sasaki remains optimistic: "All the girls did a great job and if they commit to the team, they can be successful at the varsity level. I'm hope to see if we can get more numbers out for the team."

# LMYA VOLLEYBALL

## Season Kicks off with 2 Great Events!



### Players Attend Evaluation Day

LMYA Volleyball Commissioner, Eric Standing, and the LMYA Trainers run the players through a series of drills and games to determine fair teams. The program, made up of 4th-8th graders, kicks off on March 12th and runs for 8 weeks.

### Coaches Training Held at St. Mary's College

St. Mary's Women's Volleyball Coach, Rob Browning, and the SMC players, lead LMYA Coaches, Trainers and Players, through a series of fun and instructive drills designed to build a teaching foundation for the 2018 season.



www.lmyasports.com

# Miramonte freshman at USTA National Level 2 event

Submitted by Andrew Diefenbach



From left: Amber Lee and Katherine Duong Photo provided

Tennis player Amber Lee (Miramonte High) and Katherine Duong (Cupertino High) won the Girls 16&U doubles title in the USTA National Level 2 event in Long Beach on Feb. 12.

# Cal Magic 05 girls win futsal title

Submitted by Lori Patel



Back row, from left: Stephanie Jersey, Lena Patel, Tarika Kinyon, and Izzy Mobley; front row: Ainsley Johnson, Christina McDonnell, Colette Toubba and Lola Kassela. Photo provided

The California Magic 05 girls team captured winter league honors in a decisive win Feb. 3 in the finals of the Diablo Valley Futsal League 05 Girls Division. In an action-packed game sparked by lightning shots and dramatic saves, Magic's unselfish play paid off in a 3-1 victory over a powerful DFC Fire team.

"Our girls faced a very aggressive team and matched their intensity while keeping their composure," said coach Michael Jacobs.

Highlights included a "full sprawling save on a penalty kick which kept the momentum in our favor," said Jacobs. The Lamorinda-based futsal team represented a partial roster of Magic's 05 Girls team, which is coached during the regular season by Beto Zambrano.

# Orinda Soccer Club wins cup

Submitted by Carla Furtado



Front row, from left: Omar Rodriguez, Roger Repetto, Alec Naugle (manager), Tony Zepeda (goalie), Carlos Ramirez, Aron Abrahami, Sean Carlin, Alex Handlers, Juan Mandrile, Taoufik Abalil, Dion Madsen, Adam Chalmers (manager), Mike Jonath, Murl Moorthy, Juan Ochoa, Giles Day and Pedro Alvarado; missing: Kirk Athanasiou, Mike Bell, Jeremy Bogatirsky, Scott Edmonds, Alvaro Garcia, Matt Vanhouten and Alex Yamamoto. Photo provided

The Orinda Soccer Club defeated The Alameda Islanders Feb. 11 to win its first Bower Cup title in the East Bay Senior Soccer League since 2002. Despite finishing mid-table in the regular season of the men's over-40 division, OSC defeated the top three teams to take the Bower Cup. The team plays its home games at Wilder Field Sunday mornings from September through February.

# St. Perpetua 7th Grade Girls National Team Clinches West Diablo League Championship

Submitted by Kevin Guthrie



Front row, from left: Molly Strohmeyer, Lucy Gellman, Quinn Guthrie; second row: coach Kevin McCarthy, Nikki McCarthy, Alexa Carter, Taylor Carlin, Kelsey Severson, Keilly Kilpatrick, coach Kevin Guthrie. Photo provided

The St. Perpetua seventh grade girls CYO National basketball team capped off an exciting season with a 1-point come-from-behind victory in the West Diablo League Championship game on Feb. 25. Fun, focus, determination, hard work, and consistent improvement characterized the team throughout the season, and every member played a critical role in the team's success.

# Santa Maria 5th Grade American team wins 2018 League Championship

Submitted by Stephanie Barmmer



The Santa Maria fifth grade American basketball team won the 2018 League Championship on Feb. 25 for the third year in a row. Coached by Brian Chinn and Sean Hogan, this no 4 seeded team defeated the no 1 and no 3 teams to win the title. Players are: Ainsley Hogan, Alannah Harper, Alice Zhou, Genet Dutto, Julia Quinn-Ferguson, Katie Barmmer, Katrina White, Lillie LaVelle, Maren Thorpe and Sophie Chinn.

Photo provided

# St. Perpetua CYO 4th grade undefeated champs

Submitted by Melissa O'Brien



Pictured: Gage Svoboda, Milo Moggan, Noah Henry, Grant Ricker, Billy O'Brien, Leo Deignan, Lorenzo Cangini, coach Dave Henry; not pictured: Makoto Kuniyoshi

The St. Perpetua fourth grade basketball team won the West Diablo CYO Valley Gymnasium to cap an undefeated season. Championship February 25th held at Tice

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 1 Wednesday, March 7, 2018



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

## Growing their backyard garden

By Cathy Dausman



Sharon Metcalf holds a tray of her Sun Gold tomato plants grown in her greenhouse from seeds. While Mt. Diablo in the background was snow covered, the plants survived the recent cold snap just fine.

Photo Andy Scheck

Sharon Metcalf's "little babies" are consigned to her backyard, and although recent nights have been frosty, her "babies" are staying nice and warm. Their nursery is a greenhouse shed on a raised platform on a Moraga hillside.

When Lamorinda Weekly visited, the vista of rolling green hills included a dusting of snow visible on Mt. Diablo's slopes, but full sun and a southeastern exposure ensured the temperature inside the greenhouse was noticeably warmer than ambient midday air temperature.

The view looking out was crystal clear. "I only wipe the panels maybe once a year on the inside," Metcalf said.

Metcalf is a self-taught gardener, who started as a child, following in her father's footsteps. "My Dad would love this," she said, gazing fondly at tomato starts of San Marzano, Roma, sun gold and Black Krim plus peppers, herbs and flowers including marigolds and her favorite – hollyhock – all poking their seedling heads out of potting soil for the requisite 60- to 90-day incubation period.

... continued on page D4





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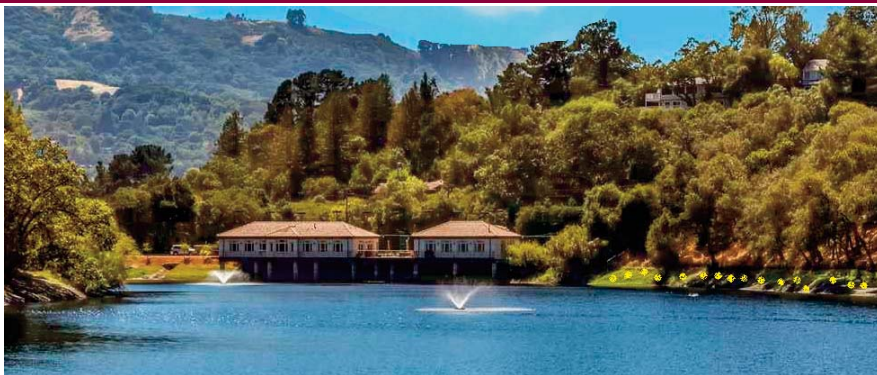
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City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	9	\$450,000	\$4,200,000
MORAGA	3	\$515,000	\$1,395,000
ORINDA	9	\$300,000	\$4,000,000

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

- 3669 Boyer Circle, \$450,000, 3 Bdrms, 2309 SqFt, 1926 YrBl, 2-6-18;  
Previous Sale: \$970,000, 10-04-17
- 3235 Camino Diablo, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 1236 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 2-5-18;  
Previous Sale: \$160,000, 11-24-15
- 1825 Del Rio Drive, \$940,000, 5 Bdrms, 2123 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 2-2-18;  
Previous Sale: \$829,000, 10-28-05
- 1020 Dyer Drive, \$1,214,000, 3 Bdrms, 1609 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 2-7-18;  
Previous Sale: \$895,000, 05-04-17
- 1168 Glen Road, \$2,165,000, 3 Bdrms, 2627 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 2-9-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,887,500, 04-17-17
- 172 Haslemere Court, \$875,000, 3 Bdrms, 1638 SqFt, 1988 YrBl, 2-5-18;  
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 02-01-18
- 4125 Los Arabis Drive, \$4,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 3934 SqFt, 1972 YrBl, 2-2-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,630,000, 05-01-02
- 961 Oak View Circle, \$1,000,000, 2 Bdrms, 1113 SqFt, 1942 YrBl, 2-5-18;  
Previous Sale: \$610,000, 03-24-14
- 12 Shreve Lane, \$573,500, 4 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 2013 YrBl, 2-12-18

### MORAGA

- 124 Ascot Court #B, \$515,000, 2 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1970 YrBl, 2-6-18;  
Previous Sale: \$435,000, 02-26-15
- 1941 Ascot Drive, \$780,000, 2 Bdrms, 1379 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 2-9-18;  
Previous Sale: \$395,000, 02-13-02
- 503 Augusta Drive, \$1,395,000, 4 Bdrms, 3713 SqFt, 1985 YrBl, 2-8-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,395,000, 11-08-17

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- 25 Bigleaf Road, \$650,000, 2-6-18
- 160 Camino Don Miguel, \$4,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 5851 SqFt, 1929 YrBl, 2-7-18
- 162 Camino Don Miguel, \$4,000,000, 1 Bdrms, 627 SqFt, 1929 YrBl, 2-7-18
- 84 Davis Road, \$1,261,500, 2 Bdrms, 1841 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 1-30-18;  
Previous Sale: \$195,000, 07-29-85
- 7 Easton Court, \$880,000, 3 Bdrms, 1624 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 1-30-18
- 515 Miner Road, \$3,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 5818 SqFt, 1938 YrBl, 2-9-18
- 643 Moraga Way, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1601 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 1-30-18;  
Previous Sale: \$820,000, 09-20-05
- 113 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,583,000, 4 Bdrms, 2634 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 2-9-18;  
Previous Sale: \$260,000, 02-23-90
- 7 Via Farallon, \$300,000, 4 Bdrms, 3130 SqFt, 1930 YrBl, 2-5-18

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# Growing their backyard garden

... continued from page D1



Space for the garden after the pool was removed.

Photo provided



The greenhouse is modest – an aluminum frame and polycarbonate window affair. They purchased the 6-foot by 8-foot shed from a big box store 10 years ago and assembled it on site.

“It was a day project,” said husband, Mike Metcalf, former Moraga mayor and council member, before explaining that the wooden deck supporting the greenhouse was a separate project.

“When this (shed) falls apart we’re going to make a real one out of wood,” Sharon Metcalf promised.

There is no thermometer to measure the temperature difference, but direct sun has been warm enough to warrant opening the greenhouse vent and necessitate the installation of mesh screens on the roof to filter the sunlight. Mother nature will provide some shade once the nearby apple tree blossoms.

A greenhouse does more than simply extend the planting season. Even in the relative mildness of a Mediterranean climate a greenhouse provides protection against temperature swings, blustery wind and damaging rain; it also limits exposure to critters and insects. A greenhouse allows plants to be grown year-round.

The Metcalf backyard was not originally sunny. When the couple bought the house in 1985 their lot contained six large pine trees that obscured the view and cut down on sunlight. Their slopes held plenty of juniper too. The pines and juniper were removed earlier and “last summer we pulled the (backyard) pool,” Mike Metcalf said, adding “I’m glad it’s gone now.”

The pool was an above ground model nestled into the yard and surrounded by decking; Sharon Metcalf insisted the deck be left in place when they developed their new 30-foot by 15-foot garden plot. She had Mike build stairs into each end of the oval garden. He grumbled about that project, Sharon says, but Mike Metcalf said the hardest part was installing the plumbing.

The area has two cedar plank raised garden beds on a watering system. As prefab kits ordered online, their installation was a snap. “There’s not a nail in the place,” Mike Metcalf said, pointing to the slotted metal corner posts. “It’s all screwed.”

The result is a sunny, bark dust and stepping stone enclave four feet below deck level, which offers full sun exposure and plenty of wind protection. Latticed wood outlines the oval garden. A fabric screen can be quickly mounted on the boxes’ metal arches to keep out avian invaders, but Mike Metcalf expects that circling birds of prey will discourage the smaller breeds from lingering in the garden or even on the ground.

Sharon Metcalf plans her winter plantings in late summer. That crop has already yielded broccoli, Brussels sprouts and golden beets. She says homegrown food simply tastes better. When the summer garden is established in May, the Metcalfs look forward to harvesting a salad full of greenery.

The rest of their lot includes plum, apricot and cherry trees, a blood orange, lime and lemon tree, pomegranate, persimmon, grapes, a rose bed and a



While the winter garden is coming to an end, Sharon can still enjoy picking fresh broccoli.

Photo Andy Scheck

Granny Smith apple tree.

Mike Metcalf knows his wife just loves working in the garden.

“My first love is roses,” Sharon Metcalf says, eyeing her blossoming buds, “then the garden.” She’s definitely got the green thumb, and the yard for it.





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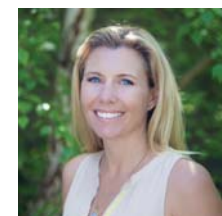
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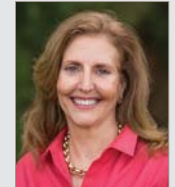
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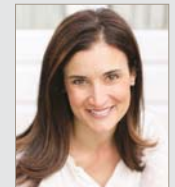
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## Mortgage Rates Are Rising

The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rose this week to 4.52 percent, according to Bankrate's weekly survey of large lenders. Rates have increased almost half a percentage point since the beginning of the year and have risen for seven consecutive weeks. 30-year fixed rates are at the highest point since April 2014, when the average rate was 4.54 percent. The rise in mortgage rates are primarily being driven by a rise in inflation as lenders are anticipating the Federal Reserve will need to increase rates to offset the impact of a tightening labor market, massive tax cuts and increased government spending. Just last week the New Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell addressed Congress by signaling the Fed will keep raising rates to contain inflation.

So, what does this mean for Lamorinda home values? In short, not much. While the rise in mortgage rates might have a more profound impact on markets around the country the strong Bay Area economy, limited inventory, the numerous all cash buyers and early spring market results all point to another strong year for the Lamorinda real estate market. Not only is the Bay Area economy strong but Lamorinda will continue to be a beneficiary of the trend of New Tech firms basing employees in San Francisco, making Lamorinda a viable commute option. Until more high-density housing options are available, the lack of inventory will continue to push prices further north and mitigate any impact of reduced homeownership tax incentives and the higher cost of ownership with rising mortgage rates. In addition, today's buyers that need a loan must continue to compete with numerous all cash buyers that are not directly impacted by rising rates.

Also, the early Spring market results show no signs of slowing. The recent volatility in the stock market did not even register with buyers as other market forces continue to support the upward price trend. While not the best news for buyers this is a great time for anyone looking to sell their home.

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## Savvy looks increase bookshelf interest

By Amanda Eck



Photos provided

One of the questions I often get asked is how to style bookshelves without making them look cluttered. For the most part bookshelves are meant for books, right? But lately we are seeing a trend of having shelves look a little more stylish and less like a library. Don't get me wrong, I am all for a beautiful built-in lined with dusty old books beckoning me to curl up with a cup of tea, but in today's tech savvy world our books are now collected on our electronic devices. So what's one to do with all those empty shelves? Here are some easy tips for creating a stylish bookshelf.

**1. Go big or go home:** Start with your largest items first. I love using pottery, vases, sculpture, or other unique objects. If you have floor to ceiling bookshelves I prefer to place only one large piece in the top shelf. Visually it helps bring the eye up and it's also less to dust. Because let's face it, anything higher than six feet may often not see the feathers of a duster (at least that is the case in my house). Less is definitely more.

**2. Try a tray:** For your smaller items try placing them on a decorative tray. Small tchotchkes scattered about can clutter up a bookshelf, but corralling them on a tray will look better visually and keep things tidy. Grouping like items together even without a tray will look better than individually scattering them about.

**3. Stack 'em up:** Stacking books horizontally instead of upright does two things: one, they take up more shelf space eliminating the need for more "clutter" and two, they create a riser to display a decorative item (i.e. coral, decorative boxes, orbs).

**4. Family time:** Now that you have filled in your shelves with the biggies and corralled your littles, it's time to display your treasured family photos. I try and stay away from chunky ornate frames and go for simple frames – either brass, chrome or even frameless. Keeping all the frames the same will also help create a more cohesive and stylish feel.

... continued on page D10

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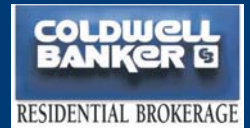


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# Savvy looks increase bookshelf interest

... continued from page D8

**5. Go green:** Add some natural elements to your bookshelves. If you have a black thumb like me, go faux. Gone are the days of the dusty, musty fake ivy. Succulents, boxwood, and other greenery that look incredibly real are replacing those dated silk plants. Pottery Barn even now has an entire botanical shop filled with realistic faux foliage. So go green without the worry of weekly watering. Another designer's secret –

add real potting soil to the top of your faux plant to fool your friends. I also like to use moss or pebbles for added texture.

Decorating your bookshelves can feel daunting but hopefully with these easy tips you will be able to tackle those shelves with ease.

Happy styling!



Here we grouped our client's brass candlesticks to create a fun vignette.

Photos provided



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

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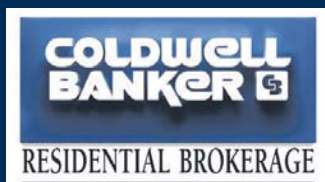
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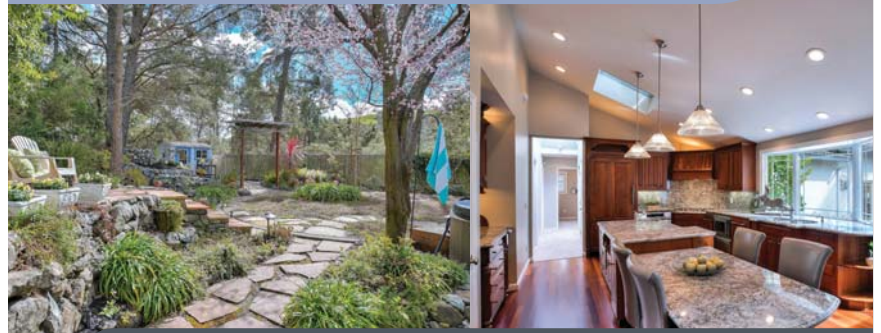
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Bells. Whistles. Campo.  
Oh my.



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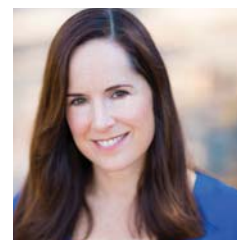
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## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

# March on and spring forward!

By Cynthia Brian

*"Truth is rarely written in ink. It lives in nature." – Martin H. Fischer*



*Pear blossoms fall from the trees like snowflakes.*

**I**t all started with a box of toothpicks.

My siblings and I finally had the heart and the stamina to begin cleaning out our mother's farmhouse that was built before 1900. We made the mandatory four piles—garbage, donation, share, and keep as we meticulously emptied and cleaned each drawer and cabinet. When we came upon several brand new boxes of toothpicks, we kept a few and shared the rest.

When I returned home, I opened my drawer where I kept my toothpicks to discover that I already had six boxes of 500 picks. Horrified, I emptied that drawer; created four piles, and what began as a simple task of putting away a small box of toothpicks resulted in a full day of purging and organizing.

Which gets me to our garden marching orders for the month. It is time to clean out the potting shack, clear the storage sheds, organize the garage, and tidy up our cluttered gardens. Prune the hedges, edge the lawn, sharpen tools, wash the lawn mower blades, and pull the sprouting weeds.

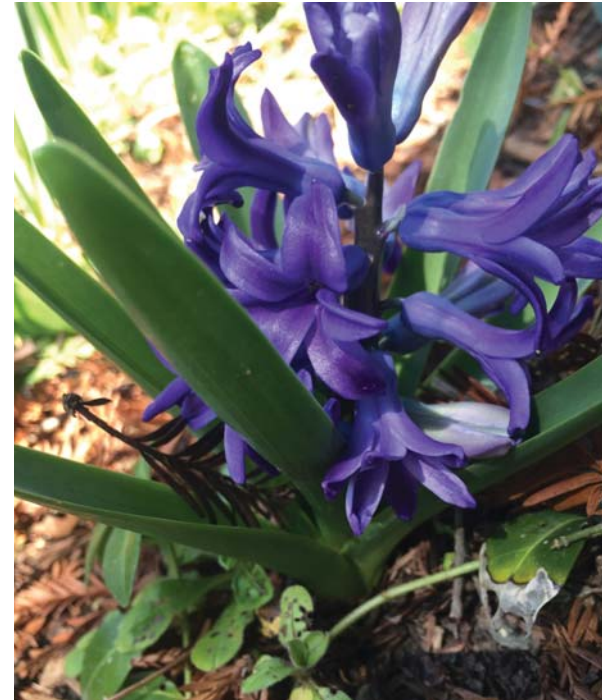
Spring forward by cleaning our houses and removing the debris from our gardens.

There is something about the pre-spring season that revs up our systems and begs us to dust off the old to make way for the new. We yearn to get rid of the mess that has been gathering. My storage area was filled with odd pieces of wire, broken light fixtures, string lights, patio pads, tiki torches, oil, glass, lawn seed, fertilizer, soil mixes, Christmas tree stands, old toys from kids long gone, punctured hoses, and a multitude of under utilized machines and gadgets geared to make gardening simpler but in reality were just too burdensome. It took me a full seven days to bring order to the chaos.

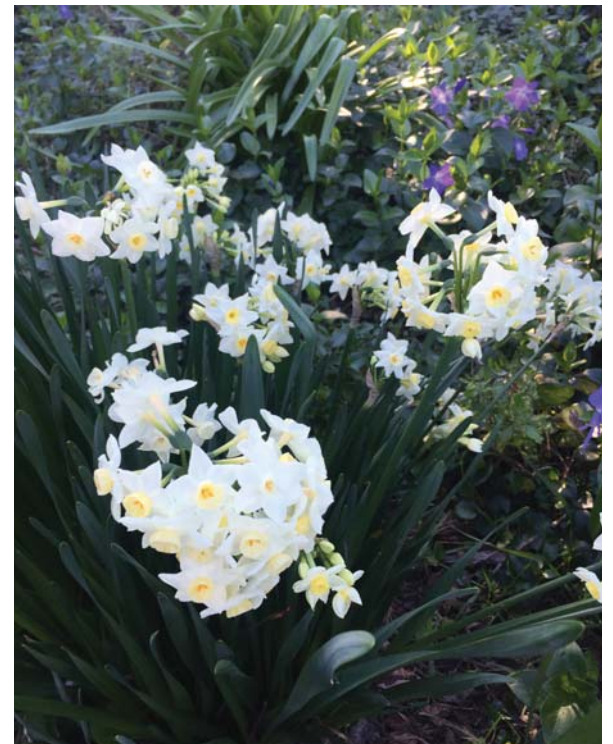
As overwhelming as this project sounds, the best way to start is to just start!

Don't be paralyzed by the enormity of the task. Do it bit by bit but take everything out of the spaces you are going to clean. Don't try to "wipe" around anything. Everything out! Once the space is empty, sweep it, mop it, brush out the cobwebs, and disinfect it. Next, designate four areas for decluttering: Keep, Donate, Trash, Recycle/Sell. You will be amazed at how much junk you have. Anything you are keeping, donating, giving away, or selling must be cleaned.

... continued on page D14



*Hyacinths are pushing through the soil to announce the arrival of spring.*



*White narcissi and blue vinca minor are excellent bedmates.*



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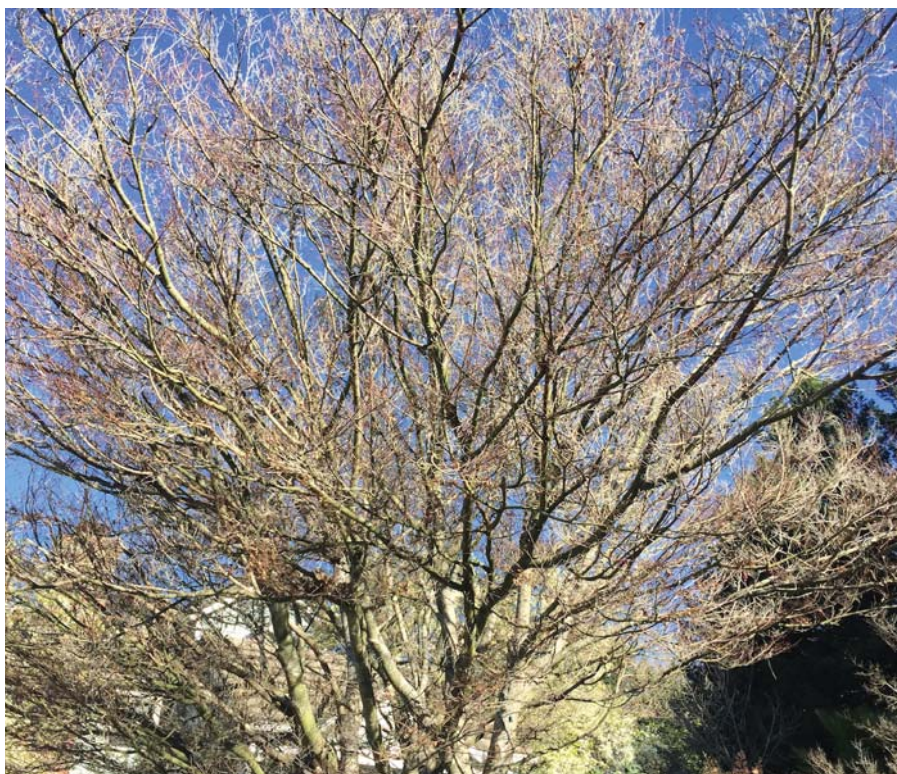
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# March on and spring forward!

... continued from page D12



*Bare Branches of Japanese maple remind us that spring has not sprung yet!*

Dump the trash unless you have chemicals, insecticides, pesticides, paints or contaminants. Take those items to a special facility for disposal. Contact your garbage collection agency for drop off locations. Box your donations and donate immediately lest you be tempted to reclaim items. Do the same with your recyclables or sale items. Organize what's left to store in a manner that is easily and safely accessible.

Walk around your garden and really look at your landscape. What needs a tune up? Are the hinges on your gate squeaking? Do you have broken fence slats? Do your hedges need a haircut? When was the last time you painted or stained your deck? Is it time for a patio power wash?

Pick up the dog bones, clean out the litter boxes, and get a storage container for all of the unused children's or pet toys. Check your irrigation system. Turn on the sprinklers to determine if you have any broken heads or pipes. What about your nightscaping? Do you have bulbs that are burned out? Are the batteries run down on your solar lights?

Your front entrance and sidewalk are the first greeting areas for yourself and guests. Give your porch a thorough cleaning and sweeping. Add a blooming plant in a pretty container. Buy a new welcome mat. Polish the hardware on your door.

After weeding your flowerbeds, add a fresh layer of mulch not only to beautify your landscape, but also to retain moisture and keep the soil temperatures constant while deterring erosion. Turn the compost pile.

As you march around your yard you'll discover a plethora of chores that are begging for your attention. Make a list, check it twice or three times, and get to the most important items first.

## Garden Happenings

The bare branches of the trees tell us that it is still winter, but the buzzing of the bees coupled with the sweet melodies of songbirds indicate that spring is right around the corner. My garden seems to have awakened from its slumber a full month early. Until the last

few days of the month, February had been bone dry and exceptionally sunny forcing numerous plants to bloom early. Daffodils, and narcissi have been blooming for two months and will continue for another two. The Italian white peach that normally forecasts a St. Patrick's Day celebration burst into full bloom on Valentine's Day. My shamrocks, also known as oxalis, are in their cheery yellow glory. Colorful freesias, tulips, Dutch iris, calla lilies, and hyacinths announce the stirrings of spring.

The precipitation was welcome news, but the cold front that accompanied the rain dropping temperatures into the 20s caused tender plants to freeze. The morning after the first frigid night, the shriveled shapes of lamium, sage, and nasturtium greeted me on my daily meditation walk. Part of tidying the garden is to understand what to prune back and what to leave until all danger of frost has past. The sage and lamium are best cut immediately, while the pruning of the nasturtium will wait until later in the month. Viburnum, with its tiny white flowers, does well in cold weather and accentuates the beauty of a four-season garden.

If you properly pruned your roses toward the end of January or beginning of February, you will see that they are now sprouting leaves. Within a month, buds will open. A few of my David Austen roses are already blooming. I am still planting bare root roses. World renowned rosarian Michael Marriott will join me on my radio broadcast from 4 to 5 p.m. on March 7. Get more information at <https://www.starstyleradio.com/starstyle-radio>. Michael will discuss the latest trends and techniques in cultivating a beautiful rose garden.

My mother used to instruct us with the words "cleanliness is next to Godliness." That truth wasn't written in ink, but it did help me toss that extra box of toothpicks. I know for certain that everything looks so much better and more attractive when it's clean and clutter-free.

Live in truth. Live in nature.



*Viburnum shines in any landscape during winter or spring.*

## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

- BRING branches of forsythia or quince inside to allow the blooms to open in a vase.
- PICK up fallen camellias.
- FERTILIZE the entire garden, if possible right before it rains.
- BUY discounted tickets to the A's versus Angels baseball game for June 15 with proceeds benefitting local charity, Be the Star You Are!®. [www.BetheStarYouAre.org/events](http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org/events)
- HARVEST wild mustard for salads and soups. Delicious and nutritious.
- DIG up beets and make sure to eat the tops.
- COME to LaGaelrinda event at St. Mary's College between 9 to 1 p.m. March 17 to visit the Be the Star You Are!® booth where I'll be selling and autographing my newest book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener."
- WANT an instant privacy screen in your yard? For immediate large hedges, a new product will ship this spring from a company called Instant Hedge offering 13 varieties of ready-to-plant hedges that have been growing for five years with heights up to six feet. Inspired by plantscapes in Holland, the panel of four trees with dense foliage will ship in a biodegradable cardboard box. Visit <http://instanthedge.com>.
- POT a clump of oxalis shamrocks for your St Patrick's Day dinner.

Wishing you the luck of the Irish and the wind at your back. March on and spring forward!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

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](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com).

Buy a copy of the new book, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, at [www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store). Available for hire for projects and lectures.

[Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com)  
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Cynthia Brian gets ready for St. Patrick's Day in a field of shamrocks.

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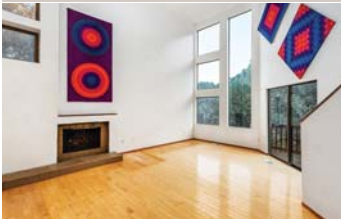
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## ORINDA



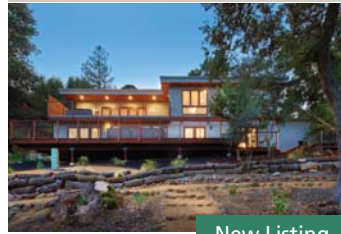
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## ORINDA



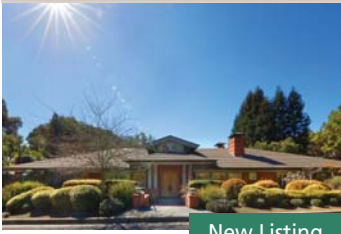
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