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Photo courtesy Andree Soares/Star Creek Land Stewards

Here come the goats!

By Nick Marnell

It may not sound as romantic as the swallows returning to Capistrano, and no hit song has been recorded (yet) about their activities, but the return of the goats to Orinda Downs signals a rite of the Lamorinda spring: time to prepare for wildfire season.

The Orinda Downs Homeowners Association has again

contracted with Star Creek Land Stewards of Los Banos for a goat herd to clear vegetation in the open space west of Happy Valley Road and north of Sundown Terrace, toward Orinda View Road.

“The neighborhood was proactive. They ran with it, and did a lot of neighborhood outreach,” Kathy Leonard, fire mar-

shal of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, said of the association members. “They were super receptive to our fire safety suggestions and they applied to the Diablo Fire Safe Council for a mini-grant.” The council offers cost sharing of up to \$5,000 per project to create defensible space, according to DFSC representative Cheryl Miller.

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Lafayette's planning commission cranking back into action

By Pippa Fisher

The city has appointed its first replacement commissioner to allow the planning commission to get back to work.

Following the mass resignation of five of Lafayette's seven planning commissioners as a result of the new stricter conflict of interest policies, the commission was left unable to function. The city council voted to reduce the number of commissioners from seven to five in the short term and has temporarily taken over the reins as a planning commission.

Now, with the appointment of Greg Mason – a senior structural plans examiner – and the remaining two members, the commission will be up to three, enough to form a quorum.

City attorney Mala Subramanian advised the council that it is released of planning commission duties except for two cases it has already started on.

City Council Member Mike Anderson explained at the April 23 city council

meeting that he and Mayor Don Tatzin, as members of the subcommittee, are holding ongoing interviews together with the two remaining commissioners, Gary Huisinh and Steven Bliss.

Anderson said that they are not eliminating any candidates at this point and that interviews would continue into May. However they had decided that if a uniquely qualified candidate presented it would be good to appoint them right away.

Anderson said that Mason had agreed to the new conflict of interest policy, explaining that he doesn't work in Lafayette.

Those interested in volunteering on the planning commission should go to the city website <http://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/commissions-committees/planning-commission> for an application form and for details of the commission's work plan.

PG&E to close St. Mary's Road for the summer

By Sophie Braccini

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. informed the city of Lafayette and the town of Moraga that it would have to replace a mile of pipe under St. Mary's Road in the coming months. The plan as it currently stands will completely close the arterial from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, from June 7 to Aug. 17.

The utility is seeking encroachment permits from both municipalities to execute its plan, but several questions surfaced during the public presentations that were held last week: Why there and why now? Will the new pipe be safe? How will emergency access be handled?

A major PG&E communications effort is expected in the coming weeks.

When PG&E first came to meet the two cities it proposed a 100-day plan that would have partially closed the arterial, sometimes allowing for one-way traffic, but would have affected the school commute. Both staff teams asked PG&E for a shorter alternative that would impact the road only when school is out.

The work plan that was approved by both councils will start south of the South Lucille Lane intersection in Lafayette on June 7 and a first section of the road will be closed all the way to Driftwood Drive until July 20. The work on the second section from Driftwood Drive to the south of Bollinger Canyon Road should end on Aug. 17. During construction, through traffic will be rerouted from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and residents with no other access will be permitted on the road one at a time. The last phase, replacement of the valve at South Lucille Lane, will be completed after Aug. 17 but should not require closing St. Mary's Road.

About 40 Lafayette residents live on Dirftwood Drive, Shire Oaks Court, and Cattle Shute Road with no other outlet than that section of St. Mary's Road. In Moraga the entire Bluffs neighborhood of over 100 homes will be blocked at some point, plus the residents of unincorporated county land whose sole outlet to civilization is Bollinger Canyon Road.

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Councils discuss planning and housing at Tri-City meeting – page A14.

Fire Districts A8

MOFD board split on stormwater fee – page A8.

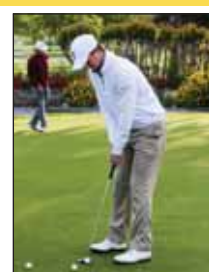
Life in Lamorinda B1-B10

Orinda runner finishes 32nd Boston Marathon – page B1.



Sports C1-C3

Lamorinda high school golf teams prep for NCS – page C1.



Our Homes D1-D16

Lafayette Juniors Kitchen Tour on May 19 – page D1.





Lafayette

- Public Meetings**
- City Council**
Monday, May 14, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Planning Commission**
Monday, May 7, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Design Review**
Monday, May 14, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- School Board Meetings**
- Acalanes Union High School District**
Wednesday, May 2, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us
- Lafayette School District**
Wednesday, May 30, 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
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Green award winners educate and inspire others

By Pippa Fisher



From left: James Leach and Kelsey Levante Photo City of Lafayette/Jeff Heyman

Two Lafayette residents were recognized for their contributions to helping the city achieve its environmental goals.

The Environmental Task Force, now in its 11th year, selected winners based on the candidates' activities reducing their footprint, helping achieve the city's environmental goals and inspiring others in the community.

Campolindo High School student Kelsey Levante and Lafayette resident James Leach received their recognition at the April 23 city council meeting.

Kelsey won "for inspiring and educating the Lafayette community about environmental sustainability."

A member of the Campolindo Environmental Club, Kelsey helps in the garden after school and has

learned how to build an aquaponics system for the school to be used by the AP environmental science classes and the biology classes as an example of symbiotic, closed-loop system. Kelsey inspires her classmates in sustainable practices.

Leach won "for educating local residents on the climate crisis."

Many in the community know Leach for his research on air quality, and his presentations to the city council on particulate matter.

Trained by the Climate Reality Project and the author of "The Sustainable Way: Straight talk about global warming – what causes it, who denies it, and the common sense transition to renewable energy," Leach has worked with Sustainable Lafayette to promote air quality monitoring.

Heyman joins city staff in new communications role

By Pippa Fisher



Jeff Heyman fills the newly-created position of communications analyst at the city of Lafayette. Photo provided

There is a new face at the city offices. Jeff Heyman has joined the city staff in its newly created role of communications analyst.

Heyman started in the new position April 9, coming to the city from the Oakland-based Peralta College District where he headed up public information and communications for the 25,000-student district.

Prior to his 18 years at the Peralta Colleges, Heyman was an information officer and deputy spokesperson for the United Nations Peacekeeping Department,

serving in Cambodia, Rwanda, Angola and former Yugoslavia.

Heyman, born in San Francisco, spent his teenage years in Alamo. He is a graduate of San Francisco State University in fine art photography and broadcast communications.

"For a long time, the city has done the best job it can in communicating with residents about the many things we do, but with the world of communications and media ever-changing, and the rise of social media, we needed a new approach, and this is a set of skills

staff does not currently have," said City Manager Steve Falk in a press release.

Heyman will be beefing up the city's social media presence, facilitating dialog on platforms such as NextDoor, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram as well as taking over the Almost Daily Briefing, the Weekly Roundup, the quarterly newsletter Vistas and Lafayette Listens.

Heyman has taught social media at Laney College and was a columnist for a local newspaper.

"He is skilled in writing, publishing, video, social media and is

a good photographer as well," says Falk.

In fact residents are quite likely to spot Heyman at city events or wandering along the streets of Lafayette with a camera in hand.

Heyman lives with his wife Sari and rescue greyhound Katie Bugs in Alameda.

"I am very excited about the many possibilities that this new communications role offers and I am honored to have been tapped to fill this first-time position," Heyman said. "It feels a lot like coming home."

Lafayette's strolling community dinner party coming soon

By Pippa Fisher



Ticket holders mingle before the tasting starts in earnest, enjoying drinks and appetizers at last year's Taste Pavilion. Photo provided

Now in its 16th year, Lafayette's annual restaurant walk is coming up on Tuesday, May 15. The once-a-year chance to sip, stroll and socialize at Taste of Lafayette is a perfect opportunity to get together with friends and try out many of the city's world-class restaurants in one night.

The evening kicks off in the Taste Pavilion in downtown Lafayette at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Lafayette Circle near the Bank of the West where 'tasters' enjoy a selection of appetizers, wine and beer at a hosted reception with live musical entertainment from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Raffle tickets will be on sale to benefit the Lafayette Community Foundation and the programs and services of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

The strolling part of the evening begins from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. as ticketholders make their way at their own pace along restaurant row, sampling tastes of dishes from

more than 25 restaurants.

This year Lafayette's latest eatery will be taking part - Batch & Brine, scheduled to open at the beginning of May, next to Pizz Antica, where the old Swaad Indian restaurant was located.

Other restaurants include Locanda Positano, Cooperage, Reve, Postino and many more.

From 8 p.m. onward diners make their way back to the Taste Pavilion for coffee, dessert and the raffle drawing.

Hopefully the evening will be warm but, as last year's chilly event proved, it isn't necessary for a delightful evening in the Lafayette community.

The event has sold out in previous years so those interested in attending shouldn't delay in getting their tickets.

Tickets for the May 15 event are \$55 and can be purchased on the Chamber website at www.lafayettechamber.org/events/taste-of-lafayette.

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Time for annual free concert at Lafayette Reservoir

By Pippa Fisher



Last year's concert

Photo Pippa Fisher

With the gorgeous backdrop of the Lafayette Reservoir, the traditional Concert at the Res is a lovely way to spend a spring day.

Once again the Lafayette Rotary Club is getting ready to host its May 12 concert and says this year the event will feature the award-winning jazz combo from Acalanes High School, the Rossmoor Big Band/Generations in Jazz, the Bentley High Jazz Combo, and the Stanley Middle School Symphonic Orchestra who will be joined by the Westlake Middle School from Oakland. And, as in previous years, both Town Hall Education and Lamorinda Performance Academy students will be providing dance and musical entertainment.

Now in its 24th year, the annual event has been hosted by the Lafayette Rotarians to support local school music programs and was started by Lafayette resident, Rotarian and last year's Citizen of the Year, Dick Holt.

Holt also largely spearheaded the construction of the stage, raising money with help from the Lafayette Community Foundation several years ago.

Food and beverages will be available and residents can picnic in the shady grounds next to the stage. The stage is located 150 feet along the paved trail from the parking lot to the east (left) near the children's playground. Golf cart transportation between the parking lot and the stage area will be available if needed.

Raffle tickets will be available for purchase with great prizes including weekend getaways. Proceeds fund the Rotary Club's public service projects and local school music programs.

The event is sponsored by many local businesses and individuals in addition to the Lafayette Rotary Club.

The free concert takes place on Saturday, May 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Deer Hill Road – Pros and cons of Measure L debated

Discussion facilitated by Pippa Fisher

Measure L, on the ballot for a special election June 5 to determine the future of the Deer Hill Road property, is currently the subject of heated discussion throughout Lafayette. Lamorinda Weekly asked spokespeople from both the Yes on L Campaign (Brandt Andersson and Vice Mayor Cam Burks) and the No on L Campaign (Michael Griffiths and Scott Sommer) for their responses to several questions on the issues.

Q: Why is, or why isn't Measure L the best plan for Deer Hill?

Yes on L: Measure L is the city council-approved plan for the Deer Hill property. Your yes vote preserves over half the land as open space and community parklands while allowing a limited number of homes and providing many benefits to Lafayette residents. Putting this plan side by side with the original proposal of 315 apartments and no community amenities, we know that Measure L is the best choice for Deer Hill.

No on L: Several better solutions would reduce traffic and pollution. \$3 million of public money shouldn't go for a children's play area and field 160 and 200 feet from busy Pleasant Hill Road.

Q: Will the project make traffic congestion at Pleasant Hill Road and Deer Hill Road worse?

No on L: The EIR reports: Additional 1,224 vehicle trips/day. "Delay Index would increase... a "significant cumulative impact." Level of service "F" at Deer Hill/Pleasant Hill Road ("jammed conditions with excessive delays and long back-ups").

The roundabout on Deer Hill (12,200 daily trips) exceeds slope standards; construction would close the road for months.

Yes on L: Measure L improves student safety with a dedicated bus turnout, designated drop-off and pickup locations, and a pathway to Springhill Elementary. Any development will add vehicles to the area. However, Measure L ensures that the development is reduced from 315 multi-family units to 44 single-family homes. Measure L also includes over \$500,000 in improvements to that intersection for students, bicyclists, and pedestrians to reduce current traffic problems.

Q: What does Measure L include for the community?

Yes on L: The approval includes 11 acres of public parklands and trails, an all-weather multi-use athletic field, a 2.9-acre dog park, a park and playground, a 78-car parking lot across from Acalanes High School including a dedicated bus turnout and student drop-off and pickup zone, over \$500,000 in bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Pleasant Hill Road, and nearly \$400,000 in payments to our local schools.

No on L: The play area/field on the lower part of the site gave the developer an excuse to put units higher on the ridgeline. According to a letter to the city dated April 23 from a member of the City School Board Fields Committee, the Deer Hill site was determined "not viable." Two sites on city and school district land are proposed.

... continued on page A9

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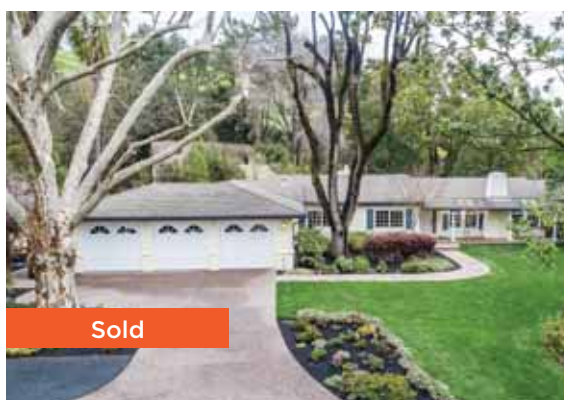
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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, May 9, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 23, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, May 21, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, May 14, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
 Tuesday, May 8, 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

March 27 to April 8

Alarms	16
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	1
Traffic	50
Suspicious Circumstances	14
Suspicious Subject	2
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	33
Patrol Request/ Security Check	114
Vacation House Check	5
Supplemental Report	13
Welfare Check	1

Battery
 St. Marys College

Beat Info

Safeway

Civil Problem

1100 Block Moraga Way

Disturbing The Peace

Devin Dr./Moraga Rd.
 500 Block Center St.

Dui Misd

St. Marys Rd./Cattle Chute Rd.
 Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.

Excessive Speed

Moraga Blvd./1St St., Laf Moraga Rd.

Dreager Dr./Moraga Rd.

Moraga Way/Viader Dr.

Moraga Rd./Moraga Way

Moraga Rd./Moraga Way

Moraga Rd./Moraga Way

Larch Ave Wandel Dr.

Fraud Credit Card

1900 Block Joseph Dr.
 1500 Block Canyon Rd.
 100 Block Fairfield Pl.
 CVS

Fraud False Pretenses

1500 Block Canyon Rd.

Hailed By Citizen

Good Will
 Police Department

Identity Theft

1900 Block St. Marys Rd.
 Police Department

Indecent Exposure

Hazelwood Pl./School St.

Lost Property

Twenty Four Hour Fitness
 Safeway

Loud Music

200 Block Paseo Bernal
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Medical Hospital

Bank Of America

Mentally Ill Commit

100 Block Merion
 100 Block Miramonte Dr.

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1000 Block Larch Ave.

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Moraga should rescind its fiscal emergency, audit and finance committee recommends

By Sophie Braccini

The members of the Moraga audit and finance committee were reassured by the figures recently presented by staff indicating that the town's reserve reached 28.5 percent of the operating budget in February – \$2.5 million – and unanimously agreed to recommend that the town's fiscal emergency be rescinded.

When Moraga adopted a declaration of fiscal emergency last July the purpose was to allow the town to be able to call for a special funding election mechanism should a new disaster hit

the town. The reserves that had been close to 50 percent were seriously depleted with two successive infrastructure emergencies: the Rheem sinkhole and Canyon Bridge. The town manager at the time felt that the declaration would give the town ways to act should something else happen.

Reimbursement money from the sinkhole work is now starting to trickle in, \$1 million is expected this fiscal year (before July 2018), and better than expected income coupled with more savings have given Moraga a better than expected surplus. The rest

of the sinkhole reimbursement money, \$1.4 million, is scheduled to be received during the 2018-19 fiscal year and should restore the reserve to 45 percent by June of 2019. New town manager Cynthia Battenberg confirmed that the typical city reserve is 16 percent.

The first reimbursement money soon to arrive will be returned to the developer fund from which it came; the next expected reimbursement will be allocated to the general fund reserve.

Battenberg noted that reimbursement for the Canyon Bridge

work, over \$3 million, would take years since there is no allocation made yet and the town of Moraga will be competing with North Bay fire reimbursement needs. She promised that her team would stay on top of the issue.

The committee decided that if the storm drain fee measure fails, the town would still have time to propose another financial mechanism on the November ballot and did not need to maintain the fiscal emergency declaration to do so. It is likely that the town council will consider the committee's recommendation in May.

An experienced planner to direct development in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Moraga's new Planning Director Derek Farmer Photo Sophie Braccini

Derek Farmer was recently confirmed as Moraga planning director. The man, who was hired as senior planner a few years ago and promoted as interim director when Ellen Clark left, is now in charge. He has worked both in the public and private sectors, with universities, large cities, redevelopment projects and rowdy crowds, and is not fazed by the complex and often very lengthy Moraga processes; instead he is energized by what lies ahead.

Farmer is a San Diego native who got a job in the San Jose State media department after obtaining his bachelor's degree and decided to pursue a graduate degree there in urban planning. He says that land use, downtown redevelopment and the balance between development and environmental protection were the subjects that most interested him.

Farmer worked back and forth in the public and private

sectors, about 11 years in each, in different parts of the country and the Bay Area. When he was a private consultant for the New York Government Office of Storm Recovery he was in charge of reconstruction projects in times of crisis when people had lost their homes to hurricanes, in areas built on increasingly flooding planes. He also worked on reconstruction projects for Navy bases.

Back in the Bay Area Farmer worked for the National Park Service on the upgrade of the Sausalito waste water treatment plant, a project that included archaeological digs of sailors' remains that had been buried on the beaches during the Civil War period and World War I. Farmer also managed the Environmental Impact Report of UC Berkeley's future 5 million-square-foot Richmond global campus that will be built over the next 30 years. As a contractor he worked for the city of San Francisco on build-

ing transitional youth and affordable housing. He also worked on Lake Berryessa's shoreline trail management plan, creating a trail around the huge shoreline.

Farmer was first hired in Orinda in 2015. He had been working as a consultant for the city of Berkeley as a contract planner and wanted to return as a regular employee. He worked on projects at Wilder as a senior planner, and he also worked on Paul Ugenti's mixed development plan in downtown Orinda. Farmer decided to apply to Moraga when a senior position opened because he said that even if the cities are similar, there were aspects in Moraga he was particularly interested in.

One of them was the Saint Mary's College master plan. In addition to working with UC Berkeley, Farmer also worked with Stanford University as a Santa Clara County planner on the new student housing and aca-

demical and athletic buildings the university is planning. He is also interested in downtown redevelopment and is looking forward to working on the zoning of the Moraga Center Specific Plan.

Farmer looks at the coming projects in Moraga with a sense of calm, especially since Moraga hired a new senior planner, Steve Kowalski, who used to work in Fremont and has a lot of development experience, including working with hillside preservation regulation.

Farmer is already familiar with what is in the pipeline for Moraga. Some developments are far from completion, such as the Indian Valley project. This plan proposes building 71 homes on the vacant 450 acres bordering the community of Canyon, clustered on the lower flat portion of Indian Valley, over the ridge, overlooking Canyon and with access on Canyon Road. The EIR for this project has not yet been completed.

... continued on page A12

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Town of Moraga Community GARAGE SALE

Saturday, May 19, 2018

Residents of the Town of Moraga are invited to hold garage sales at their homes, join with their neighbors to hold block sales, or get together with their community group to hold a group sale. A \$15 registration fee gets your garage sale in the Garage Sale Guide. Guides with maps will be available at the Hacienda de las Flores, Moraga Library, Town Offices, and Online starting May 15.

moragarec.com or 925-888-7036

Moraga community faire – get ready for May 12



Pony rides at last year's faire

Photo Jaya Griggs

The spring faire at Rheem has become a tradition that attracts crowds from all over the area. Kathe Nelson, the Moraga Chamber of Commerce executive director, says that the 12th Annual Community Faire and Classic Car show will feature not only the popular pony rides, climbing wall, food, classic cars, and Lamorinda wines and craft beers, but also music from local school and area bands, and many new booths and vendors. She is sure that there will truly be something there for everyone.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rheem Valley Shopping Center. The Kids Zone is a must at the fair and all attractions are included in the \$5 per child ticket. Other free activities include

visit to the ever-growing, amazing classic car exhibit, featuring over 70 classic cars, games, booths and live entertainment. The Moraga Police Department will be hosting bike safety training, so families are encouraged to ride their bikes to the fair and can take advantage of a free bike valet.

Food trucks will be at the event, so visitors can enjoy a great lunch at the fair, and relax with a glass of local wine or beer. Over 50 local artists, businesses and organizations are part of the fair and give visitors an opportunity to rediscover the economic vitality and the creativity of their community.

Live entertainment will be presented all afternoon from the Saint Mary's Jazz Band to local Battle of

the Bands winners. The Moraga Community Faire and Car Show is organized and sponsored by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit www.moragachamber.org/faire.
– S. Braccini

Plans to open La Finestra Restaurant at the Hacienda move forward

By Sophie Braccini



Jeff Assadi dreams of the Hacienda de las Flores

Photo provided

Despite a somewhat confusing process, the town council approved authorizing the town manager to enter lease negotiations to rent the Hacienda de las Flores to restaurant operator Jeff Assadi. The opportunity appears to be a perfect situation to finally make the town-owned park an open amenity for the entire community, as well as less of a cost center. If everything goes according to plan, the new La Finestra Restaurant should open in early November.

At the April 17 special meeting, members of the subcommittee that proposed the lease were quizzed, especially by Council Member Kymberleigh Korpus, who said she had first thought that the committee had exceeded its mandate. The group composed of Moraga residents, staff members and two council members had been tasked to develop a request for proposals that the town would approve and send to the market to get different offers to rent part of the historic building to a restaurant. Instead the committee decided to forgo the RFP and asked the town to start negotiating with Assadi.

Korpus asked for some explanation. Wendy Scheck, Moraga resident, member of the committee and publisher of Lamorinda Weekly, explained that the committee had completed the drafting of the

RFP with then interim parks and recreation director Carlene McCarty, when Assadi walked in the door. At first the committee told him that the RFP was going to be approved by the council and that he could respond to it at that time. But then Assadi explained that his window to engage in a new restaurant operation was about to expire.

Scheck remembered how Assadi's offer perfectly aligned with everything that was included in the RFP: a restaurateur with experience running a successful restaurant for more than five years, with cash in hand to invest in a new location, offering a market rate rent and shared profits on all revenues including catering. Additionally, restaurant consultant and Lafayette resident Bob Burke had warned the committee that finding a lease that would not require the town to make major investment to improve the building and the kitchen was unlikely.

What made Assadi's offer a perfectly timed one comes from the unfortunate fire that completely destroyed the building where La Finestra had operated for the last 15 years on Lafayette Circle last July. The restaurateur now has the insurance money as well as a full wine, beer and liquor license that needs to find a location before it expires.

... continued on page A12



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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, May 14, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 8, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure

Oversight Commission

Wednesday, May 9, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

School Board Meetings

Orinda Union School District

Monday, May 14, 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

March 25 to April 7

Alarms	37
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	135
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subjects	9
Suspicious Vehicles	17
Patrol Request/ Security Check	49
Service to Citizen	57
Supplemental Report	21
Vacation House Check	35
Welfare Check	7

Abandoned Vehicle
200 Block Sundown Terrace
60 Block Bates Blvd.

Accident Property
Brookwood Rd./Camino Pablo
Camino Pablo/Bear Creek Rd.
Camino Sobrante/Orinda Way
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
Safeway
200 Block Camino Pablo
Van Ripper Ln./Irving Ln.

Barking Dog
10 Block Kittiwake Rd.

Battery
Orinda Convalescent
10 Block Orinda Way

Beat Info
100 Block Village Sq.

Civil
10 Block West Hill Way
100 Block Moraga Way
70 Block Orchard Rd.
90 Block Southwood Ct.
CVS

Police Department
Shell Gas
Wells Fargo (2)
Wilder Sports Fields

Commercial Burglary
Safeway

Death Suicide
10 Block Woodland Rd.

Fire/Ems Response Info
Starbucks

Found Property
Orindawoods Dr./Village Gate Rd.

Identity Theft
100 Block Camino Pablo
100 Block Ivy Dr.
Police Department
30 Block Tarry Ln.
20 Block Southwater Ct.

Lost Property
Police Department

Loud Music
10 Block La Campana Rd.
50 Block Brookside Rd.
Edgewood Rd./Lost Valley Dr.

Loud Noise
10 Block Eastwood Dr.
10 Block Overhill Rd.

Loud Party
Orinda Country Club

Medical Hospital
80 Block Tarry Ln.
Safeway

Ordinance Violation
10 Block La Cintilla

Orinda Way/Santa Maria Way
Sleepy Hollow Swim And Tennis

Public Assembly Check
10 Block Camino Sobrante
20 Block Orinda Way
Miramonte High School (3)

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EBMUD starts moving trench soil after slight delay

By Sora O'Doherty



Trucks drive through the intersection of Bear Creek Road and Camino Pablo. Photo Sora O'Doherty

East Bay Municipal Utility District personnel, including Director Marguerite Young, Project Manager Stephanie Matula and Engineering Manager Carlton Chan appeared as requested before the Orinda City Council April 17 to explain why the city had received such short notice of a project that will have major impact – the removal through city streets of 200,000 cubic yards of trench soil that has been stockpiled near Briones reservoir for 15 years. The council questioned some of the in-

formation provided by EBMUD. Young explained that the soil was intended to be used at the East Bay Regional Park District's Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline, and she described this as a "confluence of opportunity," because it would be the ideal project to maximize the benefit and value of reusing the soil. However, as it appears that the Oyster Bay project may not be ready to proceed, city council members questioned the urgency of moving the soil before the end of the school year. ... continued on next page

Free Pan-Asian Arts Festival in Orinda, Memorial Day weekend

By Sora O'Doherty



I Made Cat courtesy of Gamelan Sekar Jaya Photo provided

From lion dances to fashion shows, from cooking demonstrations to Japanese anime film, music, art, dance and, of course, food trucks, the Pan-Asian Arts Festival should have something to interest everyone in the fam-

ily. Sponsored jointly by Orinda Rotary and the Orinda Library, the festival will run for a day and a half in venues in and around the Library and the Community Center. The festival will open with a ribbon cutting and a colorful Chinese lion dance. All events will be free to the public, and printed programs with the schedule of events and floor plans of the community center and library showing where each event will take place will be provided.

The festival is the highlight of Weylin Eng's year as president of the Orinda Rotary. Rotary member

Robert Parker was instrumental in the planning, which has taken months. Each Rotary president has a theme for their year, and Eng's theme has been diversity.

"Rotary International is very cosmopolitan," he commented, and the local chapter has members who are German, Lebanese, Fijian, Korean, Filipino, Chinese and Vietnamese. Eng recalls that his daughter, Aimee Eng, when

she had just finished her master's degree at Stanford organized a Pan-Asian festival in 2005 as part of the San Francisco Cherry Blossom Festival. The single-afternoon event was attended by 300 to 400 people. For this festival, Eng's daughter selected the film to be shown. Many years ago the Diablo Valley Chinese Cultural Association held a festival at Acalanes High School.

A few festival highlights, subject to change

Saturday, May 26

- 10 a.m. – Ribbon cutting, Lower Plaza
- 10:15 a.m. – "White Crane" Lion Dance, Lower Plaza
- 11 a.m. – HipHop-Natyam "Bollywood" dancers, tabla Indian music, OCC Founders Room; henna hand painting, Upper Plaza
- Noon – Food Trucks, Parking Lot
- Noon – Japanese animation film: "A Letter to Momo"; Library Gallery Room (2 hours)
- 1 p.m. – Mau Tamari' I A Tiare Polynesian Dancers, Library Auditorium
- 2 p.m. – Filipino Music w/ Manny Tuazon & Willie Santamaria, Library Auditorium
- 2:30 p.m. – Martial arts demonstration, East-West BokFuDo, OCC Founders Room

Sunday, May 27

- 1 p.m. – Balinese dance and interactive workshop, Gamelan Sekar Jaya, Lower Plaza
- 1:45 p.m. – Tai Chi Master Demonstration, OCC Founders Room
- 3 p.m. – Taiko Drumming Ensemble, Eden Aoba, Lower Plaza

For a full schedule of events, go to www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.com.

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68th Annual Rotary Isola Field Day moves to Miramonte

By Sora O'Doherty

For the first time, the Rotary will hold its Isola Field Day for elementary school students to compete in track and field events at Miramonte High School. Co-sponsored by the Miramonte track team, team members will be involved in helping to run the May 5 event and serve as role models for the younger participants.

This free track and field competition, open to all Orinda third-through fifth-graders, was started in 1950 by Frank Isola, a PE teacher and later principal at Orinda Intermediate School, where the gym is named after him. The event was started at the old Pinecrest school, then moved to Del Rey Elementary School where it was held for almost 40 years. Because the event has been running for 68 years, parents and grandparents can watch their children and grandchildren run the same races they did as children.

Students will compete for first, second and third place in individual

events, as well as the title of High Point Boy and High Point Girl. The school with the highest combined point total will keep the Field Day trophy for a full year.

Things will kick off at 8 a.m. with athlete arrival, event prep and race bibs. Rotarians will be on hand selling donuts, coffee, snacks, hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks to help defray the costs of the event. Pre-registration is available on the website, but not necessary. Starting at 8:30 a.m. there will be four events for third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders: the 50m dash, the 200m (400 m for fifth-graders), the softball throw and the long jump, plus, from 10:50 to 11:30 a.m., relay races.

Also new this year, according to Field Day Chair Clay Deanhardt, is a new website for the event, www.orindafieldday.org. While the site is currently pretty bare bones, Deanhardt says he will start adding as historical material soon.

Zoning and general plan amendments for Moraga Adobe parcel approved

By Sora O'Doherty

Although adjacent property owners Charlotte and John Smith urged the Orinda City Council to withhold action on the zoning and general plan amendments for the Moraga Adobe parcel within the J&J Ranch project, the council unanimously adopted the zoning and general plan amendment ordinance and approved by resolution the final map for the J&J Ranch subdivision. The Smiths wanted the council to wait until the Friends of the Moraga Adobe have pur-

chased the site. City attorney Osa Wolff informed the council that it did have the discretion to not act, but that the zoning amendment was appropriate whether the Friends buy the site or it winds up being used as a clubhouse by the future homeowners association. The resolution also approved the subdivision improvement agreement, the stormwater operations and maintenance agreement, and accepted the Grant Open Space and Scenic Easement Deed.

... continued on page A13

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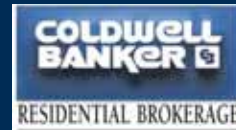
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EBMUD moving trench soil

... continued from page A6

The council is concerned not only about the impact of the extremely heavy trucks traversing Bear Creek Road and Camino Pablo at a rate of 17 loads per hour, 130 trucks per day, but especially about this unusual traffic going right by the entrance to and exit from Wagner Ranch Elementary School, and the impact of the morning commute plus school traffic.

Matula indicated that the trench soils may be transported instead to a project at Altamonte, and the council wanted to know if the same urgency applied. After the meeting, EBMUD Community Affairs Representative Reyna Yagi confirmed that the project did not start as planned, but began only on Tuesday, April 24 and that the soil is being taken to Altamont landfill and resource recovery facility in Livermore, which is not a reuse site. EBMUD is still in discussion with Oyster Bay, which is preferred because it is a reuse site.

The city council expressed surprise that the job was being rushed through, even though EBMUD had not finalized the destination of the soil. Matula and Chan ex-

plained that the Briones site has been used since the 1960s to house excess soil that accrues from each time EBMUD lays a pipeline. The last time the soil was removed was in 2003, 15 years ago. Now EBMUD is concerned about the soil going through any further storms, as potentially damaging to Orinda and to the Briones reservoir. When asked why the soil had not been removed before the site was so close to its capacity, EBMUD responded that they didn't want to use trucks inefficiently, as would happen if the trucks were not full. They now anticipate that it will require 130 trucks a day for at least six months to empty the site.

The council expressed concerns that EBMUD was still not communicating properly with the city, that there was no real dialog on matters that the city considers extremely important. Vice Mayor Inga Miller accused EBMUD of planning the operation "under a cloak of darkness," even after Young had promised, following the Orchard Road incident last summer, that this wouldn't happen again. EBMUD responded that because they were not dig-

ging up pipes or closing streets, they hadn't considered that the project would have a great impact on Orinda. They promised to do better in the future.

Council Member Darlene Gee said that EBMUD's lack of sensitivity to the school issue was "really disconcerting."

"EBMUD has a lot to prove to Orinda," Gee concluded. "I hope you are not being disingenuous." Council Member Dean Orr said that he was not optimistic that EBMUD would make changes responsive to the situation, but urged them to be open to changing their plans if the situation warrants.

Young stated that Orinda is the "heart" of EBMUD, where they have their treatment plant that serves two-thirds of its customers. She added that there will also be more pipe replacements because Orinda needs them for fire safety, but conceded that they had underestimated the impact of the current project. She promised even more communication and the presence of staff at Wagner Ranch and Sleepy Hollow during the project.

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors
 Wednesday, May 2, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 16, 7 p.m.
 Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors
 Tuesday, May 22, 1:30 p.m.
 Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez
 For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

MOFD board splits over proposed Moraga stormwater fee measure

By Nick Marnell

Despite pleas from Moraga stormwater fee measure proponents, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District declined to return a ballot on the stormwater fee proposed for its two town parcels, the board unable to justify using Orinda tax dollars to fund a Moraga capital expenditure.

Moraga Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg and Council Member Kymberleigh Korpus provided the board background for the proposed fee: The Moraga storm drain system is aging and requires \$29 million in repairs which the town is unable to squeeze out of its \$8.6 million operating budget; the fee would bring in \$800,000 a year, with no sunset, and would cover capital improvements, maintenance and operation of the system; and only Moraga property owners would be charged. Dick Olsen, speaking as a representative of the Moraga Save Our Storm Drains Committee, told the board that the fee was insurance against future

sinkholes, and would have a positive impact on district emergency response times.

No one disputed that the work needed done, but the board divided mainly on the philosophical issue of fair taxation.

Orinda Director Craig Jorgens said that Orinda fixed its storm drain infrastructure by issuing a bond, which owners of taxable city property pay for. (MOFD, which owns three fire stations in Orinda, is exempt from paying property tax.) "We shouldn't be paying taxes to one entity that we don't to a different one for exactly the same purpose," said Jorgens, who bristled at the use of the word fee. "It's semantics," he said.

"The city has known about this a long time, but has failed to develop adequate reserves," said Moraga Director John Jex of the town's prior actions.

"Yes, the town should have saved money for this, but they didn't," said Moraga Director

Kathleen Famulener. "We need to do something." Director Steve Anderson, who resides in Orinda but whose division comprises portions of both municipalities, called the proposed \$2,540 annual fee on the two Moraga district parcels cheap insurance, which would allow MOFD to better fulfill its mission of saving lives and property.

But it came down to what the board termed a taxation issue. "They didn't want people who don't live there to affect the outcome - they only wanted property owners to do it," Jorgens said of the town's strategy of having only Moraga property owners vote on the proposed fee. "In reality, you're asking people who live in Orinda to vote for something for Moraga."

That was the crux of the stance by President Brad Barber, who agreed that it is in the interest of MOFD that roads and infrastructure remain in excellent condition.

"But I feel awkward voting to increase taxes in a jurisdiction that I do not reside in," said Barber, an Orinda resident.

Barber chose to abstain from every possible vote on the stormwater ballot: yes, no or abstain. The resultant perpetual deadlock of Jorgens and Jex voting no, and Anderson and Famulener voting yes, left the district no alternative.

"In the absence of direction from the board, we will not turn in a ballot," said Fire Chief Dave Winnacker at the conclusion of the April 18 meeting.

"It is unfortunate that there was a split vote at the MOFD meeting on the town's proposed stormwater fee measure," said Battenberg, who added that the town will provide the district further information on how the storm drain infrastructure supports emergency response. She said she understood the challenge for the multijurisdictional district to consider a fee that would apply to only Moraga.

Democratic Party of Contra Costa County honors Local 1230 president

By Nick Marnell



Vince Wells, center, surrounded by firefighters as he receives the Robert Reich Award. Photo provided

Vince Wells, president of Local 1230 of the firefighters union, received the inaugural Robert Reich Award from the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County at the 2018 Franklin D. and Eleanor

Roosevelt President's Award Dinner April 21 in Concord.

The Robert Reich Award, named after the former U.S. Secretary of Labor during the Clinton administration, recognizes an indi-

vidual "who is a tireless advocate for union labor and strengthens the partnership with the Democratic Party," according to party chair Maria Alegria.

"I am honored to receive this award and to represent the members of a well respected profession," Wells said. "I have been the union president for the last 10 years and it has allowed me to build relationships throughout the county and state. These relationships have helped me help our members as we fight for adequate staffing as well as pay and benefits."

Wells, a Contra Costa County Fire Protection District captain, has had to walk a fine leadership line throughout his representation of firefighters from both Lamorinda fire agencies. During the economic downturn after the Great Recession, Wells struggled with seven ConFire station closures and the

precarious financial situation of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. By agreeing to defer wage increases for the rank and file, Wells attempted to not only maintain a high level of service to the community but also help the agencies stay afloat.

The party also recognized Wells' support of political campaigns, ballot measures and other legislative initiatives that impact working families across the state of California.

Reich, Professor of Public Policy at UC Berkeley, congratulated Wells on receiving the eponymous award. "May we all be inspired by his work and leadership and continue striving to fulfill the vision of our nation - as one that allows for the achievement of the American Dream - no matter your background or history," Reich wrote in a letter to the party.

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Last year the goats cleared 65 acres of the 144-acre open space in the Downs. "The goats get at what weed whackers can't," Leonard said. "They eat all the way down to the soil so you don't have any erosion."

Andree Soares, president of Star Creek Land Stewards, said that 450 goats will truck into Orinda on gooseneck trailers between May 8-10, depending on the weather. The first herd will stay for two weeks, then will be relieved by a new herd to finish the job. The project will last three weeks.

Soares explained that each goat removes nearly 5 pounds of organic dry matter per day, totaling over 45,000 pounds - more than 22 tons - of vegetation during the 21-day assignment. The goats will also excrete and deposit natural fertilizers and work them into the soil with their hooves.

The goats eat the majority of the time, sleeping as a group at night within their enclosures. An on-site herder, living in a trailer for the duration of the grazing project, mobilizes the animals to target the most high-risk areas identified within the Downs. A livestock protection dog lives with the goats and provides safekeeping from predators.

"Ultimately, these combined efforts improve soil health which increases its ability to absorb and retain precipitation and reduce erosive risks. It is really a win-win natural cycle on our landscapes," Soares said.

The scene at the grazing site last year brought visitors to the Downs for an unexpected reason: to view the action. Families stopped to look at, and listen to, the incessant chomp-chomp-chomp of the goats, and even learn a thing or two about

focused job performance.

"MOFD is pleased to continue our partnership with engaged homeowners associations and the Diablo Fire Safe Council to encourage proactive fuels reduction projects," said Fire Chief Dave Winnacker. "The return of goats to graze the hills of the Orinda Downs is emblematic of the strength of these relationships and the community's commitment to creating a safer environment."

The Orinda Downs project is part of Winnacker's outreach to

... continued from page A1

pull together various public agencies and neighborhoods to protect the district from wildfire threat. The chief has coordinated the district fire prevention efforts of PG&E, the East Bay Municipal Utility District and Cal Fire, and he encourages interested neighborhood associations to contact Leonard for fire prevention information.

For those who follow the chief's advice, the goats may soon become part of an annual tradition in their own Lamorinda neighborhoods.

MOFD Open House on May 5

Before the arrival of the goats, another harbinger of spring occurs in Lamorinda - the May 5 Moraga-Orinda Fire District Spring Open House. The event takes place from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Fire Station 45 at 33 Orinda Way in Orinda.

The theme of the open house is wildfire preparedness, and the district goal is to educate the public to prepare families and properties well in advance of a wildland fire, increase awareness of wildfire season, and encourage residents to develop and implement a family disaster plan. Open house attendees can learn how to administer CPR, tour fire apparatus, meet Smoky Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog and have lunch with the firefighters. The Moraga-Orinda Professional Firefighters Association donates all proceeds from the hot dog lunch to the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation. The district holds a similar event in Moraga during October Fire Prevention Week.

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Work begins at MOFD Fire Station 43. Photo courtesy MOFD

Teachers union and LAFSD reach two-year agreement

By Nick Marnell

The Lafayette School District board approved a labor contract between the Lafayette Education Association and the district at its April 18 meeting. The two-year contract covers all district employees.

Under terms of the agreement, employees receive an 0.5 percent salary increase for the 2016-17 school year effective July 1, 2016, plus a 2 percent salary increase for 2017-18, ef-

fective July 1, 2017. The district also covers the full cost of employee health benefit premiums, whether for an employee personally, an employee plus a dependent or an employee's entire family. LAFSD also provides full-family dental coverage and single-employee vision coverage.

"We are happy that we were able to come to an agreement, through mediation," said LEA

President Carol Kerr, noting that it was the first time the parties had ever used a state-appointed mediator during labor negotiations.

"It was difficult. We would have liked to have given more, but we simply do not receive adequate funding from the state to support our budget," said LAFSD Superintendent Rachel Zinn. "The teachers deserved the raise. No one thinks more highly of our

teachers than our board or I do." In order to fund more than \$460,000 of employee compensation increases, the district had to cut personnel and services, including one K-5 teacher and the district technology coordinator, out of its 2018-19 budget.

"It was heartbreaking that we had to get to that point," Zinn said. "It's so disheartening that we had to resort to the cuts we did. Any time you have to dis-

mantle a program and affect people's lives, it's painful. There was no good choice."

Employees will receive retroactive payments for the past year and a half by the end of June, but Kerr said that the checks should arrive before the end of May.

"We have to negotiate, but our focus is always on the students," Kerr said.

Deer Hill Road – Pros and cons of Measure L debated

... continued from page A3



Photo Pippa Fisher

Q: Will there be a serious health risk to children at the proposed children's play area and sports field from fine and ultra fine particulate matter and other air pollutants?

No on L: The City mismanaged analysis of air pollution risk at the play area/field. The EIR reported Deer Hill exceeded Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) thresholds for cancer and 2.5 micron particulate matter (PM), but addressed only 2.5 micron and larger PM. It ignored 0.3 micron and ultrafine PM widely considered more toxic because it penetrates the lungs, bloodstream, and blood/brain barrier – causing a much greater health risk. Active children would breathe 4 million 0.3 micron PM per minute when the Air Quality Index is Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups, per James Leach, 2017 City of Lafayette Environmental Award of Excellence recipient, a level found at sites by busy roadways in Concord and Oakland monitored by BAAQMD.

Mr. Leach commented: "My objection to constructing a sports field and play area at the Deer Hill project is that the level of air pollution ... is unhealthy for such activities. These conditions are especially hazardous to children. ... It is well established that being close to such heavy traffic presents a serious health risk from exposure to fine solid and liquid particulates."

BAAQMD recommends placing "sensitive land uses ... such as schools, playgrounds" away from busy roadways.

'Yes' argues a sports field is not a school site subject to SB 352, Ed. Code 17213. Incorrect. The legislature's definition of school site (Ed. Code 17609(f)) includes "playgrounds, athletic fields ..."

There was no complete health risk analysis for children. Voters should be guided by state law restricting new school sites within 500 feet of busy roadways and BAAQMD and Leach recommendations.

Yes on L: No. The independent Environmental Impact Report studied potential impacts and determined there is no significant risk and required no mitigation. In response to additional community concerns this spring, O'Brien Homes ordered an expanded Health Risk Assessment from an outside expert that focused on the users of the park and sports field using the latest air quality guidelines from the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and Bay Area Air Quality Management District which confirmed that there is no significant cancer-related, chronic, acute or particulate matter related health risk to park visitors and sports field users. Any air quality impacts are well below the established BAAQMD threshold. You can read both reports on the campaign website at www.YesOnL2018.org

Q: What happens if Measure L doesn't pass? What happens with the 315-apartment project?

Yes on L: If Measure L fails, the property remains privately owned and zoned for development. The zoning on the property would remain "APO," which allows multi-family housing at 35 units/acre for a maximum of 770 units. If Measure L fails, O'Brien Homes has a process agreement in place with the city to restart the 315-apartment project, which is well within the allowed zoning. New state laws have made it more difficult for local government to deny an affordable housing project such as this. Moreover, approval of the apartment project will not be subject to a vote because it falls within allowed zoning and doesn't require the adoption of a new ordinance. The public open space, sports field, dog-park, playground, and intersection improvements would return to the community's wish list.

No on L: The developer "suspended" the 315-apartments application without a vote (1/13/14) after the EIR was certified with 13 significant unavoidable impacts, including air quality and traffic. Those unavoidable health and safety impacts are a firm legal ground for denial under the Housing Accountability Act, Government Code 65589.5(d)(2). The property is low density and a general plan amendment would be subject to referendum.

**Are you interested in learning more about the Lafayette School District?
Would you like the unique opportunity to see classroom instruction in action?**

Lafayette community members are invited to join Superintendent Rachel Zinn and Principal Ann Kim for a school visit on Monday, May 21st from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at Lafayette Elementary School, 950 Moraga Rd., Lafayette. We do ask that you RSVP for this event by Wednesday, May 16th if you are planning to attend. Please email Sharon Carman at: scarman@lafsd.org or call (925) 927-3502.

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

Letters to the Editor

Lafayette Planning Commission rules

I am responding to your article regarding the Lafayette City Council serving as the Planning Commission due to the fact that the Planning Commission no longer has a quorum in response to the new conflict of interest rules passed by the City Council.

The new rules require that all Planning Commission and Design Review Board members resign if they have, or any family members or working colleagues have, business in the city of Lafayette. Previously, and in accordance with state law, these members were required to recuse themselves as opposed to resign if they found themselves in this situation.

The City Council refused to apply the new conflict regulations to themselves. But now that they are sitting as the Planning Commission and these new rules apply to the Planning Commission shouldn't the rules apply to them as well? I know so and as a result resignations should be forthcoming.

As the saying goes, what's good for the goose is good for the gander.

Patricia Curtin
Lafayette

Orinda Library Parcel Tax, Measure J

My family is a family of readers. When my family of five moved to Orinda eight years ago, one of our favorite family community activities was visiting the Orinda library. My kids were 1, 3 and 5 when we first moved to Orinda, and back then, we spent many afternoons sitting in the children's section of the library, reading books. As my kids have gotten older, we don't have quite as much time to sit in

the library reading books, but my kids relish the opportunity to stop by the library and check out books. When the summer reading program begins every year, my kids beg to sign up for the reading program and eagerly complete their summer reading. Personally, I love perusing the New Releases at the library whenever I can, and loading up on new books to read. My family of five has been known to stop by the library on any given weekend and check out a large stack of books for all of us to enjoy.

Our Orinda library benefits the Orinda community in so many ways. It provides a safe space for school-aged children and teens to meet after school to do homework, research class assignments, or just read for pleasure. It provides meeting spaces for local community volunteers. It also offers an indoor activity space for families with young children to encourage book exploration.

I strongly support the proposed Orinda library parcel tax, Measure J. The tax will only assess residents an additional tax of \$30 per year. In exchange, the library will be able to remain open 7 days a week. Measure J funds can only be used for the library, extending library hours from 35 hours per week (which is what the county provides) to 60 hours a week. Please join me in voting Yes on Measure J on the June ballot.

Hillary Weiner

Orinda

Vice President, Orinda School Board of Trustees

PG&E work on St. Mary's Road

At the most recent City Council meeting, PG&E discussed this summer's large gas pipeline replacement project along St. Mary's Road. The project is

a Capacity project, according to PG&E, which means the width of the underground pipeline will be widened from 4 inches to 8 or 12 inches in order to serve more customers. It's a large and expensive project that will cause traffic nightmares, so why is this PG&E's first priority? There are much more urgent pipeline safety concerns in our community.

Ten years ago Lafayette residents reported the 4-foot exposed pipeline near Beechwood Drive to PG&E, yet the pipeline remains exposed to corrosive elements to this day. By law, PG&E should have all segments of pipeline under at least 36-inches of soil. Also, Lafayette has no automated or remote shut-off valves which would lessen fire, property damage, or injuries in the case of accidents. Pipeline experts tell us internal "pig" inspections are the best safety practice, however these have never been conducted in Lafayette, nor are they planned for in the near future.

So, what's in the ground behind our yards and in our parks? PG&E admitted in the City Council meeting that their "critical infrastructure" of pipeline along St. Marys Rd was installed in 1952 "before modern radiography was used to inspect welds" and that welding inspection was "only visual." We know from earlier PG&E reports that other pipelines are even older, and this is the exact problem that resulted in the explosion in San Bruno and killed eight people.

Think about that for a moment: PG&E knows the Lafayette pipelines were installed with outdated materials and techniques, have uninspected welds, can't be shut off automatically, wind through busy neighborhoods, lie exposed above ground, and won't be internally inspected. And their top two pri-

orities in our community is to increase service capacity for Moraga and to cut down 500 trees in Lafayette and Briones Park?

We asked these questions, and PG&E's inability to answer the simplest of questions as to project safety prioritization shines a bright light on the flawed and reckless safety decisions made by their risk management group. Every single Lafayette resident is affected by pipeline safety. It is the responsibility of each resident to hold our utility and elected officials accountable. A PG&E Open House to promote the tree removal maintenance program to residents is an unnecessary distraction from the true safety issues that need to be revealed and discussed.

We request the City Council to discuss this issue as an official agenda item during the next City Council Meeting, consider recalling this unnecessary and destructive Tree Cutting Agreement which was made under the false pretense of urgent safety, and force PG&E to address the true safety risks that lie beneath our feet. We ask City Council to stop defending PG&E now and get on the residents' side of this matter of community safety. Michael and Gina Dawson
Lafayette

No on Storm Drain Fee

Have you ever played Jenga? You know, the game where you pull blocks out from the bottom of a stack of other blocks, and hope like heck that it doesn't fall down. If it does ... you lose ... and you might have to take a shot or something.

This is exactly how our state and local tax increases work (but without the shots). Since we voters need to approve them, politicians must sell us on the need and

assure us that the money won't be spent elsewhere. As so they tell us, "This money can only be spent for Purpose X." Why? Because it's what we want to hear. It's a sales tactic ... and it works!

But is it the truth? Technically, yes - but it's like Jenga. The blocks at the top of the stack are the "new guaranteed Purpose X tax money" we just voted for. But the blocks at the bottom are the existing budget for Purpose X with no such guarantee. What happens to these blocks? Well ... they get pulled out, of course, because that's how the game is played. But instead of putting them back on top of the stack, they get used elsewhere. So what taxpayers get left with is Purpose X sitting on top of a wobbly stack of underfunding - which is exactly where we started. And do we really want our taxes to be guaranteed for any specific purpose? In a perfect world - probably not. Our politicians would then be able to use our money for it's highest value use and not get locked into "emergency funding problems" that seem to be arising every week. This, however, would require a considerable amount of trust in those who spend our tax money ... and I most certainly am not going to sell you that bridge.

Some of you probably remember when the California Lottery came along, which is a sugar coated tax on the poor. They promised us that those proceeds could not be used for anything other than funding our schools. Technically, they told us the truth, but then pilfered all of the "unguaranteed money" from our schools instead. Now we have this Storm Drain Fee in Moraga with the same "guarantee." I just love games ... don't you?
Doug Home
Moraga

... continued on next page

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

No on L

NO Deer Hill Development!

In 2015, the City of Lafayette denied our right to vote on the Homes at Deer Hill project. In February 2018, the Court determined that the City violated state law and ordered the referendum to be put on the ballot.



Don't Increase Traffic Congestion!

- ▶ Don't add **1,224** daily car trips to an already gridlocked intersection!
- ▶ Already 40,000 daily car trips daily on Pleasant Hill Road (plus 4% more annual growth) is **ENOUGH!**



Don't Build a Toxic Tot Lot/Sports Field

- ▶ Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) monitoring data shows the Deer Hill site reaches **UNHEALTHY AIR POLLUTION LEVELS FOR CHILDREN.**
- ▶ **Children playing sports will breathe up to 4 million dangerous particles a minute, which can cause "respiratory and cardiovascular disease, various cancers and developmental disorders. It would be irresponsible to lure unsuspecting parents and children to breathe the hazardous air at this site especially under the guise of a safe location for healthful activity."** - James Leach (author of The Sustainable Way, recipient of the City of Lafayette 2017 Environmental Award of Excellence), letter and presentation to City Council, April 2, 2018.*
- ▶ Deer Hill site "not viable", **proposed 2 other sites on city/school district land** - School Board Fields Committee Member letter to City Council April 23, 2018*

* See www.SaveLafayette.org for more complete information.



"The Terraces" Apartments are Effectively Dead

- ▶ The EIR identified 13 adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated.
- ▶ The apartments **HAVE NEVER** been approved by the City.
- ▶ The apartments can be **DENIED** by the City.
- ▶ Voters can always reject the apartments by referendum and/or it can be denied by litigation.



Keep Lafayette Semi-Rural

- ▶ Support Citizens' top priority - **OPEN SPACE.**
- ▶ Keep Mt. Diablo views accessible.

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Deserve Better!**

VOTE NO on L!

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Letters to the Editor ... continued

Yes on Storm Drain Fee

Moraga property owners – I urge you to vote YES on the storm water fee.

Our problem is clear – Moraga’s storm water system is old and parts of it are failing.

There is a plan to make things better. Doing nothing will only make things worse.

Now, our choice is simple:

- Vote YES – Provide funds now to repair our deteriorating storm water system.
- Vote NO – Wait for the next sinkhole and pay the excessive cost for an emergency fix.

If you have not voted, find your ballot, mark it YES, sign it and send it in. You don’t even need a stamp.

If you can’t find your ballot, contact the Moraga Town Clerk (925-888-7022) for a replacement – then vote YES.

If you have already voted, thank you.

Moraga needs to solve its storm water problem. Moraga needs to adopt and execute its Storm Drain Master Plan. Vote YES to make it happen.

Bob Reynolds
Moraga

More on storm drains

Our family moved to Moraga 46 years ago. Since then, I have been continuously and extensively involved in our Town’s governance. Based upon that experience, I’d like to share some insights I believe are relevant to our storm drains problem.

First – no Question – we have an extremely serious problem.

- Our storm drains were built to County standards in the 1960s and early 1970s. They are reaching the ends of their useful lives;
- Unless we act now, major sinkhole failures are likely to occur throughout Moraga in the

near future;

- Addressing the need now is far cheaper and much less disruptive than waiting to incur the extreme costs of fixing sinkholes after they develop;
- The magnitude of the total need means it will be extremely expensive to fix;
- Our Town’s financial reserves are minimal. Any new, major storm drain problem could well exceed the Town’s resources;
- New financing must be found to repair the existing system, and for continuous maintenance and long-term replacement of the system’s elements.

Second, there is no “hidden pot of gold” nor feasible major changes in the cost of the Town’s current operations that could conceivably solve the problem.

As a leader in our Town’s 1974 Incorporation drive I can attest to the fact that our Town was designed to run on the cheap with minimal staff. That’s how our Town was initially run. It’s exactly how it continues to be run today;

- A 12-person, blue ribbon Committee I chaired found the Town is run with fewer staff and a significantly smaller per-capita cost than any city in our county or any comparable city in our region. A recent update of our committee’s data confirmed that continues to be the case;
- The amount and timing of hoped-for future disaster fund reimbursements is unknown. The timing of any future developer fees is also uncertain. Neither potential fund source would be nearly enough to solve our storm drains problem.

We need to act now. I’ve voted for the Storm Drains Fee. You should also!

Dick Olsen
Moraga

Request for transparency

For all that is structurally wrong with Moraga’s proposed storm drain tax – including taxing schools, churches and the fire department, and no articulated financing plan attached to it – one item often lost in the discussion is the opacity with which the Town has handled the entire process. This includes councilmembers forming an “independent” advocacy group before even voting on moving forward with the ballot initiative. Most recently, it includes double-dipping and taxing residents for money it already has.

Specifically, a \$1.1 million creek daylighting project at the Hacienda is part of the proposed storm drain tax. However, the Town has secured \$1million in grants to fund that project, yet still intends to tax residents the full amount.

Residents deserve more transparency, and should only be asked for what is actually needed.

Therese Meuel
Moraga

“YES” on storm drain ordinance makes the most sense

Those opposed suggest there has been fiscal mismanagement by Town government and/or Town Council/Mayor, claiming funds should have been budgeted for years to ensure properly maintained storm drains. Moraga receives much less back from the county from our property taxes than Orinda or Lafayette and our town’s budget has always had more services/projects to support than funds available. What happens? The most important, pressing needs are funded and those deferrable without immediate serious effect are deferred. That’s often not a problem for a while, but long deferred maintenance suddenly results in a major sinkhole which has to wait until funds can be scraped out of other budget categories to address the

now very costly repairs. Budgeting with insufficient funds by crisis management puts us where we are today. That’s not fiscal mismanagement; that is struggling to do the best job possible with inadequate funds to accomplish everything important. I grant very little, if any, credence to the “no” camp’s slogan “fiscal responsibility first.” The facts don’t support the claim.

For the average homeowner, the fee is \$120 annually. Long ago, \$120 was a significant amount of money. Today it is not. \$120 annually is 33 cents a day.

Fellow Moragans, 33 cents isn’t even postage stamp money, it’s parking meter change (except in San Francisco.) Less than a postage stamp per day will fund long deferred maintenance/repairs to our aged and collapsing storm drain infrastructure, hopefully preventing another sinkhole requiring major repair expenses. The need is great, urgent and the cost is minor and manageable by virtually all homeowners, schools and churches. (Rainwater runoff is directly proportionate to structure roof area and (land) property size.

It is entirely appropriate that all property, including schools and churches pay the fee.

Ballots must be received at the town offices by May 15 and can be delivered there or mailed as soon as possible. If you haven’t yet voted on this very important measure, please vote now and please vote YES! It is the right and wise action to take.

Fred Marschner
Moraga

Vote Yes on Measure J

It’s easy to take for granted that our library will be open whenever we want to borrow a book, read and study quietly in a comfy armchair, or attend an educational program. After all, nearly 200,000 items were checked out – 11 per Orinda resident – and almost 8000 adults

and children participated in library activities. However, our library’s accessibility and high level of service are in jeopardy.

Unfortunately, the county provides only enough funding to keep the library open 35 hours a week. The current parcel tax passed a decade ago increased service to 60 hours and seven days a week, but its purchasing power has eroded over the years. That’s why it is important to pass Measure J which adds \$30 to the existing tax or about 8 cents per day – a small price to pay for such a valuable community resource. Please vote Yes on Measure J either absentee or in person on June 5th.

Susie Epstein
Orinda

Measure J

To the editor:

I can’t remember the last time I checked a book out of the library, but I’m pretty sure I can count the years since in double digits. Still, I’m supporting Measure J for what the Orinda Library brings to this community I call home.

I choose to live in a community where everyone has equal access to information and entertainment, where my retired friends can read professional journals, my book club friends can borrow the latest bestseller, and my friends learning a foreign language can reserve a room for their study groups to meet.

I value a community that values children and education. I’m always delighted to see students get off the bus after school and head to the library, or to watch a toddler proudly carry her latest selection of books to the car.

Even though I may not check out a book anytime soon, I want to know that my library is ready and open seven days a week, not just for me, but for my community.

Sincerely,
Pat Rudebusch
Orinda



We urge you to vote YES on Measure L, the Council-approved plan for the Deer Hill property. Your **YES** vote preserves over half of the land as open space and community parklands, while allowing a limited number of homes and providing many benefits to Lafayette residents.

- ✓ **YES** for 11 acres of public parklands and trails
- ✓ **YES** for a full size, all weather, multi-use athletic field
- ✓ **YES** for a 2.9 acre dog park with separate areas for large and small dogs
- ✓ **YES** for a new neighborhood park and playground, the only one north of Highway 24
- ✓ **YES** for a 78 car parking lot near Acalanes High School
- ✓ **YES** for over \$500,000 in bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Pleasant Hill Road
- ✓ **YES** for 44 single family homes
- ✓ **YES** for a new public trail with scenic views of Mt. Diablo

VOTE YES ON MEASURE L on June 5, 2018

Do you have questions about Measure L?

Drop by for a cup of coffee and get more information. Look for our sign!

THURSDAY, MAY 10
8:30-9:30am
Coffee Shop
50 Lafayette Circle

TUESDAY, MAY 15
8:30-9:30am
Starbucks
3547 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

www.YesonL2018.org

Paid for by Yes on L, a coalition of Lafayette residents, business and community leaders for Deer Hill plan and park; Committee major funding from Dennis O’Brien, including O’Brien Land Company.

Roden, Taverna Pellegrini win Orinda business awards

By Sora O'Doherty

Both the Orinda Business Person of the Year, Maria Roden of Orinda Books, and the proprietor of the Orinda Business of the Year, Dario Hadjan of Taverna Pellegrini, are immigrants who have found success in Orinda and both will be honored at the annual Orinda Business Awards Dinner on May 8 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. This year the dinner will be at the Taverna Pellegrini, so those attending will get a real taste of the winner's accomplishments.

Roden of Orinda Books was brought up in England, but moved to the States 21 years ago when her husband's job brought them here. They have three children, now 30, 26 and 21. The youngest was just 6 months old when they made the move. When her children were grown, Maria went to work for Orinda Books. When the owner decided that it was time to retire after 37 years in business, Roden and her husband, who had just retired from Chevron, decided that the time was right and they bought the local bookstore.

Roden loves books and is delighted at the store's big, open space, which she uses for a multiplicity of purposes. She actively supports local artists by showcasing their work. There is an art reception once a month, and one wall of the store is dedicated to local art. A glass showcase displays the work of jewelry artists. Patrons of



Photos Sora O'Doherty

the Blue Egg Farm can order online and pick up their fresh organic vegetables, herbs, flowers, fruit, seedlings, and blue eggs from the bookstore. Orinda Books is open seven days a week, opening each day at 10 a.m. and closing weekdays at 6, Saturdays at 5 and Sundays at 3, unless there is a special event.

"People thought I was crazy when I bought the bookstore," Roden says, but the bookstore is profitable and fun. "Orinda is a community that wants to keep its bookstore," she notes. Roden purchases all the adult books. She has a "fabulous staff," she says – all local, all well read. The bookkeeper has been with the store for 30 years. Schools buy books from Orinda Books, as does the Orinda Library. In turn, Roden donates to the school

the proceeds from an innovative project. The store receives a lot of books for review that cannot be sold per se. The books are wrapped in plain paper, and a staff member writes a little blurb about what the book is about. Patrons of the store are free to take a book and donate whatever they wish. The proceeds, which can be as much as \$100 to \$200 a month, are donated to the schools or other organizations.

Taverna Pellegrini proprietor Dario Hadjan was born in Iran, but left when he was 14 years old to attend boarding school in Italy. The school, St. Mary's, was located in Lago Maggiore, but is no longer there. From there he went on to the American University of Rome, where he earned a business degree. Always good with



people, Hadjan was a DJ in college at a local nightclub in Rome. He came to the States in 1988. After trying several places in California, south and north, he settled in the Bay Area and opened a few Italian restaurants: Pane e Vino, which he says was one of the most successful restaurants in San Francisco, Tiramisu, and Caffè delle Stelle. Hadjan currently runs Piazza Pellegrini in San Francisco and Taverna Pellegrini, which is the winner of the Business of the Year award. The restaurant features a wood-burning oven that Hadjan says would be the envy of every chef in Naples!

With the two restaurants, Hadjan says he works eight days a week. "I say, 'I have two wives, and many children,'" says Had-

jan, who is single. All of his chefs work with him creating new items and keeping the menu up to date. At least once a year Hadjan travels to Italy, where he has many friends. His favorite trip is to drive from Rome, up the coast of Italy to Lago Maggiore, the crossing over and returning on the opposite coast.

Active in the community, Hadjan sponsors a baseball team in Orinda. Taverna Pellegrini, opened in 2015, features happy hour from 3 to 6 p.m., with early dinner from 4 to 6 p.m. and dinner continuing to be served until 10 p.m.

The May 8 all-inclusive awards dinner costs \$35. Reservations are required and can be made on the chamber of commerce website: www.orindachamber.org.

PG&E to close St. Mary's Road for the summer ... continued from page A1

Serious impact is anticipated on Moraga Road and Moraga Way during the summer as residents go to and from Lafayette. One of the municipalities' first concerns is PG&E's outreach plan to those affected, so residents would not wake up one day and find their way

to work, to camp for their kids, or simply out of their neighborhood blocked all day, including Saturdays. Both municipalities pushed for robust outreach. PG&E proposed letters, phone calls, large electronic signs, one or more public information meetings, as well

as canvassing the most affected neighborhoods.

Regarding access for emergency and other utility vehicles, PG&E explained that if needed, the construction equipment would be removed from the road and the holes covered with plaques to permit access. Moraga council members were not satisfied that this would permit timely rescue in case of a medical emergency and asked that the possibility of using Saint Mary's College grounds and looking into a medical evacuation helicopter.

Other questions about deciding on this location were raised during the presentation, first by Lafayette residents Gina and Michael Dawson, and later echoed by some council members.

PG&E indicated that this section of pipe had to be replaced now because it dated back to the 1950s and needed to be increased in capacity because the population is

growing. The agency said that their main concern is safety and that the California Public Utilities Commission mandates that it replaces 20 miles of aging pipes every year, and that the mile under St. Mary's Road was on that plan for this year.

It was impossible, however, to get data from the agency showing signs of aging of this pipe over other old pipes in the area and it was not clear if it had been inspected since 1986. PG&E did not respond to this question in time for publication but stated that it has conducted hydrostatic pressure tests of more than 1,100 miles of gas transmission line and installed thousands of control points along its system to read pressure and flow rates and sent that information back to its state-of-the-art Gas Control Center located in San Ramon.

The other safety aspect of the new proposed pipe is that the emergency shut-off valve proposed so far only at Lucille Lane has to be closed manually in the case of an emergency, despite the fact that PG&E owns the technology to close valves automatically and remotely in case of an incident (https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/gas-safety/safety-initiatives/valve-upgrades.page). At the April 26 Lamorinda joint council meeting a Moraga council member asked if demonstration of safety could be a condition given to PG&E to get the encroachment permit they need from both cities in order to start their work.

PG&E will obtain its encroachment permit from both public works departments and will then proceed with its construction plan; no further public discussion with the councils or commissions is required. The two public works departments will review the traffic plan, the repair plan for the road – which should include a complete slurry seal of that section of the arterial – hours of operation, and mobilization sites.

PG&E indicated that a place and date for an open house meeting for both communities had not yet been decided, and that there could be more than one meeting. The contact people from the PG&E who will respond to residents' questions will be listed in the letter residents are to receive.



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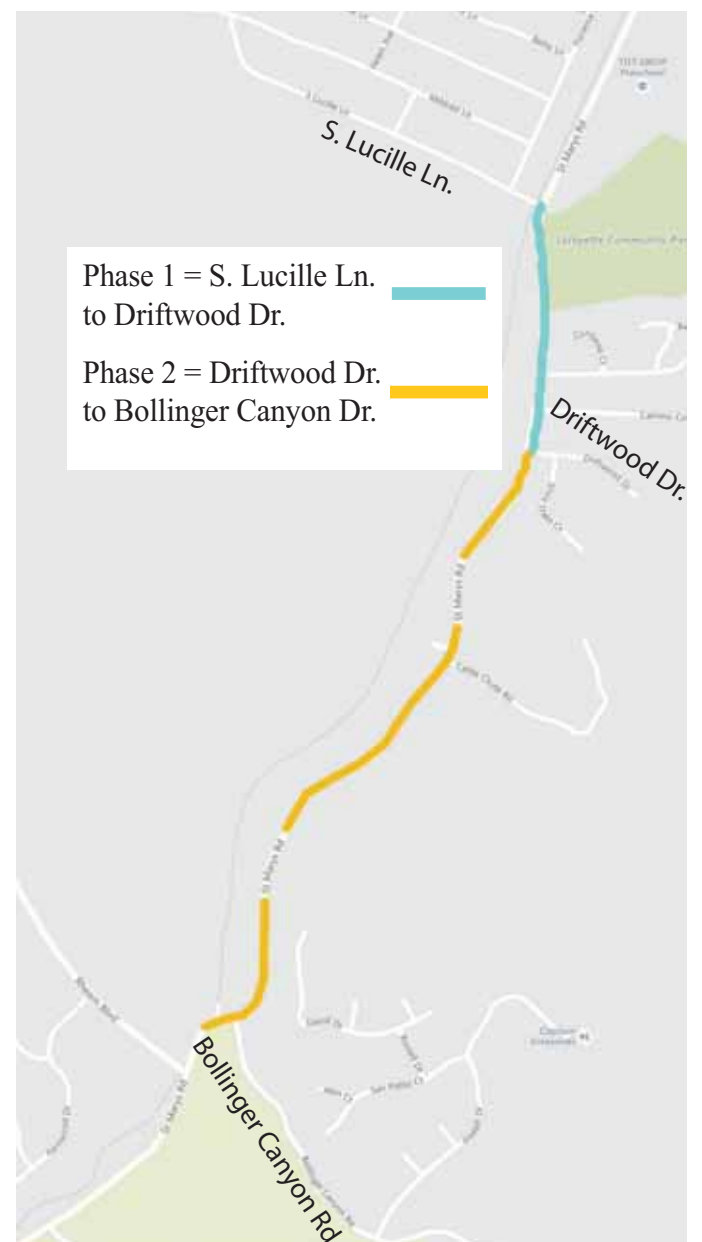


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Closer to completion is the Bollinger Valley project. The property owner for that site has proposed another alternative, only 85 homes – more than 100 were previously contemplated. Farmer says that since it is a smaller project with a lesser impact, it is grandfathered with the EIR previously approved and will not be impacted by the new hillside and ridgeline regulation that was recently approved. The project should start the series of public hearings this year.

Farmer, who likes downtown development, is excited to see an in-fill development application coming in very soon for the empty lot next to the Rheem Theatre. He says that the site was studied by the planning commission four years ago, and adds that even if the town signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the owner, the project will not get any preferential treatment and will have to stand on its own.

A few other things Farmer is excited about are the application

... continued from page A4

for a microbrewery that should come in front of the planning commission in the early summer and a Lamorinda bike/scooter-sharing program that will also include the college.

Plans to open La Finestra Restaurant at the Hacienda move forward

... continued from page A5

Joao Magalhaes, who was also on the committee and has been advocating for a public-private partnership to develop the Hacienda for four years, explained that the only investment required from the town – an ADA bathroom on the ground floor for \$50,000 – was a bargain compared to the quarter million dollars the Hacienda has been costing the town yearly in maintenance and operating cost.

The new parks and recreation director, Breyana Brandt, explained she was confident that the wedding activity that had been the largest source of revenue for the Hacienda could continue at the Pavilion location. Her department would remain on the ground floor of the Hacienda, the restaurant would only use half, and La Sala and the Casita would be used for recreation classes. The garden room and mosaic room would still be available for community meetings. The restaurant would take over the kitchen, which Assadi would bring up to code and make ready

to handle restaurant operations as well as catering, as well as the fireside room, the dance room, which could be converted into a bar, and the courtyard for outside dining.

Cynthia Battenberg, town manager, indicated that in her previous position as development manager for the town of San Leandro she had been in touch with Lafayette commercial real estate professionals at Main Street Property and that their opinion of the rent offered by Assadi was in line with Lamorinda prices.

Korpus indicated that she now understood how things developed and agreed that proceeding with lease negotiation was an opportunity the town should not miss. The rest of the council agreed.

A lease proposal should come back to council for final agreement in May. Assadi will not be able to open the restaurant before November because weddings have already been booked until then with a promise to have exclusive use of the facility.

Zoning and general plan amendments for Moraga Adobe parcel approved

... continued from page A7

Contacted after the meeting, Kent Long, president of the Friends of the Moraga Adobe, said that the group remains confident that they will be able to raise the approximately \$500,000 required for them to purchase the adobe. Already, even before the commencement of the period of three years allowed for them to raise the money, they have raised upwards of \$140,000.

The three-year period in the Memorandum of Agreement begins after the final state approval of the subdivision plans, which is not imminent.

Previously, the lack of council

action on the zoning and general plan amendment has been “a little bit of a hurdle in terms of fundraising,” Long said. He added that the group has an excellent working relationship with J&J Ranch and has been engaged with them about items such as the development’s CC&Rs and how the adobe parcel will relate to the other members of the homeowners association. The agreement between the Friends and J&J Ranch is that the Friends will purchase the parcel and J&J will restore it for use as a cultural site with limited access for local schools and the general public.

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Planning gets lion's share at joint meeting of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda councils

By Sora O'Doherty



Bella Vista development in Moraga

Photo Andy Scheck

The annual joint meeting of the city and town councils of the Lamorinda municipalities took no actions but heard reports on planning and housing related legislation and transportation. Orinda lacked a quorum, with only Mayor Amy Worth and Vice Mayor Inga Miller in attendance, while the full councils of Lafayette and Moraga were present at the Orinda Library Auditorium. Despite the lively food truck event outside, few made it upstairs; the audience was sparse, with five speakers presenting their views to the joint councils.

Niroop Srivatsa, Lafayette planning and building director, made an extensive presentation on the 2017 housing package of legislation passed by the California Assembly and the housing bills under consideration by the Assembly in 2018. Over 300 bills have been introduced which would, if adopted, impact every area of housing law.

In 2017, 15 of the over 130 housing bills introduced were signed into law. Srivatsa said there were four major themes: funding affordable housing, facilitating housing production, changes to annual reporting requirements and housing element updates, and changes to the processing of housing applications.

Although some legislation provides funds to address housing issues, such as Senate Bill 2 which imposes a recording fee per parcel on specified real estate documents, Srivatsa pointed out that 90 percent of the funding will

go to "entitlement" cities (populations over 50,000) and counties (populations over 200,000), with Lamorinda cities only receiving an equitable share of the remaining 10 percent. On the economic side, she mentioned that there will be a \$4 billion general obligation bond on the November ballot to fund affordable housing and veterans' homeownership programs.

Two public speakers presented somewhat differing views on housing legislation. Dan de Busschere asked if the council members were shocked by the punitive nature of new legislation, such as referrals to the attorney general for non-compliance. He was especially concerned by a trend of weakening the provisions of the California Constitution in regard to unfunded mandates, that is, the law that says that if the state imposes requirements on local governments, the state must pay for them. According to de Busschere, a new California commission is weakening that requirement, and he cited SB 828, currently under consideration, which says that the state is not mandated to reimburse when local agencies have the power to impose fees or taxes to cover the required services. He urged the joint councils to push the League of Cities to sue on legislation he says will bankrupt cities and increase their legal costs.

Stephen Schnitzler presented an opposing point of view. A Lafayette resident and in-house attorney for Branagh Developers, Schnitzler said he was speaking from a personal perspective only. "People who are buying homes in Lamorinda now," he said, "would like to see downturns become more dynamic, more dense, more like Rockridge." He felt that residents were less opposed to state laws than local council members. He also provided some updates on the progress of accessory dwelling unit legislation.

Moraga Mayor Dave Trotter presented a summary of Moraga planning projects and briefly addressed zoning and regulatory updates on home-based wineries, commercial planning development, the Moraga Center Specific Plan, the implementation project, and the hillside and ridgeline regulations, which were adopted last month after six years in the works. Moraga now has many current and pending projects for residential units, including Camino Ricardo (26), Bella Vista (27),

Moraga Town Center (36) Indian Valley (71) Bollinger Valley (85-126) and Palos Colorados (123). Trotter also spoke of the \$2 million remodel of Starbucks in the Rheem Shopping Center, the anticipated Canyon Club Brewery microbrewery and restaurant, the soon expected application for 48 apartments over ground floor residential next to the Rheem Theatre, as well as the opening of La Finestra at the Hacienda.

Lafayette downtown has new developments, including Batch & Brine restaurant, Chase Bank, the expanded Safeway parking lot, and a swap with the East Bay Municipal Utility District which will see their old pumping station by Ace Hardware become a public parking lot, with the pumping station relocated to the east end of town. Srivatsa discussed current projects for new residential units, and talked about the EBMUD pedestrian and bike parkway that will eventually reach from the Veterans' Building to BART, with an entryway, plaza, ADA-accessible pathway, 60 bike parking spaces, and suspended art. In addition she mentioned that Steve Cortese, who renovated La Fiesta Square, has purchased and has exciting plans for the old Wells Fargo Building at the intersection of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Orinda Planning Director Drummond Buckley spoke about Orinda's downtown planning process, including the Streetscape Master Plan and work on the daylighting of San Pablo Creek as it runs through downtown Orinda. He also spoke of the new business registration program and short-term home rentals, which netted Orinda \$12,500 in transient occupancy tax in the last quarter of 2017. This was the first time that Orinda ever received TOT revenue.

Although no actions were taken at the meeting, city and town council members agreed that it would be a good idea for the planning staffs of the three jurisdiction to coordinate closely on the complex issues of state legislation and how to best accomplish the housing goals of their residents, such as providing housing for their children and grandchildren.

Presentations from the meeting are available at <https://cityoforinda.box.com/s/vv251jhtdob-4w1q5lr88n64g8wi6k33i>.

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We recently completed an additional review of the area above the pipeline along the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail, the Lafayette Reservoir Rim Trail and other public areas in the city. PG&E will be sharing the results along with information on how we will be working together to replace those trees that are located too close to the pipeline.

We invite you to stop by our open house to learn more, ask questions and share input. We look forward to seeing you there.

DATE: Wednesday, May 9, 2018

TIME: 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center
3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, Calif.



For more information, please contact Whitney Floratos at whitney.floratos@pge.com or 1-925-494-8963. You can also learn more about PG&E's ongoing gas safety work at pge.com/GasSafety.

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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Orinda resident completes 32nd consecutive Boston Marathon

By Jon Kingdon



Track workout in San Francisco with Patty Hung's significant other Don Maxon, sons Erick and David, and step-daughter, Mailee. Photos provided

One of the great traditions in sports is the annual running of the Boston Marathon, which is run on Patriot's Day, the third Monday of April. The race began in 1897 with a total of 18 runners and has grown to the point where there are over 30,000 runners and 500,000 spectators every year.

Longtime Orinda resident Patty Hung, 72, has created a tradition of her own having just run her 32nd consecutive Boston Marathon, owning the women's longest active streak. (Daniel Larsen, with 48 races has the overall longest streak).

Many people will run the Boston Marathon for the same reason others climb Mt. Everest - because it's there. They accomplish these things once, knock them off their bucket list and move on to other things.

Hung began running marathons for more personal reasons. "I took a strong interest in it when I became a single mom with three children," she said. "I needed a way to release frustration and anxiety and I found it was a good way to exhibit a wonderful release of energy. When I train for a marathon, the discipline I must go through is the way I lead my life. You learn that you have challenges in life. You learn timing and hard work and eating properly. It has led me through a spiritual life of good habits."

One does not just show up to the Boston Marathon, the Holy Grail of marathons. As someone who grew up in Boston, it was Hung's goal to return as a competitor. "I have run marathons for a long time," Hung said. "My first race was in Marin and I officially qualified for the Boston Marathon at the California International Marathon in Sacramento. It was always in my heart to run this race."

The Boston Marathon is more than a race to Hung; it's family. Hung's uncle Joe was always very supportive of her running and would bring her to Harvard stadium for some runs. "It was exhilarating," she said. She has also run the race with her two sons, Erick and David, "so it's truly a family affair."

It's not the finishing time that is the most important thing for Hung in Boston. She always stops at the 13-mile mark, where her family meets her. "I spend all my energy at that point giving them all a hug and a kiss."

At Hung's first Boston Marathon, the idea of 31 more marathons was the last thing on her mind.

"I didn't see much future in it initially but my body held up and I did quite well and every year it got better, plus my family was always there. Knowing that they would meet me at the end, I just had to go back."

Besides family, Hung finds

much inspiration and joy from the spectators that line the race: "The most wonderful part of the Boston Marathon is the participation of the bystanders. They stand out there and cheer as if they're running."

The weather at the Boston Marathon has run the gamut through the years. Hung has experienced it all: "I have run in rain, snow and temperatures in the high 80s. This year was the worst. It was a torrential rain and the wind was against us and it was cold. In the athletes' village, the grounds were mud filled. The rain can be refreshing but it makes it hard to stay dry. My sons advised me to wear a gortex running jacket that was light and rainproof. I was also given surgical gloves to wear over my regular

gloves and that worked great."

The Boston Marathon hardly tells Hung's whole story; she has run close to 100 marathons all over the United States. "The terrain [is] different but the feeling at the end of the race is the same. You realize that you can do this again."

Ironically, the most memorable marathon for Hung came in Hawaii. "I ran in the Honolulu marathon in a torrential downpour. They had provided a spaghetti feed to the runners and several people got food poisoning," she said. "I got sick early in the race but fought through it and finished while hundreds of other runners had to drop out."

... continued on page B10

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Hung shares hugs after her recent Boston Marathon finish with cousin Hannah Donnelly. Hannah's dad, Jack Donnelly, in the background.



Sons Erick and David run Boston Marathon with Patty Hung in 2016.

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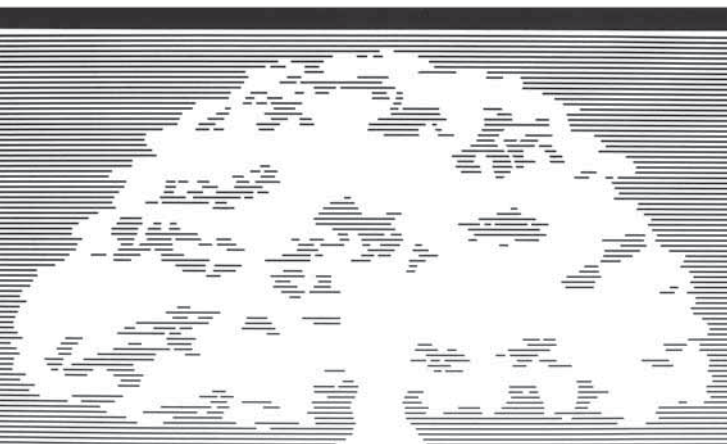
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Understanding broader perspectives of personal cyber security

By Lou Fancher

The safest path to cyber security is paved with knowledge and fortified by balanced perspective, according to experts in the field. It's a mindset well-suited to that of the East Bay chapter of the World Affairs Council, whose mission is to provide communities with neutral forums and expert speakers on global topics that include human rights, health, technology, government and more.

On April 25 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, the 60-minute program presented by EBWAC addressed cyber security. Led by Benjamin Bartlett, a Ph.D. candidate in the Charles and Louise Travers Department of Political Science at the University of California at Berkeley, the presentation clarified cultural and political similarities and differences within governments and citizens in the United States, Europe and Japan.

Bartlett offered technical expertise from work as a computer programmer prior to his current concentration: conducting field research on security policy in Japan. Stating his intention—to leave people with awareness and knowledge to independently discuss the topic after the forum—Bartlett said understanding the differences allows people in the U.S. to make informed choices about protecting their cyber security.

"We're not going to get a better deal with things like personal security unless people actually get out and vote for it," he said. Civic engagement expressed through political activism, he suggested, therefore requires deep understanding of how countries and governments approach cyber security.

"In the United States, cyber space is viewed by government a domain like air or water where we have to duke it out with other actors," he said. This framing of cyber security as a national defense issue means countries like North Korea that may have less military firepower—missiles, bombs, ships, airplanes—may build vast, cheaper-

to-produce software and malware and be highly threatening. The U.S. perspective results in laws and policies that protect national security over personal privacy. Homeland security, government intelligence gathering and shielding the U.S. during conflicts with other countries vastly outweigh protecting citizens and businesses from hackers and malware. "The NSA (National Security Agency) is less interested in personal encryption programs or protections because they want to be able to access that data too," said Bartlett.

In Japan, threats to cyber security are perceived as coming from outside hackers and criminals. The government believes citizens need encouragement to protect themselves from direct attacks. The dominant viewpoint results in government-sponsored ads, like one comic-book style scenario that has a young man about to kiss a woman declare, pseudo-romantically, "Such a weak password, doesn't suit you." Classes in schools teach young people how to create safe passwords, use patches and update protection software or have operating systems swept clean of malware.

The European Union's 28 member states emphasize personal privacy as does Japan, but highlight control. The primary concern for Europeans is ownership of personal data. "They worry about Facebook and Google, not just because of hackers, but because of the ways the data can be used by the companies," Bartlett said. In a case involving Google, a 12-year-old newspaper report about a company in Spain that had been in financial trouble was picked up by Google and put online. "Suddenly, the archival information meant people viewing the owner's profile started to react to his at one time having been in financial trouble," said Bartlett. "Google's argument was that it was public information. Europeans didn't agree and said it fell under their 'right to be forgotten' rules. They said it was caus-

ing the man a lot of damage." The government now has stronger laws that guarantee protection, including rules that any information people delete from their data files cannot be stored elsewhere by internet providers.

Questions from the audience displayed familiarity with cyber security basics. Jumping well past safe passwords, hackers and phishing tactics, people asked about Russia's involvement in the 2016 election, China's highly censored internet and Facebook's crisis and coverup involving data-science firm Cambridge Analytica obtaining 50 million Facebook users' data. Bartlett said there is no evidence that Russia altered U.S. citizens' votes, but there is clear indication that voters were targeted with massive misinformation. Asked if the government is likely to take specific action to prevent future problems, he said, "There's a lot of talking about it, but I haven't seen any action. The problem with the U.S. is that we can't do it without cracking down on countries and to a certain extent, on our free speech rights. You could not pick a better country to do this to, in some ways."

On China, he said the government that controls a tight, interlocked internet ecosystem is primarily concerned with their citizens' online activities, not that of outside actors. Facebook, Bartlett suggested, has no incentive to make changes as long as they are making money. No one was thinking about security when the internet and social media platforms were created. "They were just inventing something cool," he said.

A clear question—a subject ripe for more discussion—lingered as people left the presentation. How much freedom are Americans willing to sacrifice or turn over to the government to gain greater cyber security?

To learn about the WAC and future events, visit <http://www.worldaffairs.org/index.php>

French film 'Back to Burgundy' opens in Orinda

By Sophie Braccini



Photo provided

After two powerful but dark movies, the International Film Showcase brings a much sweeter feel-good film to Orinda with the French production, "Back to Burgundy." The French title, "Ce qui nous lie," has a double meaning and could be translated to either "what attaches us together" or "what links us," and better expresses the constraints and beauty of the relationships between the three main characters of the movie—three siblings confronted with their father's death. As they deal with their inheritance, both material and psychological, each finds their way into complete adulthood. "Back to Burgundy" is a fundamentally optimistic movie.

After the premature death of their father, three siblings between 25 and 30 years old are reunited and must decide what to do with the family winemaking farm. The backdrop of the movie is winemaking, but what really interests the director, Cedric Klapisch ("The Spanish Apartment," "Chinese Puzzle"), are the human rela-

tionships.

The movie takes place in the vineyards of Burgundy during a full year of its changing seasons. The family owns some significant vineyard acreage, and the movie takes the spectator beautifully along for the entire cycle of traditional winemaking.

But beyond the anecdotal and documentary-like aspect of the movie, what is at stake here is how three young people, now orphaned, find their way to fulfillment and realization, between tradition and "terroir," as they spread their wings and explore new territories.

Klapisch likes to observe and explore this age, between 20 and 30, when people still have some of their childhood soul inside but are gradually become responsible adults. Much like the wine that takes time to be made, nature follows rhythms that need to be respected, and during that year the three siblings change. Juliette, the middle sister, lacking self-confidence and having doubts

about her own abilities, blossoms into a winemaker and a woman. Jean, the eldest that left the farm to live far away comes to terms with his childhood, and Jérémie, the youngest, asserts himself and becomes free from overbearing in-laws.

The movie rings true and will touch spectators in many ways: the film delves into the untold family stories and the misunderstandings that come from lack of communication, the siblings' different perceptions depending on their birth order, and the difficulty asserting one's independence while preserving one's heritage and roots. The movie also broaches contemporary issues such as feminism, ecology and mixing of races.

The film may be a little slow for an American audience, but people should enjoy the charm of this lovely countryside and the traditional way of making wine. Burgundy vineyards are still owned by families rather than corporations, and making wine is a craft where the personality of the winemakers comes through. In order to realize a movie that is true to that specific craft, Klapisch worked with local farmer-winemakers during the whole year, alongside the actors.

The director, who also wrote the movie, explained that the film was actually shot over a full year, during four different sets of weeks, and that the scenario evolved one season after another.

"Back to Burgundy" will play at the Orinda Theatre for one week, starting on May 4. For more information, visit lamorindatheatres.com.

Lafayette Garden Club hosts its Artful Garden Tour in May

By Jenn Freedman



Geranium-filled window boxes

Photos provided

The Lafayette Garden Club will host its Artful Gardens Tour over Mother's Day weekend on Saturday May 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The self-guided tour will explore five magnificent Lamorinda gardens at the height of their spring glory, plus offer a pop-up market and plant sale.

The garden club was founded almost 50 years ago and has over 140 members, making it one of the largest garden clubs in the Bay Area. After a long hiatus, the club has brought back the garden tour as their primary fundraiser this year. "We felt it was a great opportunity to get the community and our members involved and have some fun together," explain co-chairs Laurie Reich, Melinda Flanders, Chris Voll Chernin, and Laurie Callaway. "The tour can give you good ideas of what you might want to do in your garden, teach you about new plants, and offer a fun day out with friends and family."

Proceeds from the garden tour benefit local school horticultural projects, Lafayette beautification projects, and other local nonprofits.

One of the tour highlights is an eclectic treasure in Lafayette developed over 25 years: an artist's personal creation filled with

rustic antiques and extensive plant varieties. Geranium-filled window boxes charm visitors as they transition from the home to the surrounding gardens. The winding, interconnected spaces are each enclosed by a noteworthy relic, from an antique arbor to a wrought-iron fence to a stone wall. Over 100 rose bushes of various types are planted throughout the garden and climb its many arbors.

The garden is continually evolving with new delights. Inspired by a recent trip to Spain, the latest garden addition is a Moroccan soaking pool surrounded by a patio made with reclaimed bricks and tropical plants including pygmy date palms, asparagus ferns, shell ginger, and princess flowers. The new hillside garden features drought tolerant and California natives, including cranesbill geranium, smoke bush, and various sages.

Another notable stop on the tour is an Orinda garden that is truly an art-filled paradise: a stunning one-acre estate masterfully interlaced with texture, color, and sculptures collected from local and internationally-renowned artists. Established in 1979, the land was once covered in blackberries and poison oak before its

dramatic transformation. In the lower garden, a sculpture of David peeks over the hornbeam and camellia hedges. The spaces in this area are designed into color-themed "rooms." The red room features red camellias, the yellow room springs yellow roses, the blue room includes clematis, and the orange room contains roses, dahlias, coppertips, zinnias, wall-flowers and cannas.

The upper garden incorporates weathered steel accents, shade-loving perennials, and more sculptures, of course. The stone and steel terraced hillside highlight ornamental grasses, allium, sage, bearded iris, roses and smoke bush.

The pop-up market and plant sale will be located at one of the other gardens on the tour. The market will feature local artisans' treasures including botanical art, jewelry, ceramics, and specialty food items. The plant sale will feature plants propagated by club members.

The self-guided tour visits four Lafayette gardens and one Orinda garden. In addition to the two gardens described above, visitors will also enjoy a family-friendly delight in Happy Valley, an elegant retreat also in Happy Valley, and a California cottage garden near downtown Lafayette. Visitors can drive to three gardens; shuttles will transport guests to the other two gardens. The starting point will be designated on tickets.

Tickets are tax-deductible and cost \$40 each, or \$35 each when four or more are purchased. They may be purchased online at the club's website, lafayettegardenclub.com, in person at The Lazy K at Orchard Nursery, or via mail by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope and check to the Lafayette Garden Club, P. O. Box 294, Lafayette, CA, 94549. Tickets are limited and the tour will take place rain or shine.

For further information, go to lafayettegardenclub.com.



This sculpture finds its home in this shade garden



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Music Student Service League and Macy's Fundraiser raises \$7K for Rett syndrome

Submitted by Bianca Tung



Girls from Miramonte High School came to the event to support the cause. Photos provided

The Music Student Service League (MSSL) partnered with Macy's of Walnut Creek April 28 and hosted the first annual fashion show in support of the Katie Nues Foundation. MSSL is a student-run, nonprofit organization, whose mission is to spread happiness through music, and provide support to those in need. The Katie Nues Foundation provides funding for Katie's Clinic at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, which is one of the few places in the United States that specializes in the diagnosis and comprehensive care for girls and young women with Rett syndrome, a rare genetic mutation that affects young girls' brain development, making it challenging to walk, speak and use their hands as they mature into adulthood. There are approximately 1,000 cases in the United States per year.

The fundraiser was a huge success, with over 120 members of the community showing up to support this tremendous cause at the downtown Macy's store. Paige Nues, the founder of the Katie Nues' Foundation, delivered a heartfelt message to the MSSL organization, its friends and Macy's for supporting this event.

Nues' daughter, Katie, was born in 2002 and was diagnosed with Rhett syndrome in 2003. As the Nues family endured this challenging experience, Nues realized that patients and families suffering from Rhett syndrome had a hard time finding support systems. In 2004, Katie's Clinic began to provide such support for these families on the West Coast.

The foundation's charter is to maximize the support for Rett syndrome patients and their families with the funding they receive. Also in attendance were the Blanco and Corpus family. Emily Blanco and Samantha Corpus are two courageous, strong ladies who suffer from Rett syndrome.

In speaking with Nues, she shared her praise and appreciation for this strong effort by MSSL and the major endorsement by Macy's, which generously donated \$7,000 to the Katie Nues Foundation.

Without significant funding or resources from the government, it makes these types of fundraisers that much more important in providing critical support for those suffering from this syndrome.



MSSL accepts the \$7,000 check from Macy's. Pictured: Serena Wang, MSSL president, Bianca Tung, secretary, Michelle Chen, vice president, and Max Chen, historian.

National Charity League hosts tea at Moraga Royale

Submitted by Audrey Allen

The members of the 2021 class of the Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League hosted a tea at the Moraga Royale Assisted Living facility March 25.

The theme of the tea was centered around the floral paintings of Claude Monet. On each table were small floral paintings, and centerpieces made by the girls in the chapter. "The NCL-sponsored tea was inspired by Monet artwork," said Trudy Deutz, a patroness of the 2021 class and coordinator of the event. "The NCL members brought in mini hand-painted reproductions of Monet artwork for the tables, two large screens with a famous Monet bridge painting that the residents walked through to enter the dining room, along with favors and flower centerpieces that all reflected the colors and themes

of the artwork." The food served varied from small sandwiches, fruit kabobs, macaroons, cookies, madeleines, and more.

The girls spent time talking with the residents, serving them food, and entertaining. They sang a few songs, and held a raffle for the residents to win the flower centerpieces. "My favorite part about the tea was getting to talk to the seniors and learning about their lives when they were younger," said Helena Bardsley, a member of the 2021 NCL class.

"A highlight of the afternoon was the time the residents and the young ladies from NCL spent together. All the Moraga Royale residents were interested in learning more about their visitors and sharing stories about their lives," Deutz said.

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

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

LLC Bookmark Contest winners announced

Submitted by Kay Pekrul



The winners, front row, from left: Lily Harris, second grade, Burton Valley; Oliver Cheng, kindergarten, Springhill; Matt Roberts, first grade, Lafayette E.; Grace Wolpert, fourth grade, Lafayette; Jonah Mateo, third grade, St. Perpetua; second row: Chloe Quintella, seventh grade, Stanley Middle School, Madeline Venturini, Sofia Bartos, (Hall of Fame), sixth grade, Stanley; Zarah Thomas, sixth grade, Stanley; K. Yasumura, (Hall of Fame), seventh grade, Saklan School, Katrina Ortman, eighth grade, Stanley. Photo provided

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Bookmark Contest attracted about 500 entries this year.

The winners of each grade level participated in the Bookmark Contest Award Ceremony. Each young artist received a \$25 gift certificate for Bel & Bunnas, gift certificates

worth \$10 for our Friends Corner Book Shop and in addition a complimentary framing of the winning bookmarks from Anthony Ruiz of FastFrame. All the winning bookmarks can be viewed in the Lafayette Library and in the Friends Corner Book Shop.

St. Perpetua donates over 500 lbs. of food to Monument Crisis Center

Submitted by Heather Travale



Photo provided

A food drive led by the seventh-grade class at St. Perpetua in Lafayette resulted in collecting 502 pounds of high-protein food – peanut butter, canned meats, canned seafood, canned beans, bagged beans – which was donated to the Monument Crisis Center on March 28. The students created posters to advertise the event at school, and went into each classroom to talk about the food drive and the Monument Crisis Center. Food was collected over a two-week period.

On the day of the event, students gathered and counted all the food (the fourth-grade class collected the most number of items), and loaded it all into two SUVs. The actual trip to deliver and sort the food occurred af-

ter school hours. Once at the Crisis center, the students unloaded all of the heavy boxes of food, and while Monument Crisis Center employees inspected and weighed the food, the students met with an MCC representative and learned all about the many services the shelter provides, such as providing free food to needy families and senior citizens, English as a Second Language classes, afterschool tutoring for kids, computer lessons for all ages, resume creation help, yoga and tai chi classes for senior citizens, and more.

The students then went into the back pantry area, which is a small warehouse, and sorted all of the food they had donated.

In Memory

Margaret Dalton

Feb 4, 1945 - Mar 14, 2018



Margaret Dalton, a delightful, artistically gifted, and beloved teacher for nearly 40 years passed away peacefully last month in the company of loving friends.

She and her sister Geraldine grew up in Durham, California, a rural community outside Chico, on the 2,000-acre ranch of her father, Vernon Fish. Margaret spent her teen years in Chico, graduating from high school in 1962.

After two years at Colorado Women's College in Denver, she transferred to San Francisco State, where she earned her BA and teaching credential in 1967, and

began what would be a lifelong career guiding, nurturing and inspiring small children.

Ms. Dalton, who was known as Miss Margaret to thousands of youngsters and parents, began in the Head Start program at a preschool in an underserved West Oakland neighborhood. After three years she moved to Glorietta School in Orinda, where she taught kindergarten for nine years. In 1979 she began her tenure at the White Pony and Meher Schools, teaching third grade, kindergarten and – toward the end of her career – the youngest children in the preschool until her retirement in 2017. For several years before retirement, she chose not to collect a salary, donating her time instead.

According to those that worked with her, she brought her wonderful artistic sensibilities into her work with little ones, cultivating their creativity by patiently teaching them to express themselves through the medium of paint. She was an inspiration to younger teachers, who marveled at her ability to prepare art projects with love, beauty and respect. Her friends and students knew that beneath her quiet exterior was a lively, elfin, playful quality that endeared her to children and adults alike.

Her former principal, Ellen Evans said, "Margaret's devotion to her students was exemplary, as were her standards for their care. Her preschool art table was a place of joy and inspiration. She is missed."

A private service was held recently with close friends in attendance.

Wagner Ranch holds biggest ever Makers' Faire

By Sora O'Doherty



Photos Sora O'Doherty

This year's Wagner Ranch Elementary School Makers' Faire on April 19-20 expanded to include a family night with food trucks, with over 200 people attending that evening, and all 19 classes of students given the opportunity to attend the two-day faire in cycles of two hours each. The faire was started four years ago by Andrew Anagnost, CEO of Autodesk, whose children attend Wagner Ranch. This year offered a variety of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) projects from which the students could choose. Students could fly drones or paper rockets, use coding to operate robots, observe different effects on a water wall, a marble wall, help make furniture in the garden, and construct harmonicas from tongue depressors, as well as many other choices available. The faire was staffed by

teachers, volunteers and company representatives, including employees from Autodesk and Maker Lab Extreme, a company that offers science, art, engineering and design camps and classes in Walnut Creek.

James Strickler, a retired entrepreneur and inventor, works as a substitute teacher and volunteered at the faire. Holding a doctorate from Cornell in engineering/physics, he offered a variety of activities, including working with pieces of "Olive," an olive tree that had to be cut down. Students sanded the pieces to make pendants, key chains, and other items. At his table, students could also construct dodecahedrons. Strickler noted that there are a lot of brilliant students in Orinda, and the goal is to keep them challenged and leverage that to have them help other students. His philosophy is, "A

teaching standard is not a speed limit."

Anagnost spoke of the development of the event. "It's amazing," he said. The first year was just a few tables for two grades, and it has grown tremendously, now offering a plethora of tables and time for all 19 classes of students to cycle through. "Parents bring amazing ideas," he added, "and Megan [Natal, fourth-grade teacher at Wagner Ranch] is a super star."

Natal said that the faire is now a hybrid of company reps, parents and volunteers, including former teachers and former students. The faire, she summed up, "gives kids a chance to create and build, and use the sense that, if something doesn't work, try again. It teaches perseverance."

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Wedding in the Aegis garden

By Sophie Braccini



Bride and groom cut the cake at Aegis in Moraga.

Photo Sophie Braccini

For the first time ever, a wedding was celebrated in the courtyard at Moraga Aegis. It was not residents getting married, however, but Marketing Direc-

tor Molly Gleason-Kodama who wed during a perfectly simple and touching Buddhist ceremony where all the residents were invited.

Some 150 chairs were installed under a large tent in the large courtyard of the residence. Flowers were everywhere, scenting the air and lifting the spirits.

Friends, family and residents sat quietly as Molly, radiant in a white and silver dress, walked in to meet David who was waiting for her at the altar where a Buddhist priest, a friend of Molly's, was going to officiate. The ceremony began, interlaced with Buddhist chants and bells, offering of flowers, and holding of the nenju – traditional Japanese Buddhist beads.

Then the two exchanged vows in front of the assembly and promises were made to be true, to trust, to love, to hear one another, to understand, to be open, to support each other. Live music, cutting of the cake, food and champagne were part of the joyful afternoon.

Candice Moses, the director of Moraga Aegis, was in charge of one thing during the festivities: taking care of Molly's well-

behaved little dog. She was also beaming with pride, talking to the residents who were participating and sharing their joy.

She explained that it was the residents who had been at the root of this event: the first ever wedding celebrated in any of the Aegis residences. She said that when residents heard of the marriage, they wanted to be with Molly on this important day. So many wanted to go that the only thing that had to be done was to host the ceremony on the premises. And so it was done.

Moses commented that one of the most beautiful aspects of the event was the lively mix of people who rejoiced and shared their best wishes with the new couple, from young children to most of the senior residents, all united in a celebration of love.

'French Connection' closes Gold Coast Chamber Players season

Submitted by Pamela Freund-Striplen



SF Piano Trio

Photos provided

The award-winning Gold Coast Chamber Players season finale, "French Connection," will feature the Piano Quartet #2, op. 45 by Gabriel Faure and piano trios of Lili Boulanger and Maurice Ravel. What makes Ravel's trio such a masterpiece, besides its immediate sensual appeal, is the blending of both a skillfully crafted structure and the indescribably fresh voice of Ravel and a new musical era.

The final of this season's five concerts will be performed twice: first at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 19 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette and then at 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 20 at Piedmont Center for the Arts, 801 Magnolia Ave. in Piedmont.

The trio includes many wonderful details of construction and expression including novelties both exotic and presciently neoclassical. Lili Boulanger was the first woman

to win the prestigious Prix de Rome in composition and was undoubtedly influenced by her close family friend Gabriel Faure. Faure's second piano quartet has been called "tempestuous" with vibrant modal inflections and innovative progressions. Arthur Cohen writes, "It is a cultured music that has a freshness that never stales."

Bringing this program to life is the San Francisco Piano Trio, featuring German violinist Axel Strauss, French cellist Jean-Michel Fonteneau, and American pianist Jeffrey Sykes, with American violinist Pamela Freund-Striplen. The SF Piano Trio has been praised for its virtuosic ensemble playing and the Well-Tempered Ear noted that the trio "brought a closely attentive and particularly quiet audience to its feet for a prolonged standing ovation. ... That they played with terrific virtuosity and technical fluency was easy to perceive through-

out the demanding program. But the careful listener, the discerning ear, was more impressed ... by their unerring musicianship; and by their ability to blend, to dialogue with each other."

Founded in 1987, GCCP distinguishes itself by its eclectic programming and by providing community access to leading musicians from throughout the world.

Tickets are \$45 general admission, \$40 senior (65+), and \$15 for students and include a pre-concert talk by musicologist Kai Christensen at 7 p.m. (Lafayette only). Purchase online at www.gcplayers.org or by calling (925) 283-3728.

Limited seating, please reserve early as these concerts usually sell out.



Pamela Freund-Striplen

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Not to be missed

ART

Valley Art Gallery presents their new juried show, "Bay Area Life," opening May 12, with a free reception from 3 to 6 p.m. on May 12. Juror Emma Acker, associate curator of American Art, Fine Art Museums of San Francisco, will present the juror's awards at that time. www.valleyartgallery.org

Lamorinda Arts Alliance presents Artist Talk: Joani Share and the Wood Carvings of Oaxaca, Mexico at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 2 at the Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Drive. Share will present a slide show and talk about the wonderful wooden creatures of Oaxaca called "Alebríjes." Share will bring examples from her collection and share information about the arts in the villages surrounding the city of Oaxaca. Free. www.joanishare.com

"Creative Synergy" Artists Susan McKenna List, Camille Young and Dalia Alekna, who worked together for years in their Lafayette La Fiesta Square studio, reunite in this show of their original oils, watercolors, pastels and jewelry. The show runs through May at The Orinda Library Art Gallery, 26 Orinda Way, with an opening reception from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on May 6.

Lamorinda Arts Alliance Printmaking Exhibit "Under Pressure" May 2 through June 2 at Main Street Arts Gallery, 613 Main Street, Martinez. There will be a free opening reception from 2 to 5 p.m. on May 5. Light refreshments will be served. A talented group of printmakers will be displaying their etchings, linocuts, woodblock prints and multimedia prints.

MUSIC

SAGE (Students for the Advancement of Global Education) Club at Acalanes High School will be hosting its annual Benefit Concert from 7 to 9 p.m. on May 4 in the Performing Arts Center at Acalanes High School. The acts will feature students showcasing their talents in support of Trust in Education, an organization that promotes education, specifically women's, in Afghanistan.

Saint Mary's Jazz Band Concerts: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 3 and 5 p.m. Friday, May 4 at Claeys Lounge and Lafayette Room, 1928 Saint Mary's Road. Treat yourself to a lively concert of up-tempo numbers, dance tunes, and instrumental jazz soloists under the direction of maestro John Maltester. \$5 - General Admission, \$2 - Students and Seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the door of the Soda Center. Free parking in the Soda Activity Center upper lot.

Musicians In Concert (MIC) is having its inaugural fundraising event from 7 to 9 p.m. on Saturday May 5 at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Lafayette. The benefit will generate funds for educational scholarships and grants to assist young musicians and underfunded Bay Area music programs. The live performance will open with a world-class jazz set followed by a 90-minute tribute to the late great Bay Area performer Mic Gillette. Tickets are \$35 and are available at www.MusiciansInConcert.org.

Gold Coast Chamber Players concert, "French Connection" at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 19 in the Community Hall at the Lafayette Library. Tickets: \$45 General, \$40 Senior, \$15 Student. Purchase online at www.gcplayers.org or by phone at (925) 283-3728.

The Diablo Women's Chorale invites you to join them at their Spring Concert, "The Rhythm of Life," at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 19 at Hillside Covenant Church, 2060 Magnolia Way in Walnut Creek. Join this musical celebration of the changing seasons of our heart, the poetry in both joy and sorrow, and the soaring melodies of our soul as we traverse this thing called life. On a journey through different musical genres

and eras, from calypso to folk and Gershwin to Sting, the Diablo Women's Chorale will move and inspire. Purchase advance tickets by calling 1-800-838-3006 or online at www.DiabloWomensChorale.org. Prices are \$25 General Admission and \$15 Student.

Cantare Con Vivo closes its 31st season with "A Jubilant Song," featuring all performing choirs on stage, presenting a diverse selection of American music, including folk, classical, popular, show songs and spirituals. "A Jubilant Song" will begin at 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 20 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette. Tickets: General \$27.50; Senior \$22; Student \$10. Purchase Tickets by phone (510) 836-0789 or online: https://cantareconvivo.secure.force.com/ticket/#details_aOS-0B000005BBJMUA4. www.cantareconvivo.org

Stanley Middle School presents Jazz Café from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, June 1 in the Stanley Multi-purpose room. This is a collaborative performance of Jazz student musicians from Stanley, Campolindo and Acalanes. Support the fundraising efforts of the Stanley Middle School Jazz Program and enjoy a memorable evening of music. General admission \$10; elementary students \$5; free for children under 6. Food, raffle drawings and silent auction (cash only). Tickets at stanleymusic.org or at the door (cash only).

THEATER/DANCE

DVC Drama presents a new musical "Godspell" running May 4 through 20 at 321 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill. A small group of people help Jesus tell different parables by using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comic timing. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. The messages of kindness, tolerance, community, and love come vibrantly to life. Show times are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and at 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. For tickets, call (925) 969-2358 or go to our website at www.dvcdrama.net.

The SMC Dance Company presents "Radical/Rituals" 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday (3 p.m. show) May 10, 11 and 12 at the LeFevre Theatre, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. Faculty choreographers explore the possibilities of dance as resistance, in a concert featuring the Saint Mary's College Dance Company. The concert also features works choreographed by guest artist Andrew Merrell. General admission tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at <https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/radicalrituals>. Student and Senior discounts.

Saint Mary's Theater Department Presents "Under 30: A Festival of One Acts" at 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 16 at LeFevre Theatre, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. The Festival is an evening of plays written by creative writing and theater students, as well as being performed and directed by students. This year's themes move widely to explore American gun culture, family history, grief and memory. Come support our rising playwrights, actors and directors. Admission is free to all.

The Peter Pan Foundation presents its annual original musical "Wish Upon a Star" over Memorial Day weekend May 26-28 at Diablo Valley College, 321 Golf Club Road, in Pleasant Hill. The magical musical adventure includes princesses, villains, heroes and many other beloved characters sure to delight audiences of all ages. Proceeds benefit UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. The show features more than 200 performers in several alternating casts. Showtimes and casts available online. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students, seniors and military and can be purchased at www.peterpanfoundation.org.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents Nomi Prins, author of "Collusion: How Central Bankers Rigged the World" from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 6, at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Avenue, Berkeley. Nomi Prins will discuss her new book, answer questions and sign books. Hosted by Vylma V. Cost: \$12 advance, \$15 door. For more info see <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3353349> or call (510) 967-4495.

Orinda Books presents a Luncheon with Georgeanne Brennan, introducing her new book, "Windows on Provence," at 11:30 a.m. on May 17. Luncheon will include Salade Nicoise using Georgeanne's recipe, crusty French bread, a glass of Rose' and a Provencal biscuit. \$20 includes \$10 off price of book. Call (925) 254-7606 to make your reservation.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church will hold a Respite Night from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, May 4, a fun night out for special needs children and siblings while their parents get some time off. Free and open to everyone. To register your children, contact Mary Kay Stephens: grammykaye@sbcglobal.net. 10 Moraga Valley Ln., Moraga. (925) 376-4800; mvpcctoday.org.

Free event for Lamorinda families and students to bring awareness surrounding internet bullying from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9 in the Orinda Library auditorium. Dr. Gary Nye, a prominent psychiatrist in Lamorinda for decades, will share his expert opinion on the subject matter and will hold a panel discussion with the audience. There will be refreshments, food, and entertainment while several speakers address issues surrounding social media abuse.

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church invites moms, grandmothers and daughters in preschool/kindergarten to a Royal Princess Tea Party from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 19, including tea, scones, crafts, story time and more. Register online: mvpcctoday.org. 10 Moraga Valley Ln., Moraga. 376.4800; mvpcctoday.org.

OTHER

"Stroke Prevention and Life's Simple 7" is the topic for the First Friday Forum at 1:30 p.m. on May 4 in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Dr. Mary K. Donnelly, who holds a doctorate in nursing practice, and is an assistant professor at the University of San Francisco School of Nursing and Health Professions is the speaker. Refreshments will be served at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Free. For further information, call (925) 283-8722.

Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center presents "Addressing Racism In Our Community" - Alyson Reimer, UC Berkeley from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 5 at Oak View Room, Walnut Creek Library, 1644 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek. From UC Berkeley's Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society, 'Building the Beloved Community: Addressing Racism Inside the Classroom and Out'. Cost: \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door; free for students. For more info see <http://ourpeacecenter.org> or call (925) 933-7850 or email margli@ourpeacecenter.org.

The Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA) will hold its 43rd annual Spring House Tour and Garden Reception from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 6. This year's house tour takes us to Berkeley Woods, the bucolic hilltop tract adjoining Tilden Regional Park. Tour map, illustrated guidebook, and refreshments will be provided. General admission \$45; BAHA members \$35. For tour information and reservations, visit the BAHA website <http://berkeleyheritage.com>, email baha@berkeleyheritage.com, or call (510) 841-2242. ... continued on next page

'Avengers: Infinity War'

By Derek Zemrak



MOVIE REVIEW



Image provided

The movie that has been in the making for over 10 years is now in theaters: "Avengers: Infinity War." Marvel Studios and Disney have produced 18 previous Marvel films to develop the storyline and characters for each of the superheroes. After two earlier Avengers movies, all the Marvel characters come together in one epic film.

All the Avengers and their allies must be willing to sacrifice everything to stop Thanos from destroying half of the universe. The movie is co-directed by Joe and Anthony Russo, who previously directed Marvel's "Captain America" franchise. This is the type of movie that has so many surprises that cannot be discussed in a review. When you see the movie, do not talk about it to anyone who has not seen it. As with most Marvel movies, except for "Captain America," the special effects are over the top and the battle scenes are larger-than-life. The movie was made for an estimated budget of \$300 to \$400 million dollars, but with the box office success of the other 18 Marvel movies this is not much of a risk for Disney Studios. "Avengers: Infinity War" is predicted to make over \$1.2 billion worldwide.

Mickey Mouse is laughing all the way to the bank with Goofy and the seven dwarfs pushing the wheelbarrows full of money.

The star-studded cast (Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo, Zoe Saldana, Scarlett Johansson, Don Cheadle, etc.) and all the action in the film, will make you feel like you did when you attended your first smorgasbord. There is so much to see and consume, you can't possibly take it all in. This is a movie that you will want to see more than once. It has been a long time since I could hear a pin drop at the end of a movie. "The Sixth Sense" (1999) was that film. As with all other Marvel movies, stay for the end credits to finish before leaving the theater, for there is one more scene. That is the only spoiler alert I will share with you.

Disney is marketing the movie as "The End of the End" but it is really the "End of the Beginning."

"Avengers: Infinity War" is rated PG-13 for intense sequences of sci-fi violence and action throughout, language and some crude references. The total running time is 2 hours and 29 minutes.



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Service Clubs Announcements



Breakfast, 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

May 4	May 11
SUSPENSE! A surprise special guest. Come to find out!	If music be the food of love? DREW PRICE-JOHNSON can explain it. His knowledge and talent will inspire you.

It's May, it's May, the month of "Yes, you may" - Songwriters, Lerner and Loewe



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

May 3: Niroop Srivatsa: Planning & Building Director What's Happening in Town	May 10: Thomas Fuller: SF Bay Area Bureau Chief for the New York Times
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www.rotarylafayette.org
www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366

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

OTHER ... continued

How to Generate Leads from your Website - 6 to 7:30 p.m. on May 9 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Homework Center. Your website is the center of all marketing efforts, and should communicate how you serve your customers. Registrants can submit their website to Thomas Petty (thomaspetty.com/contact-us) for possible selection for mini-review during class. Register at <http://www.lafayettechamber.org/workshops/>.

"How to Talk with your Kids About Race" - a panel discussion from 7 to 9 p.m. on May 9 at the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center will be hosted by Pacific Coast Psychiatric Associates. Tickets are available at www.pcpasf.com/events and seating is limited. Everyone is welcome and snacks will be provided.

The 2018 Moraga Community Faire and Car Show will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 12 at the town's Rheem Valley Shopping Center - offering a wonderful opportunity for a "family fun day." Kid's Zone activities include pony rides, climbing wall, bounce house and basketball shoots. Grab a quick lunch at the food trucks, relax with a glass of local wine or beer and check out the over 70 amazing classic cars. Introduce yourself to over 50 local artists, business and organizations. Live entertainment will be presented all afternoon from the Saint Mary's Jazz Band to local Battle of the Bands winners. For more information, visit www.moragachamber.org/faire.

Lafayette Hiking Group Chinatown and Oakland murals hike meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 12. Meet inside the Lafayette BART station at 9:30 a.m. - bring Clipper Card and lunch money. Visit Oakland's Chinatown, and see a range of murals in Oakland's Chinatown and Downtown/Uptown. We will take BART to Lake Merritt station, and return from 19th Street BART. Visit Oakland's Chinatown, and see a range of murals in Oakland's Chinatown and Downtown/Uptown. Questions? Email LafayetteHiking@comcast.net.

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church in conjunction with the American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 12. To register: redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code "MVPC". 10 Moraga Valley Ln., Moraga. (925) 376-4800; mvpctoday.org.

Taste of Lafayette from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 15 begins at the Bank of the West building with more than 20 restaurants participating for the stroll. A hosted wine and beer reception starts at 5:30 p.m. and the "stroll" begins at 6:30 p.m. when ticket holders head out at their own pace with friends to stop at any or all of the participating restaurants for sampling. Tickets available at www.lafayettechamber.org.

Lafayette Juniors 19th Annual Kitchen Tour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 19. Tour six beautiful Lafayette homes for a great cause, with masterfully designed unique, elegant, and awe-inspiring kitchens. The Tour benefits No One Left Behind, Girls Inc., City Slicker Farms, White Pony Express and Contra Costa Crisis

Center. Tickets are \$50 (\$45 tax deductible), box lunch available for \$15. Purchase tickets at www.lafayettejuniors.org or Premier Kitchens in Lafayette.

Dogtown Downtown, from 9:30 a.m. to noon on May 19 at Lafayette Plaza Park. The event starts in the Lafayette Library and Learning Center outdoor pavilion with Downward-Dog Yoga followed by a Police Escorted Doggie Parade from the Lafayette Library and Learning Center up Golden Gate Way to Lafayette Plaza at 10 a.m. At the Plaza enjoy demonstrations, exhibits, marketing and swag. Contests include Looks Most Like Owner; Best Costume; and Best Team Trick, (register your pet for the contests at the Library Plaza beginning at 9 a.m.). Dogs must be social, friendly and on leash at all times. <http://www.lafayettechamber.org/events/dogtown-downtown/>

Come celebrate diversity and promote our unity at Soul Food Lamorinda from 2 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 20 at the Intercultural Center at Saint Mary's College. Soul Food Lamorinda is a free Baha'i-inspired program that combines an audio-visual presentation with readings from various faiths, philosophers and leaders, allowing us to reflect on inspiring themes and reminding us of the oneness of humanity. This month's program, "Planet Dreams" will explore the unity and diversity of the human family, and how this can be celebrated and encouraged through a collective vision. Free. For more info: www.meetup.com/Soul-Food-Lamorinda/

Lafayette Chamber is having a mixer 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 23 at Premier Kitchens

3373 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. Free to members and those interested on becoming a member.

The City of Orinda is hosting a Pan-Asian Arts Festival this Memorial Day weekend, May 26 and 27 at the Orinda Community Center and Orinda Library. The two-day celebration, part of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, is free of charge and features programs for all ages. The festivities include a Chinese lion dance, Asian art exhibits, Bollywood dancing, Japanese animated films, Henna hand painting, Gamelan dance, food trucks and Mochi-making. More information and a full schedule of events is available at <http://friendsoftheorindalibrary.org/2018/04/03/pan-asian-arts-festival/>

Wine Tasting to Benefit Family Builders from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on May 31 at Wine Thieves - 3401 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Cost: \$40. Ticket Purchase: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-builders-wine-tasting-benefit-tickets-44393389824>

SENIORS

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 174 lunch meeting at 11 a.m. on May 9 at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School Street, Moraga, will feature guest speaker Giorgio Tavecchio (The Raiders's kicker. A Campolindo and Cal graduate. Local boy makes good). For attendance and membership info, call Tyler at (925) 963-5741 or visit www.branch174.sirinc2.org.

The 19th annual Three-quarter Century Club luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16 at the

Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Orinda residents 75 years and over will enjoy guest speaker Dr. Walter Bortz, Stanford Gerontologist, speaking about enjoying a higher quality of life while aging. For reservations contact John Fazel, runmnts@prodigy.net; (925) 324-207.

Contra Costa County Community Warning System - How to Receive Emergency Notifications by Vincent Martinez, Senior Emergency Planning Coordinator from 10:30 a.m. to noon on May 24 in the Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center. Contra Costa's Community Warning System (CWS) is an all-hazards integrated system designed to warn and inform residents about an emergency or disaster and the protective action residents need to take to stay safe. Learn about the various methods of notification and how to register to receive them. Free.

GARDEN

The Lafayette Garden Club will hold its first garden tour in many years from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at a series of five unique, private gardens in Lamorinda. The tour, "Artful Gardens," also will include a pop-up market and a plant sale. The tour can give you good ideas of what you might want to do in your garden, to learn about new plants, and to have a fun day out with friends and family. The pop-up market, will offer a wide selection from local artisans featuring jewelry, ceramics, botanical art and specialty food items. The plant sale will include specimens propagated by club members. Tickets cost \$40, or \$35 each when four or more are purchased. lafayettegardenclub.com.

Lamorinda Weekly

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Seafood salad offers light alternative for warm summer nights

By Susie Iventosch



Photo Susie Iventosch

This salad has a lot going on and is very colorful, too. With papaya, mango, avocado, Napa cabbage, cilantro, coconut shrimp and seared ahi, it has a rainbow of delicious colors. It's big enough for a main course, yet light for a warm summer evening. We love the sweet Thai chili sauce vinaigrette be-

cause it complements the fruit and coconut on the shrimp, but you could easily serve this salad with a teriyaki sesame dressing, if you prefer a more savory taste. I've accounted for about 1/8 pound of ahi and 1/4 pound of shrimp per person. You can adjust as you like.

Sweet Thai Chili Vinaigrette

2 Tbsp. rice vinegar
2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
2 Tbsp. sweet Thai chili sauce
1 tsp. sesame oil
½ cup canola oil
2 tsp. soy sauce
1/4 tsp. garlic powder

Place all ingredients in a jar with a tight-fitting lid. Shake well. Can make ahead and refrigerate until ready to use.

Tropical Dinner Salad

(Serves 4 as an entrée)

INGREDIENTS

1 head Napa cabbage, finely sliced
½ bunch fresh cilantro, clean and stems removed, reserving just leaves
1 papaya, peeled, seeded and sliced
1 mango, peeled, pitted and sliced
1 large avocado sliced
½ pound fresh ahi
1 Tbsp. olive oil
2 Tbsp. white sesame seeds
2 Tbsp. black sesame seeds
1 pound uncooked shrimp, peeled, deveined, leave tails on (we used medium-large shrimp, but you can use the size you like best)
2 eggs beaten
1 cup unsweetened shredded or flaked coconut
1 cup panko
¼ cup coconut oil

DIRECTIONS

Shrimp:

In a bowl, mix panko and coconut. In a separate bowl, beat eggs. Dip shrimp in beaten eggs, and then dredge in coconut-panko mixture, coating on all sides. Heat coconut oil in skillet and cook shrimp in batches, over medium-high heat, until browned on both sides. Set aside or keep warm in oven until ready to assemble salad.

Fish:

Mix white and black sesame seeds and spread out on a plate. Prepare ahi by brushing with olive oil on both sides and pat each side onto the plate with the sesame seeds, coating both top and bottom of fish. Heat grill to high heat and place a cast iron griddle on the barbecue and heat for about 15 minutes. When ready to cook fish, place fish on griddle and grill for about 2 minutes per side. Fish should be very rare, and seared on top and bottom. Slice into thin slices.

To assemble:

Place cabbage and cilantro in a large salad bowl or serving platter. Toss with half of the dressing. Arrange fruits, avocado, shrimp and sliced ahi, alternately, on top of cabbage. Drizzle remaining dressing over or pass so each can add their own. You can also plate each salad with the dressed cabbage and place the accoutrements on accordingly.



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



You can find most of the recipes published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website. Click Food tab. www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html

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Orinda resident completes 32nd consecutive Boston Marathon

... continued from page B1



Hugs from son Kevin at mile 13

At every marathon, you will see a number of people wearing a T-shirt that proclaims, "The pain is temporary. The pride is forever." Hung has fortunately been able to avoid many of the typical injuries marathoners suffer to their legs. The closest she came to missing a marathon was when she fell and severely cut her knee, three years ago, six weeks prior to the race: "I had 12 stitches on my knee and could not run for two weeks. Fortunately, the cut was in a position where I could bend my knee. Other than that, my knees

and ankles have held up."

Hung begins training three months prior to the marathon under the direction of her boyfriend, Don Maxon. "My training has been quite consistent. I go on a carbo-depletion diet and do a track workout once a week. It's all about progression. I start small and end big. It's disciplined running. I have not changed my routine."

Hung has shared her love of running on many levels: "The Orinda Roadrunners have been very supportive. People see me

and think that if she can do it, I can do it as well."

Hung taught math at Miramonte High School for 19 years (37 years in total) and was an assistant coach for the track and cross-country teams under coach Otis McCain for whom Hung has great affection. "My son Erick ran cross country at Miramonte. Otis asked me to help out as an assistant coach. He was my avatar and when he retired, I became the head coach for a couple of years. Coaching was great. You saw these young people that had no place to go and they found a place for themselves in cross country and track."

McCain still speaks highly of Hung. "Patty was a great role model for the boys and girls," he said. "She had great technique and brought great exuberance and a positive attitude. She was always smiling, encouraging and upbeat."

After 37 years of teaching and running marathons, Hung says it was only natural for her to begin a new career by going to nursing school. "When coaching at Miramonte, I became interested in the physiological part of running and chose to look into it as a nurse," said Hung, whose mom was a nurse and whose sons are also in the medical field. "I have been doing this now for the last five and a half years."

Having run a composite 839 miles over the past 32 Boston Marathons, for Hung, it seems the race has just begun.

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lamorinda golf teams prep for NCS

By Jon Kingdon



From left: coach Dan Weiner, Will Condy, Mikey O'Donnell, Joe Evans, Tucker Gannon, Tyler Schenone, coach Tim Scott
Photos Gint Federas



Miramonte team



From left: coach Gary O'Neill, Jay Thomas, Nick Klock, Ryan Burnett, Edward Anaya, Hayden Catron, Baron Szeto and Head Coach Steve Robinson.

Mark Twain described golf as a good walk spoiled. However, for Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte, it's far more satisfying than that as all three schools are finishing the regular season on high notes and are preparing for the NCS tournament. In the competitive Diablo league, the three teams have a combined 14-8 record in league play. In non-league play, the schools have won 13 of their 15 matches.

Campolindo head coach Gary O'Neill has come to really appreciate how much his team has overcome this year to have an overall record of 9-1 and 6-1 in league play: "It's been a crazy year. We've had several players out sick this year. The flu bug hit our team and the school very hard and we have had to have more alternates ready to play every match."

Campolindo has been helped by the fact that it is a very mature team, according to O'Neill. "We have six seniors on the team with four of them playing regularly and have good depth. We are solid with our first eight players. When we are on, we are a formidable team."

The Cougars are led by co-captains Ryan Burnett and Nicholas

Klock. Burnett will be attending the University of North Carolina and will be playing on Team USA in the Toyota Challenge later this year in Japan. Klock will be attending the Naval Academy and just won the award for the longest drive (320 yards) earlier this week at the Transbay Tournament at Dollar Ranch in Rossmoor.

The other senior captains are Jay Thomas and Edward Anaya. Says O'Neill: "Nick and Jay are our vocal leaders. Edward is more of a quiet leader and Ryan leads by example with his work ethic. What they all have in common is that they are all top scholar athletes."

Balancing out the seniors are sophomore Hayden Catron and freshman Baron Szeto.

O'Neill feels his team is hitting their stride at the right time: "We started off the season with a great performance in a tournament at Wente Vineyards and then we were hit with the flu bug. Fortunately, we should be in good shape for the North Coast Sectional Tournament."

The Cougars have a 4-1 home record at the Moraga Country Club. O'Neill appreciates that the home course advantage at this course:

"It's not a long course with a lot of side hill lies. Knowing how to play the course and read the greens is a real advantage and good for several strokes in a round."

As competitive as all the teams are, there is a great familiarity between all the players which is a good thing, according to O'Neill: "I really like the camaraderie between all of the teams and they get along very well."

Miramonte is a well-balanced team with six seniors and seven underclassmen that has come together at the right time winning four straight matches last week, their highlight being the first team to defeat Campolindo in a league match. It's a group that head coach Jack Schram really enjoys: "It's a really good team. They're all good guys that have a passion for the game and have fun out there."

Senior Travis Armistead playing No. 1 has been the team's steadiest player, recently shooting a 74 at the Transbay Tournament. Junior Conner Steward and sophomores Joe Henderson and Ben Duncan line up at 2-4. Rounding out the final two spots are seniors Xavier Clark and Kieren Weiszmann.

Clark, who was the quarterback on Miramonte's football team, came out for golf for the first time and has been a very valuable addition, according to Schram: "Xavier has been a pleasant surprise and has been instrumental in our wins over Campolindo and Acalanes."

The Matadors took a big hit early in the season when sophomore Bennett Millham was lost for the year when he suffered a back injury. This was after shooting a 36 in the opening match of the season.

Miramonte has been undefeated at the Orinda Country Club, their home course. Says Schram appreciatively: "Due to our familiarity with the course, we probably get a 10-stroke advantage with each match."

Like Miramonte, Acalanes also lost a top player due to an injury. Senior Jake Rosenberg, the Don's No. 1 player broke a bone in his arm while playing basketball. With a very young team, the Dons started the season off slowly with winning only one of their first five matches.

Head coach Tim Scott has seen his team win five of their next seven matches: "We are a very young team and they have been playing better

golf as the season has progressed. Our underclassmen make up the bulk of the team and are all solid players. It's just natural maturation. Freshmen can be a little anxious in their first matches and then they realize the responsibility of playing on the varsity. It's a lot of fun watching these kids mature as they learn to play at the varsity level."

Sophomores Will Condy, playing number one and Mikey O'Donnell have stepped up to lead the team.

Two freshmen, Tucker Gannon and Joe Evans have been very pleasant surprises. Gannon's father is a PGA pro and one of the owners of the East Bay School of Golf in Lafayette.

Playing at Rossmoor does provide Acalanes with some home course advantage though not as much as Campolindo and Moraga get at their home courses. Says Scott: "Those courses can be difficult to play on. With the strength of our young players, they need to dial it down a little bit and that can be hard to do. Still, I am looking forward to our team moving on to qualifying for the North Coast Section."

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open to all athletes entering 5th-9th grade in the Fall of 2018

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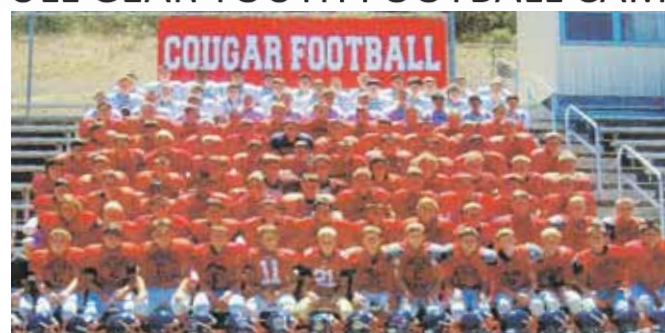
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Lamorinda tennis teams sport winning records in playup to NCS

By Jon Kingdon



Photos Gint Federas

Historically, the tennis teams in Lamorinda have generally been successful. This year has been no exception with all three teams sporting winning records. With so much rain this spring, the teams have been forced to play as many as four matches in a week to make up for the matches canceled due to the weather. As the teams are competing to win their division to get the automatic entry into the North Coast Sectionals, there are still aspirations to receive an at-large bid.

Despite losing some top players last season, Miramonte head coach Michael McCollom entered the season with typical optimism. With a 12-5 record (7-2 in league play), the Matadors have been able to overcome some serious injuries and are in good a good position to compete for the Diablo League Championship.

Miramonte's top player, captain Nico Haet, who will be playing at St. Lawrence next year, suffered a left shoulder injury, only recently returning to competitive play, having played just two matches. McCollom speaks admiringly of the effort Haet has displayed to get back on the court: "Due to his shoulder injury, Nico can't lift his left arm and is serving underhanded and utilizing a one handed back hand. Still he won both matches. He is a brave kid that wants to play. Everyone's amazed at how he is performing and he is being supported and cheered on not only by his teammates but the players on the opposing teams as well. Without the injuries, he would have been our number one player."

Micah Elias missed a month with an abdominal tear but since coming back has only lost one match. Though only a sophomore, Elias has evolved into one of the leaders on the team, says McCollom: "Everyone looks up to Micah due to his effort and how

he puts himself on the line for the team."

Also stepping up to lead the team has been Liam Dowd and co-captain William Hwang. Says McCollom: "Liam has been our most solid and consistent player with a 12-3 record this season. Along with William, who will be playing at Vasser next year, they have really helped to hold the team together as players and leaders on the team."

McCollom has come to rely on the play of his doubles teams: "They have really stepped up and been outstanding. This season we have won 84 percent of our doubles matches."

Seniors Bryce Radlow and Alan Tang have teamed up with great success and the No. 2 doubles team of Dominic Davidson and Kush Subramanian have only lost one match this season.

McCollom has rotated several freshmen at the number six spot in singles and Max Levy and Ben DeLange have shown constant improvement throughout the season as well. With a strong JV team as well, this should more than compensate for the six players that will be lost next season due to graduation.

McCollom does not hold back on the reasons for the success of the team: "We've been blessed with great players and parents committed to the sport. They are all great kids and students."

Injuries have been a concern for Campolindo this season as well. Cal Hunter, a junior and the team's No. 1 player suffered a rib injury in a match against Las Lomas and missed a few weeks. Co-captain Zach Goldman was also lost for a time with a broken wrist.

Fortunately for the 11-8 Cougars, they are a very deep team. Says head coach Alan Weissbaum: "There is a lot of depth here.

If asked to, we could field eight singles and three doubles teams. This is a very resilient team and their spirit is good. Off the court they are really good friends and this unity carries on to the court with confidence."

Campolindo began the season with a difficult schedule, playing top teams like Redwood and Amador Valley which is how Weissbaum planned it: "I wanted us to play tough teams providing our players with experience and getting them ready for league play."

Eight of the 16 players on the team are seniors, which has certainly added a great deal of maturity and stability to the team. Weissbaum has come to rely heavily on his team captains, Goldman and Seren Tochikura: "I talk with our captains about our drills and the lineups for the matches. I very much value their input."

Hunter and Goldman have both returned from their injuries with some limita-

tions. Hunter initially was only able to play doubles and is just returning to singles play. Goldman, unable to hit a two-handed backhand, has been limited to playing doubles.

The doubles teams have proven to be an anchor for the team. Tochikura has been the team's top doubles and juniors Nick Bohm and Harry Curtiss have yet to lose a doubles match.

Junior Eden Yu, who played JV last season, has been a pleasant surprise for the team. Says Weissbaum: "Eden came to play and made the transition very well to varsity. He plays anywhere (singles or doubles) I ask him to play."

The Cougars have won nine of their last 10 matches. Says Weissbaum: "The team has just gelled and is playing better and with more and more confidence throughout the year. I just want them to enjoy themselves."

... continued on page C3



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Diablo Alliance 10U All-Girls Team takes bronze in USA Water Polo Spring Sunday Tournament

Submitted by Rhodora Del Rosario



Back row from left: Sadie Suppiger, Ally Larson, Addi Dankworth, Sarah Wright, coach Mary Collie; middle row from left: coach Robby Arroyo, Quinn Arroyo, Molly Stryker, Ella Del Rosario, Tess Schirmer, Audrina Kang; bottom row from left: Elise Gratton, Chrissy Flynn, Maya Stafford and Chloe Chua

Diablo Alliance Water Polo Club's 10u team took third place at the USA Water Polo's Spring Sunday tournament April 15. The all-girl team started the tournament with an easy win over Stanford and then faced CC United all-boys top team for a bid at the gold medal game. While CC United controlled the tempo of much of game, the girls battled to within one goal before losing 8-6. In the bronze medal game, Diablo faced Lamorinda Water Polo

Club's top team (also an all-boys squad) and got out early and maintained a lead the entire way. Led by strong defense and a speedy offense, the Diablo girls were not only the top girls team in the tournament, but also one of the top teams overall. This win complements the team's win at the Mini Frozen Cup back in the winter, and sets the team up for a great summer season as they look forward to the Junior Olympics.

**Submit stories to
sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com**

(We prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size:
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Cal Rugby returns to SMC to face Linwood

By Jon Kingdon



Justin Dunn

Photo Alex Ho

Playing in front of a loud and raucous crowd at Saint Mary's College last Saturday, the University of California clearly outplayed Linwood University in a D1A semi-final game winning by a final score of 43-22.

For California and Lindenwood, this was a "road" game. Originally scheduled to be played in Marietta, Georgia, Cal only had to travel 15 miles to Moraga while Lindenwood (St. Charles, Missouri) travelled 2,021 miles to St. Mary's. California head coach Jack Clark had no complaints. Said Clark: "Our schedule had changed a bit. We did not have to fly out on Thursday and lose a day."

Explained D1A Commissioner Kevin Battle: "It's important that we do what's best for the growth of the college game. Crossing the country with five days' notice is financially prohibitive." Added executive committee chairman Paul Keeler, "It is important for us to maximize exposure and support the teams, to support the game. Having teams compete regionally helps achieve that goal and helps manage costs to our members."

Cal saved \$40,000 by avoiding the trip to Georgia and helped Lindenwood with the cost of their travel.

California has three seniors from Lamorinda on their roster: wing Justin Dunn from Campolindo and flyhalf Jamie Howells and

Wing William Fuller, both from Miramonte.

With Cal ahead 24-14 at the half, Dunn outleaped a Lindenwood player on a kick down the field giving Cal possession, leading to the first score in the second half. Nine minutes later, Dunn sprinted down the left sideline to score for the second time to put Cal ahead 38-17, clinching the victory for Cal.

The last time Cal had play in Moraga, they had lost to Saint Mary's 21-12. Dunn said that inspired the team today: "We did not want to lose again on this field. The key to the game was that, though we made some mistakes, we did not have any turnovers."

Dunn, a business administration major, was recruited to play football at California and only began playing rugby in college. He will continue to play rugby in graduate school: "I will be going to study at Oxford next year and will be playing rugby there as well."

California will be playing in Santa Clara next Saturday against Life University who defeated Penn State in their semifinal game. Life University will be traveling 2,474 miles from their campus in Marietta, Georgia. They probably find little comfort that California will be traveling three times as far as they did getting to Moraga, 45 long miles. Hopefully the traffic will be light.

Lamorinda tennis teams sport winning records in playup to NCS

... continued from page C2

Acalanes head coach Valery Jorgensen, an Acalanes graduate herself, knows what it is like to play in such a difficult league. Battling the top teams in the league, College Prep, Miramonte and Campolindo, the Dons bring a 5-4 record into the home stretch of the season. Jorgensen appreciates the effort her players put forth each match: "They really enjoy winning and they are always competitive and fight in every match. We have had a lot of close matches and we have fought for every point. Through hard work and dedication in the off season,

we've seen a lot more consistency than last season."

Unlike Miramonte and Campolindo, Acalanes relies more on their singles players. Says Jorgensen: "Singles are our strength though we are a team of depth. We have a lot of similar talent but we just to find consistency and the combinations in our doubles play."

The Dons top two players have been Trenten Tso and Ryan Everly who have been playing 1 and 2 singles and are also

the leaders on the team says Jorgensen: "They have carried the team winning almost all of their matches. They along with Cole Brightbill have taken it upon themselves to organize extra practices and bring camaraderie to the team. On the court, Nick Broback and Ed Collinson have been a constant support for the players."

Freshman Alex Thornton has been the most pleasant surprise on the season, according to Jorgensen: "Alex was new to me though not to his teammates. Alex played soccer, so he came to the team a couple of

weeks into the season. He was initially a little nervous, but he has stepped up and played in some top doubles and singles matches."

The Dons are hoping for an at-large bid into the NCS tournament. Says Jorgensen optimistically: "What helps is that that we and Campolindo are the only teams that have defeated College Park and if they win the league, it would help us in our at-large bid."

LMYA VOLLEYBALL

Enjoys Day in the Sand with St. Mary's Beach Team

The St. Mary's Beach Volleyball players and coaches hosted LMYA Volleyball players to a clinic at Moraga Commons sand courts on Friday, April 13th. Over thirty girls were trained in passing, setting, hitting and serving. This is one in a series of successful and fun beach volleyball clinics that St. Mary's has held for LMYA.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 5 Wednesday, May 2, 2018



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

Six stunning kitchens on display at Lafayette Juniors Kitchen Tour

By Catherine Kauder



Lori and Scott Loughran-Smith's bright kitchen leads into the casual dining area. The pantry is behind the island. Photos Sora O'Doherty

The Lafayette Juniors' 19th Annual Kitchen Tour takes place on Saturday, May 19th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature six beautiful and uniquely styled kitchens located in different neighborhoods of Lafayette.

Among the homes presented on the tour include a gorgeously remodeled farmhouse-style kitchen belonging to homeowners Lori and Scott

Loughran-Smith. The couple renovated their home from top to bottom last year to create an inviting kitchen perfect for friends and family to gather.

Built in 1941, the house originally had a small kitchen with an adjacent laundry room. The couple knocked out the wall to the laundry room, expanding the kitchen and adding an island ideally situated for prep work and entertaining. Behind the island,

knotty alder wood panels conceal a pantry and a Sub Zero side-by-side refrigerator. The cabinets in the main area of the kitchen are painted a creamy vintage lace and feature polished quartzite countertops and a honed Turkish limestone backsplash, giving the kitchen a light and airy feel.

A large Shaw front apron fireclay farmhouse sink sits across from a six-burner Wolf range. A contractor who owns Construction Plus, Scott Loughran-Smith, designed and built the exquisite wood hood over the range.

... continued on page D6



One of two dining areas in the Visbal home, this one with access to the bar.



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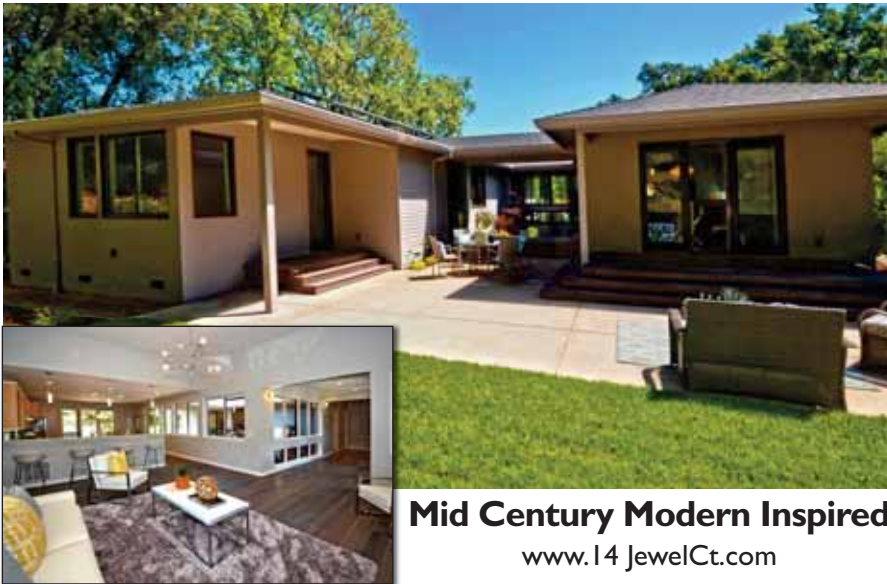
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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	14	\$910,000	\$3,999,000
MORAGA	13	\$365,000	\$2,050,000
ORINDA	13	\$850,000	\$3,800,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

- 155 Arbor View Lane, \$3,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 4926 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 3-29-18
- 1028 Carol Lane, \$910,000, 3 Bdrms, 1187 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-4-18;
Previous Sale: \$725,000, 09-10-13
- 3160 Cordova Way, \$1,595,000, 4 Bdrms, 3069 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 3-20-18;
Previous Sale: \$269,000, 12-17-93
- 3960 Cowan Road, \$1,540,000, 4 Bdrms, 2218 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 3-20-18
- 3295 Fairholm Court, \$1,568,000, 5 Bdrms, 2831 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 3-29-18;
Previous Sale: \$605,000, 12-12-97
- 3179 Ford Lane, \$1,360,000, 3 Bdrms, 1865 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 3-23-18
- 1019 Hampton Road, \$1,805,000, 4 Bdrms, 2800 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 3-28-18
- 4037 Happy Valley Road, \$3,999,000, 7 Bdrms, 7697 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 4-3-18;
Previous Sale: \$3,230,100, 01-18-18
- 923 Janet Lane, \$1,409,500, 3 Bdrms, 1801 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 3-20-18;
Previous Sale: \$535,000, 05-11-01
- 851 Moraga Road, \$1,308,000, 2 Bdrms, 1638 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 4-3-18;
Previous Sale: \$860,000, 12-07-06
- 3330 Ridge Road, \$1,018,000, 3 Bdrms, 1188 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 3-30-18;
Previous Sale: \$675,000, 09-12-14
- 3953 South Peardale Drive, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2249 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 3-23-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,925,000, 01-18-17
- 3412 St. Marys Road, \$1,150,000, 2 Bdrms, 1134 SqFt, 1910 YrBlt, 3-26-18;
Previous Sale: \$67,000, 09-30-77
- 1003 Woodbury Road #203, \$1,175,000, 2 Bdrms, 1638 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 4-4-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,060,000, 03-29-17

MORAGA

- 101 Ascot Court #C, \$365,000, 2 Bdrms, 1106 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 3-23-18
- 1903 Ascot Drive, \$845,000, 2 Bdrms, 1379 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 3-29-18
- 1913 Ascot Drive, \$810,000, 2 Bdrms, 1379 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 3-20-18;
Previous Sale: \$300,000, 05-05-99
- 651 Augusta Drive, \$950,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 3-30-18
- 778 Augusta Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1901 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 3-27-18;
Previous Sale: \$435,000, 05-12-95
- 787 Augusta Drive, \$2,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 3007 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 3-28-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 07-25-14
- 12 Benedita Place, \$896,000, 3 Bdrms, 2095 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 3-23-18;
Previous Sale: \$575,000, 06-29-10
- 694 Camino Ricardo, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2464 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 4-3-18;
Previous Sale: \$428,000, 01-11-90
- 1645 Del Monte Way, \$1,285,000, 4 Bdrms, 2378 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 3-29-18;
Previous Sale: \$385,000, 03-31-89
- 400 Donald Drive, \$1,360,000, 4 Bdrms, 2172 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 3-30-18
- 3 Josefa Place, \$754,000, 2 Bdrms, 1211 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 3-23-18;
Previous Sale: \$149,000, 07-30-85
- 41 La Salle Drive, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2475 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 3-29-18;
Previous Sale: \$575,000, 08-01-02
- 6 Miramonte Drive, \$585,000, 3 Bdrms, 1248 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-3-18;
Previous Sale: \$425,000, 01-05-05

... continued on page D10



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**PACIFIC
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Six stunning kitchens on display

... continued from page D1



John and Leslie Visbal are delighted with their perfect-for-entertaining kitchen. Photos Sora O'Doherty

Working with Premier Kitchens on their cabinetry, the couple put other unique touches into the kitchen, such as lighting the tops of the cabinetry and installing glass panels on the sides of the upper cabinets, adding more light into the space.

Other custom touches give the kitchen warmth and personality. Vintage barn glass pendants hang from the slanted ceiling and statement-making industrial iron sconces with Edison bulbs flank the French doors that open out to their beautiful backyard and saltwater pool. Dark hardware on the alder wood cabinet doors give an interesting contrast to the textured brushed nickel pulls on the lighter cabinets. The couple put an old photo of the original home in the kitchen to show how much the neighborhood has grown since the house was built in 1941.

Homeowner Lori Loughran-Smith was hard-pressed to pinpoint one feature she enjoyed about her kitchen. "I love everything about it!" she says.

In the Upper Happy Valley area, homeowners John and Leslie Visbal built a modern kitchen perfect for their busy lifestyle and love of entertaining. The Visbals enlisted architect Steven Kubitschek and Woehrle Construction to help them bring their vision to life.

The sophisticated kitchen features clean, light grey cabinetry with Quartzite countertops and sleek Thermador appliances. Zebrino marble, a playful grey and white striped material, is used for the backsplash behind the range and for the counters in the bar area. Floors made of American scraped hickory provide a subtle contrast to the muted tones of the kitchen and surrounding modern furnishings. Interesting light fixtures from City Lights, such as the starburst pendant over the small dining table off the kitchen, function almost like pieces of art in the home.

"We like modern, clean design," says homeowner John Visbal. Since the couple both serve on the boards of nonprofit organizations, their house has served as the

location of numerous fundraisers and holiday get-togethers.

Indeed, the layout of the home creates the perfect flow for hosting gatherings large or small. The front foyer flows seamlessly into the living room, kitchen and dining rooms. The back of the home features a wall of fully retractable Marvin multislid doors, which open the kitchen to the beautifully landscaped backyard and pool area. The kitchen windows above the fireclay sink fold out and open out to a bar and covered patio area complete with an outdoor fireplace. Two dishwashers and two ovens – one electric and one gas – make cooking and cleaning for a large crowd almost effortless.

In addition to these two kitchens profiled, the other homes featured on the tour include a California contemporary style kitchen, an updated traditional ranch, a cutting-edge European influenced kitchen and a contemporary farmhouse.

Tickets for the annual kitchen tour are now on sale to the general public for \$50 (\$45 tax deductible), with a box lunch available for \$15. Tickets can be purchased online at www.lafayettejuniors.org or the day of the event at Premier Kitchens (3373 Mt. Diablo Blvd.) in Lafayette.

The nonprofit beneficiaries of this year's tour are No One Left Behind, Girls Inc., City Slicker Farms, White Pony Express and the Contra Costa Crisis Center. These organizations were selected by the Lafayette Juniors for the exceptional support they provide to women, families and individuals in need throughout the East Bay.

Founded in 1953, Lafayette Juniors is a nonprofit organization comprised of local women dedicated to raising funds and offering service in support of other non-profits that serve women, families and seniors in need throughout Contra Costa and neighboring counties in the San Francisco area. Over the past 18 years, the Lafayette Juniors have raised more than \$700,000 for Bay Area nonprofit groups.



The second dining area in the Visbal home features a City Lights starburst pendant lighting fixture.



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Talking Trash

The spring market is here and buyers and sellers are packing up and moving in and out. Which bring us to talking trash. The number of boxes and packing material that it takes to move is mind boggling not to mention all of the trash that we accumulate over the years that we purge during a move. China has stopped importing 24 types of trash as of January 2018, and it's caused a panic as to where to send all the trash we create on a daily basis. More than 8 million tons of plastic enter the world's oceans every year.

This brings us to how can we help buyers and sellers cut down on trash created during a move. We recommend using a re-usable plastic bin borrowing service like bin-it.com or rentagreenbox.com. You rent plastic bins/boxes for your move, fill them up, move, empty them out, and then they are collected to be re-used. We also recommend if you must use boxes please pass them forward. Call your realtor so they can arrange for the boxes to be recycled or post on Nextdoor or any social media platform - there is always someone in need of moving supplies. We are personally looking for more ways to reduce trash and are hopeful that as a community we can do better to keep trash out of our oceans.

Changing gears, the Spring market is off to a great start. For the twelve months ending March 31st, Lamorinda sales price per square foot for detached single family homes is up 5.2% compared to the prior twelve months. Breaking Lamorinda down further, Lafayette is up 9.2%, Moraga 4.3% and Orinda 1.6%. In addition, for the same period for Lamorinda average days on market is down 5.0% to only 26 days. The potential fear that some economists



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COMPASS

Feng Shui

Mother's Day feng shui

By Michele Duffy



Square (Earth) crystals are great gifts for mom to honor the grounding she brings to life.

Photo provided

Soon we will be honoring the legacy of our mothers, if they are (or were) an important part of our lives, and we should also honor the feminine in ourselves too. So thinking about the role all of our mothers in our lives makes it an opportune time to align with the grounding symbology of mothering, and the loving maternal. "Mother" is a nurturing and positive reference in most cultures, and mom's strength, generosity, kindness, and consistency of character and love, are represented in varied cultural threads that also reflect the rich cultural traditions of celebrating "mother" around the world.

The "Mother Goddess" was celebrated by ancient Greek and Romans, and "Mother Churches" were celebrated on "Mother Sunday" by Catholics on a specific Sunday, and in the early 1900s, America began its tradition of celebrating mother within the family with no gifts. In Mexico it is called Dia de la Madre. In the UK Mother's Day celebrations date all the way back to the 17th century. Indian children present festive cards to their moms like often in the U.S., and traditionally in October celebrate the goddess Durga, also known as the Divine Mother. The birthday of the symbolic "mother" of Thailand, Queen Sirikit is celebrated, in

Ireland children living away from home return to celebrate mom, and in France "Mamans" say ooh la la to pampering, gifts, and brunch out.

Mother's Day in Lamorinda has evolved over time much the same as in other American places, and so today, many cities offer a celebratory Mother's Day brunch so moms can have the day off and be pampered on all levels. Children bring breakfast in bed with a bud vase flower on a well-appointed tray for starters and are meant to handle all of mom's chores for the day. It's great to be a mom in 2018.

In the Taoist tradition of feng shui, mother rules the Relationship area of the BAGUA map, which rules partnerships, marriage, and every relationship in our life. The Relationship area of the feng shui BAGUA is from the front entrance of your home, the far right third, and it's also the same far right corner of your master bedroom and finally, your yard as you stand at the front entrance doorway. The Relationship area is resplendent with fantastic life force chi. Relationships are activated in our environments with the twinkly and sparkly Earth element, which may include crystals, shells, pebbles, ceramic or clay materials. The relationship quality of the Earth element is represented by the colors of pink, white and red, which are the romantic Earth colors, but Earth is also represented by yellow, tangerine, brown and some of the darker blues. A square shape, maybe a square jewelry box or square tile, are wonderful gifts for mom that symbolize the grounding we are meant to receive from our mothers. It's always nice to gift mom. Being mindful of the number two, which definitely governs relationships even though we are fully capable and aware of being in full relationship with self, the partnership aspect of all relationships is reinforced with pairs – twos, and multiples of two.

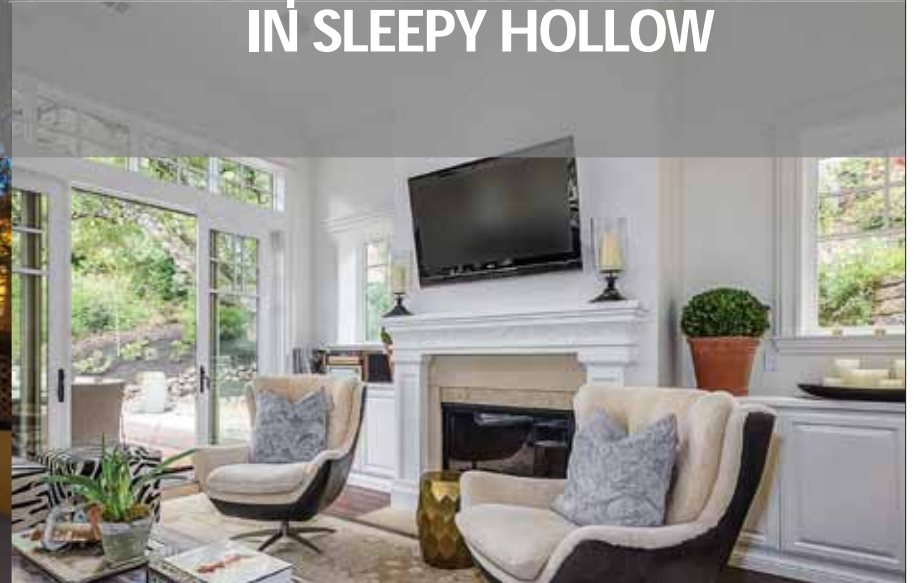
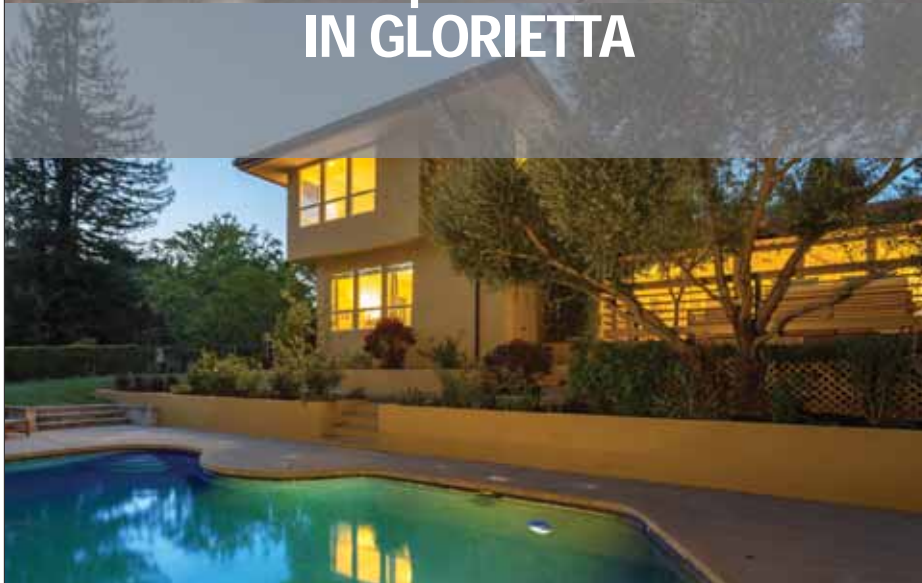
The Relationship area governed by mother in feng shui relates not only to our most intimate love partnerships or marriages, but also to all of our most feminine of relationships. For example, our feminine friends and family connections with all the other women in our lives, such as our own mothers, daughters, sisters, friends, colleagues, aunties and grandmothers. If you need to heal your relationship with any feminine people in your life, like your mom, girlfriends, daughters or sisters, this area should be audited first.

... continued on page D11



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

ORINDA

- 40 Acacia Drive, \$1,998,000, 4 Bdrms, 3245 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 3-27-18;
Previous Sale: \$420,000, 06-03-96
- 65 California Avenue, \$850,000, 4 Bdrms, 1365 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 3-26-18;
Previous Sale: \$253,500, 11-17-88
- 207 Crestview Drive, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2311 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 3-29-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 08-21-15
- 36 Las Vegas Road, \$3,146,000, 5 Bdrms, 3941 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 3-30-18;
Previous Sale: \$3,150,000, 03-01-17
- 1 Monterey Terrace, \$2,570,000, 3 Bdrms, 3483 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 3-23-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 08-16-00
- 210 Moraga Way, \$1,180,000, 2 Bdrms, 1448 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 3-29-18;
Previous Sale: \$860,000, 08-15-13
- 529 Moraga Way, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2153 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 4-3-18
- 111 Tappan Lane, \$3,800,000, 5 Bdrms, 6428 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 3-29-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,560,000, 11-22-94
- 66 Tara Road, \$1,120,000, 3 Bdrms, 1404 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 3-30-18;
Previous Sale: \$975,000, 03-24-15
- 539 The Glade, \$1,325,000, 2 Bdrms, 2175 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 3-30-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 02-23-16
- 17 Van Ripper Lane, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 1734 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 3-30-18
- 44 Valencia Road, \$1,605,000, 5 Bdrms, 2476 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 3-27-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,140,000, 10-26-07
- 328 Village View Court, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2080 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 3-30-18



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Feng Shui

Mother's Day feng shui

... continued from page D8

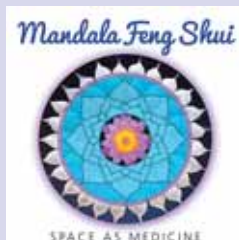
<p>WEALTH & PROSPERITY XUN Wood Southeast Purple</p>	<p>FAME & REPUTATION Li Fire South Red Summer</p>	<p>RELATIONSHIPS Kun Earth Southwest Pink</p>
<p>FAMILY ZHEN Wood East Green Spring</p>	<p>HEALTH TAI JI Earth Center Orange, Yellow Brown</p>	<p>JOY & COMPLETION DUI Metal West White Autumn</p>
<p>KNOWLEDGE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

The Bagua Map: Front Door

We can create representations of nourishing love, symbols that help us heal those frayed connections and rebuild current ties or even our memories in this area. It's also a perfect spot to recite the ultimate forgiveness prayer of Hawaiian feng shui origins, Ho'Opono Pono, for immediate results and far reaching forgiveness. We can also add a pair of lights to this area to illuminate and symbolize the grounding of our mom's love, love-flower Peony fragrance, or positive or supportive images of happy relationship times with those we love.

However you manifest in celebration this Mother's Day, be a rainmaker of smiles, gratitude, love and flowers, so your relationship with your mom, or her memory, blooms brightly!

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2018 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.



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Cynthia Brian's Gardening guide for May

Mother (Nature) knows best

By Cynthia Brian



The beautiful blooms of the horse chestnut tree attract bees to the garden.

Photos Cynthia Brian



A candy cane striped amaryllis opens in the afternoon sunshine.



Plant fennel to attract beneficial insects and pollinators.

My mother said to me,

"If you become a soldier, you'll be a general;

if you become a monk, you'll end up as the Pope.

Instead, I became a painter and wound up as Picasso."

~Pablo Picasso

AREN'T moms the greatest?

When I was a little girl, I wanted to be a world famous ball bouncer because I thought I was fairly great at bouncing balls and catching them. My mother told me to go for it.

Then of course, I added to my "want to be" numerous times while both of my parents applauded my bravado. My hands were either always writing or digging in the dirt and I wound up as The Goddess Gardener!

When I lived in France I had the opportunity to investigate the majestic gardens of the charming chateaus. The elegant gardens mesmerized me, especially Château de Chenonceau spanning the River Cher in the Loire Valley where females ruled the designs. But it was the gardens of Impressionist artist Monet that influenced me most. The first time I visited his Giverny masterpiece, a profusion

of magenta, pink, and purple tulips augmented by white bearded iris greeted me. It reminded me of my time living in the Netherlands where fields of tulips thrived amongst the windmills. The color scheme was enchanting.

After returning stateside, I determined to model my landscapes after Monet's painter's palette with plants that only reflected a variety of shades and hues of purple, pink, blue, and white. My mother warned against such folly. "Gardens are filled with the colors of the rainbow. Just wait. Mother Nature will decide what's best for your garden."

Of course I didn't listen because I had my mind set on a specific plan. I planted a variety of species that boasted my favorite colors including iris, gazania, lilac, wisteria, tulip, anemone, periwinkle, jasmine, ice plant, freesia, candytuft, azalea, camellia, fuchsia, rose, rhododendron, and more. For the first two years my landscape did resemble an Impressionist painting. It was spectacular.

Then a 17-day freeze occurred, killing most of my plantings. When spring arrived, many of the plants sprouted once again but this time they were yellow, orange, white, or red. The hybrids had reverted to their na-

tive colors after the freeze. Mother Nature was teaching me who was in charge.

I embraced my mother's approach to gardening to allow all the colors of the rainbow to shine in my garden. Soon the burgundy grew next to the orange gazania, and yellow daffodils sang along with the fluorescent pink ice plant. The effect has been stunning.

My mom also warned against invasive plants that mask as attractive: ivy, mint, Mexican primrose, vinca, jasmine, and the worst of which is euphorbia esula, also known as leafy spurge. All of these grow in my garden and I am constantly pulling, prodding, and attempting to keep these handsome, yet insidious species in check.

Although lovely mixed with flowers cascading from a container, in the ground, ivy climbs and chokes trees, killing them. Ivy is also a favorite habitat for rats. Mint is delicious muddled in mojitos and chopped into salads, but not so exciting when it spreads to your lawn. Mexican primrose with its dainty pretty pink flowers spreads quickly jumping into spaces where other plants are preferred. It looks dreadful when it develops powdery mildew towards fall.

... continued on next page

Vinca major (big leaf periwinkle) may take years to become invasive but with conditions of deep shade it can smother the diversity of other plants with its very dense vegetation. Cut it back or pull out the stragglers. Jasmine has the most beautiful fragrance, especially in the evening. A few cut blossoms perfume entire rooms, however, this vine twines around bushes and flora smothering the entire plant. It is critical to contain these plants and keep them in check by pruning and pulling out the ones growing in places you don't desire.

Which leads me to the worst invasive in my landscape – euphorbia esula, commonly known as green spurge or leafy spurge. A single pot of euphorbia is charming with its magnetic chartreuse leaves and yellowish green bracts. The problem begins when the seed capsules explode sending seeds 15 or more feet in the distance. If allowed in bare soil, the complex root system spreads rapidly both horizontally and vertically for many yards. In spring the plants grow 3 or 4 feet high, blocking sunlight, stealing the water and nutrients from other plants. Toxins in euphorbia esula prevent other plants to thrive. Deer and rabbits won't eat it, although goats and sheep tolerate it. The milky sap is a skin irritant to humans. If left unchecked, this invader will take over hills, dales, and neighborhoods. The striking euphorbia esula encompasses a hillside, yet I am not willing to let trespassers into my formal beds. Daily I patrol and pull out the intruders.

A cavalcade of color delights me in my spring garden. Currently boasting beautiful blooms are bergenia, lavender, ranunculus, Dutch iris, bearded iris, rose, forget-me-not, daffodil, tulip, calla lily, California poppy, snowball, snowdrop, blue star, geranium, calendula, citronella, hyacinth, ice plant, wisteria, lilac, snapdragon, cyclamen, oleander, Jupiter's beard, azalea, fuchsia, breath of heaven, camellia, hellebore, nasturtium, sweet alyssum, osteospermum, cornflag, clematis, mock orange, petunia, wood hyacinth, alpine strawberry, fava beans, and a plethora of other splendid multicolored species.

My gardener mom was right about being inclusive with garden color and watchful for the expansion of invasive vigorous vegetation. It is always good to have a guide on the side. Mother Nature will always have the final say.

I recently visited my daughter to help with her landscaping needs. When I asked her what she wanted me to plant, she responded, "Mom, you always know best!"

Suzi O'Brien

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A mother 's Gardening Guide for May from Cynthia Brian

- **WARNING!** Don't buy euphorbia esula no matter how much it captivates you, as it is not containable.
- **BUY** your mother the perfect garden gift for Mother's Day, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener," and receive a plethora of extra goodies that she'll love. Visit <http://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>
- **EMPTY** standing water from any receptacle as mosquitoes are breeding including birdbaths and animal water bowls. Check rain gutters and storm drains. Stock ponds with mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) which are free from vector control.
- **WEED** while the soil is still moist, digging up the roots. The smaller the weed, the easier it is to pull out. Don't allow the plant to go to seed.
- **REPLENSIH** mulch as it decomposes. Mulch deprives weeds and seeds from sunlight while enriching the soil. Add 3 inches to beds and keep a few inches away from tree trunks.
- **FERTILIZE** roses with alfalfa meal to add acid to the soil.
- **PREVENT** ants from protecting aphids around bushes and trees by using sticky barriers.
- **LEAVE** grass clippings on lawns to provide nutrients and don't mow when the lawn is wet.
- **VISIT** the Be the Star You Are! booth at the Moraga Faire to pick up complimentary potpourri to celebrate Mother's Day and buy raffle tickets for the opportunity to go to an A's batting practice to meet the players. <http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org/events>
- **PATROL** for invasive species and eradicate them from your yard.
- **ATTRACT** beneficial insects and pollinators to your garden by planting swaths of aster calendula, California poppy, fennel and Queen Anne's lace.
- **PREPARE** your vegetable garden. Check your local nursery to buy edibles you enjoy, specifically tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.
- **PLANT** color spots of petunia, begonia, cosmos and marigolds.

Wishing every mother a month of peace, joy, health and love. Thank you for being and knowing best!

Cynthia Brian



Bright and elegant azaleas.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Along a path, fluorescent pink ice plant sparkles.



The cover crop of flowering fava beans.



Ivy cascading from a fountain is attractive and can't spread.



Burgundy gazania mixed with vinca major.



Sky blue wood hyacinths.



Come visit Cynthia Brian at the Moraga Faire on Saturday, May 12 in the Be the Star You Are! booth.

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.

Buy a copy of the new book, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store.

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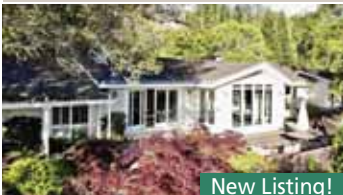
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735 Miner Road

Spacious, sun-filled home on private acre lot. Walls of windows! Charming patio & lawn. Enjoy top schools.

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15 Orinda View Road

Elegant Orinda Hills 4715 sq ft home with beautiful valley views from all rooms. An open design concept with great separation of spaces.

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LAFAYETTE



3512 S. Silver Springs Road

Fabulous home in coveted Silver Springs neighborhood. 6+ Bed/4 Bath. Perfect Indoor/Outdoor living.

\$2,750,000

ORINDA



New Listing!

18 Piedmont Avenue

Live in perfect harmony with nature in this charming 1653 SqFt farmhouse-styled home.

\$975,000

ORINDA



14 Valley Court

Stunning custom built 3950 sq.ft. home. Gorgeous 1/2 acre private knoll. Walk to Glorietta Elementary, Swim/Tennis.

\$2,595,000

MORAGA



New Listing!

830 Augusta Drive

Enjoy the good life at Moraga C.C.! 2-story plan with 2 Beds (each with en-suite bath) +Office.

\$847,500

LAFAYETTE



1982 Reliez Valley Road

Extraordinary dream home boasts 4,750 sq. ft. of spectacular living spaces on 1.12 acres, + guest house.

\$3,195,000

ORINDA



New Listing!

5 La Cresta Road

Incredible single level 2652 SqFt beauty on serene .57 acre setting. Amazing indoor-outdoor living.

\$1,325,000

ORINDA



New Price!

1 Tappan Way

Sleepy Hollow Dream Home! 5 Bed/3.5 Bath. Stunning views, grand living spaces, flexible floor plan. Top Rated Schools.

\$2,749,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing!

3519 S. Silver Springs Road

Charming Single Level Silver Springs Rancher. 4 Beds, 2 Baths, 1924 Sq Ft., .55 Acres.

\$1,549,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing!

3350 Springhill Road

Stunningly reconstructed 4052 SqFt home with grand great room & amazing outdoor living.

\$3,695,000

ORINDA



New Listing!

36 Via Floreado

A very rare gem. Incredible style in tree house setting. Includes 2-story cottage.

\$1,475,000

ORINDA



1 Hartford Road

North Orinda beauty, built in 2008, this custom 5031 sq ft/ 6 Beds/ 4.5 Baths home is situated on a secluded level 1.06 acre lot.

\$2,995,000

LAFAYETTE



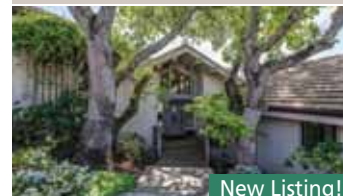
New Listing!

1015 Hoedel Court

Brand new single level family home boasts 5 Beds/4.5 Baths/3537 SqFt of spectacular open living spaces.

\$2,695,000

ALAMO



New Listing!

Oakshire Place

Stunning Contemporary with panoramic views! Custom designed & renovated to perfection.

\$1,995,000

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