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FREE



Weed abatement is needed in a big way at this Moraga property.

Photo Nick Marnell

Fire officials issue defensible space guidelines

By Nick Marnell

According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, defensible space is the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs or wildland areas that surround it. This space slows or stops the spread of wildfire and it protects your home from catching fire – either from direct flame contact or

radiant heat. Defensible space is also important for the protection of the firefighters defending your home. After the horrors of the 2017 North Bay wildfires, both Lamorinda fire agencies are pushing extra hard this year to convince residents of the importance of this fire safety measure. “Your home is your most important asset,” said Kathy

Leonard, fire marshal of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. “Not just the building, but the contents. The loss of life’s memories – you can’t put a price on that. In the North Bay, it’s all gone. The entire community – no more neighbors, churches, schools – they’re gone. It is well worth the investment of time and energy to prevent this.” ... continued on page A12

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Letters to the Editor	A10
Community Service	B4
Not to be Missed	B8-B9
HOW TO CONTACT US	B9
Classified	C2
Love Lafayette	C4

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Del Rey custodian sweeps up accolades at his own retirement party

By Cathy Dausman



“Mr. Steve” surrounded by admirers at May 24 off-site party.

Photo Cathy Dausman

With the crowd, laughter, food, games and toasts, last Thursday’s reception was fit for a rock star. As far as Del Rey Elementary students, faculty and parents past and present were concerned, it was.

His name is Steve Eydam, but to the Del Rey community he is simply known as “Mr. Steve.” Eydam started work for the Orinda Union School District in 1978 and spent two years as night custodian at Orinda Intermediate School

before coming to Del Rey. He was new to the school when Glen Fuller entered first grade. Fuller has since come full circle as a Del Rey parent, but remains devoted to his elementary friend and mentor. “He’s a pretty amazing guy,” Fuller said, explaining that Eydam learned every student’s name, built and operated the school theater technical system, and manned a legendary trick-or-treat table on school grounds for years at Halloween. ... continued on page A14

Lawyers battle over Measure L at Lafayette city council meeting

By Nick Marnell

A key tipping point for Lafayette voters on Measure L, an ordinance approving the Homes at Deer Hill development, is whether failure of the measure will automatically trigger approval of the Terraces of Lafayette Apartment Project, a 315-unit affordable housing complex, or if approval of the Terraces project would be subject to a referendum. Lawyers from both the city and Save Lafayette, a community organization favoring limited development, presented their arguments at the May 14 city council meeting, the city stating that the construction of the apartment complex could be resumed without being subject to a referendum, with Save Lafayette asserting an opposite legal interpretation.

When the city and the developer suspended the processing of the Terraces of Lafayette Apartment complex while the council considered the Homes at Deer Hill project, both parties entered into a process agreement which allowed the

developer to terminate the agreement if it so chose for a variety of reasons. Upon termination, the city could immediately resume processing the Terraces project, and according to city attorney Mala Subramanian, the city would need no new application from the developer, as the application for the apartment complex was deemed complete in 2011. Subramanian said that the only action remaining for the council is to approve the permits sought by the Terraces to complete the project, including land use, hillside development and design review permits, which are considered administrative acts and not legislative acts. “Therefore, they are not subject to referendum,” she said.

Subramanian also determined that the resumption of the Terraces complex would not require a general plan amendment or rezoning and as a result, no legislative act that is subject to a referendum is required to develop the project. ... continued on page A13

Civic News A1-A14

PG&E work on St. Mary’s Road slated to start June 7 – page A5.

Fire Districts A8

MOFD firefighters save cyclist’s life – page A8.

Life in Lamorinda B1-B10

‘Sense & Sensibility’ opens at Town Hall Theatre – page B1.



Sports C1-C3

Acalanes boys volleyball wins NCS Championship – page C1.



Our Homes D1-D16

How to grow your own backyard bounty – page D1.





Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, June 11, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, June 4, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, June 11, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, June 6, 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

City of Lafayette:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

Measure L Debate

Did you miss it? You can read the pros and cons on Measure L provided by 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) in the Lamorida Weekly archives at <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1205/Deer-Hill-Road-Pros-and-cons-of-Measure-L-debated.html>.

Lafayette officials speak out on state and regional initiatives

By Nick Marnell

A spate of ballot measures and proposed state legislation came to the Lafayette council members for endorsement at the May 14 city council meeting, but the bills received mixed reviews from the city officials.

A resolution on Senate Bill 3, a \$4 billion bond to fund affordable housing programs and the veterans' homeownership program, was continued by the council, as was action on the Tax Fairness, Transparency and Accountability Act, an initiative that requires a two-thirds vote for all locally imposed tax increases. The League of California Cities, a political advocacy group in Sacramento, requested that the council oppose the initiative. "We are among the most highly taxed population in the country. How can we oppose a measure that is trying to improve tax fairness and accountability?" asked Vice Mayor Cam Burks, and the council declined to act without more information.

"There are other ways for state money to be used," said Council Member Ivor Samson in reaction to Proposition 68, which would authorize \$4 billion in general obligation bonds for state and local parks, environmental protection and flood restoration projects. Officials agreed that little of the money would flow back to the city, but, "If we don't pass the item, we will

not be able to get any of the grant money," Council Member Mike Anderson said. The council authorized the mayor to sign a resolution supporting the measure, which Samson opposed.

Proposition 69 would require that revenue from the 2017 state gasoline tax, including diesel excise taxes and vehicle registration fees, be dedicated for transportation-related purposes. "Now, we have the absurd situation of a proposed Constitutional amendment to require the tax revenues to be spent only on that which was originally intended? I think this is ludicrous," Samson said. All but Samson supported the proposition.

A state assembly bill that would allow BART to permit housing development on property it owns, with cities having two years to update their zoning laws to accommodate the development, received zero support from the council. "No one is enthusiastic about the bill as written," Mayor Don Tatzin said, and the council unanimously slammed the door on an endorsement of AB 2923.

Regional Measure 3 elicited the most robust dialog. Passage would raise bridge tolls in the Bay Area — excluding tolls for the Golden Gate Bridge — by \$3 over six years to fund the Bay Area Traffic Relief Plan, which includes \$4.5 billion of transportation projects with the

goal of not only relieving traffic but enhancing public transit. Tatzin said that funding would pay for more BART trains and Interstate 680 enhancements, and he and Anderson supported the measure.

According to the expenditure plan, a high percentage of bridge

tolls are paid by Alameda and Contra Costa County residents, but those counties would receive less than their proportional share of the revenue. "The distribution of revenue is inequitable to the East Bay, and coming on top of last year's gas tax increase, it's the

wrong thing to do," Samson said, and Burks agreed.

The council took no position on the measure as Council Member Mark Mitchell said, "Let the voters make their choice."

Voters will have the opportunity to make that choice on June 5.

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Decongestion ahead for major Lafayette intersection

By Nick Marnell



Traffic crawls along Moraga Road before the intersection with Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Photo Nick Marnell

Drivers planning to turn right onto Mt. Diablo Boulevard from Moraga Road will soon have an added option as the Lafayette City Council unanimously authorized the temporary addition of a second northbound, right-turn lane at the intersection. The pilot project, part of the Lafayette Downtown Congestion Reduction Plan, will commence in August and run for 90 days.

According to a city staff report, approximately 200 feet prior to reaching Mt. Diablo Boulevard on the northbound approach, Moraga Road expands from two to three lanes. Each of the three lanes in-

dicates permissible movements of either left turn only, left turn and through, or right turn only. The city will modify the center lane marking by adding a permissible right turn arrow.

The program will also affect the Mt. Diablo Boulevard and First Street intersection. To discourage drivers from weaving between the eastbound lanes of Mt. Diablo Boulevard as they head toward Highway 24, the city will modify half of the existing solid-striped eastbound turn lanes with a broken line, allowing adequate space for freeway-bound drivers to merge from the two right-turn lanes at

Moraga Road. A similar traffic pattern exists at the off-ramp of Interstate 680 onto Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek, where drivers navigate two right-turn lanes in order to make a left turn onto California Boulevard a short distance ahead.

For pedestrians, crossing Mt. Diablo Boulevard at the eastern side of the Moraga Road intersection will be prohibited during the 90-day project.

The May 14 presentation by James Hinkamp, city transportation planner, answered most of the questions of the council members, except for options available for

pedestrians who regularly use the intersection. "How many of them are there, and what happens to their travel time?" asked Mayor Don Tatzin, who stressed that the needs of pedestrians should not be ignored while the city institutes projects that shorten vehicle driving times. Information on pedestrian behavior will be accumulated during the program, Hinkamp said.

Because of the PG&E closure of St. Mary's Road in Lafayette over the summer, likely resulting in added pressure on Moraga Road into the city, the council urged Hinkamp to start the project in June or July, if at all possible.

"It depends on the availability of signal technology," Hinkamp said later. The city needs to acquire controller cabinets — the brains of the system — and an overhead video detection system, which times the traffic signals and collects traffic-count data. And Hinkamp would have to find an available contractor to install the equipment.

"If we can lock in an order and receive all the equipment by June or July, we'll be able to start the project earlier," Hinkamp said. He estimated the program will cost \$75,000, paid for through the state Traffic Congestion and Relief Fund and Contra Costa County Measure J.



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Rock the Plaza back again Fridays in June

By Pippa Fisher



dr D band, Premier Funk, R&B and Rock

Photo provided

The Lafayette Plaza Park comes alive every Friday evening in June each year as the Rock the Plaza series of family-friendly, live-music concerts gets the community hopping.

This year is no exception as the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce once again brings a great lineup of bands, with the first one – the rock, funk, blues dr D Band – Friday, June 1.

On June 8 the park will rock to the sounds of SONA and on June 15 the Tom Petty tribute band, The Big Jangle, will be keeping folks

entertained.

Described as a “punked out Monkees band,” the Trouble with Monkeys will be doing their thing on June 22.

As in previous years, the final Friday in June is reserved for the area’s own local youth talents as the Lamorinda Idol finalists take the stage.

All concerts are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and residents are encouraged to bring a picnic or buy dinner from any of the many local restaurants and enjoy the free music in the plaza.

Fire chief supports pipeline access, mum on Lafayette tree removal

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District chief is all in favor of clear access to natural gas pipelines in Lafayette, but he stopped short of endorsing the PG&E tree-removal program in the city.

PG&E held an open house May 9 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center to explain its plan to remove hundreds of trees that lie atop natural gas pipelines in the city. The tree removal is part of the utility’s \$500 million Community Pipeline Safety Initiative aimed at clearing trees, brush and structures so that first responders can quickly access gas transmission lines during an emergency or a natural disaster.

A company placard displayed at the open house included a comment from ConFire Chief Jeff Carman. “In order to respond effectively to pipeline emergencies we need to be able to access them. PG&E’s Community Pipeline Safety Initiative assures that emergency responders will always be able to get to the emergency when needed,” Carman was quoted on the placard.

Gina Dawson of community organization Save Lafayette Trees, who calls the tree-removal project “unregulated, discreditable and discretionary,” questioned whether the utility had misstated Carman’s position by implying that he supported the

tree removal. “The picture includes a quote that may or may not be correct in representation of your statements to PG&E, but nevertheless, it was prominently displayed at this PG&E community outreach event,” Dawson wrote in a letter to the chief.

Carman confirmed that his words on the placard were correct, but he cautioned Dawson not to confuse his statement with an endorsement of PG&E’s tree-removal program. “I simply support the initiative to provide first responders access to pipelines. The way PG&E is implementing their program is outside of my expertise,” the chief replied to Dawson.

The chief elaborated on his position in a message to Lafayette residents. “I recognize the hazards posed by underground pipelines regardless of who the pipeline operator is. Pipeline ruptures usually occur suddenly with very little, if any, advanced notice so any initiative that ensures access to those pipelines I am supportive of. That being said, if PG&E or any operator is doing something wrong, illegal or immoral under the guise of ‘pipeline access’ I would not be in favor of that,” Carman said.

The timing of the Lafayette tree-removal program is under review, according to PG&E spokesman Jeff Smith. (See sidebar.)

Burks calls for PG&E-city council summit

Frustration with the responses from PG&E spurred Vice Mayor Cam Burks to call for a public hearing with the utility, together with representatives of the California Public Utilities Commission, to take place at a Lafayette City Council meeting. Burks said he wants direct answers to simple questions: How safe is the pipeline infrastructure in the city right now, and what is PG&E doing to mitigate the risks?

“Over the past year, our engagement with PG&E has been overwhelmingly lacking in clarity, consistency and professionalism,” Burks said. “I expect a lot more from our public utility.” He cited unclear answers the utility has provided in response to the safety of the city pipelines, the St. Mary’s Road closure and general questions from the public, including details of the tree-removal program.

Council Member Mike Anderson offered to work with the vice mayor to put together the format for the public hearing. “We need facts and we need answers,” Burks said. “We need to feel that our town is as safe as it can be.”

“There have been many opportunities for the public to ask questions and for PG&E to respond, though there may be a difference of opinion on the answers,” company spokesman Jeff Smith said. “We are looking into the implication of this city council discussion and what impact it may have on the timing of our Lafayette tree-removal program.”



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- 108 FAIRFIELD PLACE • 108 WALFORD DRIVE • 1080 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE • 1086 BAIX DRIVE • 1090 LARCH AVENUE • 1092 MAYWOOD LANE
- 1099 SANDERS DRIVE • 11 KETELSEN COURT • 11 SAGE COURT • 111 ARDITH DRIVE • 1116 OAKMONT DRIVE • 1124 LARCH AVENUE
- 1124 SANDERS DRIVE • 115 FIRESTONE DRIVE • 1160 LARCH AVENUE • 1161 ALTA MESA • 1164 LARCH AVENUE • 1180 CEDARWOOD DRIVE
- 120 VIA JOAQUIN • 1203 RIMER DRIVE • 1204 LARCH AVENUE • 1217 RIMER DRIVE • 1218 RIMER DRIVE • 122 FAIRFIELD PLACE • 1223 LARCH AVENUE
- 1224 RIMER DRIVE • 1229 RIMER DRIVE • 1235 LARCH AVENUE • 1236 RIMER DRIVE • 1248 LARCH AVENUE • 1295 RIMER DRIVE • 13 DONALD DRIVE
- 132 WHITETHORNE DRIVE • 133 SHUEY DRIVE • 133 WESTCHESTER STREET • 1348 NAVELLIER • 139 PASEO DEL RIO • 140 OXFORD DRIVE
- 1403 CAMINO PERAL • 1405 CAMINO PERAL • 1411 CAMINO PERAL • 1416 CAMINO PERAL • 1418 CAMINO PERAL • 1426 DE LA CRUZ
- 1437 CAMINO PERAL • 1475 CAMINO PERAL • 149 WALFORD DRIVE • 15 BRECK COURT • 1522 RISHELL DRIVE • 156 MIRAMONTE DRIVE
- 15804 CAMBRIDGE • 16 SARAH LANE • 160 SELBORNE WAY • 160 VIA JOAQUIN • 1623 CAMINO PABLO • 1602 RANCHO VIEW • 1715 139TH STREET
- 1729 RELIEZ VALLEY • 1798 ST. ANDREWS DRIVE • 1843 JOSEPH DRIVE • 1891 APOLLO COURT • 19021 SHUESTER • 1919 YGNACIO VALLEY
- 2 AGHALLEE • 2 DONALD PLACE • 2 SPARROW COURT • 20 BUCKINGHAM DRIVE • 20 JUNIPER WAY • 20 ROSS DRIVE • 200 RIO GRANDE COURT
- 201 MIRAMONTE DRIVE • 201 TUMBLEWEED • 21 BROOKWOOD ROAD • 210 CARMEL • 2145 DONALD DRIVE • 2145 DONALD DRIVE
- 2211 TICE VALLEY BOULEVARD • 2220 LOCH LANE • 2268 PEPPER DRIVE • 2277 STAR AVENUE • 235 SANDRINGHAM NORTH
- 238 SANDRINGHAM SOUTH • 24 CARR DRIVE • 24 FREITAS DRIVE • 257 SANDRINGHAM SOUTH • 258 LAKEFIELD PLACE • 268 BIRCHWOOD DRIVE
- 279 THARP DRIVE • 28 SARAH LANE • 295 CALLE LA MESA • 2971 CONSUELO ROAD • 3 BUENA VISTA • 3 ROBERTS COURT • 3 WANDEL DRIVE
- 3 WOODFORD DRIVE • 30 ROSS DRIVE • 3044 SHETLAND DRIVE • 309 CORTE GABRIEL • 31 COLORADO • 324 HOLIDAY HILLS • 325 BEACON RIDGE
- 34 ARDILLA • 35 BAYLOR LANE • 354 BIRCHWOOD DRIVE • 3545 BOYER CIRCLE • 3569 BADDING ROAD • 358 EL TOYONAL • 3628 BICKERSTAFF
- 367 DEERFIELD DRIVE • 376 MULLER ROAD • 386 ODIN • 39 BUCKINGHAM DRIVE • 390 BIRCHWOOD DRIVE • 392 SPRINGFIELD PLACE
- 398 BIRCHWOOD DRIVE • 4 SPARROW COURT • 4 WANDEL DRIVE • 401 BIRCHWOOD DRIVE • 407 LAVA COURT • 41 MERRILL CIRCLE SOUTH
- 42 FIELDBROOK PLACE • 42 LA ENCINAL • 4255 WILSON LANE • 428 ZINFANDEL CIRCLE • 4416 PAMPAS CIRCLE • 45 VIA FARALLON
- 459 FERNWOOD DRIVE • 46 SARAH LANE • 480 MISSION BAY • 495 EAGLE VALLEY WAY • 5 FIELDBROOK PLACE • 51 CAMINO ENCINAS
- 5180 CAMINO ALTA • 52 SHAST COURT V 529 OAKSHIRE PLACE • 540 LAURA ANN COURT • 544 WOODMINSTER DRIVE • 6 LARCH LANE
- 6 TANGLEWOOD LANE • 611 AUGUSTA DRIVE • 63 WARFIELD DRIVE • 6373 ARMS LAKE ROAD • 650 SKY HY COURT • 6630 ARMOUR • 67 LA CRESTA
- 679 MORAGA ROAD • 7 EL CAMINO FLORES • 70 SHUEY DRIVE • 740 CANYON OAKS • 75 SANDERS RANCH DRIVE • 78 SLEEPY HOLLOW
- 8 LOUISE COURT • 8 PIMENTEL COURT • 8 SAGER COURT • 83 MARIE PLACE • 830 AUGUSTA DRIVE • 89 SHUEY DRIVE • 895 STONEGATE CIRCLE
- 9 FLEUTTI DRIVE • 9 LISA LANE • 938 MOHR LANE • 955 ROSEHEDGE COURT • 96 MIRAMONTE DRIVE • 0 GRUND LANE (LOT)

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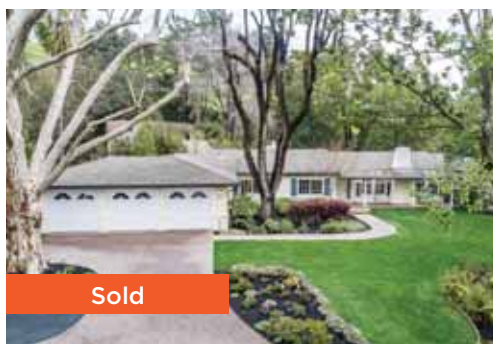


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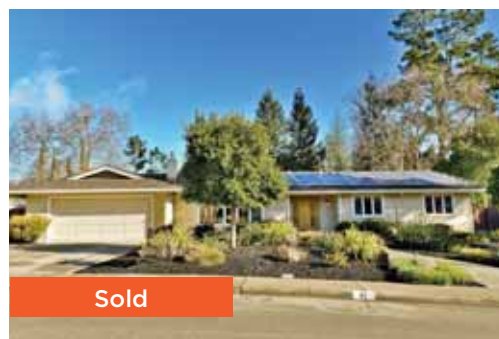
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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, June 13, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, June 4, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, June 11, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Tuesday, June 5, 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:

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Phone: (925) 888-7022

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Moraga Citizens' Network:

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Moraga

Police Department Incident Summary Report May 8 to May 20



Alarms	13
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	2
Traffic	31
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	6
Service to Citizen	34
Patrol Request/ Security Check	33
Vacation House Check	11
Supplemental Report	21
Welfare Check	3
Abandoned Vehicle	
1300 Block Camino Peral	
Accident Injury	
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.	
Accident Property	
Camino Ricardo/Hardie Dr.	
Battery Domestic Misd	
Not Available	
Beat Info	
Donald Dr./Laird Dr.	
Civil	
Rear Rheem Center	
Police Department	
Civil Disturbance	
10 Block Thune Ave.	
Civil Standby	
1800 Block Ascot Dr.	
Corporal Injury Spouse	
Not Available	
Dependent Adult Abuse	
900 Block Country Club Dr.	
300 Block Rheem Blvd.	
Disturbance-Domestic	
Safeway	
Disturbing The Peace	
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way	
Dui Misd	
Moraga Country Club	
Excessive Speed	
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.	
Alta Mesa Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	
Fire/Ems Response Info	
200 Block Corliss Dr.	
Found Adult	
700 Block Country Club Dr.	
Found Property	
Police Department (2)	
1000 Block Wickham Dr.	
Identity Theft	
100 Block Greenbriar	
Litter	
100 Block Natalie Dr.	
Lost Property	
No House Number	
Loud Noise	
Corte Marin/Camino Pablo	
Loud Party	
Not Available	
Medical Hospital	
900 Block Bollinger Canyon Rd.	
Mentally Ill Commit	
St. Marys College (3)	
Not Available	
Unknown Location	
Mentally Ill Violent	
900 Block Country Club Dr.	
Motorist Assist	
Canyon/Camino Pablo	
Neighbor Dispute	
1000 Block Sanders Dr.	



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Town officials search for alternate sources of storm drain funding

By Sophie Braccini

During its May 23 meeting the Moraga Town Council and staff expressed their disappointment over the results of the storm drain fee measure that was brought for a vote by property owners in April/May. The measure failed by 137 votes. Nearly 60 percent of property owners returned their ballots; 48 percent voted yes, and 52 percent no.

Each council member drew somewhat different conclusions from the measure's failure, but all agreed that the coming budget should take the results into account and that they should find new ways to fund at least some of the maintenance and the legal mandate per-

taining to the storm drain system. It is likely that addressing the millions of dollars in delayed maintenance will have to wait.

Edric Kwan, Moraga's public works director who has worked for years on a storm drain master plan and was an enthusiast proponent of finding a way to finance the old and at-risk storm drain system, noted that taking care of the town's infrastructure remained a very high priority item and that he and his team would look at alternatives to protect the town from future infrastructure failure.

When the fee was proposed, Kwan explained that the money would be allocated to three categories:

a maintenance budget to prolong the life of the storm drains that are aging but are not too damaged; a second portion to finance the state unfunded mandate to eliminate all pollution in the storm drain system; and, most importantly, money to address the high-priority storm drain areas that were identified most in need of repair three years ago using televised exploration and ground inspection. Without a fee in place, the town has to find the money to at least maintain the existing network and fulfill its clean water mandate.

Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg asked the council if it would consider putting a different funding

measure on the November ballot. None of the four present council members thought it was a good idea. All however agreed to direct the manager, as her team works on the 2018-19 budget, to identify ways to provide funds for the storm drains.

Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda and council members Jeanette Fritzky and Kymberleigh Korpus asked that staff focus from now on only on projects that are essential to the functioning of the town. Mayor David Trotter asked that if more property tax revenue is collected, a large portion be designated for infrastructure.

... continued on page A14

Police charm offensive: Boba with a badge

By Sophie Braccini



Jon King, left, engages with residents at I-Tea Moraga Photo Sophie Braccini

The Moraga police department continues its outreach as a community-based policing service by mingling with residents at favorite hangout places around town. The latest, at I-Tea Moraga, called Boba with a Badge, was well received and allowed the officers to reach out to different demographics.

I-Tea Moraga is part of a small local chain of boba tea restaurants that serve the hot and cold flavored tea-latte concoctions complemented with tapioca pearls that are sucked through a large straw. The popular Moraga location is patronized by young residents and their parents as well as college students. Some of the usual customers

others reached for the local drinks that the cops were offering and started engaging with the officers.

Moraga Police Chief Jon King says that the idea is to hold these types of public gatherings several times a year, in different coffee shops in town, preferably locally-owned, to support the local economy while enhancing the connection between the population and its police. Lt. Brian South, the second in command in Moraga, adds that it is important to create that contact and familiarity with the officers. He adds with a smile that there are no guarantees of leniency for residents who are stopped for speeding, even if they have shared boba tea with an officer who cites them.

I-Tea Moraga definitely has a different vibe than other more traditional coffee places in Mor-

aga. The boba tea served there is not everyone's ... cup of tea, and some residents that had come to ask questions of the officers were discovering the place for the first time. They tried the sweet drinks with circumspection at first, but none left a drop or a boba at the bottom of the cups.

The questions asked of the officers were of all types from how much above the speed limit is the threshold police use before stopping people or how to engage a green left turn arrow when riding a bicycle or a motorbike. Serious topics were also discussed such as what safety precautions to take in a garage in light of recent house fires that started at night in that part of a residence.

King said that next time he might take his team to Moraga Town Bakery or Starbucks.

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The home's seamless floor plan enhances its inviting indoor/outdoor feel. Entering the home, you find yourself greeted by a grand foyer and staircase, cathedral ceilings and a chandelier. Main floor additional features include: living room with fireplace, large windows and access to back side patio. Formal dining room with hardwood floors. Spacious family room with fireplace and doors to backyard. Eat-in kitchen, center island, and a breakfast nook. The upper story master bedroom suite includes its own fireplace and balcony overlooking the backyard. In addition, there are three secondary bedrooms and an office. Main floor with secondary bedroom and office. Three-car garage. Upper floor additional features include: master suite, two additional bedrooms; one of which has a spiral staircase leading to a secluded loft for use as a play area or office.



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Two local groups look to revitalize Moraga from the ground up

By Sophie Braccini



Teresa Onoda addresses the We Will women.

One might call it serendipity, others a convergence of perception. Two groups have recently taken off in Moraga with different strategies, but a common goal: the revitalization of Moraga. “We Will” started as a women-led movement to purchase sculptures to beautify the town, while Viva Moraga was created to advocate for economic, community, and commercial development. In a town where divisiveness has been flourishing, these two groups declare and practice a positive and constructive attitude.

On May 18 both parties met in different parts of town for two different events. Viva Moraga organized its first “Moraga Flash” at Tangelo in the Rheem Shopping

Center, a spontaneous gathering at a local business to show support. While this was going on, approximately 30 women from We Will gathered in the Bluffs to discuss buying the orange bench on lease by the artist in front of the library. The discussion quickly moved to other topics, intersecting with what Viva Moraga wants to achieve.

Amy Schofield, who is on Viva Moraga’s steering committee, says that the group plans to hold a flash Moraga event at a different business location every month all summer long.

People there discussed the coming of the microbrewery at the intersection of Canyon and School Street with Chamber of Commerce

Executive Director Kathe Nelson, and rejoiced about the opening of a new nail salon. “It is all about being positive,” said Maura Wolf, one of the Viva Moraga founders. She went to describe the three goals of the flash gatherings: to build a sense of community; to support the local business they are excited about, such as Tangelo; and to update people on the town’s upcoming planning activities. Louis Kao the owner of the future Noodle Theory in Moraga was there to answer questions about his future menu (see his story on page A12).

On the side of the plaza, Wolf tied a long string for people to attach colorful pieces of paper listing their wishes for Moraga. The

Photo Sophie Braccini

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thoughts were wide-ranging in style and scope. One read: “A place to creatively collaborate with solo-entrepreneurs.” Others said, “More things for kids,” “No car driving during after-school time,” “More fast food joints,” and “Better public transportation.”

This is where the two groups converged, gathering similar desires and energies coming from residents from all walks of life.

In the private home in the Bluffs, the women came at the invitation of Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda, Cherie Grant, Darlene Bennett and Kristin Kurth-Koelzer. Onoda started talking to the group about the positive, fun women in Moraga who want to make the town a better place to live, love and be happy. “We are embracing the arts and hope to buy the orange bench at the library, not to take a stand but to have a seat at the table, and to have others sit with us,” she said.

The women started listing what Moraga means to them on a board that had been prepared to take notes, and what they would want for the future, discussing topics

way beyond the arts.

Different generations of women were present and their desires for the town reflected it. Referring to Manteca, some suggested creating recreation facilities in Moraga that would attract patrons from the region. When Onoda noted that there was not much flat vacant land in Moraga, one of the bold women did not hesitate to propose flattening one of the shopping centers and transforming the land use completely.

Ideas of creating an incubator for Saint Mary’s students were shared along with a general desire to make Moraga more of a college town.

Since We Will wants to move quickly into action, the women decided to establish a wish list and start making it happen. Several members of Viva Moraga are also engaged in We Will. People interested in following that group’s activities should contact Cherie Grant at grant.cherie@gmail.com. The best way to follow Viva Moraga is to join its Facebook page.

Town approves Hacienda lease agreement with La Finestra owner

By Sophie Braccini

The foretold opening of a new La Finestra at the Hacienda de las Flores has garnered large support of elected officials, staff, and residents alike. At its May 23 meeting the Moraga Town Council approved a five-year lease agreement with two five-year renewal options. Due to previously booked events, the new restaurant will not open until Dec. 1 of this year.

Moraga Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg stated that the town’s first objective with this agreement was to activate the public park. The Hacienda de las Flores is a 9-acre public property that includes the main mansion, the Casita and La Sala that are smaller one-level structures, and large grounds where the Pavilion

is located, another elegant architectural piece where wedding ceremonies are often held. With the main past activity being weddings, the public space was often closed to the public on weekends, and only a few recreation classes were held during the week. The manager views the private-public partnership as a way to increase public interaction with the space.

Council Member Kymberleigh Korpus wanted to know if Battenberg was qualified to negotiate that lease. Battenberg talked about her past experience with the city of San Leandro where she negotiated several such agreements with restaurants. She added that she had also asked Main Street Properties founder Craig Semmelmeier to compare the

Hacienda lease terms with what is done in Lamorinda and got a positive opinion from the experienced commercial real estate professional. Resident Barry Behr said that he had questions about the lease that the town manager answered. He added that he asked several professionals in the same field about the lease terms and was told that the lease was a fair deal for the town and the restaurant.

Besides the rent, La Finestra will pay to the town 5 percent of net restaurant sales above \$100,000 and 10 percent of the net sales from catering events. La Finestra will be the sole preferred caterer of events held on the property.

Parks and Recreation Director

Breyana Brent indicated that of the 75 events, which are mostly weddings hosted on the property, most could be moved to the Pavilion. The town would lose revenue from about 10 events a year. The projections made by her department show a net increase in revenue for the town of about \$86,000 that will reduce the current \$252,000 annual cost of the park for the town.

Moraga has agreed to give Assadi a tenant improvement allowance of \$60,000, an amount that all parties agreed is below what is usually required of property owners. Assadi will invest in the Hacienda, most notably to update the kitchen to commercial and regulatory standards.

Battenberg also listed invest-

ments that would be needed to reposition the Hacienda: upgrade the Casita to be able to hold classes there, improve the parking lot, add way finding signs and a gas insert in the Pavilion fireplace for charm effect. The total was estimated at \$181,000.

Hollie Lucas-Alcalay, president of the Hacienda Foundation, indicated after the meeting that the group was aware of the situation and had discussed supporting some of these projects. She said that the foundation considered the upgrades to be in line with its mission statement and that her group had discussed the Casita and Pavilion projects. The Hacienda Foundation draws revenues from private donations as well as events held at the Hacienda.

Rheem Theatre slated to reopen June 14

By Sophie Braccini



Derek Zemrak and Tom Schnurr, president of the Moraga Community Foundation, sign a management agreement for the Rheem Theatre. Photo A. Scheck

Derek Zemrak and Tom Schnurr signed an agreement on Saturday, May 26 for the management of the Rheem Theatre in Moraga. Zemrak represents Zemrak Pirkle Productions, which used to manage the theater

before it closed six months ago, and Schnurr is the president of the Moraga Community Foundation that is leasing the property from owner Mahesh Puri.

Zemrak explained that Puri and representatives of the foun-

ation and his company met at Cine Cuvée in Orinda to discuss the details of the agreement. In March the town of Moraga signed a memorandum of understanding with Puri stating that he would sell the theater to the foundation for \$150,000 as he develops the vacant lot next to the theater. Prior to the completion of the sale, Puri also agreed to lease the property for \$5,000 a month for two years.

As he stepped into the theater where he had not set foot since last January Zemrak was happy at the prospect of reopening. He and Pirkle also own the Orinda Theatre and he said that their contacts with the film production studios are ongoing, mean-

ing movies will be scheduled as soon as everything at the Rheem is cleaned up and inspected. Zemrak says that June and July are big months for family entertainment and he wants to open the bottom large theater as soon as possible. Next Saturday, June 2 will be a cleanup day where everyone is invited to come and support the local venue. Community support will be the key to the success of the agreements.

Pirkle said he was also excited to be working with the MCF in an effort to reopen the Rheem Theatre on June 14. The two partners say that the interim arrangement will allow theatergoers to once again walk through the front doors and infuse positive energy

into the Art Deco theater. “We all hope for the eventual long-term solution that will see the beloved theater remain a vibrant and integral asset to the Moraga community for many years and generations to come,” they said.

Schnurr expressed his satisfaction at the signing of the management agreement. MCF’s mission is to support community assets such as the theater. He said that the MOU made the reopening possible, and he was pleased the team of Zemrak and Pirkle came back with the know-how, the community ties and hopefully the California Independent Film Festival in the fall.



Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, June 12, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 12, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

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

School Board Meetings

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

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

May 6 to May 19

- Alarms** 74
- 911 Calls (includes hang-ups)** 3
- Traffic** 121
- Suspicious Circumstances** 6
- Suspicious Subjects** 13
- Suspicious Vehicles** 19
- Patrol Request/ Security Check** 21
- Service to Citizen** 49
- Supplemental Report** 6
- Vacation House Check** 17
- Welfare Check** 9
- Auto Burglary**
200 Block Camino Sobrante
- Barking Dog**
60 Block La Espiral
- Battery**
10 Block Albo Ct.
- Beat Info**
20 Block El Toyonal
Wb Sr 24 At Camino Pablo
- Civil**
30 Block Zander Dr.
10 Block Ranch Rd.
- Death Non Criminal**
20 Block Silverwood Ct.
100 Block Overhill Rd.
- Disturbing The Peace**
Camino Pablo/Moraga Way
Moraga Way/Brookside Rd.
Orchard Rd./Valley Dr.
20 Block Heather Ln.
- Failure to Obey**
Brookwood Rd./Camino Pablo
- Forgery**
Citibank
- Found Property**
20 Block Heather Ln.
- Hailed by Citizen**
4400 Block El Nido Ranch Rd.
- Identity Theft**
Police Department
- Loud Music**
Brookside Rd./Orchard Rd.
60 Block La Espiral
Moraga Way/Brookwood Rd.
- Loud Party**
200 Block Glorietta Blvd.
Donald Dr./Hall Dr. (2)
10 Block Calvin Ct.
- Medical Hospital**
10 Block Altarinda Rd.
Safeway
200 Block Moraga Way
- Motorist Assist**
Wilder Rd.
- Occupied Stalled Vehicle**
Del Rey School
- Ordinance Violation**
400 Block El Toyonal
Gardiner Ct./Miner Rd.
- Petty Theft**
Rite Aid
20 Block Watchwood Ct.
- Pimping**
20 Block Orinda Way
- Public Assembly Check**
Miramonte High School
10 Block Camino Sobrante
20 Block Orinda Way
Miramonte High School
- Public Nuisance**
Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante
Northwood Dr./Southwood Dr.
- Reckless Driving**
Wildcat Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo



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Orinda begins emergency evacuation planning for senior and special needs citizens

By Sora O'Doherty

In an emergency such as the North Bay fires last year, there are always people who require assistance with evacuations. Recognizing this, the Orinda Police Department is trying to maintain a list of folks who would need support so that emergency services can quickly find them

without the need for a call-in during an emergency. The OPD is encouraging people with medical disabilities or transportation needs to register. By filling out a form and mailing it to the department, residents will be added to Orinda's confidential database of seniors and people who may

require evacuation and shelter assistance during an emergency.

Those who register will be asked to keep their information current and to update it annually; information not updated will be removed from the database. Personal information will be kept confidential in accordance with

state and federal law, and will be maintained by the Orinda Police Department. Data will only be used by emergency personnel during preparedness planning and evacuations. A separate form is required for each individual requesting evacuation registration.

... continued on page A11

Centenarians rule three-quarter century lunch

By Sora O'Doherty



John Fazel crowns Queen Elva Rust, who celebrated her 100th birthday on April 1. Photos Sora O'Doherty

Brad Davis, a volunteer member of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, was the baby of the year at the 19th annual Three-Quarter Century Luncheon on May 16 at the Orinda Community Church. While at 75, he was the youngest of the 90 attendees, the king and queen were 101 and 100 respectively. There was almost a tie for longest married couple: Joe and June Haughin beat another couple by just one month; both couples having been married for 66 years.

The event, the creation of John Fazel of Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate, was co-hosted by the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary and the Orinda Community Church. Fazel was the master of ceremonies,

- Moraga Way/Orchard Rd.
- St Stephens Dr./Eb Sr 24
- Moraga Way/Brookside Rd.
- Camino Pablo/Bear Creek Rd.
- Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr.
- Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.
- Camino Pablo/Orinda Way
- Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.
- San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek Rd.

Residential Burglary

- 60 Block Oak Rd.
- School Assembly Check**
700 Block Moraga Way
Miramonte High School (2)
Wagner Ranch Elementary School

Tc - Property Damage

- 100 Block Moraga Way

Traffic Hazard

- 100 Block Rheem Blvd.
- 40 Block Bobolink Rd.
- Camino Pablo/Ardilla Rd.
- Rheem Blvd./Glorietta Blvd.

Transportation

- Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.

Trespass

- Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante

Unwanted Guest

- Rite Aid

Verbal Dispute

- 10 Block Altarinda Rd.
- 20 Block Kenmore Ct.

Walk Through

- Theatre Square (2)
- 10 Block Camino Sobrante



King George Jedenoff, 101 years old, speaks to the crowd.

ditching last year's "summer of love" costume for elegant white tie attire. Another attendee who was also at the first Three-Quarter Century Lunch as mayor 19 years ago was Orinda Mayor Amy Worth, who was delighted to chat with fellow motorcycle riders, Wayne and Katalin Phillips. Worth noted that May is designated as Older Americans Month. Wayne Phillips was responsible for the successful campaign for motorcycle parking spaces in Orinda, which he continues to enjoy using. Katalin worked for 30 years at UC Berkeley in the electrical engineering lab making integrated circuits. Wayne was a chemist for Standard Oil but made his real money, he said, in his company selling laboratory supplies. He commuted to Livermore on his motorcycle, and always found a parking place.

The oldest man present, George Jedenoff at 101 years of age, was crowned king. His wife died two years ago at age 95. While she was ill, he limited himself to only five

days of skiing annually. Jedenoff loves skiing, which he took up at the age of 43. Last year he skied on his 100th birthday, and the video of the event became a YouTube phenomenon. "You don't have to be good to be famous," Jedenoff concluded, "you just have to live long enough."

Queen Elva Rust celebrated her 100th birthday on April 1. Her daughter, Barbara Ward, threw her a garden party for 65 guests the evening before. Ward lives just five houses away from her mother. Rust married in 1946 and moved to Orinda from Oakland in 1950, and she and her husband built the house where they raised their children. An avid hiker in her younger years, Rust and her brother climbed Mt. Whitney around 1948. At 14,505 feet, the mountain is the highest summit in the contiguous United States. "It wasn't that hard," Rust remembered. They camped three-quarters of the way up, taking two days to complete the climb.

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OUSD approves water tanks for Wagner Ranch, Sleepy Hollow

By Sora O'Doherty

It is a big ask, acknowledges Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker, but he is out to convince parents of students at Wagner Ranch and Sleepy Hollow elementary schools to leave their children at school in the event of a sudden wildfire. The two schools are unique populations that are unable to self evacuate, with the largest populations and greatest exposure to risk, such as exposure to the open spaces in the Briones watershed. The fire district always recommends early evacuation when possible, but in the event of a rapidly advancing wild fire, evacuation may not be the better choice. The other choice is to shelter in place, and that option is made much more viable with a fire engine on site and an available water supply.

lon tank with a 15-foot diameter and 11-foot 3-inch height at each site. The total cost for both tanks is approximately \$39,000. Each tank will also require that the district's contractor pour a concrete pad to anchor each tank. The cost for the pads is estimated to be \$4,000 per site. According to Stuart House, OUSD director of facilities maintenance and operations, bids are now being considered for the installation of the pads. House expects that the pads and the tanks will be fully installed during July, ready for the upcoming school year. The board accepted staff's recommendation to fund the purchase of the tanks with Fund 40 money, a fund of money from the Pine Grove development reserved for school facilities.

Winnacker says that if school is in session, there is no higher priority than protecting the students. Because of the location of Wagner Ranch and Sleepy Hollow, he said, there could be a fire that is so fast moving or that starts so close to the schools that evacuation would be more risky than sheltering in place. A fire engine at the school would focus on keeping one building safe. The aim would not be to put the fire out, but to protect the building and the people until the fire moves past the school. Winnacker compared it to building a sand castle at the beach. If you build up a wall to keep the waves from destroying your castle, you are redirecting the waves around it. Having students and staff in a single building minimizes the area the fire department has to protect. The firefighters would redirect the fire away from that building, protecting it as the fire continued to burn until it has passed by.

On May 14 the Orinda Union School District board approved the purchase of two 9,500 gallon galvanized water tanks to be installed at Wagner Ranch and Sleepy Hollow. The tanks will be filled by a water tender truck and checked annually. The tanks will, according to Winnacker, create a reliable and accessible water supply that won't be impacted by anything else. He explained that East Bay Municipal Utility District reservoirs are tanks located around Orinda, fed by pumps that move water from the low-lying lake reservoirs into the tanks. The pumps are electric, and PG&E has recently announced plans to cut electricity during some wild fire events. That, coupled with some insufficient pipes, could create water shortages to fight wild fires. The tanks installed at the elementary schools would avoid any impact from the electrical and pumping systems.

The proposal accepted by OUSD is from Tanks for Less, out of Austin, Texas. The proposal provides for a 9,592-gal-

At some point in the future, Winnacker hopes to offer a demonstration at the schools to convince parents that their children will be safer sheltering in place.

Social host law amended to include cannabis

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda was an early adopter of an amendment to the city's "social host" law to include underage consumption of cannabis, in addition to the existing prohibition on underage alcohol use, among the prohibited substances at loud or unruly parties. On May 14, the city council passed Ordinance 18-08, with the intention of prohibiting underage marijuana use at parties in Orinda. Jaime Rich, Director of Adapt Lamorinda, congratulated the council on its action, noting that although recreational marijuana is now legal in California it is still illegal for anyone under 21 to be in possession of cannabis or cannabis products. "If we recognize that the host of a gathering where underage drinking is found to be occurring should be held accountable and fined then it only makes sense that the

same should apply for the host of a gathering where young people are using cannabis or cannabis products," she commented after the meeting. "This ordinance gives the Orinda Police Department and the city of Orinda one more tool that they can use to convey the message that it is not acceptable for Orinda youth to use cannabis."

As head of the agency charged with drug and alcohol education, Rich added, "The perception of harm for the use of cannabis is low amongst our youth so any measures that we can use to change this attitude we should use."

Contra Costa County is considering a similar measure, and Moraga has already amended its social host ordinance to include cannabis.

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors
 Wednesday, June 6, 7 p.m.
 Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org

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

Chief praises firefighters for improved MOFD turnout times

By Nick Marnell



Photo courtesy MOFD

Firefighters from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District contained a May 16 structure fire to the garage at 199 Corliss Drive in Moraga, with minimal fire, heat or smoke damage to living space in the home. No residents or firefighters were injured. Because of the extensive fire damage the cause and origin of the fire remain under investigation.

According to the district incident report, the call was dispatched at 8:17 a.m. and the first responding unit arrived seven minutes later. Fire Chief Dave Winnacker attributed the quick response to a speedy turnout time, and also to a bit of luck, as the Corliss home is surrounded by fire stations 41, 42 and 44. "And there was a fire hy-

drant right in front of the house," the chief said.

Improved turnout time, the period between the call dispatch and the crew's departure from the fire station, has been an emphasis for Winnacker. He identified areas where the district was able to improve the times, such as the replacement of defective hardware and through firefighter education.

When the chief pulled daily reports of turnout times, he noticed one station in particular lagged in reported times. The captains and the battalion chief reported nothing out of the ordinary in firefighter behavior during turnout, so when the chief officers dug deeper, they found that the station was using defective communication equipment.

As the fire engine was already a couple of blocks down the road, the equipment was only then reporting that the engine had left the station. The equipment was replaced, and reported turnout times improved.

Code 3 calls, the most serious of emergency calls, include lights and sirens, while Code 2 calls are nonemergencies, with no lights and sirens. Winnacker found that the firefighters treated turnout for the Code 2 calls exactly that way: that they weren't emergencies, so no need for the crews to hustle into their turnout gear. Firefighters changed that mindset.

Other tweaks to the system included reorganized turnout at Station 41, which houses five firefighters but contains only one bath-

room. (The station is scheduled for an overhaul in 2019.) Five people battling over one bathroom can be hectic when the bell goes off, so the companies arranged for the two medics to use the bathroom first so they could run the ambulance out of the station. That tiny adjustment saves precious seconds of ambulance turnout time.

District records show that March and April median turnout times dropped an average of 17 seconds from those of December, January and February to 1 minute, 16 seconds.

"The crews have been committed," Winnacker said. "Their work is what is responsible for the drop in turnout time."

MOFD firefighters save the life of a cyclist in Orinda

By Nick Marnell

Saturday morning, April 21, a bicyclist alerted the crew at Moraga-Orinda Fire District Station 45 that a fellow cyclist was down on Camino Sobrante in Orinda. Before the call was even dispatched, firefighters arrived at the scene of a man who had suffered a cardiac emergency.

"We got there at 9:09, and at 9:11 we gave him his first shock," said MOFD engineer Daniel Elbanna, who described how the patient, after being revived by a third shock, groggily complained only about the IV needle that was bothering his leg. Less than 20 minutes after the first responders arrived, the patient was on his way to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek.

"To have a patient who was dead a few minutes ago complaining about knee pain was phenomenal," Elbanna said. "It was a horrible thing that happened, but the outcome? We've been glowing about it for weeks."

"It was truly an example of great teamwork, and that is why

I'm here today," Craig Schlatter, the downed bicyclist, said among family, friends and firefighters at

the MOFD May 16 district meeting.



From left, MOFD firefighter-paramedic Kevin Brashem, Craig Schlatter, and MOFD engineer Dan Elbanna. Photo Nick Marnell

ConFire dodges bullet at Station 16 site

By Nick Marnell



The root of the problem.

Photo ConFire

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District avoided a major headache pertaining to Fire Station 16 construction when the city of Lafayette agreed to issue a permit for the district to remove two oak trees from the station site. Had the tree removal not

been approved administratively by the city planning department, a public hearing may have been necessary, which would have delayed construction for months.

"ConFire has gone to every extent possible to retain the trees," city planning technician

Chris Joram said. "The trees really limited the district's construction ability."

The issue was the sheer number of oak tree roots penetrating the footprint of the structure, forcing workers to dig trenches for the foundation by hand. "We just could not put our building there," Assistant Fire Chief Aaron McAlister said. Two oak trees had to go, but they were protected by city ordinance.

Lafayette officials and fire officials met May 23 and solved the problem. The city agreed to issue a tree-removal permit for the two oak trees, and the district will mitigate their removal by increasing the number of trees to 17 that it will plant on the station site, an increase of two over the original landscaping plan. Had the district not agreed to plant the additional trees, it could have made an in-lieu \$3,945 payment to the city to be used in its tree education and planting program.

McAlister said that the trees, which ConFire will plant where the construction trailers now sit, will actually enhance the landscape of the station. "And our neighbor loves the idea," he said.

The two oak trees should be removed by the end of May, posing no construction delays, according to Deputy Fire Chief Lewis Broschard.

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Letters to the Editor

Take An Honest Look At Measure L

Time to counter False Information! First-ever public tours of Deer Hill were held Sunday. YES and undecided folks came, NO on L leadership did not. Tour addressed widespread misinformation:

1. FACT: Proposed 44 (2,000-3,000sf) homes sit below, not above, ridgeline and, after excavation, are not visible from Deer Hill. Dirt-hauling trucks will not impact traffic as soil stays on site as in-fill. All trees remain, 800 more will be planted. Mt. Diablo views from Deer Hill stay unobstructed, and 11 of 22 acres are open space/trails/parklands.

2. FACT: Current zoning has not changed, it remains Professional/Administration allowing 35 units/acre (770 units!). If YES fails, developer could proceed with 315 affordable apartments ... 15 2-3 story buildings, parking for 569 cars!! State-mandated housing requirements make denying affordable housing extraordinarily difficult.

3. FACT: Bentley Lafayette (opened 1997) sports fields sit almost on Hwy 24, as do Diablo Valley Montessori on Deer Hill (est. 1965), Wilder fields alongside Caldecott, and Orinda Exit sports fields. None has reported health crises for children over decades.

4. FACT: Partial a.m. traffic mitigation is 78-car parking lot across from Acalanes HS for student dropoff with entrance on Deer Hill... avoids current backup on Pleasant Hill Road where dropoff is on edge of road; also accommodates AHS event overflow. First-ever sidewalks to Springhill will enhance student safety.

5. FACT: NO on L flyer stating Springhill is full and children must be driven to Burton Valley isn't factual. Superintendent Zinn confirms Springhill is not full, students would not necessarily be re-directed to Burton, could be any district school.

6. FACT: City staff and Park & Rec have looked at alternative sports field sites proposed by NO folks. Mayor Tatzin says no evidence has been provided that demonstrate alternative field sites meet criteria.

Time for truth-telling! Don't be swayed by angry voices on NextDoor floating false information or promoting endless lawsuits costly to Lafayette. Please join community leaders like Anne Grodin, Don Jenkins, Teresa Geringer, Steve Cortese, Kathy Merchant, Rick and Janet Cronk, Ron Nahas, Tyler and Cory Higgins, four Councilmembers (Tatzin, Anderson, Burks, Mitchell) and others, vote YES on L!

Carol T. Singer
Lafayette

Prospect for Future Development

While I am Mayor of Lafayette, I am writing as an individual.

I am asked: "If Measure L passes, what would prohibit the spread of higher density development along Deer Hill Road close to the proposed Homes at Deer Hill project?"

The General Plan designation and the zoning distinguish the site of the Measure L project from other vacant land along Deer Hill Road. When the Apartment Project was proposed, the General Plan and zoning designations were both APO which allow up to 35 housing units per acre. In contrast, the General Plan designations for the land north of Deer Hill and East of Brown Avenue is for single family residential of up to 0.1, 2 and 6 units per acre. The zoning is ¼, ½ and 10 acre lots, which is consistent with the General Plan designations. One small parcel located at the intersection of Pleasant Hill and Deer Hill Roads has General Plan and zoning designations of APO and that is being changed.

The Housing Accountability Act gives the City a strong basis for denial if an application like the apartments is submitted for the parcels north of Deer Hill. The Act says a jurisdiction can deny project if:

"The housing development project ... is inconsistent with both the jurisdiction's zoning ordinance and general plan land use designation as specified in any element of the general plan as it existed on the date the application was deemed complete, and the jurisdiction has adopted a revised housing element in accordance with Section 65588 that is in substantial compliance with this article..."

A project like the Apartment project would be inconsistent with both Lafayette's zoning and General Plan land use designations. Furthermore, Lafayette has a state approved Housing Element. Denial could be straightforward.

If one is worried about the prospect of the Apartment project being revived and possibly built, the safest thing to do is to vote Yes on Measure L as that will commit the land to the Homes project and change the zoning to ½ acre lots.

Don Tatzin
Lafayette

Reject Regional Measure 3

Lamorindans should vote No on Regional Measure 3.

Stop the \$3 toll bridge hike.

RM3 is unfair to the East Bay, which would subsidize Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. Santa Clara County pays a mere two percent of bridge tolls, yet San Jose alone would receive 14 percent of capital improvement funds. San Mateo County pays just eight percent of bridge tolls, yet \$325 million is devoted to a Caltrain tunnel.

RM3 gives an obscure government agency, Bay Area Toll Authority/Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the power to increase tolls without another vote of the people.

Bridge tolls once were used exclusively for reasonable bridge capital and maintenance expenses. But MTC has wasted billions of our toll dollars.

First, MTC insisted on an impractical, unproven design for the new Bay Bridge eastern span, a project that bloated 400 percent over budget, opened many years behind schedule and has safety flaws. We pay higher tolls to bail out their \$13 billion boondoggle.

Second, MTC diverted \$179 million of bridge tolls to move their headquarters from Oakland to a Taj Mahal in downtown San Francisco. Our tolls bought plush digs for wily bureaucrats.

Third, MTC diverted \$146 million of bridge tolls to build the ridiculous BART Oakland Airport Connector, which chugs at 28 mph and costs \$12 round trip, yet still operates at a deficit.

Fourth, MTC diverts \$100s of millions of toll dollars to lavish ferry boat subsidies. One route subsidizes \$100 for each passenger ticket. If MTC handed commuters \$80 taxi vouchers, we'd save money.


A powerful lobby, dominated by construction contractors and labor unions, controls MTC. They profit from our squandered toll dollars. These forces have spent nearly \$2 million so far to persuade voters to support RM3 because it significantly expands their slush fund. Their propaganda omits the key fact that RM3 is a toll increase, bilking the East Bay to aid Silicon Valley. It's telling that the photo on the RM3 campaign homepage is of an empty Silicon Valley freeway, with the bay and its toll bridges not in sight.
Vote No on RM3.

Jason A. Bezis
Lafayette

... 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

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Enough Traffic Already!

- ▶ The Deer Hill Project adds even more traffic to the most gridlocked intersection in an already congested city.
- ▶ The three roadways surrounding the project generate 240,000 car trips a workday, with 4% annual traffic growth.
- ▶ Sports Field/amenities produce estimated 60% of the project's traffic.
- ▶ The Homes at Deer Hill children **WILL HAVE TO BE DRIVEN** to Burton Valley Elementary; Springhill Elementary is full.
- ▶ **282 NEW HOUSING UNITS RECENTLY APPROVED, NOT YET BUILT** in the congested Mt. Diablo corridor.

Measure L Will Set New Precedents, thus Lowering the Bar for Future Developments *

- ▶ The City has **DISREGARDED** the General Plan requirements, Hillside & Ridgeline ordinances and Traffic Impacts.
- ▶ Approved a **FLAWED, INCOMPLETE EIR** to justify a poorly conceived project.
- ▶ Deer Hill project sets **A BAD PRECEDENT** for major hillside and ridgeline development and severe traffic congestion impacts.
- ▶ Project makes it much easier for additional dense developments to be approved **CITYWIDE – IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEXT?**

“The idea that you would put a field for children to play in an area where the adjacent residences are required to have filters for the air inside the house, and warnings to residents of exposure to particulate matter if the windows are opened, is one of the most unwise and imprudent instances of urban planning I have ever encountered.” *

– Dr. Devra Davis, PhD MPH, Fellow American College of Epidemiology, Visiting Professor of Medicine, The Hebrew University - Letter to Lafayette City Council, May 19, 2018

TAKE BACK OUR CITY FROM DEVELOPERS!

Citizens Come First!

“This referendum is being rushed through without sufficient time to thoroughly and thoughtfully consider major issues” *

– Ivor Samson, City Council Member

Badly Flawed Air Pollution Analysis *

- ▶ Ignored **Ultrafine Particulate Matter** which “penetrate deeply into lungs, bloodstream, and organs” per BAAQMD, and significantly increase risk of respiratory/cardio diseases, various cancers etc..
- ▶ Never performed any actual onsite monitoring.
- ▶ **Did not use particulate matter data from comparable sites** monitored by air districts in Bay Area or Southern California.
- ▶ **Assumption that high intensity children's activity is safe in an area of polluted air is contradicted by multiple medical studies.**
- ▶ **Assessment's calculation of Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) is theoretical and its results are unreliable,** very low for a location surrounded by 240,000 vehicle trips per day.

The Facts About the 315 Terraces Apartments *

- ▶ The Application **WAS NEVER APPROVED.**
- ▶ General Plan changed to single family, low density residential 2 unites/acre – **THIS DOES NOT ALLOW APARTMENTS.**
- ▶ If resubmitted, application **WOULD BE SUBJECT TO VOTE BY THE RESIDENTS.**
- ▶ City council is planning to amend old APO zoning to single family, low density residential, if Measure L is rejected by the voters.

No on L Gives Us More Time to Select an Alternative Field for a Safer, Healthier Play Environment! *

We Can Do Better Lafayette!

NO to this Bad Deer Hill Development!

VOTE NO on L!

* Read the REAL FACTS from environmental attorneys, public health experts, and civic leaders at www.savelafayette.org. Paid for by SaveLafayette.org - An organization of concerned volunteer citizens to preserve Lafayette's quality of life. Tax ID#: C3814447

Letters to the Editor

Support for Paul Graves

I'm writing as a Lafayette resident to urge you to vote for Paul Graves for Contra Costa County District Attorney. I've been Paul's colleague in the District Attorney's Office for his entire 22 year career in the District Attorney's Office. It is vital that we elect a District Attorney who appreciates the importance of helping victims of crime and keeping public safety a priority.

Paul is a Senior Deputy District Attorney in our County who has given his entire career to the protection of the people of Contra Costa County. In the 22 years Paul has spent as a prosecutor here, he has prosecuted cases in nearly every criminal division and in nearly every community in the county. He has been involved in prosecuting some of the toughest cases, from homicides to sexual assaults, to gang violence.

Paul also has extensive management experience within the District Attorney's office, having led and supervised various internal prosecuting units including the homicide team. He currently serves as the Senior Deputy District Attorney in charge of Family Violence. In that role, Paul directly oversees the Sexual Assault Unit including Human Trafficking, the Domestic Violence Unit, and the Elder Abuse Unit.

Paul is endorsed by every single Law Enforcement agency in Contra Costa County as well as the Deputy District Attorneys' Association, Firefighters, and the East Bay Times. Victim Advocate Marc Klaas is also supporting Paul in recognition of Paul's dedication to victims as well as countless others in our Criminal Justice System who trust Paul to do the right thing for the right reasons time and time again.

Here is Paul's website: www.PaulGravesforDA.com
Please spread the word to vote for Paul Graves for District Attorney on June 5th, 2018.

Sincerely,

Steven Bolen
Lafayette

Lafayette Sports Field at Deer Hill – YES!

More sports fields are needed in Lafayette and the proposed Deer Hill site is the best chance of adding recre-

... continued from page A10

ational field space in Lafayette. The City Council and Parks Commission have evaluated over 100 sites in Lafayette, with barely a handful meeting the community needs, while most owners are unwilling to engage in discussions about creating this public amenity. Deer Hill is one of those sites, and the owner has worked with Lafayette to develop this much needed public space.

The Deer Hill project amenities would be incremental to the City's recreational space, and the first North of Hwy 24. The city uses developer fees to acquiring new Recreational space and develop existing space. We all know the cost of land in Lafayette, and the opportunity for the City to own this 11 Acres of developed Recreational space is a great opportunity, that may not be available again.

Many Lafayette parents are forced to drive their children to practices out of town (Wilder or Walnut Creek), or even across town (Community Park, Buckeye Fields or Burton Valley school). These are the same families who would use Deer Hill – driving less, not new traffic. The Sports Field traffic (16%) is the lowest element of the traffic at the Homes at Deer Hill. The Peak mid-week 68 Trips for the Sports Field is a marginal piece of the Total Traffic in the area (8K – 30K) for the same time frame.

Many alternative sites have been repeatedly suggested, reviewed, and deemed unfeasible over the years for various reasons – Ecological, Terrain/Topography, Active/Passive, Land owner, Acquisition cost, etc... This includes adding to the Community Center Park and using School property. If there is no Homes at Deer Hill, would the Lafayette School Board offer the White Pony school site to the City at a similar proposal as Deer Hill?

The Homes at Deer Hill is the best option for the site, and people of Lafayette. Gladly welcome 44 new families to Lafayette, and 11 acres of City owned park space.

Joe Dougherty
Lafayette

Measure L

The Yes on Lafayette Measure L campaign claims there would be no significant risk to children using the play area and sport field at Deer Hill from the adjacent Hwy24/Pleasant Hill Rd/Deer Hill Rd traffic corridor, citing an

April 2018 report made for the developer. It was criticized on May 19 by an epidemiologist with international credentials, Devra Davis, MPH PhD.

The areas where we and the consultant agree:

- No measurements were done on-site, only simulations were used
- No ultrafine particulates were included
- Our regional regulatory agency BAAQMD was never consulted

If BAAQMD had been consulted, they would have been directed to the 'Planning Healthy Places' website and found that the play area proposed is one of the 'communities and places throughout the region that are estimated to have elevated levels of fine particulates and/or toxic air contaminants.'

The BAAQMD recommends against placing sensitive uses (children) in busy traffic corridors; our California SB 352, Education Code 17213, restricts public school districts from placing new facilities (includes "playgrounds and athletic fields" under Ed. Code 17609(f)) within 500 feet of busy traffic corridors. The Deer Hill play area is 160 feet from PHR, the sport field 50 feet from Deer Hill Road and 200 feet from PHR, both are about 400 feet from the freeway onramp.

Dr. Davis told the Lafayette City Council on May 19: "Proximity to high traffic areas has been demonstrated in human epidemiologic studies to be associated with a host of serious health problems... Toxic exposures that take place to the young brain can have permanent effects on intelligence, behavior, and chronic illness..."

Dr. Davis concluded by stating:

"The idea that you would put a field for children to play in an area where the adjacent residences are required to have filters for the air inside the house, and warnings to residents of exposure to particulate matter if the windows are opened, is one of the most foolish instances of urban planning I have ever encountered."

The City should not spend \$3M for this site without comprehensive analysis, and voters should vote NO on this project as presented.

Susan Candell
Lafayette

Orinda emergency evacuation planning

... continued from page A6

Registrants should retain a copy for their records.

Registration is free and voluntary. Registrants are encouraged to complete the entire form, answering all questions regarding medical and transportation requirements and providing correct contact information, including telephone number and address. Information provided will be used solely by public health and safety agencies who will

assist during an emergency. Registrants should note that filing the form does not imply or guarantee any other services.

The form can be downloaded from the department's website, at www.cityoforinda.org/367/Emergency-Evacuation-Planning, or may be obtained by mail by calling the OPD at (925) 254-6820. Once completed, the form

should be returned by mail to:

Orinda Police Department
Attn: Emergency & Evacuation Planning
22 Orinda Way
Orinda, CA 94563

Questions or concerns may be directed to the Orinda Police Department at (925) 254-6820.



Who is Yes on L?

People you can trust...
Lafayette residents and organizations, current and former community leaders, YOUR neighbors!

- Don Tatzin, Mayor
- Cameron Burks, Vice Mayor
- Mike Anderson, City Councilmember
- Mark Mitchell, City Councilmember
- Anne Grodin, Former Mayor
- Brandt Andersson, Former Mayor
- Carol Federighi, Former Mayor
- Erling Horn, Former Mayor
- Teresa Gerringer, President, Lafayette School Board
- Meredith Meade, Lafayette School Board
- Carol Singer, Chair, Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission
- Joe Dougherty, Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission and Volunteer Coach, LMYA
- Mark Poole, Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission
- Geoffrey Bellenger, Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission
- Alison Hill, Parks, Trails, and Rec Commission
- Fred Lothrop, Chair, Emergency Preparedness Commission
- Rees Morgan, Chair, Crime Prevention Commission
- Dan Horowitz, Crime Prevention Commission
- Denise Brown, Crime Prevention Commission
- Dr. Joe Beck, Senior Services Commission
- Patricia Curtin, former Planning Commissioner
- Will Lovitt, former Planning Commissioner

- Karen Maggio, former Planning Commissioner and former Board, Sustainable Lafayette
- Dino Riggio, Former Chair, Circulation Commission
- Amanda Walters, Board, Sustainable Lafayette
- Jenny Kallio, President, Lafayette Homeowners Council
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- Janet Thomas, Board of Directors, Lafayette Community Garden and former member, Lafayette Environmental Task Force
- Dan Ventrelle, President, Lafayette Little League
- Doug Pearson, President, Lamorinda Rugby
- Dave DiFranco, President, Lamorinda Lightning Lacrosse
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- Don Jenkins, 2018 Citizen of the Year
- Lafayette Chamber
- Lafayette Homeowners Council
- David Abrahams
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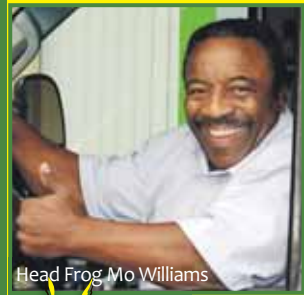
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www.YesonL2018.org

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

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Noodle Theory coming to Rheem

By Lou Fancher



Photo Lou Fancher

Louis Kao, age 48, father of a 7-year-old son and twin daughters, age 5 – and soon-to-be parent with his wife, Yvonne Ling, of a fourth addition to the family due in October – loves to play with noodles. Happily, Kao's passion for Asian fusion cuisine extends beyond Chinese style ramen to Grilled Niman Ranch Beef Udon, handwrapped Shrimp and Chinese Chive Dumplings, Grilled Fulton Valley Chicken over Ginger Noodles, Pan Roasted Miso Marinated Black Cod, dry-sautéed spicy green beans and his beloved chicken thighs or wings.

These and other dishes featured at the chef and restaurant owner's Noodle Theory in Rockridge and Noodle Theory Provisions in Oakland/Emeryville, are the reason people in Lamorinda will be smiling come July. Kao, a Moraga resident, will open Noodle Theory's third iteration in the 1,200-square-foot space in the Rheem Shopping Center in Moraga after Graze closes in June. The exact hours and menu are pending; the restaurant will be open six days a week, closed Tuesdays.

In an interview, Kao is an affable, low-key fellow whose restaurants seem to be to him a happy surprise as much as they are to customers. He grew up in Palo Alto in a family that always owned food establishments—a Chinese restaurant was constant, but there

was also a burrito shop, a 24-hour diner, a burger-shake-soft-serve ice cream Fosters Freeze and more. Although he learned to cook instant ramen and flip burgers, he says he had stereotypical tiger parents who pushed hard for their three sons to achieve. Semi-resistant, he complied to the pressure by enrolling in UC Berkeley, but his major—and his focus—were undeclared.

It wasn't until he and others formed an Asian charter of a fraternity that he "branched out to cooking real food" and, unbeknownst to him, began his journey to chef and restaurant owner. "At Cal, I started cooking chicken wings. I talked to my dad and by learning from him how things should be done, I finally made a better connection to him."

Taking a job in the kitchen at The House in North Beach, Kao made sauces, appetizers and other simple items, gradually progressing to more sophisticated dishes during a 10-year period. Meanwhile, after "having too much fun" at UC Berkeley, he dropped out without graduating. Several years later, he attended the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. Intending to become a computer animation artist but ultimately lacking confidence that it was the right path, he departed during his final semester. It's fair to say Kao was still searching, but for what, was uncertain.

Leap to 2007, the year Kao opened the first Noodle Theory that

quickly became a hot spot due to the menu's Asian-with-a touch-of-California sensibilities. The much larger 3,000-square-foot Provisions followed in 2016. Customers appreciated the attention to quality meats, locally sourced produce and flavors that mirror the rich, tender qualities of French cuisine but include the sharpness of South Asian flavors like lime juice and chilis. "I love French food. I still remember a mushroom omelette I had in France. It was simple, but transformative, like nothing I'd ever made or tasted before," he says. "At home, I love to cook braised chicken thighs, made with shallots, butter, a little white wine or vermouth. French cuisine is romantic."

Postino in Lafayette is a local restaurant he favors. "I go out for decadence, the more the better," he says. "I don't go out to eat salad. There, the food is hardy and classic. The crabs, hand-torn croutons, mashed potatoes with horseradish cream on the side ... I never leave hungry."

Kao prefers kitchen staff who are hard working and quick to react, if less personable than front of house staff. There, interacting with customers, professional presentation and "regarding the customer as the be all and end all" is imperative. Recognizing that foot traffic and building a customer base in cul-de-sac Moraga will be a challenge, he says, "We'll see how it works out. As a resident, I want to see growth, areas that are more up-to-date."

About the licensing and approval process he must complete before opening in mid-July, he says the environmental health inspections are completed and passed; what remains is signage and other items that by now are familiar stepping stones. "I've heard the town council can be slow because they try to please everyone," is the closest he gets to worry. "Every restaurant I've opened has been different from the start of construction to when you open the door. But some things stay the same: you want people to come in, have a good time, enjoy the food. And me? Until it's fully staffed, I get to play for six months in the kitchen."

To learn more about Noodle Theory, visit www.noodletheory.com.

Defensible space guidelines

... continued from page A1



A prime example of weed abatement at this Lafayette home, though the tree on the left could use trimming. Photos Nick Marnell



This Orinda property features strong defensible space elements. The tree is not touching the roof, the landscaping is well maintained and there are no tall grasses near the structure.

Fire officials stress tree trimming, with no low branches under 6 feet from the ground. Keep the tree branches 3 to 5 feet away from the roof, and remove dead trees. "Lafayette has more trees than anywhere in our district, plus Lafayette is in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone – there are bigger potential problems in Lafayette than anywhere else. Pay attention to what's going on around you, especially in the Upper Happy Valley and Hunsacker Canyon areas," said Robert Marshall, fire marshal of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.

Marshall also advised home-

owners to keep their gutters cleaned. "People only think about cleaning their gutters in the winter, but do it in summer too. An ember can land into a clogged gutter and ignite," he said.

"We have been very fortunate in Lafayette over the past few years not to have had any devastating wildfires, and I hope the residents will take our recommendations seriously and we can have another safe year," ConFire Chief Jeff Carman said.

MOFD offers individual home assessments so homeowners can understand how unruly vegetation can prevent their home from sur-

viving a fire. Tall grasses can be especially dangerous, Leonard said, so trim them to 3 inches. And clear out underbrush. "Grass transitions to small shrubs to large shrubs to trees. It's like building a campfire - you start with kindling, and go up to logs," Marshall said.

Leonard noted that people who live on an interior street have sometimes 15 feet of open space between their fence line and a major arterial like Moraga Way, which is a major Moraga evacuation route. Homeowners must maintain that area as the open space is on their parcel. In a heightened emphasis for 2018, the district will be leaving notices to clear the open space on approximately 350 parcels along Moraga Way.

MOFD will focus on improving its messaging this year by mailing out postcards, placing sandwich boards throughout the district, and posting information on social media and the district website, to make clear that everyone has to do their part. "Due to the semirural nature of our area and our proximity to large areas of undeveloped land, the risk of wildfire is very high," Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said. "Defensible space reduces the risk of damage to individual properties, and when taken in the aggregate, reduces the risk to entire neighborhoods and our community as a whole."

"We're burying our heads in the sand if we don't do anything," Leonard said.

Weed abatement deadline for Lafayette is May 31 and for Moraga and Orinda is June 15.

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AUHSD's Teacher of the Year

By Diane Claytor



Katherine Walton, Acalanes High School

Photo Diane Claytor

Katherine Walton loves her job. That's apparent the minute she starts talking about it. As both a special education teacher and leadership advisor, Walton proclaims that she has her dream job. "It's the perfect blend for me. I get to teach special ed, which I dearly love and where my heart is," she said, "but I also love student activities and the culture they create on campus. And I get to do them both!"

This year, Walton, after only five years at Acalanes, received quite an honor: she was named the Acalanes Union High School District Teacher of the Year. She is one of only 22 TOYs in Contra Costa County — and that's out of approximately 8,400 teachers educating our children in the county's public schools.

"I'm super humbled," Walton stated. "It really goes back to the

staff I work with. No award nor work is done in isolation. For me, with both my roles, I really depend on my peers and I'm lucky to have colleagues that have allowed me to learn from them, depend on them and grow with them."

Born and raised in Southern California with a mother who was a special education teacher, Walton was convinced she didn't want to follow that same path. She got her undergraduate degree in political science and a master's degree in higher administration. But while undergoing a medical treatment, she "suddenly had a revelation of what I wanted to do with my life." Admitting that she wasn't interested in going back to school and wanting to experience life somewhere different, Walton was accepted to Oakland Teaching Fellows, a program that recruits, selects and trains college graduates

and working professionals to become educators.

"Moving to Oakland is probably the best choice I've made — besides my husband," Walton said with a twinkle in her eye. She was able to get her credential while teaching special ed at Oakland's Castlemont High School and proudly said she was fortunate to work with an amazing staff that supported and mentored her.

Admitting that "I'm never complacent with where I am and always want to build and grow and become better," Walton moved to Acalanes to gain a different experience and learn even more.

Obviously it was the right decision.

In her primary role as the special ed teacher, Walton works with students who have mild to moderate disabilities, offering additional support to help them succeed in their general ed classes. Working with these kids one or two periods a day, she designs a curriculum that addresses their specific needs, such as reading, writing or organization skills. "I'm also in constant communication with their general ed teachers to make sure the students are doing well or determine if they need extra help." She typically has these students all four years. "That's one of my favorite parts of this program," noted Walton, who's pregnant with her first child. "I get to see them come in as freshmen, work with them, watch them develop and grow and then cheer them on as they graduate."

As the leadership advisor, Wal-



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The Lafayette School District has four Governing Board seats up for election in November 2018. Three seats are a four(4) year term and one seat is a two (2) year term.

To learn more about the role of a Governing Board Member, please attend an information workshop on Monday, June 4, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the Lafayette School District Board Room, 3477 School Street. Contact Sharon Carman at (925) 927-3502 or scarman@lafsd.org for additional information.

ton also works with all four grade levels, which she believes provides the students with a great opportunity to know others they wouldn't necessarily get to meet. "Kids have often told me that one of the best parts of leadership is that they're able to create relationships across grade levels," she stated.

Leadership, with student government at its core, is the group that provides most of the extra curricular activities on campus, including school dances, lunchtime activities and freshman orientation. But it's so much more, Walton emphasized. "For me, it's all about developing the skills the kids will need after high school — skills like organization, communication, working with a team. As I tell my students, 'I want you to walk out in June having stronger leadership skills than you had when you entered in August.'"

With 45 students in each of her two leadership classes, Walton is definitely busy. But she firmly believes that "if a student wants to be a part of something, wants to find a way to serve their community, it's important for me to help them accomplish that."

"Katherine is by far the hardest working teacher on campus," exclaimed Marissa Meadows, Acalanes' Academic Counselor. "She has a crazy amount of energy ... she never seems overwhelmed and is always willing to add something else to her plate. She is one of those people who can do all the things and do them well." Noting that Walton "gives 150 percent everyday," and calling her "the energizer bunny in human form," Meadows exclaimed unequivocally that Walton "absolutely" deserved to be selected AUHSD's Teacher of the Year.

PG&E on track to start work on June 7

By Sophie Braccini

St Marys Road Replacement Project
June–August

For more information, contact Julian Lacson at 1-925-459-8097

PG&E Together, Building a Better California

Project map Provided

The replacement of one mile of PG&E gas pipeline under St. Mary's Road and the closure of the arterial during the summer are in no way as controversial as the tree removal project in Lafayette (see article page A3) and the recent Lafayette information session on May 23 did not draw crowds.

Residents on both sides of the Lafayette-Moraga borders have questions, however, mainly pertaining to access routes and detours.

The town of Moraga and the city of Lafayette have confirmed that the utility agency secured the required encroachment permits to start work on June 7, closing the

arterial Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. until Aug. 14. The construction plan has been updated to permit street access at all times for residents whose only outlet is St. Mary's Road.

The three-phased approach will start by closing two sections of road between Lucille and just

south of Rohrer Drive, and below Driftwood Drive to Wallabi Court, north of Cattle Chute Road. The scheduled time allocated for this first phase is June 7 to July 12. The small section between Camino Colorados and Driftwood will stay open, giving Driftwood residents a detour through Camino Colorados, Rohrer and Merriewood Drive. Residents from Cattle Chute Road and south of that road will have to travel on Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road to reach Lafayette.

Phase 2 from July 6 to Aug. 3 will close the road between Wallabi and south of Bollinger Canyon Road, just before Rheem Boulevard. Phase 3 will address the small section starting north of Camino Colorados to Driftwood. The repair of the valve at Lucille Lane should not impact traffic.

Julian Lacson of PG&E confirmed that first responders would have access to any part of the road at any time. The road will not in fact be dug across its entire width, and Lacson said that clearing a passage for emergency vehicles should not add any delay to their response time. PG&E representatives are scheduled to meet with emergency services this week. The dynamic will be the same for residents reaching or leaving their

homes if no detour is available, but no through traffic will be permitted.

Electronic signs were installed along St. Mary's Road mid-May to alert motorists of the impending closures. PG&E representative Tamar Sarkissian said that approximately 3,500 customers in the Moraga and Lafayette areas have received letters from PG&E outlining the work. A second public meeting will be held tonight, May 30 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Saint Mary's College in Claeys Lounge at the Soda Center.

Additionally, Sarkissian said that PG&E representatives will be canvassing the Bluffs area and other homes located off Bollinger Canyon Road in Moraga to alert customers and address their questions.

The Lafayette and Moraga public works departments explain that this is not their project and that questions should be directed to PG&E. The contact person is Lacson, who can be reached at (925) 459-8097. He confirmed on May 25 that the agency would have a page available on its website for updates. The agency's information team has also posted on social media and asked if it could access Nixle, the emergency response text messaging system.

Lawyers battle over Measure L at Lafayette city council meeting

... continued from page A1

"Virtually every item that the city attorney has detailed to you tonight is incorrect," said Gary Garfinkle, attorney for Save Lafayette. Garfinkle asserted that the apartment complex has never been approved, and would face the same obstacles as before if the developer elects to revive the project — including a "devastating 2013 environmental impact report," rejection by two city commis-

sions and the possibility of a referendum.

He insisted that the Terraces cannot be approved without a general plan amendment, because if the apartment complex is resurrected, the project would be inconsistent with the city's general plan, making the development subject to a referendum.

And if the city did approve the apartment complex anyway,

the development would be subject to a referendum, "one of the most precious rights of our democratic process," Garfinkle wrote in a letter to the council.

According to Mayor Don Tatzin, the only certainty over the Deer Hill measure is further legal action. "I don't know how Measure L will do," Tatzin said. "I don't know what the developer will do if it fails, whether to



Measure L combatants: different messages, different delivery styles.

Photos Nick Marnell

negotiate a new project or bring back the apartments. Any decision after that will not be made

by this council but made in court, because whoever doesn't win is going to sue."



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Del Rey custodian retirement party

... continued from page A1

He also taught a class to make monkey's fist knots before a shipboard field trip, chaperoned several field trips himself and built a custom catwalk for Cheryl Collins' sewing class fashion show.

After 40 years of set up and clean up, it will soon be time to lock up for the very last time. "Mr. Steve" retires June 30; it is likely Del Rey will feel his loss for years.

Orinda Union School District honored Eydam with a standing ovation in August when he was named their Classified Employee of the Year, but his school admirers have another name: they call him Emperor of Del Rey. "The kids think he's [the] principal," joked Kirsten Theurer, who also claims the title. "I can't say enough about him."

"He's like a celebrity," said former student Evan Barrie-Kivel, who with friend Brendan McFeely

now tower above the man McFeely calls "the nicest guy I know." Even neighborhood dogs knew to beat a path to the custodian's door for attention and affection. The accolades continue to pile up on a "Mr. Steve Del Rey" website.

Mr. Steve fans had a chance to say goodbye at Eydam's retirement party May 24 at Orinda Intermediate School. The party had to be held off site, Fuller explained, otherwise Mr. Steve would have set up and cleaned up himself. It was a pasta and pinball-themed party (Mr. Steve likes both) with a "dress like Mr. Steve" option. Even OUSD Superintendent Dr. Carolyn Seaton sported Eydam's trademark cargo shorts and district shirt.

"This is quite the overwhelming event," Eydam admitted. "The Del Rey community has been such a special part of my life for the past

38 years," he said. "I'm looking forward to coming back to Del Rey from time to time to attend school events and student performances," he promised. But Eydam admits he won't miss the sound of his 5 a.m. alarm clock or the extended length of his commute, which has tripled from its original half hour drive. His summer plans include visits to California landmarks and theme parks. A generous privately sourced goodbye check presented to Eydam raised enough to insure he can even take an all-expense paid first-time vacation to Disney World. Eydam often worked 12-hour days to insure after-hours and weekend events at Del Rey ran smoothly. "I don't know when he goes home," Fuller said.

Alas, the answer to that question comes from Eydam himself: "June 30."

Failed storm drain fee measure

... continued from page A4

Some of the council members acknowledged that they collectively bore some responsibility for the results. Fritzky and Onoda said that faced by a series of emergencies the management of the town had been more reactive than proactive and that moving forward

it needed to be more strategic. Korpus noted that Battenberg was forward thinking and recommended that she would be tasked with developing a strategic plan for the town.

The mayor floated the idea of a two-year plan to advocate for a

more documented strategy for the storm drain system. Korpus and Onoda agreed that the town still has a backlog of storm drain repair that would cost the town millions of dollars and that by 2020 a new proposal could come to a ballot.

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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

'Sense & Sensibility' at Town Hall Theatre

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Nathan Emley, Alan Coyne, Alisha Ehrlich and Heather Buck in "Sense & Sensibility." Photos Stu Selland

Even before the actors were done with rehearsals, Town Hall Theatre's "Sense & Sensibility" had already sold over a thousand tickets, and opening night was sold out. Was it all because of the Lamorinda Janeites (fans of Jane Austen)? Or was it the growing reputation of THT or the rave reviews Kate Hamill's new adaptation has garnered in the country?

After viewing a run through of the play, even without costumes, this reporter can testify that those early ticket holders will not be disappointed: THT's "Sense & Sensibility" will take audience members to the Regency era in a whirling dance full of life, humor, energy and passion.

This is the first time that Susan Evans, the artistic director of THT, will direct a play at the Lafayette venue. She has chosen for her debut a real crowd pleaser, in the best sense of the term. To those who think that Jane Austen is too stiff and reserved, the 2014 adaptation by Hamill will show them that there is humor, lightheartedness and social content in her work, while those who are Austen ad-

mirers will recognize her spirit and profound understanding of the human heart.

For Evans it was a real tour de force to direct and drive the correct boisterous rhythm for a play that is comprised of 45 different scenes, in several different geographic locations, with 15 characters, three horses, two dogs, two carriages – all executed by 10 actors, eight chairs and two tables. The tempo is fast, but not furious. The actors deliver with a high energy and charming fantasy, slipping under a table to become a chair, jumping on top of a "carriage" to lead it to London, becoming a horse, before returning as one of the leading characters with amazing ease. In fact, they seem to be having a lot of fun, carried away by the turmoil of the story.

The overall storyline has not changed from Austen's original plot. It is about the coming of age of two sisters – their hopes, dreams, heartaches, lessons learned and happiness in the end. The family members, the beaux, the friends, all have their quirks and portray an era where marriage was the only possible future for a woman,

while elegant idleness the only honorable career for a well-bred young man.

Evans asked the actresses playing the two sisters, Alisha Ehrlich and Heather Buck, to alternate their characters every week. She says that when she reviewed her casting notes it struck her that the two actresses were equally excellent for both roles. She offered the possibility to them and they accepted. She believes that the result is a greater understanding and empathy with the character of the opposite sister. When this reporter saw the performance, Ehrlich was Elinor Dashwood ("sense") and Buck was Marianne Dashwood ("sensibility"). They were perfect in their roles. It would be interesting to see the play a second time with casting reversed.

The rest of the cast is equally well chosen and effective, as well as versatile in the different personae they embody.

Opening night for "Sense & Sensibility" is June 2. For that night, THT will host a gala with a Regency Ball theme; then on June 13 LIT UP at Town Hall, is a literary salon where patrons can participate; and on June 8 and 22 THT presents Theatre Club, a post-show talk-back with complimentary wine. The final show is June 23. For more information and tickets, visit www.townhalltheatre.com.



From left: Heather Buck and Alisha Ehrlich in "Sense & Sensibility."

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Art Moves Project prepares its next creation

By Sophie Braccini



Leesha Zieber and Aaron Perlstein from Kambara + Dancers performed "Encased" on Bubble Wrap. Photo provided

One of the most thought-provoking and engaging art groups in Lamorinda, Art Moves Project, recently held a fundraising event that was also the launch pad of its 2018 project, "Encased." Last October's art performance, "Edifice: Uncovered," explored what is inside; this year's creation includes original music, dance, sculpture and audience participation, aiming at looking at what surrounds us when we leave our

comfort zones, both from a personal and community perspective.

On the grounds of a Happy Valley home, architects Zoë Prillinger and Luke Ogrydziak created a 15-foot high sculpture entirely covered with pink bubble wrap. Christy Mack, founder of Art Moves with Yukie Fujimoto and Lissa Resnick explains that the Bubble Wrap is central to this new project. "It symbolizes what we wrap around us when we want

to protect ourselves," she says, "either emotionally, or by living in a bubble. The AMP happening is made to explore and get people to think of what happens when we start popping the bubbles and peering through the transparent insulation."

The idea of "Encased" came after the 2017 performance, the fruit of a discussion between Mack and her friend Heather Ferguson (Bluewater Music in Nash-

ville) who wanted to explore what bubbles up in individuals when they are exposed to truly beautiful places, and what they uncover about themselves and about their relationship to their community. Fujimoto also wanted to discover what people are willing to see of their surroundings, the reality of what they experience.

During the April event, performers from San Francisco-based Kambara + Dancers danced on the pink bubbles following choreographer Yayoi Kambara's creation. As they danced, the bubbles started popping under their feet, creating a unique sound backdrop to the dance, which was rhythmic and energizing.

Oakland musician Marquise Moore created an original soundscape inspired by the Bubble Wrap. The idea, as explained by Mack, is that we can all live in our bubbles, but what happens and what do we see when we start popping them. Moore, Mack and her son Noah went to a sound studio and started recording sounds of bubbles popping, Bubble Wrap twisting, being stepped on, and some of these sounds were incorporated into the installation at the fundraiser. Another part of the atmospheric sounds were echoes of steps. This came from what the spectators experienced as they were invited to walk through the majestic and magical redwood grove that has

grown in that part of Happy Valley, holding on to each other, following two dancers who emerged from a pile of redwood shavings.

"Encased" is both an experiential event, where performance happens at a given time, and a display with the sounds and the sculpture. At this time, Fujimoto and Moore are recording words of people who were interviewed and asked about what surrounds them, what surrounds their community, and what encases them. The purpose is to find out what keeps people in, and what is found when the bubble is popped.

At the end of the performance in April, all the artists shared why they had participated in this project and what it meant for them. This will also be a part of the public performance in the fall. AMP envisions a full week of presentation performances, from Oct. 19-26.

The fundraiser was held so the artists that participate can be compensated. Other groups also contribute to Art Moves: Lamorinda Arts Council provides the legal umbrella and seed money; and the Moraga Valley Kiwanis was the first funder this year. The three women are also pursuing grants and business sponsorships.

At this time AMP is looking for a central place in Lamorinda where the free public events will be held in the fall.

Combining nature and spiritual messages to create award-winning art

By Kara Navolio



"African Spotted Eagle Owl" by Dwight Yassany

Lafayette artist Dwight Yassany has been creating stunning, life-like images of animals for only about six years but has received many awards for his spiritually-inspired work.

Two pieces, "African Spotted Eagle Owl" and "Indian Tawny Eagle in Flight" are currently on display at the Haggin Museum in Stockton. The 85-year-old museum hosts a juried exhibit biannually, coordinated with the Stockton Art League (SAL). This is Yassany's second time being accepted into the acclaimed show. Maria Flumiani, SAL Board Member and Chair of the Haggin Committee, stated, "We had 408 pieces submitted from artists in 18 states; 109 pieces were chosen by this year's Juror Sabina Turner, a watercolorist from Fiddletown, (Calif.) Dwight's work is one of the few pen and ink

artists we have. His nature-oriented work is well-known and beautiful."

"Indian Tawny Eagle in Flight" received an honorable mention in this show, his seventh award overall.

Yassany, who retired after over 30 years at the East Bay Municipal Utilities District, has three goals in his art. He wants to promote pen and ink as a fine art medium, and he wants to accurately represent the animals he draws, which is why he works from photographic observations but also consults reference material and expert opinions. His third goal is to provide a platform for spiritual references from the bible. In most of his works he blends in a biblical reference with the hope that viewers will see it and further investigate the meaning on their own. These references are

"hidden in plain sight" as natural shadings in feathers or, in the case of "African Spotted Eagle Owl," in the animal's eyes. Yassany stated, "I input biblical phrases or references with a theme for each piece, spreading God's word through His own creations."

The self-taught artist never received any formal art education except for a few art classes. Both of his parents had artistic interests and supported his drawing interests as a child growing up in the Sierra Foothills. He started pen and ink drawing seriously in 2011, working at first on a small scale as many pen and ink artists do. Now his pieces are large, about 30 by 40 inches, and can take up to 200 hours each to complete. Using a very fine-tip radiograph pen and making thousands of small marks on cotton paper, he uses a combi-

nation of soft and dark strokes to achieve the realistic renderings of birds and other animals. One of his favorite subjects is his 18-year-old cat Shasta (named for Mount Shasta).

Yassany's work has been shown in 20 exhibitions over the past six years, both locally and as far away as San Diego and Texas. He has a piece on permanent display in the Lafayette Library in the Art & Science Discovery Science Center titled "Lynx in Snow." His work has also been shown at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum and frequently in the Sacramento/Stockton area.

Yassany gains inspiration from the wildlife he sees in the Bay Area Open Space. "I'm fascinated by the birds of prey right now," added Yassany, who often sees red tail hawks while hiking in Briones, the Lafayette Reservoir and the De La Vega Trail in Orinda.

The exhibition at the Haggin Museum runs through July 15, Wednesdays through Sundays (1201 N. Pershing Ave., Stockton). For more information visit www.hagginmuseum.org or email Yassany at dwright0@att.net. His works and note cards printed with his images are available for sale.



"Indian Tawny Eagle in Flight" by Dwight Yassany.

Acalanes dancer vies for Beach Blanket Babylon scholarship

By John T. Miller



Conrad Rocha Photo Rick Markovich, Beach Blanket Babylon

Conrad Rocha, a senior at Acalanes High School, is one of three finalists for the

\$15,000 Beach Blanket Babylon scholarship in Dance.

Each of the finalists will perform live in front of family, friends and a panel of celebrity judges on Monday, June 4. One winner in each category – singing, dancing, and acting – will be presented with a \$15,000 check toward their college education.

Rocha has been playing piano since he was 6 years old and dancing since he was 9. He began at the Dance Connection

Performing Arts in Concord then moved to the Oakland School for the Arts and currently trains at Triple Threat in Livermore.

He will be attending the University of Southern California on a partial scholarship majoring in business of cinematic arts with a minor in dance.

Although Acalanes doesn't have a dance program, Rocha leant his talents to the yearly musicals during his four years there, appearing in "The Mystery of

Edwin Dood," and as Conrad Birdie in "Bye Bye Birdie." He also appeared in the Stars 2000 production of "Smokey Joe's Cafe," and partnered with Lauren Matson for a Latin dance in their festival this spring. He also was featured as a solo dancer in the Contra Costa Musical Theater production of "Grease."

Rocha was encouraged to submit a video to the Beach Blanket Babylon contest by Tamara Sparkles, his ballet teacher at

Triple Threat.

His influences go back to his grandparents, who met in a ballroom dance class. Rocha says he dances about 12 hours a week. "My family is quite musical and my parents have been tremendously encouraging in supporting all that I do."

Rocha's ultimate dream is to be a performer and choreographer. The talented teen also loves to act and sing.

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Combining left and right brain disciplines in business

By Sophie Braccini



Photo provided

Cathy Mu and Julie Gleeson met in a networking group for local business people and had instant chemistry. Mu the CPA and Gleeson the coach are women who live their lives striving for mindfulness and radiating positive energy. Mu became Gleeson's CPA and the latter discovered that Mu is also a Qi-Gong Master, who uses her practice for circulating the Qi or spiritual energy in all avenues of life, including the achievement of prosperity.

For the uninitiated Qi-Gong is an ancient Asian martial art used to channel one's Qi (vital energy) for good.

Mu explains that during her early formational years she sometimes wondered if she would not have to choose between her different aspirations - her "left-brain" pull for analytical and organizational work, and her "right-brain" practice centered on intuition and her spiritual quest. As she grew up in China, Mu witnessed her mother's recovery from illness through the practice of Qi-Gong and that practice became a part of her life. "I witnessed how Qi-Gong and the work with energy flow strengthened my mother's spirit and body," she remembers. "In China and later in the U.S. where I came to study, I sought Qi-Gong masters to deepen my practice."

As Mu earned her MBA from the University of Nevada and entered the business world, Qi-Gong became a side element of her life, until 2008 when she said a friend asked her if she would

come to Sebastopol for a workshop with Qi-Gong Grand Master Chan. Mu says that it was during this workshop that the grand master tested her and designated her as a Qi-Gong master herself.

From then on, Mu has merged her two practices: CPA and financial planning, associated with Qi-Gong. She explains that Qi-Gong teaches how to move and channel energy in the body and in relation to the universe. It is a way to channel health, wisdom and also abundance.

Gleeson, who owns the Moraga-based coaching practice The Art of Living, says that Mu has more integrity than anybody she has ever met in her life, something she particularly values as Mu is her CPA and financial planner. She says that Mu leads with the heart, always placing the interest of her client first. She adds that the Lafayette woman also laughs a lot, something really good in a field too often driven by anxiety and scarcity.

Mu's CPA and financial planning practice is located in Walnut Creek, while she teaches Qi-Gong via the internet through a series of live video conferences. She says that she has students from all over the world who work with her and receive her energy. Each monthly module focuses on different physical systems such as Qi-Gong for the digestive system, the circulatory system, etc. She says that it is better to work on different systems at different times of the year. Abundance and prosperity are part of the series because

she feels that everything is connected and that good health and abundance are connected.

Mu and Gleeson also hold workshops locally from time to

time. The next one is scheduled in Moraga on July 28. Information will be posted on Gleeson's website at theartoflivinginc.com. More information about Mu's

Qi-Gong practice can be found at purebeautifulhealing.org while information about her CPA practice can be found at www.CathyMu.com.

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New Troop 237 Eagle Scout

Submitted by Cathy Martinsen



Photo provided

Lafayette resident Reider Luke Martinsen, a member of Boy Scout Troop 237 chartered by the Orinda Community Church, earned the honor of Eagle Scout, the highest rank that the Boy Scouts offers. Only 6 percent of Boy Scout members ever attain

this prestigious honor. To earn the rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn at least 21 badges and demonstrate leadership and community service by organizing and carrying out an Eagle project.

For his project, Martinsen chose to rehabilitate the greenhouse at Merriewood Children's Center where he once attended the after-school program. "It felt great to do something to help Merriewood because I have so many fun memories of my times there. It's neat to see the kids playing in the garden, and I'm glad they are able to use that greenhouse again." Reider earned his Eagle rank on Oct. 11; a ceremony honoring him will be held on Sunday, June 10. Martinsen is a senior at Acalanes High School, where he is a member of the men's varsity soccer team and the Symphonic Wind Ensemble. He also earned his Senior Medallion with the Music Teachers Association of California for dedicating 12 years to classical piano study. He will attend San Diego State University in the fall where he will major in molecular and cellular biology.

Athletic shoe drive helps over 500 under resourced youth

Submitted by Christine Ayers



Photo provided

Level Up Sports Academy exceeded all expectations when their second- to eighth-grade athletes rallied and collected, washed, bagged, labeled and delivered over 500 pairs of athletic shoes during its Kicks4Kids Athletic Shoe Drive. Working hard through the months of April and May, the shoes will all go to youth right here in Contra Costa County.

"We could not be more proud of our athletes and the challenge they met and exceeded," said Bill Flitter, founder of Level Up Sports Academy. "This is a high impact project that we're proud to deliver for our local community."

Level Up created the Kicks4Kids campaign to provide much needed athletic shoes

to youth in need. Shoes were delivered to local agencies serving youth in need, including Kops4Kids, Eddie Hart All in One Foundation, Richmond PAL, CoCo Kids, Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, San Pablo Police Dept, More Than a Game, Pittsburg PD & Pittsburg High School Foot Pursuit Club.

Plans are already underway for Level Up's summer local community projects including a Back to School Supply Drive. To support or participate, contact Christine Ayers, Level Up Sports Academy Outreach Coordinator at (510) 295-7298 or levelupsports2018@gmail.com.

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.

Orinda Woman's Club assists students and former foster children

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Woman's Club on May 29 awarded education grants of \$1,250 each to Miramonte students Janet Lee and Sienna Marley. The club has awarded a number of additional scholarships to assist former foster children and students, including \$7,500, composing six grants of \$1,250, to the Independent Living Skills Program under VESTIA (Volunteer and Emergency Services Team in Action), an organization that supports former foster students as they pursue further education. They try to keep these young persons nourished both physically and emotionally, according to OWC representative Betty Brotherton.

VESTIA was established in 1985 as a nonprofit organization devoted to serving individuals and families receiving benefits from Contra Costa County's Employment and Human Services Department. VESTIA is committed to helping graduating high school students in Contra Costa County realize their

dreams of college by providing scholarships through its Foster Youth Scholarships Program. VESTIA offers numerous scholarships each year totaling \$15,000-\$20,000 to foster youth graduating through the ILSP.

OWC has made two additional grants this year to two organizations that each received \$12,000 from the club: Pillars of Hope, with a goal to stop human trafficking, and Berkeley Hope Scholars, which helps former foster children and emancipated minors with meals, dental care and other such needs.

OWC is a nonprofit, community-based organization founded in 1953 that provides service both locally and worldwide and encourages the development of friendship and leadership. Membership is not limited to Orinda residents but includes residents of the San Francisco East Bay area, including Lamorinda, Walnut Creek and Oakland.

Rheem School wins the 27th annual Moraga Rotary Field Day

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Camino Pablo third-grade boys winning relay team, from left: Brian Harrison, Jeffrey Shen, and Max Alson, who ran two legs of the relay.

Photos provided

Rheem School's athletes won the 27th Annual Moraga Rotary Field Day held Wednesday, May 9 at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, breaking the three-year Field Day string of victories by Camino Pablo School. Rheem athletes' medal point count was 97, followed by Camino Pablo with 91 points, Los Perales with 76, and Saklan with 6. Los Perales fielded the most athletes, with 116 of the total 345 students participating. The three large elementary schools each had participation greater than 50 percent of their eligible students.

The athletes winning the most individual points were from Los Perales and Rheem. The High Point Boy was Ryan Erickson, a third-grader in Mrs. Thompson's class at Los Perales, who won three gold medals for 15 points. The High Point Girl was Amarise Gonzalez, a fifth-grader in Mrs. Greer's class at Rheem, who won two golds and one bronze medal, for 11 points. The teacher whose students accumulated the most medal points, 26, was Mrs. Thompson from Los Perales. These students, their parents, and teachers will be guests at a meeting of Moraga Rotary where they and Rheem School will receive engraved plaques to recognize their accomplishments.

For 27 years now, Moraga Rotary has been conducting this mini-track and field meet for third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders in Moraga Schools. The children and most teachers really look forward to this event; it is fun but competitive. Gold, silver, and

bronze medals were awarded to the top three contestants in each event, and other contestants received a participant ribbon. There is no charge for athletes to participate.

For the fifth year, the Field Day had the assistance of many of the men and women from the Saint Mary's College basketball teams, and the relay races were conducted by coach Randy Bennett. The Gael athletes conducted the basketball throw event, and also helped officiate and judge the sprints, relays, sack races, and the recently-introduced steeplechase. Boy Scouts from Troop 246, sponsored by Moraga Rotary, helped with some of the field events.

The Field Day chairman, Rotarian Tony Schoemehl, praised the school teachers, principals, and parents for encouraging the children to participate, and thanked Bennett and the Gaels men's and women's basketball teams for their help. Thanks also to parents who helped direct the children around to the various events, and to parents who helped with the field events.

Rotary Club of Moraga also supports elementary education in Moraga by providing grade-appropriate news magazines selected by teachers such as Time and National Geographic for curriculum enrichment, and by donations to the Moraga Education Foundation. Regular meetings are held on most Tuesdays at Moraga Country Club. For information, call Frank May at (925) 376-8195, or check out moragarotary.org.



Rheem fifth-grade girls winning relay team, from left: Sofia Gomes, Natalie Nickens, Carly Robles, and Natalie Rane.

Submit stories and story ideas to
storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Creative Arts and Writing Winners

Submitted by Claudia Benner



Photo provided

Congratulations to JM's Creative Arts and Writing winners! The contest, now in its 41st year, is sponsored by the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School PTA

and encourages students to express their artistic creativity. More than 500 entries were received in categories ranging from poetry, computer art and musical composition.

Talented students wowed the judges with their excellent work, now on display at the JM library. Well done, Jaguars!

Spanish Fiesta at Orinda elementary schools

Submitted by Margaret Grover-Roos



Photos provided

The 11th Annual Spanish "Fiesta" was held May 3, showcasing Spanish students from all four Orinda elementary schools. This event is the culmination of a yearlong Spanish language enrichment program run

by Viva el Español on each campus, with over 350 students participating across the district. Students sang traditional Latin American songs and presented imaginary cities that they created - all in "español."



Family Focus

Choosing Your Friends Wisely

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

"To flatter and follow others, without being flattered and followed in turn, is but a state of half-enjoyment." – Jane Austen, *Persuasion*, 1818

Doug, age 52, was battling depression and had been coming in for therapy for seven months. In the course of reflecting on his life, Doug realized that he had allowed some people to treat him rather shabbily, only exacerbating his feelings of low self-worth. He tended to befriend people that he admired, especially if they were confident, fun and successful. Although Doug projected an attitude of self-assurance and success, he struggled with inner feelings that were just the opposite. As a result his friendships were generally superficial and not close.

While some of his friends were kind people, two of them tended to brag a lot and showed little empathy for others by often belittling them. Upon closer examination, Doug realized he didn't actually like or respect the way these two people behaved towards him and others. However, Doug was a very loyal person who believed that once someone was his friend, he or she should be a friend for life. It was kind of like the Girl Scout song, "Make new friends and keep the old, one is silver and the other is gold." And he had always looked only at himself in a critical way, automatically giving others a pass.

Choosing friends wisely means observing carefully how others' words and actions affect you. One earmark of a healthy relationship is feeling good about yourself when you're with the other person – and also afterward. You can have a good time with someone, sharing laughs or a fun activity, but if later you experience strong self-doubts or hurt or resentment, something is amiss.

Just as you may work on your relationship with your partner when it needs improvement, it is also important to evaluate your friendships

when necessary. Of course, you need to be able to let things go up to a certain point and hope that your friends will do the same for you. But if you are frequently dissatisfied or resentful in a friendship, it helps to determine whether or not it can be fixed.

First look within yourself to try to determine why you may be reacting negatively to a friend. Are you going through a rough patch and simply projecting some of your dissatisfactions with yourself onto someone else? Are you being too critical in general or are your expectations too high?

Next you want to try to determine what is causing your negative feelings toward your friend. This doesn't mean you are right and your friend is wrong. It's often not a question of right or wrong, but can simply be a matter of incompatibility or different styles and values. You want to see if the issue or issues that are getting in the way for you can be resolved.

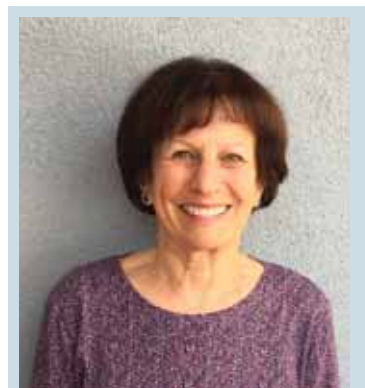
I see many people in my therapy practice who struggle with the issue of how to handle friendships. For example, one client, 32-year-old Susannah, had a longtime friend from college, Blaine, who was also single and lived close by. Because so many of her other friends had significant others, Susannah and Blaine spent a lot of time together. Susannah began to notice more and more that Blaine talked mainly about herself and didn't seem to show much interest in Susannah or what she had to say. In therapy, Susannah often complained about Blaine and felt hurt and angry about how she was treated by her. Susannah tried letting Blaine know how she was feeling without being accusatory, but Blaine got angry and defensive. Finally Susannah decided to gradually reduce the amount of time she spent with Blaine.

Susannah didn't want to discard their friendship altogether and made sure they still spent time

together. But she also wanted to avoid the negative feelings she was having about their relationship. By decreasing the amount of their interaction and making an effort to spend more time with friends who were more supportive of her, Susannah could more easily enjoy the time she spent with Blaine and adjust her expectations for their relationship.

Evaluating your relationships to see the effect they have on you is an important way of taking care of yourself. If a friendship is causing you to consistently feel stressed or upset or bad about yourself, this is a sign that it's time to do something about it. It may mean speaking up, it may mean tweaking the friendship in some way, or it may mean, as in Doug's case, severing a relationship. Doug ultimately decided to ease away completely from the two friends who weren't a good match for him. And because he had first considered the situation carefully, he was able to withdraw without guilt or remorse.

In the next Family Focus column we'll discuss how to help your child choose friends wisely.



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

Gael Pantry helps food insecure SMC students

By Sora O'Doherty



SMC student Leora Mosman inspired the Gael Pantry's inception with her study of student food insecurity. Photos Sora O'Doherty



The Gael Pantry offers Saint Mary's students a way to supplement their nutritional needs.

With increasing tuition and housing costs, many higher education students find ways to cut overall expenses through their food budget, and recent studies have put a spotlight on the often hidden problem of food insecurity, with almost half of the 30,000 students at two- and four-year universities surveyed in a 2016 study stating they had some level of anxiety about getting food or being hungry. The Gael Pantry, which opened two years ago on the Saint Mary's College campus in Moraga, is increasingly combating food insecurity among its students.

The brainchild of SMC student Leora Mosman, the food pantry occupies a bright spot on campus where students can drop in on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays for help in meeting their nutritional needs. The program, which now serves over 200 students, has experienced steady growth of about 30 percent per semester since its inception.

Nick van Santen, assistant director for Student Services who manages the pantry, sees the growth as a result of better information about the existence of the facility, rather than evidence of increasing need. Students hear about the Gael Pantry during Welcome Week at the beginning of the academic year and are encouraged to sign up to volunteer.

Sodexo, the campus food service provider, donated the space for the pantry and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties donated food storage bins. The food itself is donated entirely by student volunteers, who receive basic volunteer training and work in pairs for one-hour shifts. Over 60 students who volunteer in the pantry worked a total of approximately 180 hours last semester.

The athletics department and the School of Education have donated food to the pantry and the library accepts food for fines, providing over 150 pounds of donated food to the pantry, which is intended to supplement, not replace, a student's food requirements. The pantry is open to everyone, to minimize any possible

stigma that might be associated with accepting help, and operates on the honor system.

Currently only open to students, van Santen said that in the future the college might consider opening the pantry to faculty and staff, few of whom live in Moraga but commute in from more affordable areas. Students who live on campus are required to have a meal plan with Sodexo, except for some juniors and seniors who live in dorms with kitchen units. Commuters and graduate students are not required to have meal plans, but can purchase them. Saint Mary's merit-based scholarships specifically exclude help with housing or food.

At the Gael Pantry, student IDs are collected for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the system and to keep track of the student's point usage. Each student is allowed 10 points per week to acquire different types of food available. For example, one point can be used for canned beans, energy bars, macaroni and cheese or oatmeal. For two points a student can get canned tuna, fruit, soup or vegetables, while for three points cereal, rice, pasta or jam is available. Van Santen's job is to keep food on the shelves and manage the student volunteers.

Karin McClelland is the Director of Saint Mary's Mission and Ministry Center and oversees the pantry. While she also tries to provide food to students at events, McClelland says that the college does not have a huge endowment and is limited in what it can do. The food pantry is one of the ways that Saint Mary's can live out its mission, she says. Mosman is graduating this year and going on to an internship in Washington D.C. but leaves her legacy at Saint Mary's in the food pantry.

The Gael Pantry is open during academic terms on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. and also on Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., which is a time when no classes are scheduled. In total, the pantry is open 7 hours a week, nearly 100 hours a semester.

Please...  ...thanks

SEBA 2018 business idea competition draws crowd

Submitted by Mary Poppingo



Winner of the Business Idea Competition



Photos provided

The 7th annual SEBA Business Idea Competition drew a crowd of almost 100 visitors, including SEBA students, faculty and staff, to the Saint Mary's College Soda Center on May 3. Five individual groups composed of undergraduate and graduate students and alumni from the School of Economics and Business Administration gave presentations under the benevolent scrutiny of a panel of four seasoned investor judges, who gave live tips on how to dial in their work to raise capital.

The winner of the award was Julia Datsyuk, SMC alumni, of MomentoDeals, a platform where, "Hotel staff can dynamically change their prices, to sell unsold inventory to last-minute bookers," said Datsyuk, who will use a mobile app to connect customers with deals by

the hour.

The darling of the night for People's Choice and winner of second place was PotBelly, an automated personalized cannabis subscription box service presented by SEBA alumni Paul Giguere.

"Deregulation makes it difficult for existing players to change their market," said Giguere. "We are the first cannabis box series that offers a personalized customized box."

Randy Williams, a founder of the Keiretsu Forum, hosted the event, joined by judges Melissa Marsh Ross, a technology executive and angel investor, Shirley Gee, a department head and executive senior staff member with Stanford University's research laboratory, and Adam

Henderson, a Founder and COO of a recently launched technology company.

Other presenters included SEBA students Mark Guadagni and Lee Sims III, and Michael Reynolds.

The event was hosted by the Center for Regional Economy, in partnership with Stull Grant for Entrepreneurship and the Keiretsu Forum. City National Bank sponsored all the cash prizes to the winning teams. The objective of the annual SEBA Business Idea Competition is to help participants refine their ideas to get to the stage where they can actually present to investors.

Colorful cultural arts displayed at Orinda Pan-Asian festival



Opening ceremony and ribbon-cutting at Pan-Asian Arts Festival. From left: Assemblywoman Catharine Baker, Orinda Vice Mayor Inga Miller, Poet Laureate Amy Glynn, Consul-General Nagayoshi of Japan, Weylin Eng, president, Rotary Club of Orinda, Rotary District Governor Gary Vilhauer and San Francisco Asian Art Museum representative David Lei.



White Crane Lion Dancers unfurl scrolls of welcome at the Pan-Asian Arts Festival.



Young dancers from Hip-Hop Natyam Dance Academy, the first South Asian Dance School to serve the residents in Contra Costa County.



Members of the team from East West Bok Fu Do that will represent the United States at the International Bok Fu Do Association competition later this year in Baltimore, Md., demonstrate their skills. - Sora O'Doherty

SMC undergrads celebrate 2018 commencement



The Saint Mary's College class of 2018 waits for their turn to receive diplomas on May 26. Approximately 600 students were awarded undergraduate degrees; nearly as many completed advanced degrees at the post-graduate commencement May 27.



Krista Federas of Lafayette.

- Cathy Dausman

Make your own memories with Bittersweet Brownie Pudding

By Susie Iventosch



Brownie Pudding

Photo Susie Iventosch

A few weeks ago, my sister called to see if I had our mom's brownie pudding recipe. She wanted to surprise our parents with this old family favorite, but my recipe file was not with me that day. Actually, I had completely forgotten about brownie pudding, which was one of our favorite desserts when we were kids. I was so excited to make it again, and when I finally found and made the recipe, it tasted awful, with some sort of metallic taste. This was not at all how it tasted when we were young! What happened?

After some investigation, I discovered that I had used a baking powder that contained aluminum (aluminum sodium sulfate or aluminum sodium phosphate) and for some reason, it did not mix well with the other ingredients. Maybe it was the interaction with the cocoa powder, but whatever the case, I threw the entire batch out and vowed to try again the

next week, while I was down visiting my mom.

If you've ever had that metallic taste, or just an off-taste with your baked goods such as muffins, scones, breads or pancakes, check your baking powder. Those that contain aluminum can develop this taste during the baking, even if the batter or dough tastes perfectly fine. This has happened to me over the years, so I became curious as to what was happening and learned that the devil is in the baking powder.

Rumford makes an aluminum-free, double acting baking powder, and Trader Joe's also packages an aluminum-free baking powder. You can also make your own by combining baking soda with cream of tartar or cornstarch, but you may have to experiment, because the quantities of each differ quite a bit from one source to another.

What began as a walk down

memory lane with the revival of our old recipe, became a quest to make a better, gooier brownie pudding, with more chocolate, less sugar, more water and aluminum-free baking powder. My mom loves chocolate, and the more the better, so we used melted bittersweet chocolate in addition to the cocoa powder called for in the original recipe. We decided to use a little bit more boiling water, too, which created more of the gooey sauce to spoon over ice cream. After four attempts, we finally landed a really great new version of this old favorite!

Here is the link to an Epicurious article by David Tamarkin that offers a great explanation of why some baking powders contain aluminum in the first place: <https://www.epicurious.com/ingredients/why-aluminum-free-baking-powder-is-better-article>

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.



INGREDIENTS



Brownie Layer

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 4 ounces bittersweet chocolate, melted
- 2 teaspoons baking powder (use one with no aluminum like Rumford's)
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup milk
- 2 tablespoons canola oil (or can use melted butter)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ cup chopped pecans (or walnuts)

Topping

- ¾ cup (packed) light brown sugar
- ¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 ¼ cups boiling water

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease an 8x8x2 inch baking pan and set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, mix together flour, granulated sugar, baking powder and salt.
3. Stir in the milk, oil and vanilla. Mix well.
4. Add the melted chocolate and chopped nuts.
5. Spread batter out evenly into the prepared pan.
6. In small bowl mix brown sugar and cocoa powder and spread evenly over top of brownie batter.
7. Slowly pour boiling water over the top.
8. Bake for 35 minutes or so, until top is crackly, but bottom is still gooey.
9. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream or frozen yogurt.

Acalanes' Blueprint awarded for excellence in journalism

By John T. Miller



Members of the Blueprint staff at Acalanes High School pose after being recognized at the Dean Leshler High School Journalism Awards banquet held recently. Back row, from left: Sarah Westergren, Lisa Burciaga, Kahren Eloyan, Larry Freeman (advisor), Gareth Kwok, Claire Gallagher and Clare Fonstein; front row: Christine Mitroff, Clara Kobashigawa, Maddie McDonagh, Sierra Fong-Horvath and Natalie Starzcewski.

Photo Blueprint photographer Nell Kessenich

In its 78 years in existence, the venerable Blueprint, a student-driven Acalanes High School newspaper, received a lion's share of awards this spring to cap off a successful year.

Blueprint advisor Larry Freeman, as quoted in an article by Online Feature Editor Sofia Olsson, said, "Thinking of this as an avalanche of awards isn't the right perspective. It's a testament to other people thinking that the Blueprint is doing a great job in its mission of journalism."

Kiara Kunnes, who will take over as a print editor next year said, "It was an impressive year. The stories we tackled were unique for a high school paper and stood out." She expressed gratitude to all the editors and their advisor. "We wouldn't have been so successful without their leadership."

Freeman added, "The group I had this year is one of the best high-powered, collaborative journalists I've ever had in my 28 years here."

In the prestigious Quill and Scroll contest run by the Uni-

versity of Iowa, the Blueprint - vying with 2,065 entries from across the country - fared well, winning nine awards or honorable mentions.

In addition, the American Scholastic Press Association awarded the paper with a First Place with Special Merit award out of more than 250 entrants.

The Blueprint also won AS-PA's Outstanding Theme for an Issue for their January 2018 series, "Profiles on Courage," detailing 14 Acalanes students who faced adversity.

One of the more impressive awards was garnered by Print Editor Sierra Fong-Horvath, who was named California Journalist of the Year by the Journalism Education Association of California. The JEAC also awarded Gareth Kwok for Best Web Content.

Locally, the newspaper won eight first-place awards and 17 overall in the Dean Leshler High School Journalism Awards, including first place in Overall Excellence and in Best Website. Ten Contra Costa high schools

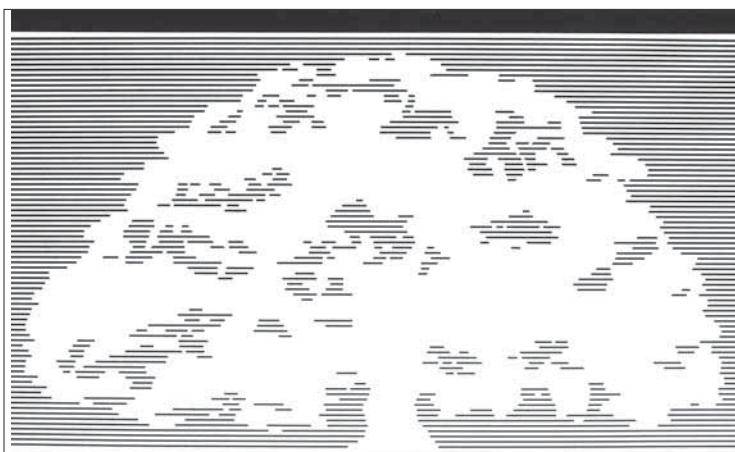
participated.

Fong-Horvath won the Leshler CCC Journalist of the Year, along with first place for Best Feature Writing and second place for Best Feature Writing with fellow Print Editor Clara Kobashigawa.

Fong-Horvath and Kobashigawa teamed with Maddie McDonagh and Kahren Eloyan to garner first place in Best Editorial/Opinion Writing for their coverage of the Parkland Shooting entitled, "To the Survivors in Florida: We Stand With You."

Other first place awards included Best Sports Writing by Kobashigawa and Kwok; Best Personal Column by Sarah Westergren; Best In-depth or Investigative Reporting by Lisa Burciaga and Karen Rosenberg; and Best Editorial Cartoon by Christine Mitroff.

With the graduation of this year's seniors, Freeman now looks forward to rebuilding with his next batch of editors, writers, photographers and designers.



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ART

The Lamorinda Arts Alliance and the Concord Art Association are delighted to present a joint Art Show and Sale from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 2 at the Lafayette Christian Church at 584 Glenside Dr., Lafayette. There will be 24 artists who work in many mediums including ceramics, jewelry, printmaking, painting, photography, weaving and sculpture. There will be art demonstrations, live music, and light refreshments. <https://laa4art.org>, <http://concordartassociation.blogspot.com>

Moraga Art Gallery's new exhibit "Precision Beauty" will feature interpretations of nature in the form of jewelry by member artist Kuniko Kay Nitta of Walnut Creek and watercolor paintings by Berkeley's Karen Kramer. An opening reception, to which the public is invited, will take place from 5-7 p.m. on Saturday, June 9. The Gallery is located at 522 Center Street in the Rheem Shopping Center. For more information visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

MUSIC

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).

Free Rock concerts in Lafayette Plaza Park every Friday in June, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Rock the Plaza line up: D. Band on June 1; Sonata on June 8. More information at www.lafayettechamber.org.

Berkeley Festival and Exhibition offers a weeklong feast of music, music events, and festivities from June 3-10. The concerts and music events are all within walking distance of each other. Park your car and walk from one musical feast to another. Buy tickets online at www.berkeleyfestival.org or call the Box Office at (510) 528-1725. Children and students will have free admission to the Young Artists Series concerts at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

WomenSing presents 'Earth-Rise-choral concert for compassion and peace' from 8 to 10 p.m. on Wednesday, June 6 at St. Mary's Chapel, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. WomenSing presents a musical exploration of the joys, challenges, and fragility of life on Earth. Join us in a glorious ode to our planet! Cost: \$28 general admittance; \$10 for students. For more info visit <https://womensing.org/Current-Season> or call (925) 798-4875 or email info@womensing.org.

Piano Composers last of the season concert will be at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 8 at the lovely Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd. in Walnut Creek. Original, delightful, and inspirational music with occasional reference to Broadway, Beethoven, and New Orleans — all this imaginatively performed on stage by composer pianists themselves. This free event is sponsored by the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society (www.ccpas.org).

Diablo Choral Artists presents their concert "Variations on Love and Laughter" at 7 p.m. on June 9 at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. There will be a drawing for a gift basket at the concert, and a reception following the concert. General Admission: Adults \$25, Seniors 60+ \$15, Students \$5, Children 5-12 free. Details and ticket purchase on website: www.dca-chorus.org. Tickets are available from choir members, or through Brown Paper Tickets, 800-838-2006.

Carol Trio with Amy Likar, presenting chamber concert of Beethoven String Trio, Mozart Flute Quartet, Duos by Martinu and Srinivasan. Brooke Aird [violin], Linda Green [viola], Cathy Aird [cello], Amy Likar [flute]. Presented at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13 at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda. Suggested donation: \$20. More info at smumcorinda@gmail.com or stmarksumcorinda.

4th annual Music on the Lawn from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, June 15 at Saint Mary's College Chapel Lawn. Bring your whole family and a blanket for a fun evening listening to alumni bands, dining on Damian's famous taco buffet, and drinking beer and wine. Tickets: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door; \$10 Kids. Tickets at the door are cash only. Beer and wine can be purchased separately, cash only. For more information, visit: www.stmarys-ca.edu/4th-annual-music-on-the-lawn.

THEATER

Town Hall Theatre Company Presents "Sense & Sensibility," based on the novel by Jane Austen, from June 2-23, with previews at 8 p.m. on May 31 and June 1. The play follows the adventures (and misadventures) of the Dashwood sisters — sensible Elinor and hypersensitive Marianne — in gossipy late 18th century Regency England. As the play opens, their father's unexpected demise leaves the family in dire financial straits; and both sisters must learn to navigate the rising societal pressures, preserve reputations and somehow find happiness and true love. Tickets: \$18 Previews, \$27-30 Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings, \$25-27 Sunday matinee. Discounts available for seniors and youth. Box Office: (925) 283-1557; www.townhalltheatre.com.

MFA in Dance Thesis Concert Series: Unearthed at 3 and 7 p.m. on June 15 and 16 at the LeFevre Theatre, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Presented by Saint Mary's MFA in Dance Class of 2018. Featured works by Surabhi Bharadwaj, Stephanie Brumer, KJ Dahlaw, Emily Denham, Summer Logan, Ashley Mott, Laura Natario, and Hilary Snider. Tickets: \$15 per concert, \$25 for both concerts. <https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/forms/mfa-dance-performance3/index.html>

LECTURE & LITERATURE

"Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Historical Context and Contemporary Issues in the Trump Era" is the title of Dr. Karen Musalo's lecture for First Friday Forum at 1:30 p.m. on June 1 in the sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Musalo is the director of the UC Hasting Center for Gender and Refugee Studies and a professor of Law at UC Hastings. Refreshments will be served at 1

p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This is a free event. For information call (925) 283-8722.

Orinda's Own REAL Alaska Reality Show from 4 to 5 p.m. on June 7 at the Orinda Library. Join Miramonte High alumna Laura (Melohn) Emerson for a fascinating presentation about her experience in remote Alaska. Emerson moved to a small log cabin in the middle of the Alaska woods, a 20-minute flight from the nearest road! Please join us for Emerson's presentation full of pictures about this very different and very intentional life.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

"Kids and Snacks-Setting Healthy Habits" a discussion by Dr. Nazia Sheriff from Olive Leaf Pediatrics and a snack demonstration by Chief Lynda from Cooking with Kids Foundation will be held from 4-5 p.m. on Thursday, May 31 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Please register for the free event via cheflyndak@aol.com.

Free Family Movie Night: enjoy "Wonder" at Moraga Commons Park starting at 8:50 p.m. on Friday, June 1. Bundle up with blankets under the stars. Concessions will be sold by the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee.

The Contra Costa County Library is proud to kick off Summer Reading on Monday, June 4. The program is the Library's yearly effort to keep kids reading during the summer months, preventing "brain drain." This year's theme is "Reading Takes You Everywhere" and the program is filled with activities, events and reading lists designed to show you that reading can take your imagination anywhere. Summer Reading runs through Saturday, Aug. 4. For more information on Summer Reading including a list of prizes, challenges and events, visit your local Contra Costa County Library branch or ccclib.org/summer.

OTHER

Many Faces of Skin Cancers from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on May 30 at the Lafayette Library Community Room. Join an engaging panel of medical experts including Drs. Kelly Hood, MD, Arash Mohebbati, Susan Kao and Christine Chung, as they offer insights into the latest information on prevention, risk factors, new treatment options, and explore the unique issues of skin cancer survivors. Reservations recommended, call (925) 677-5041.

See Community Concern for Cats' new crop of kittens at a weekend adoption event from 1-4 p.m. at Pet Food Express in Lafayette, June 2-3. For more information, see www.communityconcernforcats.org

Come break all the rules at the "Night at the Library" — includes cocktails, vino, silent Disco (!?!!) and fun around every corner beginning at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, June 2 in the stacks of the Lafayette Library. Immerse yourself in merriment, while supporting the library and its programs. www.LLLCF.org/Night2018

... continued on next page

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'Solo'

By Derek Zemrak



MOVIE REVIEW



Image provided

I must admit I am not the biggest Star Wars fan in the galaxy. In 1977, I was 11 years old when the original Star Wars was released, and I fell asleep in the theater. I was intrigued by "Solo," not because it is another Star Wars movie but because of all the trouble the movie had in production. When the film started shooting it was directed by Phil Lord ("22 Jump Street") and Christopher Miller ("The Lego Movie"). The ex-

ecutives were not happy with the early footage and both gentlemen were fired. They were replaced with Oscar winning director Ron Howard ("A Beautiful Mind," "Frost/Nixon"). So, did Ron Howard save the day, as Han Solo does?

The answer is yes!

This movie is all about Han and Chewbacca. The story also tells how Han Solo got his name. How Solo and Chewbacca meet is a scene I really enjoyed because it has tension, humor and heart. You will be cheering for both of them. Solo is played by Alden Ehrenreich ("Hail Caesar!" "Beautiful Creatures") who does a fine job and is believable as a young Han Solo. In a few scenes I thought I was watching a young Harrison Ford, as Ehrenreich's mannerisms and body movements were spot on.

Solo has good character development and did not leave me wondering why he became an expert pilot. I also felt that Howard's direction and photography gave the movie a feeling of nostalgia that was not present in the previous sequels.

Lando Calrissian is played by the multi-talented actor, director, producer and composer Donald Glover, who steals the scenes he is in and is a joy to watch on the big screen. He is a dead ringer for a young Billy Dee Williams. In the movie we see how Lando and Solo meet. Plus, we learn how Solo gets the Millennium Falcon, which is another entertaining scene.

Overall, I found "Solo" a solid movie with excellent character development and direction. Thank you, Ron Howard for saving this film.

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OTHER... continued

Lamorinda Village Travel Series: Just Cruising! at 1 p.m. on June 5 at LOPC, 49 Knox Dr. New trends are making cruises more attractive than ever. Ron Hermanson from Cruise Holidays will share ideas and options for cruise travel. Learn about river cruises exploring new destinations, great rivers of Europe, ship/cruise descriptions and accommodations, advantages of river cruising (vs. other methods of travel) and more! Free for Lamorinda Village members; \$5 donation is appreciated for non-members. Call (925) 283-3500 to register.

Bay Area Skeptics and Sacramento Area Skeptics present SkeptiCal 2018: The NorCal Conference on Science & Skepticism from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, June 10, at Hotel Shattuck Plaza, 2086 Allston Way, Berkeley. SkeptiCalexplores bad science, fake news, homelessness, AI, sugar abuse, and alien abduction. Cost: advance \$45 (\$35 student); regular \$50 (\$40 student). For more info see <http://www.skepticalcon.com>.

Diablo Ballet presents its 3rd annual PAWS de Tutu dog festival

from 9 to 11 a.m. on June 23 at the Lafayette Reservoir. Registered guests will be treated to the popular dog costume competitions, along with demos by the Contra Costa Sherriff's K-9 unit, a DOGA (Dog Yoga) demo, and a dog training demo. Dog owners are invited to dress up their dogs and enter the dog costume competitions – solo competition (one dog in costume) or group competition (multiple dogs in costume). Admission is \$10, with an extra \$10 to enter the costume contest. Anyone interested in attending, should register online at www.diabloballer.org as participation is limited.

Lamorindans of all ages are invited to a Field Day Open House June 23 at Moraga Commons Park. This free nationwide amateur radio event runs 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and shows amateurs using 100-year-old technology in today's world even when cell phones and electric power fail. For details see <https://www.facebook.com/K6ORI/?ref=bookmarks>.

SENIORS

Cut the Cable Cord (And Possibly Your Cable Bill!) by Orlando Guzman, Technology Guru with

the Lafayette Library from 10:30 to noon on May 31 in the Cedar Room at the Lafayette Community Center. Streaming media services abound, but what are they? How do they work? It's not easy untangling your choices. Let Orlando shed some light on smart TVs and streaming media services, and help you make choices that might decrease or eliminate your cable bill altogether! Members Free; Non-Members \$10.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Acalanes boys win NCS Championship over Northgate

By Jon Kingdon



Photos Gint Federas

Avoiding a letdown after a tense, five-set victory over Campolindo (27-29, 25-20, 22-25, 25-20, 18-16), Acalanes won the NCS volleyball championship over Northgate 3 games to 1 (25-21, 29-27, 26-28, 25-23).

Under coach Mason Mulvaney, Acalanes has shown constant improvement over the last five sea-

sons: 1-14 in 2014, 2-15 in 2015; 13-13 in 2016; 28-7 in 2017 and 27-8 as NCS champion and qualifying for the CIS tournament this year.

Against Northgate, the Dons won the first two games and were up 24-20 in the third game but Northgate fought off five match points to win the third game before Acalanes clinched the match on their second match point in the fourth game.

Acalanes' victory over Washington in the quarter finals also went five games and the five set victories proved to be an advantage to his team, according to Mulvaney. "We had a solid game plan and we trusted in each other. Tonight, we were able to bear down in the pressure situations. It helped us having won the five set matches prior to tonight's game. When we got up 2-0, the pressure was on them and at 2-1

as well."

Acalanes had a balanced offense that did not allow Northgate to focus on one player. Mulvaney was effusive in his comments on his team's offense: "Austin Kinnear was phenomenal, all the more impressive in that he is only a freshman; Ethan Browne played the entire match though under the weather; Colin Kirbach who constantly put the ball where it needed to be and Alex Franke who had many huge blocks up front."

Acalanes began the season with an 11-5 record and went on to win 17 of their next 20 games, maturing as the season went along according to Mulvaney: "We're a young team, only starting one senior and we came together as the season concluded."

Just as important as the victory, the volleyball team also received the NCS Scholastic Championship



Austin Kinnear

team with a team GPA average of 3.42, third highest of all NCS Division 3 teams.

Miramonte girls defeat Acalanes in NCS Championship game, 10-6

By Jon Kingdon



Photos Gint Federas

The NCS girls lacrosse championship game matched Miramonte against Acalanes for the third time this season – once in the regular season, once in the DAL Championship and finally in the NCS championship game. For the third time in a row, Miramonte came out victorious defeating Acalanes 10-6.

If you had to point to one difference between Acalanes and Miramonte, it would have to be the second half play of Miramonte. In the league championship game, Miramonte fell behind 4-1 and then

utilized all of our players on defense, not just the defenders and we got a lot of turnovers."

The depth of the teams also proved to make a difference. Miramonte was substituting six to seven players through the game while Acalanes utilized fewer players. In the second half, Miramonte was able to maintain possession for long periods of time, which was part of Pelletier's game plan: "We were up by three and without a shot clock, we moved the ball as fast as possible and we had an 8-minute period where we were able to keep the ball away from Acalanes."

Acalanes head coach Courtney Neff agreed the second half was the difference: "Miramonte was able to keep the ball away from us and we had to go into a high-pressure defense which entailed full out sprints

by our players to get the ball back and it was very fatiguing."

Leading the offense for the Matadors were sisters Perrie Lundstrom, who scored three times, and Shaune Lundstrom, who scored twice. With six girls scoring, it made it difficult for Acalanes to slow Miramonte down. Said Pelletier: "With so many of our players having the ability to score, they could not focus on one or two players on our offense."

Goalie Brianna Fick had seven saves and was effectively protected by the Miramonte defensive unit, seniors Maisy Mills, Caroline Stenzel, and Hannah Smith, junior Vanessa Lam and freshman Libby Hawkins. "Our whole defensive unit did a great job," said Pelletier. "Acalanes could not relax and we did not allow them to set up their

offense. Our players had the green light to double team the ball, forcing them to be on the move and not allow them to get in a groove."

Acalanes had their standouts as well according to Neff: "Lauren Westergren was all over the field. Claire Gallagher was very effective recovering ground balls all game and Jamie Wendt was outstanding for us in goal. I'm proud of the way the team played. I believe that this was a very successful season."

Getting hot at the right time, Miramonte won 11 of their last 12 games this season. Pelletier appreciates the effort her team invested in this season: "We have a very deep program with nine seniors and 12 underclassmen. The girls wanted to get better as the season went along."



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Double Win at Twin Creeks

Submitted by Brent Meyers and Susan Linden



Back row, from left: coach Dave Manousos, coach Mike Rogers, Brendan Comerford, Robbie Mascheroni, Justin Rodriguez, coach Steve Hammond, Justin Meyers, Adrian Blumberg, Nick Rogers, Philip Jagard, Evan Olson, and coach Brent Meyers; front row: Lucas Concepcion, Charlie Hill, and Dashiell Weaver. Photo Rob Mascheroni

The 13U and 14U Moraga Mavericks won the 680 Diablo League Championship on May 19-20. 13U defeated the Pleasant Hill Hawks 7-6 in a come from behind victory. The Mavericks finished the cham-

pionship weekend undefeated, completing their regular season with an 18-6 record. The team will begin its summer tournament season Memorial Day weekend at the USSSA NorCal State Championship in Manteca.



Back row, from left: Wiley Winkler, Connor Fritch, Ethan Cho, coach CJ Doorn; middle row from left: Max Rittmann, Jack Beaty, Dylan Wilkalis; front row from left: Finn Jordan, Michael Coane, Scott Linden, Xavier Esquer, Luca Rago

Coach Cameron Doorn 14U Moraga Mavericks team followed suit by defeating the Danville Crushers 7-3.

This is the first time in 680 league history that a Moraga Team has won a 680 league championship.

2017-2018 Girls DAL All League Winter Sports

DAL All-League – Foothill Division Girls Basketball – 2017-18

Most Valuable Player – Foothill Division
Haley Van Dyke Campolindo

1st Team All-League – Foothill Division
Clair Steele Miramonte
Erin Tarasow Miramonte
Ashley Thoms Campolindo
Mia Mastrov Miramonte

2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division
Lauren Kobashigawa Acalanes
Grace Gebhardt Acalanes
Grace McGuire Campolindo
Emily Huston Miramonte
Rebecca Welsh Miramonte

Honorable Mention – Foothill Division
Kate Brown Campolindo
Lauren Frechman Acalanes
Amerika De Los Santos Miramonte

DAL All-League – Foothill Division Girls Soccer – 2017-18

1st Team All-League – Foothill Division
Devon Ortman Campolindo
Molly Ikeya Campolindo
Emily Smith Acalanes
Taylor Walthall Miramonte
Olivia Grillo Miramonte

2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division
Olivia Goodman Miramonte
Sabrina Grant Miramonte
Kierra Krawec Acalanes
Cecilia Campo Campolindo
Savannah DeCarlo Campolindo

Honorable Mention – Foothill Division
Samantha Hansen Acalanes
Sophia Giordano Acalanes
Malika Haji Acalanes
Nicole Hubner Campolindo
Azalea Kim Campolindo
Mallory Louis Campolindo
Anna Le-Nguyen Miramonte
Taylor Johnson Miramonte
Alex Ziem Miramonte

Photos Gint Federas



Haley Van Dyke

Clair Steele



Erin Tarasow

Ashley Thoms



Mia Mastrov



Emily Smith

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Lamorinda baseball and softball playoffs

By Jon Kingdon



Nick Berry

Photos Gint Federas

All three Lamorinda baseball teams made the NCS playoffs and all played their first-round games at home.

Acalanes, eight seeded, came up short getting shut out by San Ramon Valley 6-0, finishing their season with a 16-9 record.

The No. 1 seeded Miramonte won their opening playoff game against Albany 9-0 behind the dominant pitching of senior Bill Duby.

The Matadors came up short in the second game against San Marin 6-4. After falling behind 5-1 in the fifth inning, coach Kevin Hodges called the team together to "get them to keep their composure." The team responded with three runs but a line drive double play ended the inning and with the tying run on base in the bottom of the seventh, the game ended with Charlie Mollahan being thrown out attempting to steal third. Regardless, Hodges came away "proud of the team," which ended the season with an 18-6 record.

Campolindo, seeded second, won both their home games giving up a total of two hits to make it into the semifinals. Mike Crews threw a two hitter as the Cougars defeated Sonoma Valley 6-1 as every starter for Campolindo had at least one hit with Will Bishop

and Ryan Regan getting two hits each.

Campolindo (14-10) won their fifth straight game shutting out St. Joseph-Alameda 6-0 in their quarterfinal game. Will Bishop gave up no hits, striking out eight and walking three. Second baseman Trevin Kroichick preserved the no-hitter with a terrific, leaping catch to end the sixth inning.

As with the baseball teams, the Lamorinda softball teams all made the NCS play-

offs as wellm though each school had to play their opening games on the road.

Acalanes lost their game to Terra Linda (San Ramon) by a score of 11-2. The Dons finished their season with a 9-14 record.

Miramonte, in the playoffs for the first time since 2014, travelled to Sebastapol to play Analy High School and was on the short end of a 20-0 game, finishing with a 5-11 record, going 4-5 after beginning the

season 1-6.

Campolindo won their first playoff game over Encinal High School 6-1 behind the 4-hit pitching of Tara McAteer and the hitting of Kelly Gagnon and Abbie Lee.

The Cougars (13-7) lost their next game at Marin Catholic by a score of 12-2. Katelyn Poole, who ended the season with a .607 batting average and five home runs, had two hits in the game.



Evan Yamamoto



Cassidy Wall



Nick Kresnak



Bill Duby



Tara McAteer

Acalanes boys lose to Marin Academy in NCS Championship

By Jon Kingdon

Never trailing for 49 minutes and 56 seconds in the championship game at Marin Academy, the Acalanes boys' lacrosse team gave up a goal with four seconds remaining to lose by a score of 5-4.

The Dons led 1-0 after the first period and 3-2 going into the fourth period. Trailing 4-3, Marin tied the game with 1:44 left in the game and then Jackson Sell scored the winning goal for Marin at 0:04.

Acalanes coach Brent Ringwood knew it was going to be a competitive game: "We had a good game plan and we scouted them well. We knew they were a talented and ath-

letic team."

Marin Catholic came into the game averaging 11 goals per game, but the Dons defense frustrated them throughout the game led by senior goalie Parker Henderson, impressing Marin head coach Josh Freschette: "We got a lot of good looks on offense, but Henderson was just playing out of his head. He really did a great job."

Ringwood echoed those sentiments: "We have had some great goalies in my time at Acalanes but this was the greatest individual effort I have seen from somebody at that position. He made some incredible saves."

Along with Henderson, defenders Joey Galdden and Nick Schirmer had excellent games along with the defensive midfielders Jackson Welch, Will Schueler and Gabe Middleton.

The defense was well prepared for Marin, said Ringwood: "We had a good game plan and had scouted them well. We knew their personnel and what their strengths were and our defense knew what their sets were."

On offense, Jake Landry scored two goals and Colin Jeffries and Reed Watson each scored once.

Marin put up a very strong defense to

match Acalanes. "We did not outshoot them so we did not get a lot of good looks at the game," said Ringwood. "They had a good game plan as well which took us out of our comfort zone and their goalie was very good as well. It was a very hard fought and exciting game."

Despite the loss, Ringwood was effusive in his praise of the team: "I was really proud of what the players put together. They put in the work and that is all you can ask for: to be there at the end with the opportunity to win. We overcame injuries and the players dug down and made it all work."

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Local volleyballers No. 1 at California Championship, earn nationals bid

Submitted by Baldwin Lee



Team members with coach Ernie Rodriguez on the left and coach Shari Rodriguez on the right. Photo Baldwin Lee

Lamorinda teens Brianna Lee, Erin Meade, Molly Mitchell, and Annika Olson helped power their volleyball club team, NorCal Volleyball Club 15-1, to capture the Northern California volleyball championship earlier this month. In the championship match, NorCal rolled to a 25-19, 25-19 victory over SF Elite, which had won the championship the three prior years. Among other finals match highlights, Lee, the Libero, contributed 16 digs and two service aces, with a flawless no-error serve-receive, and hitters Olson and Mitchell each crushed three kills. Meade, Mitchell, and Olson also put up a formidable wall in the front throughout the two-day championship tournament in Reno,

recording numerous blocks.

NorCal earned a National Bid from USA Volleyball, so the girls are headed to Detroit for Nationals at the end of June. This is the fourth consecutive year this team has earned a bid to Nationals.

With its regional championship win, NorCal also finished No. 1 of 122 teams in Northern California for the whole season.

NorCal 15-1 is coached by Ernie and Shari Rodriguez, who also helm Acalanes High School's girls' volleyball program. Meade and Olson attend Acalanes, and Lee and Mitchell attend Campolindo High School.

CYO Track and Field

Submitted by John Murphy



3rd grade girls gold medal relay team: Zoe Lehrman, Brooke Robles, Whitney Koplan, Reese Tierney

Thirty-seven athletes from Lamorinda participated in the CYO Diocesan Meet May 11-12. The Diocesan Meet is the CYO championship that brings together qualifiers from over 50 parishes in the Oakland Diocese

to compete for a spot on the podium. In one of the strongest showings we can remember, athletes from St. Perpetua, St. Monica and Santa Maria brought home 46 medals.

2018 NCS Swimming Championships

Submitted by Catja McDonald



Top row, from left: Sophia Kosturos, Katrina Drake, Eloise Engs, Margaux McDonald, Will Clark, Jackson Painter, Will Barber, and Leo Berkman; middle row: Channing Hanley, Maddie Smith, Lizzie Follmer, Emily Rasmussen, Sam Ayers, Michael Wheeler, Christian Meckfessel, and Alec Baker; bottom row: Emily Lo, Ryan Haggland, Emily Gebhardt, Claire Maxwell, Will Nagle, Jacob Parker, Bennett Winther, and Jake Stone. Photo provided

The CIF North Coast Section Championship finals took place May 12 in Livermore. The Monte Vista girls won the meet. Campolindo took second, Miramonte third, and the Acalanes girls came in fourth. On the boys side, San Ramon Valley won with Campolindo coming in second, and Foothill third.

The Miramonte and Acalanes boys took 14th and 29th respectively.

All three teams have sent swimmers to the CIF Swimming and Diving State Championships in Clovis where the Acalanes girls team took seventh.

Lamorinda Water Polo Club celebrates its recruited student athletes

Submitted by Beth Kring



Back row, from left: 18U Boys coach James Lathrop, Will Clark (Claremont McKenna College), Ben Miller (UC Santa Barbara), Bennett Winter (USC), 18U Girls coach Kim Everist; front row, from left: Skylar Savar (UCLA), Kelly Murphy (UC Santa Barbara), Sidney Vranesh (University of Michigan), Camille Russell (Long Beach State), Erin Newsroom (University of Michigan), Jamie Pitcher (San Jose State); not pictured: Jacob Parker (Diablo Valley College) Photo Lisa Diritto
Lamorinda Water Polo Club hosted a College Commitment Celebration athletes who have committed to play water polo in college.

1982 Miramonte grad honored

Submitted by Bryan Barker



Bryan Barker, a 1982 Miramonte grad and football player, was inducted into the Hall of Fame at Santa Clara University.

Barker started to play at Santa Clara in 1986 and in the NFL from 1990-2005.

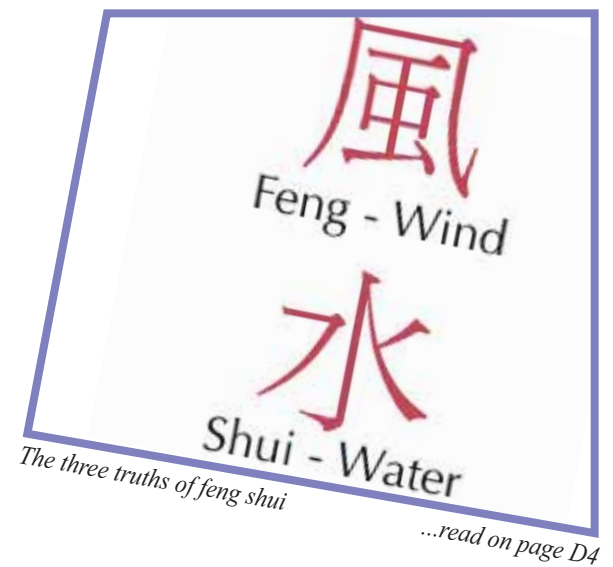
Bryan Barker Miramonte 1981 Photo provided

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 7 Wednesday, May 30, 2018



Grow your own!

By Cynthia Brian

"There are only two things that money can't buy: true love and homegrown tomatoes!" —John Denver



Artichokes are ready for harvesting.

Photo Cynthia Brian

Is there anything more satisfying than plucking a sun-ripened juicy tomato directly from the vine and munching on it right where you stand accompanied by a sprig of basil? Growing my own food is true love.

Because of the long distances of travel, on Mother's Day, I didn't get the pleasure of spending time with my two adult children. Instead I did the next best thing: I spent nine glorious hours spading, weeding, planting, watering, and mulching my vegetable garden. I sowed seeds of beans, cucumbers, cantaloupes, lettuces, Swiss chard and marigolds. Seedlings of various types of heirloom tomatoes, peppers, zucchini and eggplant were tucked between nasturtiums and calendulas. Within 60 days, I'll begin harvesting fresh, organic produce. Artichokes, beets, sorrel and arugula are already gracing our plates. Grapevines surround the perimeter as a living fence and favorite herbs including thyme, sage, rosemary, oregano, parsley, basil, lemon verbena, chervil, spearmint, lovage, lemon grass, fennel, lavender and pineapple mint form borders.

If you want to enjoy fresh flavor and fanciful flair straight from your yard this summer, these are the final days to sow and plant. Growing your own vegetables and herbs means that you will always have plenty of the most nutritious and succulent ingredients for your meals. You don't need a large yard to accommodate your culinary and dietary requirements. In fact, starting small is best for beginners.

The three essentials:

1. A location with six or more hours of sunlight
2. Rich, amended soil
3. Water

The location can be in the ground or in containers. The key is to have as much sunlight as possible. A raised bed measuring 4 x 4 x 8 feet will offer a great starting point. If you only have a balcony, porch or patio, buy containers large enough to allow roots to thrive.

Rich soil is paramount for growing all vegetables. Buy bags of soil engineered for growing edibles or enrich your current soil with copious amounts of compost. Since it's at the end of the planting season for summer vegetables, buying soil will ensure a better outcome. Make sure that you have proper drainage. You don't want water stagnating or draining too quickly.

... continued on page D12



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	19	\$700,000	\$3,050,000
MORAGA	13	\$510,000	\$1,761,500
ORINDA	15	\$882,000	\$4,250,000

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

- 165 Arbor View Lane, \$2,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 4786 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 4-26-18
 3349 Betty Lane, \$700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1154 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 4-24-18
 3363 Betty Lane, \$1,630,000, 4 Bdrms, 2022 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 4-25-18;
 Previous Sale: \$950,000, 11-06-17
 3339 Dyer Drive, \$992,000, 4 Bdrms, 1732 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-19-18
 320 Lowell Lane #E, \$2,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 2960 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 4-12-18;
 Previous Sale: \$1,312,000, 11-10-10
 765 Moraga Road, \$1,060,000, 3 Bdrms, 1875 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 4-13-18;
 Previous Sale: \$575,000, 07-07-11
 3403 Mountain Springs Road, \$1,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 3261 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 4-11-18;
 Previous Sale: \$1,853,500, 03-09-16
 691 Old Jonas Hill Road, \$3,050,000, 6 Bdrms, 4466 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 4-19-18;
 Previous Sale: \$2,225,000, 01-05-10
 3265 Reliez Court, \$2,263,000, 4 Bdrms, 3356 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 4-24-18;
 Previous Sale: \$609,000, 02-25-94
 3219 Ronino Way, \$1,975,000, 3 Bdrms, 3015 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 4-17-18;
 Previous Sale: \$807,500, 10-02-09
 3392 Rossi Street, \$2,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 3210 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 4-16-18;
 Previous Sale: \$1,440,000, 06-24-09
 1076 Serrano Court, \$1,446,500, 3 Bdrms, 2144 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 4-13-18;
 Previous Sale: \$359,000, 11-30-94
 19 Shreve Lane, \$1,030,000, 4 Bdrms, 2002 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 4-24-18
 3445 Solana Court, \$2,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 3359 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 4-26-18;
 Previous Sale: \$1,541,000, 07-31-15
 3324 South Lucille Lane, \$975,000, 3 Bdrms, 1991 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 4-24-18;
 Previous Sale: \$734,500, 07-26-04
 3370 Springhill Road, \$1,970,000, 6 Bdrms, 3648 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-18-18;
 Previous Sale: \$549,000, 09-02-98
 3740 St. Francis Drive, \$2,540,000, 3 Bdrms, 3326 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 4-16-18;
 Previous Sale: \$890,000, 09-28-01
 1370 Sunset Loop, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 1577 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-26-18;
 Previous Sale: \$765,000, 12-06-16
 1154 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 3102 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 4-12-18;
 Previous Sale: \$1,408,000, 04-30-14
 3275 Withers Avenue, \$1,460,000, 4 Bdrms, 2680 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-12-18;
 Previous Sale: \$1,260,000, 06-05-15
 1006 Woodbury Road #302, \$2,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 2931 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 4-19-18

MORAGA

- 1176 Alta Mesa Drive, \$1,240,000, 4 Bdrms, 2785 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 4-20-18;
 Previous Sale: \$271,000, 08-05-86
 4 Baltusrol Street, \$894,000, 2 Bdrms, 2142 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 4-19-18;
 Previous Sale: \$759,000, 07-29-05
 351 Calle La Mesa, \$1,605,000, 5 Bdrms, 2400 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 4-12-18

... continued on page D8



FOR SALE

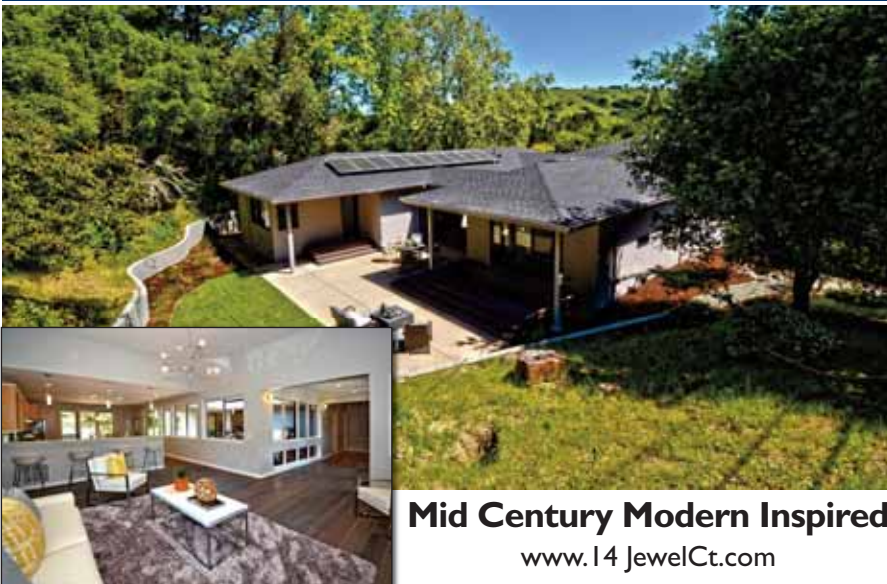
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Feng Shui

The three truths of feng shui

By Michele Duffy



Is there anything missing from the Five Elements in this lovely strong shui living room?

Photos provided

The Feng shui for some westerners remains a mystery, an enigma – and with a healthy dose of curiosity, three profound truths offer a glimpse into the nuances of the feng shui layers that create real magic in our environments. And who doesn't want more practical ways to create magic?

Truth 1: Feng shui is not a New-Age fad, religion or superstition. The Taoist philosopher, Lao Tzu, more than 3,000 years ago was largely credited with acknowledging and articulating the principles of the Tao of feng shui: that everything is connected.

Feng shui initially aided town planning and later during the Ching Dynasty evolved further into a formal study of energy. Feng shui translates roughly into “wind and water,” balanced and informed by yin-yang, five elements and healthy chi flow. Lao Tzu also said, “Nothing in nature hurries, and yet all is accomplished.”

Realigning, slowing down, being more mindful, and living more aware and aligned with the natural rhythms of the world around us, is part of how we regain balance. Balance can be had in our environments with the help of feng shui. Conversely, when we are not mindful, or fall out of balance, perhaps by not paying attention to self-care, we may be overwhelmed or overlook the reliable help offered by feng shui and the yin-yang balance, which can contribute to creating imbalances that can possibly lead to disease. Feng shui is the reliable healing home tool we can utilize time and again to restore the chi we need for life.

Past studies done by environmental psychologists and anthropologists, as well as recent research done by neuro-sociologists like Dr. John Zeisel (“Inquiry by Design: Environment/Behavior/Neuroscience in Architecture, Interiors, Landscape, and Planning”) have proved that our environments do affect us and we have an effect on the environment by our actions in return, and these can be readily measured.

Truth 2: Feng shui works brilliantly with the five elements of the Bagua Map. Every aspect of a professional shui consultation audit is a collaboration of the flow of chi, inspired by the five elements of water, wood, fire, earth and metal. Inviting nature and natural elements into the layers that create a home is one of the surest ways to adjust any environment and improve the chi flow.

... continued on page D10



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A Joint Marketing Approach

Most real estate related searches start online. As such, a seller can play a major role in the marketing of their own home by leveraging their personal and professional social networks. Gone are the days where the listing agent controls all marketing speak and tactics. A home's marketing approach can now be a joint effort between the sellers and their listing agent.

Take for example 5GreenvalleyDrive.com, the listing URL for a 1922 farmhouse in Lafayette currently being sold by TubeMogul founder and former CEO Brett Wilson. While the home very much speaks for itself, the owner's willingness to promote the home through his own personal and professional social media channels has had a viral effect with comments and well wishers weighing in on the experience. Within the first three days of the live listing the URL accumulated over 40,000 views, well above the average views for a new home listing URL. While not all views are coming from qualified in market buyers, any additional awareness of the listing will prove valuable for the sales cycle.

Buying a home is a very personal and emotional decision for a buyer and a seller. There is real power in turning the marketing message into a heart felt summary of a house that has been lived in and experienced real life events. A Facebook or Instagram post from a seller can supplement traditional methods of street signage, local classifieds and a listing agent's social media posts. As

stated by marketing guru, Seth Godin, "Marketing is no longer about the stuff that you sell, but about the stories you tell". For a more comprehensive analysis please see our quarterly market update on our website at MartinHomesTeam.com.



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

MORAGA

- 545 Chalda Way, \$706,000, 3 Bdrms, 1322 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 4-16-18;
Previous Sale: \$440,000, 12-23-04
- 125 Cypress Point Way, \$700,000, 2 Bdrms, 1442 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-16-18;
Previous Sale: \$750,000, 04-07-06
- 363 Fernwood Drive, \$1,648,500, 4 Bdrms, 2849 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 4-17-18;
Previous Sale: \$540,000, 06-04-96
- 491 Fernwood Drive, \$1,043,000, 4 Bdrms, 2184 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 4-24-18;
Previous Sale: \$166,000, 08-02-78
- 1320 Larch Avenue, \$1,761,500, 5 Bdrms, 3404 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 4-26-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 08-30-02
- 9 Miramonte Drive, \$680,000, 3 Bdrms, 1248 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-12-18;
Previous Sale: \$175,500, 07-29-94
- 651 Moraga Road #23, \$510,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-24-18;
Previous Sale: \$380,000, 08-13-04
- 651 Moraga Road #25, \$510,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-16-18;
Previous Sale: \$255,000, 02-15-02
- 478 Rheem Boulevard, \$685,000, 2 Bdrms, 1170 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 4-25-18;
Previous Sale: \$390,000, 09-22-14
- 1116 Sanders Drive, \$1,335,000, 4 Bdrms, 1990 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 4-13-18;
Previous Sale: \$347,000, 08-01-91

ORINDA

- 201 Alice Lane, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2345 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 4-16-18;
Previous Sale: \$85,000, 02-28-75
- 25 Bear Ridge Road, \$1,685,000, 3 Bdrms, 2852 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-20-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,466,500, 06-13-14
- 31 Bear Ridge Road, \$2,308,000, 4 Bdrms, 2604 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 4-16-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 07-16-09
- 20 Claremont Avenue, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1798 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 4-19-18
- 3 Crane Court, \$1,880,000, 4 Bdrms, 2469 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-13-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,430,000, 07-14-05
- 595 Dalewood Drive, \$2,075,000, 5 Bdrms, 4710 SqFt, 1993 YrBlt, 4-16-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,530,000, 09-14-12
- 15 Dias Dorados, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1817 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 4-19-18;
Previous Sale: \$575,000, 02-16-00
- 5 Estabueno Drive, \$1,266,000, 3 Bdrms, 2325 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 4-11-18;
Previous Sale: \$940,000, 09-07-12
- 64 Evergreen Drive, \$1,565,000, 3 Bdrms, 1922 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 4-23-18;
Previous Sale: \$237,000, 07-15-80
- 231 Ivy Drive, \$1,595,000, 4 Bdrms, 2170 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 4-25-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 05-12-16
- 150 La Espiral, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 3327 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 4-13-18;
Previous Sale: \$780,000, 11-26-14
- 27 La Noria, \$4,250,000, 7 Bdrms, 5009 SqFt, 1928 YrBlt, 4-16-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,660,000, 10-05-98
- 12 Lost Valley Drive #A, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 3483 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 4-17-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,665,000, 12-21-07
- 91 Scenic Drive, \$925,000, 4 Bdrms, 2445 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 4-19-18;
Previous Sale: \$107,000, - -
- 21 Spring Road, \$882,000, 2 Bdrms, 1468 SqFt, 1929 YrBlt, 4-20-18;
Previous Sale: \$545,000, 07-31-09



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Feng Shui

The three truths of feng shui

... continued from page D4



Always try to intentionally choose an environment that already is abundant with strong shui. For example, ample natural light in this kitchen allows cooking to be a breeze.

The main goal of nourishing feng shui is to skillfully infuse our environments. And while there are many requests for specific feng shui enhancements that reduce stress, trauma and allow for better flow, movement and ease, feng shui can also be applied for rejuvenation of wealth, partnerships-relationships, career-life path and others. The healing medicine of the five elements in our homes is similar to how acupuncturists influence the movement of chi in our bodies, and can be utilized in the actual feng shui of any home or office. The Five Elements vary by culture, such as the Tibetan Five Element system that honors different elements, including water, earth, air, fire and spirit (soul energy). The Bagua Five Elementals must all be present and intentionally balanced in any space with an experienced, mindful, and skillful eye.

The practical and profound role of the Five Elements is to bring the awesome life force of the living natural world into our own living spaces for abundance, longevity, harmony and wisdom.

Truth 3: Exceptional feng shui is not just about location, location, location. One of the main tenants passed down in ancient Taoist families, who have observed feng shui principles for living in unbroken lineages over thousands of years, is simply to start with auspicious details in as many ways as possible when selecting your home or office.

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The Bagua Map: Front Door

For example, choosing a home with abundant natural light will allow for a certain amount of “given” exceptional shui, and not just from the actual light – it’s also auspicious from a perch vantage point if lots of natural light floods sunshine inside; how lovely! Cleaner air to circulate throughout the home elevates wellbeing and a view can inspire and delight. A more mundane but equally important benefit of great natural light is a lower electricity bill, since the adjustments for gloomily lit homes include corrective lighting, which even if it’s a green lighting solution, might still increase costs.

If we look at the home layout for example, and the bedrooms in particular, we can tell ahead of time if the “commanding” position is honored or compromised. If the bedrooms have so much going on and the bed cannot be placed properly in the Commanding Position, it should be noted and considered before making a purchase. If you start off with feng shui basics in mind, the home will require less “adjusting.” Activating the Five Elements of the Bagua can naturally enhance any dwelling. Choosing an initial strong shui spot is essential for flourishing, happiness and abun-

dance. We’re so fortunate that feng shui continues to inform good common sense in interior design, architecture, kitchens, baths, bedrooms and gardens professionally and prolifically into the 21st century.

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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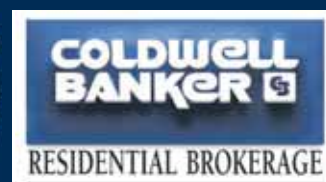
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Grow your own!

...continued from page D1



Lovage, onions, arugula amongst the nasturtiums.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Watering consistently is essential, especially in the first few weeks of either sowing the seeds or planting the seedlings. Once established, you'll need to watch how much water your plants covet.

What to plant:

The best advice is to only plant what your family enjoys eating. If you love carrots and turnips, make sure to include them in your design. If you only want fresh tomatoes, then that's your ticket to paradise. Many people attempt to plant too much, then, get frustrated when things either don't flourish or produce a plentitude.

I like to grow a bit extra to give away to friends and to freeze in sauces for the winter months. If you do grow an overabundance of crops, local food banks are always happy to accept your overflow. Also, failure is fertilizer. When a plant dies, throw it in the com-

post pile to grow a richer garden.

When buying seeds, choose high quality seeds from reputable companies or sow seeds that have been saved from high yielding collections. Cheap or inadequate seeds may not germinate, wasting time, space, and money. For select varieties of tomatoes, eggplant, squash and peppers, I prefer buying individual plants so that I have the ability to try a diverse assortment of heirloom and new selections.

Easy to grow from seed:

Carrots	Chard	Cilantro
Radishes	Beans	Chervil
Lettuces	Peas	Parsley
Beets	Spinach	Corn (you need a large space for corn)
Sorrel	Cucumbers	
Arugula	Fennel	

Easiest to grow from transplants:

Eggplant	Rosemary	Lovage (tastes like celery)
Zucchini	Basil	Artichokes (Need a large space for artichokes)
Tomatoes	Thyme	
Peppers	Sage	
Squash	Oregano	
Melons	Marjoram	



Barley and weeds infested with aphids are a habitat for lady beetles.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Beets and sorrel

Other helpful tips:

Nasturtiums, marigolds and calendula are all edible flowers that add distinctive flavors to both sweet and savory dishes. Best of all, they attract pollinators and beneficial insects to keep the predatory bugs away from your trophies. Seeds of these garden watchdogs sprout quickly and are heartily recommended.

Protect your vegetables from predators including snails, slugs, rabbits, gophers and deer.

Add a layer of straw as a mulch to retain moisture and discourage weeds.



A drip system waters the tomatoes. Mulch will be added to the soil.

Feed your vegetables and herbs with organic fertilizer. Follow the instructions on seed packets or the plant tags.

Depending on what you choose to plant, your harvest timeline will be between 20-75 days. Some of your edibles will be perennials offering you years of gratification while others will satisfy your culinary cravings for a single season.

For a summer of love with what money can't buy, grow your own!

... continued on page D14



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for June

- **LAST CHANCE** to buy tickets to the Oakland A's versus Los Angeles Angels baseball game on June 15 as a tax deductible donation to support the literacy and youth charity, Be the Star You Are!®. Buy your tickets directly and choose your field seats at <https://groupmatics.events/event/Bestar> More information: <http://www.bethestaryouare.org/events> Final day is May 31 to get your discounted tickets with a fireworks show.
- **FINAL DAYS** to plant your vegetable garden or potager for a summer harvest. Check out plants at your favorite garden center or nursery.
- **THROW** snail bait after planting. Sluggo is non-toxic to pets and kids.
- **PULL** the dry leaves from daffodils and freesia. If you pull up a bulb, you can replant now or save to replant in the fall.
- **HARVEST** artichokes.
- **THIN** fruit on apples and stone fruit.
- **CUT** a bouquet of colorful roses or bearded iris. Add to a vase filled with lemons or limes for an aromatic arrangement for any room.
- **BEWARE** snakes in the grass. Most are beneficial and are to be left alone. Check out my photo of the full snakeskin I found in my herbs.

Hope to see you at the A's ballgame on June 15. If you like reading this column, whether you can attend or not, please support our charity, Be the Star You Are!®, an all volunteer 501 c3 non profit, that works with our local youth to grow leaders. Buy tickets to give away to friends or colleagues. Make your donation today at <http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org>.

Congratulations to our marvelous graduates!
Bravo and Kudos.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.
Cynthia Brian



A fly lands on a grapevine with budding berries.



Photos Cynthia Brian Eggplant is planted with a straw mulch.



Add lemons or limes to a vase and fill with roses.



Ruffled bearded iris can but cut for arrangements.



Thyme is an excellent herb to grow amongst the vegetables.



A full snakeskin found in Cynthia's garden.

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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Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

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Cynthia on the patio

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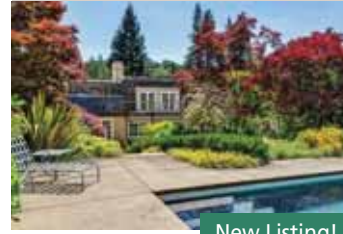
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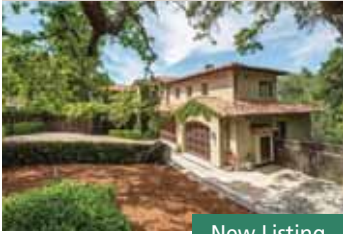
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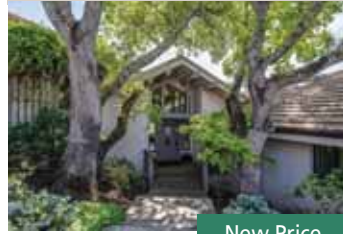
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