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Bottom, from left: Bob Moore, Tom Schnurr, Eric Dausman, Edy Schwartz, Andy Scheck, Cathy Dausman; on ladder: Wendy Scheck and Sue Olsen. Photo Heidi Schoenberger

## Community converges for Rheem Theatre reopening

By Sophie Braccini

The Rheem Theatre is once again rising from the ashes and will reopen on June 14. Pixar has done the local historical venue a favor by releasing the movie “Incredibles 2” in Moraga one day ahead of the official June 15 opening date – and Paul Mendoza, Orinda resident, and Pixar supervising animator on “Incredibles

2,” will introduce the film. This time around the Rheem is on its way to becoming a town-owned asset, which could finally be the winning formula to secure its future. The much-anticipated movie is a great opening idea, according to Moraga Community Foundation president

Tom Schnurr who is very excited to come to the June 14 premiere. He noted that about 50 people came to the theater on June 2 to clean up the venue and that he was enthused by the positive energy that filled the place; it was truly a community affair.

... continued on page A14

Advertising

Letters to the Editor	A11
Community Service	B4
Not to be Missed	B8-B9
<b>HOW TO CONTACT US</b>	B9
Classified	C2
Shop Orinda	B10

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## Lafayette residents question city's relationship with PG&E

By Nick Marnell

As Lafayette Vice Mayor Cameron Burks spearheads a proposed public meeting for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company to polish its image in front of its Lafayette customers, some city residents say that Lafayette needs to repair its own image as well, claiming that recent actions between the utility and the city have been compromised by conflicts of interest.

Burks called out PG&E for its “uneven level of correspondence and communication with city residents” at two May city council meetings, and he requested a public meeting for the utility to appear before residents and city officials to “build public trust in the area of safety.” Among the list of topics for which Burks seeks clarity from PG&E include its Community Pipeline Safety Initiative, in which the utility proposes to remove a number of trees that it says pose public safety concerns, and the pipeline construction occurring this summer along St. Mary’s Road. Burks requested that representatives from the utility’s regulator, the California Public Utilities Commission, attend the meeting, tentatively planned for September.

The city and the utility are financially linked in the tree-removal program that Burks referred to. According to a March 27, 2017 staff report, PG&E will pay the city a mitigation fee

of \$531,000 to remove 272 trees on private and public Lafayette property. The company deemed that the trees have to go as they prevent first responder access and safety inspections, and that the tree roots could damage underground pipes.

A local citizens group, Save Lafayette Trees, sued the city and the utility. “The city failed to conduct any environmental review before entering into the contract with PG&E,” said Stephan Volker, Save Lafayette Trees attorney. The court dismissed the case in December, and the community group has appealed.

“PG&E is saving costs by cutting trees, which help them survey the line cheaply by airplane, and the city is working on PG&E’s behalf to promote this program instead of ensuring public safety. It’s a conflict of interest in the highest order,” said Save Lafayette Trees representative Michael Dawson. Burks declined to comment on pending legal action.

Not only are the city and PG&E joined as codefendants in the Save Lafayette Trees lawsuit, but PG&E has agreed to reimburse the city for its legal costs. City Manager Steve Falk – who once interned with PG&E – explained the rationale for the reimbursement in an April letter to a city resident, who accused the city of not representing its constituents. “It is their pipeline safety program that is being challenged,” Falk wrote.

According to information supplied by the city, the company has reimbursed Lafayette more than \$84,000 in legal fees through April.

The city also filed for reimbursement of charges for preparation of case documents, and the court ordered Save Lafayette Trees to pay \$11,553. The plaintiff contested the charges and a hearing is scheduled for June 14. “It’s a sham. The city is billing us for costs they never paid,” Volker said. Jennifer Wakeman, city financial services manager, confirmed that the money, if collected, would go to PG&E.

Reported conflicts of interest involving PG&E and Lafayette officials include those of Mayor Don Tatzin and Council Member Ivor Samson, who recuse themselves from PG&E public discussions. Samson collects a pension from PG&E, having worked there as an attorney for 12 years, and Tatzin said that a high pressure gas pipeline runs under the street in front of his home, and some of the trees that are in the public right of way and on his lot were marked for removal by PG&E.

“The issue here is not only safety, but the issue of trust,” said a Lafayette resident at the May 29 council meeting. “Not only for PG&E, but for the city council.”

**Civic News A1-A14**

Measure L voter counts finalized – page A2.

**Fire Districts A8**

Weed abatement deadline looms – page A8.

**Life in Lamorinda B1-B10**

Hurricane Maria survivor spends senior year at Campo – page B1.

**Sports C1-C4**

Local high school Track and Field championships – page C3.

**Our Homes D1-D16**

Sprucing up the front entry for summer entertaining – page D1.





**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Monday, June 25, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

Monday, June 18, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**

Monday, June 25, 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 27, 7 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

**Lafayette School District**  
Wednesday, June 20, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
District Office Board Room  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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**Back to the drawing board on Deer Hill Road, as voters reject Measure L**

By Pippa Fisher



Those opposing Measure L made their point about traffic and air pollution outside Acalanes High School prior to the vote. Photo provided

Although uncertainty due to uncounted last-minute absentee ballots swirled in the air in the day or two following the June 5 vote on measure L to determine the fate of the development of Deer Hill Road, by the following Friday evening it seemed certain that the “No’s” had won.

As of June 8 those in favor of Measure L – the proposition which would rezone the area on Deer Hill Road to allow the development of 44 homes, a dog

park, a sports field and parking, along with walkways – had received 45.5 percent of the vote compared to those opposing the rezoning and the proposed development, who had 54.4 percent of the vote. The result of this vote keeps the zoning to APO (administrative and professional offices).

The county has 30 days to certify the results, and the city council will not adopt a new zoning designation for the property until the election is certified; however,

the topic was added to the June 11 council meeting (after this edition of the Lamorinda Weekly went to print) for discussion and public input.

Lafayette resident and No supporter Scott Sommer likened the campaign to a David and Goliath situation, noting that the Yes campaign received ten times the monetary and nonmonetary contributions as the No campaign. “It was a real team effort involving people with different exper-

tizes,” said Sommer. “The Yes campaign was organized by slick professionals who disregarded traffic and air quality issues.”

No supporter, Lafayette resident Susan Candell, explained that the No campaign spent all its time reacting to comments from the Yes supporters, saying that they had to get people over the “fear factor” of the 315 apartments that had been proposed under the APO zoning.

However, Dave Baker, contractor and spokesperson for the developer O’Brien Homes said in an email after the vote, that the Yes on L campaign was clear with the voters. “The results are not yet final, but if Measure L fails, we will resume the affordable apartments project immediately.”

Save Lafayette President Michael Griffith would not discuss further steps at this point until the results were certified although he did say that Save Lafayette was happy with the outcome.

... continued on page A11



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# And then there were five (planning commissioners)

By Pippa Fisher



Anna Radonich Photos provided



Kristina Sturm

The latest appointment to Lafayette's Planning Commission is Anna Radonich, an environmental planner, bringing the total commissioners back up to five.

Radonich was appointed to the commission in a unanimous vote by the Lafayette City Council at its May 29 meeting. The 31-year resident of Lafayette works for Stantec Consulting Services and has 15 years of experience in environmental remediation, land use planning and the California Environmental Quality Act. Additionally, Radonich, who has coordinated regulatory reviews and compliance strategies for land use and local development projects in both the public and private sectors, has been active with various Burton Valley and Stanley Middle School events and served on a bench rehabilitation project for the East Bay Regional Park District. Her term ends June 2019.

Just a couple of weeks earlier, Kristina Sturm was appointed at

the May 14 city council meeting. An eight-year Lafayette resident, Sturm is an architectural designer and has previously served on the city's Circulation Committee. An architectural graduate of the University of Texas, Sturm has a history of working in design, architecture and project management.

The commission is charged with the development of Lafayette's general plan, implementation of the city's zoning ordinance and review of development applications.

The appointments are being made in the wake of a mass resignation of five commissioners following the adoption of strict conflict of interest policies in March. Gregory Mason, a senior structural plans examiner, was the first appointee following the resignations, as reported in Lamorinda Weekly's May 2 edition.

Radonich, Sturm and Mason join Vice Chair Gary Huisingh and Commissioner Steven Bliss on the Planning Commission.

# Lafayette School District has new top educator

By Pippa Fisher



Richard Whitmore Photo provided

The Lafayette School District governing board announced the appointment of Richard Whitmore to the position of Superintendent of Education. He will take over from outgoing Superintendent Rachel Zinn who is retiring after 12 years of service to LAFSD and 38 years as an educator.

The announcement was made May 30 following a thorough search conducted by the school board in what was described by

the board as a "community effort," with input from many who shared ideas, opinions and priorities for the district and its leadership during the search process.

"The board conducted a very thorough search, and based on the leadership characteristics identified, Richard rose to the top of an impressive field of candidates," LAFSD Board President Teresa Gerringer said. "Richard brings a passion for providing the highest quality education for all students and extensive experience in instruction, policy, finance and advocacy necessary to lead the district at this critical juncture. As a bonus, he is a longtime resident of Lafayette, and active volunteer in our schools."

Whitmore is a Lafayette resident and has been actively involved in the Lafayette education community for over 20 years.

... continued on page A10

# Did polling irregularities occur?

By Pippa Fisher

Vice Mayor Cam Burks is concerned that multiple voters in Lafayette were victims of voter suppression during the June 5 election and is calling for the county registrar to formally investigate.

Several Lafayette precincts ran out of paper ballots before the polls close. Burks says that while some voters who arrived before 8 p.m. chose to wait in long lines to vote on the only available machine; others who had pressing schedules could not wait and were unable to cast votes. "I understand that approximately at least 20 voters left one of the affected precincts without voting. Regardless of how this happened, the result is that voter suppression likely occurred and that is not acceptable."

Burks stressed that he makes these comments not in any way related to Measure L and the outcome of that particular decision. "I make them in the context of repre-

senting and supporting the people of Lafayette to be able to exercise their clear right to freely vote.

"Even one resident - let alone multiple residents - not having the ability to cast a vote because of a breakdown in the county registrar's potential mismanagement of this election, is totally unacceptable to me," said Burks. "I want answers and I want those responsible to be held accountable."

When contacted about irregularities, Lafayette City Clerk Joanne Robbins confirmed that the city had learned with regret that some polling places ran out of ballots prior to closing. Assistant Registrar of Voters for Contra Costa County Scott Konopasek did not return Lamorinda Weekly's calls about the matter. Burks would like to see the issue placed on the council agenda for future discussion.

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# Moraga

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Wednesday, June 27, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

### Planning Commission

Monday, June 18, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

### Design Review

Monday, June 25, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

### School Board Meetings

#### Moraga School District

TBA

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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#### Moraga Citizens' Network:

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### Moraga

### Police

### Department

### Incident

### Summary

### Report

### May 22 to June 4

Alarms 13

911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 7

Traffic 63

Suspicious Circumstances 11

Suspicious Subject 8

Suspicious Vehicle 19

Service to Citizen 43

Patrol Request/ Security Check 35

Vacation House Check 18

Supplemental Report 31

Welfare Check 4

Abandoned Vehicle

10 Block Pimentel Ct.

2000 Block Donald Dr.

Accident Injury

School St./Moraga Rd., Mar

Auto Burglary

St. Marys College

Barking Dog

60 Block Miramonte Dr.

Civil

600 Block Moraga Rd.

1400 Block Camino Pablo

Disturbance Domestic

60 Block Miramonte Dr.

Disturbing the Peace

2000 Block Ascot Dr.

Drunk in Public

2000 Block Donald Dr.

2000 Block Ascot Dr.

DUI Misd

1500 Block Moraga Way

St. Marys Library

Excessive Speed

St. Andrews Dr./Country Club

St. Marys/Fernwood

Moraga Rd./Cortez

Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.

Lendell

Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.

Fire/EMS Response Info

100 Block Calle La Mesa

900 Block Country Club Dr.

Forgery

Wells Fargo

Found Property

10 Block Duarte Ct.

Fraud Credit Card

900 Block Country Club Dr.

Grand Theft

400 Block Center St.

Rheem Theatre

1500 Block Canyon Rd.

H&S Violation

4000 Block Paseo Grande

Loud Music

200 Block Paseo Bernal

2100 Block Ascot Dr.

Ascot Dr./Ascot Ct.

Loud Party

1000 Block Larch Ave.

4000 Block Paseo Grande

10 Block Miramonte Dr.

Medical Hospital

700 Block Augusta Dr.

Medical Police Needed

300 Block Rheem Blvd.

20 Block Broadmoor

Missing Adult

300 Block Rheem Blvd.

Neighbor Dispute

Police Department



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## Budget provisions for 2018-19 forecast replenishment of the town's reserve

By Sophie Braccini

New administrative director Joe Tanner expects that by June 2019 the town will have restored close to a 50 percent reserve, thanks to an increase in property tax revenue and federal reimbursement. Meanwhile the town continues to suffer from a lack of asset replacement and capital improvement funds.

Tanner presented a draft balanced 2018-19 budget to the town's audit and finance committee on May 30. He forecasted that the town would get most of the reimbursement for the sinkhole expense before the end of the fiscal year, and in parallel the director said that the town is holding the line on department expenses, curtailing anything that is not an investment in terms of staff efficiency tools.

The healthy budget projection anticipates a continued growth of the housing market, yielding a 10 percent increase in property tax revenue, the biggest source of in-

come for the town of Moraga. The director did not anticipate any increase in the sales tax revenue for his projection, and he included a continuous increase in the health-care and pension costs for the town, although an incremental CalPers employee contribution was negotiated last year.

A portion of the projected growth in property tax revenue will be allocated to the storm drain program (see article "Kwan gets first stab at new storm drain master plan" on page A5).

Public Works Director Edric Kwan presented other proposed capital investment for the coming budget. Aside from the storm drain plan, the first is the replacement of the temporary Canyon Bridge with a permanent two-lane bridge. Prior to the incident that rendered the bridge unusable, the town had secured funding for a new bridge. The collapse of the hill has rendered the initial approved plans obsolete and

the public works department had to devise a new alternative shifted slightly downstream.

Kwan explained that his department received approval of \$6.3 million for the construction of the modified bridge, but that there are financial risks associated with likely delays in the reimbursement of that money: The town may have to wait years to see the money returned. Kwan's plan is to spread the expense over two construction seasons, the first starting in April of 2019, which would see the building of one lane while the temporary bridge is still in place, and during the second season in 2020 when the temporary bridge would be removed while the second lane of the new bridge is built.

The members of the committee asked Kwan if he expected some reimbursement money from the 2017 bridge incident to become available in time to start funding the new bridge. Mayor Dave Trotter, who

sits on the committee, indicated that the town is working with U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier to make sure that Moraga receives money when Congress appropriates funds for 2017 California emergencies.

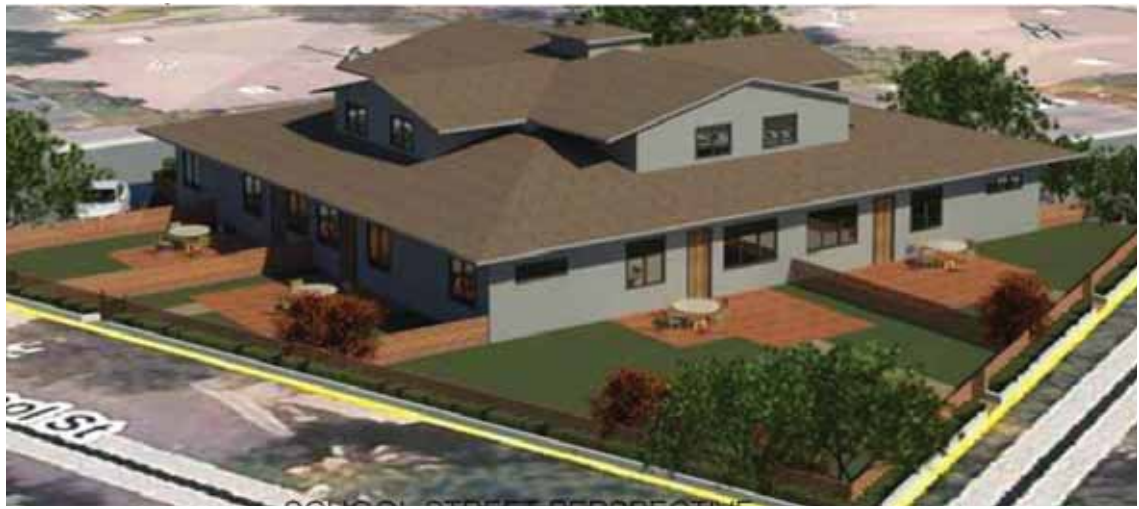
Other CIP projects for the coming budget year include the zoning completion of the Moraga Center Specific Plan; Canyon and Camino Pablo crossing improvement with resurfacing and upgrading of bicycle and pedestrian safety with the construction of a mid-section refuge and flashing beacons; and improvement of the sidewalk on Moraga Way to link to what Orinda provides.

Kwan noted that some maintenance and asset replacement continue to be delayed such as IT equipment or maintenance and police vehicle replacements.

The town council will review and approve the budget in June.

## Proposed conversion of an office building into condominiums on School Street

By Sophie Braccini



Simulation of the transformation from office building to condominiums.

Images provided

### Other Non Criminal

800 Block Camino Ricardo

Petty Theft

Campolindo High School

Joaquin Moraga Int School

Prom Shoot

Joaquin Moraga Int School

2000 Block Donald Dr.

Public Assembly Check

Rheem Valley Shopping Center (3)

CVS (2)

Safeway

Reckless Driving

Canyon Rd./Moraga Rd.

Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd. (2)

Police Department

Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.

Cypress/St. Andrews

Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.

4000 Block Paseo Grande

Moraga Way/St Andrews Dr.

Revocation of Probation

Starbucks

Shoplift

Safeway

Terrorist Threats

30 Block Juniper Way

Trespass

Campolindo High School

Moraga Commons Park

Via Joaquin/Alta Mesa Dr.

Unwanted Guest

Safeway

1600 Block Camino Pablo

Vandalism

Canyon Bridge

Vehicle Theft

10 Block Madsen Ct.

Verbal Dispute

Homegoods

Violation Restraining Order

Police Department

Walk Through

TJ Maxx

The planning commission recently looked at a unique concept for Moraga: transforming an existing stand-alone office building into an eight-unit residential condominium. The construction of the units located at the western corner of School Street and Country Club Drive would not require a modification of the current building footprint.

The May 21 discussion was a study session led by the planning commission, a way for the project applicant to get a feel about the advisory body's reaction to the project as well as public input. The initial response of the planning commissioners was unanimously positive; they liked the idea of transforming an office building that is not fully occupied with compact housing located close to shops, without changing the footprint of the building or elevating its height.

Many questions remain to be answered before the project materializes, including the number and type of parking spaces and where to locate the recycling bins. And since the building is located in a development that comprises three additional similar office buildings, the new owner will need to get approval from a majority of the other owners in order to proceed.

The building, located at 1600 School Street, according to applicant Nikhil Gera, has a 70 percent occupation rate at this time, with most of the space used by the per-

son who is selling him the building. The project would create an 8-unit residential condominium development with units ranging in size from 1,099 square feet to 1,147 square feet. Dan Hale, the architect for the project, proposes creating a second story by adding articulations through the roof. He says that the project would respect what is there, including the healthy mature trees, and would provide smaller housing units with small gardens that do not exist in Moraga at this time but could be ideal for some part of the population.

Planning commission chair Suzanne D'Arcy agreed that these types of units would be great for downsizing seniors. Commissioner Mike McCluer noted that he had been hesitant about the mixed-use aspect of the project at first, but that other Moraga sites such as Via Moraga across from the Rheem Center showed him that it could work well for residents.

Commissioner David Stromberg had some questions regarding the lack of storage space in the units and the parking in the form of carports that for him would call for an apartment rental-style housing rather than owner occupied condominiums. He asked that the architect look at ways to add storage in the back of the carports.



Existing office building.

ing the lack of storage space in the units and the parking in the form of carports that for him would call for an apartment rental-style housing rather than owner occupied condominiums. He asked that the architect look at ways to add storage in the back of the carports.

One question that needs to be answered with this application is the zoning. The project is part of the Moraga Center Specific Plan that was adopted over eight years ago and still does not have proper zoning. The project as proposed fits the criteria set for this space in terms of usage, density and height, but it would need to obtain a planned development agreement, like what was done by Moraga Center Homes along Moraga Way, in order to proceed. The alternative, as explained by Planning Director Derek Farmer would be to wait to have the council finally approve a zoning plan. Farmer seemed confident that it could happen this winter, but he added that what is on the drawing board for this part of town was not yet finalized.

Last but not least of the hurdles for this project is its necessity to garner the support of a majority of the other property owners. There are four buildings in this development, one is owned by the same owner as the building proposed for remodel, but the two other property owners have not signed off. In fact, a lawyer for one of the other owners came to express that person's surprise at seeing this project being considered when there is a pending lawsuit active at this time between property owners over parking spaces and dumpsters.



## Kwan gets first stab at reduced storm drain master plan

By Sophie Braccini

The defeated Proposition 218 storm drain fee measure sent Public Works Director Edric Kwan and his team back to the drawing board to design a new minimalist approach to storm drain maintenance in order to protect the town as well as possible against further infrastructure decay and catastrophic events.

The director presented to the audit and finance committee his proposition for a reduced storm drain master plan on May 30.

Kwan explained that the storm water fee would have generated \$787,500 of revenue annually for a program that would have covered \$378,100 in high priority capital improvement projects, a \$254,400 operations and maintenance shortfall, and a \$155,000 Cleanwater Program requirement.

The proposed reduced storm water program would instead receive \$254,000 a year from the general fund, and address portions

of the operations and maintenance, and of the Cleanwater Program mandate, but would not fund the high-priority projects.

Kwan explained that the maintenance program includes video inspection, cleaning, and repairs done on a routine basis to address issues before they become significant. He said that it is a critical component of storm water system services because it could extend the life of and stabilize the storm drain system before high-priority incidents occur. The initial budget has been divided in half. The director said it will still include the video inspection of the drains and cleanup, but cannot address the same amount of spot repairs.

The clean water requirements are a national unfunded mandate. There again, Kwan proposed to allocate 50 percent of the budget he was hoping for and only focus on next year's mandated milestones such as the Green Infrastructure

Plan and providing additional technical support to complete implementation of the Trash Capture Project and Cleanwater GIS Project. The proposed budget does not include funding for future Cleanwater infrastructure needs.

Kwan and his team are looking at grant options to address the high-priority projects that will not be addressed under this reduced plan, such as the Laguna Creek restoration project at the Hacienda de las Flores, which would daylight a portion of a culvert that was identified by the 2015 study as a high-priority repair project. The public works department has received a first grant for \$400,000 to restore the creek modestly and is expecting a second grant for \$500,000 to enhance it. The allocation of the second grant will not be decided until 2019.

The town council will review the budget and the storm drain plan in June.

## Town staff wants to tighten control over total legal expense

By Sophie Braccini

A surprisingly large amount of legal fees, over \$130,000, was part of the accounts payable to be approved by the town council on May 21. Council Member Kimberleigh Korpus questioned the number, and Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg responded with town attorney Michelle Kenyon, explaining the numbers and laying rules for future expense. According to the new manager, surprises like these should not happen again.

Korpus asked Battenberg to detail all the legal expenses, by date and destination, saying she had been very surprised to find such a large amount in the accounts payable for May. Battenberg reviewed each item line by line. The expense covered legal advice from November to February and comprised a wide array of topics including developer reimbursed advice on Rancho Laguna, Palos Colorados, Hetfield, City Ventures and Bollinger Canyon, and advice on several current topics such as the Rheem Theatre memorandum of understanding, the Hacienda de las Flores rental agreement, the Hillside and Ridgeline rules modification and the Moraga Center Specific Plan zoning.

The town attorney said that the total figure had been a surprise even to her. She explained it by citing two elements. Kenyon noted that the total included 2017 expenses that could have been paid sooner, and second, she said that the last months had been quite unusual and challenging for Moraga, due to its losing some key personnel, and Kenyon was the only one left who had a lot of institutional memory and needed to support staff more than had been the case in the past.

Battenberg explained to the council that in preparation of the 2018-19 budget and being new on the job she had started a conversation with the attorney, evaluating the anticipated legal fees project by project. She said that is the way she and her team will track legal expenses from now on. She added that she would keep the council informed of these expenses and warn them if the limits that were anticipated might be exceeded.

Kenyon, who has been Moraga's attorney for 25 years, said that it was the first time she had such a conversation with a town manager and added that this should guarantee that a surprise such as this large expense would not happen again.

## Music comes to Moraga this summer

By Sophie Braccini



The band Pride and Joy will play June 15 at Saint Mary's College Chapel Lawn. Photo provided

Music will definitely be in the air, jumpstarting the summer on the campus of Saint Mary's College with the fourth annual Music on the Lawn concert event in front of the Chapel at 1928 St. Mary's Road. Then the first of nine Thursday night concerts in the Summer Concert Series offered by the Moraga Park Foundation will open on June 21 at the Moraga Commons Park.

The Saint Mary's event was started four years ago and features prominent musicians including some college alumni. The Music on the Lawn event will start at 6 p.m. June 15 with the group 3:30 Friday (this is the band name, not the time of the performance) featuring Courtney Lohmann and Daniel Lewis, both SMC graduates. The headliner is the group Pride and Joy, featuring SMC alumnus Kirby Coleman. Families are invited to come, bring a blanket and be ready for dinner on the lawn. The tickets include access to Damian's famous taco buffet, soft drinks and entertainment. Beer and wine are available for purchase with cash only. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, \$10 child ticket, (tickets

at the door will be cash only). For information, visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu/4th-annual-music-on-the-lawn](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/4th-annual-music-on-the-lawn).

The traditional Moraga Thursday night summer concerts at the Moraga Commons Park will start on June 21 with the band 3 Day Weekend playing classic rock music. The concerts are free and there again families are invited to bring a picnic blanket or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the band shell. Moraga Park Foundation volunteers will cook dinner available for purchase at the park. The bar opens at 6 p.m. and the concerts run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The summer lineup includes: Beatles Flashback (June 28) will play Beatles tunes; David Martin's House Party (July 4th at 7 p.m.) will play dance party and show songs; Spill the Wine (July 12) will play party music for your soul; Foreverland (July 19) will give an electrifying tribute to Michael Jackson; Kings of 88 (July 26) will play classic piano rock hits; Moonalice (Aug. 2) will come back with Bay Area '60s psychedelic rock; Mixed Nuts (Aug. 9) will play hits from the '40s to present; and the

Houserockers (Aug. 16) will close the season with rock and soul music.

More information can be found at <http://www.moragaparks.org/concert.html>.

### EXPERIENCE MATTERS

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<p><b>961 Santa Cruz Drive, Pleasant Hill</b></p> <p>This 3-bedroom 2-bath home has a sweet front porch, bay window, and open-beam living room ceiling with cozy fireplace. The remodeled kitchen has granite countertops and tile floors; private rear yard with new fencing and RV parking. <b>Offered at \$650,000 by Rose Brudigan, 925.200.8246.</b></p>	<p><b>Unique Investment Opportunity</b></p> <p>Agricultural development adjacent to Cache Creek Casino and golf course. Includes 2 parcels on approx. 400 acres with existing homes, barn, stables, views and more! <b>Offered at \$16,000,000 by Julie Georgiou, 925.200.8246.</b></p>	<p><b>121 Ryan Ave., Mill Valley</b></p> <p>Charming, well-loved 3 BR/1 BA home in Sycamore Park, minutes to shopping, restaurants, school and freeway. This property, set on a corner lot, features a bright eat-in kitchen, inside laundry and a cozy fireplace. <b>Offered by Rose Brudigan for \$1,150,000. For more information, call 915.765.6490.</b></p>	<p><b>66 Stanton Ave., Orinda</b></p> <p>Spacious 3-bedroom, 2-bath house with a large great room, dining area plus a game room, new hardwood floors, new paint and roof; walls of glass look onto a lovely lush yard &amp; patio. Close to downtown and minutes to shopping, BART and freeways. <b>Offered at \$1,075,000 by Suzie Tinsley, 925.787.3072.</b></p>
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Julie Georgiou  
925.200.8246  
CalBRE#01043977

Tania DeGroot  
510.367.1422  
CalBRE # 01094898

Rose Brudigan  
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## Orinda

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Tuesday, June 19, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 26, 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

TBA  
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	59
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	157
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subjects	20
Suspicious Vehicles	13
Patrol Request/ Security Check	30
Service to Citizen	50
Supplemental Report	17
Vacation House Check	29
Welfare Check	7
Abandoned Vehicle	
100 Block Brookwood	
Auto Burglary	
Nations (2)	
Wilder Sports Fields	
Barking Dog	
10 Block El Rincon	
Battery	
Wilder Sports Fields	
Police Department	
Beat Info	
Eb Sr 24 At St Stephens Dr.	
San Pablo Dam Rd./Castro Ranch	
Civil	
10 Block Altarinda Rd.	
Orinda Convalescent	
30 Block Donald Dr.	
100 Block Meadow Ln.	
100 Block Sleepy Hollow Ln.	
20 Block Keith Dr.	
Civil Problem	
500 Block Moraga Way	
10 Block Crown Ct.	
30 Block Zander Dr.	
Commercial Burglary	
Safeway	
Disturbance-Domestic	
10 Block Owl Hill Ct.	
Disturbing The Peace	
Orinda Convalescent	
Drunk In Public	
Moraga Way/Brookside Rd.	
Failure To Obey	
CVS	
Fire/Ems Response Info	
100 Block Hillcrest Dr.	
Fireworks	
100 Block Ivy Dr.	
Forgery	
Bank Of The West	
Found Property	
Orinda Intermediate School	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Camino Pablo/North Ln.	
40 Block El Toyonal	
10 Block Risa Ct.	
Identity Theft	
Police Department	
Juvenile Disturbance	
100 Block Coral Dr.	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	
Safeway	
Tappan Ln./Bear Ridge Rd.	
Lost Property	
Police Department (2)	
Safeway	
Loud Music	
100 Block Spring Rd.	
10 Block La Campana Rd.	
Loud Noise	
40 Block La Cresta Rd.	
Loud Party	
10 Block Sager Ct.	
Medical Hospital	
Shell Gas	



## Congratulations to all the Graduates

**Lana Fitzpatrick**

(925) 872-4660

Lana@lanafitzpatrick.com

www.lanafitzpatrick.com

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## Parks and recreation levels up with new online management system

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda Parks and Recreation has adopted new, cloud-based recreation management software that will allow citizens greater access to parks and recreation activities, classes, sports and youth leagues, with more convenient online registration and payment. It will also allow citizens to search online for availability of community facilities, such as fields, picnic areas, event space, and meeting rooms. "We've spent quite a bit of time testing new recreation registration software solutions to ensure we made the best decision for our patrons," said Parks and Recreation Director Todd Trimble. "We think

users will find this new program easy to use and enjoy many of the new features."

The CivicRec solution offered by CivicPlus, providers of the city's new website, is designed to be intuitive to navigate and easy for citizens to use, and is mobile-friendly, allowing citizens to search for community activities and events, register, and remit payment even from a smartphone or tablet. Registered users will have the ability to see previous transactions and view an event calendar with all classes and programs the patron has registered for. Also, users will have access to account statements,

and will be able to set up contact preferences, and view waiting list status.

Before people can register for any upcoming events, they will be required to create a new household account, even if they have a current account in the old software system. Trimble said the city will use this opportunity to ensure all records are up-to-date and to remove inactive users from the database. Households with a current account on file will receive an email containing a link to create a new account. According to Trimble, it should only take approximately five minutes to complete the house-

hold account setup process. Fall/winter program registration is underway and patrons will need to have a new account to sign up for these programs. Those who do not receive an email with information on setting up an account may contact Parks and Recreation at (925) 254-2445 for assistance.

"We're continuously looking to improve our user experience and feel this is going to be a wonderful tool for our patrons," Trimble said. CivicRec is part of the CivicPlus Platform of local government technology solutions designed exclusively for the public sector.

## New HR Manager for Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

Ginger Staton has taken over as Human Resources Manager for the city of Orinda. A Bay Area native, Staton was a business major at CSU Hayward. She comes to Orinda from Zone 7 water agency in Alameda County. She was connected with Alameda County for 13 years. Before that she spent 18 years working for a private waste management company.

Staton likes helping people, and sees her job as more than just the hiring process. She says that she advocates for employees. "You see [employees] at their best and at their worst," she said, adding that she helps them navigate the complexities of life and offers



Ginger Staton Photo Sora O'Doherty

some employment benefits "that you don't pay attention to until you need it." Staton will be overseeing some 43 full-time employees and is currently engaged in hiring temporary employees for the summer, like summer camp counselors. "I like kids," she added. "I have kids, so it's fun for me."

In Orinda, the current contract for employees runs another year, but Staton will be involved in negotiating a new contract. Teamsters Local 856 represents a lot of the hourly management positions, such as accountants, maintenance workers in Public Works and engineering staff, she noted.

What is different for her is the cooperation among public agencies; she is enjoying the helpfulness of neighboring city governments. "I can pick up the phone and ask, 'How do you handle this in your city?'" she said.

Her introduction to the city council was slightly delayed, as the city council meeting was postponed to avoid conflict with election day. Staton will commute from Livermore, where she lives with her husband. Her four children are grown and attending college or already working.

- 4200 Block El Nido Ranch Rd.
- Missing Adult**  
10 Block South Trail
- Ordinance Violation**  
40 Block La Cresta Rd. (2)
- Other Misdemeanor**  
Safeway
- Panhandling**  
Camino Pablo/Wb Sr 24
- Phone Harass**  
200 Block Camino Sobrante
- Prom Shoot**  
Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Way
- Prowler Heard**  
100 Block Coral Dr.
- Public Assembly Check**  
CVS  
Bevmo  
Miramonte High School (2)  
20 Block Orinda Way (2)
- Public Nuisance**  
Hall Dr./Casa Reale
- Reckless Driving**  
Moraga Way/Orchard Rd.  
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.  
Moraga Way/Oak Dr.  
Bear Creek Rd./Camino Pablo  
San Pablo Dam Rd./Wildcat Canyon  
10 Block Camino Pablo  
Underhill Rd./Spring Rd.  
San Pablo Dam Rd./Camino Pablo (2)  
El Toyonal/Camino Pablo  
Moraga Way/Lloyd Ln.
- Recovery**  
Wilder Blvd./Wb Sr 24
- Residential Burglary**  
20 Block Honey Hill Rd.
- School Assembly Check**  
Miramonte High School (5)  
20 Block Orinda Way  
Wagner Ranch Elementary (2)
- Trespass**  
El Ribero/Camino Sobrante
- Vandalism**  
Spring Rd./Underhill Rd.  
Camino Sobrante/Camino Pablo
- Vehicle Theft**  
Wb 24/Appr. Wilder  
400 Block Tahos Rd.
- Walk Through**  
10 Block Theatre Sq.  
10 Block Camino Pablo  
Theatre Square
- Warrant Arrest**  
Police Department  
Safeway

## Orinda kicks off a summer of outdoor entertainment

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo provided

### Concerts

June 12 was the opening of the Orinda Free Concerts in the Park series, with 3 Day Weekend performing. The concerts are all on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., with the exception of the July 22 concert. On that Sunday evening, the choice will be Opera in the Park, from 5 to 7 p.m. Food trucks will be provided for all events by Tastes of the World, which also provides the food truck event on Thursday evenings. The full calendar of concerts is as follows:

June 12	3 Day Weekend
June 19	Priceless
June 26	Kenya B Trio
July 10	Crowded Republic
July 17	Lamorinda Idol
July 22	Sunday Opera in the Park (5-7)
July 24	The Swampers
July 31	Bay Bridge Beat
Aug 7	Little Dog 2
Aug 14	Floorshakers

The concerts are performed in

Orinda Community Park at 28 Orinda Way.

### Movies

In 2018, Orinda allowed for public input into the decision on which movies to show over the summer in the park. Following a survey, the following lineup was decided:

June 14	Beauty and the Beast
June 28	Despicable Me
July 12	Mary Poppins
July 26	Coco
August 9	Wonder

The films will be shown at dusk on the selected Thursdays. The usual food truck event will be available from 4 p.m. Together, the two programs constitute Orinda's unique version of "dinner and a movie" for family fun.

Both the Concerts in the Park and the Movies in the Park are sponsored by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation with support from the Orinda Community Foundation, the Rotary Club of Orinda, and the city of Orinda.



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# Orinda Starlight Village Players 35th season opens in the park

By Sora O'Doherty



From left: Simon Patterson, Tom Westlake, Amy Cook, Claire Stevenson, Teri Gooden, Malcolm Cowler and Danny Martin in Agatha Christie's "Spider's Web." Photo Charlie Jarrett

The amphitheater in Orinda Community Park will once again be the scene of summer theater as the Orinda Starlight Village Players produce their 35th consecutive season of plays. On Friday and Saturday evenings, and some Thursdays, playgoers will be able to enjoy three different plays from June through September. Sundays will offer matinees.

OSVP will put on Agatha Christie's "Spider's Web" Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. June 1-30, with a matinee at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 24. Christie was at the height of her career when she wrote this play for its leading lady, Margaret Lockwood. The play combines a murder mystery with a comedy of characters.

... continued on page A8

# Taking a walk through history



Photo Sora O'Doherty

The deLaveaga Train Station was the last stop on a walking tour of historical sites at the June 5 meeting of the Orinda Historic Landmarks Committee. From left, emeritus tour guide Kay Norman; Bobbie Landers, chair of the Historical Landmarks Committee; Drew Taplin, Orinda Planning Technician; and Alison Byrns, and Tania de Groot, members of the

Historic Landmarks Committee. The train station, which is the last remaining station of the California and Nevada Railroad line that linked Emeryville to Orinda, was restored and relocated to Bates Boulevard and Davis Road in 2001. The station was presented to the city by the deLaveaga family in 1999. – Sora O'Doherty

# Orinda Library Bond passes easily

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda voters approved by almost 72 percent Measure J, which increases the existing parcel tax to continue funding for the Orinda Library. The total "yes" vote was 2,500, while the "no"

vote was only 986, or 28.28 percent of the 3,486 total votes cast. The yes votes exceeded the two-thirds vote required for a tax measure.

... continued on page A8

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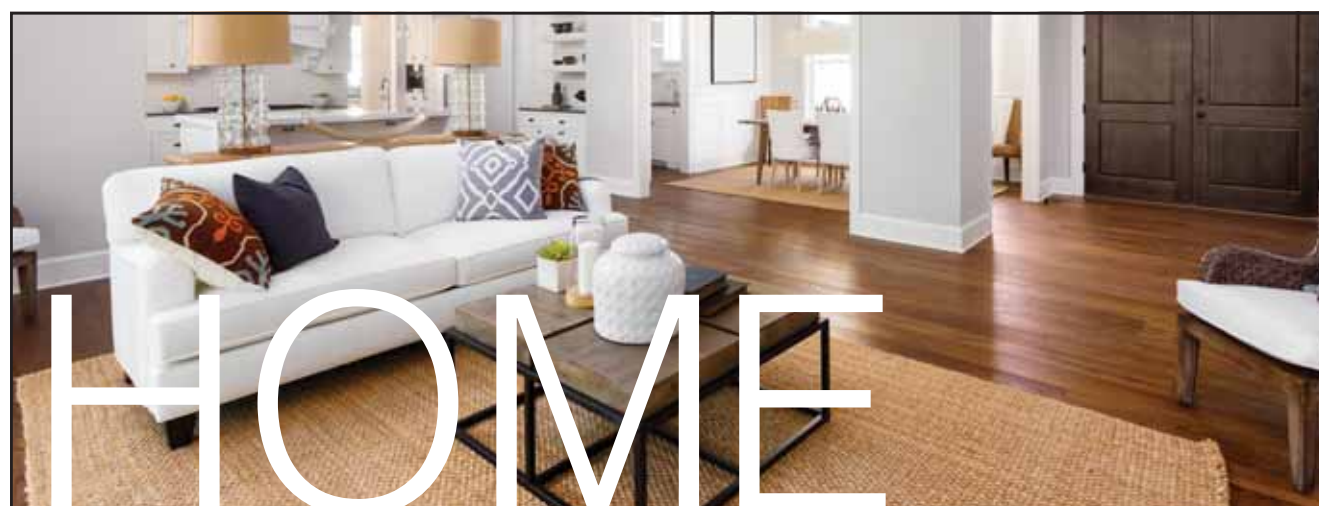
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Shellie Kirby 925.253.6321  
shellie@shelliekirby.com | CalRE #01251227



Orinda | \$1,698,000  
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Tricia Young 925.588.8083  
tricia.young@cbtnorcal.com | CalRE #01912306



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### Fire Districts

#### Public Meetings

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District** Board of Directors  
 Wednesday, June 20, 7 p.m.  
 Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

**ConFire** Board of Directors  
 Tuesday, July 10, 1:30 p.m.  
 Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez  
 For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

## MOFD Station 43 finally germinates



The contractor drilled and poured 36 reinforced concrete piers in May, each pier 20 feet deep and 2 feet wide. In this June photo, workers were placing reinforcing bars – rebar – along the foundation. Next up comes the pouring of the slab.

“Everything is going according to plan and to schedule,” Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said. “The team is executing well, and we look to move in by the spring of next year.”

– N. Marnell

## Time is running out to remove your problem vegetation

By Nick Marnell



Firefighters put out a 5-acre brush fire behind a residence on La Salle Drive in Moraga on June 8. No structures were damaged and there were no injuries. The fire may have been caused by a person using a weed eater in the tall, dry grass. “Residents are reminded not to operate power equipment in dry grass during the heat of the day. It’s safest to wait for high humidity in the early morning hours to cut grass,” said Dennis Rein of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District weed abatement deadline hits June 15, and the district plans to increase the number of property inspections the week following the compliance date.

“The board authorized me to

hire four more code enforcement personnel, and we will be out in full force this year to really enforce the ordinances,” said Kathy Leonard, district fire marshal.

Heavy rains this fall and winter led to an excessive growth of

plants and grasses, which turned from green to brown in very short order, providing plenty of fuel for vegetation fires once the summer heat settles in. And the heat arrived early this year. In the 95-degree temperatures of June 2, Contra

Costa County Fire Protection District crews put out five fires, including a 23-acre vegetation fire – and none of those fires even occurred in Lafayette, the area of the district rated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Moraga and Orinda properties also escaped without major fire damage from the early-season heat wave.

But a long, hot fire season lies ahead. MOFD stresses that all property owners share the responsibility to provide a fire safe environment and maintain their properties free of exterior fire hazards throughout the fire season.

“If properties are inspected and found to be noncompliant, our staff will follow a legal process of notices, which can result in the district contracting to have the work done and a lien placed on the property to recover our costs,” the district states on its website. Violations only occur if the required work is not completed by the June 15 deadline.

“It’s not fair to the majority of the folks who take care of their properties,” Leonard said of those in noncompliance. “We will be out to make sure that everybody does their part.”

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### Clarification

In our May 30 article, “Chief praises firefighters for improved MOFD turnout time,” some readers felt too much credit was attributed to management for district performance improvements, and not enough credit was given to labor. Firefighting is an intensely collaborative profession, requiring contributions from every member of the organization, and the chief wished to stress that district performance would not have improved without the consistently solid work of the rank and file.

## Orinda Starlight Village Players 35th season opens in the park

... continued from page A7

The production ran for 774 performances in London’s West End starting in 1954.

Dave Freeman’s “Kindly Keep It Covered” will run Fridays and Saturdays from July 20 to Aug. 11, with a matinee on Sunday, July 29 and an 8 p.m. performance on Thursday, Aug. 2.

A fast, frantic farce, the play focuses on Roland Dickerby, who runs a health farm with his wife Julia, bought with the proceeds of a hefty insurance payout on the supposed demise of Julia’s

first husband, Sidney. Sidney has decided to resurrect himself and turns up at the farm, just as Vanessa, the wife of Roland’s ex-boss from the Kindly Mutual, checks in for a visit.

From Sept. 7-29, the play will be P.G. Wodehouse’s “Good Morning, Bill.” There will be an 8 p.m. performance on Thursday, Sept. 27 and a 4 p.m. matinee on Sunday, Sept. 23. A vacation in Sussex leads to romantic complications for the main character, Bill Paradene. The play is by the author of the famous Jeeves sto-

ries.

ORSVP President Geotty Chapple reminds fans that ORSVP is strictly volunteer and the group receives no civic funding. Ticket sales, program ads, and concessions go to pay for the fees for the use of the stage, as well as publisher’s charges of between \$75 and \$100 per performance. The cost of lumber, fasteners and paint run well over \$1,000, and other props are required. Therefore the group is pleased to accept any donations of cash or materials.

## Orinda Library Bond passes easily

... continued from page A7

Last February the city council unanimously agreed to a compromise on the parcel tax to put a straight \$30 per year increase on the ballot, but without automatic hikes to keep up with inflation, which had been considered but fared badly in a public opinion poll.

The vote brings the library parcel tax up to \$69 per year for each property subject to the tax. At that level, the library is expected to be able to continue to maintain the 17-year-old library building for another seven years before having to go back and ask the public for another increase.

With the increase, the library will continue to provide the extended hours currently enjoyed by Orindans. Without it, hours would have had to be cut. Contra Costa County only funds 35 hours per week; the additional 25 hours per week that the library remains open are funded by the parcel tax.

The calculations for the tax were based on the assumption that operating expenses will increase by 3 percent and utility costs will increase by 4 percent annually. A maintenance reserve funded at a level of \$100,000 per year was also counted.

Library Manager Sierra Campagna was very happy with the vote. “I’m really pleased that the Orinda Library will continue to stay open seven days a week and be able to provide the same level of service to the community,” she said. “It’s so important for everyone in our community to feel that there is a place where they can enjoy free cultural and educational programs and have a safe and pleasant space for doing work, reading, exploring new ideas and studying. It feels great to know that Orinda residents value the resources that the library provides.”

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Work will be occurring along St. Mary's Road, between S. Lucille Lane in Lafayette and Bollinger Canyon Road in Moraga.

## Will my gas be shut off?

The work is not expected to affect gas service to customers in the area.

## How long will this take?

The work on St. Mary's Road is expected to continue into August. In late August, some additional valve replacement work will occur on Lucille Lane and is expected to take about a month. Crews will work Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## How will this affect driving through the neighborhood?

We are very aware of the impacts on traffic and parking in your area and will take on the work in phases to lessen the inconvenience that the project may cause to you and your neighbors.

PG&E will clearly mark all work areas, and traffic flaggers will help direct pedestrian and vehicle traffic safely. Please plan for delays when driving through these areas.



## What if I smell gas around the project?

The replacement work requires that a small amount of natural gas be safely released in a controlled ventilation of the pipeline, so you may hear a loud steady noise and notice the smell of gas. This is normal, but if you are concerned, we encourage you to call PG&E at **1-800-743-5000**.

We thank you for your patience as we conduct this important modernization work to become the safest, most reliable gas system in the nation.

## What if I have questions?

You can reach Julian Lacson, PG&E Gas Outreach Specialist, at **925-459-8097** or **gasprojectinfo@pge.com**.





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## Joy in Motion: an energetic addition to Moraga's fitness hub

By Sophie Braccini



Justin Cole and Linda Craig in their new Joy in Motion studio

Photo Sophie Braccini

According to Tamra Aguinaldo, mother of two budding dancers, Joy in Motion is a place where children realize their dreams. Now the dance studio that started two years ago renting a place at Star Pilates is moving to a big standalone facility in Moraga's fitness hub: the stretch of Country Club Drive between Canyon and School Street. The two founders, Justin Cole and Linda Craig, will lead a reduced program this summer in order to complete their new installation and plan a grand-opening/fundraising "Deploy Joy" party on Sept. 15.

Joy in Motion has started transforming a former post office/warehouse into a dance studio, and it has quite a different vibe. The old post office is an historic Moraga site that was constructed at the corner of Country Club Drive and School Street. It is now owned by Song Chae Yun who first turned it into a warehouse in 2016 before renting it to the nonprofit Joy in Motion.

Across the street from the new dance studio is Si Si Caffe, flanked by two other fitness studios: Studio E and Humble Yoga. Cole and Craig have already warned Si Si Caffe owner Cathy Corsi that she might get new waves of young customers after classes dismiss.

At the building site, the old outline of the post office that closed at

the end of 2011 could still be recognized, but the metal beams that will harness the sheetrock were already installed, outlining three very large studios. Cole and Craig are very pleased to now be in charge of an over 5,000 square foot building where there will be room for them to expand and provide a top-quality environment for their dancers.

The owners remember when they started their dance studio two years ago. They had met professionally in the East Bay where they have both danced, taught and put on shows for many years. Their purpose from the start has been to lift the perception of the value of dance education and entertainment and offer classes for all ages where very young to quite mature people can express themselves through dance and theatrics. They acknowledge having been inspired by the Luna Dance Institute (Berkeley), the Peter Pan Foundation (Lafayette), and the Pinole Community Players where they both performed and held classes.

Joy in Motion was very well received by the community, and now boasts about 400 clients. It offers a wide variety of classes for boys and girls and the founders are quite happy to have a sizeable number of boys enrolled, especially in the hip-hop classes. Joy in Motion of-

fers a whole range of classes from contemporary, ballet, jazz, hip-hop, tap (including for adults), and the Funky Freedom class offered for clients 4 years old and up. Now with three studios available, Cole and Craig say that they are going to be able to expand their classes and hire new teachers.

Aguinaldo says that the kids learn more than dance at the studio; they learn kindness, perseverance and how to be part of a positive community. She adds that Joy in Motion's spring stage show leaves her speechless every year because it is just beautiful on every level.

Cole and Craig know that this new location is a reach for them, especially financially. Even if they consider the moderate rent for Moraga, the tenant improvement work is sizeable, from constructing new walls, to adding air conditioning and installing specialized dance floors in the studios. Cole says that this is both exciting and scary.

In order to make ends meet, the company is organizing the Deploy Joy dance party and auction on Sept. 15. The organizers promise a lot of fun, such as a glow party, and some surprises. The opening date of the new studio is Aug. 27 for the fall season classes. For more information, visit <http://joyinmotion-dance.org/>.

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## Lafayette School District has new top educator

... continued from page A3

He currently works as the Chief Administrative Officer at WestEd, an education research, development and service organization. He has served as superintendent of three school districts, most recently in Los Gatos. His education experience includes service

at the California Department of Education, where he oversaw school finance, technology and special education services.

Whitmore has volunteered on an elementary school site council, on middle school PTA, for the district's 2006 strategic planning committee, and has served on the Acalanes Union High School District's governing board. He was also the president and chairman of the Lafayette Arts and Science Foundation, now the Lafayette Partners In Education. He was an active classroom volunteer as his children were educated in the district, and has also been active as a coach and volunteer administra-

tor in local youth athletics organizations.

"It is a great privilege to be chosen to lead this district and have a chance to help educate the next generation of students here in my hometown," said Whitmore. "I look forward to learning more about the ongoing work of the district; meeting the teachers, administrators, and staff who serve our students every day; and to continuing the tradition of excellence in student learning and educating a whole child."

Zinn is looking forward to working with Whitmore to ensure a smooth transition.

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# Letters to the Editor

Measure J

The Measure J committee is delighted that Orinda voters once again supported our wonderful library by passing Measure J with a 72 percent “yes” vote! This will ensure that the library is open seven days a week, and will continue to offer numerous popular programs, well into the future.

Thanks go to all the yes voters, as well as to our great campaign volunteers who put out signs, wrote thank-you notes, and helped with all the other campaign work. Michelle Bea designed our beautiful logo. Special thanks to Linda Landau, volunteer extraordinaire, who served as our campaign treasurer, but was crucial to every aspect of this effort. Kudos also to local newspapers who helped spread the word and educate voters. More thanks go to all those who donated and helped pay for the campaign flyers, signs, and website.

Special thanks go to major donors Jane and Mark Zuercher, Finola Fellner, Betty Lou Cutter, Lynn and Ira Dubinsky, Senator Steve Glazer, Sue Severson, Sharon Simpson, Republic Services, PG&E Corporation, and Village Associates.

We love our Orinda Library!

Susie Epstein and Liz Daoust, Co-chairs  
Measure J Committee

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](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for submission guidelines. **Email:** [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); **Regular mail:** Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

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## Lamorinda municipalities report healthy reserve balances

By Nick Marnell

With the improved economy since the Great Recession, the three Lamorinda municipalities have focused on beefing up their general fund reserve balances, with the agencies projecting to stash away nearly \$20 million in 2019.

A general fund reserve is a savings account, or a “rainy day fund,” that government agencies can use to help stabilize tax rates, address revenue shortfalls or to fund emergencies. Each Lamorinda agency follows a different general fund reserve policy.

The Lafayette reserve balance goal is 60 percent of annual expenditures. The anticipated general fund reserve balance on June 30, 2019 is \$10.1 million, which is 64 percent of the \$15.6 million of projected expenditures.

“I suggest that the council increase its reserve target goal from 60 percent to 100 percent, with the intent to reach that target in five years,” Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk told his city finance committee. “The likelihood of a recession in the next several years is increased because this very long period of economic expansion cannot persist. A recession that reduces sales and property tax revenue could result in deficits.”

Moraga’s policy for its reserve balance is 50 percent of general fund expenditures. The expected general fund surplus, combined with a \$1.4 million reimbursement for the Rheem sinkhole from the Federal Highway Administration, will bring town reserves to 44.4 percent in 2019. The reimbursement payment is expected in September of 2019, and including that money, the town general fund reserve balance will jump to \$3.8 million.

“Keeping a general fund reserve at a certain level is absolutely vital, because of unforeseen circumstances like a sinkhole or a bridge washout. Cash is king for a reason,” said Joe Tanner, Moraga administrative services director. “But there is a fine line between keeping a reserve and providing needed services.” Tanner said his staff will do an analysis on what level of fund balance is appropriate and report the findings to the town council.

Figuring the Orinda general fund reserve balance requires a more complex calculation. While the other Lamorinda municipalities base their reserve policy on expenditures, Orinda bases its on revenue, calling for \$5 million plus 20 percent of budgeted annual revenue in excess of \$10 million, not including Measure L revenue.

“As an agency heavily reliant on property tax, we can go through a rough period. If you have a robust retail sector, you can get by,” Finance Director Paul Rankin said. But Orinda hardly sports a robust retail sector, putting added pressure on maintaining an adequate reserve balance, which is projected at \$5.7 million for 2019.

What is the right dollar amount to carry in a general fund reserve? Each Lamorinda municipality has dealt with a sinkhole over the years, but how much cash does an agency need to prepare for a catastrophic emergency, like the devastation of the North Bay wildfires, which fire officials say could happen in Lamorinda?

According to Santa Rosa City Manager Sean McGlynn, “Whatever amount you have in your reserve, it is not enough.”

## Back to the drawing board on Deer Hill Road, as voters reject Measure L

... continued from page A2

Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin said he thought that the result was a combination of voters who didn’t like the project, thought they could get a better project, or weren’t worried about negative consequences.

Vice Mayor Cam Burks, making it clear that he was speaking as a resident and not in his roll as council member, commented, “We know that Lafayette residents were dropping off ballots on election day all the way until the polls closed at 8 p.m. I think it is respectful for those voters and fellow community members to allow all of the ballots to be counted,” adding, “We are proud of the campaign we ran and we were honored to have so much community support.”

In his roll as vice mayor, Burks commented that he respects and values that the community has spoken and made a decision on this important matter. “This represents a civically engaged community and we are profoundly fortunate to

have this.

“Most importantly, though,” he added “I would like to stress the critical importance that I personally place on moving forward as one community and that we focus on being positive, civil and respectful to one another. Civility and a sense of community is what makes Lafayette so great. The intense community division that evolved during the campaign was significant and frankly discouraging to me – and to some degree just not healthy for our city. It is my goal to work on bringing our community back together.”

Sommer noted as a positive that the measure engaged the public in a robust discussion, particularly on social media forums.

“The voters got their decision,” said Tatzin. “This is democracy in action.”

Stay tuned for continued discussion of Deer Hill.



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## Campolindo Class of 2018





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## Incredible community convergence for Rheem reopening

... continued from page A1



A Superman exhibition will also start on June 14 at the Rheem Theatre.

other locals. Mayor Dave Trotter came by and promised to be there on opening night.

Derek Zemrak, the operator of the Rheem with Leonard Pirkle, remembers that he said nine years ago during his first meeting regarding reopening the Rheem, that for independent movie theaters to survive, they need to be owned by a nonprofit or the municipality. He is proven right today. While the theater is not yet a town asset, it is the logical outcome of the memorandum of understanding that was signed between the town and the property owner.

Trotter noted, like Schnurr, that the reopening would not have been possible if the town had not signed an MOU with the owner.

Zemrak said that the June 14 Opening Night will start at 5:30 p.m. with a reception, auction and announcements. Tickets for the reception and movie, which is a fundraiser for the Moraga Community Foundation, are \$40. Movie only tickets are \$12.

Movie tickets can be purchased at www.lamorindatheatres.com; event tickets must be purchased at either the Orinda or Rheem box office.

Parents came with their children, senior citizens gave of their time, and many local entrepreneurs contributed as well. Republic Services gave a huge free dumpster for all the debris, carpet cleaning was done by Diablo Valley Carpet Care, which was also provided free of charge. Owner Gregg Eckstein said, "I want to help you and wish for a great opening night."

Moraga resident Tom Gieryng from TG Hardwood Flooring refinined the dance floor, and many other local business owners

stepped up to offer discounts for products or services. Bob Moore and Andy Scheck from the MCF board installed new floors in the office and the kitchen and painted the concession stand, MCF board member Sue Olsen arranged to replace lighting and the refinishing of the terrazzo flooring, and Tom Frainier, CEO of Semifreddi's and also an MCF board member provided food and music for all the hard workers.

Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda gave some of her time and energy to do the hard work along with

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# Life in LAMORINDA

## Hurricane survivor to Campo grad

By Cathy Dausman



Patrick Turner and Campo grad John Alago are all smiles during final exams

“It could always be worse.” That’s what John Alago, 16, told his high school counselor last fall.

Having survived one of Puerto Rico’s worst hurricanes, he endured subsequent housing damage, power loss and near communication blackout, then left his parents and home to travel 3,600 miles to California. He wanted to finish high school. His Puerto Rico family told him it couldn’t be done. He needed eight classes to graduate. He was unfamiliar with block scheduling, a closed campus, and mandatory attendance, let alone using a laptop. He lacked winter clothing. But it could always be worse.

His aunt and uncle welcomed Alago and two older cousins into their Lafayette home. “It was a no brainer for my husband and me,” said Alago’s aunt, Maria Brenner. By November, Alago was enrolled at Campolindo High School, where

he met counselor Patrick Turner, himself new to the school. The new student and new counselor hit it off.

Brenner said her nephew’s Campolindo stay was to be temporary, “until electricity and water was restored [to Puerto Rico] and conditions were livable.” His cousins found employment in Lamorinda but quickly returned home rather than risk losing university grant money. “We figured John would go back in January,” Brenner said. But he liked Campolindo and wanted to finish there.

Alago took “only six” classes – economics, math, English, Spanish, art and PE, plus two more (biology and U.S. History) online – and his introduction to fourth year English was to memorize dialogue from Hamlet. It could always be worse. “The school was exceedingly welcoming,” said Alago’s cousin Jennifer Mitchell. Brenner credits an entire community for getting him

“to this point [graduation].”

Brenner says her family received “overwhelming” help from neighbors for everything from donated winter clothing to transportation and support. “It takes a village,” Brenner said, adding, “My heart is filled with gratitude.”

Mitchell said Alago worked exceedingly hard this year. He joined the track team, took up shot put and discus, and earned Most Improved Athlete honors. He made friends and took a date to Senior Ball.

Initially Alago ate lunch with Turner, and the two became more than student and counselor. “He’s the man,” Alago said, “and he’s still helping me.”

“John has been a great addition to Campolindo’s community,” Turner said as they caught up in his office. They talk about Alago returning to Campolindo as a given and Turner wants to visit Puerto Rico as well. Alago’s aunt, uncle and parents all attended the June 8 graduation and the next day he flew home to Puerto Rico. He’ll attend the Universidad de Turabo, but wants “to return to the states” where he hopes to pursue a career in law enforcement or join the Coast Guard.

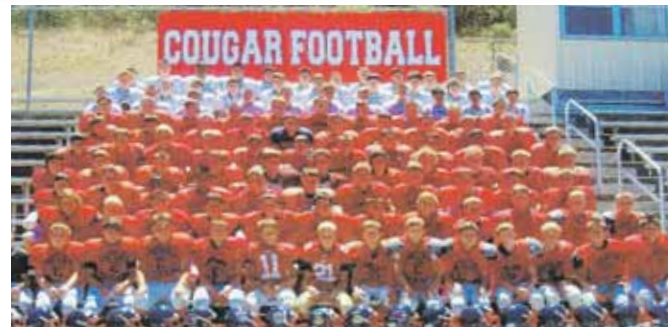
“For about the first week (at Campolindo) I was ‘John from Puerto Rico,’” Alago said.

“And now you’re ‘John from California,’” Turner laughed.

It could always be worse.

Photos Cathy Dausman

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Moraga Day Camp	5-10	7:30-6:00		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Attack Algebra	12-17	11-1:30						●			
Bricks 4 Kidz	5-11	9-12 & 1-4	●				●				
Camp Kinder Cool - Camino Pablo	Entering K	8:30-12	●	●							
Camp Kinder Cool - Los Perales	Entering K	8:30-12	●		●						
Camp Kinder Cool - Rheem	Entering K	8:30-12	●								
Coding Camp	10-14	9-12 & 1-4					●	●	●		
Flag Football Camp	6-11	9-12			●						
Get a Jump on Geometry	12-17	11-1:30									●
Gurus Education Public Speaking	7-14	9-4		●			●		●	●	
IncrediFlix	7-12	9-4							●	●	
Little Medical School	5-12	9-12 & 1-4	●					●	●	●	
Mini-Hawk Sports Camp	4-6	9-12			●			●		●	
Rob Skate Skateboard Academy	6-12	9-12		●	●				●	●	
Skyhawks Multi-Sport Camp	6.5-11	9-12							●	●	
Techsplosion	5-12	9-4						●		●	

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## Diablo Ballet event goes to the dogs

By Diane Claytor



Dorothy and the Wizard of Dogs from Diablo Ballet’s Paws de Tutu dog competition at Lafayette Reservoir. Photo provided

Saturday, June 23 will be a day that goes to the dogs ... dogs in costume, that is. From 9-11 a.m., Diablo Ballet will host its third annual PAWS de Tutu, a fun-filled event at the Lafayette Reservoir, complete with a dog costume “com(paw) tition,” entertainment, celebrities, snacks and prizes. There will be demonstrations by the Contra Costa Sheriff’s K-9 Unit, as well as doggie yoga and dog training; there will also be a performance by STARS 2000 Teen Theater’s cast of “Legally Blonde, the Musical,” with special guest, Bruiser, the Chihuahua.

And if you don’t have your own dog, ARF and Rocket Dog Rescue will have dogs ready for adoption. Dog parents are encouraged to dress up their canines for the solo competition (one dog in costume) or group competition for multiple costumed dogs. All PAWS de Tutu proceeds benefit Diablo Ballet’s PEEK Program, a performing arts education and enrichment program for kids in underserved areas. Admission is only \$10 per person or \$20 to enter your favorite pet in the competition. Register at [diabloballet.org](http://diabloballet.org) or call (925) 943-1775.

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## 'Precision Beauty' at Moraga Art Gallery

By Sophie Braccini



Painting by Karen Kramer; jewelry by Kuniko Kay Nitta Photos Sophie Braccini

The title of the new exhibition at the Moraga Art Gallery expresses acutely what the two featured artists are all about: precise and finely crafted art, where the beauty emerges seamlessly through the enormous amount of work needed for the art's completion. Karen Kramer's watercolor paintings and Kuniko Kay Nitta's jewelry are on display now for all to enjoy as part of the "Precision Beauty" exhibit through Aug. 11.

Upon entering the gallery, one is drawn to the left wall of the space where Kramer's paintings hang. Her most recent work is on display, always inspired by nature, but also by movement. The colors, the shapes, draw the viewer into Kramer's universe. It is a sensual world where the softness enralls the spectator.

In the gallery, the talented painter offers some small pieces that are incredibly reasonably priced and some larger paintings as well. Kramer said that she sees endless contradictions within the same landscape: light/dark; arid/wet; and living/dying; adding that she passionately examines this harmonious paradox and is transfixed by the complex tapestry of nature and its constant flux.

the artist before being embedded in remarkable necklaces and earrings.

The artist says that it is also nature that inspires her, especially that of Japan where she was raised. The technique she uses creates the cabochon-style gems, meaning polished instead of faceted. Nitta explains that she works the stones with five different grinders for hours before the stones ultimately reveal their potential immense beauty. Looking at each gem can be quite intoxicating; the glance loses itself in the natural intricacy of the stones.

Nitta creates necklaces with the stones she polishes by setting them using different techniques including very thin metal strands that lightly and elegantly hold the stone. The final result is stunning.

The Moraga gallery also features several of its other members. Pam Murray presents some of her new very unique collages, Chanda Beck her ceramics, and Sandra Berkson her whimsical abstract paintings, among other interesting art.

The gallery is located at 522 Center St. in the Rheem Shopping Center and is open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit moragaartgallery.com.



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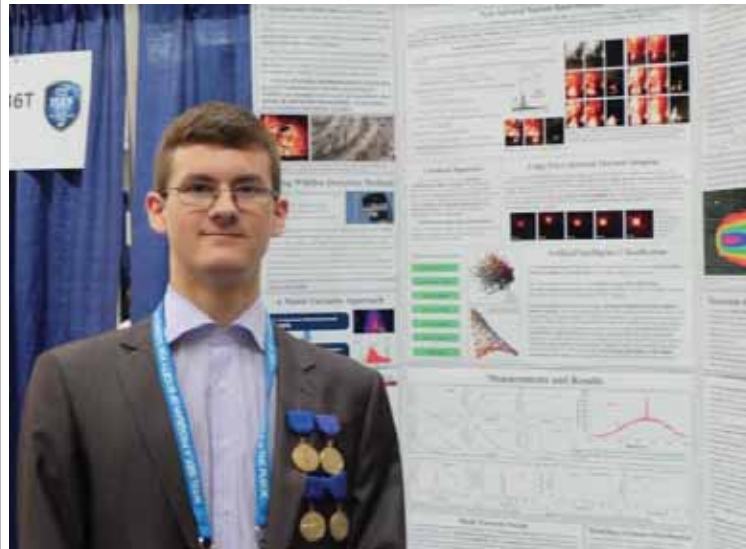


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## Campo senior recognized at International Science and Engineering Fair

Submitted by Roxanna Jackman



Vasily Tremsin

Photo provided

Campolindo High School senior Vasily Tremsin has been creating inventions to create solutions to real world problems for the past four years. His projects have won a variety of awards at the county and state levels and qualified to compete at the international level.

As a freshman, Tremsin created a low-cost instrument that measures the direction of incoming sound to significantly improve spatial awareness for the deaf. His sophomore year he invented a mo-

bile-friendly device to monitor sunscreen effectiveness. He provided evidence to show how his device was capable of potentially preventing millions of skin cancer cases with unprecedented affordable early detection capabilities. During his junior year, Tremsin invented an affordable system for measuring soil moisture to significantly improve the efficiency of agricultural irrigation, possibly saving millions of gallons of water all around the globe.

This year, Tremsin's design for

a "Multivariable Early-Warning System for Low-Cost Prevention of Wildfire Proliferation" was tremendously successful. At the International Science and Engineering Fair, this project was chosen to be among the top 22 projects out of 1,791 finalists that qualified from their own science fairs in 81 countries, regions and territories. He won the Best of Category Award for Earth and Environmental Sciences, first place grand award, plus four different special awards: ASU Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives, U.S. Agency for International Development, China Association for Science and Technology, and the American Meteorological Society. Tremsin was awarded cash prizes totaling more than \$12,000 and earned \$1,000 grants for Campolindo and the Contra Costa County science fair. Additionally, NASA will name a new asteroid in his honor.

The staff at Campolindo are looking forward to watching the wonderful inventions and solutions that this talented young man creates as he continues on to study computer science and physics.

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# Miramonte students open discussion about distracted and drunk driving

By Jennifer Wake



From left: Jennifer Giron and Gracie Guidotti Photo provided

Inspired by the Every 15 Minutes organization that creates drunk driving simulations at schools, Miramonte High School juniors Jennifer Giron and Gracie Guidotti presented a video about distracted and drunk driving to the entire school during a breakout session April 27 at Miramonte.

"We used videos created by other organizations (cited at the end of the film) due to time and budget constraints," Guidotti said. "I edited the videos and combined them in order to incorporate both

distracted and drunk driving in the seminar. We included some statistics as well to add more information."

After watching the video, students and teachers participated in a short discussion and completed an anonymous survey.

Of the 569 survey respondents, 15 percent of students stated they have driven under the influence of alcohol and 75 percent have engaged in distracted driving, according to Guidotti. "Some responses as to why students drove distracted

included, 'To pick up a call, answer a text or a Snapchat, or put directions in on maps,' or 'I get nervous when I see that I have received a text. I feel the need to respond to it immediately.' In terms of why students drive drunk some quotes were that 'They need to bring their cars home so their parents aren't mad or suspicious' and 'I don't want to get in trouble by my parents or I just want to get home,'" Guidotti said. "The main reason for driving drunk was to avoid parental suspicion. However, 81 percent of students reported that this video and discussion would prevent them from driving distracted or under the influence."

Guidotti and Giron asked students what more Miramonte and the community can do to prevent drunk or distracted driving.

"The most common responses were that the school should raise even more awareness about these issues," Guidotti said, "and that parents need to set better examples in terms of distracted driving, and that parents need to be more understanding and willing to help out their children when they are under the influence." Guidotti said a key problem is that students do not want to call their parents for a ride because of fear of punishment.

The two juniors say they hope to continue this effort and make the video viewing and discussion part of an annual event so that students can be as informed as possible about the risks of drunk and distracted driving. To watch the YouTube video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1ymZNeBnvY>.

# Eight SMC choreographers featured in 'Unearthed' concerts

Submitted by Aurelia Moulin

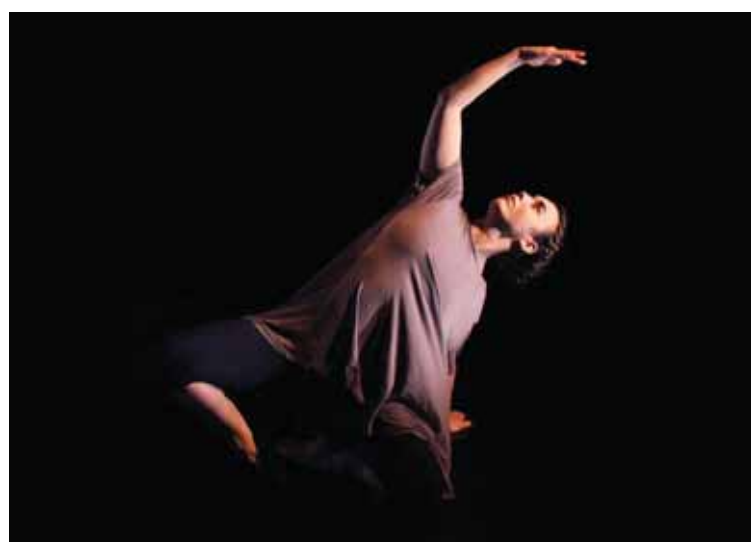


Photo provided

This year's dance thesis candidates will be presenting "Unearthed," a series of two concerts featuring work by eight choreographers – the culminating work of Saint Mary's College of California Class of 2018 MFA in Dance students that includes themes of healing, belonging, and transformation. The concerts will be performed at 3 p.m. (Concert 1) and 7 p.m. (Concert 2) on June 15 and 16 at LeFevre Theatre – and nearby locations for some site-specific works – on the Saint Mary's campus.

Concert 1 features works choreographed by Stephanie Brumer, Emily Denham, Summer Logan, and Ashley Mott. Within Concert 1, choreographer Brumer investigates dance as language; she examines how our healing inner voice can bridge the connection between emotion, language, and movement to allow healing strength and wisdom.

Denham's work explores the concept of "home" through a somatic lens; it is a homecoming to self, in hopes of cultivating a sense of belonging through movement. Logan's piece explores the intersectionality of gender, poverty and politics through the lived female experience in Appalachia. Mott's work examines the embodiment of trauma and is a somatic investigation into where and how our traumatic memories – especially those pertaining to grief and loss – are stored and processed in our bodies.

Concert 2 includes works cho-

reographed by Surabhi Bhargava, KJ Dahlaw, Laura Nataro, and Hilary Snider. In Concert 2, Bhargava's work interprets the voice of Devadasi women, who bequeathed the traditional Indian dance to future generations, and it hopes to open a dialogue about the betterment of their unfortunate condition today. Dahlaw is creating an installation work that lives in the intersections of queer theory, incarnational queer theology, and sacrament. Nataro's piece explores the transient and undefinable experience of the embodied American identity and how it is expressed by diverse bodies. Finally, Snider is exploring the experiences of an acrobat, an angel, and an artist of the trapeze through a blend of yoga and qigong.

The MFA in Dance program at Saint Mary's College of California offers two distinct tracks of study: the MFA in Dance: Creative Practice, and the MFA in Dance: Design and Production, which is the first program of its kind in the nation. Students in the MFA program span multiple generations and come from all over the world to study in the San Francisco Bay Area, home of one of the largest dance communities in the United States.

Tickets are \$15 for one concert or \$25 for both concerts; children 12 and under are free. Tickets are available online at <https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/unearthed>.

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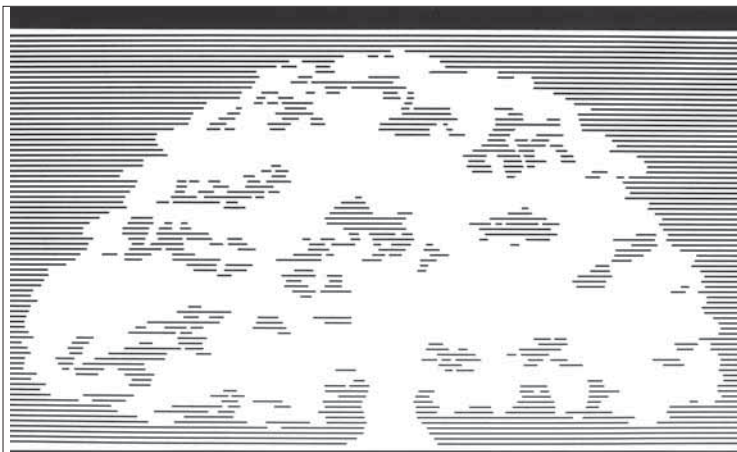


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## NCL Acalanes Chapter hosts annual Mother-Daughter Tea

Submitted by Jocelyn Coolbaugh



Alexandra "Kiki" Rosson Photo provided

Members from the National Charity League Acalanes Area Chapter gathered at the Orinda Country Club for the annual Mother-Daughter Tea to acknowledge members who contributed over 7,000 hours in one year at various philanthropies around the Bay Area.

Every year, the league awards a member with the most philanthropy hours across the whole chapter with a Merci Award; this year's recipient is Alexandra "Kiki" Rosson, who donated a total of 188 hours during the year. Kiki and her mother, Denise, also received the Mother Daughter Pair Award for volunteering 77 hours together. Kiki goes to Carondelet High School and enjoyed volunteering at the Swim Across America Open Water Swim event, which raised \$620,000 for the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland.

"The annual recognition tea is a tradi-

tion that has been a part of NCL since our beginning. It provides an opportunity for our members to be recognized for their hours of service to the community and contributions to our organization," said President Jackie Welch. "During the event this year, members shared stories of how philanthropy projects, leadership opportunities and cultural awareness allowed them to develop skills that will help them to be their best. We are so proud of the achievements of each mother and daughter as they worked together to make a positive impact on the community and our recognition tea was a beautiful celebration of that effort."

The class of 2022 selected Blue Star Moms as this year's philanthropy for the annual tea. NCL collected donations of individually wrapped food items and travel-sized personal care items that Blue Star Moms can use to make care packages to send to military troops.

National Charity League, Inc., Acalanes Area Chapter provides hands-on volunteer service for a many philanthropic organizations in the community. Members are women and their daughters in grades 7-12. Through this community service, NCL, Inc. develops socially responsible community leaders and strengthens the mother-daughter relationship. The traditional six-year core program also includes leadership development and cultural activities. Mother-daughter teams nationwide are responsible, dedicated, skilled volunteers actively engaged in local community work across the country. For more information, visit [acalanesarea.nationalcharityleague.org](http://acalanesarea.nationalcharityleague.org).

## Troop 246 inducts three new Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Kristin Miller



Ben Miller, Evan Harberson and Karl Lesterhuis

Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 246 in Moraga inducted three new Eagle Scouts – Evan Harberson, Karl Lesterhuis and Ben Miller – at an Eagle Court of Honor May 30 at Rancho Laguna Park in Moraga. To earn this highest advancement rank in Scouting, Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills, complete at least 21 merit badges, and plan, organize, lead and manage a service project benefiting his community. These three Campolindo High School seniors joined the less than 4 percent of all scouts who achieve Eagle Rank.

For Harberson's Eagle Scout project, he built shelters for cat communities in neighborhoods. The boxes could also be used to capture the cats and have them neutered in order to stop the population from growing. He did his project through an organization named Outcast Cat Help. This project was important to Harberson because he has two cats himself who were abandoned on the family doorstep and Outcast helps animals in need.

For Miller's Eagle Scout project, he refurbished the Snack Shack at the Bob Wilson football field at Campolindo High School.

Miller redesigned the interior layout, and added shelving and storage space to increase the efficiency of the Snack Shack. After going to four years worth of football games, and seeing some of the difficulties that his parents had while running the Snack Shack, Miller saw this project as a way to make future Campo students' and parents' football games even more fun.

Lesterhuis joined Troop 246 in fifth grade after starting his scouting career as a Tiger Cub in Pack 351 at Rheem Elementary. He has served as a Patrol Leader and an Assistant Patrol Leader, and decided on an Eagle Scout project: a "Buddy Bench" on the kindergarten playground at Rheem Elementary. The purpose of the Buddy Bench, situated directly across from the play structure, is to promote new friendships and was inspired by his own kindergarten-aged brother. The project included designing, purchasing, and installing the best bench possible for current and future kindergarteners (and parents at Open House).

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

### Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

## Children's Health Guild raises over \$390K at annual gala

Submitted by Wendy Rotblat



Event co-chair Kristin Prestin with CHG President Michelle Berolzheimer and co-chair Mayra Tama

Photo provided

The Children's Health Guild hosted its annual spring fundraiser, "Come Sail Away, an Evening Inspiring Hope" at Diablo Country Club May 19, raising over \$390,000 to support UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and George Mark Children's House, which continue to provide the full spectrum of medical care for children and their families, including emergency and ongoing treatment as well as transitional, respite and palliative care.

Gala co-chairs Mayra Tama and Kristin Prestin did a beautiful job creating a successful, memorable event. The highlight of the evening came when speakers, Dr. Karim Mansour, Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship Director at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, and Charlie Cleberg, patient and longtime ad-

vocate for George Mark Children's House, shared their uplifting stories of the exceptional care provided by the two organizations.

Comprised of 50 energetic Bay Area women who dedicate their time and talent to raise funds on behalf of UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and George Mark Children's House, Children's Health Guild has raised over \$2 million since 2011 to directly support these two life-changing organizations, which together provide the most advanced medical technology and compassionate care to children in need—regardless of their family's ability to pay. Originally founded as St. Luke's Junior Auxiliary, the group has raised funds to support women's and children's medical care for over 38 years.

## New Troop 200 Eagle Scouts honored

Submitted by Suzanne Roady



Back row, from left: Ryan Barba and Arjun Chimni; front row: Xavier Mountin, Dylan Orsolini and Jake Dohemann.

Photo provided

Five new Eagle Scouts from Troop 200 were celebrated at their Eagle Court of Honor June 9 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette. For their Eagle projects, Ryan Barba repaired portions of the Moraga Road/Lafayette Rim Trail including entrance signs and timber edging. Arjun Chimni rebuilt a set of benches at Campolindo High School that were in disrepair

and hazardous. Xavier Mountin replaced and expanded outdoor benches in the new courtyard at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Dylan Orsolini designed, constructed and installed three large entrance signs for Our Savior's Lutheran Church. And Jake Dohemann designed and built practical and educational mobile planter boxes for Husky House at Happy Valley Elementary School.

Submit stories and story ideas to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)



# Ways to reduce pain without medications – part 3 of a 4 part series

By Richard C. Shinaman, M.D.

In an ongoing effort for state and federal governments to limit access to opioid-containing pain relieving medications, a number of guidelines have been recently enacted that recommend that doctors prescribe less or even no pain medication. Many patients find that despite years of pain relief from pain medications, their doctors are suggesting that they stop their medication or even refuse to prescribe them anymore. Many primary care doctors have become very reluctant to prescribe any pain medication to even long-term patients.

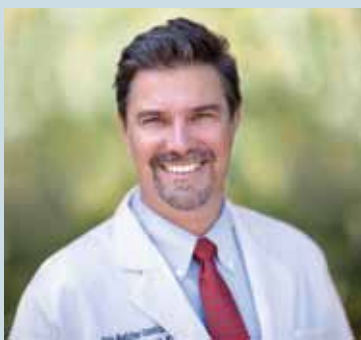
Many patients want to know what to do and how they can treat the pain conditions that they have in light of these new recommendations and restrictions. I hope that the information provided below and in previous articles will be helpful to patients looking for ways to reduce suffering related to any number of pain related conditions.

## Number One: Change Your Diet

“We are what we eat!” My experience is that most patients underestimate how much the food and drink that is put into the body influences the level of pain that is experienced, the mood that predominates, and overall quality of sleep.

Quite a few scientific studies have shown that a number of foods increase the amount of inflammation in the body and this level of inflammation then sensitizes nerves and muscles to produce a higher level of overall pain. In addition, there is an evolving body of thought showing that pro-inflammatory foods cause our gastrointestinal tract to become “leaky” and allow environmental pathogens access to our bloodstream.

Many people over time develop dietary habits that consist of a higher than healthy percentage of sweets and rapidly absorbed carbohydrates. The beauty of dietary therapy is that with a bit of willpower everyone can do it



Dr. Richard C. Shinaman, of Pain Medicine Consultants, is board certified in anesthesiology and pain medicine. Dr. Shinaman trained in anesthesiology and critical care medicine at Stanford University. He completed an accredited pain medicine fellowship at the Mayo Clinic. He has been a very busy and valued member of the medical community in Northern California for over a decade. His overall goal is to try and help people to suffer less and live more. He has published book chapters and a number of scientific articles on the treatment of painful diseases and how to treat them. More information can be found out about his current medical clinic at [painmedicineconsultants.com](http://painmedicineconsultants.com). Most patients can request a consultation through the online web portal. His practice contact number is (925) 287-1256.

**Disclaimer:** The opinions and statements above are the opinion of Richard Shinaman, MD and are not intended to diagnose or treat any patient or person with a medical condition. No person can determine what might be best for you as an individual without evaluating you and hearing your individual story. Everyone is different. Using any or all of the techniques described is done so at your own risk. You should discuss starting or stopping any treatment with your own medical provider.

and it is basically free (we have to eat anyway). Keep in mind that persistence pays off – it takes about 30 days to establish new habits but over time the body adjusts and starts to enjoy the tastes of more healthy foods.

There is ongoing debate about what the “optimal” diet may be, but what is quite clear is that trying three months of less inflammatory foods may well result in a dramatic decrease in pain, inflammatory markers, high blood pressure, and blood sugar levels.

I want people to keep in mind that adopting a “healthier” diet of any kind means using good sense about what is good for the body. Eating lots of processed foods like nutrition bars and a plate full of bacon is not likely to help you feel better. I feel quite strongly that if people would take the time and effort to change their diet that almost anyone can have less pain, a better mood, and an improved quality of sleep.

## Number Two: Injection Therapies and Innovation

Many patients feel hopeless if there is not something that can be done to help their pain. All too often patients have tried and failed a surgery that was designed to help things. It is important to know that there are a host of innovative techniques that can greatly help to diminish pain and suffering.

Modern medicine has the ability to block or deaden nerves, abolish severe soft tissue spasms, or even stimulate the spinal cord to block pain signals coming from other areas of the body. Even more recently we have developed medication infusion programs that have the ability to completely “reset” the bodies maladaptive nerve signaling pathways.

Regenerative techniques such as platelet rich plasma injection or stem cell injections have the chance to revolutionize joint and spine surgery. None of these types of therapies involve the long-term use of dependency promoting drugs and they can absolutely change a person’s long-term quality of life. Our experience is that most patients have not been offered a comprehensive set of options and have been told such things as, “There is nothing more we can do so you’ll just have to rely on pain medication for the rest of your life.”

I want to encourage you to please make sure that you have exhausted all the other options before heading down this path. Because very few doctors receive training in pain treatment during medical school or residency training, it is crucial to talk to an expert about possible options. Unfortunately, there are many providers that claim to be “the experts” in treating pain.

It is important to ensure that your doctor completed a pain medicine fellowship at an accredited top tier university program and has earned a board certification that is recognized by the American Council of Graduate Medical Education.

At the end of the day remember that “Pain may be inevitable, but suffering is optional.”

Read part 1 and 2 of this series, “Ways to reduce pain without medications,” in the Lamorinda Weekly online archives at [lamorindaweekly.com](http://lamorindaweekly.com).

## Foods that combat inflammation



Include plenty of these anti-inflammatory foods in your diet:

- tomatoes
- olive oil
- green leafy vegetables, such as spinach, kale, and collards
- nuts like almonds and walnuts
- fatty fish like salmon, mackerel, tuna, and sardines
- fruits such as strawberries, blueberries, cherries, and oranges



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# ALL IN ONE DAY, ALL IN ONE PLACE—

## A New Approach to Managing Breast Cancer

By Tiffany Svahn, MD



Monica Eigelberger, MD, Christine Chung, MD, Tiffany Svahn, MD

board certified, highly trained and experienced physicians offer a multidisciplinary team approach to diagnosis and treatment planning. The benefit of multidisciplinary care is that patients receive multiple medical opinions from a group of specialists, helping them feel confident they have explored all of their options. Research shows that a multidisciplinary approach leads to better outcomes with improved quality of life and improved survival rates.

This is how our program works: in a single appointment at our breast cancer clinic, patients meet with a breast surgeon, medical oncologist, radiation oncologist, nurse navigator and patient care coordinator. After the physicians have examined each patient, they come together to discuss the best treatment options. By the end of the appointment, each patient receives a comprehensive treatment plan and a list of the next steps.

Our program will minimize the anxiety and uncertainty that patients experience while waiting days and weeks between individual appointments by reducing the time between diagnosis and treatment, resulting in the best possible outcomes for each patient.

We believe that the Women’s Cancer Center of the East Bay integrates all of the essential components necessary for a comprehensive world-class breast cancer program.

All in one day – all in one place!

Dr. Svahn is a Medical Oncologist and Breast Cancer Specialist

Dr. Eigelberger is a Breast Cancer Surgeon

Dr. Chung is a Radiation Oncologist

When a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, her life is turned upside down. Suddenly, she is consumed with the process of making appointments, getting more testing, making decisions, consulting with a variety of specialists on different days – all at different locations. She may even seek second and third opinions. This process is overwhelming and exhausting and can take weeks to months. For these reasons, our team developed a program to make the process easier for breast cancer patients.

I am excited to announce that Diablo Valley Oncology and West Coast Surgical Associates have opened the Women’s Cancer Center of the East Bay, located in our NEW Multidisciplinary Cancer Clinic in Pleasant Hill. This new program focuses on breast cancer patients and brings together physician expertise from Breast Surgery, Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology.

Similar to Multidisciplinary Tumor Boards at academic centers, our

**WOMEN’S CANCER CENTER OF THE EAST BAY**

(925) 215-1149 400 Taylor Blvd. Suite 103 Pleasant Hill, Ca 94523

~ Healthy Lifestyle ~



# The essential ingredient for European baking: Quark

By Susie Iventosch



A finished batch of quark

Photo Susie Iventosch

In January 2013, we featured Andy Scheck's Apple Quark Cake in this column. Andy is the publisher of the Lamorinda Weekly and among his many talents he's an excellent cook! He has a collection of recipes that he learned from his mom, Anneliese, and occasionally, he brings these treats to the weekly editorial meetings for the paper. I hear rave reviews about them and am sorry that I'm not a regular at those meetings. He uses quark as a key ingredient in his baked goods as well as in other dishes like cucumber salad and cheesecake.

Quark is technically a cheese that is used in European baked goods, especially in Andy's native

Germany. He says that quark is the primary ingredient that makes German cakes different. It looks kind of like a thick Greek yogurt, but it's made from heated sour milk or buttermilk instead of milk with bacteria added, which is how yogurt is made. Typically, quark is higher in protein and lower in sodium than yogurt.

A few weeks ago, I received an email from Andy telling me that the quark he'd been using in the states, while good, was different than what he was used to in Europe. So, he began researching how to make his own quark and after a few tries, he came up with a formula for the perfect quark. He was so excited about it and told

his wife, Wendy, that he could hardly wait for cherries to arrive at the farmers' market so he could make a quark cake with these seasonal fruits. As soon as cherries popped up at the market, he made the cake and he sent me that recipe, too, which will be featured in the next issue of the paper. In the meantime, you can try your hand at making quark, so you'll have the perfect quark for his cake recipe in a couple of weeks.

It does require the use of a yogurt maker, and Andy bought the Dash Yogurt Maker, which he found on Amazon for about \$23. I took the idea from him, and purchased my own yogurt maker and have now made my first batch of quark, which was super easy and absolutely delicious! It simply requires heating up 2 quarts of low-fat buttermilk and then pouring it into the yogurt maker for 8 hours. Then, you strain the quark in the sieve provided with the machine for 8-12 hours. Voila! According to Andy, quark will last in the refrigerator for about a week and a half. I used my quark in place of plain yogurt for a horseradish-quark sauce to accompany grilled steak, as well as in a wonderfully delicious goat cheese cheesecake. Quark is also good simply topped with fresh fruit for breakfast or a light dessert.

## Quark Recipe

(Makes approximately 2 to 3 cups of quark)

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 quarts 2% low-fat buttermilk
- Yogurt Maker

### DIRECTIONS

Heat buttermilk in a metal pot just until it begins to separate and is near, but not yet boiling. Pour the buttermilk into the container of the yogurt maker and process for about eight hours. There is an eight-hour setting on the Dash yogurt maker, which makes this step very easy.

After eight hours, your buttermilk will look like soft yogurt. You then pour it into the strainer provided with the yogurt maker, or if yours doesn't have one, then use a metal strainer, to allow the liquid to drip out. Allow the quark to strain for eight to 12 hours on the counter, at room temperature. The quark will look very thick at this point and will make 2-3 cups. Place in a covered container and keep refrigerated until ready to use.

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



You can find most of the recipes published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website. Click Food tab.

[www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html)

# Lamorinda Arts Council hosts first Arts Affair

By Sora O'Doherty



Mina Lim from the Lamorinda Idol competition. Photos Sora O'Doherty



Dancers from the Joy in Motion Dance School, a nonprofit organization sponsored by the LAC, entertain the crowd.

The Lamorinda Arts Council invited the public to join them in an Arts Affair, a party celebrating the arts June 6 at the Orinda library. Cocktails were offered by the Art of Mixology award winner, Portia Battistini from the Cooperage, along with hors d'oeuvres by Genuine Goodness. The Rob Evans Quartet played throughout the event on the upper patio level of the library. Inside, the audience was treated to musical and dance numbers by the Lamorinda Idol singers and Joy in Motion dancers and a poem by Poet Laureate Amy Glynn. According to board member Meredith Friedman, Joy in Motion was one of original arts partners helped by the LAC as a way to support and foster the arts. Guests could also enjoy an exhibition of photographs by

the Contra Costa Camera Club on the walls of the library gallery, which is curated by LAC.

The gavel of the presidency was passed from Lawrence Kohl to Jenny Staelin, who presented Kohl with a gift in appreciation of his four and a half years at the helm. Staelin has been with the LAC for seven years, starting as secretary and working her way up to president. Board member Michelle Hoffmann, who organized the event, introduced Kohl with words of high praise for his leadership and as a person. She lauded his integrity, his ability to inspire, his strong communication skills, and his ability to lead or to give someone else the lead, and his strong decision-making abilities.

Kohl used his speech to recognize the many contributions to LAC over the years. He took over the presidency of the Orinda Arts Council from Susan Garrel, and worked in a strategy group including Steve Harwood, organizer of the Lamorinda Idol competition, which led to the creation of the Lamorinda Arts Council that includes Lafayette and Moraga in addition to Orinda. Meredith Friedman crafted the group's mission statement: to ignite and sustain artistic expression and appreciation for all ages. Teresa Onoda brought together people from all three towns voting unanimously to become the Lamorinda Arts Council. Erling Horn gathered 60-year-old documents and filed the state and federal paperwork to effect the change. Michelle Bea

designed the logo. The LAC also has some employees, whom Kohl acknowledged: CPA Susan Hurrell and Managing Director Meredith Friedman. He also thanked, among others, Treasurer Sue Farmer, and Neela Pakyel for revising the bylaws. He recognized new projects, ShortDocs, the Poet Laureate program, the Art of Mixology, and the new Arts Affair. Other LAC programs include High School Visual Arts Competition and the Arts in Bloom Festival.

The LAC is a group of volunteers and donors who develop and produce events, partner with professional organizations and artists, give financial support and awards, and advocate for a vibrant, local culture of visual, performing, and literary arts.

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

## Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:



- Rheem Theatre slated to reopen June 14
- Lawyers battle over Measure L at Lafayette city council meeting
- Lafayette officials speak out on state and regional initiatives
- Fire chief supports pipeline access, mum on Lafayette tree removal
- MOFD firefighters save the life of a cyclist in Orinda
- Chief praises firefighters for improved MOFD turnout times
- Decongestion ahead for major Lafayette intersection
- Fire officials issue defensible space guidelines
- Noodle Theory coming to Rheem
- ConFire dodges bullet at Station 16 site

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) and click the link below the story.



## Moraga Lions recognizes local students

Submitted by Dan Hagan

The Moraga Lions awarded schools who were recommended by teachers and selected by the administration of each school. Stanley Middle School



Award winners: Larkin Stephanos and Alex Megibow  
Pictured, from left: Kerin Megibow, Joe Megibow, Alex Megibow, Dan Hagan, Betsey Balmat (principal), Larkin Stephanos, Michelle Stephanos, and Podromos Stepahnos.

### Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School



Award winners: Shea Volkmer and Jake Morosini  
Pictured, front row, from left: MaryAnn Shimer, Lisa Gruen, Ray Casabonne, Shea Volkmer, Erin Volkmer, Devin Volkmer, Gisela and Volkmer; back row: Jerry Gilbert, Marcus Volkmer, John Pyle, and Ann Pyle.



Picture from left: Kerry Warmboe, Pawan Datta, Jill Lichti, Ray Casabonne, Jake Morosini, Amy Morosini, Anthony Morosini, Nick Morosini, and Tony Morosini.

### Orinda Intermediate School



Award winners: Hunter Tierney and Samuel Banapour  
Pictured, from left: Bijan Banapour, Samuel Banapour, Ray Casabonne, Hunter Tierney, Tina Tierney, and DJ Tierney.

### St. Perpetua School



Award winners: Caroline Kemner and Pierre Jolin  
Pictured, front row, from left: Heidi Schwarck, Mariela Gamboa, Pierre Jolin, Dan Hagan, and Caroline Kemner; back row: Kirsten Kemner, and Matthew Kemner.

## From Miramonte to the wilds of Alaska: one woman's story

By Sora O'Doherty



Photos provided

Growing up in Orinda, Laura (Melohn) Emerson never even dreamed about living off the grid in Alaska, but in her 50s that's exactly what she wound up doing. It wasn't an easy transition, but now she loves her life. How has she changed? She says that she is more introverted, she can go for 10 weeks at a time without seeing anyone but her husband Bryan. She's lost her sense of modesty and her manners, living in sweatpants, but she feels more competent, confident and self-sufficient. Most importantly, she has developed a profound sense of appreciation and awe for the simple things in life.

Emerson addressed a fascinated audience in the Orinda library auditorium on June 7, hosted by the library and Orinda Parks and Recreation.

In the winter of 2006 the Emersons were living on the 17th floor of a high rise in Houston, Texas. They weren't retiring; Bryan worked as a small investment banker and Laura as compliance officer for that bank. One day her husband asked her how she would feel if he could purchase five acres of undeveloped land in Alaska. She wasn't really focused, and replied, "Whatever." To her great surprise, he then bought the 5-acre parcel of virgin forest on a lake halfway between Anchorage and Denali National Park, a 20-minute flight to the nearest road.

The following March, Laura and Bryan Emerson flew up to the property by air taxi to visit the only other residents on the lake and rented the couple's guest cabin. The temperature was 30 below. They dined on moose burgers and bear stew and hired their neighbor to build them a home on their property. It took two and a half years to build the little house, and 106 Spruce trees were felled and cut and dried. Their home is 750 square feet, two floors measuring 16 by 32 feet, with a large out-

building that houses the bathroom on one side and food storage on the other.

The process wasn't easy. "I felt like I was on a chain gang," Emerson said about working to clear the property of alder trees and underground in the company of a million mosquitos. "I cried," she said. "I was overwhelmed."

But her husband loved everything about it.

"I liked the kayaking," Laura Emerson considered, and told herself, "Get with the program! No whining!" She threw herself into the study of everything she thought might be useful: target shooting, foraging for food, soap and candle making (which is a skill she hasn't used), beekeeping, and, perhaps most importantly, wine and beer making. She acquired certifica-

tions in permaculture, master gardening and master naturalist, herbalism, chemistry and botany. The Emersons now enjoy a mandatory 5 p.m. happy hour, when they imbibe in their homemade libations in their kayaks.

With solar panels, a wind turbine and generators, they have electricity that allows them to use the internet to communicate with the world and work remotely. The tower also allows them to access cell service with an antenna that hits a repeater 45 miles away. The Emersons spend two months of the year working in India. During those two autumn months, it would be impossible to travel to and from their home. In summer their property is accessible by float plane. In winter it is accessible by ski plane from Thanksgiving to April, and by dog sled or snow mobile in deep winter. During spring "breakup" of the ice on the lake, it is the most difficult time to travel.

Laura Emerson gardens, growing 65 vegetables and medicinal plants, and they eat bear and rabbit meat and eggs – but she won't eat the chickens she keeps. They can and preserve food, including 14 to 17 gallons of honey each year, and forage for raspberries in July, cranberries in August. They had a 61-foot well dug for water and heat their home with a wood stove, going through a cord of wood a month in the winter.

"I listen to the birds and play with my chickens," she said, "and I feel completely at ease."



## Lamorinda Montessori goes green



Ricky Betts talks to the kids about composting.

Photos provided

In addition to committing to "going green" by teaming with MCE to provide 100 percent renewable energy, Lamorinda Montessori's next step was to get its teachers and older students actively involved in composting.

"I feel like Lamorinda Montessori is making the right choices at a turning point in our social environment," said Ricky Betts, who is in charge of the children's lunches as well as marketing work at the school. "The importance of environmental care has been in the shadows for far too long and is an important topic that many people shy away from due to cost or other

Services and learned how to correctly compost and teach the educators and students how to do the same. "We had an overwhelmingly positive response from the kids as they became overjoyed to feed our worms, visit the compost bin and in turn do more for our environment than most ever do."

Betts says this is just the beginning of their environmental journey, "but we look forward to not only learn with the children, but create a change that you can see around you and watch it grow with them as well."

– J. Wake



Lamorinda Montessori Assistant Director Azaan Hussain, left, and School Director Antonio Betts.



## Lamorinda's Religious Services

### ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

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

**Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am**  
 Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
 Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 11 - 2  
[www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)

### JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

ALL ARE WELCOME

Sundays, 9:30 am & 5 pm



10 Moraga Valley Lane  
[www.mvpc.today.org](http://www.mvpc.today.org)  
 925.376.4800

### ST. PERPETUA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

celebrating our faith • enriching our community • sharing our gifts

#### Join us

Masses Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.  
 Sundays at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.  
 School for TK - 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
 Faith Formation for children and adults

3454 Hamlin Road | Lafayette | [stperpetua.org](http://stperpetua.org)  
 925.283.0272 Parish | 925.284.1640 School

### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 [www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)



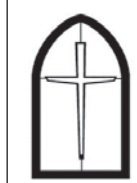
SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
**Sunday Sacrament Service at 10AM**  
 Scripture Study & Youth Programs  
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10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | [www.orindachurch.org](http://www.orindachurch.org)  
*"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"*  
 Join us Sundays at 10 a.m. | Sunday School 10 a.m.



### St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda  
 254-3770. [www.ststephensorinda.org](http://www.ststephensorinda.org)  
 Sunday 8am, 10am



### Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 [thelumc.org](http://thelumc.org)  
 Sunday 10am Worship and Faith Formation for all ages  
 Opportunities to Love God, Love Others,  
 and Serve the World

### St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

A Loving Community

**Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM**

*In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare*  
 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)

### LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



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## Not to be missed

### ART

**Moraga Art Gallery's new exhibit "Precision Beauty"** will feature interpretations of nature in the form of jewelry by member artist Kuniko Kay Nita of Walnut Creek and watercolor paintings by Berkeley's Karen Kramer. The Gallery is located at 522 Center Street in the Rheem Shopping Center. For more information visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com) or call (925) 376-5407.

**Saint Mary's College Museum of Art** and the California Watercolor Association present "The Color of Summer." Fifty new works are on view reflecting the member artists' charge to capture their visions of summer. CWA is one of the largest and most active watermedia organizations in the nation with a mission to create, foster, and sustain artistic growth and interest in watermedia. This exhibition will include a series of events including plein air painting, live demonstrations, and lessons for youth. The exhibition runs through Aug. 26.

### MUSIC

**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](mailto:smumcorinda@gmail.com) or [stmarksun-corinda](mailto:stmarksun-corinda).

**Free "Rock the Plaza" music concert** 6:30 -8:30 p.m. in Lafayette Plaza Park Friday evenings: June 15, The Big Jangle (Tom Petty Tribute); June 22, Trouble With Monkeys ("punked out" Monkees Band); June 29, Lamorinda Idol Finalist.

**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](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/4th-annual-music-on-the-lawn).

**The St. Paul's Concert Series venturing** away from its traditionally classical performances and kicking off the Summer 2018 with WHIRL, a rock band featuring Nikki Nation, at 7 p.m. on June 16. Nikki is a critically-acclaimed singer/songwriter and has led WHIRL with performances in London, New York, and now along the West Coast. As always, no admission tickets required, all are welcome. Donation at the door: average \$20, Students \$10 (all are welcome regardless of donation.) For more information, please visit [whirlmusic.com](http://whirlmusic.com) or [stpaulswc.org](http://stpaulswc.org).

**Free summer concerts Tuesday evenings** from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Orinda Community Park, 28 Orinda Way: June 19, Priceless; June 26, Kenya B Trio; July 10, Crawdad Republic.

**Local public garden and nature education center,** The Gardens at Heather Farm is proud to present a new series entitled Concerts in the Garden, which showcases outstanding live music in a stunning outdoor atmosphere. The first concert at 7 p.m. on June 24 features the Romance Trio, a collaboration of classical virtuosos on cello, harp and flute. The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets: \$40 per person per show. Tickets available online at [gardenshf.org](http://gardenshf.org) or by phone at (925) 947-1678.

**Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir presents "Roots from the West"** OIGC and Norwegian Choir SKRUK from 7 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 30 at Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Experience OIGC's gospel repertoire alongside SKRUK's Scandinavian choral music. As SKRUK's director Prots says, the concert is 'a new musical latte.' Cost: \$22-\$25. For more info see <http://www.oigc.org/oigcskruk> or call (510) 839-4361 or email [admin@oigc.org](mailto:admin@oigc.org).

**You are invited to join your neighbors** from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings at the Moraga Commons Park for a relaxing free concert in the park. Bring your picnic blanket or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the band shell. Enjoy the music while your children enjoy the park. The volunteers of MPF will cook dinner for you with the Snack Bar opening at 6 p.m. June 21: 3 Day Weekend - Classic rock; June 28: Beatles Flashback - Beatles tribute band.

### THEATER

**Orinda Starlight Village Players present** Agatha Christie's "Spider's Web" through June 24 at the Orinda Community Park's outdoor amphitheater. There is tension and laughter in equal parts in an intricate plot of murder, police, drug addicts, invisible ink, hidden doorways and secret drawers. Showtimes and dates at [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org). Call (925) 528-9225 or email [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org) for reservations.

**Town Hall Theatre Company Presents "Sense & Sensibility,"** based on the novel by Jane Austen, through June 23. 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](http://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 Lo-

gan, Ashley Mott, Laura Nataro, and Hilary Snider. Tickets: \$15 per concert, \$25 for both concerts. <https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/forms/mfadance-performances3/index.html>

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**The Contra Costa County Library kicked 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 Take 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](http://ccclib.org/summer).

### OTHER

**How to Market Yourself on Yelp - 6 to 7:30 p.m.** on June 13 in the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Speaker: Matt Donzella, Yelp Local Business Manager. Learn how business owners can set up a strong page on Yelp and how to drive more customers to their page and ultimately their business. The lecture will cover best ways to generate reviews without "asking" for them, including tools built within the site and things they can do with their own websites, storefronts, biz cards etc. Best practices for handling reviews will also be discussed. Register at [www.lafayettechamber.org/workshops](http://www.lafayettechamber.org/workshops)

**Summer is cooler with cats! Find your pick** of the litter at Community Concern for Cats mobile adoption event from 1 to 4 p.m. this weekend, June 16 and 17 at Pet Food Express in Lafayette. For more information, see [www.communityconcernforcats.org](http://www.communityconcernforcats.org).

**Mountain Shadow Film Society presents** A Filmmaker's Quest at 7:30 p.m. on June 16 at the Walnut Creek Library. Based on Santiago Rizzo's own life experience growing up on the streets of Berkeley, "Quest" is a compelling story about the love between a child in crisis and an extraordinary middle-school teacher who takes him in and changes his life forever. He will preset his film by FaceTime. Tickets: \$12 general admission. <http://mountainshadow.org>

**Lamorinda Village Travel Series: Traveling** with Grands at 1 p.m, Tuesday, June 19 at LOPC, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette. There are many ways to experience adventure trips that allow you to spend quality time with your "Grands." Join Andy and Carole Amstutz as they describe some examples, including guided trips with grandchildren. We will allow time for you to share your experiences of the best (and worst) travels with your families. Call (925) 283-3500 to register.

... continued on next page

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# 'Won't You Be My Neighbor'

By Derek Zemrak



Rogers delayed his plan to become a minister in order to start his first children's show in 1953. "The Children's Corner" aired on the newly formed public television station, WQED in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The rest is television history and later the show became a national success as "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." Rogers' style was completely different from other children's programs. Rogers did not play a character or use comedy. His goal was to educate young viewers. He didn't believe in playing a character because he wanted to be just himself on camera. He often stated, "One of the greatest gifts you can give anybody is the gift of your honest self."

"Won't You Be My Neighbor" explores all the difficult subjects addressed during the shows including the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy, the Challenger space crash to 9/11. Rogers spoke about these issues and many others head on and directly to the children. Over his career Rogers produced over 1,100 children's television shows.

Not everyone liked the show or Fred Rogers and these issues are also addressed in the film. Sadly, there were several protestors at Rogers' funeral in 2003.

"Won't You Be My Neighbor" opens at the Orinda Theatre on June 22. I highly recommend this documentary, which is rated PG-13 with a total running time of 1 hour and 34 minutes.

The reopening of the Rheem Theatre will be at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 14. During the reception, there will be a fundraising auction to benefit the theatre. "Incredibles 2" will be screened at 7 p.m. Paul Mendoza, Lafayette resident and Pixar Supervising Animator on "Incredibles 2" will introduce the film. Tickets are \$40, which includes the reception and movie. A movie only ticket is \$12. Let's all come out and support the reopening of the Rheem Theatre.

Image provided  
If you asked any 30 to 80-year-old "What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear Won't You Be My Neighbor," I would guess that 75 percent would say "Mr. Rogers" and the other 25 percent would say "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." But who was Fred Rogers, the host of this children's program that ran on PBS television for more than 33 years? The show first aired on Feb. 19, 1968 and continued until Aug. 31, 2001.

"Won't You Be My Neighbor" is an in-depth, moving documentary by the Oscar-winning documentarian Morgan Neville ("Twenty Feet from Stardom"). If you haven't seen Neville's "Twenty Feet from Stardom," do yourself a favor and see it. It is one of my all-time favorite documentaries, which was released in 2013. This time around Neville explores in detail who Fred Rogers really was and why he was on a mission to provide young children quality, wholesome television programing.

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**OTHER ... continued**

**Celebrate the Summer Solstice at 6:15 p.m.** on Thursday, June 21 at 1035, Carol Lane. Event Includes a sunlight labyrinth walk, creation of a flower petal mandala, kid's seed balm station, songs that celebrate the sun, moments of reflection, and an ice cream sundae station. Bring a salad and drink to share. Event is outdoors and donation based. Guests include, Eco-Chaplain Lauren Van Ham, Musician Dougie Free, and a team of wonderful folks who long to connect more deeply to our earth home. <http://www.oslc.net/>

**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 Sheriff'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.diabloballet.org](http://www.diabloballet.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>.

**Moraga Fun Run at 8:30 a.m. on July 4** at the Moraga Shopping Center. [www.moragafunrun.com](http://www.moragafunrun.com)

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<b>June 15</b> Becky and Don Jenkins share highlights from teaching English in the Far East.	<b>June 22</b> GUS KRAMER, your friendly County Tax Assessor to give you the scoop on your tax dollars at work.
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<b>June 14:</b> Beth Needel, Executive Director Lafayette Library	<b>June 21:</b> Budd MacKenzie
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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Track star Muppy Gragg on the way to the Ivy League

By Jon Kingdon



Muppy Gragg at last week's graduation.

Photos Gint Federas

As the epitome of a student-athlete, Muppy Gragg stands tall in both arenas. With an academic record that has her headed to the Ivy League next year, Gragg had a track season that Acalanes head track coach John Crain described as “the best anyone has had in the history of track and field at Acalanes High School.”

Let's get this out of the way first – where did the name Muppy come from? Muppy's given name is Ariana. Says Muppy: “It came about when I was little and my parents would sing the nursery rhyme about Little Miss Muffett and it evolved into Muppy and has stayed with me throughout.”

In a track career that began at the age of 7, competing soon after in the Junior Olympics, Gragg showed constant growth, concluding with a dominant senior year. “I began with the Diablo Valley Track Club at the age of 7,” says Gragg. “My sister was on the team so I followed in her footsteps. I was always fast and (an) early win for me was at the Lafayette Reservoir Race.”

Though performing exclusively in track now, Gragg did play soccer, ran cross country and like most of the kids in the area, did some swimming. Gragg

played soccer through her sophomore year but reluctantly gave it up to concentrate on track: “I loved soccer and loved the team but I strained my quad muscle and kept re-straining it and it took a month out of my track season so to avoid further injuries, I focused exclusively on track.”

A successful athletic career does not come about by itself. Much of it starts with family. This was very evident to Crain: “The constant support that Muppy gets from her family is unbelievably positive. She can do so much in track because of their support. All athletes need a comfort zone and that comfort zone for Muppy is her family.”

Gragg echoes that sentiment: “My family has been so supportive of me. Even my grandparents come to my meets and my sister and my parents have been there for my whole career.”

Besides her family, Gragg credits both the city of Lafayette and Acalanes High School: “The whole community has helped me to become who I am. All my teachers have been supportive in everything I did. They want you to like what you're doing and to succeed at it.” With great appreciation for the academics at

Acalanes, Gragg had a GPA that balanced with the excellence she displayed on the field. Gragg singled out her geology teacher, Richard Kravitz, for special attention: “He is an inspirational teacher. Besides being a fine teacher, he was always concerned about us as individuals.”

There has been a long line of coaches that has led to Gragg's track success: Darin Nuetz, Ed Hollshwander, Ed Miller, Coach Crain, Chris Clark, Scott Brady-Smith, and Grace and Sunny Upshaw.

With a practice schedule that stretches out over the entire year, balancing the time in training and school work is not easy for most students but Gragg found the discipline required in track carried over to her academics: “Actually, the time demands of track helped me stay on track with school because I knew to get right on to my homework and it did not allow me to procrastinate and made me organize my time and plan out my day and my study time as well.”

All of this came together for a dominant year of performance for Gragg competing in 11 different events: 200 meters – 25.26 (school record); 400 meters – 56.98; 800 meters – 2:18.65; 100 hurdles – 15.64; 300 hurdles – 43.77 (school record); shot put – 28'10.5"; Javelin – 78'6"; High Jump – 5'2"; Long jump – 18" 1.5;

4x100 (school record); 4x400 meters; a third place finish in the heptathlon at the Arcadia Multi-Invitational in Los Angeles and a prestigious mention in the USA Track Newsletter.

It's the satisfaction in the competition that drives Gragg: “I've always been able to push myself and was always motivated to win the event. I love competing and it helps me to do better in the sport.”

Crain agrees with Gragg's self-assessment: “Muppy's strength is her competitiveness. When she is on the track, she competes to win. At the state meet, she held up against the best athletes in the nation. She can go as far as she wants to go in track and field.”

Gragg's next academic and athletic pursuits will begin next year at Dartmouth College where she is considering a major in environmental studies. Says Gragg: “I really liked the coach and I met some members of the team. I like how they stress the outdoors with the Dartmouth Outing Club.”

Crain brings it all together with his assessment of Gragg's character: “She is a quiet leader who led by performance and example. She did not flaunt her abilities. She was well liked by her teammates and got along great with everyone.”



## Campolindo loses to San Marin in NCS Championship 8-0

By Jon Kingdon



Trevin Kroichick

Photo Gint Federas

Coming into the championship game, having won its last six games, the No. 2 seeded Campolindo baseball team ran into a buzz saw, losing to the ninth seeded San Marin Mustangs by a score of 8-0. The Cougars' pitching had only given up 10 hits over the same six-game stretch, but starting pitcher Will Bishop and relievers Kyle Mizell and Evan Yamamoto gave up a total of 14 hits while the defense uncharacteristically committed five errors.

Bishop, who was coming off a no-hitter in his last outing, began the game strongly striking out the side in the first inning but gave up six runs in the next two and one-third innings, three of them earned. Said Bishop, “I just left too many balls over the plate.”

Campolindo was shut out for only the second time this season. San Marin pitcher, senior

Matt Lozovoy and reliever Tyler Abell, held the Cougars to seven hits, stranding several runners throughout the game.

Despite the number of errors committed by Campolindo, second baseman Trevin Kroichick made a leaping grab and third baseman Ryan Regan threw a man out at home to prevent further runs from scoring. Regan also led the Cougars' offense with three of the team's seven hits.

After a dominating six-game stretch, the Cougars came up short in all areas. Campolindo head coach Max Luckhurst summed it up simply: “Baseball is a funny game. They made the adjustments on the field and we didn't.” Still, Luckhurst was full of praise for his team, telling his players to hold their heads high and to appreciate what they accomplished, particularly the seniors. “I will be forever proud

of this team. With nine graduating seniors (six of whom were starters), they provided great leadership for our underclassmen. They set the example on how to work and compete. To win six games in a row just to get to the NCS title games was a big turnaround for us. Last year we were two games short of the championship and this year we came up one game short. It's most important for next year that our underclassmen know how to compete.”

Kroichick credited San Marin for playing well but “the game was disappointing. We hit several balls hard and we did not play defense as well as we were accustomed to doing.”

Bishop, who will be attending the University of Washington next year, spoke for himself, though he could have been speaking for the team: “It was just not my day.”





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## Ryan Nall – Three sport star heading to MIT

By Jon Kingdon



Ryan Nall

Photos Gint Federas

If one was to look up the word student-athlete, it might show a picture of Ryan Nall.

Nall, who earned nine letters in high school (football, basketball and track), also found the time to study enough to get the grades to get accepted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

With the onset of club teams and so many athletes playing one sport, Nall took the opposite tack: "I've always had a love of sports and since I always played different sports and did not join a club teams, I did not burn out on any of it."

With so many games and practices during the week that would go into the evenings, balancing sports and studying is not easy. "The evening practices and games took a lot of time," Nall said. "They key was managing my time, but I still ended up doing my schoolwork late into the evening. It helped that none of the sports overlapped."

Nall appreciated the freedom his parents gave him to make his decisions on sports and academia: "My parents never really pressured me to play one sport or to go to a

particular college. They allowed me to make my own decisions and let me do what I wanted to do."

Acalanes head football coach Floyd Burnsed spoke glowingly of Nall's play last season: "Ryan was one of the few two-way players for our team, playing offensive tackle and linebacker. As a tackle, he would take his man 10 yards down the field and put him on his back. Ryan was a leader by example, a quiet kid. He just did his job and did it well. He was all business. I know that he could have received scholarship offers from some Pac 12 schools but he always had MIT in the back of his mind."

Nall was named third team all-league in football and led the team in sacks.

Though MIT does have a football team, at this point Nall only anticipates going out for the track team.

Choosing a college for Nall came down to two choices: "I was really thinking about go to Cal as a preferred walk-on (like his college teammate Robbie Rowell). However, I am looking to be a mechanical engineer and when I was

accepted to MIT, I jumped at that."

It's the grades not sports that ultimately get one accepted to MIT, which Nall understood and appreciated where Acalanes put its priorities: "Acalanes was very serious about academics and I put that first and sports second."

In a year when the basketball team he played on went to the playoffs and when he went to the state finals in track for the shot and discus, what was Nall's highlight his senior year? "Hands down, it was beating Campolindo in football (for the first time since 2010) when the fans stormed the field," Nall said.

Nall spoke highly of Coach Burnsed: "He brought in a very experienced staff of coaches and he turned the program around. I just wish he had been here earlier. In a couple of years, this program will be really successful."

Nall appreciated "the great coaching at Acalanes in all the sports, particularly my track coach Chris Clark."

Clark spoke highly of Nall as a person, a student and as an athlete: "Ryan's physical prowess is very evident but he did not carry himself that way. He's strong as an ox but Ryan's very unassuming with zero ego. He's a brilliant student and very analytical. He's a grinder. Academics came first for him and he was only late if he had a late class. His time management was on point."

As impressed as Clark is with Nall's three-sport skills, he feels he may have only scratched the surface in track due to his playing basketball: "If we could have had Ryan for the three months he played basketball, there's no telling what he could have done. Ryan's just a great, unassuming kid that would do anything for his teammates."

It wasn't just the coaches that helped Nall and the other athletes when they were underclassman. It was the seniors like Jack Brydon,



said Nall. "We all looked up to him and he was very supportive and showed me the ropes."

obvious that he will bring with him a confluence of his family, his school, his coaches and his classmates.

When Nall leaves for MIT, it's



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# Lamorinda represented at League Track and Field Championships and State Tournament

By Jon Kingdon



Photos Gint Federas

It is no small feat to be able to compete in the state meet. To make it to state, an athlete must first qualify out of league to the sub section championships. With the Lamorinda schools, one must finish in the top six at League to move on to Tri-Valley or run a qualifying time. From Tri-Valley an athlete must qualify in the top seven to move on to the Meet of Champions. At the Meet of Champions an athlete must qualify in the top three or run a qualifying time to move on to the state championships.

The California State Track and Field Championships were held June 2-3 in Clovis and all three Lamorinda schools had representatives there. The Acalanes athletes were Ryan Nall (shot and discus), Keaziah Smith (long jump) and Ariana (Muppy) Gragg (300 hurdles and long jump); Campolindo was represented by Andrew Kimball (shot put) and the Miramonte athletes were Jordyn Bryant (shot and discus) and Cassidy Haskill (1600 meters).

Besides the above-mentioned athletes, there was ample representation for Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte at the Meet of Champions. Acalanes brought 15 other athletes to the MOC: Johnny Choi and Isabel Rasmussen in the high jump; Anna Weier (discus), Scarlett McCullough (pole vault) and runners Marianna Florinda, Mikaela Truong, Charlie Keohana and Emily Sverak in the 4x400 and Nicole Frigon (800 meters). Acalanes also brought its Unified Track and Field Team, which is comprised of special needs athletes. Explains assistant coach Jeff Hutson: "The special needs kids

compete and score for the school. They are fully integrated with the team. Each unified athlete gets a shadow – someone that helps them to compete and they participate alongside with their unified athlete and their times are combined. The unified athletes for Acalanes were Lena Johnson, Taylor, Alex Christensen and Aimee Gee, who participated in the Long Jump and 100 meters, and Tucker Starbuck and Shou Routh who both ran the 100 meters.

Though Frigon, a freshman, did not qualify for the state finals, she ran a personal best her last three runs – in the league meet, in the MOC preliminaries, and in the finals.

The other athletes that went to MOC for Campolindo were Isabella Chao (1600 meters), Maddy Doane (200 meters), Alicia Hober (1600 meters), Jenna Miles (3200 meters) and Ashley Thoms (triple jump).

Campolindo head coach Chuck Woolridge spoke highly of the entire team but singled out two members of the team that battled back from serious injuries: "Maddy Doane, a soccer player, had suffered two serious knee injuries which limited her laterally so she went out for track this year and was a very pleasant surprise for us. She ran the 100, 200 and 400-meter events, setting the school record in the 200 with a time of 25.19 and ran a 59.55 in the 400 meters which is fourth best time in Cougar history. With Maddy coming back and the young athletes on our team, we have a solid core to build on for next year."

Senior Ashley Thoms suffered a serious wrist injury while on the

Campolindo basketball team forcing her to miss most of the season. When she fully recovered she had what coach Woolridge described as a remarkable season.

"When she was clear to work out in the middle of April and working with our jumps coach, Ashley showed constant improvement all season and jumping 36 feet, 3 inches in the triple jump. Thoms best jump as a junior was 34 feet."

Miramonte, which won the league championship against 12 other teams, brought the following to the MOC: Marcus Young (pole vault); Kaylyn Goode (300 hurdles and 4X400 relay); Ava Moran, Ironnia Allen and Masina May in the 4x400 and Audrey Allen (1600 meters) and James Bull (1600 and 3200 meters).

Head coach Tristan Tool was particularly pleased with the performance of two freshman on the 4x400 relay team, Audrey Allen and Ava Moran, a team that finished in sixth place with a time of 3:57.16, a time that set a school record. Allen also finished eighth in the 1,600 meters. Tool felt bad for Bull, who "had a dominating season but just had a bad day at the MOC. However, he will be running in the outdoor national championships."

Though none of the Lamorinda athletes made it past the preliminary rounds at the state tournament, Acalanes head coach John Crain gave a great perspective to it all: "In California, the most populated state in the Union, we have over 800,000 high school athletes competing in sports. California has some of the best athletes in the

nation, and this meet will bear that out. After trials you will find out how you rank in your event in the state. Either you are in the top 9 in running events or the top 12 in field events, but if you finish in 10th or 27th that is how you rank out of all the athletes in the state that participated in track and in your particular event. There are no losers when it comes to this meet, because just to get to this meet, you have to be the best of the best (and this may mean the best in the nation)."

For Acalanes, Gragg, who will be attending Dartmouth, finished with a personal best and school record in the 300 hurdles (43.77) and would have qualified in the long jump but for scratching on her best jump. Smith finished 25th in the long jump (21 feet, 8 1/2 inches) and Nall, who will be attending MIT, finished 15th in the shot (53 feet, 8 1/2 inches). Said coach Crain: "They have every reason to be happy with their performances doing as well as they did."

Andrew Campbell represented Campolindo with his best performance of the year. Campbell finished with three throws over 150 feet with a best of 152 feet, 4 inches, which was the second-best throw for a North Coast athlete. Said coach Woolridge: "Andrew was a very coachable athlete. He was diligent and easy to work with in terms of being able to apply what we asked of him. He was a very composed and confident athlete who showed dramatic improvement from his freshman year when he was only able to throw the discus 75 feet."

For Miramonte, Jordyn Bryant, who will be attending San

Diego State University next year, finished seventh overall in the discus (151feet, 1 inch) and fifth in the shot put (43 feet, 7 3/4 inches), breaking the school record in each event. Said coach True: "Jordyn showed big improvement throughout the year and made the podium in the shot put and was almost as strong with the discus. She has so many skills, she may end up competing in the heptathlon."

True was particularly pleased with the return of junior Cassidy Haskill in the 1600 meters. After running a 4:52 as a freshman, Haskill had some major injuries and illnesses that forced her to take time off from the sport. At the MOC, Haskill once again broke the 5:00 mark. Said True: "Though it was not a top day for Cassidy at the state tournament, overall it was a very positive season for her. She was just happy to be running again and is looking forward to running cross country next season."



## LMYA VOLLEYBALL Championships!

End of season tournament shows off teamwork, skills and friendships.



### 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE GOLD CHAMPIONS POMPANO BEACH

(Front Row): Olivia Foster, Stella Baceda, Lucy O'Brien. (Back Row): Sienna Hope, Maddie Walsh, Campbell Evans, Taylor Mikalis, Mia Daly, Kayden Page, Virginia Jane Terry, Avery Botto. Coaches Brian Mikalis & Chris Evans.



### 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE GOLD CHAMPIONS HAMPTON BEACH

(Front Row): Rachel Moen, Siena Billings, Sydney Moen. (Back Row): Whitney Wilkalis, Hailey Pearson, Claire Diamantidis, Hailey Teixeira, Abby Selke, Julia Waide. Coach: Katy Diamantidis



### 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> GRADE GOLD CHAMPIONS NEBRASKA

Kaitlyn Eng, Elizabeth Cho, Kylie Siegel, Remy Swartz, Juliet Diamantidis, Sophia Taylor, Olivia Feldman, Molly Keliher-Burke, Alexa Malinovsky, Rachel Gottfried, Marina Rago



**NEW**

## LMYA Beach Volleyball Summer Camp!

- July 10, 17, 24 & 31 at 6pm in Moraga Commons Park.
- For 6th, 7th & 8th graders.
- Online Registration Opens 6/18.
- Limited to 24 Players!



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# NCS tennis

Submitted by Cathy Bohm



Campolindo junior Nicholas Bohm and senior Zach Goldman took third place overall for doubles at the NCS tennis tournament held on May 4-5 at Diamond Hills Sports Club.

Photo provided

# Lafayette Oaks ranked No. 15 in the state

Submitted by Laura Bergman



Photo provided

The Lafayette Oaks 14U baseball team coached by Jon Zuber capped off another terrific season with a big tournament win in Santa Barbara over the Memorial Day weekend. The Oaks, who were defending tournament champions of the 680 Diablo

League from last year, were regular season champions this year and finished with a record of 28-10-1. The USSSA ranks the Lafayette Oaks baseball team 15th in the entire state of California.

# MBA winning teams at Memorial Day tournament

Submitted by Susan Linden and Brent Meyers



12u team back row, from left: coach Steve Hammond; middle row: Santiago Jordon, Isaiah Ortiz, Will Cook, Hudson Pergamit, Andy Moon, Max O'Balle, Colin Spencer, Joey Cecchin; front row: James Giordani, Scotty Lyon, Josh Batra, Tim Daugherty, Cort Woodford, and Brandon Mayo.

Moraga Mavericks' 12u, 13u and 14u teams won at the Memorial Day Tournament in Manteca. 12u Moraga Mavericks team led by coach Steve Hammond went 4-1 for the weekend. It was a huge team effort with all players contributing offensively and defensively over the five games.

45-9 and recording a 5-0 record on the weekend, the championship victory marks a running 10-game winning streak, bested only by an earlier 11-game midseason streak.

The 14u team were also crowned NorCal State Champions after going 4-1 led by coach CJ Doorn. "The team wanted to end their last year with MBA with a championship. Every player played a major factor in the team's success all year and this weekend showed how focused they were on getting the championship and winning it," said Doorn.



13u Team back row, from left: coach Mike Rogers, coach Dave Manousos, Robbie Mascheroni, Philip Jagard, Evan Olsen, Justin Meyers, Justin Rodriguez, Nick Rogers, Adrian Blumberg, Brendan Comerford, Brent Meyers; front row: Dashiell Weaver, Charlie Hill, and Lucas Conception. Photo Jennifer Blumberg



14u Team back row, from left: coach CJ Doorn, Connor Fritch, Max Rittmann, Dylan Wilkalis, Xavier Esquer, Jack Beaty, Luca Rago; front row: Wiley Winkler, Ethan Cho, Finn Jordan, Scott Linden, and Michael Coane.

# High School beach volleyball debuts in Lamorinda

Submitted by Lauren Webster



Acalanes High School Team wins third place at Norcal HS Beach Volleyball Championships. Front row, from left: Madi Risch, Lane Webster; back row: Erin Meade, Annika Olson, Maddie Kalil, and Theresa Nevins.

Photos provided

The second annual Norcal HS Beach Volleyball Championships were held in Santa Cruz on Sunday, May 6. More than 30 high schools participated in the event, which reflects the growing popularity of the sport in Northern California. Brand new club teams from Acalanes, Campolindo, Las Lomas and Miramonte were started this year in response to interest in Beach Volleyball among our lo-

cal high school athletes. The launch of these teams was made possible by a partnership with LMYA Sports, which sponsored the court time for practice at Moraga Commons, and a devotion to organizing and coaching the teams by LMYA Volleyball Commissioner Eric Standing. It was a successful and fun first season, capped off by a third place finish by the Dons of Acalanes High School.

# Bay Area Blitz teams win championship

Submitted by Christy Ingham and Brian Frechman



Players listed: Liliانا Bonavito, Julissa, Islas, Claire Zimmerman, Maddie Ingham, Campbell Evans, Clare O'Connor, Julia Quinn Ferguson, Abigail Williams, Megan Churchill, coaches Sean Hiska and Kaylee Pond.

Basketball team Bay Area Blitz 2025 Green won the fifth-grade division of MVP Flight's Spring League with a convincing 13-point victory over Baseline in the championship game.

Lafayette-based Bay Area Blitz 2028 boys won the third-grade Spring MVP League with a 13-point victory over Trust The Process in the championship game.



Blitz 2028 boys

# Pacific Rim 15-1's are going to Nationals

Submitted by Sami Hill



Back row, from left: coach Roger Worsely, Jordan Case, Jacqui Moore, Alex Holenstein, Adrianna Walker, Coach Christine Serafin; middle row: McKenna Keowan, Sydney Jacinto, Tate Huisingsh, Colette Wogslund, Sara Coons; front row: Sydney Sowarby, Lauren McGrath, Jhia Santos, Carly Coffee, and Daisy Sibley. Photo provided

Pacific Rim 15-1 volleyball team Lightning has earned a bid to Junior Nationals this summer in Detroit, Mich. Lightning earned a top 3 spot at Far Westerns National Tournament in April to secure a bid in the USA division at Junior Nationals. Far Westerns is a National Volleyball Tournament in

Reno, Nev., where teams from all over U.S. come to compete. Five girls from Acalanes High School on this team include Daisy Sibley (libero), Sydney Sowarby (libero), Sara Coons (libero), Carly Coffee (defensive specialist), and Tate Huisingsh (hitter).

Submit stories to [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
(We prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide.)



# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 8 Wednesday, June 13, 2018



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

*...read on page D12*

## Spruce up the front entry for summer entertaining

By Amanda Eck



*Front porch décor*

I don't know about you, but I am ready for longer days and warmer temps. Every evening around 6 p.m. you will find me in the backyard, feet up with a glass of wine, enjoying the evening breeze. We love to entertain in the summer and have friends over for casual dinners or simple drinks and hors d'oeuvres. But before those guests filter out to the backyard they first must come through the front door. And as you know the first impression of any space starts at the front of the home. So here are some simple ways to spruce up your front porch.

1) **Give it a good clean.** Sweep away the dust and dirt and remove any cobwebs. Some front en-

trances may need a good power washing to remove any tough stains from the winter and spring rains.

2) **Add a pop of color.** One of the quickest ways to add some curb appeal is to paint your front door a bold bright color. Make sure you use a paint that is for exterior surfaces and is easy to clean. My favorite front door paint colors are Benjamin Moore Vine Green, Sherwin Williams Tri-corn Black, Benjamin Moore Palladian Blue, Benjamin Moore Rumba Orange, Sherwin Williams Red Tomato, and Benjamin Moore Sunburst.

3) **Update your address.** Does your house number need a little face-lift? I love adding some

modern metal or brass numbers to give the home a fresh look. You can find these at your local hardware store or one of my favorite online shops, Rejuvenation.com.

4) **Go Green.** If your porch gets sunlight, add some potted flowers. Or if you have a porch like mine that gets zero sunlight, go faux. I have two large urns with faux boxwoods on either side of my door. No watering required, but you do have to dust them from time to time.

5) **Light the way.** Update your outdoor lighting and it will give your space a fresh look instantly. Some great affordable outdoor lighting sources are Rejuvenation.com and CircaLighting.com.

*... continued on page D4*



Vine Green BM 2034\_20



Tricorn Black SW 6258



Palladian Blue BM HC\_144



Rumba Orange BM 2014\_20



Red Tomato SW 6607



Sunburst BM 2023\_40



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	13	\$1,150,000	\$6,295,000
MORAGA	13	\$438,000	\$1,770,000
ORINDA	11	\$863,000	\$3,350,000

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

- 3318 Beechwood Drive, \$1,349,000, 4 Bdrms, 1499 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 4-30-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,244,000, 07-31-15
- 4 Fernside Lane, \$6,295,000, 6 Bdrms, 6279 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 5-4-18
- 3511 Hamlin Road, \$1,825,000, 3 Bdrms, 2377 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 5-4-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,067,500, 05-12-10
- 2264 Hidden Pond Lane, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 3188 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 4-30-18
- 3269 La Canada, \$2,520,000, 4 Bdrms, 2833 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 5-2-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,680,000, 10-11-12
- 3464 Monroe Avenue, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 1164 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 5-4-18;  
Previous Sale: \$775,000, 09-30-08
- 1 Richelle Court, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2048 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 4-27-18;  
Previous Sale: \$333,500, 09-22-94
- 3296 Springhill Road, \$1,830,000, 3 Bdrms, 4055 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-9-18
- 4030 Tilden Lane, \$1,675,000, 2 Bdrms, 1673 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 5-8-18
- 1740 Toyon Road, \$2,400,000, 5 Bdrms, 4308 SqFt, 2012 YrBlt, 5-9-18;  
Previous Sale: \$2,350,000, 07-25-14
- 1164 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$4,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 4175 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt,  
4-27-18; Previous Sale: \$3,700,000, 06-21-13
- 1001 Woodbury Road #102, \$1,250,000, 2 Bdrms, 1495 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 5-9-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,340,500, 12-23-15
- 1008 Woodbury Road #202, \$2,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 2468 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 5-1-18

### MORAGA

- 110 Allen Court, \$1,485,000, 3 Bdrms, 2468 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-3-18;  
Previous Sale: \$505,000, 09-26-97
- 1969 Ascot Drive #C, \$438,000, 2 Bdrms, 938 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 5-1-18;  
Previous Sale: \$124,500, 01-14-93
- 1988 Ascot Drive #A, \$595,000, 3 Bdrms, 1472 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 5-8-18;  
Previous Sale: \$399,000, 12-19-03
- 605 Augusta Drive, \$760,000, 2 Bdrms, 1743 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 5-1-18;  
Previous Sale: \$690,000, 04-14-05
- 2 Baltusrol Street, \$950,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 5-9-18;  
Previous Sale: \$682,500, 01-17-18
- 56 Buckingham Drive, \$828,000, 3 Bdrms, 1536 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-9-18
- 1631 Camino Pablo, \$1,365,000, 5 Bdrms, 2817 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 5-2-18;  
Previous Sale: \$885,000, 11-06-12
- 23 Carr Drive, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 1519 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-1-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,030,000, 06-16-16
- 8 Duarte Court, \$1,770,000, 5 Bdrms, 3354 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 4-27-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,340,000, 05-23-03
- 163 Paseo Del Rio, \$1,430,000, 4 Bdrms, 2925 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-27-18;  
Previous Sale: \$394,500, 12-08-88
- 1714 St. Andrews Drive, \$862,500, 2 Bdrms, 1590 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-8-18

... continued on page D13



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# Spruce up the front entry for summer entertaining

... continued from page D1



**6) Watch your step.** And last, but not least, add a fun mat to welcome your guests. Now I am originally from the south, so I am all about a great monogrammed door-mat. But there are lots of other fun options out there. Pottery Barn and West Elm carry some nice ones, and for online sources try Ballarddesigns.com or Frontgate.com.

Now that you've freshened up the entrance it's time to welcome your guests for some relaxing summer fun. Try this easy hors d'oeuvre recipe, which has been a hit at my place. Happy Entertaining!

## Amanda's Easy Cheese Hors d'oeuvres

Manchego Cheese

Peach Preserves or Fig Preserves

Whole Almonds

Cut the manchego cheese into bite-size triangles; add a dollop of preserves and then top with an almond. Seriously the easiest and it pairs well with a summer sparkling Rose or Prosecco.

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## Lamorinda Market Activity



### New Listing

65 Sleepy Hollow Lane | Orinda  
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4 BR | 2 BA | 1,784± SQ. FT.

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### Pending

59 Corte del Caballo | Moraga  
Offered at \$1,428,000  
Representing Buyer

5 BR | 3 BA | 2,632± SQ. FT.

Monterey Colonial with fabulous floorplan and updated kitchen and baths on almost an acre. Special cul-de-sac location with great proximity to Campolindo High School.



### Sold

4008 Happy Valley Road | Lafayette  
Offered at \$1,849,000  
Represented Buyer

4 BR | 2.5 BA | 2,327± SQ. FT.

Ranch style home on a desirable lot with pool. Perfect opportunity to remodel/expand to create your dream home.



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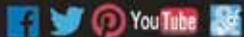
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## Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

# Tea for two ... or three, four, or more!

By Cynthia Brian

*“There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea.” – Henry James*



*The elegant musky scent of the hot pink Gertrude Jekyll climbing rose adds a robust flavor to teas and is gorgeous cascading over an arbor.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

From the time my daughter, Heather, was 3 years old, we enjoyed a ritual of drinking tea. Of course, it all began with Teddy Bear picnics and pretend doll teas. One day it escalated to brewing “real” herbal teas from the garden until it became our signature sacred Mother/Daughter sacrament where we would solve the woes of the world, and our own challenges, over an exotic potion crafted from what we grew.

Although we had consumed tea as children in my family, the formal tradition of afternoon tea began for me when I was a teen ambassador to Holland where I lived for 18 months. Every afternoon at 4 p.m. sharp, families, shopkeepers, professionals, and everyone else would stop to have a cup of tea. Tea bags were never used. All teas were brewed from loose leaves, and mixing up various concoctions was an honored ritual. Having tea and a “sweet,” usually a homemade shortbread or perhaps a slice of cake, was the perfect remedy for the midday drags. At exactly 4:30 p.m., it was back to work, school

and obligations.

Creating your own organic tea garden is easy and incredibly rewarding. Fruits, flowers, stems, and leaves can all be used to create luscious hot or cold beverages that can relax, revitalize, energize and calm. I am a huge fan of citrus. Lemons, limes, oranges, tangerines and tangelos all add a tremendous amount of zip and zest to teas. When I have to perform for a speaking engagement, or on a TV or radio show, I always drink several cups of a delicious natural brew from my garden that includes the juice, rinds and leaves of Meyer lemons, mint, chamomile and honey. My throat and vocal chords are cleared and my nerves are calmed, allowing me to perform with confidence.

### Plant Picks

Here are my picks for planting a tea garden in sun or shade. The bonus is that these are hardy perennials that will provide endless ingredients for a plethora of sweet and savory recipes including brewing tea.

- Bee Balm (citrus/spice flavor)
- Calendula (poor man’s saffron)
- Catnip (lemony-mint flavor ... cats love to roll in this herb)
- Chamomile (apple scented)
- Coriander (the seeds of cilantro offer warmth)
- Fennel (licorice flavor)
- Lavender
- Lemon verbena (lemony flavor)
- Mint (spearmint, peppermint, pineapple mint, or chocolate mint. Keep contained, if possible, as all mints are invasive.)
- Nasturtium (reseeds itself annually)
- Rose (the fragrance of the rose will determine the flavor)
- Rosemary
- Sage
- Scented geranium and pelargonium
- Viola (light violet flavor)

### Storing

Any herb or edible plant that you enjoy can be made into tea. Harvest early in the morning to capture the essential oils. Place the cuttings in a bowl of cool water to wash off any dirt or debris. Herbs can then be used fresh or they can be hung in a cool dark place to dry. Another easy drying technique is to place cleaned herbs, leaves, and flowers on a cookie sheet to dry in the sun. Or a fun trick to dry your teas is to put the cookie sheet with your herbs on the seat of your car with the windows rolled up. Park the car in the sun and within a few hours, your herbs will be dry and your car will smell garden fresh! Double win.

When storing herbs, make sure to label and date them to avoid confusion later. You can also freeze herbs in zip seal bags or make pretty herbal ice cubes for your next celebration. Ice cubes made from rose petals, violets, and the flowers of herbs are especially intriguing.

### Brewing

There are numerous ways to brew your teas. For hot teas, I fill a pretty teapot with the various ingredients that I think are needed for that day. Add boiling water to the concoction, allowing it to steep for 15 to 20 minutes. In the summer months, I muddle fruits in season – apricots, cherries, plums, peaches, grapes and strawberries. Using a strainer, I pour the tea into my favorite cups. (Tea drinking is a celebratory act and it is more festive to serve your teas in a cup that is appealing.) Another easy way is to use a press pot, called a French press, which I also use for my morning java. ... continued on next page



## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

### MORAGA ... continued

5 Tappan Lane, \$3,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 3684 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 5-2-18;

Previous Sale: \$502,500, 07-14-95

377 Tharp Drive, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2394 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 4-30-18

62 Warfield Drive, \$1,355,000, 4 Bdrms, 2038 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 5-4-18;

Previous Sale: \$360,000, 02-28-97

15 Wilder Road, \$2,500,500, 5 Bdrms, 5023 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 4-30-18;

Previous Sale: \$2,500,500, 03-07-18

### ORINDA

10 Beaconsfield Court, \$1,542,500, 4 Bdrms, 2492 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-8-18;

Previous Sale: \$127,000, 06-28-78

28 Brookwood Road, \$863,000, 4 Bdrms, 1454 SqFt, 1926 YrBlt, 5-4-18

32 Dos Posos, \$1,975,000, 4 Bdrms, 3163 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 5-4-18;

Previous Sale: \$1,639,000, 04-11-13

132 Fiesta Circle, \$1,010,500, 4 Bdrms, 1405 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-8-18

28 La Cresta Road, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 2386 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 5-2-18;

Previous Sale: \$445,500, 07-17-98

3 Owl Hill Court, \$1,328,000, 3 Bdrms, 1519 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-3-18;

Previous Sale: \$795,000, 11-07-12

102 Ravenhill Road, \$1,245,000, 1 Bdrms, 1532 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-3-18;

Previous Sale: \$569,000, 03-26-04

112 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$2,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 2755 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 5-3-18

216 the Knoll, \$1,295,000, 3 Bdrms, 2408 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-8-18;

Previous Sale: \$925,000, 09-13-13



*Did you know that grenadine is made from pomegranates and its flowers?*

When you make your tea in clear glass you get to enjoy the mix of colors. Any leftover tea is poured into a glass pitcher and stored in the refrigerator for a refreshing cold brew.

Many people prefer to make a carafe of sun tea. In a clear glass jug, pour cold water over all of the ingredients you desire. Place the container in full sun with a lid or foil cover. It will take a full day to brew sun tea with the reward of a rich and robust taste.

Whether you enjoy fragrant, sweet, piquant or spicy, tea making is available to you from your garden. After a productive day of working in the garden, I reward my handiwork while sipping a tall glass of iced sun tea concocted from herbs, flowers, and fruits from my own plants. Ah, what a relaxing elixir pausing in the afternoon for tea is.

For years, my daughter and I hosted a radio segment and wrote a column called "Tea for Two: A Mother/Daughter Brew." Today, a cup of tea still connects us in continual conversation.

Plant your garden. It's teatime.



*Exotic lemongrass mixed with basil is refreshing, especially as iced tea.*



## Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Gardening Tips

- **MULCH** your yard with three inches of wood chips or other organic materials to maintain temperature, prevent erosion, and keep your plants happy for the forthcoming hot weather.
- **FERTILIZE** with all purpose feed before the heat hits.
- **PLANT** Mexican Evening Primrose along a fence or in a wild setting for a pretty pop of pink that blooms only in daylight and thrives in poor soil.
- **WATER** your garden early in the morning, then at dusk for maximum absorption and minimal waste.
- **BUY** elegant, long-lasting peonies to add to your collection. Peonies like six hours of full sun in well-drained soil and they can live for 50 years or more. They bloom through June and their glossy green leaves remain green through winter when they die back to the ground, reemerging in spring. Peonies are one of my very favorite, no fuss, flowering shrubs.
- **GROW** a tea garden in containers filled with herbs and edible fragrant flowers such as rose, calendula, nasturtium and lavender.

Enjoy your final days of spring with a cup of your homegrown tea.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



*Calendula, also known as poor man's saffron, provides a yellow color and light flavor to teas and broths.*  
Photos Cynthia Brian



*If you use cream in your tea, make a lavender cream. (Notice the honeybee in the flower).*



*Mexican Evening Primrose blooms only in the day and grows in poor soil.*



*Float a sprig of a scented pelargonium in hot water to infuse tea with a rich, relaxing essence.*





Make a delicious homegrown tea of mint, roses, lemons, oranges with rinds, and lavender in a French press and serve in a vintage tea cup.



Cynthia Brian wears hats for garden tea parties.

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!® S01 c3. Tune into Cynthia's Radio show and order her books at [www.StarStyleRadio.com](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com).

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

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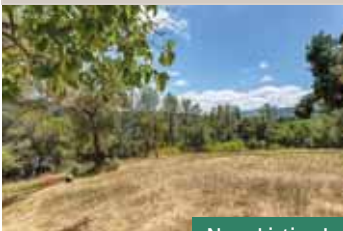


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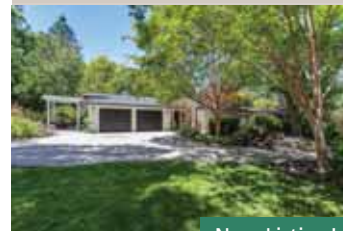
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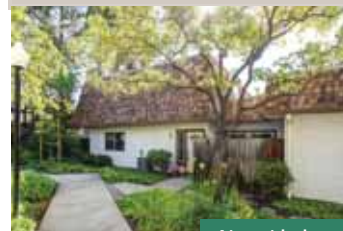
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