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Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel and Sherri Chavez, administrative assistant to the police chief, hand out treats to children at the annual Halloween Parade for Tots on Oct. 25 at Orinda Community Park. Photo Sora O'Doherty

Tots search for treats at Halloween event

By Sora O'Doherty

The afternoon of Oct. 25 was sunny and bright, the tooth fairy wore a gown of blue with a sparkling crown and led a sizeable contingent of tots around Orinda Community Park, with stops to collect treats offered by Orinda Parks and Rec folks, including one dressed as Chewbacca. In addition, the children, ranging from ages 1 to 4, got to meet and greet the Orinda police force, local

firefighters, and tour a police cruiser and a fire engine. The chief of police, Mark Nagel, and his administrative assistant, Sherri Chavez, were handing out treats and posing for photographs. There were also crafts and activities provided by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Department.

Families got into the Halloween spirit by showing up in coordinated costumes: A young girl in a Heidi costume

was accompanied by her mother in alpine couture, and her father, dressed as a cow. There were several young girls in Frozen costumes, some superheros and interesting animals from sheep to lions to dinosaurs. There were even some vegetables, including a green avocado. There were little police officers, firefighters, and construction workers. No dentists were observed in the crowd.

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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COMPASS

Judge sides with Save Lafayette Trees on CEQA appeal

By Pippa Fisher



PG&E will be working to replace sections of exposed pipeline on the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail. Photo provided

Superior Court's previous dismissal of the case. The court must now rule on whether the city of Lafayette failed to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The appeals court upheld the previous dismissal of other claims against the city and PG&E, but found that SLT's claim concerning CEQA had been served within the proper timeframe. As such, the trial court will now have to consider this challenge. Parties have 30 days to appeal.

"We have noted the Court of Appeal's decision," said Lafayette Vice Mayor Cam Burks in a statement from the city. "We will continue to work with Save Lafayette Trees, PG&E and the California Public Utilities Commission to ensure that Lafayette's citizens have confidence that they are safe and that a fair and transparent process

is being followed whereby PG&E can conduct the pipeline safety work it feels is needed and residents' concerns about that work are properly addressed," he added.

The Oct. 23 ruling is the latest step in the 16-month long legal saga following SLT's petition filed June 26, 2017 against the city of Lafayette and PG&E.

The group took issue with the March 27, 2017 city council agreement with the utility, allowing them to remove hundreds of trees on public and private property in the city, which PG&E says is necessary as part of the community pipeline safety initiative, claiming pipeline safety is compromised by tree roots and that the trees hinder access in an emergency.

SLT's concerns grew beyond the initial tree removal to concerns over safety, including the lack of

automatic shut-off valves, exposed pipeline, lack of testing and aging infrastructure.

Attorney for SLT Stephan Volker says it is an outstanding victory for his clients and for the public. "It is undisputed that the city completely failed to comply with CEQA," he says, adding, "Because the city did nothing to comply with CEQA, we are confident that the superior court will now rule that the city violated CEQA. Once the court makes that ruling, it will set aside the city's tree removal agreement with PG&E."

PG&E spokesperson Jeff Smith says that the utility is in the process of analyzing the court's decision. "It is premature to declare this ruling as in favor or against either party involved in the litigation," he said.

Meanwhile, PG&E signage has appeared at exposed pipeline

locations and the company says they will be replacing approximately 150 feet of pipeline, with work starting in mid-November and taking about six weeks to complete.

Gina Dawson, co-founder of SLT, credits community engagement for bringing this about.

"That being said, their latest activities, pipeline signage and possible address of the exposed pipeline, are surface issues. We'd like to know that PG&E is addressing the strength and longer-term viability of the lines - which will entail deeper inspection."

A second public meeting bringing together PG&E, the CPUC with SLT and the city is scheduled for Nov. 13.

It is a meeting Dawson is looking forward to.

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Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

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

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 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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Panel examines state of downtown retail in second city-led workshop

By Pippa Fisher



Panel of Lafayette business owners discuss the state of downtown retail Oct. 22. From left: Ford Andrews, Connie Collier, Larry Blodgett and Jennifer Perlmutter. Photo Jeff Heyman/City of Lafayette

Lafayette council members, members of the planning commission and members of the public had the state of downtown retail once again as their focus as a four-

person panel of Lafayette business owners took a look at the pros and cons of doing business in the city.

The hour-long workshop, held before the regular Oct. 22 city

council meeting, was the second such event. On July 23 a packed audience listened as a panel of four commercial real estate experts gave their opinions on how

to attract and support quality businesses in Lafayette.

This second meeting's panel of experts was comprised instead of business owners: Connie Collier of Diablo Foods; Ford Andrews who owns Sideboard; Jennifer Perlmutter who is the founder of the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery; and Larry Blodgett of Bodgett's Floor Covering, one of Lafayette's oldest retail establishments.

Once again Planning and Building Services Director Niroop Srivatsa moderated the discussion. She started by asking what challenges the panel members face as business operators.

... continued on Page A9

Springhill residents talk disaster preparedness on eve of National ShakeOut Day

By Pippa Fisher



Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt supervises as members of city staff, police, fire, Lamorinda CERT and the Emergency Preparedness Commission take part in the National ShakeOut Oct. 18. Photo Jeff Heyman, City of Lafayette

It's a nightmare scenario that no one wants to think about, but the audience heard the message loud and clear at a recent neighborhood meeting: have a plan, be prepared. In the case of a wildfire or large earthquake, residents need to be ready to evacuate.

The well-attended Oct. 17 meeting, arranged by the Springhill Homeowners Association, took place on the eve of the Great ShakeOut – a day when millions of people worldwide drop and cover to practice earthquake drills.

Springhill residents, aware that theirs – like many others within the city – is a neighborhood with one road in and one road out, heard from new Police Chief Ben Alldritt and from Contra Costa Assistant Fire Chief William Pigeon about evacuation plans and the importance of having a “go bag” ready.

Lafayette's director of the Community Emergency Response Team, Duncan Seibert, explained the importance of having food and water ready to go, along with copies of documentation on a thumb drive. Seibert explained that getting documentation together is easy to do now but “very hard to do when it's not there.”

Alldritt shared footage of the Oakland fires and explained there have been many lessons learned about evacuation procedures from those and from last year's Santa Rosa fire.

Heather Tiernan, manager of the Contra Costa County Community Warning System, was on hand to help residents register their cell phones. She emphasized the importance of signing up for CWS alerts in addition to Nixle notifications, explaining that the CWS is used by the sheriff's office when there is a threat to human life or health and when there is an action to take.

This was Alldritt's first presentation of its kind as police chief. He says he is happy to take the message to other groups within the city and acknowledged the success of having CERT, CWS, and ConFire all present at the meeting. He says that while they never know in advance what a disaster might look like, his goal was to get the conversation started.

“Informing people what they can do to prepare their families for the unexpected and advising them on what their local agencies are doing to be prepared makes it

invaluable,” he says.

Alldritt explains that in a large catastrophe, individuals could face delayed response time and may have to look after their fam-

ily and neighbors. “You need a backup plan for water, food and where to meet.”

“Emergency/disaster preparedness is a priority for the city and police department,” says Alldritt, pointing out that the police department under the previous police chief worked tirelessly with the Emergency Preparedness Commission over the last several years to maintain and update city plans. He adds that the feedback he received included the comment that it was nice to know the LPD has a plan coordinated with fire and other departments.

Indeed, the following day LPD joined forces as part of the Great ShakeOut with city staff, ConFire, the emergency preparedness commission and Lamorinda

CERT at the Veterans Memorial Hall to practice procedure.

Alldritt led city staff through the setting up of an emergency operations center and the establishment of an incident command system as they practiced their response to several potential earthquake-related consequences such as flooding, fires, evacuations and downed power lines.

Ironically, the proposed national ShakeOut Day testing of the community warning system was canceled in Lamorinda due to an actual emergency – a gas line fire in Bay Point – in order to avoid any confusion. Residents received notification of that via Nixle.

Residents can sign up for CWS alerts by visiting the website <https://cwsalerts.com/>.

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Ob-la-di, ob-la-da ... Town Hall celebrates 50 years since Beatles' White Album release

By Pippa Fisher



The Sun Kings

Photo provided

This year marks another notable 50th anniversary – in the same year that Lafayette became a city, a Liverpoolian band of some fame released The White Album. And Lafayette's Town Hall Theatre will be celebrating that release in authentic Beatles-style on Nov. 2 and 3 with concerts put on by the Sun Kings, the much-loved Bay Area Beatles tribute band.

Town Hall Theatre board Vice President Tom Stack is excited. The Sun Kings opened the Music and Comedy Series for which Stack is responsible, in its very first show back in 2010. "This will be one of our greatest shows," says Stack, his enthusiasm evident.

Stack explains that the first show on Friday, Nov. 2 will be an evening with the Sun Kings playing the very best of the Beatles. "Lots of hits, including some songs from The White Album," he says. At the time of writing some tickets were still available.

However it is the sold out show on Saturday, Nov. 3 that Stack is most excited about. He explains that the Sun Kings will be playing the entire White Album through in order for 90 minutes.

The event will be much more than just a regular concert – there is a White Album-themed costume contest for starters.

... continued on Page A16

Trick-or-Treat Street at Fiesta Square



Who knew City Clerk Joanne Robbins is related to royalty? Both Robbins and the princess were taking part in the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Trick-or-Treat Street in Fiesta Square Oct. 26. Photos Pippa Fisher



It was very crowded as the ghouls and goblins made their way from shop to shop gathering candy. – P. Fisher

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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Wednesday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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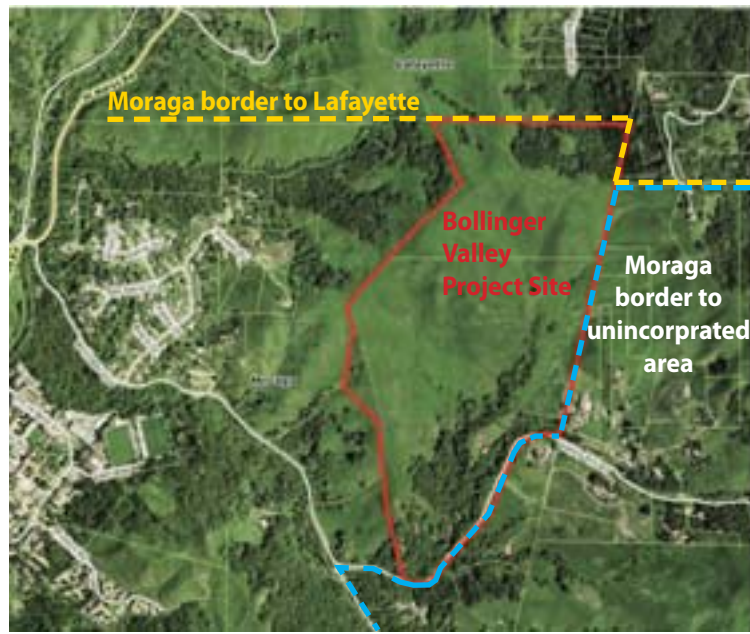
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Bollinger Valley Project temporarily on the shelf

By Vera Kochan



Project site and vicinity Image provided, enhanced by Lamorinda Weekly

After a seven-hour marathon planning commission meeting taking place over the course of two days on Oct 15 and 18, Commissioner Karl Davis crafted a proposal to the town council with unanimous approval. "The planning commission is recommending to the town council that they strongly consider a revised project

description, much in line with Alternate 3 or something very similar, that would need to be consistent with the General Plan and would be held to the same policies, plans and procedures in the town as Bollinger Valley Project has been held to so far."

The original project included 126 single-family homes. There

were six additional alternate proposals involving various quantities of homes. The applicant for the project was willing to settle for Alternate 6 (85 homes), but the commission favored and recommended Alternate 3 (37 homes).

Much of the commission's decision hinged on the Environmental Impact Report, in which issues of traffic, easement rights, landslides, pollution and population density in a small valley were key. Neighbors were concerned over the loss of public/open space. The land is on private property, and therefore cannot be included in the consideration, noted Davis.

Valley Hill Drive, the only road that would lead into and out of the development, is insufficient to provide emergency vehicle access in the event of a fire or evacuation. The Moraga-Orinda Fire District cannot sanction any project at this point until the applicant can come up with viable measures toward public safety.

Likewise, according to Planning Director Derek Farmer, "Lafayette has not been approached

by the applicant with regards to the additional traffic flow affecting St. Mary's Road into its city limits. As the project stands, Lafayette will not support the Bollinger Valley Project." With the additional traffic, Lafayette's EVA becomes jeopardized.

Farmer stated, "In more than two years, no proper documentation has been submitted to Moraga, Lafayette or MOFD showing that project improvements have been established. We've received no documentation from the county either with regards to road widening and other conditions." Farmer added, "This is a project that's been going on for some time and if there are such documents, we would have seen them by now."

The General Plan consists of eight elements: land use, community design, housing, circulation, open space/conservation, public safety, community facilities/services and growth management. The Bollinger Valley Project, as it stands, is inconsistent with Moraga's General Plan.

Moraga's new administrative services director, Norman Veloso

By Vera Kochan



Norman Veloso Photo Vera Kochan

The new administrative services director, Norman Veloso, comes to the town of Moraga after 22 years with the city of Fairfield

and most recently the city of Cotati, where his job title may have been the same, but his responsibilities differed.

In Moraga, Veloso's job description requires him to wear many hats. Under the umbrella of finance, he is responsible for accounting budgets, financial reports and risk assessments. In regard to his human resources duties, he supervises labor negotiations, personnel policies and compensation. Under the technological aspect, Veloso oversees the town's websites, and lastly, under risk assessment management, he monitors Moraga's liability insurance.

Veloso considers himself "fortunate to be part of a great executive team. I love the community, the vibe and feel of Moraga. This is a perfect working relationship - a good chemistry with what the town needs and what I have to offer."

Accounting came easily to Veloso at an early age. He began to enjoy number crunching in high school and was encouraged by his father to pursue the possibilities. Veloso's career decision was a fulfilling choice. "This is not just a job. There's so much contentment in what I do."

Filling a vacancy that had been open for over two months, Veloso

had to hit the ground running. Some of the many projects on his plate include completing a financial audit for the town, working on a human resources employee memorandum, structuring numerous financial reports, contributing to public works projects, finding new revenue/resources and coming up with the best practices and policies while reviewing every layer to provide the best services.

When asked about his long-term goals for Moraga, Veloso stated, "I am happy to see a community grow because of decisions I've made."

Nov. 7 declared Shelter-in-Place Education Day

By Vera Kochan

Health officials and emergency response agencies such as fire and police agree that shelter-in-place is the best measure to take in the event of a chemical release emergency. Moraga Mayor Dave Trotter proclaimed Nov. 7 to be "Shelter-in-Place Education Day" and in the interest of public safety, urges "all residents to take part in this program."

The Contra Costa Community

Awareness Emergency Response Group is sponsoring the 17th annual drill by assisting schools and childcare centers with preparedness for this type of emergency.

In the event of a chemical release, safety sirens will sound initially for about three minutes. These safety sirens are located in the county's industrial corridor from Oakley to Richmond. The sirens are tested on the first Wednesday

of each month at 11 a.m. for only about one minute. Additional community warning system tools are used to alert residents in case of emergencies in other areas.

Sirens will re-sound periodically if the event continues, and it is at this point that the public is recommended to shelter, shut and listen.

Steps to shelter in place include:

- 1) Advise everyone to stay in-

side, since leaving the building could result in exposure to toxic chemical vapors;

2) Close all doors and windows and make sure to utilize the locks for a tighter seal;

3) Turn off all air conditioning and heating systems. Ceiling fans or portable fans can be used inside to keep cool;

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LINDA EHRICH


Moraga keeps Contra Costa County Animal Services busy

By Vera Kochan

Countywide, Moraga represents 1.6 percent of the Contra Costa County Animal Services' total service area and uses 0.98 percent of the total services provided. That's a surprisingly low statistic given that wild critter sightings are common in Moraga – whether it be deer, raccoons, skunks, snakes, bats, coyotes and even the less wild variety, guinea pigs. But those are the ones that got away.

Steve Burdo, media and community relations manager for CCAS, delivered an update presentation during the Oct. 24 Moraga Town Council meeting outlining many of the services CCAS provides to the area. According to Burdo, CCAS protects public health and safety by enforcing animal ordinances, uses rabies control measures, runs field patrols and responds to dead animal impounds. The animal services department also encourages and coordinates adoptions and is involved in the transfer and intake of animals, providing daily care in facilities, including care and treatment of injured animals and spay/neuter surgeries. In addition, CCAS utilizes approximately 250 dedicated volunteers who are a valuable asset in the animal socialization process, offering help with adoption paperwork, counseling future pet owners, providing lost and found duties and assisting with mobile adoptions.

Moraga kept CCAS busy in 2017. There were:

- 97 Deceased animal impounds
- 79 Stray animal impounds
- 46 Noise/animal/inhumane ordinance investigations
- 87 Human bite investigations (animals biting humans; not humans biting animals)
- 75 Animal/animal bite investigations
- 68 Inhumane investigations
- 33 Noise investigations
- 65 Other investigations
- 9 Animal rescues
- 6 Local agency assists (with police, fire, code enforcement, etc.)

CCAS response times coincide with priority levels ranging from one to five with Priority 1 having a response time of no more than two hours and Priority 5, five days. Out of 52 dispatches to Moraga, 23 of them ranked Priority 1; two ranked Priority 2 (12 hours) and 27 dispatches were Priority 3 (24 hours). Burdo stressed, "It must be taken into consideration that a crew is dispatched from Martinez. Unless a crew happens to be in the near vicinity of a call, a two hour response time for a Priority 1 is standard for Moraga."

Until the town council adopts a noisy animal ordinance, noise complaints can't be serviced in Moraga. However, on the bright side, a rooster ordinance was passed in 2018, which allows CCAS to investigate and enforce rooster fighting in Contra Costa County.

According to Burdo, "Rising costs are burdening CCAS. We are tasked with balancing life saving endeavors, quality of care and length of stay with an ever increasing volume of animals due to continuous population growth (including pets)." An updated processing system and an increase in staff are necessary to meet the demands.

A \$0.17 rate increase for the fiscal year 2018-19 will raise the per capita costs for Moraga from \$5.94 to \$6.11, according to the county contract. Most Bay Area cities pay approximately \$8.70 per capita.

CCAS encourages pet adoption from a local shelter and stresses the importance of getting pets licensed and microchipped. In doing so, a lost pet has a better chance of being reunited with its owner.

Volunteers are needed at the Martinez or Pinole Shelter; the public can sign up to take a tour of either facility. The tour includes various aspects of what CCAS does – field work, medical procedures, shelters and adoptions. For answers to any questions call the main phone line at (925) 608-8400 or visit the Contra Costa Animal Services website: ccas.org.

Summary of animal activities and actions in 2017

	Total	Live	Dead
Deer	119	38	81
Bird	43		43
Cat	15	12	3
Dog	14	12	2
Raccoon	12		12
Skunk	7	2	5
Snake	5	5	
Bat	2		2
Opossum	2		2
Coyote	1	1	
Guinea pig	1	1	
Squirrel	1		1

Moraga's storm drain maintenance preparations

By Vera Kochan

As the rainy season approaches, it was no surprise to see a Storm Drain Operations and Maintenance Program presentation during the Oct. 24 town council meeting. Edric Kwan, Moraga's public works director, stressed the importance of taking preventive measures to insure minimal future costs to the town.

Moraga has a storm drain system involving 27 miles of pipe and 2,000 related structures. These antiquated facilities are 45-60 years old and have undergone very limited maintenance. Storm sewers, sewer mains and water mains, not to men-

tion underground electrical phone/cable lines and gas mains, operate in a complex network beneath the town.

In order to repair and maintain this system, proactive steps have begun and need to continue. Video inspections perform condition assessments and identify maintenance repairs to prolong pipe life. To remove existing sediment and debris (mud, rocks and trash) a vacuum truck clears out pipes before localized flooding problems can occur.

... continued on Page A13

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Nov. 6, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure

Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

School Board Meetings

Orinda Union School District

Monday, Nov. 12, 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

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Public Works inspector honored for service to Orinda residents

By Sora O'Doherty



Tod Fierner

Photo Sora O'Doherty

Public Works Inspector Tod Fierner was honored for his dedication to the residents of Orinda by the City Council on Oct. 16. Homeowner Lee Munroe of Easton Court had written to City Manager Steve Salomon praising Fierner for interceding on his behalf with Pacific Gas and Electric Company

regarding a dangerous tree on his property. The large tree could fall at any time, and could cause a lot of damage to nearby electrical wires, but PG&E said that they could not help with the expense of removing the tree as it was on Munroe's property. Munroe contacted the city, and Fierner went out and inspect-

ed the tree, agreeing that it could cause major damage and expense if it fell. Fierner contacted PG&E, and, through his diligent intervention, made the company realize that the expense of removing the tree would be far less than repairing the damage it might cause if it fell.

Director of Public Works Larry Theis introduced Fierner, speaking about how he goes out of the way, beyond the normal, to serve the people of Orinda, and how much he enjoyed working with him. "Tod puts on the most miles in the city," Theis said, "going from site to site every day." The first face many residents meet when they contact the city, Fierner responds very quickly, Theis added, "sometimes more quickly than expected: 'I'll be there in 10 minutes!'"

"I don't do my job to get honors," Fierner said. "I love the city of Orinda. When I wake up in the morning, its not like I'm going to

work. I like to hit the ground running. I get to talk to all kinds of people. What I try to do 99 percent of the time is to meet people in person. Sometimes they love me, and sometimes they hate me, but nine times out of 10 they walk away satisfied" after a face-to-face meeting.

Council member Dean Orr praised Fierner as "the coolest, calmest, most collected individual," who deals with whatever disaster befalls the city, such as the Miner Road sinkhole. Mayor Amy Worth added that she and Fierner were the first people on the scene when that sinkhole occurred in January 2017. Council member Eve Phillips noted that Fierner "gets to work at all the worst times" and Vice Mayor Inga Miller praised his work on the problems encountered on Orchard Road during the East Bay Municipal Utility District pipe repairs in the summer of 2017.

Orinda accepts 53 Rheem Blvd. easement; homeowners threaten suit

By Sora O'Doherty

Despite an emotional plea from homeowner Dawnell DeSpain of 53 Rheem Blvd., the Orinda City Council on Oct. 16 voted unanimously to rescind its previous refusal to accept the offer of an easement path across the property and to accept the easement. A few days later, attorney Nathan L. Scheg wrote to the council and demanded that they immediately rescind that action. The basis for the demand is that, according to Scheg, the subdivision that includes the DeSpain parcel fronts upon a public stream, San Pablo Creek. Scheg argues that this fact brings into play California Government Code section 66477.2 which, Scheg says, means that the city had only five years in which to accept the easement, and, having failed to do so, the easement was extinguished.

Following a special meeting of the city council on Oct. 23 to consider, in closed session, the threat of litigation by the DeSpains, city attorney Osa Wolff responded to the DeSpain's attorney on Oct. 24. She disagreed with Scheg's arguments. She pointed out that the creek is

private, not public, and that the trail easement's purpose is not to provide access to the creek or its banks but to connect to Parkway Court. Also, while, in Wolff's opinion, the trail easement does not legally depend on there being direct benefit to the residents of Subdivision MSO 05-951, she found that such benefit does exist. However, she added, city staff identified technical issues relating to recording the resolution and have therefore calendared a consent item for Oct. 30 to rescind and replace the resolution adopted on Oct. 16. The city, she said, remains committed to continued good-faith settlement discussions.

A public hearing had been scheduled for Oct. 26 on the DeSpain's application for an exception permit to construct a fence that exceeds the six-foot maximum height limit of the Orinda Municipal Code. The DeSpains wished to build a seven-foot fence. However the hearing was canceled, because, according to Associate Planner Adam Foster, the zoning administrator lacked sufficient information to rule on the application.

ConnectOrinda launched in Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Residents were served refreshments and asked what changes they want to see in downtown Orinda at the Oct. 13 launch event for ConnectOrinda, the city of Orinda's Downtown Streetscape Master Plan project. Participants took time to write suggestions on a large map provided, and Plan-

ning Director Drummond Buckley and Assistant Planner Adam Foster and others conducted walking tours through the village and the theater district, also known as the crossroads sections of Orinda.

The first walking tour was of the village and was led by landscape architect and urban planner

John Gibbs, principal at WRT, an Oakland-based urban design firm. Community groups (Friends of Orinda Creeks and Orinda Vision) served as volunteer docents at certain points along the tour.

... continued on Page A9

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- Steve Glazer, State Senator,
- Joan Buchanan, Former Assemblywoman
- Candace Anderson, Contra Costa County Supervisor
- Inga Miller, Orinda Vice Mayor
- Darlene Gee, Orinda City Council Member
- Dean Orr, Orinda City Council Member
- Susie Epstein, Acalanes Union High School District Trustee
- Cara Hoxie, Orinda Union School District Trustee
- Julie Rossiter, Orinda Union School District Trustee
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- Brad Barber, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Director
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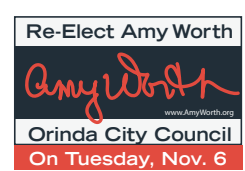
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- Pamela & Clint Stefan
- David & Martha De Laveaga Stewart
- Carl Stoney
- Margaret Stewart & Severin Borenstein

- Ernie and Noah Schulze
- Jack Sweitzer
- Pam & Larry Sullivan
- Merily Taylor
- Mary Alice Townsend
- Bob & Maryett Thompson
- Tina Tierney
- Ann Tipton & Michael Hofmayer
- Rosemary & Patrick Tool
- Doreen & Bill Wagner
- Gerry & Clark Wallace
- Sheila Wendt
- Gayl Westendorf & Laura Kim
- Richard & Pamela Westin
- Arlene & Jeff White
- Paul & Barbara Winters
- Diane Wolcott
- Tom Worth
- Vicky Yancey
- Molly Young
- Mahboud & Nicky Zabetian
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- Midge Zischke
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Teen center soft open goes well

By Sora O'Doherty



Sarah Aoki, right, passes out flyers for the new Teen Center.

A somewhat surprised Recreation Coordinator Jackson Stearns watched teens chatting on soft furnishings, playing pool, foosball and video games on the first open day of the new Orinda teen center, located in the same space that earlier in the day hosts Kindergym. "I guess it is a case of 'If you build it, they will come,'" he mused. The project had been a long-term goal of the Orinda Teen Advisory Council.

As Miramonte High School

students got off County Connection buses at the Orinda Library stop, they were met by OTAC member Sarah Aoki with flyers advertising the new teen center. And apparently the effort paid off, because soon the center was busy with teens lounging on the large bean bag chairs, playing various games, or just relaxing and chatting. Some brought in food, others availed of the snacks and drinks provided by the center.

Stearns said that OTAC has

been around for about 30 years and consists of middle and high school students interested in city government. About 10 years ago, OTAC came close to opening a teen center in a building near Café Europa, according to Stearns. When he started working for Orinda in 2017, Stearns found the project, dusted it off and revived it. Over the summer he met with City Manager Steve Salomon, who agreed with the project, but pointed out that there wasn't much funding available.

As part of the Community Park remodel, the space that had been exclusively used by Kindergym is now a multi-purpose center being shared by several groups. Stearns has obtained supplies and equipment to create a place for students from middle school and high school to hang out after school.

The center will be open from Monday through Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. for now, until the level of interest can be evaluated. There will be adult supervision daily; either Stearns or another staff member will be present.

Scarecrows brighten downtown Orinda



Photo Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Garden Club's annual installation of scarecrows in Orinda offer a colorful reminder of the season. — S. O'Doherty

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Police Departments

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



Oct. 9 - Oct. 14

Alarms	5
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	1
Traffic	35
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	2
Service to Citizen	20
Patrol Request/ Security Check	8
Supplemental Report	5
Welfare Check	4

Vehicle violations

DUI Misd	
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.	
Excessive Speed	
Rheem Blvd./Park St.	
Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo	
Hit And Run Felony	
Safeway	
Reckless Driving	
Seven Eleven	
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.	
Traffic Hazard	
Somewhere on Moraga Rd	
St. Marys Rd./Bollinger Canyon	

Other criminal activity

Battery	
Campolindo High School	
Shoplift	
Safeway	
Vandalism	
Joaquin Moraga Int. School	

Nuisance to the Community

Civil Disturbance	
400 Block Center St.	
Loud Music	
100 Block Donald Dr.	
Public Assembly Check	
500 Block Moraga Rd.	
Public Nuisance	
Via Granadaquintas Ln.	

Other

Mentally Ill Commit	
St. Mary's College	
Williams Dr./Haven Ct.	

was tested. Aubert checked the horn strobe system, which produces flashing light and a loud noise to alert those inside or outside the building. The captain inspected the fire alarm control panel – the controlling component which makes sure all systems are being monitored. He checked for lighting on exit signs, and pointed out numerous other items that a layperson would probably never think twice about.

“Our job is to educate the property owners and managers. They aren’t trained in any of this,” Aubert said.

In October, ConFire saw the departure of its fire marshal, who had assured management that all mandated residential fire inspections were on track for completion by Dec. 31. Not wanting to lose momentum, Carman immediately appointed Deputy Chief Lewis Broschard as the interim fire marshal, a job Broschard previously held for the district.

“We are both working on the basis that the inspections will be done by that date,” Carman said.

been prepositioned throughout the state by mid-October thanks in large part to Carman’s efforts. Fire resources have been prepositioned four times throughout Contra Costa County in response to red flag warnings this fire season.

“It was quite a surprise,” Carman told his Advisory Fire Commission Oct. 8 of the award. “I haven’t done anything on my own, but it’s been a team effort. And I hope that we can continue that effort. I accept that award on behalf of the whole organization.”



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

Oct. 7 - Oct. 20

Alarms	49
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	96
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subjects	12
Suspicious Vehicles	13
Patrol Request/ Security Check	29
Service to Citizen	37
Supplemental Report	19
Vacation House Check	26
Welfare Check	7

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary	
Bates Blvd./Davis Rd.	
Orinda Theater	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Rite Aid	
Reckless Driving	
Beverages And More	
Moraga Way/Coral Dr.	
San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek Rd.	
Camino Pablo/Claremont Ave.	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	
Throw From Moving Vehicle	
Barbara Rd./Spring Rd.	
Traffic Hazard	
100 Block Block Rheem Blvd.	
Rheem Blvd./Glorietta Blvd.	
100 Block Spring Rd.	
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr.	
Estates Dr./Orchard Rd.	
Safeway	
Vehicle Theft	
500 Block Tahos Rd.	

Other criminal activity

Battery	
Wilder Sports Fields	
Dependent Adult Abuse	
Orinda Senior Village	
10 Block Ramona Dr.	
Grand Theft	
Safeway	
Grand Theft From Vehicle	
Wilder Sports Fields	
Identity Theft	
First Republic Bank	
Petty Theft	
Del Rey School	
Police Department	
Petty Theft From Vehicle	
10 Block Idyll Ct.	
Vandalism	
10 Block Orinda Way	
Nation's	
80 Block Davis Rd.	
Camino Pablo/North Ln.	
600 Block Crossridge Terrace	
Warrant Arrest	
7700 Block Edgewater Dr., Oakland	

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbing the Peace	
Brookside Rd./Moraga Way	
Drunk In Public	
Beverages And More	
Loud Music	
10 Block La Campana Rd. (2)	
Loud Music	
Lombardy Ln./Irving Ln.	
Loud Noise	
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way	
Loud Party	
Lombardy Ln./Van Ripper Ln.	
Phone Harass	
40 Block Ivy Dr.	
Public Nuisance	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.	
School Assembly Check	
Sleepy Hollow School	
MHS (3)	
Del Rey Elementary	
Orinda Intermediate School	

Other

Accident Injury	
Woodland Rd./Moraga Way	
Moraga Way/Coral Dr.	
Wilder Sports Fields	
Accident Property	
400 Block Moraga Way	
100 Block Glorietta Blvd.	
Police Department	
Panhandling	
Nation's	

Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

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



ConFire

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



Lafayette residential occupancy fire inspections nearly complete

By Nick Marnell



ConFire Capt. Steve Aubert prepares to inspect the post indicator valve. Photos Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District made several changes to its fire prevention bureau in order to catch up on past due fire inspections and Fire Chief Jeff Carman has assured Lafayette residents that all mandated residential occupancy inspections will have been completed by the end of the year.

Schools and residential occupancies with three or more dwelling units are subject to mandatory annual fire inspections. The district fell behind with its inspections after the recession due to budget cutbacks and the inability to hire qualified personnel and, according to Carman, ConFire had to prioritize the inspections, doing those that could cause the largest loss of life and prop-

erty first, such as residential care homes.

With improved finances and a sharper focus on the lagged inspections, ConFire hired four new fire inspectors in the summer and reassigned two inspectors from the engineering department to help out with the backlog; it also stopped assisting the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District with fire inspections in order to concentrate on its own workload. ConFire then hired several temporary clerks to input the data for the field inspectors, which allowed the inspectors to spend more time in the field. The district also added a temporary fire inspector.

The larger staff allowed ConFire to complete its inspections of the 11 Lafayette education facilities in June and to tackle the inspections of the city’s 159 commercial residential structures.

A random review of Lafayette inspection reports, from a fourplex on Bickerstaff Street to the iconic Lafayette Park Hotel, showed that the most common violations included failure to service fire extinguishers, inspect sprinkler systems and test fire alarms. Occasionally, a structure received a “No violations” report, as did the building on Bickerstaff. The hotel was cited for repairs needed on its fire doors,

which must not only close but latch shut to stop smoke and fire from spreading into corridors and stairs. “We installed new hallway carpet with a higher pile so the doors were not completely closing on their own,” said Nick Bozycz, Lafayette Park Hotel general manager. “The doors were shaved and the doors close properly now.”

Fire Prevention Capt. Steve Aubert conducted an inspection of a Lafayette apartment complex. “We don’t schedule these visits. You want to see things on their worst day,” he said.

Aubert first checked that the fire roads were properly marked, and that the fire hydrants were not blocked. He saw the structure had a sprinkler system, so he checked the post indicator valve – the valve that controls the sprinkler system. It was operational. The fire department connection inlets were accessible and functioning, ensuring an adequate water supply.

“We are not allowed to go into individual apartments,” Aubert said, as he inspected the in-door common areas, corridors, hallways and elevators. He found his first violation along one of the inside walls: the fire extinguisher was not stamped as tested.

Fire rated doors were inspected for smoke seals. The elevator



Aubert tests the fire department connection.

ConFire’s Carman named fire chief of the year

By Nick Marnell



Jeff Carman Lamo archive

The California Fire Chiefs Association named Contra Costa County Fire Protection

District Chief Jeff Carman as its 2018 statewide fire chief of the year at its annual conference in Sacramento. The Ronny Jack Coleman award is named after retired State Fire Marshal Ronny Coleman and recognized Carman as a role model for all fire chiefs in the state as demonstrated through his leadership and management, not only with ConFire but also regionally and statewide.

“We are so proud that Chief Carman has been recognized for his achievements,” said Karen Mitchoff, chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors. “We are fortunate to have him serve our community, and congratulate him and those who support him on this special recognition from his peers.” The

county board of supervisors, which doubles as the ConFire board of directors, recognized Carman during its Oct. 9 meeting.

Jeff Meston, president of the fire chiefs association and fire chief of the South Lake Tahoe Fire Department, specifically praised Carman’s efforts in securing state funding for prepositioning of local strike teams and for the formation of the Alliance, the partnership between ConFire and American Medical Response to deliver emergency medical service to the bulk of Contra Costa County. “Agencies all over the state are watching the progress of that EMS model,” said Meston, who also noted that 22 different local strike teams had

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

Poppies for Veterans Day raise much needed funds

By Sora O'Doherty

Veterans Day will be commemorated this year on Sunday, Nov. 11. On the weekend before that day, and on the day itself, veterans wearing their caps will be distributing poppies in remembrance of those who have served and those who were lost, according to Terry Murphy, senior vice commander and service officer of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8063 and commander for VFW District 10, which consists of 18 posts in three counties. Poppies will be distributed in the U.S., Canada, England, Holland, France, Australia and New Zealand as well as other countries, said Murphy, who spoke during the public forum at the Oct. 16 Orinda City Council meeting.

Donations to the VFW are restricted by their charter and bylaws to be used to help veterans in need. Murphy says that unlike many other groups that say they are helping veterans, the VFW has no overhead for this program. The local Post has been in existence as long as Orinda has been a city, and in all that time,

Murphy says, no member has even asked to be reimbursed for their mileage.

Donations are used to help local veterans on fixed incomes and in need of medical equipment. Thousands of pre-paid credit cards sent to the Veterans Center in Concord are used to help returning veterans looking for jobs or going to school on the GI Bill. Large donations have also been sent to victims of hurricane Harvey and, last year, to help the victims of the North County fires, including both veterans and others in need. According to Murphy, the list of individuals and organizations helped by the VFW goes on and on, from local scouting troops and packs to historical societies.

"When you see one of us wearing our funny little caps, be it at the Post Office or Diablo Foods, please stop by, say 'Hi' and pick up a poppy and, if you want, make a donation," Murphy said, adding, "We will put the money to good use."

Judge sides with Save Lafayette Trees

... continued from Page A1

Dawson explains their hope for the meeting. "We'd hope the city might dedicate resources to an independent analysis of pipeline risks in our community. We are looking forward to taking both PG&E and the CPUC up on their commitments to further engagement to create what we are dubbing an alliance for community pipeline safety.

"Our proposal for this group would be to have a community spe-

cific pipeline integrity management program in place, based on an independent assessment, so the public can be assured each part of the gas pipeline system in Lafayette is known and accounted for, and threats are known, ranked, and addressed in order of reducing safety risks," Dawson continues. "That basically is our pitch to getting to trust. ... turning words into action."

Downtown retail workshop

... continued from Page A2

The responses included a shortage of qualified labor, a lack of convenient parking, the high costs of rent and tenant improvement and, for some more than others, the effect of the internet on business.

As for the positives of doing business in the city, all agreed that customer loyalty and an affluent demographic were strong pluses in Lafayette.

Blodgett pointed out that although his product could be bought online, "We are unique in service. People want to shop locally," he said.

"What can the city do to help?" asked Srivatsa. "I would love to see the Happy Valley Shopping Center remodeled," answered Collier. Perlmutter agreed and made the point that some blocks, such as the one that used to be home to the Rustic Tavern, lack beauty and need external improvement. She urged the city to consider encouragement of arts and culture downtown.

Blodgett raised the question of zoning, saying there is a need to

streamline city processes, loosen zoning restrictions and create a synergy between businesses and retail.

But it was Ford who answered both the question of how the city can help, and Srivatsa's final question regarding their vision for the city in the future with his comment on making the downtown more pedestrian-friendly.

Council Member Ivor Samson made the point that, in order to create a pedestrian-friendly environment, Lafayette needs unique retailers to offer places that pedestrians want to go. Ford agreed and said that filling empty spots with the right tenants would be one of the several components of the solution, along with having more lighting to make the city more night-friendly for pedestrians.

Overall, the discussion echoed many of the points raised at the first workshop back in July. Residents are encouraged to weigh in on the discussion via the online www.lafayettelistens.com forum.

ConnectOrinda launched

... continued from Page A6

The second walking tour of the theater district and the area between the two sides of downtown was led by Ryan McClain, principal at Fehr and Peers, a Walnut Creek-based transportation planning firm. Community groups (Save Orinda and the Orinda Historical Society) served as volunteer docents along certain points of that tour.

Copies of the ConnectOrinda Briefing Book prepared by Eisen|Letunic were distributed. The Briefing Book contains pertinent facts and figures regarding downtown Orinda gathered by staff and consultants during the first phase of the project.

For children and teens, there were scavenger hunts, with small prizes for all participants and case prizes for the winners in each category. Both scavenger

hunts were developed with input from the Orinda Teen Advisory Council.

Following the collection of public input, the next stage in the process will be in January when there will be a meeting to present a summary of the community feedback and three different sets of near-term projects and longer-term visions that represent the range of comments.

Residents of Orinda can continue to provide input by filling out online surveys and submitting comments regarding specific places or points on an interactive map at <http://connectorindasurvey.fehrandpeers.net/>.

More information regarding the ConnectOrinda project is available at <http://www.cityof-orinda.org/connectorinda>.



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— Open Letter —

Dear Residents of Lafayette,

We are nine former mayors of Lafayette, and we are dismayed by what many see as the negative campaign rhetoric used by two of the five Lafayette City Council candidates. In contrast, Teresa Gerring, Karen Maggio and Dave Smith are conducting positive campaigns.

Negative campaigns are infrequent in Lafayette's 50-year history, and the candidates promoting them have always been rejected by voters. In the past we have had civil discourse and issue discussions during campaigns. When disagreements arose, they were issue-oriented and without personal attacks.

We are upset by the exaggerations, misstatements, and half-truths at candidates' night and in campaign material and campaign ads. Most especially, we are dismayed by the rhetoric against our volunteer commissioners and our City Manager, Steve Falk, who is one of the most respected city managers in California. Lafayette is run on a balanced budget, with ample reserves and no pension debt. Few cities can boast these facts. After 28 years of exemplary service, no one, especially Steve, should be treated with such disrespect.

The attacks on the Planning Commissioners and the City Manager are an attack on us and the voters who elected us. We hired the City Manager and appointed the volunteers who served on our commissions. We, as Mayors and council members, made the policies carried out by the City Manager and commissioners. We are proud of our decisions and are honored by the service that so many have given. Just look at the improvements to our city since its incorporation, and you will appreciate the hard work that our volunteers and professional staff have accomplished. Lafayette's meetings adhere to the state "sunshine" laws for open meetings, and we discipline those who have run afoul of these laws. The city works with all our citizens to get their input.

We need council members who can forge

agreements with each other and with neighboring jurisdictions. Why is this important? Take traffic as an example. Traffic is a regional issue and we must elect council members who are collaborative in nature, not confrontational, to work cooperatively with the nearby cities whose drivers impact our roads.

We support Teresa Gerring and Karen Maggio, who are positive, proactive hard-working volunteers whose years of dedication to Lafayette distinguish them.

Teresa Gerring served 19 years as an elected representative to the Lafayette School Board. She served 17 years on the Lafayette Community Foundation Board and was co-chair of the Lafayette Library Community Campaign, which raised \$13 million to build our award-winning library.

Karen Maggio is a former 10-year Planning Commissioner, served on the Vision 2000 Lafayette Library and Learning Center Committee, was a board member of Sustainable Lafayette, was vice chair of the Lafayette Environmental Task Force and a recipient of the Lafayette School PTA Leadership award.

We endorse and urge you to vote for Teresa and Karen. They are the positive, experienced, dedicated, hard-working leaders Lafayette needs on the City Council.

Sincerely,


- Don Tatzin**, Mayor 1986-87, 1991-92, 1996-97, 2001-02, 2008-09, 2013-14, 2017-18
- Mike Anderson**, Mayor 2007-08, 2012-13, 2016-17
- Brandt Andersson**, Mayor 2009-10, 2014-15
- Carol Federighi**, Mayor 2002-03, 2006-07, 2011-12
- Carl Anduri**, Mayor 2004-05, 2010-11
- Erling Horn**, Mayor 1998-99, 2003-04
- Anne Grodin**, Mayor 1993-94, 1997-98
- Judy Garvens**, Mayor 1995-96
- Bob Fisher**, Mayor 1970-71, 1974-75

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Dennis Fay



Nick Kosla



Amy Worth



Vote Dennis, Nick and Amy for City Council - 2018

WHAT'S DOWNTOWN ORINDA

ORINDA VISION

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Authored by Monica Fitzsimmons on Change.org

We are Orindans for a Better Downtown supporting Dennis Fay, Nick Kosla and Amy Worth for City Council 2018 FPPC #Pending

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Letters to the Editor

Love Lafayette

Sadly, "Save Lafayette" has succeeded.

They have succeeded in saving Lafayette from the most intelligent, creative, honest, energetic, thoughtful and caring City Manager we could ever hope to have. Why, oh why if these people do not like how Lafayette is organized, don't they move elsewhere and leave those of us who love Lafayette in peace?

Mary Ann Hoisington
Lafayette

Danziger for MOFD District 3

I heartily endorse Steve Danziger for Moraga-Orinda Fire District 3. I've known Steve since he was Scoutmaster of my son's troop 16 years ago. Steve is genuine, honest and extremely capable with a great sense of humor. He has over 20 years of public service experience, including as an Administrative Manager with the Oakland Fire Department, and has the knowledge and the background to hit the ground running. His goals include, but are not limited to, maintaining and enhancing fire safety, being fiscally responsible and accountable and strengthening relationships with the staff and the community. He will bring a knowledge, passion and experience that will help guide MOFD into the future. If you are in District 3, I urge you to vote for Steve Danziger on or before November 6th.

Susie Epstein
Orinda

Acalanes Union High School Governing Board

Steve Woehleke for council

I am writing to strongly and enthusiastically recommend that all Moragans cast their vote for Steve Woehleke for Moraga Town Council. My wife, Marianna Laurence, and I have lived in Moraga for 20 years and have known Steve and his wife Peggy since our daughters became friends while attending Moraga's public schools. I have personally served as trustee on the Moraga School Board so understand what it takes to be a successful public servant representing our special community. Since getting to know Steve, I have seen his unwavering commitment to our town demonstrated through sustained leadership serving on both the Design Review Board and Moraga Planning Commission. This exemplary level of service combined with Steve's education background and professional experience make him an ideal candidate to serve on our Town Council at this critical time. What we need most now is a seasoned leader who brings an objective, analytical and disciplined approach to decision-making. Steve has the temperament and expertise to set the right priorities, taking into account sound management of our fiscal resources and physical assets while keeping in mind the quality of life we enjoy. Steve uniquely brings these critical leadership and business skills to the table. We can count on Steve to be laser-focused on immediate critical issues without losing sight of the need to plan for the future. Steve's platform says it best, "Better decisions. Better outcomes."

Please join Marianna and me and vote for Steve Woehelke for Moraga Town Council.

Steve Hirsch
Moraga

Susan Candell and Ivor Samson for Lafayette City Council

We are so fortunate to live in this small tightknit community where volunteering is the norm and where we all know one another. Most of the candidates running for City Council have served our community in many ways, for many years.

But unfortunately, simply being involved in our community isn't enough for someone to earn our vote. Our vote needs to be based on issues and facts, voting records and the candidate's philosophical ideas about our community and how it should be governed.

For me, it is simple. I am voting for the two candidates that I feel have the professional experience and technical background that we need, the sincere willingness to listen to all sides and work together on issues, the strength to stand up for their constituents on difficult issues, and the integrity that will help them guide our city.

So before you cast your vote, I encourage you to ask all the candidates questions, attend a meet and greet, read their websites or flyers. Make sure that your priorities align with theirs, and that you share the same vision for Lafayette.

If you do, I am convinced you will come up with the same answer as me. While we have five nice people running for office, Susan and Ivor are the best qualified candidates to lead our city. They have earned my vote.

Traci Reilly
Former Vice Mayor 2015, City Council Member 2012-2016

Bauer-Kahan and immigration

In this election, our values matter more than ever before. The Trump Administration has acted completely antithetical to American values by instituting a Muslim ban and separating children from their parents. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan is the only candidate running for Assembly who has stood up to Trump time after time. When the Administration announced the Muslim ban, Rebecca rushed to SFO to coordinate legal services for those impacted. As the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, Rebecca is paying it forward, to provide refugees and immigrants the ability to strive for the American Dream that her own grandparents had. In office, Rebecca will continue to fight the Administration's anti-immigrant policies, including ensuring state resources aren't used to divide children from their parents. I've known Rebecca for years as a valued member of our community. She's a person of character and integrity, with a strong moral compass, who always stands up to injustice and fights for what's right. She is the clear choice for Assembly District 16.

Tamara Ireland Stone
Orinda

No on Prop 8

I am a client of the Fresenius dialysis clinic in Walnut Creek. The care I have received at this facility is anything but what is depicted by the "YES" on 8 television commercials. The staff is well trained, attentive and obsessed with cleanliness and maintaining sterility. I have never seen a client/staff ratio of less than 5:1. This, in addition to nurses and doctors who are on site. Contrary to what is depicted in the "Yes on 8" commercials, I have never seen any cockroaches and the only bloodstains I have seen are my own.

While some patients may be charged \$150,000 for treatment, the reality is, under Federal law, the vast majority of dialysis patients are covered under Medicare. In my case Fresenius bills Medicare \$4,952 for each treatment - 3 times per week. Medicare "allows" \$345! I'm not smart enough to know if Fresenius charges too much or Medicare allows too little. However, it does not appear that Fresenius is coining money. Their annual report confirms this: In 2017, they reported net income of \$1.3 billion. Euros on revenues of \$17.8 billion. Euros, a 7.3 percent profit margin. The average for Fortune 500 firms in 2017 was 11 percent.

Even the smart money on Wall Street agrees they are not coining money. Their stock has seriously under performed the averages during the two-year old bull market. (Fresenius is a German-based company whose stock is traded on the NYSE as FMC.)

We don't need another costly, inefficient state bureaucracy monitoring the activities of dialysis clinics. Medicare already keeps a tight reign on these facilities.

Proposition 8 has nothing to do with patient care in dialysis clinics or its cost to the taxpayers. It is an attempt by the unions to organize the workers in these clinics and fatten their coffers with increased dues.

Steven Richards
Orinda

Bauer-Kahan gets my vote

As an attorney, I pride myself on being able to sift through inconsistent facts and assertions; I search for hard evidence that will lead me to the truth. I am the recipient of multiple mailers from Catherine Baker that severely distort the truth about her record on environmental protection. The California League of Conservation Voters carefully tallied up all of Baker's votes and gave her a low grade on environmental issues. I am particularly repelled by Baker's slanderous television ad implying that Bauer-Kahan has taken bribes from lobbyists. The ad is almost identical to the one she ran against her opponent in 2016. I need a candidate who shares my values on environmental protection and basic human decency. Baker had demonstrated a lack of decency in her disgusting attacks on Bauer-Kahan. Democrat Rebecca Bauer-Kahan gets my vote!

Elaine Gerstler, Esq.
Orinda

In support of gun violence prevention laws

As a mother of three, I'm beyond concerned about the horrific, bloody gun violence in our schools. Children and teachers are dying - we have no more time to waste. We must elect leaders who will enact gun violence prevention laws right now. I was upset to discover that my own Assemblymember, Catharine Baker, did not support closing a loophole in 2017 to keep guns off school campuses (AB 424), even though her mailers say she supports gun safety. I am now supporting Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, who has pledged to vote on the side of gun sense every single time, to protect all human lives, especially those of our children.

Holly Grossman
Lafayette

Eve and Kathleen straightforward choice

Like many Orindans, my wife and I attended the City Council Forum to hear positions and responses to questions from the five candidates. We thought the moderator did a good job asking a variety of questions that the audience submitted. She asked enough pertinent questions to clarify roughly two distinctive perspectives among the candidates.

As a long-term resident, active in volunteering and political affairs, I am concerned with maintaining our excellent schools (presumably all candidates are), safety, quality neighborhoods, and the semi-rural character of Orinda, the basis of our General Plan. For those questioning "semi-rural character," refer to the General Plan, (<https://www.cityoforinda.org/269/General-Plan-Housing-Element-Sections-1,2,4,5>). Semi rural character includes the idea of "organic development" - projects like the Montessori school, which would have been located in the old abandoned

Phairs building site, that along with dozens of young mothers I strongly supported, and projects like Bella Oaks, which would have been across from the library. In both cases, the developers went to great measures to comply with the General Plan and Orinda's municipal code, including height and volume requirements. The City Council at the time (except for incumbent Eve Phillips who supported Bella Oaks) killed both of these projects. Eve Phillips and Kathleen Jenkins, whom I know well, favor an "organic development" approach to improve Orinda's downtown, and make it more vibrant.

Listening to candidates Dennis Fay and Nick Kosla, I got the opposite impression and am troubled by their perspective. Both said they viewed Orinda's General Plan as a living document. Both seemed less concerned with preserving Orinda's semi-rural character. Nick Kosla, thought the downtown should be more centralized. This approach reminds me of The Urban Land Institute recommendations. Those recommendations focus on "housing as the value enhancer" theme (to fund the development). As mentioned in their presentation, ULI recommended 240 new downtown condos, in six new buildings, with a six-story building height. This seriously violates our general plan and semi-rural character, let alone numerous other problems. My take away from the City Council Forum is that candidates Dennis Fay and Nick Kosla are in accord with this kind of vision for the downtown.

Of course these are my generalizations. But for me, they are sufficiently clear that voting for Kathleen Jenkins and incumbent Eve Phillips is the best choice for Orinda. Be sure to vote. It's your city.

Chris Kniel
Orinda

Vote for Teresa Gerringer and Karen Maggio ... and also get involved!

As the mother of a 3 year old, a small business owner and someone who strives to be an active member of our community, I realize how much work it is to sometimes get out the door, never mind get big things done. It's difficult and time consuming to navigate the system, learn all of the players and create the time to not only get involved, but also be a leader.

There is value in years of experience in volunteering on school boards, a local commissions or citizens task forces. For that reason, among others, I am supporting and voting for Teresa Gerringer and Karen Maggio in this election.

These two women are great examples of what it takes to be invested in our community. Vote for Teresa and Karen.

Most of all, I encourage all of us to learn by their dedication to our city and get involved in whichever way you can. Yes, use social media to be engaged, and also vote and identify a civic passion to give your time. That is how we can all Love Lafayette a bit better this Nov. 6.

Thanks!
Lauren McCabe Herpich
Lafayette

A vote for women's rights

Many of my surgical patients are women with breast cancer, so I am naturally appalled at the Trump Administration's efforts to severely rein in women's rights, including limiting funding for critical women's health programs. I was worried about these issues in California, so I did some research. Our Assemblymember, Catharine Baker, opposed funding for the "Every Woman Counts" program that provides women in underserved communities with cancer-prevention tests including clinical breast exams, pelvic exams, mammograms,

and Pap tests. Baker also opposed the Reproductive Fact Act, which sought to protect women from unlicensed medical providers. As a surgeon, I cannot in good conscience vote for Baker given her votes. I am voting for Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, who has pledged to reliably champion women's rights.

Mary Cardoza, MD, FACS
Lafayette

Recommendations for Moraga Town Council

Dave Trotter: Dave and I have not always seen eye to eye on some issues, but we recently had an open and fair conversation about those subjects and walked away agreeing to let bygones stay there. Dave is a tireless worker on Moraga's behalf, a convincing mediator/negotiator, and a personable, congenial man. Notwithstanding, our past differences are outweighed by the continuity, intelligence and immense 'local knowledge' and leadership he brings to our Town Council.

Mike McCluer: Mike is relatively new to me, but the first thing that struck me about this fellow was his upbeat, contagious and powerful personality. Of course, I investigated his curriculum vitae and found him highly qualified, including an MBA. He has also worked with non-profit groups relative to children and the homeless. I see him as a selfless man with boundless energy and optimism along with solid business experience and credentials. It appears he has a realistic, broad-based view of our world and its problems.

He also appears to me, first impression, to be skilled at a natural discourse with folks unknown to him, affable and unassuming.

Woehleke: The person or persons responsible for making election signs which appear to imply that McCluer and Woehleke are running in combination is blatantly false. McCluer has publicly denounced this peculiar practice. These two men are very different in both their views and personalities.

I cannot in good conscience recommend Steve Woehleke. My own grandfather was a Civil Engineer who described his own professional associates as "a group that looks through the wrong end of the telescope," meaning they might be unaware and thus ignore many of the other myriad influences and elements in play which may be important to a project's impact and its influence at large.

I fear he lacks the vision, temperament and 'people' skills for it. He may be a good fit for the Planning Commission, but certainly not the Town Council IMO.

Fritz Stoop
Moraga

Gerringer for Lafayette City Council

We are writing this letter in support of Teresa Gerringer for the Lafayette City Council.

We have worked closely with Teresa for years, including when she was Co-Chairman of the Fundraising Campaign for the magnificent Lafayette Library and Learning Center and also when she was a liaison from the Community Foundation in building the Rotary stage at the Lafayette Reservoir. From personal experience we know Teresa is trustworthy, hard-working, and smart. She knows how Lafayette works and how to make it better.

On the City Council, she would work collaboratively and provide outstanding leadership for our town as it confronts issues of growth, housing, and traffic.

Please join us in voting for Teresa Gerringer for City Council on Nov. 6.

Dick and Robin Holt
Lafayette Co-Citizens of the Year, 2017

... continued on Page A12

Former Moraga town manager cleared of wrongdoing

By Nick Marnell



Jill Keimach Photo provided

Jill Keimach, the former Moraga town manager, was exonerated by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office following a six-month investigation into the le-

gality of a secret audio recording Keimach made of an Aug. 16, 2017 meeting with two Alameda city council members, Jim Oddie and Malia Vella, while Keimach was the Alameda city manager.

It is illegal in California to record a conversation without permission of all parties, but state law permits the recording of confidential communications for the purpose of obtaining evidence reasonably believed to relate to the commission of certain criminal conduct. The DA investigation concluded that Keimach did not break any laws, having had a reasonable belief going into the meeting that Oddie and Vella, a Teamsters lawyer, would attempt to bribe or extort her.

"I am extremely grateful to the District Attorney's Office for its careful examination of all the facts in this case and concluding that I told the truth in the face of extreme political pressure," Keimach said in a statement. "I paid a steep professional price but am relieved and heartened that the facts have finally come to light."

Keimach's saga began in July 2017 when the city of Alameda began a recruitment process to find a new fire chief for the Alameda Fire Department. Keimach, in charge of making the selection, asserted that she was under extreme political pressure from elected and appointed city officials to choose Capt. Domenick Weaver, the internal

candidate favored by the firefighters union, and felt that her continued employment as city manager was in peril if she did not comply.

Oddie and Vella scheduled the Aug. 16, 2017 meeting with Keimach to discuss the selection of the fire chief. As Keimach believed that the two council members might try to pressure her, she taped the meeting on her cell phone without consent of the parties. The DA investigation concluded that neither Oddie nor Vella committed any criminal offenses at that meeting, but that Keimach's belief that recording the meeting may have gathered evidence related to criminal conduct was not unreasonable con-

sidering all of the circumstances.

Keimach stood firm and appointed outside candidate Edmund Rodriguez as the city of Alameda fire chief on Oct. 3, 2017. She was put on administrative leave in March and departed the city in May under a \$945,000 separation agreement.

"I am relieved," Keimach said. "This was such a huge weight on me for such a long time." Neither Oddie nor Vella responded to a request for comment.

Keimach returns from a three-week vacation to India in mid-November, and she was mum about her future plans. "I'm weighing my options," she said.

PaperBox Bread & Pastry: new addition at Moraga Farmers' Market

By Sophie Braccini



Evan Ting in front of his farmers' market stand, PaperBox Pastry.

Photo Sophie Braccini

The year-round Moraga Farmers' Market does not cease to diversify, attracting new vendors such as mushroom producers or unique grape growers (have you heard of "Thomcord" grapes?) as well as cooks, bakers and pastry chefs. One recent addition pushed the market toward the gourmet label: PaperBox Bread & Pastry, owned by Campo grad and now pastry chef Evan Ting.

A young father who graduated from Campolindo High School in 2008, Ting worked at Metro Lafayette while he was still in school. Erika Pringsheim-Moore gave Ting his first job in the kitchen, encouraging him to try his hand at food preparation. After graduation and because the idea of long years studying was not appealing to him, Ting decided to go the culinary route. He studied in Chicago,

where he met his wife. The pastry chef explains that they were both trained in French pastry baking techniques, and that their creations are infused with Californian and Asian tastes.

Ting worked at different restaurants after graduating, including the prestigious French Laundry, then decided that he wanted to try his hand at entrepreneurship and launched PaperBox Bread & Pastry last spring at the Moraga Farmers' Market.

On a typical Sunday morning the lines form quickly in front of Ting's white tent. Some are curious newcomers attracted by the seductive but still natural looking confections and pastries on display. Many of the clients are already aficionados who became quickly addicted to the cream puffs, macarons, stuffed English muffins, chocolate chip cookies, Pâtes de Fruit (a centuries old French candy recipe made with fruit, no preservatives or artificial flavors), and more.

Each week the selection changes because Ting works with the farmers' market fruit vendors. In season, he will have Meyer lemon and strawberry macarons, and peach, Thomcord grape or apple pates de fruits. He says that the vendors know each other at the market, taste each other's produce and confections, and create synergies.

In the meantime, Joao Magalhaes, a longtime Moraga resident, comes by for a weekly treat. The well-traveled man who has savored specialties all over the world and has visited the best of the Bay Area's restaurants has become appreciative of Ting and always gets something at his booth every Sunday. The day this reporter was there, Magalhaes raided the pates de fruits.

Luckily for Teresa Onoda, Magalhaes was not interested in the chocolate chip cookies. That is what the Moraga vice mayor likes best; she added that those are the best she ever had. Ting shares a little bit of his secret, explaining that he uses small chunks of bittersweet Guitard chocolate and adds a tiny amount of salt on top to magnify the sweetness.

If the weather is warm, Ting's wife can be seen at the market with their young child on her lap. She explains that she works during the week for Facebook's catering, while Ting takes care of their child and the business.

"This is what I was born to do," says Ting.

PaperBox Bread & Pastry can be found at the Moraga Farmers' Market every Sunday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. More pictures can be found at www.instagram.com/paperboxpastry/.

VOTE the INDEPENDENT Fire Board Candidates who will represent our community, not special interests

Why would the Fire Union PACs invest \$22,700* for 3 volunteer board seats, a voting majority, if they didn't want to influence the votes?

*90% of Funding for Danziger, Donner, Baitx campaigns to 10/25/18, Contra Costa Co election data



Division 3, West Orinda/Moraga
www.VoteRedSmith.com



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www.LucyTalbot4MOFD.com



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Independents' Priorities:

- **Improve Emergency Response Capabilities**
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"Bell, Smith and Talbot are fair minded, independent of special interests, fiscally responsible with deep community roots"
Steve Glazer, CA State Senator

Paid for by: Lucy Talbot for MOFD 2018
Red Smith for MOFD 2018
Bell for MOFD 2018

1,000+ endorsements by Moraga-Orinda Voters

Letters to the Editor

Severson for AUHSD governing board

As a current member on the Orinda Union School Board, I know that school board trustees must have the ability to listen to all viewpoints, to work together collaboratively, and to always keep in mind the best interests of the students. Chris Severson embodies these qualities and deserves your vote in November for Governing Board Member of the Acalanes Union High School District.

Chris has been a strong advocate for public education for many years. He has the benefit of experience — Chris served for four years with me on the board of the Orinda Union School District from 2010-2014. As a fellow trustee, Chris always acted with the utmost integrity and always kept the focus on what's best for students. Chris was instrumental in helping lead the district during the last financial crisis and, as a result, the district was able to weather that storm with minimal impact on students in the classroom. Moreover, as an emergency room physician, Chris knows how important health and wellness are to student success, and intends to bring a focus on those issues with him to his role as trustee.

Chris will also bring a balanced perspective to the school board. The high school district is composed of schools in four communities: Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette, and Walnut Creek. Chris has children who attend or have attended Miramonte, Acalanes, and Campolindo high schools.

Chris is committed to maintaining and improving upon the excellent education our high schools provide. I urge you to vote for Chris Severson for Governing Board Member for the Acalanes Union High School District.

Julie Rossiter
Board Member
Orinda Union School District
Orinda

Samson and Candell for Council

I attended Candidates Night and solidified my support for Ivor Samson (Incumbent, Attorney) and Susan Candell (Circulation Commissioner, Engineer). Samson and Candell are willing to do independent research, ask direct questions and hold staff accountable when necessary. They'll work to solidify the partnership between the City and the schools. The Lafayette School District is running a serious structural deficit and it would be beneficial to taxpayers and students if the City and the District started sharing expenses when possible.

Ivor Samson has worked hard since his appointment to the City Council in 2016. Ivor Samson and Vice Mayor Cam Burks (an Ivor Samson supporter) successfully implemented safety and traffic calming measures on Reliez Valley Road. Samson worked with his colleagues to pass the new Conflict of Interest policy and Burks and Mark Mitchell joined Samson in this important vote. Given pending and potential litigation before Lafayette we need a tested legal mind on Council to ensure our legal interests are protected.

Susan Candell worked closely with Ivor Samson and Cam Burks on the Reliez Valley Road traffic issues. Susan has been a dedicated community volunteer in the areas of traffic and safety, including safe routes to school, the Downtown Specific Plan and development and zoning impacts. An engineer by trade, Susan has the ability to read, understand and explain complex technical documents like Environmental Impact Reports. The passage of AB2923, and the related loss of

local control over development decisions make Susan's analytical skills more important than ever.

Lafayette voters recently rejected Measures L and C - votes of no confidence in the status quo. City Manager Steve Falk recognized this disconnect and recently resigned. The next Council will select Falk's replacement and that Council should be comprised of individuals with relevant municipal experience and knowledge. Who do you think will represent YOUR voice when hiring the next City Manager?

The candidates are all nice people who care about Lafayette; I applaud them all for running because I know it's not easy. However, I'm looking for relevant municipal experience and expertise. I'm voting for Ivor Samson and Susan Candell!

Jean Follmer
Lafayette
Lafayette School District Governing Board Member, Elect

Getting the facts straight on Baker

I am deeply disappointed with the misrepresentations I have seen about Catharine's outstanding record from the Bauer-Kahan campaign. Many mailers and recent letters to local newspapers have made misleading statements. For example, a recent letter to the editor stated that Catharine voted against Cap and Trade. Fact: Catharine voted for this measure and Governor Brown publicly commended her for it. Mailers claim that Catharine has voted against critical environmental legislation. Fact: Catharine Voted for 100% renewable energy, authored legislation to protect our coasts from more offshore drilling, and authored legislation to protect Californian's clean air rules. Mailers claim Catharine isn't who she says she is. Fact: Catharine is the ONLY candidate in this race to receive bipartisan endorsements from local elected officials in every single city and county she represents. If you want the truth about Catharine, look no further than her record and what she's accomplished. Don't believe the misrepresentations. I served for over a decade as an American diplomat with the U.S. State Department; working extensively with members of the U.S. House and Senate, and elected leaders from nations around the world. I have never come across a politician that has more integrity, is more pragmatic and has stronger principles, than Catharine Baker. She is the type of leader that we desperately need in Sacramento. Catharine has and will continue to serve us profoundly well and deserves to be reelected.

Cameron Burks
Vice Mayor, Lafayette

Trotter and McCluer for Council

To preserve our hills and open spaces, Moragans should support Dave Trotter and Mike McCluer for Town Council.

As a councilmember since 2006, Dave Trotter has been an effective leader on open space protection. He led the successful multi-year effort to strengthen the rules protecting hills and ridgelines. He's unafraid to stand up for his principles, as when he cast the lone "no" vote against the Bellavista project now being built on Rheem Boulevard. Moraga needs Dave's leadership again as the Council decides two major proposed developments in Bollinger Canyon and Indian Valley. Dave follows through on campaign commitments and has extensive knowledge of Town governance. We need him for one more term.

Current Planning Commissioner Mike McCluer has made open space protection a central

campaign principle. He showed he means it two weeks ago when the 126-house Bollinger Canyon development came before the Commission. McCluer spoke convincingly of the need to uphold Moraga's protections for hills, ridgelines and semi-rural character and he voted against the project, a recommendation that will go to the Council for a final decision. Mike also has a finance background, a useful skill set to add to the Council.

I cannot recommend Steve Woehleke for two reasons. First, as a Planning Commissioner, he opposed a fundamental premise of Moraga's Open Space Ordinance limiting housing densities on landslide areas. Woehleke pushed for higher densities on unstable land by allowing massive remedial grading (like we've seen at Bellavista). The intent of MOSO is to protect hillsides and ridgelines, not grade them away. Second, the commission deliberations Commissioner Woehleke chaired were rambling and unfocused. They were among the least effective meetings I've observed as an environmental consultant who has spent decades attending hearings at the local and regional level. Hardly the stuff of better decision making.

Please support Trotter and McCluer to protect open space.
Malcolm J. Sproul
Moraga

Dave Smith for Lafayette City Council

We are so fortunate to have 5 wonderful candidates running for the two seats available on Lafayette City Council. Over the years I've been very impressed and grateful to the men and women who have so unselfishly given their time to serve on council and the numerous committees that have helped keep Lafayette a great place to live. I am writing to encourage citizens to vote for Dave Smith for City Council because I believe it would be wonderful to have a fresh new voice in Lafayette. Dave may not have experience in our local politics but his wide range of experience in his jobs makes him an ideal candidate. The younger residents of our city need someone who understands their needs because he lives them too. I have seen firsthand, while sitting on a city commission, what the younger members can bring to the table. I've been so impressed with their enthusiasm, energy, and fresh ideas and know Dave shares these same attributes. Most of them have young families and busy, working lives, just like Dave, but are willing to share their time and talents for the good of the city.

For too long, the northeastern region of Lafayette, where 25% of homeowners live, has not been represented by anyone on City Council. Until we recently became very vocal about the terrible traffic in our area and how it is negatively impacting our lives, there did not seem to be much concern for our area because it isn't in the downtown. Dave understands our frustration because he lives here and has had the frequently unpleasant experience of having to get kids to or from other parts of Lafayette during morning and afternoon rush periods, or to get to his own meetings. He opposes the current plan to build 315 apartments at the corner of Deer Hill and Pleasant Hill Roads for several reasons, included creating even more traffic there, and for many environmental and public health concerns among other things. As a Councilmember he would keep an open mind on this issue as additional information is presented.

My hope is that Dave's candidacy will encourage more younger citizens to get involved with our city, to make their voices heard and to vote. Dave has some good, fresh ideas that could

help reduce traffic congestion, encourage sustainable growth in the correct areas of our city, and enhance our quality of life. His skill in building coalitions and working collaboratively to solve problems is needed now more than ever. I hope you'll vote for Dave Smith.

Linda Staaf
Lafayette

Former mayors for positive change

We are nine former mayors of Lafayette, and we are dismayed by the negative campaign rhetoric used by two of the five Lafayette City Council candidates. In contrast, Teresa Gerringer, Karen Maggio and Dave Smith are conducting positive campaigns.

Negative campaigns are infrequent in Lafayette's 50-year history. In the past we have had civil discourse and issue discussions during campaigns. When disagreements arose, they were issue-oriented and without personal attacks.

We are upset by the exaggerations, misstatements, and half-truths at candidates' night and in campaign material and campaign ads. Most especially, we are dismayed by the rhetoric against our volunteer commissioners and our City Manager, Steve Falk, who is one of the most respected city managers in California. Lafayette is run on a balanced budget, with ample reserves and no pension debt. Few cities can boast these facts. After 28 years of exemplary service, no one, especially Steve, should be treated with such disrespect.

The attacks on the Planning Commissioners and the City Manager are an attack on us, and the voters who elected us. We, as Mayors and council members, made the policies carried out by the City Manager and commissioners. We are proud of our decisions and are honored by the service that so many have given. Lafayette's meetings adhere to the state "sunshine" laws for open meetings, and we discipline those who have run afoul of these laws.

The city works with all our citizens to get their input.

We need council members who can forge agreements with each other and with neighboring jurisdictions. Traffic is a regional issue and we must elect council members who are collaborative in nature, not confrontational, to work cooperatively with the nearby cities whose drivers impact our roads.

We support Teresa Gerringer, whose 19 years of service on the school board, and Karen Maggio, whose years of service on the planning commission, are positive, proactive hard-working volunteers. Also, they both helped to build our new library. Their years of dedication to Lafayette distinguish them.

Lafayette needs them on the City Council.

Sincerely,
Don Tatzin, Mayor 1986-87, 1991-92, 1996-97, 2001-02, 2008-09, 2013-14, 2017-18
Mike Anderson, Mayor 2007-08, 2012-13, 2016-17
Brandt Andersson, Mayor 2009-10, 2014-15
Carol Federighi, Mayor 2002-03, 2006-07, 2011-12
Carl Anduri, Mayor 2004-05, 2010-11
Erling Horn, Mayor 1998-99, 2003-04
Anne Grodin, Mayor 1993-94, 1997-98
Judy Garvens, Mayor 1995-96
Bob Fisher, Mayor 1970-71, 1974-75

Candell and Samson for Council

I know we're all overwhelmed with campaign "news", but I feel strongly about the importance of thoughtfully choosing candidates

... continued from Page 11

in the upcoming City Council race in Lafayette. Personally, I'm concerned about the rampant growth occurring in Lafayette and how it has changed our City so dramatically over the past several years. We've lost the small, charming town feel that we used to have. The congestion, lack of parking and massive new development occurring throughout the City is affecting all of us in a negative way. And we, as citizens, don't seem to have a say in what is happening.

There are two candidates that I am supporting who are committed to working hard on these issues and represent what I feel needs to be done moving forward. These two candidates are Susan Candell and Ivor Samson. They are the only two candidates that rejected Measure L, and the only two to endorse our strict Conflict of Interest ordinance. They have worked tirelessly to make sure we have an open and transparent government, and will work with the citizens of Lafayette to represent what we want for our City. They are in favor of preserving open space and looking at how development affects our schools, quality of education, and the health and safety of our citizens.

It is the responsibility of each of us to take the time to learn the facts about each of the candidates and make a well-informed decision. I urge you to look at Susan and Ivor. I feel they are our only hope right now in preventing more massive development that cannot be supported by the size and infrastructure of our City. Please join me in supporting Susan Candell and Ivor Samson.

Dana Vannelli
Lafayette

Yet Another Bank to "Revitalize" Orinda?

Ms. Jenkins, Orinda City Council candidate, blames the current Council for voting "down" a new retail/restaurant project at 25A Orinda Way, which in her view would have brought "new services and amenities" to Orinda's downtown. Inaccurate.

The facts: After obtaining approval in 2016 for a building at 25A consisting of nearly 14,000 square feet of retail including a restaurant on the first floor, and obtaining several extensions of time to build, the landowner — one who had limited development experience under his belt — sought a change: Turning close to 50 percent of the retail/restaurant space into services — i.e., a workout studio and a bank branch.

Both the City Council and Planning Commission approved the workout studio and denied the bank (but approved an ATM).

Their reasoning: Focus on enhancing retail.

The workout studio would be good for retail, bringing in more foot traffic. The bank, in contrast, with limited daily hours — closed on weekends — would not attract as much continuous foot traffic — hurting retail.

The Council vote on the bank was 4-1. Councilperson Phillips (running for re-election and praised by candidate Jenkins for her vote) backed the bank.

Orinda has eight banks. This ninth bank — part of an otherwise fully approved retail/restaurant project — was not the key to revitalize downtown.

Hanging their hopes for downtown renewal on a ninth bank indicates that Jenkins and Phillips are not in step with realistic, seasoned views of revitalizing a downtown.

We need steps to encourage experienced retail professionals to invest in Orinda. Encourage improved restaurants and more retail. Not more banks.

Dave Anderson
Orinda

... continued on Page A14

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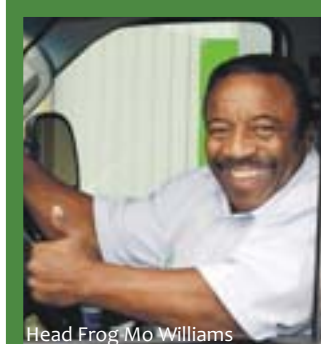
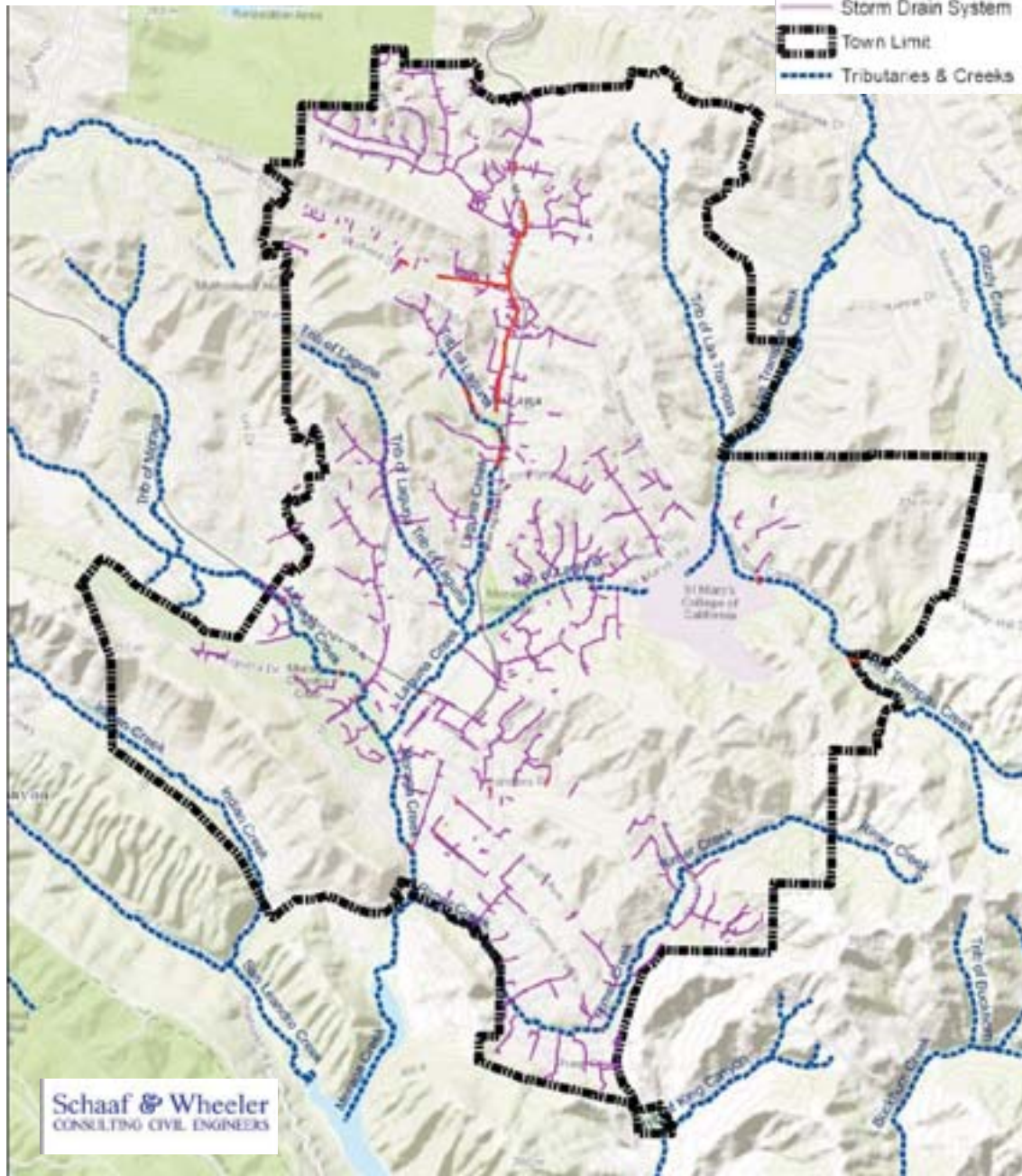
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Moraga's storm drains

... continued from Page A5



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Inspections (through manholes, inlets, outfalls, etc.) and closed-circuit television videos of pipeline are expected to be complete in five years. The next step would be to prioritize the

maintenance repairs.

At this point in time, Moraga's Storm Drain Operation and Maintenance Program is fully funded. The program's elements of video inspection, sediment/debris removal, technical assistance, maintenance repair and asset management software comes to \$254,400. Project costs for 2019 are \$170,000. Any costs to continue the program into the future remain at a steady \$170,000. Preventative maintenance, in the long run, is cost effective.

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Letters to the Editor

Candell and Samson for City Council

Our family lives in Burton Valley and we have two children who are enrolled in local schools. We are writing in support of Susan Candell and Ivor Samson for Lafayette City Council.

Ivor's professional experience on the City Council and as an attorney are invaluable in protecting the city against current and pending litigation. Susan brings outstanding analytical and processing skills as a professional engineer.

Further, Susan's experience on the Circulation Commission is much needed as our city faces increasing traffic and congestion issues. Burton Valley in particular will be impacted as plans for Moraga's Bollinger Valley project move forward. It has been proposed that seven traffic lights be installed throughout Burton Valley in order to support the increased traffic from the 126 homes to be built for Bollinger Valley. Traffic patterns will increase and push through traffic to smaller streets where our families walk better to and bike. Lafayette's Circulation Commission voted on 36 objections/concerns with the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and voted not to support the certification of the report or approval of the project until these concerns were addressed. As an engineer, Susan sent in a separate objection based on the fact that Moraga didn't perform an HRA (Health Risk Assessment) to sensitive receptors within 1000 feet of the project. Susan also identified cancer risks for Acalanes students and faculty in the EIR for the Deer Hill homes project.

As many of the candidates are making similar statements regarding their positions on Measure C, the Deer Hill homes project, the conflict of interest (COI) ordinance and more, it's important to examine their past actions and statements. Candidates Teresa Gerringer and Karen Maggio supported both measures; candidates Ivor Samson and Susan Candell opposed both; candidate David Smith said at the debate on September 20 that he did not reside in the City at the time of the Measure C vote.

In addition, Ivor and Susan are the only candidates who have come out in strong support of the new COI policy. Lafayette must maintain a fair, legal and ethical process for approving development projects.

Laura and Randy Levandowski
Lafayette

Seeking collaboration

I'm voting for Teresa Gerringer and Dave Smith for Lafayette City Council for a simple reason: I'm tired of antagonistic politics and am looking for people who combine a genuine desire to serve with an attitude of collaboration. My email inbox has been filling with outrage, and I don't want that to be a louder voice than those of us who believe there is a better approach.

I worked closely with Teresa on the renewal campaign for a school bond measure. She was smart, dedicated and constructive, a pleasure to interact with. I came to trust her judgment and values.

Dave Smith I don't know as well, but in our interactions, he comes across with exactly the attitude I'd hope for. We need balanced, open-minded people overseeing decisions made for Lafayette.

Using Lafayette Measure L as some kind of litmus test is giving power to arguments not based in reality. Traffic is a problem, but the main issue is that when the travel time on 680/24 gets bad enough, mapping software routes people through Lafayette. It's that simple. A few more cars originating from within Lafayette may influence when the tipping point is reached, but the outcome (the equilibrium state) is identical. Nor is air pollution the problem. Change is. Some want it, others don't. And, wanting

it or not, some change is inevitable.

My goal is a different and better future than we'll get by just saying no to everything.

Larry Zulch
Lafayette

A vote for Gerringer and Maggio

I am supporting Teresa Gerringer for Lafayette City Council. Before Election Season started, I didn't know much or had heard of most of the candidates, but after attending the Homeowner's Council's Candidates Forum, I was very impressed with Teresa's experience, knowledge, and her attitude to work together to solve the problems that Lafayette faces.

With the lawsuits hitting Lafayette regarding housing and development, and with traffic such a hot topic issue, we need elected members who can collaborate and can work with others locally and regionally to find solutions. Change in Lafayette is coming, even Susan Candell had mentioned, and we can either embrace it on our terms, or we refuse and are forced or sued into solutions that we don't like.

I love Teresa's experience with 19 years on the Lafayette School Board, and having been a community leader fundraising for our amazing library. I find it important that she is advocating for the students and parents, which help make our community so special. She is incredibly resourceful and hard-working and gets things done!

Our second pick is Karen Maggio. She has been on the Lafayette Planning Commission for 10 years so she is very familiar with how the city operates, and she helped to draft the city's General Plan which led to our wonderful downtown and our state-of-the-art library. Karen also is a former Sustainable Lafayette board member and is a leader in managing sustainable communities at Mills College and the SF Presidio. With the recent international report release on fighting the climate crisis, we need an experienced leader like Karen to help our city advance its green goals while building a safe and healthy community for all!
Nancy Hu
Lafayette

Fay, Kosla and Worth for City Council on Nov. 6

On Nov. 6, Orindans will vote to fill three open seats on Orinda's City Council. Three candidates in particular, Dennis Fay and Nick Kosla, along with incumbent Amy Worth, represent Orindans BEST prospect for momentum in the process of Downtown renewal.

Fay, Kosla and Worth each offer a wealth of experience on issues pertaining to Orinda's Downtown. Dennis Fay, a former chair of the Citizens' Infrastructure and Oversight Committee (CIOC) was instrumental in the development of Orinda's program to repair its roads. Nick Kosla's experience as Chair of the Orinda Planning Commission will be invaluable in future Council discussions about land use and business development in Orinda's Downtown. Amy Worth is currently serving as Mayor in her 4th term on Orinda's City Council and has a proven voting record on thoughtful Downtown revitalization, including the input of two independent consulting firms (The Urban Land Institute and Main Street America) to provide options for downtown renewal, and most recently, the green lighting of the Master Streetscape Plan.

The addition of these three highly qualified and forward-thinking candidates to Orinda's City Council is exactly what we need to move forward with downtown. We offer our endorsement and urge others to vote for Dennis Fay, Nick Kosla and Amy Worth for Orinda City Council on Nov. 6. What's Up Downtown Orinda Steering Committee
Ali Drasin, Darien Destino, Ari Hatton, Kirsten Larsen, Trudi

Loscotoff, Laura McDowell, Hillary Murphy, Laura Pavlovich and Emily Stoddard

Kosla for Council

I am voting for Nick Kosla for Orinda City Council because Nick knows what Orinda is and what Orinda needs.

I am fortunate to be able to raise my children in the same community I grew up in. I met Nick Kosla back in the early '90s when we both attended Miramonte High School. I returned to Orinda nine years ago and reunited with Nick when he sat on the Planning Commission for Orinda. Since then, I have gotten to know Nick and his family very well. Nick is actively engaged in our community and our school, Wagner Ranch Elementary. I have spent hours talking to him about the future of Orinda and how we want to preserve Orinda's small town charm but see some progress in updating our downtown while preserving our schools and providing our families with a safe community. Nick understands Orinda and the challenges we face. Nick is passionate about our schools and our community, and his family is actively engaged in caring for our little town. I believe he has the right mindset and skills to help implement positive change where our downtown needs it while wanting to protect Orinda from turning into the high rise and chain restaurant communities we see around us.
Amy Stuffmann
Orinda

Vote For Candell and Samson for City Council

Lafayette's City Council Election has generated a lively debate in our community, and it's important to understand why. A critical issue is whether or not newly elected Council members will try to weaken or reverse the conflict of interest (COI) policy that was adopted on March 26, 2018.

The new policy prohibits commissioners on the Planning Commission (PC) and Design Review Commission (DRC) from working for, or designing projects for, builders/developers in Lafayette. Lafayette residents may be surprised to learn that this unethical financial relationship had existed between some commissioners and developers for years. To stop this practice, it wasn't enough for commissioners to recuse, because their firms or family would present the project to the PC or DRC on their behalf. Recusal is an important tool under most circumstances, but in the absence of a strong COI policy, it became a shell game.

Passage of the stronger COI policy ushered in dramatic changes during the past year, as witnessed with the resignations of 2 DRC commissioners and 5 PC commissioners. Since then, those vacancies have been filled with highly qualified commissioners, without conflicts, who are doing an outstanding job.

The policy change was a giant step for open-governance, transparency and democracy. Our community is now in a stronger position to protect public and environmental interests.

Ivor Samson and Susan Candell are the only candidates who voiced strong support for the new COI policy at the candidates' night, hosted by the Lafayette Homeowners Council. Samson spearheaded the policy change and Candell advocated for its passage. A vote for Candell and Samson is a vote for more transparency, ethical governance, and democracy.
MaryJo Cass
Lafayette

Teresa Gerringer for Lafayette City Council

Please join me in supporting and voting for Teresa Gerringer for Lafayette City Council. Teresa has been an active member of the Lafayette community since mov-

ing here in 1996 and has served on the Lafayette School Board for the past 19 years. I had the privilege of serving with her on the school board from 2008-2014. She is a thoughtful, caring, engaged board member committed to hearing all sides of an issue, evaluating proposed solutions carefully and thoughtfully, and implementing policies and actions in a pragmatic, move forward manner. Teresa evaluated budget issues carefully and worked hard to limit class size and protect valuable programs for our students despite the severe underfunding of suburban school districts by the state. She values communication with the community and has worked hard to keep all of Lafayette up-to-date with the issues, concerns and successes of the Lafayette School District. I know she will bring the same spirit to the Lafayette City Council.

Art Kapoor
Lafayette

Bring civility back with Gerringer

Like all communities, Lafayette has had its share of growing pains. With visionary leadership, City Council, city staff and a collaborative citizenry have brought us amenities like the Library and Learning Center, Lafayette Park Hotel, and Veterans Memorial. But change always brings angst. Over the decades, Lafayette's engaged citizens have a long tradition of vigorous but always respectful debate about the town's future. In the past year, this collegial spirit of tolerance of diverse perspectives has been drowned out less by policy debates than personal attacks on city staff, neighbors with whom we disagree, and most shockingly by two city council candidates disparaging their fellow candidates at Candidates Night and in campaign literature. In response, for the first time that I can recall, nine past mayors have signed a joint letter to Lafayette citizens expressing their concern over this degraded dialogue and have endorsed Teresa Gerringer and Karen Maggio for City Council.

I, too, believe Teresa Gerringer is the stand-out candidate for City Council. At this moment of transition, Lafayette needs tested, collaborative, visionary and above-all positive leadership to navigate the next decade. It's a privilege to endorse her candidacy. Teresa's contributions to Lafayette span over 20 years, with highlights including co-chairing the Library Community Campaign and serving on the founding board, 19 years on the Lafayette School Board, founding member of the Community Foundation, Chamber of Commerce Advisor, and VP Contra Costa School Boards Association. As School Board President, she successfully guided challenging financial negotiations with the state, brought resolution to often passionate debates over complex issues, and always led with humor and grace in sometimes tense situations. She has received numerous state and local recognition awards for distinguished service. Importantly, she has always astutely avoided any conflicts of interest.

It's time to take stock not only of how to manage the town's growth, but how to bring civility back to community conversations. Teresa represents the leadership qualities to do both. Think positive, vote Teresa!
Kathy Merchant
Lafayette/Orinda

Gerringer for Council

I am writing today to express my enthusiastic endorsement of Teresa Gerringer for Lafayette City Council. Teresa has served our community for over 20 years. She has proven her leadership through collaboration and hard work on the Lafayette School Board, the Lafayette Community Foundation Board, and as co-chair of the Lafayette Library Community Cam-

... continued from Page 12

paign. I have been fortunate to work with Teresa for the past several years in my capacity as Stanley Middle School PTA President and RAPPORT (Lafayette School District's parent clubs' committee) Chair. What has impressed me time and again is Teresa's unwavering dedication to her current constituents, the students and children of Lafayette. I have no doubt that she will continue to display that dedication to the citizens of Lafayette if elected to the City Council.

Sincerely,
Kelly Daggs
Lafayette

Eve Phillips won't improve downtown Orinda

First-term city council member Eve Phillips has consistently refused to revisit the core land use rules that have left our downtown in a state of deterioration, disuse, and dereliction. She was the sole vote against even starting a conversation on downtown, instead hoping that the approval of a few new businesses in our dilapidated buildings might somehow revitalize downtown. Perhaps these outlier positions is why she lists no endorsements from any current or past city councilmembers, who otherwise endorse Dennis Fay, Nick Kosla and Amy Worth. Ms. Phillips is out of step with Orindans and won't offer the leadership we need to bring downtown back.

Sandi Balonick
Orinda

Chris Severson for Acalanes Union School Board of Governors

Editor:

I support Chris Severson and here is what I know of Chris:

1. Chris brings immediate passion for this job because of the five children that he and Pam are raising. He is invested. He understands better than most, the worries and concerns of parents.

2. Experience in school administration is already a no brainer for Chris. He has served as the President of the Orinda Union School Board. He knows what to do for the protection of children, for their learning and advancement academically, and for the support of the administration, staff and faculty of a school district.

3. Professionally, Chris determined early in his life to study and become an Emergency Room Physician. I envision that all who have received professional care of Chris in such an intense environment, have found a caring, level headed, professionally passionate fellow. When I commented earlier that Chris is all about the protection of others—children in particular—I would argue that he has that characteristic in his soul.

4. Chris does not give up. Besides life's lessons that Chris has learned as a father, husband, and doctor, Chris is a marathon runner! Until one participates in a marathon, no one knows what it is like to find themselves at mile 21 and realize that the next three are uphill. Chris has qualified for the Boston Marathon a handful of times. He faces mile 21 in a marathon and no, he does not laugh at it, but he continues; steady, focused, and on it! He brings that quality to his life. He will bring that quality to the Board.

5. Chris is a lifelong resident. He has spent his youth observing his parents and their serve. His parents have been leaders of major business firms, of large religious groups, of school districts, and of city councils. It could be argued here, that Chris has service in his blood.

Like me, please consider voting for Chris Severson for the Governing Board of the Acalanes Union High School District.

Bob Packer

Plenty of money and plenty of nastiness define MOFD board races

By Nick Marnell

The 2018 election for the directorships of three Moraga-Orinda Fire District divisions features not only the most expensive district campaigns ever run but also lays claim to the nastiest, with the degree of campaign vitriol rarely seen in the 21-year history of the district.

According to the Contra Costa County Elections Division, through the third week of October candidates Greg Baitx, Steve Danziger and Michael Donner have received more than \$26,000 in campaign contributions, with \$1,000 for each coming from the local firefighters union and \$21,000 from the California Firefighters Political Action Committee in Sacramento - \$8,000 for Danziger, \$7,000 for Donner and \$6,000 for Baitx.

Candidates Nathan Bell, Red Smith and Lucy Talbot have raised more than \$13,000 through loans and contributions, mostly from individuals, including current MOFD board member Craig Jorgens and Orinda firebrand Steve Cohn. The three candidates' individual totals fall within \$800 of each other. Division 3

incumbent Steve Anderson reports no campaign contributions. (Full disclosure: this media outlet has benefitted from the campaign spending.)

The ads themselves are fairly straightforward, but the vitriol stems from the 21st century version of the old town hall: social media. Many of the social media comments denounced the union-backed candidates, who were pegged as out to take over MOFD in order to spend more of the district budget on firefighter salaries. The concept of union-backed candidates, or firefighters themselves, sitting on the board was blasted as a major conflict of interest.

Comments bashing the non-union-backed candidates painted them as uninformed and dispassionate. They were skewered as investment managers who intended to put public employees in their place and treat them as nothing more than an investment portfolio, and were labeled as clueless of the firefighting profession.

For their part, the local firefighters have avoided the negativity. "We're staying above the fray and we refuse to disparage

our opponents," said Capt. Lucas Lambert, MOFD union representative. "Our mission remains the same: the dedication to serve the

community and the public."

But if this local race follows the pattern of major national and regional elections, with a week

to go and three of the five MOFD board seats up for election, the best - or worst - may be yet to come.

Shelter-in-Place... continued from Page A4

4) Turn on your AM radio to KCBS 740 to get official updated information; and

5) Stay off the telephone. Contra Costa County has a telephone ring-down system that will begin calling numbers in the impacted area. Do not call 911 to get more information. Only call 911 in a life-threatening emergency. Overloaded phone circuits can prevent actual emergency calls from getting through.

County officials will announce the All Clear via the news media, so residents are advised to monitor radio stations, such as

KCBS 740. Since the sirens were not designed to be heard indoors, there is no separate safety siren signal for All Clear. The county will reactivate its telephone ring-down and call impacted areas with the All Clear message.

After the All Clear is announced the health department recommends opening doors and windows to air out your building.

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Ob-la-di, ob-la-da ... Town Hall celebrates 50 years since Beatles' White Album release

... continued from Page A3

Stack urges concertgoers to come dressed as a favorite character from the album. "Do some research ... go for a drive and listen to the album right through for inspiration," says Stack, who wants people to really get into the event.

Local celebrity judges include lead guitarist for Night Ranger, Brad Gillis; VP of licensing for the Beatles, Steve Senk; and the Sun King's Drew Harrison. Everyone gets a signed poster.

The lobby of the theater will be decorated. With a nod to "Back in the USSR" the house cocktail will be a White Russian. And 40 lucky people will attend the "White Circle" before the show, which will include a champagne and appetizer reception, and a panel discussion with members of the Sun Kings.

If Stack's role in the evening is the celebratory production, for the Sun Kings it is all about the music.

Harrison, who delivers the Lennon vocals and plays lead guitar with the Sun Kings, says the White Album might be his favorite Beatles record. "Great lyrics, melodies and rock and roll," he says.

He explains how the Beatles affected the lives of so many growing up at that time. "Liverpool was bombed and depressed but they (the Beatles) saw opportunity. The world shaped them and they shaped the world," he says, explaining that the Beatles were a bright spot. "Their message was that we'll be OK. The key for them was to make things better."

In fact, Harrison has just performed his solo "In the Spirit of Lennon" show at the Cavern in Liverpool, where the Beatles got their start, in what was surely a highlight in his musical career.

Along with Harrison the Sun Kings is comprised of Scott Southard, who takes the Paul Mc-

Cartney vocals and plays bass, guitar and piano, Bruce Coe who does the George Harrison vocals and plays guitar and piano, Steve Scarpelli (Ringo) on drums, percussion and vocal, and Michael Barrett on keyboards, orchestrations, guitar, percussion, harmonica and vocals. They have had this lineup for two years but have been around as a band for 18 years. Although they each lean toward a particular Beatles member, they are not a caricature band. They do build lots of story telling into their shows.

Harrison is looking forward to a fun party celebrating this 50th anniversary and echoes Stack's enthusiasm for dressing as a White Album character. "There's plenty to choose from - Bungalow Bill, Rocky Raccoon, Sexy Sadie, Desmond and Molly Jones, Chairman Mao for a start."

"Life is a participation sport," says Stack. "Play along - it's really fun."



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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Communing with nature in the outdoor classroom

By John T. Miller



Students at Wild Oak play an improvised collaborative running game during free time at their outdoor classroom in Lafayette. Photo provided

Using the 35-acre Twin Canyon Girl Scout Camp in Lafayette at the end of Springhill Road that borders Briones Regional Park for its classroom, Wild Oak Education, a nonprofit home school enrichment program, offers a unique approach to education.

Formerly Singing Stones School, a Waldorf Education setting in Walnut Creek, the group moved to the Lafayette location earlier this year and is currently completing its first 12-week session. Wild Oak rents the space from the Girl Scouts for their three days of classes, and occasionally hosts other community events, such as film screenings and campouts.

Classes are conducted using various campgrounds, picnic areas and other sites nestled in the hillsides. “We conduct education outdoors, rather than calling ourselves outdoor education,” says Kate Newkirk, Business Manager at Wild Oak.

Lead Grades Teacher Meryn Gruhn Di Tullio reinforces the concept of using the outdoors, saying, “Something magical happens in nature that can’t happen within four walls. Being backed against the wall and being trapped in a corner requires walls. There’s a feeling of openness and a freedom to be yourself in nature’s sanctuary.”

The staff has had wilderness first aid training, especially concerning rattlesnakes. In addition, the school has access to the aptly named Cocoon building in case of inclement weather.

In addition to the Grades program (for ages 6-15 years), the school also runs a separate Forest Kindergarten program (ages 4-6), and a Parent and Child class for younger children. Both groups work to establish a rhythm to their days. According to their website, in kindergarten “the daily rhythm and weekly patterns of meaningful work such as washing, baking bread, and preparing soup provide a comforting sense of time and structure. The predictability of knowing ‘what comes next’ allows children to be fully present in the moment.”

Lead Forest Kindergarten

teacher Andrea Hector, who spent most of her childhood exploring the hills around Martinez, has a master’s degree in early childhood education and environmental education, specializing in garden-based learning. Their website states she “combines her passion for Waldorf principles and her love of providing outdoor instruction for young children where they can explore the natural world in its entirety.”

Gruhn Di Tullio holds an associate degree in international relations and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and is a multitalented artist. Her passion is in creating engaging experiential curriculum, and the interconnection to nature.

While its emphasis for seven years previous as Singing Stones was as a Waldorf School, the Wild Oak curriculum employs many different educational philosophies – including Montessori – in addition to the teachings of Rudolf Steiner.

Classes meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. for kindergarten, and until 1:30 p.m. for Grades. Extension is available until 3 p.m. each day, with handwork, art, and journaling offered. Students can choose to enroll in one, two, or three days.

Forest Kindergarten hikes to various sites in Briones on Tuesdays and Wednesdays where they engage in nature play, have snacks, and hike back for lunch outside. On Thursdays they chop veggies, make soup, and do other projects. Gruhn Di Tullio adds, “To promote inclusivity and a sense of belonging, eating together is an important part of our curriculum.”

The Grades program covers math on Tuesdays, science on Wednesdays, and humanities on Thursdays. With a wide range of ages, the students often break into groups to meet their individual needs. The learning is experiential. For example, in science they used camping stakes and twine to make a grid of an area for a field study to examine the burrows and activities of the ground squirrel.

The focus of study for humanities for the current session has been

the Renaissance, with emphasis on the explorers. Gruhn Di Tullio, a world traveler herself, brings more to the learning than the traditional Eurocentric teaching, saying, “The Renaissance was a worldwide experience involving other countries as well. We study explorers like Ibn Battuta, a Moroccan, and Zheng He, who was from what is now Mongolia.”

Gruhn Di Tullio says the teaching of a worldview matches the welcome diversity of the students in the program. Other topics include First Peoples, Human and Animal Tales, and Innovations.

About half the students come for all three days, an option known as a “micro school,” according to their website. These schools feature less than 150 students, multiple ages learning together, where teachers act more as guides than lecturers, and a highly personalized education with an emphasis on project-based learning. Students come from all parts of the Bay Area.

Newkirk emphasized that Wild Oak is a home school enrichment program, and not a school, per se. “We are fulfilling a need in this area for nature-based education that also contains curriculum in core subject areas.”

For more information about tuition and session dates, visit wildoakeducation.org.

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Students and disabled adults create crafts for 1st Annual Peace and Kindness Carnival

By Jenn Freedman



Students help each other make beaded bracelets.

Photo Jenn Freedman

The local nonprofit Mindful Littles brought together 10 disabled adults from Las Trampas School in Lafayette and 22 students from Carondelet High School in Concord Oct. 10 to create mindful crafts, like beaded bracelets, lavender sachets, and painted pots, which will be sold at a Peace and Kindness Carnival on Veterans Day at Orinda Community Park.

Tanuka Gordon, founder of Mindful Littles, explained the inspiration for this partnership: "My own 11-year friendship with a woman who has cerebral palsy has been the inspiration for creating more and more organic opportunities between people who have special needs and those who do not. There is nothing more powerful than the beautiful expression of love and inclusion that can naturally emerge when you bring such groups together."

Integrating these groups was a natural extension of their existing partnerships with the nonprofit already: Carondelet has been working closely with Mindful Littles's youth leadership program, and the school had specifically offered up students to volunteer with the organization as part of their Day of Service program on this particular day in October. In addition, Mindful Littles has an ongoing program with Las Trampas, teaching yoga and mindfulness at the school for developmentally disabled adult students every Friday. The weekly yoga class at Las Trampas is now open to the public as well. This experience lends itself to a natural opportunity for opening up a diversity dialogue with

children at home.

Initially, both the Carondelet and Las Trampas students felt unsure of what to expect when they gathered to make the crafts. But as soon as they began working together, both groups were naturally helping each other. "Quite honestly, I was moved to tears as I saw the students help each other, laugh, share stories. By the end of the morning, the groups were eating lunch together and even gave each other high-fives and hugs before they left. If we can create more and more of these immersion opportunities, our world would start looking like a different place," Gordon said.

The crafts will be sold at the First Annual Peace and Kindness Carnival, a fundraiser for Mindful Littles. Its mission is to spark children and families to engage in mindful, compassionate action through service learning experiences, creative yoga and mindfulness programs, and heartfelt parenting resources. Mindful Littles is a small and fast-growing nonprofit, and fundraising has become a critical need to enable long-term sustainability.

The carnival will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mon., Nov. 12 at Orinda Community Park and will include a live band, bouncy house, face painting, balloon artist, kindness games, carnival games, food trucks, and a chance to meet and help real veterans on Veterans day. Tickets are \$40 per child, free for adults and children under 2. For tickets, go to mindfullittles.org and click the upcoming events tab.

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Holiday magic at the Moraga Art Gallery

By Sophie Braccini



Work by ceramist Donna Arganbright on display
Photos Sophie Braccini

The quaint art gallery in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center has curated for the end of the year a show that combines beautiful objects, unique jewelry and diverse paintings. Always driven by a need to create uniqueness, the artists present a wide palette for art aficionados and people looking to give their loved ones – or themselves – something that will endure as a testimony of human creativity.

The show, "Holiday Magic in Porcelain and Paint," will be on display through Jan. 5. The two featured artists are plein-air painter Maria SantoStefano and ceramist Donna Arganbright.

SantoStefano's work captures the light and shade, and the colors of Northern California landscape. Her compositions often feature a pastoral scene that include some type of building, barn or old house, and expose brilliant gradients of reds, greens, blues and earthy tones on display as seasons change. A student of Anne Marie Glover and Pam Glover, the affiliation is certainly recognizable, but SantoStefano adds a boldness and creativity all her own.

Where SantoStefano offers beauty and dream, Arganbright and her ceramics bring humor and color into everyday objects. Her bowls, pitchers, mugs or trays are a charming way to bring the special and

unique into our world. SantoStefano's technique is flawless, the shapes she creates are harmonious and the colors are vibrant without being aggressive.

The gallery also features the creations of several other notable local artists in many different genres.

One of them is Jyotsna Singh, the granddaughter of Maharaja Bhupinder Singh of Patiala who said she inherited her grandfather's passion for jewelry. She brings to the Moraga Art Gallery a limited edition of her new Manjusha collection that was designed for the Legion of Honor Museum gift shop. The elements of the collection available in Moraga are of exquisite craftsmanship, with a definitely modern East-meets-West flavor. The earrings, necklaces and bracelets are beautifully detailed yet easy to wear everyday. The reasonable pricing will make it an simple choice as a gift.

Many other artists worthy of consideration will attract the attention of visitors. Anna W. Edwards from San Leandro has several mesmerizing abstract paintings on display inspired by sunsets that the painter experienced all over the world. K. de Groot jewelry, creations often based on antique Asian pieces are also on display, including some new works by the artist that demonstrate her talent for balance and discriminatory elegance.

George Ehrenhaft's watercolors, inspired by the local scene or Yosemite, always bring a sense to calm poetry and soft happiness, while Pam Murray's creative collage energizes the whole gallery.

The gallery located at 522 Center St, close to T.J. Maxx is open from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, visit at moragaartgallery.com.



Collage by Pam Murray

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Talking to kids about race

By Lou Fancher



From left: Rebecca Branstetter, a Lamorinda mom, speaks with Dr. Allison Briscoe-Smith prior to the Oct. 16 event. Photo Lou Fancher

Infants as young as six months old pay attention and respond to race, according to research performed by experts, including Dr. Allison Briscoe-Smith, a Berkeley-based psychologist. Fed sugar water and their eye patterns tracked, babies shown someone of a race outside of their usual experience focus more and suck at higher rates. Although the studies exclude systemic experience and are primarily done with black and white babies, leaving out mixed race and other races, the data proves race is a phenomenon in very early childhood development.

That and other startling facts – as well as instructional tools with which to engage children about racial relations – were the subject Oct. 16 of a Lamorinda Moms speaking event, “How to Talk to Your Kids About Race.” The program introduced Briscoe-Smith, who received her undergraduate training in social psychology from Harvard University and holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from UC Berkeley. Her specialty is treating patients whose trauma is experienced at the intersection of poverty and racism. A frequent public speaker, trainer and consultant, Briscoe-Smith addresses the compound negative forces that interrupt and impact relationships. She is the mother of three children, ages 1, 8 and 9.

After asking the approximately 75 adults gathered in the multipurpose room at Orinda Intermediate School to share their first race-related memories with a nearby seat mate, Briscoe-Smith said, “We can engage in dialogue about race. It is doable.” Moments later, she issued a caveat: “But we’re not fluent in the conversation and that communicates something to kids.”

Often, hesitant to discuss a topic fraught with tension and, perhaps, to sidestep a raw, unwelcome glimpse at their own implicit bias, parents avoid speaking about race with children. They are afraid to make a mistake. They wonder, what if I bring it up too soon? What if I traumatize my son or daughter with warnings of how awful a world with systemic and implicit bias can be? What if I say the wrong thing? That would mean I’m a racist. They’ll think I’m a bad person.

It’s not just parents who worry; teachers hesitate, afraid they’ll lose their jobs or unsure of the best methods to integrate the topic of race into classroom curriculum.

“We’re gonna make mistakes,” said Briscoe-Smith. But not speaking isn’t a solution, because adult silences also instruct. “Our kids are wired to learn from whether or not we’re comfortable talking about race,” she said. Instead, frequent engagement, not making it “a race talk,” much in the same way discussions about sex must not be “one-off” conversations, she said is most effective. Parents are already conveying daily lessons about acting, speaking and thinking with compassion, kindness and social justice. Break-

ing it into manageable chunks and pacing the conversation to suit a child’s developmental stage and temperament are all useful approaches. Parents granting permission to kids – and to themselves – to admit, “I’m not sure what to say,” or “I don’t have all the answers but I believe it’s really important to talk about it,” is essential.

Although there are no fast, perfect and easy solutions, there is plenty of science to support diving in at a young age. Exactly when to begin talking with children about race was the primary concern and question repeatedly asked by the audience during Briscoe-Smith’s presentation.

By age 2-and-a-half to 3, children display preference for heterogeneous peers. Disturbingly, black children as young as age 4 begin to indicate white preference and attribute positive characteristics to white dolls and negative response to black dolls. Despite desegregation and other markers of social justice and civil rights achievement, Briscoe-Smith said the doll studies originally conducted to establish Supreme Court rulings regarding segregation were replicated in 2014 and had the same results. It all adds up to what author Beverly Daniel Tatum refers to as “The Smog,” a harmful, pervasive environment of racism in America that has real, long-term health consequences for children and adults.

The media doesn’t help. Research shows black fathers are more involved in parenting than other families, but media from Fox News to CNN over-represents black male’s criminality, poverty and lack of family involvement. And although there are roughly 600,000 more black Americans in college than in prison – and since 1970, black Americans with high school degrees have jumped from 31 to 70 percent, according to data presented by Briscoe-Smith – media misinformation continues. Across teachers of all demographics, students who are people of color are disciplined more often than white children, are met with low expectations or are expelled from schools.

People asked if counter-stereotype or empathy training is effective in breaking down systemic and implicit bias. Briscoe-Smith said she and other experts have found the training doesn’t last more than 24 hours because “we’re still in the smokestacks.” Meaning, people live in an environment of implicit racism and therefore quickly revert to established patterns. Defensiveness prevents people from honestly evaluating their own implicit bias. “Saying, ‘I’m sorry I’ve done some harm,’ is different than, ‘I’m sorry you took offense at that.’ It pushes the responsibility onto the other person,” she said.

Of course Briscoe-Smith also offered words of hope. A colleague who conducted training at Berkeley High School had strong early results that faded by the end of the first year. But repeated a second year, the training stuck and

proved with repetition and time, “moving the smog” of racism is possible.

For teachers and administrators, she recommended staff-wide education about implicit bias and one-on-one training for classroom applications. Schools and entire districts that develop strong mission statements and hiring policies that reflect diversity and inclusiveness – and develop programs to support those mandates more often than one month or one day per year – establish for students that every child belongs and is valued.

For parents concerned about framing the conversation, Briscoe-Smith offered ideas and resources: develop a family mission statement; practice and model mindfulness that slows reactivity

and enables intentional, aware-of-difference perspectives, especially when speaking to or about other people and events in the context of race. Resources offered at Embrace Race’s website and others offered at her website (<http://www.drbriscoesmith.com/>

resources/) are good places for parents, teachers and adults who work with children to become educated about these must-have, ongoing conversations.

For more information, visit www.lamorindamoms.org or www.drbriscoesmith.com/home.



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November is

“America Recycles” Month!

Contra Costa Recycles

Recyclable items are generated throughout your home. Pledge to place all empty, clean, and dry recyclable items in your blue bin, and help keep useful materials out of the landfill.



America Recycles Day is Nov. 15

During the month of November, pledge to recycle more, and vote for a local community project to receive a \$1,500 waste reduction project grant!

www.ContraCostaRecycles.com

Submit your pledge and vote November 1–November 30 for the chance to win zero-waste prizes!




Golfing for a good cause

Submitted by Matt Pease



From left: Craig Little, Art Owen, Dean Okamura, and Shawn Epperson Photo provided

Lafayette Rotary concluded its annual Charity Golf Event at the Moraga Country Club. The annual event was supported by 74 golfers, a record for this event, and an additional 20 people joined everyone for a dinner at the club that night. The purpose of the event was to raise money for New Day for Children (<https://www.newdayforchildren.com/>) which helps young girls escape sexual slavery.

Golfers competed for prizes on the course and there was an auction that night that raised more money from items donated by local businesses and Rotarians. Winners of the lowest score prize was won by Craig Little, Art Owen, Dean Okamura, and Shawn Epperson. "This event has

grown every year and it shows how Rotarians and the local community care deeply about helping those that are less fortunate, and we are delighted with the results this year," according to Lafayette Rotarian, Andrew Parrott, the co-chairman of this year's event. "A New Day for Children is grateful for the efforts and generosity of the Lafayette Rotarians and the local community to help relieve the suffering from sexual slavery," according to Sharon Wood, the executive director for A New Day for Children.

Lafayette Rotary meets every Thursday at 12:15 p.m. at Oakwood Athletic Club at 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. More information is available at info@rotarylafayette.org.

Event focuses on many aspects of Congo

Submitted by Bobbie Dodson

Congo Mission Team chair at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, Herb Long, says "It seems most of us did not learn much about Africa in school, an important area on the world stage." Local residents will have an excellent opportunity to learn about one of its countries, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, at Celebrate the Congo from noon to 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 4 in Fellowship Hall at LOPC. The Lafayette event will feature Congolese food, music, dance, cultural talk and a fashion show.

"It will be a joyous occasion," says Long. "However, there will also be an opportunity to learn about conditions in Congo today. The humanitarian conditions in the DRC remain in crisis, but the Congolese people have a vibrant, multi-faceted culture that we want to share with the community."

Mboyo Therese Okitukunda, the featured speaker, was born and raised in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She came to the United States after completing two years at the University of Kinshasa. She earned her teaching credential at Foothill and Modesto community colleges and became an associate teacher at Early Head Start. Her passion for education and learning led her to pursue a degree in nursing in 2014. She is a wife and mother of six children. Topics of discussion include historical background, tribes and languages,

and contributions to world civilization.

A fashion show will be presented by Esther Nkunku, an American-born designer who saw her roots from the DRC. After completing her studies in Congo, Esther returned to America to pursue further studies in fashion design at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. In 2006 she launched her clothing designing business, producing mainly traditional African ladies styles. She also combines the traditional African heritage with western style to make it more contemporary. She is skilled in experimental fabric-manipulation, such as pleating, appliqué, layering and gathering.

Featured dancer Byb Chanel Bibene is a dance educator, researcher choreographer and performer, working in theater and contemporary dance and has performed around the world. He received an MFA in dance creative practice from Saint Mary's College. He founded the Mbongui Square Festival that gathers artists from the Bay Area and across the world. In addition, he is the author of numerous poems and short works.

"At the end," says Long, "all three presenters will be available for a question and answer period. There will also be a short explanation of the work the church supports in Congo." Lunch is \$7 and can be paid at the door or by calling Jim Fulford at (925) 254-5419.

Eagle Scout project updates Lafayette Rim Trail signs

Submitted by Linda Murphy

Residents who hike the Lafayette Reservoir Rim Trail likely have noticed the hard work of Alex Mangoba of Moraga Boy Scout Troop 234. The East Bay Municipal Utility District, which manages the trail, has numerous Backcountry Regulations signs posted along the 4.7-mile hilly, unpaved terrain. But years of weathering had taken a toll on the signs. EBMUD needed new, sturdier signs, and Mangoba stepped up to help as part of his Eagle Scout project.

It was an ambitious project to replace 10 signs, Mangoba collected large amounts of material, hardware, plywood sheets, and heavy poles. Several steps were involved in creating the signs: measuring and cutting the wood and poles to the proper shape and size, affixing the metal signs to the wooden backings, and attaching the signs to the poles. Mangoba weather-proofed all the wood he used to ensure it will withstand many years of exposure.

After constructing the signs over the summer, Mangoba "planted" the signs over two weekends. This phase of the project involved digging holes, mixing cement, and positioning the signs. EMBUD provided a truck to drive him and the signs from site to



Campolindo senior Alex Mangoba (left) is assisted by fellow Boy Scout Andy Babson in installing a new sign along the Lafayette Reservoir Rim Trail. Photo Linda Murphy

site, and Mangoba's father and fellow Scouts helped him set the signs in place. Mangoba never cut corners, and his hard work is evident in the sturdy new signs that now dot the trail.

Mangoba has been a member of Troop 234 since fifth grade. Now a Campolindo senior, he is proud of his hard work in completing his time-consuming and physically demanding Eagle Scout project.

In Memory

Sara (Sally) Chappell

1926-2018



Sara (Sally) Chappell quietly passed away in the early morning hours on Sept. 20. She had been living in a memory care unit for the past 3-1/2 years in the Sacramento area. She was a wife, mother and woman whose "soft and gentle voice" spoke with forceful conviction as her children, Peggy, Betsy and Jay, and their spouses came to know and appreciate.

Sally was born in Berkeley on Dec. 22, 1926, in Alta Bates Hospital where she later served as a long-time volunteer. In addition to Alta Bates, she was very active in UCC, Berkeley YWCA, Town and recreational activities were travel, cabin at Donner Lake and reading, she died.

supporting the Orinda Community Church Gown and local book clubs. Her favorite theater, needlepoint, bridge, crosswords, the which she continued to do up to the day

Sally, and her husband Ed, traveled the world and also took their children and grandchildren on some of these trips. She was a good person, a wonderful friend, a gracious host and a mother, a Granny and GG who will be missed by her children, in-laws, 8 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

In Memory

Stephen James Spleiss



Stephen James Spleiss, of Lafayette, California, passed away on August 25, 2018 following a 28-year battle with cancer.

Stephen and his twin sister, Elise were born in Oakland, California at the old Oak Knoll Naval Hospital on April 7, 1951. Their parents were Arthur and Opal Spleiss, both deceased. Raised in San Francisco, Stephen attended West Portal Lutheran School, Herbert Hoover Jr. High and Lincoln High School, where he was a member of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC).

Growing up, Stephen was always interested in and read all he could about the military in history, even up to his death. He entered military service right out of high school. He was proud of his time in the Navy, particularly serving aboard hospital ship USS Repose (AH-16). And later in the Gulf of Tonkin operations during WESTPAC 1972 aboard the USS Berkeley (DDG-15), in May 1972, "Linebacker". These words Stephen wrote in a poem a week before his death reflect how he lived his life: "I served my country with pride. There is not an expiration date on my service to my country".

Stephen is survived by his son Jason Spleiss (Amanda) and two grandsons of Los Banos, California; his twin sister Elise Spleiss of Roseville, California; sisters Kathleen Allison of Florida and Catherine Pratt (Steve); brothers Cliff Brackett (Barbara) of Elk Grove, Art Spleiss Jr. of San Francisco, and 11 nieces and nephews.

He was last employed since 2005 in local theatre production as a Theater Technician at the Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, California.

In spite of all the odds against him Stephen never let cancer stop him from living. He continued to enjoy a wide range of activities including biking and hiking when he could. When resting, he was a poet, scholar and philosopher, reading books of all kinds and listening to a wide variety of music. He loved a good debate! He liked to cook. He also loved his electronic toys and gadgets, and kept Amazon Prime busy!

Providing him comfort and companionship the last 17 years of his life were his twin cats, Castor and Pollux named after "The Twins", bright stars in the Gemini Constellation. They were born on 9/11/2001. Pollux did precede him death in the last few years, so Castor held down the comfort fort till the end.

Stephen was deeply loved and will be deeply missed.

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

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

NYT's best-selling author speaks at LLLC

By Lou Fancher



From left: Joe di Prisco, Beth Needel, Ben Fountain and Vickie Sciacca.

Photo Lou Fancher

Approaching the two-year mark after the 2016 Presidential election, many people continue to puzzle over what happened, why it happened, and the impact Donald Trump's presidency will have on the future of the United States.

Chief among the curious is New York Times best-selling author, scholar, and former attorney Ben Fountain. Appearing Oct. 17 at Lafayette Library's Distinguished Speaker Series, Fountain presented his new book, "Beautiful Country Burn Again" (Ecco). Approximately 80 people attended the event moderated by Simpson Family Literary Project Chair and author Joe Di Prisco.

"Beautiful Country" chronicles the steps and missteps taken from the 2016 Iowa Caucus to the National Conventions to reverberations in the weeks follow-

ing the election. With over 400 footnotes, the pointed and mostly even-handed indictment of American politics is written with well-researched zeal and the unrelenting inquisitiveness of an investigative journalist. Referencing tumultuous periods in American history, Fountain demonstrates scholarly expertise as a master philosopher, especially in contextualizing contemporary partisanship or socioeconomic and cultural crisis within the nation's similar struggles over slavery during the Civil War; economic suffering during the Great Depression that introduced President Roosevelt's New Deal; and the blurry, drifting class and race messaging of Democratic "neo-liberalism."

Importantly for readers, Fountain writes with the flair of a poet, often with sharp satire worthy of Saturday Night Live or a Monty

Python skit. Consistently, the language displays thoughtful, profound respect for the ideals upon which America was founded – freedom, liberty, inclusiveness, independence, democracy. Despite the country so often failing to attain its lofty manifesto, Fountain is a romantic, unwilling to release the dream.

Fountain's debut novel, "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk," won numerous honors, including the National Book Critics Circle Award in 2012. Born in North Carolina and currently a resident of Texas, he left law in 1988 to become a full-time writer. His work has been published by Harper's, The Paris Review, The Guardian, The New York Times and more. In Spring 2018, he was named one of five finalists for the Simpson Prize.

"He covers the conscience of

America," said di Prisco, introducing Fountain. "On every page, he plays for keeps. The stakes are sky high. Like the great prophets of old, he wants America to wake up already."

Fountain said we live in strange and confusing times. Social media "numbs us out and dumbs us down." Libraries, periodicals and books, he said, are a remedy for mobile devices that make him jittery and are "compulsive machines that don't allow room for contemplation." In politics, by allowing the free market to be the arbiter of justice instead of representative government, he said we're giving up self-determination and agency. Reality may have outpaced even journalists. "Maybe it's the novelist who can really get a grip on all this," he suggested.

But when The Guardian commissioned a series of articles, he hoped that writing as a journalist about the campaign and election as watershed moments in politics might help him understand "why things turned out the way they did." Compiling and expanding the essays into a book, narrative chapters of key political episodes and topics alternate with chorus-like "Book of Days" chapters that spin out dizzying accounts of events within each month leading up to and one-month past the election.

"I certainly don't have all the answers or even most of the answers," he admitted.

But Fountain may have come up with a vital formula for seeking understanding: develop solid questions; point arrows at all players on all sides within the political field; back up every fact, quote and data point with multiple sources. "This book is filled with footnotes," he said. "I want your eye to drop from the text right down to

the bottom of the page so you can see for yourself right away whether or not I'm telling the truth."

The truth is frequently painful. Money rules candidates, regardless of party. And educating people caught in the grip of a rip-roaring, fact-dishonoring media feed that he calls the "fantasy industrial complex," has limitations. Ultimately, he said, "Reality has a way of biting us in the ass. Humans have always had a capacity, a gift, the curse of escapism, distraction, fantasy. Our mainstream culture serves us very poorly. It shows in our politics."

Asked during a Q&A about solutions, Fountain offered majestic and matter-of-fact replies. A return to the fairness doctrine that prevented corporate media companies from monopolizing the information market and establishing social order embedded in the notion of equality came first to mind. "If we stay true to what is the best in our country, maybe the good guys will win," he said. Disappearing into the writing or reading of a big novel, sweating while doing yard work and loving your local library provided everyday, attainable actions.

Anne Grodin of Lafayette left the event with another manageable task: to read Fountain's book. "I come to the lectures to be exposed to new ideas. I appreciate that his book isn't all one point of view – it's a balanced report. I like that, because I need to figure out why part of the country was having such a disparate point of view from the other part. The footnotes mean he's a true journalist. It's not just someone's opinion."

For a schedule of upcoming author lectures at LLLC, visit <https://www.lllc.org/program-category/guest-authors/>.

A walk to honor Jeanette Fritzky



Photo Sophie Braccini

Approximately 200 people gathered at the Moraga Commons Oct. 27 to walk in honor of former Council Member Jeanette Fritzky, raise money for the American Cancer Society, and increase awareness for the disease that claimed her life: lung cancer.

Lung cancer in never-smokers

is now considered the sixth most common cause of cancer deaths in the United States. The percentage of affected individuals is significantly higher in Asian women.

Teresa Onoda, former colleague of Fritzky, gave a warm recollection on the days of the woman she considered her friend. She praised Fritzky's intelli-

gence, analytical skills, warmth, humor and elegance. Elected officials from neighboring cities, the county and state came to honor Fritzky and participate in the 1.5-mile walk on the Lafayette-Moraga trail. The event was sponsored by a large number of local businesses, associations and the town of Moraga. – S. Braccini

LLLC Exhibit features Lafayette artist

Submitted by Juliet Hansen



Artist Helen Ann Licht with two of her paintings.

Photo provided

The Lafayette Public Art Committee welcomes its newest exhibit "Travels with an Artist" by Lafayette resident Helen Ann Licht, who shares her colorful paintings based on her many travels through India and Burma. The exhibit runs through Dec. 31.

A Stanford graduate, Licht has a second bachelor's degree in studio art and art history from UC Berkeley. Licht's colorful works have been shown in galleries and universities in the United States

and Mexico City.

A welcome reception is planned from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13 at the library gallery adjacent to the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall. The library gallery is open to the public on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. and during the many public events at the library. For more information, contact Juliet Hansen at (925) 299-3216. For information about the artist, visit helenannlicht.com.

www.Lamorindaweekly.com

Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:



- Team Laura roots for a Moraga mother fighting for life
- Fire chief dismisses two employees for unauthorized political activity
- Split MOFD board approves three-year labor contract with firefighters union
- Letters to the Editor
- Plant-powered in Lamorinda
- Many speakers but not much controversy as Orinda adopts safe gun storage ordinance
- MOFD Division 1 race features stark differences between candidates
- AUHSD board candidates offer their insights about education
- Two Orindans compete to succeed Brad Barber in MOFD Division 4
- St. Mary's Road roundabout project discussed with public

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

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

ART

Bay Area Studio Artists will present "Herd," an exhibit of paintings in acrylics and oils at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Orinda, during the month of October. Stop by the bookstore during regular hours. BASA is a group of local artists who have been painting and showing their work together since 2010. Their show "Herd" explores the herd instinct, that urge to gather with others of your own kind. It explores herds of many kinds, including some whimsical varieties. For more information on BASA, see the website: <http://www.bayaareastudioartists.com>.

Fall Exhibitions at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art through Dec. 16. "Graphicanos: Contemporary Latino Prints" from the Serie Project and "Stanley Koppel: Artist as Activist." <https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum>

Valley Art Gallery presents its new fall show "Art's Up!" running through Nov. 10. Demonstrating a wide range of motifs, styles, media and prices, and representing the best of the best from more than 100 East Bay artists, "Art's Up!" exhibition is a must-see show for residents of the Diablo Valley! In addition, there are beautifully crafted, ceramic, wood and glass pieces, and original designer jewelry. www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311

In the spirit of the season, the Moraga Art Gallery presents "Holiday Magic in Porcelain and Paint," a colorful new show featuring the works by two of Lamorinda's most celebrated artists: Lafayette's Donna Arganbright and Orinda's Maria

SantaStefano. The show, which includes paintings, jewelry, ceramics, photographs, and many other gifts of art by the gallery's 14 members and guest artists, runs through Jan. 5. The public is invited to a free opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 27. For more information, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

MUSIC

The Sun Kings – two nights, two shows at Town Hall Theatre Company in Lafayette: Friday, Nov. 2, "Very Best of The Beatles;" Saturday, Nov. 3, "The Beatles White Album 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration." Doors open at 7 p.m. and music starts at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$35 advance; \$40 at the door. Tickets and more information at www.townhalltheatre.com.

The UC Alumni Chorus presents "REMEMBER: Music for Día de los Muertos," a concert program that remembers those who have inspired us with their work at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 4 in the Hertz Hall on the UC Berkeley campus. Featured are Mozart's Requiem, in the version completed by Robert Levin, and the premiere of a new commission by Paul Ayres, with text from a sermon by Dr. Martin Luther King. Tickets are \$20 (general); \$15 (senior 62+) and \$10 (student) and are available at the door and online: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3625367>. Visit UCAC's web page: <http://ucac.net/> or find UCAC on Facebook.

The Lamorinda Big Band featuring Terry Miller, Brian Nova, Leslie Darwin O'Brien and Michael Henning debuts at 7 p.m. Wednes-

day, Nov. 7 at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda (above Safeway). Tickets: \$10 at the door. Questions? Visit tmkids.org.

Ensemble Ari Performs at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek. Ensemble Ari is a classical ensemble whose musicians are Korean-American with the mission to bridge Korea and other communities through western instruments while honoring Korean history and culture. At St. Paul's, Ensemble Ari musicians Sharon Lee Kim (piano), Jiwon Evelyn Kwark (violin) and Sarah Hong (cello) will perform Ross Bauer's Aplomb for Violin and Piano, and Maurice Ravel's Sonata for Violin & Cello, Tzigane, and Piano Trio. Free parking is provided, or an easy walk three blocks from Walnut Creek BART. Donation at the door: average \$20, Students \$10 (all are welcome regardless of donation).

Cantare Con Vivo Chamber Ensemble presents Sing We and Chant It at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette. Tickets: General \$22, Student \$10. Website: <https://www.cantareconvivo.org/upcoming-events>

THEATER

Diablo Ballet opens its 2018-19 season with "A Swingin' Holiday and Carnival of the Imagination," Nov. 9-11 at the Del Valle Theatre in Walnut Creek. Single tickets are \$15-\$49. Please visit www.lesherartscenter.org or call (925) 943-SHOW (7469) for tickets. www.diabloballet.org.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Town Hall Theatre is excited to announce their new staged reading series, "In the Wings," which launches with a one-night only reading of "Placebo" – a smart, new off-beat serio-comedy by Melissa James Gibson. "Placebo" will have one performance only at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 12 at Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street, in Lafayette. Tickets are \$10 general admission and free to subscribers, and are available through the Box Office at (925) 283-1557 or online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Trick or Treat with the kids 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 31 at the Rheem Shopping Center in Moraga.

"Halloween Night Live" Halloween skit from 7 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 31 at 12 Lynwood Place, Moraga (Off of Corliss.)

Mindful Littles is partnering with some local chefs for our Cookin' for a Cause program from 3 to 5 p.m. on Nov. 4 at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. For this service project, we are helping Operation Dignity. We will make dinner at a local kitchen in Orinda and then deliver the meal to Operation Dignity so that the residents can enjoy a hot meal. We will provide all supplies needed to cook the meals, so all you have to do is show up with a big heart and be ready to have some fun. Cost: \$25. For more information and to register, please visit us at: https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NDEwMjA=

Lamorinda Moms 21st Annual Preschool Fair from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8 at Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Teachers from over 30 local preschools are ready to talk with you about teaching philosophies, child to teacher ratios, pricing, and more!

OTHER

American Association of University Women (AAUW) members of the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch are hosting a Game Day from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Miramonte Gardens Clubhouse on Thursday, Nov. 1. After enjoying a catered lunch, guests will play Bridge, Bunko or Dominoes. Reservations are \$40 and are available by contacting Laura Moinin at (925) 631-6667.

Fall is the purrfect time to adopt a kitten or cat. Community Concern for Cats invites you to see our beauties at this weekend's adoption event from 1 to 4 p.m., Nov. 3 and 4 at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see www.communityconcernforcats.org.

5 Steps Women Can Take to Ensure Financial Fitness at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 3 in the Delphine Lounge, Saint Mary's College. Over the next decade women will control consumer wealth in the United States, and account for 85 percent of all consumer purchases. Yet fewer than 2 in 10 women feel prepared to make sound financial decisions, and 69 percent of women don't have a 6-month emergency fund. Financial planner Michelle Perry Higgins ('94) will outline the 5 steps that women can take to be financially fit. To RSVP for this free event, please email Courtney Bennett at cab35@stmarys-ca.edu or call (925) 631-4168.

The music of Mexico is featured in this year's All Souls Festival at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 4 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, in Lafayette. With ravishing voice, an array of guitars, and beautiful violin, Cascada de Flores honors and advances Mexico's rich musical traditions, builds multicultural bridges, and celebrates the gift of life. Families will honor loved ones by building a small altar, telling a few good family stories, sharing pan de muerto, and enjoying the amazing art of Carla Winters as she paints children's faces in traditional Dia de los Muertos style. The morning is free but we still pass the plate around. For more details, click on the All Souls Festival banner at www.oslc.net.

The St. Anselm's Cancer Support Group meets at 11:30 a.m. on the first Sunday every month in Jackson Hall on the grounds of St. Anselm's Episcopal Church in Lafayette to provide support to cancer survivors and their loved ones. Although we meet in the church hall, we welcome newcomers from all backgrounds, whether religious or not. Our goal is to provide emotional support to those whose lives have been affected by cancer. If you or someone you care about would like to participate in the meetings, please contact Julie Rinkenberger at Julierinkenberger@gmail.com.

Celebrate Congo—Come for lunch, fashion show, dance performance and speaker, Educator, Mboyo Therese Okikukunda at noon on Nov. 4 in Fellowship Hall of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Celebrate the richness of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and learn about its poverty and need for a stable caring government. Cost: \$7 donation for lunch. To reserve, call Jim Fulford, (925) 254-5419 or pay at the door.


A Veterans Day celebration honoring those who served 100 years ago in WWI will take place from 9 to 10 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 12 at the Veteran's Memorial Rock in the Moraga Commons Park.

... continued on next Page

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

ST. MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH
1001 CAMINO PABLO, 925-376-6900
WWW.STMONICAMORAGA.COM
Mass Times: Daily Mass Monday - Friday 9:00 am
Saturday - Confessions 3:30 - 4:30 pm / Vigil Mass 5:00 PM
Sunday - Masses at 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 am

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Sundays at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
School for TK - 8th grade
Faith Formation for children and adults
3454 Hamlin Road | Lafayette | stperpetua.org
925.283.0272 Parish | 925.284.1640 School

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

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


THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
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66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda
254-3770. www.ststephensorinda.org
Sunday 8am, 10am

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Lafayette United Methodist Church
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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

'Child, Disrupted' returns to the Rheem Theatre for an encore presentation

By Derek Zemrak

MOVIE REVIEW



Photo provided

"Child, Disrupted," the winner of the 2018 Best Short Subject Documentary at the California Independent Film Festival, returns for five encore screenings Nov. 3 (3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.) and Nov. 4 (5 p.m. and 7 p.m.). Filmmaker Krista Riihimaki will be in attendance and will conduct a question and answer sessions after each screening.

The 25-minute documentary explores the dangers of tablet usage among children. We've all seen it – children in restaurants staring at tablets, phones or other electronic devices for the entire meal, or parents handing their phone to a crying toddler in their stroller. It can be easy to judge the adults who make these choices, but are they really as bad as some say they are?

Riihimaki, a Montessori teacher and filmmaker, observed her students at increasingly younger ages spending large amounts of time tied to digital devices. She couldn't help but wonder whether there were any effects on their cognitive and physical development. Riihimaki would advise the parents of her students to limit device use, citing APA guidelines and Common-Sense Media, but she wanted to know just how much is technology overuse affecting children today?

In "Child, Disrupted," Riihimaki interviewed experts from the fields of neurological development, psychology, occupational therapy, sociology, and addiction, to reveal the truth behind her worries about screen time and child development. The film elucidates how time spent using technology specifically impacts children's behaviors and offers insight into how guardians can curb its influence while equipping children to develop healthy relationships with technology.

During the August film festival, "Child, Disrupted" sold out the middle upstairs theatre at the Rheem and it was moved to the main auditorium. It received rave reviews from the 250 attendees. Don't miss this second opportunity to see and discuss the film with the filmmaker

this weekend. Tickets for the movie and Q&A are \$12. Tickets are available online at www.lamorindatheatres.com and at the Rheem Theatre box office. It is recommended that you get your tickets in advance. The screenings and Q&As will be hosted by Moraga resident Bill Brobeck.

The following movies are starting this Friday at Lamorinda Theatres: "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms" (PG) (Rheem) "Bohemian Rhapsody" (PG-13) (Orinda) "The Guilty" (R) (Orinda)

Upcoming events:

Rheem Theatre

Nov. 3 – 4 – "Child, Disrupted" screening and Q&A with filmmaker (CAIFF Best Short Subject Documentary Winner) 3, 5 and 7 p.m. on Nov 3; 5 and 7 p.m. Nov. 4

Nov. 9 – 16 – "The Guilty" (International Film Showcase)

Nov. 17 – Magic Show with Timothy James (6 and 8 p.m.)

Nov. 23 – 30 - "Frank & Ava" (indie film about Frank Sinatra and Ava Gardner) Northern California Premiere Engagement

Dec. 1 – Psychotronic Film Festival

Dec. 8 – 9 – Three's Company Christmas Parody Play

Dec. 14 – 21 – "The Gold Seekers" (International Film Showcase)

Orinda Theatre

Nov. 8 Live at the Orinda Concert Series with Multi Grammy nominee, Maureen McGovern- 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 8 Free Movie Night – "Deliverance" 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 13 Free Movie Night – "A Christmas Story" 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 16 Live at the Orinda Concert Series with two-time Tony Award nominee, Karen Mason – 7 p.m.

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Service Clubs Announcements

Lafayette Rotary Club

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

November 1: Dick Holt will recognize the donors of The Concert at the Res!
November 8: Amy Stice Founder of Arrive Ride Service (Transportation service for Seniors)

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

Breakfast, Friday 7:00 - 8:15 a.m.
The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA
www.lamorindasunrise.com
or email lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

NOVEMBER MEETINGS
2: Rotary member Steve Ware hosts an Alumni Reunion
9: Rotary District 5160 Governor Jon Dwyer's annual visit.
16: LMSR Pres. Chris Laszcz-Davis, Moraga Rotary Pres. Ron Mucovich and Past Pres. Dianne Wilson
30: Club member exposé

Happy Thanksgiving

Not to be missed

OTHER ... continued

40th Annual Community Thanksgiving Breakfast will be held 7 to 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 16 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church located at 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. Everyone is invited to come together to share in a breakfast. Donna Wright Sommerville, co-founder of Grateful Gatherings will be the keynote speaker. Tickets are \$25 per person and are available online at LafayetteChamber.org. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Saint Mary's College Guild's Thanksgiving luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 15 in the Soda Center on the Saint Mary's College campus. All are invited to attend. A traditional Thanksgiving meal with turkey, stuffing and all the trimmings will be available. Our speaker will be Dr. Mary Volmer, SMC faculty member and author of two books. Reservations should be sent to Carmen Hughes, 26 Inverleith Terrace, Moraga, CA 94556. Tickets are \$35. Questions may be directed to her at (925) 376-7365. All proceeds benefit Students seeking financial aid scholarships.

"The Old Yellow House" 100-year celebration of sustainable technology tours from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 17. Join us in celebrating Charles Nelson family's 1918 sustainable living features preserved throughout the land of The Old Yellow House 1890, which has now been married with Biomimicry, a Geo/Solar systems integrated by

James Phillip Wright Architect's transformation. There will be no parking and shuttle service can be taken from nearby Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Women of Spirit is a monthly gathering of inclusive, curious women seeking connection, shared learning and growth with other women of diverse faith traditions. First 1/2 hour is social time, followed by a gathering to include a warm welcome, inspiring speakers, discussion at table groups, and warm group closing. The next meeting is from 7 to 9 p.m. on Nov. 27 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 3776 Via Granada, Moraga. We are not affiliated with any religious institution, and are open to all. For more information, visit https://www.facebook.com/womenofspiritlamorinda/

For the 21st year, Bobbie and Tom Preston will be holding the Cycle Recycle, collecting repairable bikes to be refurbished and given to charitable groups to distribute at Christmas. This year the recipient organizations include Oakland International High School's Earn-A-Bike program, Marsh Creek Detention Center, and Trips for Kids in Marin. New and/or used bikes and trikes— in working order or repairable, or useable bike parts may be delivered to the side driveway of the Preston's home at 1307 Larch Avenue in Moraga, throughout the month of November only. No skateboards or plastic bikes please; no need to call beforehand, but for more information contact Bobbie or Tom Preston at (925) 376-8474.

Not to be missed

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated's meeting will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 15 at the Orinda Country Club. Please join us to hear Allison Johnson discussing water conservation and the importance of Central Valley Farmers. Ms Johnson is the Co-President of the Saint Mary's College Republican Club. Cost: luncheon and speaker \$36; speaker only \$15; speaker only student discount price \$5. Reservations needed; please contact Elsie Euing at ejeuing@comcast.net or (925) 254-8614. For more information http://www.lamorindarepublicanwomen.org/

GARDEN

Walnut Creek Garden Club meeting beginning at 9:45 a.m. on Nov. 12 at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek. Program: Designer Barbara Gordon Holiday Designs. Barbara is a National Garden Clubs Master Flower Show Judge and a gardener. She will inspire us with creative and unique designs for decorating our homes during the holidays. 9:45 a.m. Business Meeting, 10:30 a.m. Social, 11 a.m. Program.

The Moraga Garden Club will hold their next meeting at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 15, at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The guest speaker will be Jenny Papka, who will discuss "Live Birds, Taxidermy, Artifacts and Fun." Interested parties are welcome to at-

tend the 9:30 a.m. social hour, the 10 a.m. meeting and the presentation by Jenny Papka, immediately following the meeting.

The Montelindo Garden Club's November meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 16 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's

Community Hall. Presentation: Saving the Monarch Butterfly. Victoria "Tora" Roche, the former Park Supervisor for the City of Oakland until her retirement, is a champion of Monarch butterflies. She will speak about the alarming decline in their population and resulting local efforts to foster the development of Monarch caterpillars and to create habitat for Monarchs.

Lamorinda Weekly

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Give thanks for Brussels sprouts!

By Susie Iventosch



Photo Susie Iventosch

Here is a great veggie dish to serve alongside your Thanksgiving turkey this year. I used to really, really dislike Brussels sprouts. I don't think my mom ever made us eat them, but if she had, I'm pretty sure they would have been stuffed in my pockets before getting anywhere close to my fork. The idea of boiled, soggy heads of baby cabbage just seemed gross. In fact a few years ago, when my friend said she was going to make Brussels sprouts for one of our weekend get-away dinners, I said, "That's fine, but I will never eat them." Only, I did end up tasting them and absolutely loved them! She roasted them with a little bit of olive oil and salt and they were crunchy, perfectly browned and amazing. A few months later, another friend served them sautéed in olive oil and

then added to a salad of butter lettuce with heart of palm, pancetta, blue cheese and vinaigrette dressing. They were delightful done both ways. Nowadays, whenever I venture to New York City to visit my daughter, I always stop by the City Kitchen to pick up an order of roasted Brussels sprouts, served with red grapes, fig jam, sherry vinegar, walnuts and mint yogurt. This sounds like a very odd combination, but it's incredible!

Now that I'm a huge fan of Brussels sprouts, I don't want you to miss out on these crunchy little cruciferae. Here is a fun way to serve them as a side dish or even as a great vegetarian dish, if you omit the sausage. I love toasted walnuts with them, but pecans or pistachios would also be great.

Cheesy, nutty Brussels sprouts

(Serves 4-6 as a side dish)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ pounds Brussels sprouts, cleaned and halved (can quarter large sprouts)
- 2 large shallots, chopped
- 3-4 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 large chicken apple sausages (precooked), cut into small pieces
- ½ cup grated sharp white cheddar (can use Pecorino Romano or Parmesan, if you prefer)
- ¾ cup walnut halves, toasted
- Salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

Clean Brussels sprouts and cut in half, or quarter if really large. Place in a cast iron skillet and pour about ½ cup water in the bottom of the pan. Cover and heat over medium-high heat for about 3 minutes, to slightly blanch the sprouts. Do not over cook. They should still be al dente. The water will mostly be evaporated. Immediately transfer sprouts from skillet to a bowl and toss with 1-2 tablespoons olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside.

Meanwhile, using the same skillet, heat 2 tablespoons olive oil and sauté shallots just until translucent. Remove shallots from skillet. Increase heat to high and when pan is very hot, add Brussels sprouts, shallots and chicken apple sausage all back to the skillet. Cook for approximately 4 to 5 minutes, turning often with a spatula, until sprouts and shallots are nicely browned. The key is to have the pan really hot before sizzling the sprouts, so they'll brown nicely but not get over-cooked. Remove from heat and add cheese and walnuts. Toss to mix. Serve hot.

Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com.

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



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

Fears and anxieties in pets

Part 1 - Challenges during the vet visit

By Mona Miller, DVM

There are many reasons why pets feel anxiety and exhibit fear, just as there are many reasons in humans. Some of these include individual chemical makeup or temperament; others are based on previous traumatic experiences. Some phobias are very specific – such as loud sounds like thunder or gunshots, meeting strangers, being separated from a primary owner, or car rides. Other animals have a general level of anxiety and are fearful in many different types of situations.

Understanding the causes and triggers of a pet's anxiety is very helpful in being able to manage the resultant fear response. A thorough discussion is often warranted. I regard fear/anxiety as a medical/behavioral issue that should be diagnosed, so that management and treatment options can be provided. It is difficult to address fear/anxiety completely when also addressing other medical issues, including preventive care. My ideal is to schedule a separate appointment to discuss this thoroughly.

Fearfulness at the veterinary hospital provides a challenge to the vet team to achieve the goal of the visit without allowing escalation of fear to aggression. Pets have more attuned senses than humans, and the sights, sounds and smells associated with a vet hospital can be overwhelming, even for a temperamentally balanced pet. For a fearful pet, all these combined with the physically close contact necessary for a vet to perform

an exam or administer an injection may escalate into a feeling of being cornered. And for most individuals, if feeling threatened enough, a self-defense aggression response will kick in. Fearfulness can escalate to fear aggression. This is the second part of the nervous system's "flight or fight" response to stress.

Thus, one common consequence of working with a stressed pet is the inability to restrain the animal in a safe and comforting manner. When a dog is snarling or growling, or a cat is hissing with his ears flat to his head, veterinary personnel are taking a risk when they attempt to vaccinate or draw a blood sample – the risk of a bite. Animal bite wounds can be very dangerous, including potentially fatal issues such as rabies infection, and serious bacterial infections. Additionally, the well-intentioned veterinary professional has to question whether accomplishing the procedural goal (vaccine, blood draw, etc.) is worth the stress to the animal – and often, it certainly is not.

So what is the vet left to do, when he or she cannot accomplish the medical goal of the exam? In these situations, I usually offer my clients a few options – and almost all involve chemical sedation. Sometimes I can give an injectable sedative (or even general anesthesia) and accomplish the goal in the same day. This option is often subject to scheduling logistics. For instance, I would not offer sedation toward the end of a work

day, so that I don't send home a sedated pet to recover fully at home, when the vet hospital is closed. So that leaves rescheduling for another day – either to give that same injectable sedative or have the client give an oral form at home a couple hours prior to the appointment.

Muzzles are routinely used, for both dogs and cats, in order to decrease the physical possibility of a bite. If a veterinarian recommends using a muzzle to perform an exam or inject a vaccine, it doesn't mean that your pet is a bad animal. It means that there's a safety issue, usually because your pet is afraid and will bite if his fear level is pushed to feeling the need to defend himself. In some animals, they get a sense of calm when a muzzle is placed, and they are more cooperative with procedures.

I routinely recommend using Thundershirt vests for dogs, and they can be used for cats too. These are designed to hug tightly like a pressure wrap, much like swaddling a baby or giving a snug hug to someone. The name refers to thundershower sound phobia, but the vest is effective for any anxiety, in my opinion. These are readily affordable and available through pet stores or online merchants. I recommend giving these a minimum of 6 to 10 times before deciding that it's not working. It's best to put the vest on your pet about 30 to 60 minutes prior to the known stress trigger. For mildly fearful pets, a Thundershirt alone will make a difference

in taking the fear out of a vet visit. For moderately or significantly fearful pets, Thundershirts definitely help (and cannot hurt) and can be used with anti-anxiety or sedative medications. Thundershirts can be used in any "situational anxiety," such as car rides, vet visits, loud sounds, meeting new people or dogs. More information can be found at <https://www.thundershirt.com>.

In the next couple articles, I will address the value of social visits to desensitize a dog to the vet hospital; as well as methods that can be used to help calm cats during a vet visit; and I will address medications – anti-anxiety versus sedatives. Stay tuned!



Dr. Mona Miller lives in Lafayette with her son, two cats and yellow Labrador. She attended UC Berkeley as an undergraduate, and received her DVM from UC Davis. She has been happy to call Lafayette home since 2001. She can be reached via email at MonaSDVM@aol.com. She welcomes questions from readers that may get incorporated into a column.

'The Guilty' – a unique thriller in Orinda and Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Poster provided

"The Guilty" is a movie like very few others. Think Aristotelian drama: one place, one time, one action. Think redemption; think inner challenge and minimalist thriller. This is a piece of art from a form perspective, and a very successful suspense story that builds on a nerve racking increasing tempo until the denouement and catharsis for the hero.

Director Gustav Möller takes spectators on a riveting adventure while the camera

does not leave the confines of a dusty dark office. Alarm dispatcher and demoted police officer Asger Holm, played by Jakob Cedergren, answers emergency calls from the Danish equivalent of our 911. When the movie opens, we don't know why he was sent there, but his frustration is palpable. It is his last day on the job, the last hours of what seems to have been a punishment, when he gets a phone call from a terrified woman, Iben, who seems to have been kidnapped.

When the call is suddenly disconnected, the search for the woman and her kidnapper begins. Holm has nothing but a phone and a computer but he is determined to rescue her. The policeman oversteps the boundaries of his role, calling on former partners, trying to save the victim and prove to himself and the world that he is still capable of making a difference.

But Holm is outside of the situation; he makes assumptions that lead to decisions that can become catastrophic.

The action takes just as long as the movie itself, and during that hour and a half, the audience empathise is pulled further inside the story. The real tour de force of Möller, the director, is that by the end of the movie the audience has the feeling of having "seen" the whole thing, and lived through the drama. The different characters are more precisely outlined and developed than in other movies that show much more. Möller draws on the imagination of the spectator. Like when a great book gives the feeling that you are part of the story, this film draws you in.

Cedergren's performance, of course, is spectacular. He is on camera from start to finish, often in closeups, and it is his emotions that captures the audience. The voice talents

had to be just remarkable, considering that is the only thing connecting the audience to this character. Jessica Dinnage stands out as Iben, channeling the wide range of emotions of her character through her voice.

The single location of the movie never feels cheap, instead it increases the anxious tension created by the fact that the hero is bound to this place while a drama is unfolding outside of his grasp. The fact that it happens in real time also intensifies the thrilling effect.

There is no respite in the film, no pleasant moment to relax in between tense scenes; the action is intense from start to finish, leaving the spectator breathless.

"The Guilty" is part of the International Film Showcase that for more than eight years has brought top international movies, including many Oscar selected films, to Orinda once a month. Now Lamorinda in twice blessed since after the first week in Orinda, the foreign films selected by Efi Lubliner and Joe Canterbury will play for a second week in Moraga. This Denmark submission to the 2018 Oscars will open Nov. 2 at the Orinda Theatre and Nov. 9 at the Rheem Theatre in Moraga. For more information, visit internationalshowcase.org and lamorindatheatres.com.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

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Saint Mary's men's basketball preview

By Jon Kingdon



Photo Tod Fierner

Leading the team to its first 30-win season last year, head coach Randy Bennett is not in a position where he can rest on his laurels. Having lost three all-conference players to graduation – Jock Lansdale, Emmett Naar and Calvin Hermanson – Bennett has to find a way to replace the triumvirate that scored 54 percent of the team's points, collected 47 percent of the team's rebounds and provided 71 percent of the team's assists last season.

Bennett's first goal has been to establish his top eight players. This has not been easy, not because of a lack of talent but rather because of the team's depth, says Bennett: "Our practices have been very even and it has been hard to distinguish which is the best group so far. I like our team. We are more athletic and have better depth this year. Our young guys are not the typical freshmen lacking any experience. They are strong and most have played internationally at a good level."

Though the team returns only two starters from last year, guards Jordan Ford and Tanner Krebs, Bennett is not relying on any one player to fill the vacuum: "We have to replace those players as a group. The entire team has to keep working and developing. A big part of this is that I have to establish our rotation and get them on a roll. It's been hard to do because so many of the players are even and the key is to see who makes the move. They're all pretty good. We have a lot of good options and you can see it in our competitive practices. They have to keep working and developing. That's my message to the team."

With Ford moving to point guard, Bennett does not anticipate any drop off in his scoring, pointing out how "Ford had 45 the other day in a scrimmage against Stanford. He can be our best scorer since Mickey McConnell (2007-2011)." Krebs is also being counted on to improve on his 7.7 average from last season.

The backup guards are young but bring good size and toughness. Kristers Zoriks, a 6'5" redshirt freshman from Latvia, who missed last season due to a knee injury, is a potential starter. Quinn Clinton, a 6'3" freshman from New Zealand, has shown great range in his shooting and 6'5" Alex Mudronja from Australia has impressed Bennett as the "pleasant surprise of the group."

The front court is somewhat wide open as there is not a player that had at least one start last year.

Though on the surface the forwards look to be an inexperienced group, this is somewhat deceiving. Junior Kyle Clark, who only played three games due to an injury and was forced to take a redshirt season, will bring much needed experience to this group. Though redshirting last season as well, Malik Fitts had started as a freshman at the University of South Florida. Junior Dan Sheets and sophomore Elijah Thomas are players that have the opportunity to step up and produce this year. Freshman Dan Fotu, from New Zealand, has impressed early due to how competitive he is on the court.

The center position has four players competing for the starting position and playing time: 6'10" Senior Jordan Hunter played the most last season, appearing in all 32 games, averaging 2.9 points a game and had 18 blocks which was second on the team; 7'1" sophomore Jock Perry appeared in 21 games, averaging 2 points per game; 7'3" redshirt senior Aaron Menzies transferred in from the University of Seattle after averaging 11.3 points a game last season; and 6'10" Freshman Matthias Tass may also see playing time, arriving with a lot of international experience while playing in Australia. Bennett is still sorting out this group: "The center position is wide open though Hunter may have a step up on the others but all four can play and help this season."

Still, with all of the changes, Saint Mary's will continue to use the scheme that has been so successful, according to Ford: "We still have the same system. We are going to take good shots and defend well."

Though the system remains the same, Bennett will adjust to the players: "Our offense is the same but we will tweak it as to who we want to take the shots. We were heavy to Landale last year. We will continue to use the pick and roll like we did with Naar, but we will be better getting to the rim as we have a lot of guys that can break down the defense and finish."

Bennett is also looking to address some defensive shortfalls from last year: "We have to do better with our defensive numbers. Our defensive field goal percentage is not where it needs to be. I want to see more pressure on the ball and to get into the passing lanes more than we did. We are a quicker team this year and I want to see us get more in transition."

This past August, the team went to New Zealand and Australia

for 12 days, playing eight games against all levels of competition, winning six of the games. The team was also allowed 10 practices prior to departing on the trip.

Bennett saw many benefits to the trip: "It was an opportunity to facilitate the bonding process for the team and enabled us to get in more teaching and coaching. Besides that, it was very educational for the players to be exposed to a different environment and culture." As for the food, Bennett said, "I loved the meat pies but drew the line at the vegemite."

The players from New Zealand and Australia very much appreciated the opportunity to get an extra visit home and provided Bennett with another opportunity to further expose the Saint Mary's basketball program in these countries. Says Bennett: "We saw a lot of talent, particularly with the big men. The players and the public are very familiar with the Saint Mary's program because we have had so many players from Australia and New Zealand."

Besides visiting families and spending time at the beach, the trip was also a way for Bennett to see how well the team would handle adversity: "We put our players in some tough situations. We played against a lot of tough and physical

teams, such as the Sydney Kings whose center is former NBA star, Andrew Bogut. We took a number of flights and rode a lot of buses. It was like a minor league baseball schedule, taking our players out of a comfort zone."

McKeon Pavilion has undergone a bit of a facelift with a new 48-foot-wide video board and sound system, changes Bennett appreciates: "The way the gym is set up will be attractive to our students

and the community for better game day experience. It will increase the home court advantage and will keep the fans' energy up."

Saint Mary's will open their season at home Nov. 7 against McNeese State. Besides facing several teams that played in the post-season last year, on Dec. 1, the University of California will be playing at McKeon for the first time in 30 years.

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Saint Mary's women's basketball preview

By Jon Kingdon



Photo Tod Fierner

With eight seniors and juniors and eight freshmen and sophomores, the Saint Mary's women's basketball team is both experienced and youthful. Entering his 13th year at Saint Mary's and coming off a 20-11 season, head coach Paul Thomas is approaching this season with great optimism: "The team has done a really good job of coming together. They have a strong bond off the court and they are doing a very good job of applying it on the court."

Despite losing their leading scorer to graduation, Stella Beck, who now is playing professionally in Aus-

tralia, the Gaels are returning seven of their next leading scorers from last season. With so many returning players, Thomas' initial goal is to bring the group together: "On the court there is only one ball and they have to share it. That is what practice is about. The job of our players is to make their teammates look the best."

Senior forwards Megan McKay (First team All-Conference) and Sydney Raggio (Second team All-Conference) were the second and third leading scorers and two leading rebounders from last year's team and have become the leaders on the team, says Thomas: "Megan

and Syd have taken over that role. They are both very vocal."

Redshirt senior guard Carly Turner, who missed last season due to a knee injury, is back for her redshirt senior season and is in the school's MBA program. Turner averaged 10.1 points and five rebounds as a junior and was Honorable Mention All-Conference her junior year.

Junior Jasmine Forcadilla, who averaged 7.1 points last season and led the team in assists, is going to be the leader on the floor as the team's point guard. Forwards Madeline Holland and Tyra Moe, center Claire Ferguson and guard

Emily Coddling have all stepped up their game, says Thomas.

Along with the many returning players, Thomas is excited about his three freshmen recruits who he will be counting on to contribute this year: "I love the mix and the makeup of our team. We are going to incorporate the three freshmen on the floor. It is a great way for them to learn and get the game experience and not bear the load of making the majority of the plays."

One of Thomas' goal this season is to "simply make and take more 3 pointers this year." Freshman guard Taycee Wedin, from Milwaukie, Oregon, is being counted on to fulfill that role for the Gaels. Wedin brings an impressive pedigree, having been named second team all-state as a freshman and sophomore and all-state as a junior and senior. Just as impressive, Wedin never lost a regular season game in her high school career and is the all-time leading 3-point maker (359) in Oregon history.

The other two freshman recruits are guards Milly Yates and Sam Simons, both from Australia. Yates was a five-time selection for the New South Wales Metro State team and also won a gold medal in

the Australia Schools Championship, averaging 16 points and six rebounds per game.

Simons brings both size and a good shot to her game, says Thomas: "She is a very good shooter, but more of a scorer. At 6'2", Sam can score both inside and outside, scoring on all three levels." Simons has had a great deal of international experience having competed in Spain, Italy, New Zealand and Fiji.

Thomas likes his options on offense: "Megan is very strong inside and Sydney is very versatile in that along with her strength, she can handle the ball and shoot the ball as well. We are going to enjoy multiple lineups on the floor. We will be more creative with our lineups."

With 19 turnovers a game last season, this is one area Thomas really is looking for improvement: "We have to reduce the number of turnovers and live ball turnovers."

The Gaels have a very competitive non-league schedule, playing games against Pac 12 schools, California, Oregon, Oregon State and Washington State. Says Thomas: "We value the competition."

Saint Mary's opens the season at home against the University of Wyoming on Friday, Nov 9.

Campolindo tops Miramonte in rivalry game, 30-14

By Jon Kingdon



Ryan O'Neil's touchdown run from 12 yards out.

Last Friday, Campolindo played Miramonte in their last regular season game that brought a lot of factors into play. Said Campolindo head coach Kevin Macy: "This game has all the elements. It's a rivalry game. We have the same record coming in and there is also the issue of where we both will get seeded for the playoffs."

In a hard-fought game, Campolindo (8-2) simply outplayed Mi-

ramonte (7-3) in every area coming out on top 30-14.

The Cougars utilized a very balanced offense, gaining 413 yards, passing for 226 yards and running for 187 yards.

Campolindo took the opening kickoff and marched down the field to go ahead 7-0. The drive was highlighted by a 42-yard pass from Grant Harper to Max Schoenberger down to the Miramonte 17-yard line. Af-



Photo Gint Federas

ter running back Ryan O'Neil converted on 4th and 2, he finished the drive, scoring from five yards out.

Macy's game plan was to contain Miramonte quarterback Matt Meredith, acknowledging how much respect he had for their passing game. Campolindo kept Meredith under a lot of pressure all game, led by defensive lineman Mason Mastrov (two sacks). Still Meredith was able to utilize both

his arm and his legs to some success. In the second quarter, Meredith ran 47 yards down to the Campolindo 10 yard line and two plays later scrambled around until he found receiver Tanner Swahlin open in the end zone from four yards out, tying the score 7-7. Meredith would finish the game with 169 yards passing and running for 57 yards on 13 carries.

Macy's plan for the offense

was to establish their running game: "We wanted to run the ball and be more physical than them." Harper's scrambling and running back Kaleo Nelson's running led to O'Neil's second touchdown from 12 yards out. Nelson finished the game with 115 yards on 23 carries and one touchdown and O'Neal gained 48 yards on 10 carries, scoring twice.

Following an interception by linebacker Charlie Craig late in the second quarter, Riley Bruel closed out the scoring in the first half with an 18-yard field goal to put Campolindo ahead 17-7

The second half was a repeat of the first half highlighted by Grant's 48-yard pass to Lucas Allen leading to Nelson's touchdown run and finally a 68-yard touchdown pass to Schoenberger to make the score 30-7.

After a 40-yard pass to Reed Callister, Miramonte closed out the scoring when Meredith threw another touchdown pass to Swahlin from 23 yards out.

... continued on next Page

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First place for basketball girls team

Submitted by Marci Greenfield



Back row, from left: Isabella Polson Flanagin, Alina Tzortzis, Erin Lerch; front row: Stella Hamilton, Emily Brockmeier, Ella Greenfield; not pictured: Noele Rios, Savannah Dreisbach, coaches Zach Flanagin and Josh Greenfield. Photo provided

Congratulations to the CYO St Perpetua fourth-grade girls National basketball team on their first place win in a preseason tournament on Oct. 20.

Basketball champs

Submitted by Marty Woehrle



Back row, from left: coach Greg Woehrle, Zubin Krishnan, Anish Kapur, Reis Hartvickson, Charlie Anzenberger, Blake Frechman, Owen Westen, coach Brian Frechman; front row: Nick Zagorov, Brady Salvias and Cash Woehrle. Photo provided

The St Perpetua Third Grade Boys American basketball team won the third American/fourth National Bracket of the Preseason MVP Tournament beating CTK 3A, SJV 4N and the SP 4N team in the championship game. It was a great overall team effort and start to the season!

Football rivalry game ... continued from Page C2

Harper said how well the team was prepared for the game: "We expected them to blitz a lot which led to a lot of hot reads. We wanted to establish our running game to open up our passing game. Our offensive line was great, giving me good pass protection and opening up big holes for Nelson and O'Neil to run." Harper completed 14 of 19 passes for 226 yards with Schoenberger catching five of the passes for 148 yards and Lucas Allen finishing with four receptions for 54 yards. After the victory, Macy praised the team for how they all pulled together. Charlie Craig, who had a second interception in the second half, then called his mother up and had the team serenade her with a chorus of happy birthday to put the icing on the proverbial cake as both Campolindo and Miramonte now head into the playoffs. On Friday, Nov. 2, Campolindo hosts Redwood and Miramonte plays at Alameda High School.

Lamorinda students row at Head of the Charles Regatta

Submitted by Oakland Strokes



Racing for the win Photo Amber Gates

Oakland Strokes men's youth 8+ boat finished fifth out of 85 entries at the Head of the Charles Regatta held in Boston on the Charles River Oct. 20-21. The Strokes finished well ahead of their Californian rivals from Marin, Norcal (Redwood City), and Los Gatos. For high school rowers, there is nothing quite like racing at the Head of the Charles Regatta.

For this year's squad, coach de Regt pulled from his 2018 National Championship crews, including from the Gold Medalist Lightweight Eight and Silver Medalist Varsity Eight.

The Men's Youth 8+ boat was comprised of Ryan Tripp (Piedmont HS), Adrian Layer (Piedmont HS), John Mark Ozaeta (Miramonte HS), Matthew Boranian (Head-Royce), Richard Reid St (Joseph Notre Dame Alameda), Andrew Simpson (Berkeley HS), Andrew Stoddard (Piedmont HS), Carter Young (San Ramon Valley HS), and coxswain Audrey Gates (Miramonte HS).

Lamorinda Water Polo's 14U Girls Team Wins Silver at Statewide Competition

Submitted by Chris McCracken



Front row from left: Sofia Holman, Dania Innis, Tali Stryker and Lauren Greenfield; back row from left: LAMO Head Coach (and former Olympic Women's Head Coach 2000-2008) Guy Baker, Meghan McAninch, Lauren Hett, Ana Pieper, Lucy Berkman, Allie Lurie, Petra Cherry, Peyton Gray and Zoe Petty. Photo by Rola Innis

Lamorinda Water Polo Club's 14U Girls Blue Team took home the Silver Medal in the (highest) Platinum Division at the 2018 Evan Cousineau Memorial Cup Tournament. The statewide tournament was held in Orange County on Oct. 13-14. The 14U Team will next travel to Indiana University where it will be the Pacific Zone's top seeded team in the Champion's Cup, a 3-day national championship event hosted by USA Water Polo (Nov. 2-4).



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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 18 Wednesday, October 31, 2018



November Gardening Guide with Cynthia Brian. ...read on Page D12

Button up your home for fall

By Cathy Dausman



Photo Cathy Dausman

As the enticing tang of fall hits the air, leaves change color and temperatures drop. Even in Lamorinda, where winter temperatures rarely remain below freezing, residents reach for sweaters and scarves. When you button up outside, it's time to button up your home as well.

While we may be saying goodbye to pool time, don't forget about pool care. Cris Pacheco of Pacheco Landscape and Pool Construction says true pool winterizing is done only in areas where the climate changes drastically and temperatures remain below 56 degrees.

That said, he strongly recommends continuous chemical testing (at least every other week) plus surface brushing and filtration work. Homeowners using an older single speed pump can reduce their filter pump run time during winter to about four hours per day, he says, but newer variable speed pumps need to run longer "in order to turn over the water properly through the filters" and to keep the pool water clear. ... continued on Page D4

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	9	\$740,000	\$4,970,000
MORAGA	10	\$500,000	\$1,575,000
ORINDA	12	\$965,000	\$3,225,000

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

- 1026 Hampton Road, \$1,401,000, 3 Bdrms, 1884 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 9-28-18;
Previous Sale: \$910,000, 10-25-13
- 3177 Lucas Drive, \$1,320,000, 3 Bdrms, 1574 SqFt, 1961 YrBl, 9-18-18;
Previous Sale: \$670,000, 06-14-11
- 845 McEllen Way, \$740,000, 4 Bdrms, 2100 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 9-18-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,480,000, 08-24-18
- 613 Murray Lane, \$2,295,000, 5 Bdrms, 3342 SqFt, 1990 YrBl, 9-21-18;
Previous Sale: \$735,000, 06-29-90
- 3410 Silver Springs Court, \$2,700,000, 6 Bdrms, 4208 SqFt, 1983 YrBl, 9-19-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,160,000, 05-24-99
- 3958 South Peardale Drive, \$4,970,000, 4 Bdrms, 5270 SqFt, 1947 YrBl, 9-21-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 09-20-12
- 1649 Springbrook Road, \$776,000, 3 Bdrms, 1299 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 9-27-18
- 839 Topper Lane, \$1,744,000, 3 Bdrms, 2131 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 9-19-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 12-15-06
- 1217 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,457,000, 3 Bdrms, 2385 SqFt, 1967
YrBl, 9-20-18

MORAGA

- 1166 Alta Mesa Drive, \$1,127,000, 3 Bdrms, 1954 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 9-21-18;
Previous Sale: \$765,000, 11-30-04
- 591 Augusta Drive, \$1,575,000, 4 Bdrms, 2945 SqFt, 1984 YrBl, 9-19-18;
Previous Sale: \$316,000, 01-11-17
- 1445 Camino Peral, \$685,000, 3 Bdrms, 1584 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 9-28-18
- 475 Chalda Way, \$654,000, 2 Bdrms, 1170 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 9-19-18;
Previous Sale: \$342,000, 12-10-10
- 1019 Del Rio Way, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 1821 SqFt, 1967 YrBl, 9-18-18
- 139 Donald Drive, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1822 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 9-26-18
- 491 Fernwood Drive, \$1,287,000, 4 Bdrms, 2184 SqFt, 1972 YrBl, 9-21-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,043,000, 04-24-18
- 651 Moraga Road #10, \$500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1418 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 9-21-18;
Previous Sale: \$180,000, 10-21-98
- 128 Walford Drive, \$1,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 2461 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 9-18-18;
Previous Sale: \$275,000, 09-28-01
- 105 Westchester Street, \$1,068,000, 3 Bdrms, 2222 SqFt, 1979 YrBl, 9-26-18;
Previous Sale: \$810,000, 05-24-05

ORINDA

- 4 Berrybrook Hollow, \$2,440,000, 4 Bdrms, 4211 SqFt, 1995 YrBl, 9-20-18;
Previous Sale: \$54,500, 12-01-95
- 3 Dos Encinas, \$1,215,000, 5 Bdrms, 2250 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 9-28-18

...continued on Page D8





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Button up your home for fall

... continued from Page D1



A Lamorinda resident cleans his roof and gutters

Photo Cathy Dausman

"I can't tell you how many pools turn green over winter and the costs of a 'green clean' is far more than keeping your pool service company over the winter months," Pacheco says. He adds that "a green pool will cause damage to your plaster and when you shock it to clear the algae it causes even more damage."

Turning on the furnace? Fall once was the time to replace furnace filters. Eric Schaefer of Ariston Heating and Cooling agrees it's all about indoor air quality: "Filtration is your best winterization," he says. But Schaefer adds that many Lamorinda houses (he calls 1970s construction "the freon era") were just not built with modern heating systems. In-wall electric room heaters, for example, are just a big short circuit.

"Nobody notices (the heating system) until

something breaks," he says. He suggests that HVAC systems less than five years old can be repaired; otherwise it's time to consider a "heart and lung" replacement. New heating and cooling systems require less than half the energy of older systems, Schaefer says, and are designed to circulate air at a constant lower speed through electrostatic filters – filters which remove not only dust, dirt or soot but also smoke. The U.S. Department of Energy says in moderate climates (including the San Francisco Bay Area) heat pumps offer an energy-efficient alternative to furnaces and air conditioners.

Keep areas around the furnace and water heater free from obstructions and flammable items too, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Fire Marshal Kathy Leonard

says. Inspect dryer vents and clean out excess lint. And turn off portable heaters before leaving a room or going to bed, Leonard says. She also reminds homeowners to change out batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors when reverting to Standard Time.

Are outdoor decorations part of your holiday plan? Before you set up, check pathway lights to ensure they are in good working order. Clear walkways and driveways of fallen leaves, which turn to mush with just a bit of rain. Rob Omo of Omo's Electric recommends inspecting extension cords before use. Don't run them in the open over lawns, bushes and yards, and don't plug them in unprotected either, Omo says. "When it rains, the open plug ends can be dangerous," even posing risk of shock. Check for open splices or broken fixtures; any loose or exposed wires are hazardous and should be repaired, Omo says.

If setting out decorations requires a trip up a ladder, Leonard says residents should be extra cautious. "Shoes or boots may be wet causing you to slip as you climb the ladder," she says.

Still plan to cozy up to a wood-burning fire? Indoors, Leonard says homeowners should ensure their chimney is in good condition, and its damper is open before lighting up the logs. If the weather is dry enough for another round of s'mores outdoors, remember October wildland fires burn fiercely. Be sure to cover your outdoor fire pit with a spark arrestor lid.

In summary, safety first, both indoors and out. Check everything off your "honey do" list, then do something safe for yourself and your family, Leonard says, like buying a NOAA all-hazard weather radio, enrolling in emergency preparedness classes (<https://lamorindacert.org/>), signing up for Nixle (www.nixle.com) and countywide sheriff warnings (www.cococws.us), and putting out flashlights with fresh batteries. Then button up your sweater and pass the apple cider.

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COMPASS

Feng Shui

Tips to ease into the harvest season

By Michele Duffy

Like many ancient philosophies, Feng Shui observes different aspects of the phases of the Five Elements – water, wood, fire, earth and metal – to inform the changing patterns in our lives, homes and bodies. Simply take a look outside and use nature's canvas to adjust your home for the season.

The metal element of fall conceptually symbolizes in Feng Shui refinement or precision, beauty, completion and finishing up. Take a look at your home office workspace. Do you have a project that has been dragging on and on and needs to wrap up? Use the precision and completion of the metal element to push your project goal toward the finish line. Stand in the doorway and look into the home office room. Divide the space into nine equal squares and ask what is presenting in the middle right area of completion (metal/harvest). Placing a symbol or reminder of the project

you want to complete in that area will send out your wishes for the energetic of completion.

Do you have relationship attachments you feel ready to release or find closure on? The middle right area (completion/harvest) of your master bedroom would be an ideal spot to place something that symbolizes the relationship you want to release.

Adding more warmth (fire) and glow into your home environment with warmer hues and truly yang colors like tangerine, sunshine yellow and earthy browns can be an intuitive way to balance out the metal element associated with fall. Bring back the cozy carpets under your feet or light a fire in the fireplace. Surround yourself with cozy red, orange or brown throws that will bring the necessary balance into your space by adjusting the missing elements of fire and earth.

... continued on Page D10



Photo provided

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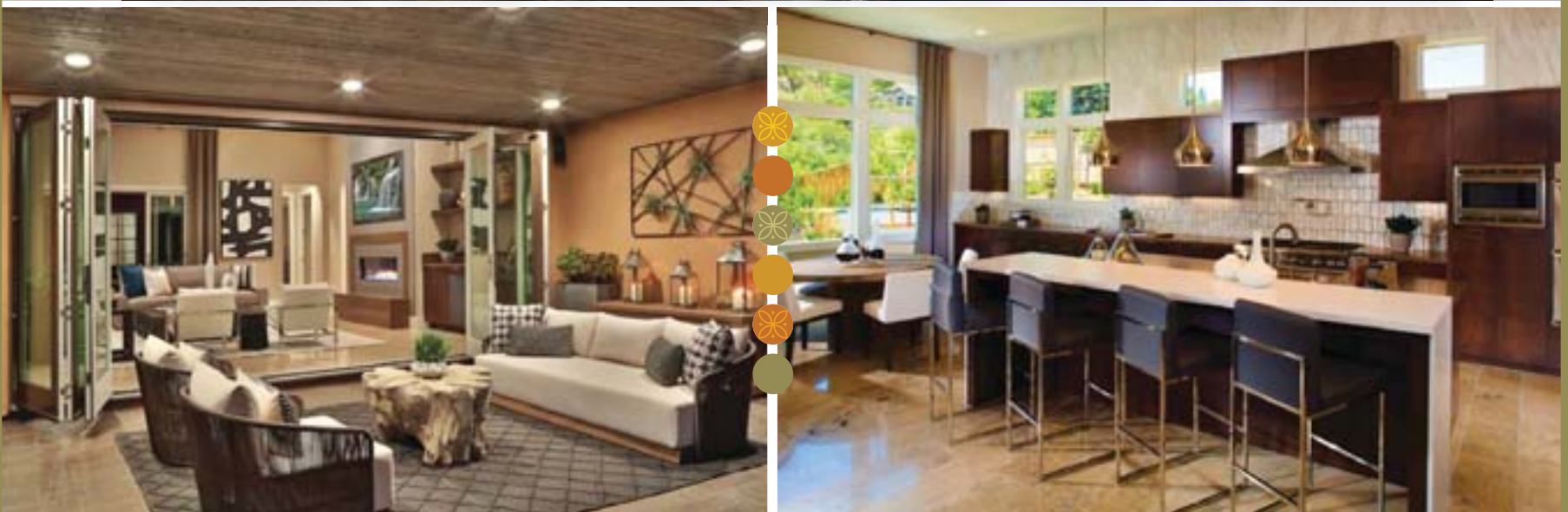
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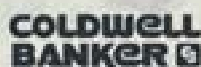
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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

ORINDA ... continued

- 79 Estates Drive, \$1,837,500, 3 Bdrms, 2610 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 9-20-18;
Previous Sale: \$685,000, 10-08-97
- 214 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,350,000, 2 Bdrms, 1561 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 9-28-18;
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 01-23-17
- 42 La Encinal, \$965,000, 2 Bdrms, 1544 SqFt, 1925 YrBlt, 9-21-18;
Previous Sale: \$760,000, 08-23-13
- 190 Moraga Way, \$1,085,000, 3 Bdrms, 1598 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 9-28-18
- 52 Persimmon Walk, \$1,470,000, 3 Bdrms, 2385 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 9-28-18
- 22 Rabble Road, \$1,699,000, 3 Bdrms, 2427 SqFt, 2010 YrBlt, 9-28-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 07-16-12
- 116 Ravenhill Road, \$970,000, 2 Bdrms, 2141 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 9-27-18;
Previous Sale: \$945,000, 10-28-05
- 70 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 1909 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 9-24-18;
Previous Sale: \$958,000, 11-09-12
- 49 Singingwood Lane, \$3,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 2955 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-18-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,775,000, 11-15-17
- 2 Tumbling Brook Road, \$1,362,500, 4 Bdrms, 1669 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 9-28-18;
Previous Sale: \$525,000, 09-22-00



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93 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA



Feng Shui

Tips to ease into the harvest season

... continued from Page D6



Photos provided

Consciously celebrate the bounty of fall with a visual display of the fruits of the harvest season. For example, be inspired by all of the reminders of fall's cornucopia with sumptuous pumpkins, red or orange berries, acorns, uniquely shaped gourds, pinecones, yellow, orange or purple mums and fragrant apples to welcome the abundant joy of the harvest to your home. Arranging the auspicious symbols of fall that you love at your front entrance sets a tone and welcomes the joy of the harvest season to your home.

Symbols of fall's harvest create a welcoming centerpiece for your dining room, too. Apples are symbolic of peace, pinecones conjure longevity and good health, pumpkins are believed to fend off negativity, and mums are a sign of wealth and abundance. Infuse your home with the energy of the harvest and gratitude for all that you have personally accomplished so far this year.

Fall is also a great time to remind ourselves to brighten up our spaces. Make sure the path to your front door is well lit, add full spectrum lighting inside your home and place candles in all the areas people gather to introduce the necessary warmth to your home.

It's also important to be personally grounded (metal depletes grounding earth) through healthy self-care, creating healthy boundaries, and saying yes to what really nourishes our souls this time of year. Reconnecting, cooking in your kitchen, hosting gatherings, spending time with friends and family are part of the joy of the season. It isn't unusual to feel like going to bed early or rising later, if possible, and generally it's wise Feng Shui to go with the flow.

... continued on next Page





Photo provided

Try this easy fall space clearing technique to refresh your space for the beauty of the fall season. You will need bells or a gong and positive intention.

1) If you can, first open all doors and windows of your home, letting the crisp fall air in.

2) Start at your front entrance door and slowly walk clockwise around your home. As you ring the bells with precision, so the sound reverberates in your space, simultaneously and mindfully chant a prayer that symbolizes good luck and good fortune to you. In Feng Shui we often use “Om Ma Ni Pad Me Hum,” which symbolizes good fortune, health and happiness.

3) End up back where you began at the front door and visualize everything is cleansed and released from your home that no longer serves your higher purpose.

4) Express gratitude for all of your blessings, accomplishments, successes, and the harvest you observe in your own life and home.

5) Wish for all sentient beings to also receive the blessings of the fall season of harvest.

Personal wellness will also be refreshed and realigned with the cooler autumn temps by adapting and cooking up those root vegetables like carrots and beets in stews and soups and choosing warmer foods and drinks in general, incorporating warmer spices like ginger, turmeric and cinnamon as we go. This also nourishes our stomachs and digestive systems (earth element is depleted by metal) and helps us to personally stay healthy and grounded and aligned with the changing energy of the season.

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

The Bagua Map: Front Door

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



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide

Ghouls, gourds, and grass

By Cynthia Brian

"Sitting quietly, doing nothing, and the grass grows by itself." – Zen saying



A variety of gourds on display at a Bergerac market.

Photos Cynthia Brian

As we drive around neighborhoods we witness the spirit of the holidays in the landscape décor. Fall themes flow into Halloween then metamorphose into Thanksgiving. Christmas tree lots are already sprouting. It's obvious that the season of festivities is here.

The weather has been warmer this year and the changing of the leaves is appearing slowly. Boston Ivy has reddened climbing on walls, pumpkins and gourds are ready for picking and placing in spaces of prominence to be used as décor for the next month or two. Gargoyles and ghouls haunt our houses until Halloween. When I was a kid, freshly harvested apples and walnuts were always part of the trick-or-treat bag, but today these fruits will be featured only in lunches or in our autumnal meals.

Reseeding lawns and installing new turf is the primary horticultural chore this month if you seek a lush, green grass environment. As mentioned many times in my articles, I am a fan of Pearl's Premium (www.PearlsPremium.com) as I have found their testimonials to be factual. Through Oct. 31, you can get a 20 percent discount with my code STAR20 at the website at checkout. I have not been able to find Pearl's Premium seed for sale in any local store. The thin white coating on the seed holds 400 times the water around the seed, helping the seed to stay moist longer. The white coloring also helps you see where you may have missed a spot. Birds don't seem attracted to the coating. The seed grows down to a depth of 20 inches or more and will not invade your flowerbeds. You can spread the seed over your existing lawn and this slow-growing, non-GMO seed will outcompete them, providing you with an emerald green lawn within about six weeks. I also like both red and white clover in my lawn because of the nitrogen that clover provides to keep lawns green year-round. If you like a mosaic feel, this is an interesting grass addition.

Instructions for Reseeding a lawn

- Mow the lawn as short as possible.
- Rake away all clippings and leaves.
- Get soil pH between 6.0-7.0 pH. To lower the pH use sulfur, to increase the pH use lime.
- Core aerate once a year, leaving the plugs on the lawn.
- Spread seeds at a rate of seven to 10 pounds per 1,000 square feet.
- Add organic fertilizer and top dress with ¼ inch organic compost.
- Water twice a day in the morning and evening or until it begins raining. Once the lawn is established you will water less frequently.
- Sharpen the blades on your mower and cut your lawn high ideally to 3.5 inches tall. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to provide nutrients.

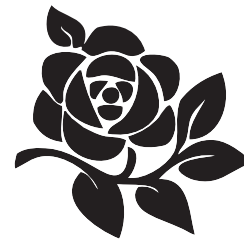
For the first year, you may experience a few weeds. Remove them and throw more grass seed. The lawn will become thick, lush, and healthy. You can then sit back, do nothing, and watch your grass grow.



After clearing the ground, pumpkins decorate the bare soil alongside artichokes.



Final days of basil as it flowers and goes to seed. Every part of the plant is edible.



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Did you invite a skeleton to your Halloween dinner?



Boston Ivy turns red and cherry in autumn.



Cynthia Brian's Garden Guide for November



Dahlias augment any garden.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Red sunflowers.

SEED or reseed lawns. If you prefer to install sod, autumn is the best time. Make sure you have prepared the bare soil with plenty of rich, organic matter before sodding.

FILL bare spots with a mixture of seed, compost and potting soil. Make sure to water thoroughly and keep moist until the grass sprouts.

RAKE leaves, especially off lawns, as grass needs as much sunlight as possible. You can also use your mower to chop the leaves.

MOW lawns shorter in fall until the grass stops growing to prevent matting.

WINTERIZE your grass by fertilizing heavily before the first rain. By feeding your lawn you'll give it the tools it needs to develop strong roots to survive winter.

PLANT spring blooming bulbs anytime through January. These include daffodils, tulips, crocus, Dutch iris, and hyacinths.

SCATTER wildflower seeds for a spring butterfly garden.

CLIP florets of basil and continue consuming as the herb will die completely back during winter. Any extra leaves can be frozen or dried.

SAVE seeds from your favorite sunflowers to sow next spring and if you carve pumpkins, dry these seeds for later planting or roast them as a healthy snack.

PLANT perennials that will reward you with blooms throughout the year including chrysanthemums, dahlias, statice, and hibiscus.

DEADHEAD roses for a final flush of flowers.

ENJOY the plethora of shapes, sizes, and textures of gourds and pumpkins. You can use them to decorate for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and spray paint them in our favorite holiday colors for Christmas and Chanukah displays.

FIX leaky faucets and pipes to deter thirsty ants.

FERTILIZE your entire landscape in preparation for the forthcoming cooler climate.

ADD a thick layer of mulch (three to four inches) to deprive weeds of light and to insulate plants from varying temperatures. Leaves, compost, shredded newspaper, cardboard, and straw add organic matter to the soil. Because organic matter deteriorates over time, you will need to replace as needed.

GOAD your ghouls and rocks All Hallowed Eve, All Saints and All Souls Day with cheer and gratitude.



Perennial chrysanthemums brighten the fall landscape.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.
Cynthia Brian





Statice can be dried for winter arrangements.



Cynthia Brian, touched by a ghoul.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's Radio show and order her books at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Buy a copy of her new books, Growing with the Goddess Gardener and Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers at www.cynthiabrian.com/ online-store.

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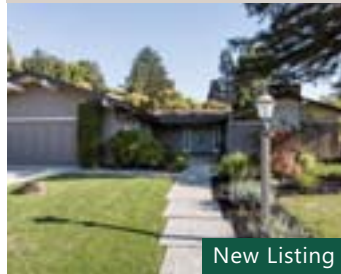


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