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FREE



A kaleidoscope of kindergarten butterflies alight on the playground at Rheem Elementary School

Photo Doug Kohen

Butterflies are Free

By Cathy Dausman

Mention a school parade in October, and thoughts naturally turn to Halloween. This parade, although also predominately colored orange and black, was not. It was the annual Donald Rheem Elementary Butterfly Parade and release. Three classes of kindergarteners, with their fifth grade “buddies,” for an audience and a host of parents, families and friends marched

the playground in decorated cardboard butterfly wings before watching the Painted Lady butterflies they had raised fly away. Painted Ladies, also known as thistle butterflies, or cosmopolitan, look like a slightly smaller version of the Monarch butterfly.

Principal Elaine Frank said this year’s Butterfly Parade was the school’s 37th, with retired Rheem kindergarten teachers Al-

berta Svendsen, Kathi Beadleson and Maryeda Theer in attendance, and a second generation kindergarten student participating. Stephanie Kusinski’s daughter Hania made her own wings this year; after the parade the pair met with Theer, who was Stephanie’s kindergarten teacher.

... continued on page A10

Quote of the Week:

"I am writing this as part of the Communications merit badge."
 Orinda Boy Scouts speak out - read Letters to the Editor, page A8

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Town News	A2 - A7
Letters to the Editor	A8-A9
Life in Lamorinda	B1-B12
Service Directory	B6
Community Service	B6
Not to be Missed	B8
Food	B11
Business	B12
Sports	C1-C3
HOW TO CONTACT US	C2
Classified	C3
Shop Moraga	C4
Our Homes	D1-D12
This Week Read About:	
Election Day	A2
Separating Dogs and Kids	A4
Financial Pains	A6
Choirs Shine	B2
Life Meets Afterlife	B4
Artists on Life and Work	B5
Nightmare at Rheem Theatre	B9
V-ball Heats Up	C2

Lafayette Draft Downtown Plan Ready for Final Hearings

By Cathy Tyson

It’s a massive document almost five years in the making. Forget the latest thriller, civic-minded Lafayette residents have an early Christmas gift, of sorts, with the newly released Revised Draft Downtown Specific Plan (r DSP), available on-line from the city website, www.lovelafayette.org. The r DSP is meant to compliment Lafayette’s existing General Plan with more detailed land use and a design framework for future growth to preserve and enhance this small city.

Although the document is complete, it has not yet been adopted by the City Council. The Planning Commission will be holding hearings on the r DSP and form recommendations for the City Council at meetings slated for November 7, November 21 and December 5. “We hope to take the recommendations to the City Council by late January for adoption of

the DSP and certification of the EIR (Environmental Impact Report),” said Special Projects Manager Ann Merideth.

At just over a hundred pages with photos, charts and graphs, this is one-stop shopping for municipal planning and design goals. If eventually adopted by the City Council it will serve as an integral guideline for steering development for the next twenty years. A vision for growth is specified, and priorities to accomplish that vision are spelled out.

It’s fair to say when the process started the Specific Plan was not embraced by the public. The final version looks different from the original draft plan by consultant team Wallace Roberts and Todd. The City used the firm, but after significant blow back from the public, decided to customize a Plan from the ground up. “While both plans are based on a district-

based strategy and place heavy emphasis on maintaining Lafayette’s downtown character, the revised DSP is more consistent with the General Plan’s goals and polices for the downtown,” said Merideth. “The WRT plan called for higher height limits by right and higher residential densities in some parts of the downtown. The revised DSP maintains the height limits and densities that are in the General Plan, and, like the General Plan, only allows greater height when certain findings can be made.”

The height component of the r DSP has been the most controversial element of the Plan from the start. Residents were clearly concerned about changing the character of the City and even speculated that taller buildings would lead to the ‘Walnut Creek-ization’ of Lafayette. ... continued on page A3

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

Not Shaken During Quake Drill



By Cathy Dausman

Over 1200 Miramonte High School students, faculty and staff took an hour last Thursday morning to duck, cover and evacuate their classrooms as participants in this year’s Great California ... read on page B1

Sports C1-C3

Campolindo Dominates in the Battle of the Unbeatens



By Alex Kozela

Campolindo turned the battle of local unbeatens into one of the most lopsided results of the season, blowing out Miramonte with a 42-6 home victory. After finishing the last ... read on page C1

Our Homes D1-D12

Happy Haunting



By Lee Borrowman

The signs are unmistakable—they appear on front yards and driveways, in doorways and windows. Everything from scarecrows to skeletons, pumpkin patches to graveyards, and all manner of creepy crawlies ...read on page D1



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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, November 14, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Tuesday, November 7, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, November 14, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
in the Arts & Science Discovery
Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District

Wednesday, November 2, 7:30 pm
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 pm
Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 pm
LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org



Police Report

A rollover of a different kind, 10/2/2011 Lafayette is not a gated community, especially if one driver has his way. When an unstoppable force (a car) met a moveable object (a rolling gate), the result was property damage. Driver and passenger were uninjured—can't say the same for the gate.

Fencing from the garage, 10/3/2011 What's behind door #1? If it was the garage door broken into in Lafayette recently, it was valued at over \$2,000 in items stolen and another \$1700 in repair bills for the door.

Vehicle vs. pedestrian, 10/5/2011 An unfortunate jaywalker tried to make it across Moraga Rd at Moraga Blvd., and was hit.

De-Jeweled, 10/08/2011 \$5300 worth of jewelry was reported taken from a residence along St. Mary's Road just before midnight.

Legal lingo, 10/03/2011 When someone breaks your car window (and causes \$500 damage) but doesn't take anything, it's called Vandalism.

And, 10/06/2011 When someone breaks a car window (only \$200 damage this time) and takes two bags (\$200 value), it's called Auto Burglary.

Rez Run Fun for the Whole Family

By Cathy Tyson



The McQuain family at the Reservoir Run in 2003 (from left): Karla McQuain, Barry McQuain, Kyle (at age 4), Grampa Chuck Froese of Orinda (70 at the time photo was taken), Bailey (7), Grandma Marty Froese (70), Morgan (8), Uncle Greg Froese of Orinda (42), and Regan (4). Photo provided by the McQuain family

Karla McQuain and family have been regularly donning their sneakers for the Reservoir Run since 1996. "I did the 2K pushing my daughter in a stroller that year," said McQuain, who describes herself as not a serious runner, although she gives credit to husband Barry as being more of a fitness buff.

In the ensuing years, her brother and parents

have joined the group and the kids have magically grown up. The McQuains make the Rez Run a priority even though the kids' have travelling soccer; they just have to miss that day. Enjoying the pancake breakfast and seeing many of their friends and neighbors makes it a unique annual event. Now that official finishing times are available on-line for each runner/jogger, even post-

pancakes, participants can attempt to break their own records.

McQuain grew up in Orinda and moved to the Happy Valley neighborhood of Lafayette years ago. The little one in the stroller is now old enough to drive – Morgan is now 16, Bailey is 15 and the twins Regan and Kyle are 12. Look for all of the McQuains, including Uncle Greg, at this year's Rez Run on Sunday, October 30.

Staggered start times ensure the event runs smoothly through downtown and around the Reservoir: the 2 mile run/walk starts at 8:00 a.m., the 5K starts at 8:30 and the 10K starts at 8:45. For registration information, call the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce at (925) 284-7404 or go to their website at www.lafayettechamber.org or www.active.com. The event supports local education, and parking is available at BART. Last minute participants can register on the day of the event from 6:30 on. As usual, there will be a pancake breakfast provided by the Lafayette Rotary Club.

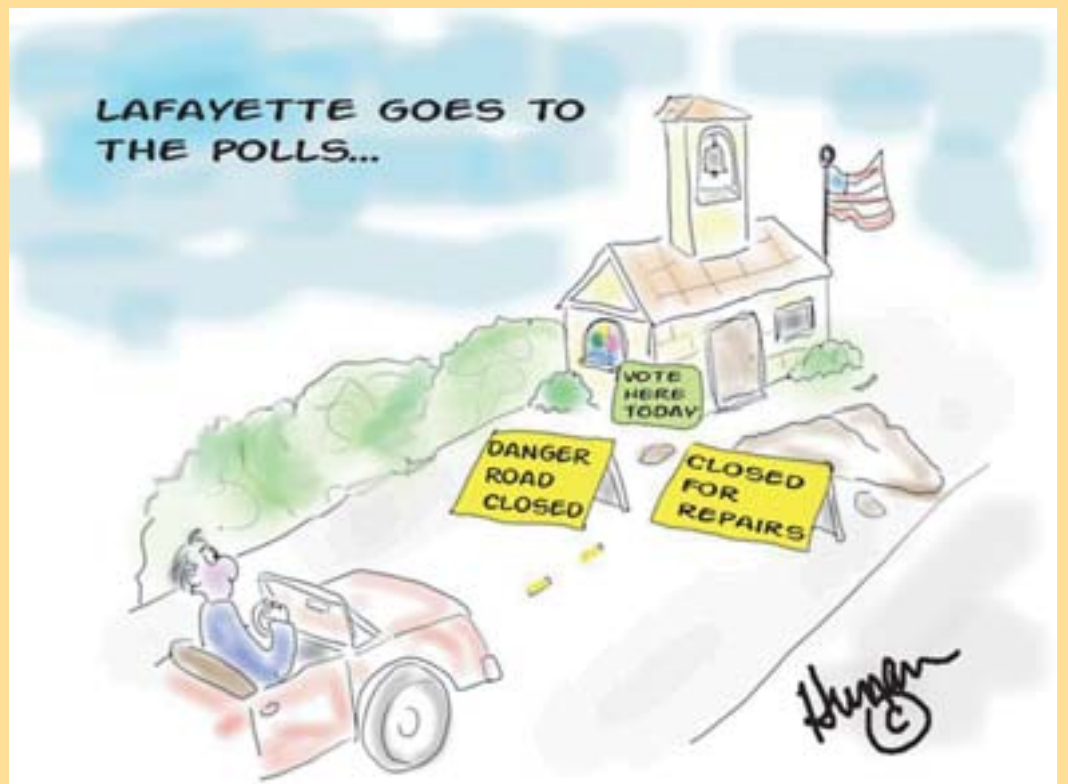
Since the whole family has been participating for more than a dozen years, and considering the volume of commemorative t-shirts – every year they get six, one for each family member - mom Karla is considering making a quilt.

The annual event is presented by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lafayette with substantial support from Oakwood Athletic Club and many local businesses.

Election Day on November 8

It's fairly simple, with either a yes or no, registered voters can decide the fate of Measure G. It's the only item on the ballot for Lafayette residents on Tuesday November 8. Measure G is a citizen-initiated measure that would levy an \$89 parcel tax for a maximum period of ten years to bring all of Lafayette's roads and drains to good quality. Threshold for passage is 66% of voters plus 1. If approved, the City Council has agreed to contribute \$3 million from reserve accounts to completely address the asphalt problem.

Vote at: Happy Valley Elementary, Lafayette/Orinda Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Christian Church, Springhill Elementary or Our Savior's Lutheran Church. C. Tyson



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As seen in Lafayette...



Known for their fantastic produce, it must be close to Halloween when giant furry spiders, ghosts and scarecrows invade the pumpkin patch just outside the front door of independent, family-owned Diablo Foods. *C. Tyson*

Draft Downtown Plan Ready for Final Hearings

... continued from page A1

According to Niroop Srivatsa, Planning and Building Services Manager, height limits are spelled out within the district sections.

The process has taken significantly longer than anticipated. "On December 6, we will mark five years of working on the r DSP. I don't think anyone originally thought it would take that long, but it is an important issue for the community and important issues take time," said Merideth.

You can say that again— there have been more than thirty-eight Planning Commission meetings and twenty-two meetings of the Advisory Committee, made up of a cross section of citizen volunteers and City Council and Planning Commission representatives to offer input.

One of the members of the Advisory Committee, Brayton Noll, started when he was a sophomore in

high school; now he's in his junior year at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon – although currently he's in the midst of a semester abroad in Ecuador. His mother Cheryl Noll, also on the Advisory Committee, comments that it's not that surprising that it has taken so long considering current civic budget issues: "It's amazing that anything is moving forward. That's one of the reasons that this has been such a great experience for Brayton. He has been personally involved in a governmental process, which sometimes takes years to get anything done! He has learned that you have to be very patient when you have so many parties and interest groups who may all agree on a common goal, but all have slightly different ideas as to the best way to reach that goal."

Will the Specific Plan Impact the Terraces Project?

Whether or not the Revised Draft Downtown Specific Plan is adopted in time to influence the proposed Terraces of Lafayette project is unknown. At a recent Planning Commission meeting a room full of concerned residents turned out to passionately protest the proposed large apartment complex across from Acalanes High School.

Because the application is officially complete, the project is required to go through Lafayette's planning review process which includes an environmental impact report that would clarify potential impacts to air quality, noise, traffic, green house gas emissions and more. The developer, O'Brien Land Company, LLC will pay for the study to be completed by a consulting team. Despite opponents' negative comments, the meeting was designed to determine the scope of the environmental impact report. The report is slated to be complete in January, at that time the public will, once again, have an opportunity to comment.

Current zoning for the parcel is APO, Administrative, Professional, Office use that allows up to 35 units per acre, more than enough to accommodate the potential 315-unit multi-family apartment complex on the twenty-two acre site. The City was in the process of downzoning the parcel at the corner of Deer Hill Road and Pleasant Hill Road when the building application was submitted, although a change has not yet been finalized. The matter has been put on hold while the city attorney reviews the situation. *C. Tyson*



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132 WHITETHORNE DR	1204 LARCH AVE	2135 ASCOT DR #20	19021 SCHUESTER DR
8 LOUISE CT	1056 LARCH AVE	2135 ASCOT DR #27	3428 BICKERSTAFF
1203 RIMER DR	1090 LARCH AVE	2135 ASCOT DR #26	67 LA CRESTA
1218 RIMER DR	6 LARCH LN	2087 ASCOT DR #224	895 STONEGATE CIR
1224 RIMER DR	1843 JOSEPH DR	2087 ASCOT DR #124	31 COLORADO
1236 RIMER DR	9 FLUETI DR	2083 ASCOT DR	210 CARMEL
133 SHUEY DR	679 MORAGA RD	2091 ASCOT DR	529 OAKSHIRE PL
89 SHUEY DR	656 MORAGA RD	1018 RIVER ROCK LN	1729 RELIEZ VALLEY
70 SHUEY DR	139 PASEO DEL RIO	94 G ELDER	2211 TICE VALLEY
24 CARR DR	1426 DE LA CRUZ	1409 CAMINO PERAL	1348 NAVELLIER
39 BUCKINGHAM DR	107 NATALIE DR	1403 CAMINO PERAL	1715 139TH ST
1076 SANDERS DR	257 SANDRINGHAM	1418 CAMINO PERAL	2277 STAR AVE
24 FREITAS DR	238 SANDRINGHAM	1405 CAMINO PERAL	4255 WILSON LN
4 WANDEL DR	235 SANDRINGHAM	1437 CAMINO PERAL	2 AGHALEE LN
149 WALFORD DR	1072 COUNTRY CLUB	1416 CAMINO PERAL	1018 RIVER ROCK LN
108 WALFORD DR	1080 COUNTRY CLUB	1475 CAMINO PERAL	1919 YGNACIO VLY RD
4 SPARROW CT	398 BIRCHWOOD DR	1515 A CAMINO PERAL	309 CORTE GABRIEL
11 KETELSEN	268 BIRCHWOOD DR	236 VALLEY GLEN	3545 BOYER CIRCLE
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133 WESTCHESTER	1924 ASCOT DR	205 VISTA GLEN PL	3569 BADDING RD
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830 AUGUSTA DR	1977 ASCOT DR	565 PALO ALTO PL	459 FERNWOOD DR
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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, October 26, 7:00 pm
Wednesday, November 9, 7:00 pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, November 7, 7:30 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, November 14, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District

Tuesday, November 8, 7:30 pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate
School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Police Report

No no driving, 10/07/11 All it took was a failure to use a turn signal on Moraga Road near School Street. The 43-year-old driver told the officer that his driver's license was suspended for three or four DUI's. Turns out he was telling the truth, so he was arrested for suspended license for prior DUI and violation of probation. The car was towed away.

Party busted, 10/07/11 Approximately 150 party-goers were celebrating something on Corte Gabriel at 11:30 p.m. The female homeowner was issued a warning notice that she had to sign and was counseled about the repercussions of having another party. Guests were cooperative and decided it was a good time to call it a night.

Parking and pot mid-street, 10/09/11 It wasn't even 9:00 p.m. when cops checked on a silver BMW 328i parked in the middle of Corliss Drive near Lynwood with the engine running and flashers on. Hmmm, the 16-year-old driver thought she was parked at the curb. Contraband bonanza in the car – over ten grams of marijuana, one bottle that was mostly full of Vodka and one closed bottle of wine. Driver and her two girlfriends were cited for multiple offenses – driving on a restricted teen driver's license, possession of pot, open container, and being under 21 in possession of alcohol in a car. Parents were called to pick up the party girls, and the car was re-parked correctly by the surely cranky registered owner.

Burglary 10/08/11 Personal electronic items disappeared from the inside of a Sandringham Drive South home. Value of items is approximately \$1100. No leads at this time. The same home had been burgled in July while the homeowner was away for the weekend.

Domestic Dispute, 10/10/11 Three family members were fighting at a Woodford Drive home. Police were called when the yelling started. Cops talked to the argue-ees who said they will resolve the issue without causing a disturbance. No details on the nature of the brouhaha were given, it was a family matter. No evidence of a physical confrontation.

D.U.I., 10/07/11 Cops pulled over a BMW on Moraga Way after it was observed driving erratically and going 58 mph in a 35 mph zone. The 33-year-old driver had red, watery eyes, spoke with slow slurred speech and smelled like alcohol. Officers figured he was three for three and gave him a field sobriety test – which he flunked.

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Rancho Laguna Park Layout Nearly Decided

Town Council will take up the issue involving kids, dogs and spatial separation tonight

By Cathy Tyson



Matt Gruber takes note of suggestions at a recent Rancho Laguna Park meeting. Photo C. Tyson

Approximately forty people crowded into the Mosaic room of the Hacienda de las Flores for a workshop to discuss and plan the future layout of Rancho Laguna Park recently. In a process that has dragged on for years, the Parks and Recreation Commission was looking to formulate a recommendation to the Town Council which will meet on October 26 to give a final decision on the matter.

Jay Ingram, Parks and Recreation Director, reports that the Commission will recommend to the Town Council

a two phased approach for spatial separation at Rancho Laguna Park, "Phase one: complete the south side playground renovation, including fencing, as well as fence the north and east sides along the existing pathway extending as far as possible toward the amphitheater to accommodate off-leash dog activity during all open hours for the park." He added that Phase two will improve drainage on the existing turf area.

Although some residents encouraged the Commission to not spend

approximately \$7,000 on a study, consultants and facilitators of the workshop – Mark Slichter and Matt Gruber of Callendar Associates – were retained to do just that. The landscape architects gathered input from residents who weren't shy about sharing their opinions in response to two questions: What do you like or value about the park, and, what could be improved? Attendees were divided into two groups to answer both questions. At times the wish list discussion came perilously close to veering off track, but well-behaved, neighborly residents with a variety of opinions were quite civil.

Surprisingly, a large portion of attendees found common ground, agreeing that it would be best to have the tot lot and the youth playground both located near the restrooms. One resident called the Park "a Norman Rockwell painting," very family oriented. Four large pages were filled with resident suggestions of what they like about the park, noting everything from its rustic nature to the level walking area and of course, as a great place to socialize with your dog. The current rules state that there can be no off-leash dogs in the park from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on weekends.

At issue is finding an optimal way

for the park to address the majority of needs of town residents, which includes dog owners and non-dog owners. Is there room for improvement in the soggy two acre grass field and layout of play areas along with a possible fence to separate dogs from people?

For some of the residents in attendance Rancho Laguna Park, located at the south end of town, has been working reasonably well for the last thirty years, and if it's not broken, don't fix it. Others, clearly the minority in attendance, were concerned about off-leash dogs. Tina Chambers, mom of two, dog owner and active Boy Scout leader was, "very much an advocate of spatial separation," calling the current situation, "unsafe for my dog and my kids."

Bob Reynolds, a long time resident, pointed out that the Town has limited resources and the semi-paved path on Mulholland Ridge, off of Donald Drive, is available all day, every day for off-leash dogs.

Garnering applause for her comments, Jan Gruen suggested, "I think everybody can learn to share the Park." It will be up to the Town Council to decide the matter and allocate funding at the October 26 meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium.

Financing 331 Rheem

After deciding not sell open space immediately, the Town looks for other ways to pay off its loan

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council recently decided to postpone the sale of a portion of the Town-owned property located at the corner of Rheem Boulevard and Saint Mary's Road. That sale was part of a package deal, designed by former Town Manager Mike Segrest and approved by the Council, to redeem the purchase of 331 Rheem – the property that became the town's corporation yard. Staff must now find other ways to finance a promissory note for \$450,000 that is coming due on March 10, 2012.

In her staff report, Planning Director Shawna Brekke-Read listed three options the Council could consider to pay off the note. "These include using one-time developer fees (i.e., Palos Colorados funds that amount to \$2 million at this time), continuing the \$450,000 note with interest (the note's owner has indicated interest in doing so), or developing a payment plan using the operating budget," read the report.

During its October 12 meeting, Town Manager Jill Keimach was

asked by the Council to come back with more detailed options. "Interest rates have never been so low," commented Council Member Dave Trotter, "a fixed loan can get a rate as low as 3% at this time."

A second property was also supposed to be sold to finance the purchase of 331 Rheem – a vacant lot on Devin Drive that the Town took off the market when it failed to attract a buyer.

The Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and many residents expressed concerns about building along the popular and scenic Lafayette-Moraga Trail. Brekke-Read's staff report detailed all of the hurdles that the Town, as the property owner, would have to jump in order to get a tentative map for developing the property.

The Council decided to table the issue indefinitely on two cues – the land couldn't be sold quickly enough

to meet the March payment deadline, and the cost of the process, estimated at over \$100,000, was too high. However, the Council reserved the right to sell the land at a later date.

"There are a number of options we could consider and will be bringing back to the Council before March," confirmed Keimach as she began to work on a comprehensive financial plan with town's new Administrative Services Director, Stephanie Hom. "One time developer fees could be used if it creates park land; a longer-term payment plan with the note holder could be negotiated using General Fund or operating dollars over several years; the Town could pay off the note with surplus dollars at the end of the year over the next several years; or the Town could extend the note with interest. These and potentially new options will be evaluated and developed for Town Council consideration," stated Keimach.

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Stephanie Hom Arrives as Moraga's New Administrative Services Director

By Sophie Braccini



Stephanie Hom near her office at the Hacienda de las Flores

Photo Sophie Braccini

Something about Moraga just keeps pulling talent through the tunnel. The first to arrive was Town Manager Jill Keimach, from Berkeley; then came Planning Director Shawna Brekke-Read, from Oakland. The newest arrival is Stephanie Hom, also of Oakland, who recently began work as Moraga's Administrative Services Director.

The three women didn't know each other before, but they have a few things in common – they are all professional, working mothers, and they chose public service because of a belief that serving the greater good is a worthy cause. Hom says she chose Moraga because she wanted to be part of a strong team of dedicated people.

Hom was born in southern California to parents who emigrated from

Hong Kong after leaving southern China. She says her call to public service began during her college years when she volunteered with Upward Bound, a non-profit that supports inner-city youth on their way to college – in talking with other volunteers, she began to understand the key role that good implementation plays in the success of sensible political decisions.

"If the implementation, or administrative side, is not up to par when decisions are made, change does not happen," she says, "budgeting, planning, and organizing are the key to success."

When Hom went to Columbia University for her master's degree, she chose Public Administration over International Affairs because she wanted to have an impact close to home.

For 18 years Hom worked for the City of Oakland, mostly in finance and budget, with a three-year gap while working in the private sector. Her last position was as Director of Administrative Services for the Public Works Department that, according to her, worked like clockwork.

"Life is about learning, growing and new perspectives," she says, "I wanted to get a fresh viewpoint on bureaucratic processes." Hom chose Moraga, where she will be challenged to work the small details of everyday

operations as well as formalizing the big financial picture for the Town.

"One of the objectives of the Council this year is to create a long term strategic financial plan and an investment policy," she says, "I look forward to meeting the community and establishing such plans." For Hom, strategies are not created behind closed doors or made to sit on shelves. A big proponent of transparency, she plans to make as much information available to the public as possible, "In a form that's understandable to all," she adds with a smile.

Another big task awaiting her is participating in the work of the Revenue Enhancement Community for Outreach to Neighborhoods (RECON). "I believe that one of the reasons I was recruited to this job is that I participated in similar projects for the City of Oakland, such as a bond measure to improve the structure around Lake Merritt and the estuary," says Hom. She knows that RECON's task, to find a way to finance the town's infrastructure maintenance, is a challenge. "All over the USA, people don't fix the roads until they're broken, even if it costs ten times more to delay the maintenance," she says.

The new Director knows from experience that one of the challenges of public service is that it takes a con-

sensus, or at least a strong majority, to effect change. "Sometimes projects fail, and it is important to understand why, assess the weak points and learn from it." Hom says she believes in

building that consensus and addressing concerns beforehand, through dialogue and transparency – and she is prepared to step out of her office to do that, should the need arise.

A Post Office's Last Day

By Sophie Braccini



Postal worker Mark Fahmy by the original 1967 dedication plaque installed when the Country Club Post Office was established during the administration of President Lyndon Johnson

Photo Sophie Braccini

The Post Office located at the corner of Country Club Drive and School Street was bustling with activity on the morning of Friday,

October 14, the last day of its operations. Patrons came to check their mail boxes, send registered mail and ask questions about the future. On the inside door, a simple white sheet of paper matter-of-factly stated that the office would be transferred to the main Post Office located on Center Street in the Rheem Shopping Center.

"We apologize for any inconvenience it might cause to our customers," said Mark Fahmy, the postal worker who ran the Country Club operation single-handedly. A customer inquired about the drive-up mail boxes in which locals and seniors across the street have been dropping mail since 1967. "They will be removed," said Fahmy, "they are located on a property that does not belong to the Postal Service." He added that people could ask to have free-standing boxes installed on Country Club Drive, close to the two retirement homes, as a convenience to the seniors living there.



My Dad's Office was the Sky

His crew called him the airplane cowboy, probably because he wore that hat all the time. His job was to keep the plane steady while the camera crew took their shots. They'd photograph roads, mountains and clouds for map makers, archeologists and film directors - anyone who needed a picture of something from way up there.

Times have changed, but Dad still loves adventure. The problem is he shouldn't be driving. Sometimes he gets confused and lost just walking around the neighborhood.

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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, November 1, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, November 9, at 5:00 pm
Community Room, City Hall
22 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, November 8, at 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District

Monday, November 14, 6:00 pm
OUSD Office

8 Altarinda Road, Orinda

www.orindaschools.org

See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Police Report

When thieves come knocking at your door, 10-11-2011 After returning from school, a family member found her front door damaged. There were scuff marks where the would-be burglar's shoe met the door, and pry marks around the frame. The good news was that the door remained locked, so nothing was stolen from the house. The not-so good news was that the thief caused \$350 in damage to the door.

In the bag, 10-12-2011 Orinda Police stopped a vehicle and found reason to search both car and driver. They discovered one packet of marijuana, containing less than an ounce, in his pocket. That gives a whole 'nother meaning to "Glad Bags." He was cited and released.

Weed like to card you, 10-13-2011 Police made a traffic stop and found the 34-year old male driver in a smelly car. That certain je ne sais quoi smell— could it be marijuana? Yes, it could! Could the driver produce a medical marijuana card? Well, he did have one once, but it wasn't current. He took a second trip... to Martinez for booking.

And speaking of under the influence, 10/13/2011 Maybe it was the full moon two nights earlier, but Orinda police stopped a 29 year old male driver and discovered... wait for it... he was under the influence of alcohol. This student of the bottle flunked his field sobriety test and blew a .11. He opted for the blood sample test back at headquarters, was arrested and booked at Martinez Detention Facility.

Roads, Drains, and Financial Pains

By Laurie Snyder

When Abraham Lincoln wrote, "The legitimate object of government, is to do for a community of people, whatever they need to have done, but can not do ... for themselves – in their separate, and individual capacities," he might very well have been speaking to those who reside in and govern Orinda. For it was in that same commentary that Lincoln listed public roads and highways among the responsibilities of "the machinery of government."

That machinery was operating in high gear on October 18 as the Orinda City Council presented a two-hour roads workshop before its regularly scheduled meeting. Informed by a series of five open public meetings conducted by the City Council Roads Sub-Committee (CRS) from May through October, and monthly meetings of the Finance Advisory and Citizens Infrastructure Oversight (CIO) committees, the Council's workshop was a study in civic duty.

Participants explored factors impacting the costs involved in maintaining Orinda's 92.8 miles of roads. Discussion surrounded the City's prudent use of funds, ability to ensure safe routes to schools, and the geographic equity of repairs, and was supported by a staff report filled with charts conveying a dizzying degree of detail. Everything's available on the City's web site, www.ci.orinda.ca.us.

Worst First vs.

Road Network Allocation

Chuck Swanson, Director of Orinda's Department of Public Works and Engineering Services, noted that members of the CIOC are "very concerned about the condition of residential roads" as

he presented two possible plans for road and drainage system repair to the Council. Road conditions would be restored, at a minimum, to good or very good condition and 1940s-era storm drains nearing the end of their lives would be upgraded. Funding for either option would be generated through a series of ballot measures conducted over a four to eight year period.

Swanson explained that a "worst first" option would enable staff to focus their attention primarily on residential streets, prioritizing and working their way up their infrastructure repair list. Funding from Return-to-Source (Measure J), gas taxes, and garbage franchise fees of roughly \$800,000 to \$1 million each year would be dedicated to arterials and collectors.

Alternatively, by employing a "road network allocation" approach, residential streets, arterials, school routes, and collectors would continue to be used as classifications for repair allocations. Swanson advised council members that, under this strategy, they would need to determine what percentage of funding would be designated for each classification to ensure that each category would eventually be addressed. Measure J funds, gas taxes, and garbage fees would then be devoted to annual pavement and maintenance projects.

Under both plans, three \$20 million bond measures or two \$30 million bond measures would be needed to facilitate completion of the estimated \$60 million it will take to completely fix Orinda's infrastructure. A citizens' committee would serve in an oversight capacity, making annual recommendations regarding

the sequencing of construction and repairs.

A third option posed by the CIOC is also available to the Council, under which 80 percent of available funds would be allocated to residential roads with the remaining 20 percent broken out for the remaining classifications (arterials, collectors, and school routes).

Revenue Options

Staff then presented its Summary of City of Orinda Road Funding Options, illustrating the in depth research and analysis that has been undertaken by staff in concert with various City Council and resident advisory groups. This two-page chart outlines a wide range of revenue generating strategies, and explains the pros and cons of each.

Discussions centered primarily on three of these possible funding streams: the creation of assessment districts, the use of a parcel tax, or the adoption of an ad-valorem tax.

Assessment districts, if implemented, would be tailored to defined neighborhoods with assessments levied based on property values within those neighborhoods. Assessments would be approved based on a weighted majority of voting property owners. The Council wanted legal advice before it could fully consider this strategy, and also asked staff to obtain details from the League of California Cities about the administration of assessment districts operated by other cities.

Examples of possible parcel and ad-valorem taxes were provided "for illustrative purposes only." With a \$100 per parcel per year tax, staff estimated that approximately \$700,000 per year could be generated – an amount that would securitize at three percent over a 20-year period to roughly \$10.4 million or \$13.7 million over a 30-year period.

With a general obligation bond of \$150 per \$1 million of assessed value, staff explained that an ad-valorem tax could generate similar amounts over the same timeframes. By implementing either tax, the City could demonstrate for residents its ability to efficiently complete infrastructure projects on time while retaining the flexibility to assess the state of the economy before requesting public approval for future ballot measures.

Other options less likely to be implemented included such things as a utility users' tax, a real property transfer tax, and a city sales and use tax. Council Member Sue Severson suggested adding another funding option – for residents to choose to do nothing, but also advised that residents selecting this path should be made aware of the consequences of allowing the continued deterioration of Orinda's infrastructure.

Next Steps

City Council and staff will continue to expand their outreach to the community. Residents are invited and encouraged to attend a second roads workshop on November 15, 2011.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.
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Keeping Orinda's Kids and Streets Safe

By Laurie Snyder

In response to community concerns raised at the Moraga Way Traffic Safety Community Workshop held in April, city officials met with representatives from the Acalanes and Orinda Union School Districts (AHUSD and OUSD) to discuss congestion on Moraga Way and related safety issues.

Orinda City Manager Janet Keeter and Council Members Dean Orr and Sue Severson spoke with Miramonte High School principal Adam Clark, Chris Learned, AUHSD's Associate Superintendent for Business Services, OUSD board member Julie Rossiter, and Dr. Joe Ja-

conette, OUSD Superintendent to explore the possibility of adjusting school bell schedules so that school commute traffic times could be staggered.

Unfortunately, representatives from both districts indicated that bell schedule changes are not feasible. Because tighter budgets require teachers to divide their time between multiple school buildings, bell changes would hamper the ability of teachers to move efficiently from one school to the next throughout the workday. Such changes could also negatively impact Miramonte High School's athletic programs.

School officials demonstrated their appreciation of the situation, however, by outlining current and planned improvements. Miramonte, for example, has launched a before-school breakfast program that is reducing congestion by motivating students to arrive early.

Officials also suggested installation of permanent radar and increased police presence along school routes to remind drivers to slow down. Jaconette and Rossiter agreed to encourage parents to carpool more and avoid taking neighborhood shortcuts as part of district traffic safety "do's and don'ts."



Orinda Union School District Seeking Applicants to Serve on Measure B Parcel Tax Oversight Committee

The Orinda Union School District seeks applicants to serve on its Measure B Parcel Tax Oversight Committee. Members must be able to serve a two-year term. The committee will meet twice annually during normal business hours. The primary objective and purpose of this committee is to ensure that the parcel tax proceeds are spent for their authorized purpose and to report annually to the Board of Trustees and the public regarding the expenditure of such funds.

If you are interested in serving on the committee, please submit an application to the Superintendent's Office, Orinda Union School District, 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda, CA 94563, via email to kfrenklach@orinda.k12.ca.us, or by fax to (925) 254-5261.

Applications are available on the district website: www.orindaschools.org or by email from kfrenklach@orinda.k12.ca.us

Application Deadline: November 10, 2011

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Letters to the Editor



Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only).

Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis.

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

My name is Razmin Riahi, and I am a Boy Scout in Troop 233. I am writing this as part of the Communications merit badge.

As you may know, there was a city council meeting recently where the issue of raising the speed limit on Glorietta Blvd from 25 mph to 30 mph was discussed. This is going to allow the use of radar and citing drivers for excessive speeding. This is also supposed to make drivers go slower. I am not in favor of this resolution because there are alternatives. There can also be a negative psychological impact since drivers usually go faster than the posted speed limit. Additionally, once this is done, there is no going back and the damage, monetary and psychologically will be done. Some other concerns include the fact that there are children walking and biking on that street to school, and an increase in the speed limit could be very dangerous, as there are no bike lanes on that street. I should add that I among others, spoke on this at the Orinda Council meeting. I urge you to recognize this topic in the next issue of your paper.

Sincerely,
 Razmin Riahi
 Orinda

Editor:

My name is Ryan Riahi, and I am a Boy Scout in Troop 233. I am writing this as part of the Communications merit badge.

On Monday October 3rd, I attended the Orinda city council meeting along with other boy scouts from my troop. In that meeting one of the issues that was discussed was the leaf blower problem in Orinda. They were saying that the leaf blowers let out little particles that are very dangerous to the environment and pollute the air. I completely agree with this and I think it would be great if you could publish this and help Orinda to ban leaf blowers in the town. I think it takes a little effort to fix this. Everybody can start using electrically powered blowers, instead of gas powered. I would be very happy if this subject can get more attention in your newspaper.

Sincerely,
 Ryan Riahi
 Orinda

The community came together in 1995 to pass a road and drain bond measure. Every one of us who lives in Lafayette today should be grateful to those who supported that measure. While it was not sufficient to solve the entire problem, the measure raised \$13 million, financed 41 specific projects (including repair of our storm drains) and put us within reach of solving the problem today.

Now it is our turn. We can solve this problem once and for all. The funds from Measure G will enable us to repair all failed public residential roads within ten years. Once all our roads are in good condition, we will have enough money from the General Fund and other sources to maintain them.

Why should we do this? We have an obligation to provide good roads for our entire community. We cannot do it relying on our current revenue sources, and we cannot cut expenses further without damaging the fabric of our community. Residents on failed roads have been paying taxes all along to repair other people's roads. Fixing their roads is the fair thing to do.

And it is in all of our interests to do so. All of us drive on the failed roads. All of our property values go up when we have well-maintained community infrastructure.

Please vote Yes on Measure G.
 Mayor Carl Anduri
 Lafayette

Editor:

You will soon be receiving Lafayette City Council's newest tax increase scheme in Measure G in order to increase spending for road and drain maintenance. The real result of this measure would be to increase the City's revenue base allowing them to continue spending on 'special interests' like downtown street beautification, paying off old debts caused by past Tax Measures, and new uncollected debts caused by 'easy (state) money' for Lafayette's Redevelopment Agency (RDA) loans. Lafayette residents never voted for RDA, and yet the City lent it General Fund money that may never be recovered. This 'easy money' also obligated Lafayette to 'high density housing' which no one in Lafayette wants.

The most basic responsibility the City has is 'public safety, and road and drains'. Every city knows this, but somehow the Lafayette City Council has so politicized its 'priority list' that they now want you to pay extra so they can continue spending on their other interests. Lafayette's tax base is more than big enough to adequately cover all basic services.

Of course we want good roads in Lafayette, but we should not have to pay real responsibilities, and a line should be drawn near the bottom to eliminate those extra 'special interests' that want free money from taxes already paid by residents. Check your Property Tax Bill and decide if you really want to expand your legal obligation to the City by another \$89 for ten more years.

Gordon Mattonen
 Lafayette

Editor:

As a thirty-seven year resident of Lafayette I appreciate the many educational and cultural opportunities available in our community: excellent schools, a world-class library, a vibrant downtown. Lafayette has many amenities of a large city yet maintains the semi-rural atmosphere that we all appreciate and love. Our local roads, however, are in deplorable condition and detract from the quality and property values of our homes and neighborhoods. Lafayette can commit \$20 million over the next ten years for road repair but additional revenue is needed to complete the \$30 million amount required. Measure G on the November ballot will work to ameliorate this problem. The money raised will be used to fix all the failed public roads in ten years or less. On-going sources of revenue can keep them maintained.

Passing Measure G will enhance property values, fix our failed roads and drains, and reduce vehicle costs. All Lafayette residents deserve good roads. Please join me in voting YES on MEASURE G.
 Mary McCosker
 Lafayette

... continued on next page

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Lafayette Measure G

Editor:

On November 8 we can come together as a community to provide the funding necessary to complete the repair of all of Lafayette's failed public roads. Please join a broad-based coalition of individuals and organizations -- including more than 1,500 residents who signed a petition to put Measure G on the ballot, the Lafayette School District Governing Board, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the Lafayette Homeowners Council, the Lafayette Taxpayers Association and the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley -- in supporting Measure G and providing all our residents with good roads.

Measure G will provide the stable source of funding needed to solve our roads problem, and it will do so in a simple, effective manner:

- \$89 per equivalent residential unit per year.
- 10 years maximum -- terminates in less than ten years if the roads are repaired sooner.
- All funds are applied directly to roads on a pay-as-you-go basis. There are no bonds, no debt, no interest payments.
- An independent citizens committee will ensure all funds are spent on our roads.

We need Measure G because the City simply does not have -- and will not have -- the resources to repair all failed roads. Because of reductions in property tax revenues, the City Council this year cut over \$500,000 in annual expenses from the General Fund budget in order to get it to balance. While the City has successfully applied for federal, state and regional funds to upgrade our arterial and collector roads (for example, work is now under way on Pleasant Hill Road near Olympic), those funds cannot be used for our residential roads -- and there are no funds available from outside sources for residential roads. We have to find a way to do it ourselves.

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



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Letters to the Editor

...continued

Editor:

Vote No on Lafayette Prop. G

I say Vote No on Prop. G in November as the City has neither the staff or the expertise to do the work properly or efficiently. By passing this Proposition you will be handing the City a blank check to do something they have repeatedly demonstrated that cannot do.

There are endless examples of this. For one, the St. Francis road area has been paved three times in the last five years. Roads that needed no help in the first place and roads that are dead end serving TWO houses! Many of our roads are in disrepair because of trenching by utility and other companies and the City exercises no supervision or control How long has BART been working at El Nido Ranch Road and Happy Valley roads?

Months and months for work that should take weeks. Why so long? Because they go days and weeks without doing ANYTHING and the City does nothing. I for one 'will not vote to give the City money and get maybe 30% of value. I can recite instance after instance where the City and it's engineering department simply did not know what to do. The idea that with this Prop. G the City is going to fix all of our roads just fine is nonsense. What to do then? Form a special services district, run by a private agency with people that know what they are doing and then get the job done efficiently. Proposition does not do that. VOTE NO ON G.

Robert Zimmerman

Lafayette

Editor:

Lafayette's roads are in good condition. The politician's out of control spending, is what needs fixing. This years interest expenses are \$3,194,761. Most of it for their Party Palace they call a learning center. Now the streets are polluted with signs asking for more money. Full page adds name the commissioners the politicians party with at taxpayer expense... This propoganda is being funded by people who inherited large companies & give thousands to political campaigns. Their names are on obscenely expensive public buildings. \$89 a year won't hurt them. They don't give a rat's tail about the old, poor, feeble and blind who will be forced to go without food and medicine because of \$89 in higher annual taxes.

Long ago, I asked a pro tax heiress if she would give me \$10 to attend a City social event. She gave me a big ugly" NO " The first time I saw this woman, she had a big phony smile on her face, asking for my vote. What would I expect from someone who wants to tax the blind?

The pro tax Chamber of Commerce receives \$30,000 in taxpayer cash annually. The pro tax League of Women Voters, has received subsidized rent from The City for decades. I don't know how much money the pro tax Lafayette Taxpayers Association receives. They are to the taxpayers of Lafayette, what Benedict Arnold was to the American Revolution. Many people are paid to lie to the public. In The American Revolution Patriots opposed taxes.

There is so much transportation money available, the plan to make a \$6,000,000 bike/wheelchair path on the EBMUD right of way is still being considered. Take a walk on it pushing a wheelchair and see what a ridiculous idea it is.

Measure G promises another committee. Expect it to be like the committee that ordered an expensive environmental impact report for frogs, near a proposed expensive Bike Jump Park. This committee drained all of the parkland frog ponds in the 1990s.

I told the Parks Director to send the kids to a Bike Jump Park near my home. Within a week, it was destroyed with a pickax. I wonder how sad that made those kids, who made their own Bike Jump Park.

Put a smile on your face, be patriotic and vote NO on Measure G.

Bruce R. Peterson

Lafayette

Editor:

On November 8, Lafayette residents will vote on Measure G, a parcel tax to fund road and drain reconstruction and maintenance. It is supported by organizations that don't frequently agree on issues -- Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Lafayette Homeowners Council, and Lafayette Taxpayers Association -- along with residents and City Council. This community-wide support should give voters comfort in the soundness and fairness of the measure.

For a maximum of ten years, single family homeowners will pay \$89 per year. Properties with higher impact on the roads will contribute their proportionate share. These are difficult times financially, but delaying street repairs will ultimately cost us more. The city is committing \$20 million; Measure G would raise the \$10 million needed to complete the repairs.

Measure G was drafted with input from a broad range of residents and organizations. It is fair, with parcels taxed according to an equitable formula of \$89 per equivalent residential unit. It is transparent, with funds deposited into a designated account so there is no comingling. It provides accountability, with an Oversight Committee reviewing expenditures. It is efficient, with revenue applied directly to roads -- no bonds or interest.

Measure G has my support.

Linda Murphy

Lafayette

Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda, or one of its communities, that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to letters@lamorindaweekly.com and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum. We will not accept Public Forum submissions regarding a current ballot measure or candidate for public office. Opinions expressed in Public Forum are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

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Dear Readers:

In an effort to improve the quality of our paper, we switched printers in August; our paper is now printed by Transcontinental Inc. in Fremont. Unlike most newspapers, we have always printed all of our pages in full color rather than black and white, for which we have received an overwhelmingly positive response.

In 2009, Transcontinental Inc. opened a new printing facility in Fremont and began printing the San Francisco Chronicle. Transcontinental invested in equipment that is geared towards color printing, which met our expectations for our paper.

We're excited to see our photos and advertisements printed with higher preciseness, clarity and brightness, and feel proud to publish news and photos from our community using state of the art technology.

In this issue we again take advantage of an option to print some of our pages on glossy paper. We think this unique feature, offered by Transcontinental, made our last issue stand out and we received many nice comments and compliments. In fact, extra copies offered in our news racks were picked up more quickly than usual. We believe that high quality writing and printing are very important aspects of our product.

Another new feature can be found in our Life in Lamorinda section—our Halloween page is extended to make it stand out from the other pages.

We're also happy that Transcontinental uses vegetable-based ink and a high percentage of recycled fiber in the paper which makes our product more sustainable and easier to recycle.

Thank you for being a reader of our paper.

Andy & Wendy Scheck
Publishers






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Butterflies are Free

... continued from page A1



From left: Christine Chai Kelly with daughter Jamie Kelly; Stephanie and Hania Kusinski; Maryeda Theer; Hania's grandmother, Karen Chin; and teacher Bess Inzeo. Photos Doug Kohen

Their developed Rheem's butterfly curriculum in 1974. She says she "stole" the idea from a Leo Politi book called *The Butterflies Come*. It was the perfect teachable moment, combining writing, art, math and science. Beadleson says it was "one of the best units in kindergarten. The kids remember it." Teachers and students hunted the hills then in search of milkweed plants holding eggs. After butterflies disappeared from the hillsides, teachers turned to mail order. That first year Theer had boys dressed as a caterpillar; now all kindergarteners sprout wings.

Teacher Bess Inzeo says the students begin their butterfly studies in early October. The caterpillars arrive, shed their skins and become chrysalides. Some two weeks later the butterflies emerge. The class feeds them for a few days, and then releases them at the parade, "...if mother nature cooperates," notes Inzeo.

This year's parade was especially important to Anne Obsitnik, whose mother teaches kindergarten in Winnetka, Illinois using a similar curriculum. Anne's daughter Caroline was a participant, and Caroline's older sister Chase received special permission to attend the parade. Chase

missed her own class Butterfly Parade two years ago because she was sick. Obsitnik enjoyed watching the "sea of little wings" and taking photos she would send to the girls' grandmother.

Students and parents ended the event with class parties, featuring butterfly cookies and punch. For all in attendance, it doesn't get much better. With this program, adds Kindergarten teacher Cathy Kathan, "We're keeping the magic in kindergarten!"



Maureen Kang takes a peek into the butterfly basket

Get Swept Up in the Midsummer Magic

OIS presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Submitted by Diane Sharp



The Wednesday cast rehearses for A Midsummer Night's Dream

Photo provided

Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater Company, wanting to share the incredible work of Shakespeare and bring it to life for school children throughout our community, will present *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to audiences in early November.

This is not only a great chance to see Shakespeare in action but also an educational opportunity for students – as an incentive for the younger crowd to attend, \$1.00 tickets to the two preview nights will be offered to anyone 17 or under.

It's not every day that a Lamorinda middle school tackles the world of Shakespeare on stage – the Bulldogs may well be the first to do so – but OIS is ready to entertain and amaze you.

Theseus and Hippolyta are soon to be crowned the king and queen of Homecoming at Athens High in this 1950's era re-imagining of Shakespeare's classic tale. When underclassmen Hermia and Lysander refuse to date the match chosen for them by the social pecking order, they take matters into their own hands and run away, leaving behind an unrelenting competitor (Demetrius) and a heart-sick confidant (Helena). Soon mischief and magic befall them in the suburban woods, and passion potions flip their affections in the blink of an eye.

Meanwhile, in preparation for the Homecoming festivities, the Athens High misfit squad of mechanicals set

about creating a dramatic production of their own to perform during the Homecoming festivities. The battling of fairy king and queen, Oberon and Titania, supported by their respective entourages of greasers and pink lady fairies, cause all sorts of mayhem with the mortals, going as far as transforming one of the players into a half-man half-donkey. Oberon's right hand henchmen, Puck and Robin Goodfellow, eventually set everything aright and the "Enchantment under the Stars" Homecoming celebration goes off without a hitch, ensuring that all fairies and humans find their own happily ever after.

Performances:

November 2-6 (six performances, three for each cast)

- Nov 2 at 4:30 (preview \$1 - 17 & under)
- Nov 3 at 4:30 (preview \$1 - 17 & under)
- Nov 4 at 5 & 8pm
- Nov 5 at 3 & 7pm

Tickets:

Available online at www.ShowTix4u.com or at the door one hour before each show.

Wednesday and Thursday Preview shows are general seating: \$6 Adults / \$1 Students

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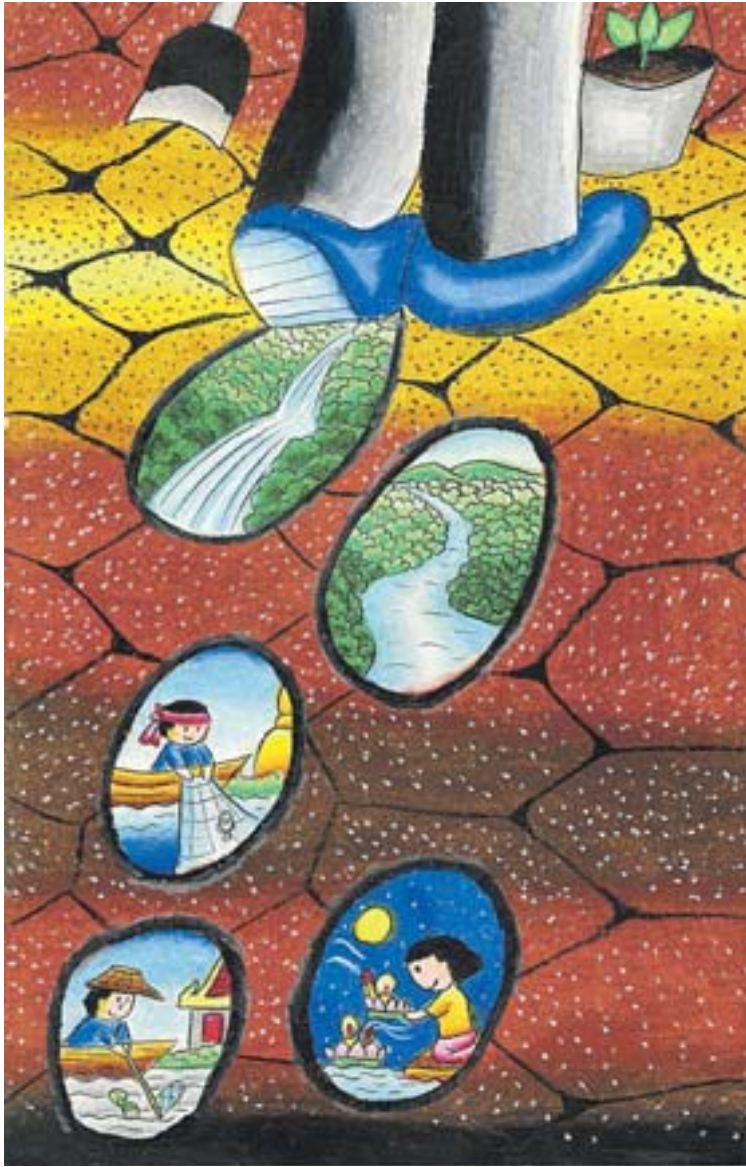
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SMC Launches Center for Environmental Literacy

A new home for River of Words

By Andrea A. Firth



Untitled
2010 Finalist; Nutchanan Ratchakul, age 10, Bangkok, Thailand, Demonstration School (Primary), Teacher: Pichai Niyomtham

“A path, unpredictable, habitat, shelter, wildlife, recreation, our life’s blood, new life, reflection, need protection, community.” What’s the connection between these words? These are the responses grade school and high school students gave when asked to define a watershed. The responses were part of River of Words, a nationally acclaimed ecoliteracy program that encourages young people to explore the watersheds where they live and trains educators to guide them in the process. Started in 1995, River of Words is an environmental poetry and visual arts program for students in kindergarten through 12th grade that is now based in thousands of schools in almost all fifty states and several countries throughout the world.

River of Words recently found a new home at Saint Mary’s College (SMC) as part of the newly launched Center for Environmental Literacy. The new Center, housed in the Kalmanovitz School of Education at SMC, will explore and promote the study of nature and the arts in Kindergarten through 12th grade education. “The Center will help prepare the next generation of education leaders to address global ecological concerns,” says School of Education Dean Phyllis Metcalf-Turner. The Center will also support faculty in other departments within SMC to incorporate environmental issues into their research and the college coursework.

“We need to educate our kids to deal with the world they will face,” says Robert Hass, the Berkeley-based former U.S. Poet Laureate and a Saint Mary’s College of California alumni. Hass is the co-founder of River of Words with writer and education advocate Pamela Michael. “It’s place-based education. Students use their own communities and ecosystems as their source for learning,” says Michael, who will also serve as the Director of the new center at SMC.

With the arrival of River of Words, SMC has also become the keeper of the world’s largest collection of children’s art and poetry amassed from the program’s annual international youth poetry and art contest. The contest inspires students to find the nexus between art, science, writing, and the environment, according to Michael, “The work these young students submit represents an amazing intersection between the environment and art.”

To find out more about SMC’s new Center for Environmental Literacy go to <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/node/9159>.

To find out more about River of Words Art & Poetry Contest for 2012 (the entry deadline in 12/1/11) go to <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/river-of-words/art-poetry-contest>.



Exploring the Spectacular Underwater World
2010 Finalist; Mok Tsun Ho, age 14, Hong Kong, China, School of Creativity Teacher: Stephanie Yip



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Battle of the Choirs

By Sophie Braccini



Choirs from Lamorinda's three high schools all sing together

The annual "battle of the choirs," at which Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte showcase their musical talents, featured the usual level of top-notch performances for a crowd of adoring parents and friends.

The Fall Choral Classic Repertoire was a day-long affair for the students—they mingled from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to learn three new songs

that the 200-voice strong combined choirs would sing together at the end of the evening. Before the grand finale each school presented its own program: 3 songs by each choir and 3 songs by the elite sub-groups called either "Chamber" or "Choral." The juniors and seniors had their day on October 18, while the sophomores performed two days later.

Although the evening is not billed

as a battle, each school tries to put forth its best creative effort. The Acalanes Choir, directed by Megan Perdue, opened the evening with *Tres Cantos Nativos dos Indios Krao*, a piece freely based on melodies sung by the Krao tribe, a group of native Brazilian Indians who live in the Amazonian forest of northwestern Brazil, and adapted by Marcos Leite who was well-known in Brazil as a conductor, composer, and musical theater director. The beautiful piece mixes bird songs, rhythms and voices, and required from the students and their director a different type of musicianship. The precision of Perdue's direction came out beautifully, showcasing some lovely voices such as that of soprano Lindsay Ford.

Newcomer Mark Roberts made his first formal appearance as conductor of the Campolindo team. Neither timid nor overly cautious, Roberts did not hesitate to take the Campolindo Concert Choir off the beaten path. He

surprised the audience with soloist Katie Marino starting an African Processional arranged by D.V. Montoya, alone on stage—marching to the rhythm of her song and of a powerful drum, the rest of the choir gradually joined her on stage. Roberts then offered the audience two modern pieces that took full advantage of the large pool of talent among his group of singers. He did not shy away from pushing the sound volume and increasing the auditory contrasts in the *Lamentations of Jeremiah*, and had the singers interpret *The Battle of Jericho* in a very modern arrangement by Moses Hogan.

The Miramonte Choir, directed by Bruce Lengacher, presented two classical and perfectly executed songs. *Amor de mi Alma*, by Randall Stroope, was especially exquisite, and very finely tuned in all of its nuances by Lengacher.

The third piece by the Acalanes Choir, *Vamuvamba* ("They Crucified Him") is a traditional Tiriki melody from Kenya that was adapted and arranged by Boniface Mganga, the founder and director of the Kenyan Muungano National Choir. The young Lafayette students, with the help of a drum, interpreted joyfully the energetic African music.

Guest conductor Lori Marie Rios conducted the finale, appropriately called the Mass Choir. The result of the day's work was impressive, not only because of the sheer number of singers, but because they memorized and sang everything perfectly. As Rios put it, "Music is more than notes and rhythm; it is a way to self discovery, to better understanding of others' culture and ways of life."

Photo Andy Chang

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Famous Author Comes to Lamorinda Reads Event

By Cathy Tyson

Lamorinda Reads will celebrate its grand finale event for the year with well known San Francisco author Glen David Gold discussing his book, *Carter Beats the Devil*, on November 1. Senior Community Library Manager Susan Weaver anticipates a big turnout in the spacious Community Hall of the Lafayette Li-

brary and Learning Center, "We know that people outside our area also read our Lamorinda Reads choices every year so we've developed a following. Plus, I'd like a nickel for the number of times people have raved about the book to me."

Weaver explains that they try to choose a title that both men and women will enjoy, ideally with a local angle. "This book was easy for us because it has absolutely everything most readers would delight in - a thriller, a mystery, and tantalizing historical fiction to make people wonder what part's true and what the author has simply made up. In terms of check outs, I did a rough count and as of today, the book has been checked out around 1,300 times," she says.

Indeed *Carter Beats the Devil* has gotten glowing reviews since its publication in 2001, even *The New Yorker* called it, "the most entertaining appearing acts of recent years." The tale includes an eccentric cast of characters including President Harding, real-life prize fighter Benny Leonard, Philo Farnsworth and ghosts at Lake Merritt along with hardship and heartbreak.

From the initial "cold-call" e-mail from Caroline Glick, Orinda Library's Senior Community Library Manager, Gold responded enthusiastically. Glick had read the book when it came out, Googled the author, and sent her request. Look for Glen David Gold at The Lafayette Library and Learning Center on Tuesday November 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Hall. Although the event is free, books will be available for purchase courtesy of Orinda Books and can be autographed. Readers may also be familiar with Gold's wife, Alice Sebold, author of *The Lovely Bones* and *The Almost Moon*.

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Not Shaken During Quake Drill

By Cathy Dausman



"Duck and cover" starts in Carla Unroe's classroom



Students applied a backboard and C collar to a simulated victim who was hit by a falling light fixture

Over 1200 Miramonte High School students, faculty and staff took an hour last Thursday morning to duck, cover and evacuate their classrooms as participants in this year's Great California Shake Out, an earthquake preparedness program.

While other Lamorinda schools also participated (Campolindo High School ran a "duck and cover" drill, Orinda Police Chief Jeffrey Jennings



From left: Lois Halls, Emily Reichardt and Teena Rigal confer on the field



Students from Unroe's class, from left: Unroe's class: Jake Woodlee, Jonathan Chan, Matt Moran, Zach Barber and Steven Shepard



Senior Nick Read (on brace board) being treated for a "broken neck"

Photo Cathy Dausman

ously that he became wedged underneath his desk and needed help getting out. The students then grabbed their backpacks (a concession because this was a drill; in a real emergency they'd leave their possessions behind) and headed to the football field with the rest of the student body. Teachers hung green door markers ("all accounted for") before heading out; if a student was injured or unaccounted for the teacher stayed behind and hung a red marker.

Three students had mock injuries that added to the realism. Senior Nick Read suffered a broken neck and was strapped to a head board. Madison Gibson supposedly broke her ankle during the earthquake and Danielle Meyer was cut by glass going to Gibson's assistance. Fortunately, those students were "injured" at Miramonte High School, where a portion of John Grigsby's Sports Medicine students acted as a medical triage team. Grigsby says his students learn CPR and are first aid certified.

Once on the field, classes assembled with their teachers, and attendance was taken again. The drill finished smoothly, thanks to "a great deal of planning and coordination across the school and wider community," says McAlister.

Over 8.6 million Californians participated in this year's Great California Shake Out (<http://www.shake-out.org/>), up from 7.9 million participants last year. U.S. Census figures for 2010 show the state's population at 37,253,956; meaning roughly 25 per cent of Californians participated. After the Hayward Fault jolts felt around the Bay Area later that day, maybe even more will get involved next year.

visited Glorietta Elementary School, and an Orinda police detective was sent to Orinda Intermediate School, this was the real deal.

Associate Principal Michael McAlister introduced himself: "Hi, I'm Incident Commander today." That meant McAlister, FRS (Family Radio Service) radio and "go bag" at hand, was in charge. He was accompanied by Dennis Rein, of the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD), and Tom Chan, Orinda Citizen's Corps Council. Science teacher and amateur radio operator Dan Shortenhaus checked in to the Orinda city emergency communications frequency, saying he felt the drill went well.

From the start, McAlister expected good things: "Miramonte is a culture of care," he said, explaining that everyone would look out for each other.

It was business as usual in Carla Unroe's third period Spanish class until the word came to duck and cover ("terremoto" is "earthquake" in Spanish). One student took his job so seri-

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Life Meets the Afterlife in Lafayette

By Cathy Dausman

Lamorinda has no cemeteries within its boundaries, nor does Moraga. Neither does Walnut Creek. So when some Lamorinda residents want their family members buried locally, they turn to Lafayette.

Lafayette is home to three cemeteries: Oakmont and Queen of Heaven, both in unincorporated Lafayette, and Lafayette Cemetery, on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. The latter is part of the Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery District.

For those in Alamo, Danville, Blackhawk, Rossmoor, Diablo, San Ramon and parts of Walnut Creek it is a line-item notation on the Contra Costa County tax bill. It is non-denominational, still in use, and plots and urn spaces are available. Visiting hours are sunup to sundown.

Mary McCosker, of the Lafayette Historical Society, and Nancy Flood, Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery District, will share stories of the grave sites on

October 26 at 3:00 p.m. in the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. On October 30 they will also lead the cemetery's first public adult walking tour. McCosker regularly takes groups of Lafayette grade school children through the cemetery as part of their classroom introduction to local history. But the hillside is "not an easy place to walk," so the sedentary lecture is an option.

Both events are fundraisers for the Lafayette Historical Society. The cost for either event is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members. Those who attend both events are eligible for a \$5 discount.



Photos Cathy Dausman

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Lafayette Cemetery had its first burial in 1854, when a neighbor allowed Henrietta Hodges' parents to bury her on a portion of his land. Hodges died of tuberculosis at age 13. Medford Gorham, the neighbor, described the place as, "a pleasing grassy knoll with good drainage and a vista of lovely valleys and hills and hillsides." It's like that still today.

The cemetery officially opened in 1874, when Gorham sold 4.5 acres of land to the newly formed Cemetery Corporation of Lafayette. Over time, a number of notables have been laid to rest there. John Standish, a descendant of Mayflower Pilgrim Myles Standish, is buried there. Relatives of

the ill-fated Donner party have a family plot in Lafayette Cemetery (they were the lucky ones—they arrived in California by ship.) At least two Lafayette Cemetery Corporation directors are buried there, along with teachers Jennie Bickerstaff Rosenberg and Benjamin Shreve (who was also a Lafayette postmaster). One plot holds a man buried with his beloved dog. McCosker says a Siamese cat named Ling Ling was also buried in or near the cemetery and legend has it the cat and dog meet at night.

Although both lecture and walking tour fall near Halloween, McCosker says it is purely happenstance. Think more All Hallows Eve than

ghosts and goblins. McCosker sees the cemetery as "not spooky, not scary... just part of the Circle of Life."

Additional cemetery information may be found online at:

Lafayette Cemetery:
http://alamolafayettecemetery.net/alcd_docu/pdf/poi.lafayette.map.pdf

Queen of Heaven:
<http://www.cfcscemeteries.org/locations/queen-of-heaven-lafayette>

Oakmont:
<http://aftercareplanning.com/oakmont-memorial-park/>

For Lafayette Cemetery lecture or tour reservations, call (925) 283-1848 or e-mail Lafayette.history@comcast.net

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Cemetery Etiquette



First time visitors to any cemetery may wonder what behavior is expected of them, or if there are any "rules" about being in the presence of those dead and buried. Is it acceptable to walk about the grave sites? What about walking on top of a grave? As for the latter, "you can't avoid that," says Patricia Howard, Superintendent and General Manager for the Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery District. A majority of what looks to be open spaces are actually early burial sites, many of which are without headstones. Early plots measured 4 by 10 feet; in the early 1900's the sites were reduced to 3 by 8 feet. Howard says to her knowledge, the cemetery has never had an issue with unsuitable behavior.

In her 18 plus years at this job, she has come to realize that different cultures have unique ways of memorializing their loved ones. She cites the Jewish custom of leaving a stone at a grave site, and recalls a Korean family who mourned the death of a child in near silence until the arrival of a young and very vocal paid mourner.

Howard says it is fine to make grave rubbings, as long as people realize they need to support upright headstones so they are not loosened or damaged in the process.

She appreciates the work Mary McCosker does with elementary school students from Lafayette, who learn respect for the cemetery while becoming familiar with their city's early history. Howard considers the park-like Lafayette Cemetery "a safe place to be" to remember departed loved ones, and asks only that everyone treat it "as their own home."

C. Dausman

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THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

My Tracks For Iphones, Ipads, Android Price: Free

One of the great things about smart phones is that they all come equipped with GPS sensors. My Tracks is a simple, easy to use app that utilizes GPS to record and map the path you are taking. This is particularly useful for bike riders, runners, hikers, walkers, roller skaters... well you get the idea. Just hit "Record Tracks," and My Tracks automatically finds your location and starts recording your course. A myriad of useful statistics are continually updated on your phone, including your speed, your average speed, your maximum speed, the total distance you have traveled, and the time it took you to travel, including only the time that you were actually moving.

For hill climbers, it monitors your elevation, your elevation gain, and your maximum elevation. The trail you are designing can be viewed on your smart phone. It is really effective for exercise enthusiasts because you can save your recorded route with full statistic listings. Simply send the mapped route to Google's My Maps and log the stats at Google Docs. If you frequent the same way regularly, you will be able to watch your progress with the saved stats. Players on Lamorinda Rugby found this free app a great motivator for keeping track of their playing improvements.

Lafayette Artists on Life and Work

Juliet and Dean MacCannell prepare for Day of the Dead exhibit

By Lou Fancher



The central image in the MacCannells' current installation. It is about 2.5 by 4.5 feet on transparency and lighted from behind. Photo provided by Juliet MacCannell

For Juliet and Dean MacCannell, Lafayette writers and visual artists, preparing for the annual Day of the Dead exhibition at SOMArts Cultural Center in San Francisco meant gazing deeply into the eyes of Pablo Picasso.

The 2011 show's theme, "illuminations", offered an opportunity to explore light as a source of inspiration and to dedicate the work they produced to the great Cubist artist.

The MacCannells have participated in curator René Yañez's celebration of death and loss every year since 1998.

"It's always exciting because you never know what the theme will be until two months before. And you can't do the same thing each time; you have to bring something fresh," Juliet said.

Seated in their home, under towering book shelves and in view of an outdoor work bench scattered with glitter, wood scraps, sketches and glue guns, the two artists spoke about their current project and life as artists.

"We both had thoughts that we would be visual artists when we were younger. But as soon as we went to college, the demand for our essays was so intense!" Dean exclaimed.

Their good fortune as writers led them to become college educators and the first non-fiction writers invited to Headlands Center for the Arts, an incubator for artistic exploration located in the Marin Headlands.

"At first, we were getting the cold shoulder," Dean recalled. "The artists were thinking, 'What are these professors doing getting this big, valuable residency?' As soon as I told them I was writing because I had to, not because of some institution, they accepted us."

Acceptance led to collaboration, which is the starting point for the light box installation still under construction and the three-by five foot transparency stretched across the dining room table.

"It's very concept driven," Juliet explained.

The MacCannells had just returned from Europe and their usual routines were in a jumble when they saw the Picasso exhibition at the DeYoung Museum.

"I looked at Picasso and his failure to do a self-portrait that accurately reflected him. His eyes never resemble his own eyes: they always look flat, vacant," Juliet said.

Fascinated by this inconsistency from an artist whose work she believes reveals the overlooked or under-realized, Juliet began to draw

while Dean "brewed."

"I was interested in the metaphor and I knew Juliet's piece would have light coming from within. I wanted to do something with the light coming from without," Dean said, about the glitter-filled Picasso-esque renderings framing the light box. "That's the paradox about illumination: what's the source of thought? Do you get it from your teacher, or from your soul?"

Research and reflection are primary tools in their technique. Juliet brings a relentless focus on cultural phenomena and excavating the psychoanalytical aspect of an artist or art object. Dean is more anthropological, diving into the origins and cultural progression from a thought or idea to a physical representation.

"Our work has a political aspect and [Yañez] loves that, although he says, 'Oh, you're going to get me in trouble!'" Juliet laughed.

One year, an angry construction worker, disliking how the vitriolic power commercial developer Joe O'Donoghue had been depicted, came to the exhibition with a crowbar.

"He destroyed our piece and demanded Juliet give him our phone number," Dean recalled. "She gave him the phone number of the local police department instead."

This year's piece, especially the collage of images Juliet has created in a layered process involving sketching, painting in Photoshop, and the incorporation of fragments of Picasso's own artwork, is less directly confrontational.

Still, there are messages: pay attention to poverty and how it restricts and represents reality; ask yourself if an image can communicate without the alibi of words, ponder the tension between those who believe light emanates from within and those who seek answers through external means.

Dean insisted that their work and their 46-year marriage are not hard work.

"I never considered for an instant there was labor involved here at all," he admitted, looking across the room for affirmation.

Juliet remembered one, singular hardware store disagreement—over a dishwasher valve—that was so uncommon, their young niece worried it might signal a turn for the worse in their marriage.

"But everything we do is a collaboration: the work, the children," she concluded. "We talk a lot, which is apparently what many married people stop doing after a while. And we always figure out a strategic way with each other."




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Campolindo's Friend of Education

Submitted by Mary Eggertsen



Chris Banard Photo provided

Campolindo parent Chris Banard was honored as Campolindo's Su Stauffer Friend of Education at Wednesday night's AUHSD governing board meeting. Our students, school and community are indeed fortunate to have had Chris as a supportive and tireless volunteer and basketball coach.

Not only has he put in countless hours as a parent of two Campolindo students—Brett, who now attends Cal Poly and Ryan, a sophomore—but Chris has served as: Parent Advisor for four years to the Class of 2010, Parent

Club Board member and Webmaster, member of the School Advisory Council and a parent representative on the WASC Focus on Learning Assessment and Accountability committee for the past two years.

To this work as a volunteer, Chris has brought a global and business perspective, always looking for better ways of communicating pertinent information and community news with students and parents. As a member of the School Advisory Council and WASC Focus Group, his active and thoughtful voice has shared concerns, insights and ideas on how Campolindo could improve and best serve the needs of students and the greater community.

As if this were not enough time spent supporting our school, Chris is also the Boys' JV basketball coach and overall program manager. He works positively with the administration, athletic department, parents and students and is one of the major reasons why our program has been successful in supporting our student athletes achieving the honorable.

Chris's dedication and passion for Campolindo is greatly valued and appreciated. He sets an example for all of us in finding a passion and interest that benefits the greater good. Chris has been a permanent fixture on the Campolindo campus, and he and his family will be sorely missed when they move later this month to Boston.



National Charity League Tea at Moraga Royale

Submitted by Clare Varellas



Photo provided

Residents of Moraga Royale Assisted Living and local high school girls in the Lamorinda chapter of the National Charity League (NCL) gathered on Sunday, October 16 at Moraga Royale for an annual tea.

The event gave the teenagers a chance to sit down with the men and women of Moraga Royale to chat while sipping tea and snacking on finger food. Girls and residents alike enjoyed this opportunity to communicate and connect with members of another generation.

"I enjoyed getting to talk to people from earlier generations, and I had a lot of fun meeting new people and learning new things," said Grace Moran, a member of the NCL tenth grade class.

The tea is put on every year by the sophomore class of Lamorinda NCL, so this year it was the NCL Class of 2014's responsibility to organize and prepare for the event. The sophomore girls arranged food assignments, work shifts, and a fashion show for entertainment in the month prior to the tea.

After the girls set up for the tea and arranged the food on Sunday, Moraga Royale residents entered and were seated and served. The high schoolers spread throughout the room to sit and chat with the attending residents. Following this social time came a fashion show organized by the NCL girls to showcase their high school Homecoming dresses, everyday clothing, and sports uniforms.

"I think it was a great success...it

was very interesting that the girls chose to do a fashion show, and many of the girls participated. It seemed like the residents enjoyed it," said Marcie Schmitz, an NCL mother and Philanthropic Co-Chair for the event.

The tea seemed to be an overall pleasant and fun experience for all who attended. The girls especially enjoyed interacting with the residents and the satisfying feeling that they had done something beneficial for their community.

NCL sophomore members Julia Nishioki and Abby Brzezinski said, "[Our] favorite part was definitely sitting at the tables and being able to hear [the residents'] stories and how they appreciated having us here. It's simple things like that that make NCL all worth it."

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Ask Dr. Harold: Homework

By Harold Jules Hoyle Ph.D.

I was recently at a parent talk in a school and was hit with the question about homework. As a parent, I dealt and continue to deal with the Lamorinda homework that spawned the Race to Nowhere film and accompanying movement. As a faculty member at Santa Clara University, I am responsible for training teachers. There are peer reviewed research studies on both sides of the homework debate and I will leave that debate for another venue. Here is a psycho-educational breakdown of getting your kid to do what the teacher assigns.

Why do I have to do homework?

Kids have a very valid point when they ask this question. Teachers should be able to answer this question. It could be practice, it could be to strengthen a concept, it could be to connect practice to theory, or you could find they are just in the habit of giving it out. With standardized testing eating up instructional days and more requirements from state and national standards, teachers these days have much more to cover in less time. And don't forget, while you were in college and being young married people, information has been increasing in subject areas at a rate of over 60% a year. There is simply more history/science/English/mathematics to teach. Enforcing an assignment for a teacher becomes easier once you and your child know the purpose of the assignment.

Why do I have to do homework now?

In teacher training programs,

the classic standard is to assign no more than 10 minutes of homework per grade. If you know what the teacher is trying to accomplish with the homework and you use this guide, then you can create a system that accommodates important factors you know about your child. Take that painful 90 minutes and break it into three 15-minute study sessions with 15 minutes of play or relaxation or physical activity in between. Children struggle with aspects of homework like starting or finishing or going too fast. Each of these has a different solution. A key parental mistake we all make is solving the problem before we know what the issues are. It is more efficient to help your child learn the material by finding out how their mind works rather than imposing the study habits that worked for you. Discuss the work with them. Try different solutions. Another key is to emphasize the learning not the grade. We coach our students to ask teachers how they can bring up their grade. We need to coach them to ask how they can learn to write a better paragraph.

What is homework?

Homework is a habit. Teachers may use it for all sorts of purposes but at the core it is a habit we build over time. It becomes easier with all of the aspects that help in building habits. Have a time and a place for your child to do homework. A hungry, hot, and tired kid will have difficulty building habits. We learn better with others sometimes. Have a couple of days of homework club

a week and your kids will learn more about different ways to solve problems and different ways to learn. If you set aside some time for homework then the time is used for academic tasks. If there is no homework or they "got it done in class" then they have extra time to do some other creative, academically-oriented activity. The reality is that kids who resist and spend hours on homework in elementary school would have plenty of time to play if we were more consistent in helping them build study habits. You or your child should work with your teachers to learn what they are trying to accomplish with homework. Remind your child how good it feels to work hard and accomplish a goal. And reward your kid for learning that is done well, be it homework or playtime.



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Harold can be contacted by phone or email: 510-219-8660
hjhoyle@mac.com

Harold is licensed clinical psychologist and a lecturer and in the School of Counseling Psychology, Education, and Pastoral Ministries Santa Clara University. With his wife and two children he is a 14 year long resident of the Lamorinda area. He is a sought after speaker in the areas of parenting, education, behavior with adolescents and children. He has a local private practice.

Rosso come Il Cielo Returns to Orinda Theater

By Sophie Braccini



Photo provided

The Lamorinda International Film Showcase is bringing back to the Orinda Theater the marvelous film by Italian Director Cristiano Bortone, *Red Like the Sky*, for one week –

Friday, November 4, to Thursday, November 10.

The movie is based on the true story of Mirco Mencacci, who became blind at age 10 after an accident. Forced to go to a specialized school away from home, he can't share his passion for movies with his father anymore. Nonetheless, he finds a way to give life to the

stories he invents, recording sounds on a tape recorder, then cutting and gluing the pieces together. The school does not approve of his experiments and the staff tries to stop him. But Mencacci does not give up.

"This is the most inspirational movie we've shown this year," says Lamorinda International Film Showcase's Efi Lubliner, "it also got the best rating of all our movies, but due to a change of management, we could not show it for more than a week. Many people who wanted to see it got upset, so we are very happy to be able to bring it back now."

This true story is indeed an extraordinary tale of courage and passion, and families will enjoy seeing it together. The life lessons to be learned are worth the tears you will shed.

Mencacci became one of the most renowned sound experts in the Italian movie industry.

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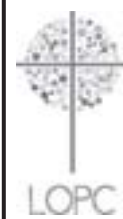
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ART

The Saint Mary's College William Keith (1838 -1911) Collection will welcome visitors into the expanded galleries of the new Museum of Art. Among never before seen recent acquisitions and newly restored paintings are magnificent early views of the Columbia River Valley, Pacific Northwest, Mt. Tamalpais and Russian River. The Hearst Art Gallery is open from Wednesdays through Sundays, 11am-4:30pm. Admission is \$4 for adults; free for groups, K-12th graders. For more information, please call (925) 631-4379.

"Textures, Layers and Lines" is a small group show featuring the works of four artists: Dalia Alekna, pastel artist and jewelry maker; Paula Boas, abstract painter; Linda Yoshizawa, printmaker; and potter Martha Kean. The show uses process and imagery to suggest a history or story beyond just a beautiful piece of art. The show is open through October 29.

The exhibit at the Orinda Library art gallery for November will feature the following artists: Kim Wong, painting; Terry Riggins, Photos; Thomas Tanneyhill, Block prints.

"Oh,Wow! Watercolors" by Moraga artist George Ehrenhaft will grace the Moraga Library's art corner throughout November. Fully half of Ehrenhaft's fresh landscapes lovingly portray sites familiar to Lamorinda residents: the trail to Valle Vista, the Lafayette Reservoir, Briones Regional Park, an EBMUD barn on watershed property. Open during library hours. For details, call 376-6852.

MUSIC

Saint Mary's Music Recital Series. Enjoy listening to students sing opera arias, perform piano sonatas and play Baroque trios and other chamber music on Wednesday October 26, 1pm. Where: Soda Center, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Admission: Free.

In the midst of a three week west coast tour, Seattle area Songstress Carolyn Cruso makes a stop in Moraga this week to play a House Concert at the home of Anasuya Krishnaswamy, on Saturday, Oct 29 at 7pm. Cruso weaves a web with her transcendent Celtic trance dulcimer and energetic Americana folk songs. \$10-20 suggested donation. Email anu_krishnaswamy@yahoo.com to reserve and for directions. www.carolyncruso.com.

A Grand Night of Opera – classic music from the operatic repertoire, old and new – in concert at Hertz Hall on the UC Berkeley campus, on Saturday, November 12, 8pm. The program will include selections from Carmen, Turandot, Rigoletto, La Traviata, Der Rosenkavalier, Il Trovatore as well as other operatic surprises. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and may be purchased at the door or in advance at (510) 642-3880. For more information go to the U.C. Alumni Chorus website: <http://www.ucac.net>.

SMC Jazz Band: Thursday November 17 at 8pm and Friday, November 18 at 5pm. Up-tempo numbers, tender ballads, blues, swing and salsa - they all create the energy of the jazz band concert experience. John Maltester, recently inducted into the California Alliance for Jazz Hall of Fame, directs the ensemble. Where: Soda Center, Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Admission: \$5 SMC Community, \$10 General Admission, \$8 Seniors and non-SMC Students.

Cellist Eric Sung, heard by millions in movie theaters around the world, joins the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra in a performance of Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rococo Theme. If you've seen Pirates of the Caribbean, King Kong, or Inside Man, you've already heard the sound of his rare 200-year-old cello. Also on the program: prime selections from Bizet's voluptuous Carmen, including the unforgettable classic, "Les Toreadors." Sunday, 11/20, 2pm Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, Tickets: \$10 - \$30 at the door, by phone (925) 943-SHOW, or online at www.LeshnerArtsCenter.org.

THEATER

DVC Drama presents Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare, directed by Nicole Hess-Diestler, Oct 14th - Nov 6th; Fridays, Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2:30pm; Diablo Valley College Performing Arts Center. Order tickets at (925) 687-4445 or www.dvcdrama.net.

California Independent Film Festival is presenting "Mighty Macs" at the Rheem Theatre thru Nov 3rd. This is a heart-warming true story of a small, unknown school's improbable journey in 1972 to win the first national women's collegiate basketball championship. Tickets are \$10 for general admission; and \$8 for matinee admission, students and seniors.

Miramonte High School's drama department is presenting two contemporary dramatic plays this fall. Marvin's Room, by Scott McPherson, and Rabbit Hole, by David Lindsay-Abaire, will be performed in November. Both plays focus on family relationships as they cope with sudden tragedy. The productions will be at the Miramonte Theater at Miramonte High School on 750 Moraga Way, Orinda. Tickets will be available for purchase on the MHS webstore, www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte. Please call the school office at (925) 280-3930 with any questions.

June in a Box



Photo Michael Cook.

Saint Mary's College Performing Arts Department presents June in a Box, a new work by nationally acclaimed Latino playwright Octavio Solis. In June in a Box, an old corrido comes to life, recounting the sensational 1934 kidnapping of June Robles, child of a wealthy immigrant family from Tucson. June in a Box is a magical poem to innocence, to memory, and the force that heals life's scars. Saint Mary's Performing Arts has one of the region's outstanding theatre programs, and last year won 5 regional and 6 national awards from the Kennedy Center/ American College Theatre Festival.

Where: LeFevre Theatre, Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga When: Nov. 10, 11, 12, & 18 at 8pm. Sunday, Nov 20 at 2pm. Meet Octavio Solis at 7pm Friday, Nov. 11 before the show. Admission: General: \$15, Seniors and Non-SMC Students: \$12. Tickets available by phone ((925) 631-4670) or at the door.

Red Carpet World Premiere of "Hercules Saves Christmas," November 17 at the Orinda Theatre. Red Carpet arrivals start at 6:30pm. Movie and Q & A at 7pm. Celebrities scheduled to attend include Hercules Shorty Rossi (Pit Boss), Mackenzie Phillips (One Day at a Time), Richard Van Vleet (All My Children), Kathy Garver (Family Affair), Ashley Brooks (Pit Boss), Danny Arroyo (Lethal Weapon), Maggie VandenBerghe (Aliens in the Attic), and Anthony Robinson (Hercules Saves Christmas). Don't miss this Hollywood event in Orinda! Trailer at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leqdnPmfYdU>, Articles: <http://movies.broadwayworld.com/article/Animal-Planet-Movie-Hercules-Saves-Christmas-to-Premiere-20111020>. bunch of photos available.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

SMC's Distinguished Speaker Series presents an internationally-recognized authority on brain-compatible teaching strategies, Dr. Marcia Tate, Saturday, October 29, 8:30am-1pm. Soda Activity Center, Saint Mary's College; \$60 - continental breakfast and lunch included. Open to the public. For information and registration: Lydia Wiley, (925) 631-8124 or lwiley@stmmarys-ca.edu. Register online at: www.stmarys-ca.edu/saturdayseminars.

Iran and the Arab Spring, Dariush Zahedi, Author, Lecturer in Iranian and Turkish Affairs. Thursday October 27. East Bay Chapter of the World Affairs Council. Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd Lafayette. Registration & Social: 6:30pm; Program: 7pm. Council Members & EB Council of USF: \$8 Non-members: \$10; Students: Free; for reservations: www.WorldAffairs.org or call (415) 293-4600.

KIDS & PARENTS

Troop 246 is hosting their 2011 Open House for perspective Boy Scouts. Boys in 5th grade or older and their parents are welcome to attend our ice cream party Wednesday, Nov. 2, 7:30-8:30pm at the Scout Hut on Moraga Way. Learn all about Troop 246 and what makes us special. Have fun meeting our scouts, join in scout activities, and enjoy some ice cream. Contact information: Leslie Green, wessnjoe@netscape.net, 247-0846.

Lamorinda Moms 14th Annual Preschool Fair, Thursday, November 3, 6:30-8:30pm at Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. Representatives from more than 35 Lamorinda preschools will be available to discuss their programs and answer questions. Children are welcome! This free event is open to Lamorinda Moms members and the general community.

HALLOWEEN

Dark Dreams Haunted house returns to the Rheem Theater raising money for the California Independent Film Festival. Creepy movie sets and live monsters leave you shaking. Open 4-6pm on Halloween with lights on and no monsters for curious little kids. October 28-31, 7-11pm and 'til midnight on Halloween. \$8 admission (sold at door), www.Hauntworld.com. See article page B9.

Lafayette Parks and Rec Haunted House Friday, Oct. 28th & Sunday, Oct. 30.

Moraga Farmers' Market Halloween Harvest Celebration is Sunday, October 30, 9am-1pm. Come to the Kid's Costume Contest at 10am with prizes for scariest, funniest, best Farmers' Market theme, most creative, and best overall costume. Children decorate their own pumpkin, guess the weight of the giant pumpkin, and play the Pumpkin Pitch game. The autumn harvest features apples, grapes, tomatoes, flowers and more direct from California growers and producers. (800) 806-3276 or CAFarmersMkts.com.

Calling all ghosts, witches & goblins. Trick or Treat on Halloween, Monday, October 31, 3-5pm at Moraga's Rheem Center on the corner of Rheem Blvd. and Moraga Rd. Costumed children must be accompanied by an adult.

Contra Costa Wind Symphony, with Maestro Duane Carroll, will conduct a Halloween-themed concert for ghosts, goblins, and ghouls of all ages, including selections from popular movies and "spooktacular" surprises. 3pm, Oct. 29. Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets \$6-\$22. Children age 12 and under in costume admitted free. (925) 943-7469, www.lesherartscenter.org, www.CCWindSymphony.org.

Halloween Skit in Moraga

The folks at 12 Lynwood Drive (just off of Corliss) in Moraga will be performing their annual Halloween skit, now 15 years running, on October 31st. The theme for this year is Terrors in the Twilight. Stop by to get some candy and enjoy the brief show, which will be repeated regularly between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

OTHER

CCSWA is offering a free home composting workshop on October 29, 1-2:30pm, at Mt. Diablo Nursery, 3295 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. Contact CCSWA at (925) 906-1801 x109.

19th Annual Lafayette Reservoir Run, October 30. Over 2,500 participants compete in a 10K, 5K or 2 mile race through the heart of downtown

Lafayette, around the reservoir and back. Sprinters, walkers, the "stroller brigade" and many of Lafayette's top four-legged residents. Race times begin at 8am and "day of" registration begins at 6:30am. Pre-registration can be done by visiting the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce website, www.lafayettechamber.org. or www.active.com. See article page A2.

Senior Helpline Services, a Lafayette based non-profit agency, serves seniors with their Rides for Seniors and Reassurance Phone Friends programs. This year SHS is holding a fundraising raffle. Tickets are \$25.00 each for a chance in the drawing that will be held on 11/1/11. Five tickets will be drawn and the lucky winners will have the choice of a \$1000 gas card or \$1000 in cash. Please help support SHS programs and give yourself a shot at winning \$1000. You may either contact SHS directly at (925)284-6699 or Jennifer Williams with BrightStar at (925)785-0734 to purchase your ticket(s).

Toe-tapping music, twirling dancers, and the friendly buzz of conversation keep the atmosphere lively at the weekly Dance Social, Wednesdays 12:30-2:50 pm at Lafayette Community Center. The longtime event is held in the big, bright Live Oak Room. There's plenty of space for a sizable group to swirl, twirl, and socialize. The Dance Social specializes in ballroom, but any style of dance adds to the fun. Professional dance lessons the first Wednesday of the month. The Lafayette Community Center is at 500 St. Mary's Road. A map and additional details are posted at: sites.google.com/site/lafayetteadance. The event is \$2 for members of Lafayette Senior Center, and \$4 for non-members. It's \$10 yearly to join the Center, and enjoy the complete range of activities.

BOOK SALE - Friends of the Orinda Library - Thurs. Nov. 3, 10am-1pm in the Book Shop and Sorting Room (Book Shop is open until 6 p.m.) Sale will include book ideas for holiday giving. Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda (925) 254-1358.

Revolutionizing 'The Plate.' A Nutrition Workshop for the Whole Family, Saturday November 5, 11am at the Moraga Library. This year the USDA replaced the Food Pyramid with the new nutrition model 'The Plate.' Join Karen Boateng, Teacher and Certified Nutritionist, as she takes us through the fascinating new research in nutrition in a kid-friendly way. Tips on how to get picky kids to eat more whole grains, fruits & veggies, healthy organic food samples and recipe ideas, school lunch ideas, and more.

Lafayette Juniors'Annual Rummage Sale, Saturday, November 5, 7am-1pm at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. Find great deals on household items, clothing, decor, baby and kids' clothes, and loads of toys and gear for the whole family! Proceeds benefit local charities. For more information, visit lafayettejuniors.org.

The Gardens at Heather Farm Adult Education program: Introduction to Bird Songs and Sounds, Saturday, November 5, 9-11am. This fun class for all ages will introduce you to bird songs and calls to help you identify a variety of our wild friends. \$20 GHF Members/\$25 non-members. Call (925) 947-1678 or www.gardenshf.org to register.

Saturday, November 5, at 7pm, Oikocredit USA Executive Director Terry Provance will present Oikocredit's model of economic empowerment for the world's poor through socially responsible investing at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Provance's presentation will include personal stories from the beneficiaries of Oikocredit's investments and a discussion of social impact investing as a means to fight poverty. Open to all. Attendees are asked to bring a bottle of wine and/or small dish to share with the community. For more information please call (925) 283-3722 or visit www.oslc.net.

Special Event for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on Sunday

November 6, 8:30am, Lafayette Moraga Trail; Stanley Middle School to Olympic Blvd. and return. Come participate in a Walkathon to benefit St. Jude and join us in reaching our goal of \$10,000.00 to help St. Jude Children's Research Hospital fight pediatric cancer and other catastrophic diseases. You can register on line at StJude.org/special_events.com or contact Andria at StJudewalkathon@yahoo.com.

Moraga Homeowners Workshop; Energy Savings and Rebates. Join Pacific Gas and Electric, and associated companies for an evening workshop to learn how a home energy upgrades can help to lower utility bills, protect the environment by saving energy and improve home comfort. Thursday, November 10, Moraga Public Library, Community Room, 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Doors open at 6pm, event at 6:30pm. Sponsored by Sustainable Moraga.

Saint Mary's College Guild's Annual Harvest Luncheon and Faire will take place on Thursday, November 10th, 10am-3pm in the Soda Center. It's a great time to browse and purchase true treasures at nominal prices. A Traditional Thanksgiving Menu will be served on Thursday at noon. \$25 per person. Mail your check to Dolores McConigle, 828 Crossbrook Cir., Moraga, CA 94556 by Nov. 7. A preview of the "treasures" on Wed, Nov. 9, 4-7pm. Questions? Call Dolores at (925) 376-4339.

Willow Spring Church in Moraga will host a fundraiser concert for an organization called "A New Day For Children" on Nov 11, 7pm. A New Day provides a safe place for children ages 10 - 18 who have been rescued from Human Trafficking/sexual slavery in the Bay Area. Willow Spring Church is located at 1689 School Street in Moraga. For more info: (925) 631-1894 or go to www.willowsspringchurch.org.

Come and experience the Many Faces of Ovarian Cancer, an event focusing on one of the most commonly misdiagnosed cancers in women. Join an engaging panel of medical experts, as they offer insight into the latest information on treatment options, family history, early detection, and explore the unique needs and issues of ovarian cancer survivors. Cancer specific nutrition will be discussed with an emphasis on holiday cooking. November 15, 6-8pm. Lafayette Library and Learning Center - Art and Science Room. No charge, refreshments and healthy snacks will be served. To register, please call (925) 677-5041. Co-sponsored by Clocks Etc, Oakwood Athletic Club and Diablo Valley Oncology.

CLUBS

Sons In Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St. Moraga. Social hour 11 am, lunch 12 pm. On November 2, the after-lunch speaker will be Dick Callahan, a popular host and speaker at athletic conferences and events. He has been the voice of basketball at Saint Mary's College, the Golden State Warriors, the Oakland Athletics and the University of California Golden Bears. For membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

The Montelindo Garden Club Speaker for November, 2011: On Friday, November 18, Ria Sim, who is the founder of Twigs Studio and owner of Ria Sim Designs in Danville, will speak on planning events that coordinate floral decorations which are planned down to the last leaf giving focused attention to each project from food, table linens and to party favors. The lecture is at 10:30am. A plant sale and refreshments are at 9am. The event is free and the public is cordially invited to attend. The event is held at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda.

Please submit:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Dark Dreams: Nightmare at Rheem Theatre

By Cathy Dausman

I'm a chicken—I admit it. I flinch at thunder storms, close my eyes during scary movies. It took me years to look the Wicked Witch of the West in the eye, and just hearing the music to *The Exorcist* gave me the heebie jeebies. So what was I doing, voluntarily going to inspect The New Rheem Theatre haunted house?

"We'll be right behind you," said writer Cathy Tyson. And she meant it – yours truly had to go first. Gulp! A little background first, to delay the inevitable: Dark Dreams is a Rheem Theatre fundraiser benefiting the California International Film Festival (CAIFF). The creepy maze is a "behind the screens" look at all things dark and twisted. It is the work of three women: Joanne Foy, vice president of CAIFF, Maevis Padgett, and Julie Christensen, who is the lead designer and the one whom Foy labels "most twisted."

Foy used to decorate her home and garage for her children's Halloween. When they outgrew that, she

turned to producing haunts for non-profit fundraising. Starting in mid-September, the crew put over 100 hours of work into building the set, and use a dozen live monsters. "This is not your mother's haunt," cautions Foy. Scary or not, the set is professional theater quality, and fully fireproof. It's safety first, says Foy, who arrives to greet *Lamorinda Weekly* staff wearing a green reflective vest.

After a nudge from behind, I was ready to sell my soul and enter the

haunt. It's totally dark in here – I'm already on guard, and slightly disoriented. Crouching like Igor, I take a tentative step forward. Spooky music and cobwebs assault my ears and skin. Nervous laughter ensues from the group—or is it only a figment of my frightened mind? Haunted houses equate with sensory overload, or in the case of sight—underload—it's still dark in here! Ghoulish living dead inhabit the maze, going about their daily (perhaps I should say "nightly") chores. Up ahead is a rattling door—don't make me turn the corner! More nervous laughter and we've come around the bend. Better than going off the deep end, which you might do going through this alone. Without giving too much away I can say that even escaping from the maze is a fully claustropho-



Photos Andy Scheck

bia-inducing experience. Dark Dreams is rated 9 out of 10 skulls on the Haunted World website (<http://tinyurl.com/3ngik8m>). "You'll have to sleep with a light on," says Foy.

The haunting continues October 28 through Halloween evening, 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., and is recommended for ages 10 and up. Admission is \$8, and proceeds benefit CAIFF. A special "lights on, no monsters" session for younger children, and chickens, will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Halloween—I'm so there.

As Seen in Lamorinda...



Photo Cathy Tyson

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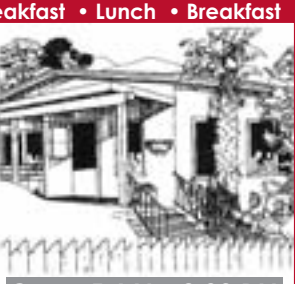
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	Vino Restaurant, 3531 Plaza Way,	Lafayette	284-1330
Chinese	Chef Chao Restaurant, 343 Rheem Blvd,	Moraga	376-1740
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Mexican	El Charro Mexican Dining, 3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd,	Lafayette	283-2345
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Oktoberfest with the Fabulous Friars

By Susie Iventosch



St. Stephen's Oktoberfest tent

Photo provided

Five short years ago, Father Larry Hunter came to town, and it wasn't long before the Fabulous Friars of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Orinda first gathered to don their chef hats and take to the kitchen. And, so began the "Friars'" mission of bringing good food, along with good cheer and goodwill, to the community!

"Father Larry came along and said that food is an important part of fellowship and outreach," said Ned Trippe, a St. Stephen's congregant and one of the original Fabulous Friars. "He also knew that we had a number of aspiring recreational chefs in the congregation, so four of us—all with different cooking styles and interests, came together to form the Fabulous Friars."

Nowadays, the group consists of six men, all devoted cooking enthusiasts, who put on six or seven large events each year. These gatherings range from Oktoberfest and Mardi Gras to the Bishop's luncheon, the Preschool Family barbecue and the fall kick-

off for the choir, not to mention a feast in honor of St. Stephen, himself, and a donated five-course dinner for 50, awarded to the highest silent auction bidder. As an honorary "Friar" and sous chef, Father Larry gets his fair share of time and camaraderie in the kitchen, too.

Oktoberfest, which took place at the church on October 14, boasted an enticing menu of Sauerbraten and gravy, red cabbage, grilled bratwurst and sauerkraut casserole, potato latkes with sour cream and applesauce, German brown bread and green salad with balsamic dressing. This was after a spread of appetizers, but before an assortment of Robin Bailey's homemade cakes, strudels and tortes!

Naturally, being Oktoberfest, there were a variety of Oktoberfest beers, Trumer Pils on tap, and even red and white wine for those who prefer to sip their grog from the vine.

Now, I've never been to Oktoberfest in Munich, but from what

I understand, there are makeshift tents in the woods not far from town, hosted by any number of organizations, all pouring mug after mug of locally crafted beer and serving up typical fare, such as roast chicken, sausages and Sauerbraten with potato pancakes. St. Stephen's event is set up in a similar fashion in a great, big, giant tent with lots of good beer, good friends, and good cheer, all supporting many good causes. Between the dinner, drinks and silent auction, the event raised some \$50,000, all going to support a host of charities and organizations.

Despite my half German heritage, I'd never made Sauerbraten, so I asked Ned Trippe for the Friars' recipe, which he kindly sent ... for 175 people! With a little assist from my calculator, I cut the recipe down for a family of five or six. Ned's recipe was absolutely delectable and the aroma while it was cooking made the whole house smell edible! Many thanks to Ned for sharing this wonderful dish with all of us!



The Fabulous Friars at Oktoberfest: From left, Mike Yount, Scott Rhoades, Jim Breedlove, Ned Trippe, Peter Margen, Mike Kerr

Photo provided

Lynn's Top Five

What will YOU do if Your Favorite Tax Benefits Disappear?

By Lynn Ballou, CFP®

Everywhere you turn you hear about major tax reform coming our way. And by reform, may I clarify by saying "increases?" Let's talk about five likely candidates and what you should be doing now to be prepared.

1) Deduction for Interest on Your Home Mortgage: Already limited to \$1,100,000 (an oversimplified statement --- check with your tax advisor for clarification), we hear increasing rhetoric from Washington D.C. about severely limiting this write off now, and phasing it out completely in years to come. Not a big deal to US taxpayers living in less expense geography, but to those of us in the Bay Area, a potential financial disaster. What can you do now? First, refinance your home, if you can, to the lowest possible rate you can get with no fees, no points. Second, be sure you can afford your payments if there are no tax deductions. For some, this means paying down the mortgage, for others it might mean stretching out the mortgage pay back terms. Going forward: don't

buy a home and take out a mortgage if you can't afford the payments in full without any tax breaks!

2) Repeat after me: My Gross Pay is NOT my TRUE Income! Your take home pay is reduced from your gross pay by all sorts of things: federal and state taxes, FICA, SDI, benefit plan payments, deferred retirement plans, etc. Using a tax program such as Turbo Tax or meeting with your tax advisor and CFP®, figure out what your true annual take home pay is. Compare that to your annual after tax spending. Oh, and just to be safe, assume that you'll take home 5% less because Congress is talking about increasing income taxes across the board. Learn to live within this new amount ---in the meantime invest the difference!

3) Investment Income will be Taxed at Higher Rates in 2013: Right now most taxpayers pay a very preferential rate on capital gains and investment income such as qualifying dividends. These are part of what's called the "Bush Tax Cuts." At the end of 2012, these

benefits are due to expire. Additionally, there's likely to be another surtax on most investment generated income to pay for what's being termed as "Obama Care" --- a national health care initiative. It's time to be sure you can afford these extra tax hits and that your portfolio is properly positioned for these major changes. On the one hand, don't throw away great investments just because they'll be taxed at higher rates --- so will everything else. But do be prepared and use this as an opportunity to rethink your holdings before the stampede that's sure to happen next year when everyone else realizes that investment tax changes are coming up soon, too.

4) Rethink your Long-Range Financial Planning Calculations: Whether you do this yourself, or work with a CFP®, it's time to dust off your plan and build in higher tax rates into your future planning. This is the time to see if there are potential problems on your financial planning horizon, and make mid-course adjustments. What's

the most important ratio to think about in your planning? It's how much left after your assumptions for investment rate of return, inflation and taxation. If that net number is higher than 1 - 3%, I strongly recommend you go back to the drawing board! Like a good scout, be prepared!

5) National Sales Tax --- a U.S. VAT: Another possibility from Washington. Your Congressmen and women are leaving no stone unturned in finding ways to raise revenue. As you do your long-range planning, factor into your budget the possibility of a national sales tax of 3 - 5%, the range. It could happen, if not across the board, on certain products.

What to do? Be calm, don't panic, but do not delay refocusing your financial viewpoint. Where appropriate embark upon defensive planning tactics to protect your life journey and that of your family from overly optimistic planning. You may find that this type of long-range vision results in you living not only with your means now and

in the future, but also finding a way to pay down debt faster than you thought while bolstering savings and building more fun into your future. I applaud you on this journey!



Lynn Ballou is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and co-owner of Ballou Plum Wealth Advisors, LLC, a Registered Investment Advisory (RIA) firm in Lafayette. Lynn is also a Registered Principal and Branch Manager with LPL Financial (LPL). The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and not intended to provide specific advice or recommendation for any individual. Financial Planning offered through Ballou Plum Wealth Advisors, A Registered Investment Advisor. Securities offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC.

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Fabulous Friars' Oktoberfest Sauerbraten



Fabulous Friars' Sauerbraten

Photo Susie Iventosch

(Serves 5-6)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 2 pounds beef tri tip
- 1/3 cup water
- 1/3 cup cider vinegar
- 1 cup red wine
- 1 medium brown onion, peeled and sliced thick
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon mixed pickling spice
- 1/2 teaspoon whole peppercorns
- 1-2 whole cloves
- 1 bay leaf
- 1-2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 gingersnap, crushed (for the gravy)

DIRECTIONS

Combine salt and ginger; rub into tri tip. Place meat in deep bowl or non-conductive roasting pan.

In large pot, combine water, red wine, cider vinegar, onion, sugar, pickling spice, peppercorns, cloves and bay leaf. Bring to a boil. Pour over roast; turn to coat, layer onions between pieces. Cover and refrigerate for 2 - 3 days, turning twice a day.

Remove roast, reserving marinade; pat roast dry. On a hot grill, brown roast on all sides in oil. (For smaller quantities you can use a Dutch oven.)

Strain marinade, reserving half of the onions and seasonings. Pour 1/3 to 1/2 of marinade and reserved onions and seasonings over roast (cover and refrigerate remaining marinade). Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 3 hours or until meat is tender.

Strain cooking liquid, discarding the onions and seasonings. Pour liquid into a large pot; bring to a rolling boil. Crush gingersnaps in processor and gradually add to marinade; simmer until gravy is thickened, adding gingersnaps as needed to thicken. If necessary, add reserved marinade. (Be careful not to add too much gingersnaps as gravy becomes too thick.)

Slice roast and serve with gravy.

*Serve Sauerbraten with red cabbage and bratwurst casserole, homemade sauerkraut, and potato latkes with sour cream and applesauce garnish.

Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziven@gmail.com.

These recipe is available on our web site 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.

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From Hollywood Glitter to Downtown Lafayette

Emmy-nominated hairstylist comes to Lamorinda

By Sophie Braccini



Caroline Wiseman curling a client at Shelby Sexton's in Lafayette
 Photo Sophie Braccini

When you see her, it's easy to believe that Caroline Wiseman was an actress as well as a hairdresser and makeup artist in Hollywood. The pretty mother of two Burton Valley School students comes out very sunny-looking, charming and real. Maybe it is that genuineness that drove her and her family to relocate to a more down to earth location – Lafayette. Here, far from the celebrity hair that earned her an Emmy nomination in 2010, she wants to establish herself as a creative and productive member of the commu-

nity. Wiseman started her hairstyling career in Santa Monica. She was raised in New Orleans and knew she wanted to follow an artistic path. She thought of architecture or the graphic arts, but while in Santa Monica City College she heard of a cosmetology school where she could get a hairstylist license. She registered without telling her family. "I had been cutting hair since I was 12 and made some money with it in high school, but I was seeing it more as a hobby than a job," she says. She was lucky after

graduation to get an apprenticeship with a talented professional in Beverly Hills; that's where she met and worked with her first celebrity, Kelly Preston.

Her website, CarolineWiseman.net, has pictures of all the celebrities she worked with. The Emmy nomination came from a full year of doing the hair of Leah Remini, co-hostess of The Talk on CBS (also known for her role in The King of Queens). "Every morning she would show up with her hair wet and no make-up," recounts Wiseman, "I challenged myself to do something different for her every day." Wiseman believes that hair is the first element to express a personality, "Hair and make-up can really change the mood of someone," she believes, "but it has to be in accordance with each individual personality and lifestyle." The Emmy nomination validated her work, since it arises from a vote from hairstyling professionals. But Wiseman felt it was time for a change.

"I had many fun and stimulating professional years in Los Angeles," says Wiseman, "but after my daughters were born my perspective changed, I was getting tired of constantly having to reinvent myself, of the harsh competition, the expensive and stressful lifestyle. We were ready to simplify our lives and I want to be more of a mother and a wife."

Wiseman's husband, Michael, is a former Burton Valley student. He became an actor in Hollywood, so it

made sense for the couple to live there. "But every time we came to Lafayette to spend time with Michael's family, the children never wanted to leave and asked why we couldn't live here, so we finally decided to take the plunge."

The Wisemans moved to Lafayette a month ago and Caroline rented a station at Shelby Sexton Salon. "I'm starting to build my clientele through word of mouth," she explains, "my family is very loud and talks about me everywhere, and I'm also starting to auction \$100 gift cer-

tificates at each PTA meeting." Wiseman is discovering what it means to be part of a community and already wants to give back, "I never had a community in Los Angeles, I am so happy to discover that here."

Reach Caroline Wiseman at (818) 442-1843. Shelby Sexton Salon is located at 33 La Fiesta Square in Lafayette (in the corner, between Red Wagon and Teacake Bake Shop.)

Lamorinda Weekly business articles are intended to inform the community about local business activities, not to endorse a particular company, product or service.

business briefs

Gebhardt Group Completes Office Relocation
3470 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Suite A210, Lafayette
(925) 283-9150, www.gebhardtgroupinc.com

Gebhardt Group, Inc., an independent wealth management firm in Lafayette, announced its office relocation and expansion to Corporate Terrace in downtown Lafayette. Gebhardt Group, Inc. supports sustainable building practices. As Gebhardt Group, Inc. continues to grow, the new space also supports future expansion plans. "We are excited about our business development opportunities in the next few years. We have a growing client base and ultimately need to hire additional advisors to meet demand. Markets continue to be in turmoil and families need more help than ever and we want to be prepared to do so," said James Gebhardt who founded the firm in 2005. He attributes the growth of his company to the holistic approach to the financial process that defines the practice.

Staci Ericson Campaigns for the Most Polite Halloween Ever
www.gollygee-pers.com

The Lafayette mom who created the card game Golly Gee-pers!, a game that encourages kids to use good table manners, wants this Halloween to be the most polite ever. "Imagine it's Halloween night and the door bell rings. You grab the candy bowl and open the door. A group of trick-or-treaters dressed as witches, goblins and rock stars sing out, "Trick-or-treat?" Each one selects a piece of candy, the usual routine, and then something different happens. The trick-or-treater hands you a folded piece of paper. It's a thank you note!" says Ericson. To support her campaign for a very polite Halloween, Ericson has posted free thank you notes on her website that can be downloaded and printed.



From left: Jessica Darfler, Ashleigh Ericson and Siena DeCarlo
 Photo provided

Collector's Choice Antiques
3574 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette

Collector's Choice invites you to an afternoon tea, finger sandwiches, and vintage fashion show on Saturday, November 12th from 2-4:00 p.m. RSVP by November 1st, (925) 299-9400. Cost: \$20 per person. All proceeds benefit the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce
Lafayette

- Lafayette Chamber of Commerce raises money to get the Christmas lights back this season. In order to make necessary reductions in the city's budget, the City Council approved the elimination of funding for the lights this year. "We could be without our lights if we don't act now," says Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson. "We are inviting everyone to join the downtown businesses and make a donation to help keep the city bright. We need to raise about \$8,000 to keep the lights on and maintained." Simply send a check to the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce – 100 Lafayette Circle #103, Lafayette, CA 94549 – for any amount and the Chamber will work with the City to keep the lights on.

- 19th Annual Reservoir Run on Sunday, October 30, 6:30-10 a.m. For more information go to lafayettechamber.org/events/reservoir-run. Registration table opens at 6:30 a.m. (see article page A2)

Moraga

This year's 23rd Annual Hospice Moraga Tree of Lights will be held on November 13th at 5:30 p.m. at the Moraga Commons Park. The Chamber is looking for Moraga businesses to be event sponsors and be featured in the Hospice of the East Bay's program and newsletter.

Orinda

Chamber Ribbon-Cutting Event at the Christian Science Reading Room & Bookstore on Wednesday November 16th starting at 3:00 p.m., 24 Orinda Way (next to Library). The Christian Science Reading Room & Bookstore, recently relocated to the Christian Science Church just down from Orinda City Hall offices.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Campolindo Dominates in the 'Battle of the Unbeatens'

By Alex Kozela



Reiner Ebarle (21) had key touchdowns for the Cougars.

Photo Tod Fierner

Campolindo turned the battle of local unbeatens into one of the most lopsided results of the season, blowing out Miramonte with a 42-6 home victory.

After finishing the last two seasons with losing records and consecutive losses to Miramonte, the Cougars (8-0, 4-0) reversed the trend in emphatic fashion and now stand alone in first place in the Diablo Foothill Athletic League with just two games left.

Cougars junior quarterback Brett Stephens led the team with 273 yards and four touchdowns, yet acknowledged that the performance was a total team effort.

"There was a ton of hard work by everybody," Stephens said. "The linemen were unbelievable, the receivers were unbelievable, the defense was unbelievable."

After a scoreless first quarter, the Cougars' high-powered offense took control of the game in the second, when senior running back Reiner Ebarle scored on a 19-yard run that was sandwiched in between two touchdowns by senior wide receiver Griffin Piatt.

"When [Piatt] starts striding with those large strides of his and those large arms, everyone gets excited early," said Campolindo head coach Kevin Macy. "You could hear the crowd tonight. Boy, they were excited when the ball even got near him."

Piatt also played stellar defense, recording two first half interceptions.

"Last year we played physical with Miramonte but they just tore us up in the air," Macy said of Piatt's defense. "It's just comforting to have that kid back there in our secondary."

Miramonte head coach Jack Schram said the second quarter was the turning point in the game.

"We were doing fine through the first quarter, but once they got on a roll, got the energy behind them, [it was over,]" said Schram. "I look at it as the team with the most energy is going to win, and they had a lot more energy than us."

The third quarter saw more of the same from Campolindo, as they extended their lead to 42-0 with touchdowns from senior wide receiver Karl Thornton, Ebarle, and senior tight end Vince Graziano. Graziano scored on a 62-yard pass from Stephens.

"He's so pure, he's so precise with what he does, and he's still growing," said Macy, referring to Stephens. "And our receivers are growing with him. It's nice to see that complete package of how many different receivers he can

move. He had to zip a lot of balls in and hit seams, which is a tough thing for a high school quarterback to do."

"His play was excellent, his receivers did a fantastic job," said Miramonte's Schram. "I thought we had great coverage on a couple of inside slants, and they still made the plays."

The Matadors (7-1, 3-1) were able to get on the board at the beginning of the fourth quarter thanks to a touchdown by junior wide receiver Zati Williams, but it was too little, too late on a frustrating evening. Mats' senior quarterback Ross Anderson was held to 5-of-18 passing for 59 yards, one touchdown and four interceptions, while running for 72 yards on 14 carries.

Campolindo will travel to Alhambra on October 28.

Miramonte will work to regroup this week before hosting Dublin on November 4. The Gaels' head coach, John Wade, is in his first year with Dublin after previously coaching Miramonte.

"The best thing for us is we get the bye week now to try and get healthy," said Schram, acknowledging that playing against Wade will get the team focused.

"You could just see the excitement on their faces," said Macy. "If you know this community, what this rivalry means to the kids and their families, it just runs all year long, and for them to have something like this is a lifetime treasure for them."



Junior quarterback Brett Stephens notched 273 yards and four touchdowns in the win.

Photo Tod Fierner



Ross Anderson (9) had one touchdown and four interceptions in the loss.

Photo Tod Fierner



Campo fans staged a "red-out" in the bleachers.

Photo Tod Fierner

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

Campolindo Volleyball Stays Perfect

By Brandon Duran



Tyanna Roy (5) and Annie Shurtz (14)

Photo Doug Kohen

All three of the Lamorinda high school girls' volleyball teams entered the 2011 season hoping to replicate the success of last year's Campolindo team. The Cougars won the state title in the 2010 season. As playoffs approach, competition in the Diablo Foothill Athletic high school (DAFL) has begun to heat up.

Campolindo (13-7, 8-0) and Miramonte (12-2, 6-1) have been looking to continue their stellar play this season while Acalanes (6-11, 2-5) has tried to improve over the last few weeks in order to secure a spot in the postseason. The Dons traveled to Campolindo on Tuesday, October 18 to try to steal a big win on the road and better their high school record.

Before the game, Acalanes head coach Steve Siegmann talked about what a win against the Cougars would do for his team. "It would be huge mentally for our club. Anytime Acalanes plays Campo in a sport it's a big deal for the players so it would be a good push for us."

The first set didn't go quite the



way Siegmann wanted as Campolindo took a 6-0 lead. Campolindo took advantage of the Dons' slow start. Seniors Tyanna Roy, Megan Dalziel and Alex Ligouri, worked to rally the Dons but Campolindo was able to take the first game by a score of 25-11.

The second set was dominated by Campolindo junior Annie Shurtz, who scored almost half of the points for Campo with strong serves and deadly kills. Campo won 25-17.

Acalanes picked up intensity in the third set and made fewer errors, but still could not fend off the Cougars, falling 25-18.

Both coaches used the final set to get their younger talent some experience.

After the game Campolindo head coach Scott Bishop commented that consistency was key in the Cougars win. He said that Schurtz has been instrumental. "I knew this was going to be a break out year for her, and she's handling the role very well. She's one of the most physical players in North-

ern California. We're happy to have her," he said.

The Lady Mats of Miramonte also got a win last Tuesday against Dublin. The Mats swept the Gaels to improve to 13-3 on the year and 6-1 in high school. Head coach Shannon Ross said the reason the Mats have been so successful is because of leadership. "We have terrific senior leadership; all seven seniors were committed this season to work really hard and to push the rest of the team to work as hard as they could."

Sarah Vaccaro, a four-year varsity starter, and outside hitter Audrey Breitwieser have been instrumental to the Mats success.

Miramonte is .500 versus their fellow Lamorinda schools, losing to Campo, and beating Acalanes once this year. However, the Mats face both schools once more in the final two matches of the season, at Acalanes on November 1 and at home against Campolindo on November 5.

Lamorinda Prep Water Polo

By Marissa Harnett



Photos Doug Kohen

Just as quickly as the league water polo season got underway a month ago, it comes to a close today, October 26, with the last game of the regular season. Campolindo finishes at Dougherty Valley, and Miramonte hosts Acalanes in a game that is sure to be a thriller. Today's boys' matchup will determine the winner of DFAL. Both the Mats and the Dons boast undefeated records of 4-0.

In last week's action on October 19, the Acalanes boys beat Las Lomas while the girls' team fell to the Lady Knights. Campo met up with their cross-town rivals at Miramonte. Each school took home a win. Campo grabbed the win with the girls' team, finishing 10-4. The Miramonte boys' team solidly defeated their Cougar counterparts, 23-6.

In the girls' match-up, the Lady Cougars came out clawing, scoring more than half of their points in the first seven-minute quarter. The opening goal hit the corner of the net in the first 15 seconds of play.

Campo's momentum continued, but the Lady Mats tightened their defense the rest of the game and held Campo to two goals in the second, kept them scoreless in the third, and allowed just one goal in the final quarter.

"We play a slightly different style, with a strong emphasis on defense," said Lady Mats coach Trevor Rose.

The Lady Cougars' offense was just too strong for the Mats' defense, however. Head coach Kim Everist credits the girls. "I think my team came out with great intensity and

focus. They were active and continued to put pressure on the Miramonte defense. My team was confident in their perimeter shooting."

High scorers included Kimi Klein (four goals), Annika Jensen (two goals), Sam Flower (two goals), and Natalie Seidemann (two goals). "Our center play was also key - Natalie Seidemann and Hannah Buck, as their ability to hold side allowed our perimeter to get great looks from the outside," Everist said.

Miramonte got its turn at a win when the boys entered the pool. The Mats dominated the Cougars from the very start, scoring no less than five goals per quarter. The Cougar defense could not stop the Matador offensive force as the boys sunk balls roughly every minute. Top scorers in-

cluded junior Jack Fellner (four goals), senior Kevin Yee (three goals), and sophomore Tyler Kirchberg (three goals).

Although offensive efforts show on the scoreboard, the Matadors' defense deserves credit too. "Zach Paxton played well as our goalkeeper and the team put great energy into playing our team defensive system. This led to some key transition opportunities for the team, which led to goal scoring opportunities," said head coach James Lathrop. Paxton recorded 13 saves in the win.

Although the Cougars had frequent attempts at goals, they had trouble getting on the scoreboard. "The hardest part is coming together and learning how to trust and communicate with one another inside and out-

side of the pool," said head coach Miles Price.

"Every year you lose key players. That's the whole point behind creating a program and not just a team... Our goal as a program is to continue to develop all of our players and bring the (NCS) title back to Campolindo."

The NCS Championships begin November 2.

Season-to-date records:

Acalanes
Girls: 2-2 DFAL
Boys: 4-0 DFAL

Campolindo
Girls: 3-1 DFAL
Boys: 1-3 DFAL

Miramonte
Girls: 2-2 DFAL
Boys: 4-0 DFAL

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Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:



- Lafayette Love for the Jumping Flea
- One Dish Meals from Ying Chang Compstine
- All Creatures Great and Small
- Small Town Meets Hollywood at Orinda's Moneyball
- Letters to the Editor
- Handicapped Ramp Inaccessible to Disabled BART Patrons
- Orinda Takes the Lead in Mapping Lamorinda AVA
- Cal Shakes Offers Discovery Program for Students
- New Girl Scout Leaders: There is still time to join
- Local Home Brewers Ready to Raise a Glass to Oktoberfest

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



SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

SMC Men's Basketball Visits Elementary Schools



Matthew Dellavedova (left) and Mitchell Young reading at Donald Rheem Elementary School
Photo Andy Scheck

Saint Mary's men's basketball team traveled to local Lafayette and Moraga elementary schools October 12-13 to read to students. The Reading Program started seven seasons ago and for the first time, was sponsored by Common Interest Management. The athletes read books to the students, passed out rally towels and answered questions.

Lafayette Lighting Strike at Tournament

Submitted by Alan Goepel

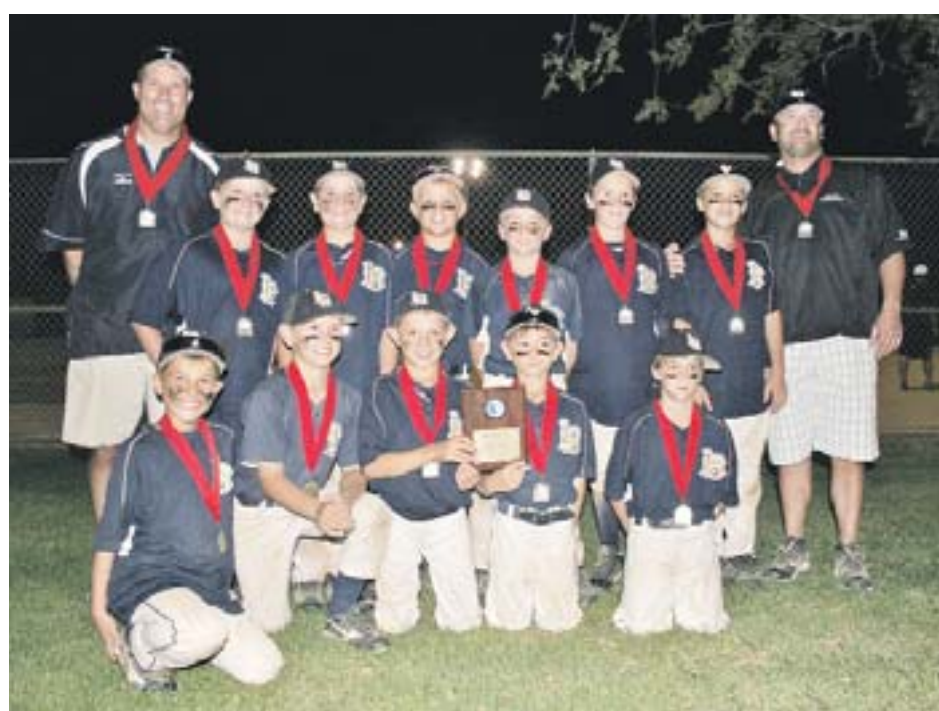


From left, back row: Katie Chase, Natalie Goepel, Courtney Strand, Olivia Haney, Cori Griffin, Laura Pacioni; front row: Alexie Shurtz, Brenna Williams, Becca Crisp, Katie Palma, and Jamie Jacobs
Photo Stan Crisp

The Lafayette Lightning 16U club softball team took second place at the Amateur Softball Association Girls with Bats tournament played in Fairfield on October 9-10.

Seals Take Second

Submitted by Matt Hansen



From left, top row: Coach Ken Sintchak, Brett Donat, Tommy Thrasher, Nick Kresnak, Vince Bianchina, Grant Harper, Nicholas Bamont, coach Mose Bamont; bottom row: Kyle Sintchak, Will Windatt, Owen Hansen, Erik Voss, Jack Muren. Not pictured, coach Rick Bianchina
Photo Matt Hansen

The Lamorinda Baseball Academy's U10 Seals earned second place at the Twin Creeks Hardball Challenge in Sunnysvale. The Seals won both games of a double-header on Saturday, October 15, defeating Fremont 18-6 and Palo Alto 10-2. The following day the Seals overpowered Union City by a score of 7-2 and recorded a 15-2 thrashing over Millbrae.

The undefeated Seals then took on Los Gatos in the championship game. The Seals took an early 2-0 lead into the 4th inning but couldn't hold on. Los Gatos won 6-3.

The Seals, who have only played together as a team for a month and a half, earned second place finishes in both of the two tournaments they entered this fall, recording a 6-3 record.

Saint Mary's Men's Basketball Prepares for Season



Saint Mary's men's basketball prepared for the November 11 season-opener with a split-squad scrimmage on Sunday, October 23. For a full story on the Gaels 2011-2012 season check back next issue, November 9.
Photo Andy Scheck

Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

(we prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide)

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 17 Wednesday, October 26, 2011



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D8

Happy Haunting



The folks in Burton Valley go all out decorating their homes for halloween. This suburban graveyard is just one of many frightening facades getting dolled up for Halloween. Scores of little monsters make the annual pilgrimage to Merriewood Drive...also known as Scary-wood Drive to maximixe treats. Neighborhood kids and their parents have a sweet pre-holiday tradition, Boo burglars do a reverse burgle - ring the doorbell and leave a little basket/pumpkin of candy before running away. For homes hit by the Boo burglar, there are instructions to pay it forward, delivering sugary morsels to other unsuspecting souls.

Photo Cathy Tyson

The signs are unmistakable—they appear on front yards and driveways, in doorways and windows. Everything from scarecrows to skeletons, pumpkin patches to graveyards, and all manner of creepy crawlies in between have taken up residence across Lamorinda as Halloween approaches.

Rebecca Nadauld of Orinda first created a graveyard in front her home five years ago. For her, it's all about the fun factor for her children. She describes her parents as minimalists when it came to Halloween decorations, and she wanted to do something special for her own kids, who “really get into helping with the decorations” now that they are old enough.

The Nadauld home is a popular attraction every fall – the kids’ friends start asking in late September when the decorations will go up. Last year, Nadauld even saw a car pull

over and children hop out for a photo in front of a tombstone. “We used to have a zipline – a giant bat would fly down the hill!” she recalls, adding that she feared an accident should a driver be surprised by the sight of a huge, winged creature hurtling down the hillside, so the bat was retired.

Lamorinda is a relatively safe community, but it doesn't hurt to keep a few safety tips in mind while the little monsters are out haunting on October 31:

Make sure costumes are safe, allow clear vision and are visible in the dark; “dangerous” props such as knives and scythes should be avoided or at least made of flexible material so unhappy accidents don't happen; costumes that drag on the ground and high heels can result in injury.

Stay in well-lit areas; if a home is dark, don't ring the doorbell.

If you don't accompany your trick-or-treaters make sure you know the route they are taking and remind them of safety rules regarding crossing streets, never entering the home or car of a stranger, and coming home/calling on time. Children should be well-lit with glow-accessories and flashlights, and you should be able to pick your child out in a crowd should the need arise. Unaccompanied kids should always stay in a group.

Trick-or-treaters of all ages should keep in mind the difference between a trick and vandalism.

We wish pirates, princesses and characters of every kind a safe and thrilling Halloween! *L.Borrowman*



The Nadaulds' home on St. Stephens Drive in Orinda features a graveyard at Halloween

Photo Doug Kohen

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	15	\$505,000	\$2,075,000
MORAGA	15	\$185,000	\$1,170,000
ORINDA	5	\$599,000	\$800,000

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

LAFAYETTE

- 967 3rd Street, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1853 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 9-16-11
 3567 Boyer Circle, \$650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2570 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 9-27-11;
 Previous Sale: \$520,000, 01-24-02
 3244 Camino Colorados, \$625,000, 3 Bdrms, 1184 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 9-16-11;
 Previous Sale: \$625,000, 02-12-04
 1168 Camino Vallecito, \$2,075,000, 6 Bdrms, 5243 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 9-16-11;
 Previous Sale: \$2,600,000, 04-04-06
 3618 Chestnut Street, \$570,000, 3 Bdrms, 2334 SqFt, 9-23-11;
 Previous Sale: \$95,000, - -
 37 Diablo Circle, \$1,189,000, 4 Bdrms, 2699 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 9-19-11;
 Previous Sale: \$1,435,000, 07-20-06
 800 Mariposa Road, \$1,070,000, 5 Bdrms, 2792 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 9-20-11
 25 Old Millstone Lane, \$1,515,000, 4 Bdrms, 2249 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-26-11;
 Previous Sale: \$625,000, 04-13-98
 2596 Pebble Beach Loop, \$505,000, 3 Bdrms, 2052 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-27-11;
 Previous Sale: \$475,000, 03-31-08
 12 Ruth Court, \$765,000, 3 Bdrms, 1624 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 9-20-11;
 Previous Sale: \$325,000, 12-28-10
 3419 Shangri La Road, \$880,000, 5 Bdrms, 3123 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-20-11;
 Previous Sale: \$112,500, 03-01-74
 3495 Stage Coach Drive, \$1,400,000, 5 Bdrms, 3541 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 9-28-11;
 Previous Sale: \$530,000, 11-10-88
 3091 Sweetbrier Circle, \$856,500, 3 Bdrms, 1874 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 9-19-11
 1 West Creek Court, \$525,000, 3 Bdrms, 1926 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 9-28-11;
 Previous Sale: \$850,000, 04-18-05
 1080 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 3082 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 9-15-11;
 Previous Sale: \$900,000, 10-03-02

MORAGA

- 798 Augusta Drive, \$905,000, 3 Bdrms, 2430 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 9-23-11;
 Previous Sale: \$510,000, 04-08-94
 927 Augusta Drive, \$875,000, 5 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 9-15-11;
 Previous Sale: \$990,000, 01-06-05
 11 Buckingham Drive, \$705,000, 3 Bdrms, 1583 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 9-27-11;
 Previous Sale: \$820,000, 01-12-07
 23 Cumberland Lane, \$530,000, 3 Bdrms, 2042 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 9-22-11
 151 Cypress Point Way, \$785,000, 3 Bdrms, 2060 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-20-11;
 Previous Sale: \$255,000, 09-01-83
 400 Deerfield Drive, \$1,170,000, 3 Bdrms, 3041 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-16-11;
 Previous Sale: \$515,000, 11-18-98
 2133 Donald Drive #9, \$185,000, 2 Bdrms, 1224 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-28-11;
 Previous Sale: \$469,000, 04-14-06
 56 Miramonte Drive, \$375,000, 2 Bdrms, 927 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-27-11;
 Previous Sale: \$360,000, 07-27-09

... continued on page D4

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

LAFAYETTE

Pine Lane, 94549, Aurora Loan Services, 09-13-11, \$1,513,815, 4966 sf, 5 bd



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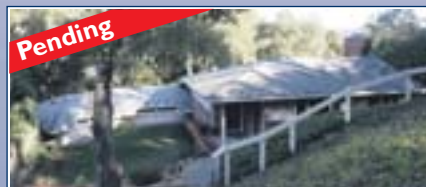


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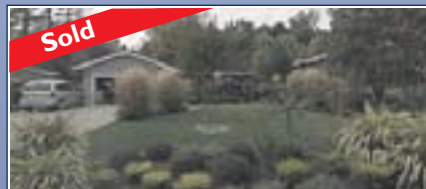
Sale Pending, Representing Seller and Buyer



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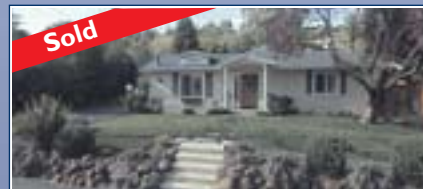
Sale Pending, Representing Seller and Buyer



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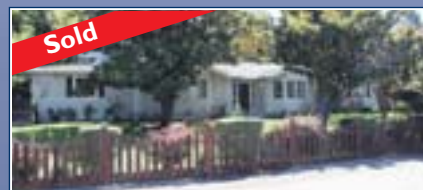
Sold for \$970,000, Represented Buyer



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1 Culver Ct, Orinda

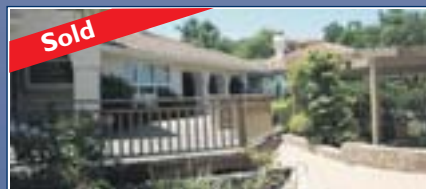
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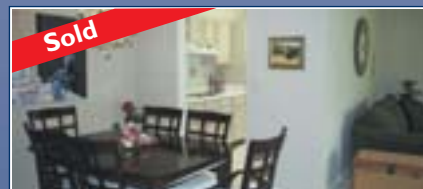
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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

MORAGA continued

- 107 Miramonte Drive, \$430,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-15-11;
Previous Sale: \$345,000, 12-06-00
- 279 Rheem Boulevard, \$680,000, 3 Bdrms, 1682 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 9-16-11;
Previous Sale: \$830,000, 03-18-05
- 312 Rheem Boulevard, \$810,000, 3 Bdrms, 2096 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 9-23-11;
Previous Sale: \$512,500, 06-06-03
- 1223 Rimer Drive, \$906,000, 4 Bdrms, 2290 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 9-26-11
- 336 Tharp Drive, \$640,000, 3 Bdrms, 1903 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-23-11;
Previous Sale: \$259,500, 05-07-87
- 12 Wandel Drive, \$620,000, 4 Bdrms, 1643 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-19-11
- 18 Wandel Drive, \$640,000, 3 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 9-16-11;
Previous Sale: \$520,000, 03-14-00

ORINDA

- 52 Las Cascadas Road, \$599,000, 3 Bdrms, 845 SqFt, 1926 YrBlt, 9-26-11;
Previous Sale: \$100,000, 10-13-86
- 9 Oak Road, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2387 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 9-28-11;
Previous Sale: \$538,000, 07-12-91
- 5 Wanda Lane, \$630,000, 3 Bdrms, 3101 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 9-21-11;
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 08-12-05
- 228 the Knoll, \$668,000, 2 Bdrms, 2141 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 9-28-11;
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 04-13-06
- 408 Wovenwood, \$680,000, 2 Bdrms, 2117 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-19-11;
Previous Sale: \$340,000, 04-21-93

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Offered at \$999,000

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Represented by The Olsen Team**



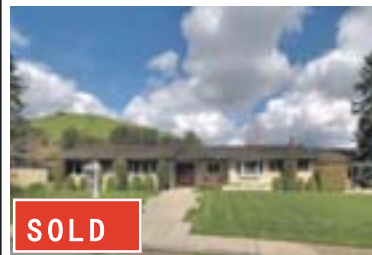
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80 Lynwood Place, Moraga



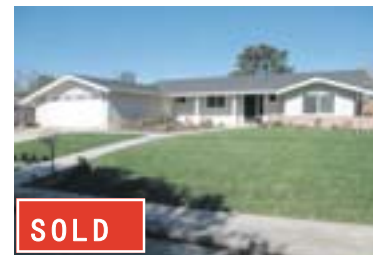
SOLD

22 Charles Hill



SOLD

297 Corliss Drive



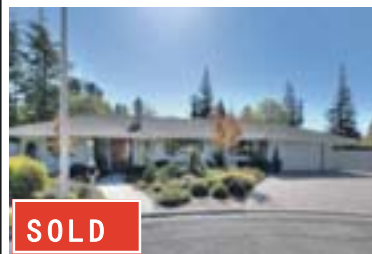
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1047 Larch Ave.



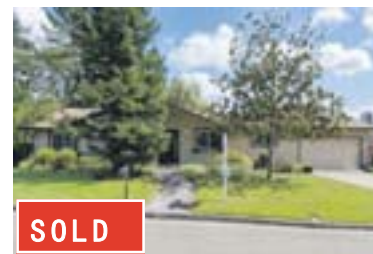
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272 Tharp Drive



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50 York Place



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4 Sparrow Court



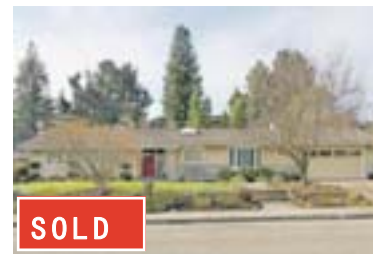
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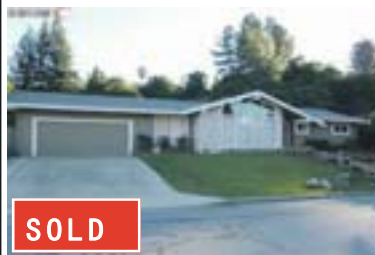
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Selection of 2011 Buyers Represented by The Olsen Team



SOLD

30 Crest Road



SOLD

1588 Del Monte Ct.



SOLD

9 Merrill Drive



SOLD

1042 Sunnybrook



SOLD

3 Roberts Court



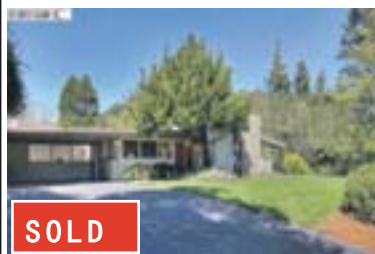
SOLD

1609 Las Trampas



SOLD

182 Ravenhill Road



SOLD

18 Lavenida



SOLD

452 Millfield Place

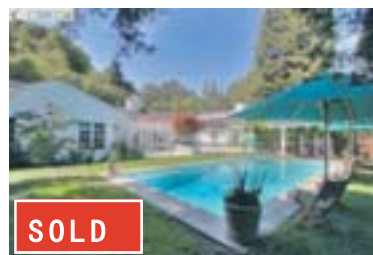


Del Rio, Lafayette



SOLD

469 Fernwood Drive



SOLD

100 Devin Drive

Recent Praise for The Olsen Team

The Olsen Team sells houses, but we know that this is a people business. We have a long standing tradition of treating people with empathy, respect and good humor. Here is what some of our recent clients are saying:

The Olsen Team is the most knowledgeable, hard working, competent real estate team in the Lamorinda area, or for that matter - anywhere. We cannot begin to adequately express our deep appreciation.....

— Don and Dotty Miller

We have bought and sold 7 homes over the past two decades and believe The Olsen Team are the most professional and productive realtors we have ever worked with. They had a comprehensive strategic plan and executed it flawlessly in a very difficult market.

— Del and Janice Kolbe

In all respects, the Olsen Team has exceeded our expectations. They are delightful to work with, and they have been consistently responsive, knowledgeable, professional, and helpful. We have worked with other realtors, but we never expected the incredible level of service we received from the Olsen Team.

- The Erickson-King Family

The Olsen Team was easy to work with and their local expertise led to the successful sale of our family home. As an out of town seller, Sue and Ben were able to handle nearly everything for us. The inspections, updates, cleaning and staging of the home were seamless, and all were handled by professional resources that met our high standards.

- Sellers at 50 York Place

Without all your hard work, coordination of all the various contractor jobs and inspections, we never would be where we are. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate all that you did for us. I am well aware of how much work you put into getting the condo sold. You were always calm and patient with me and the rest of my crew.

- Trustee of an Orinda Estate

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The Olsen Team

www.TheOlsenTeam.com

Gimme Shelter

by Andi Peterson Brown

Believe it or not, quite a few communities in the Bay Area are in the midst of a housing shortage, and Lamorinda is no exception. Ok, raise your hand if you just had to reread that sentence. I know—given the negative news out there surrounding all things housing, it seems like it can't be true, right? But I assure you, it is.

In Lamorinda, our inventory is down almost 34% year to date and we've sold more homes. We are working through our inventory without replenishing it.

Because of that, the Lamorinda market currently has about 3.5 months of inventory. That means that if no new listings came on the market, at our current pace of sales we would run out of homes in 3.5 months. Conventional wisdom says that a healthy housing market has anywhere from 5-6 months of inventory, with anything less deemed a seller's market, and anything more deemed a buyer's market.

So wait a minute. Does that mean this is a seller's market? The answer is that for some sellers yes, and for some sellers, no. We are seeing homes that are well priced, well staged, and well marketed oftentimes sell within a few short weeks. But the other homes? If the market deems a home to miss the mark in price and/or condition, we are seeing that home languish. For those homes, it's truly a field day for buyers.

Moral of the story? It's ok to sell right now. In fact, we need you. Price and market your home correctly and you just might be surprised to see the buyers come flocking.



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Thrills, Chills, Gourds, and Ghouls

By Cynthia Brian

“From ghoulies and ghosties, And long-leggedy beasties, And things that go bump in the night.” Scottish Saying

THRILLS

When our children were young, October was a favorite month because of the traditional weekend we spent with three other families far from the maddening crowds on Mount St. Helena. The location was a hidden Halloween haven, miles from civilization with enough bewitching brilliance to satisfy any ghost. We stayed in a restored historic Victorian from the 1800's with a wrap around porch perched on several acres of pristine forestland dotted with fruit orchards. There was no electricity and water was pumped from nearby springs. Days were spent harvesting vegetables from the massive gardens for our meals, pressing apples into cider, hiking the hillsides, fishing in the creeks, riding horses bareback, and exploring the haunted barn where the creepy crawlies and battalions of bats burrowed.

As the six children carved hordes of pumpkins on the damp meadow, the parents transformed each of the antiquated

rooms into a wicked wonderland with ghoulish gourds, floating ghosts, and wailing witches on broomsticks. As dusk turned to darkness with only the flicker from candles, oil lamps, and a star-studded sky, a creepy eeriness permeated the pasture. Shadows terrorized the spider-webbed crevices while the costumed children chowed on spooky servings of spaghetti squash and drank magic juice potions from tombstones and rest in peace goblets. Fearsome and ferocious creatures lurked behind each squeaky door as we adults dressed to thrill our trick or treat offspring with each hesitant knock. The Montesol Halloween's were frightfully fun offering electrifying memories while being completely safe.

The ambling gardens provided the harvest collection of squash, pumpkins, and gourds as the highlight of those October experiences. You can create a comparable Halloween ritual in your own garden by planting gourds galore. Growing is easy. Plan now to directly seed out-

doors in full sun after all frost has passed next spring. We can learn from the Native Americans who planted the “Three Sisters” together—corn (maize), squash, and beans. The corn allowed stalks for the beans to climb, the beans added nitrogen to the soil, and the squash provided ground cover and shade for the roots, lessening weed growth. Since squash require large amounts of nitrogen to flourish, after this year's harvest, plant cover crops of crimson clover, hairy vetch, or fava beans to enrich the soil.

Squash has been grown for at least 8,000 years. In the 16th century, the Spanish conqueror of the Incan world, Francisco Pizarro (now that's a great Halloween costume) introduced squash to the European community. Native to South America and Mexico, there are four species of the genus *Curcubita*. Varieties of edible squash include many zucchinis, crooknecks, spaghetti squash, pumpkins, butternuts, and “pepos” or old world melons. We call them a vegetable, but they are truly a fruit. Cucumbers and many gourds are squash relatives. The wart covered, lavishly colored gourds that decorate our autumn atmospheres are inedible “pepos”.

...continued on page D10



A smiling Jack O' Lantern and Indian corn

Photo Cynthia Brian



The saffron and burnt umber shades of the pistache tree.

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for November

No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, no fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds - November! ~Thomas Hood, "No!"

November is not as dire as Thomas Hood writes, yet, with the falling leaves, the chilly winds, and shorter days of sun light, we understand that Mother Nature is bedding down for the upcoming winter. Whether you build a big bonfire on the driveway, play croquet on the lawn, or listen to the sighing of the soil, be a humble pilgrim while experiencing a grateful gathering with friends and family on Thanksgiving Day.

- **ATTRACT** lizards by raking leaves and brush into a pile. The shelter invites these helpful reptiles to your garden.
- **ALLOW** a smattering of spent rose blooms to develop rose hips. Excellent for tea as a vitamin C booster.
- **DEADHEAD** the rest of your roses as the petals fade to maintain a steady stream of colorful, fragrant bouquet through the New Year.
- **COLOR** your world by planting bushes that boast fall and winter berries such as cotoneaster, holly, and pyracantha. Robins may get drunk on the red berries, while migratory birds are grateful for the nutritious fuel.
- **MULCH** by shredding the raked leaves from the deciduous trees adding grass clippings, dried plants stems, and trimmings all which provide water conservation, better drainage, and nutrients to the soil.
- **DECORATE** your front door with a wreath made from gourds, tiny pumpkins, and autumn leaves. Add a witch or goblin for a spooky Halloween, then, for Thanksgiving switch to a wood cut out of pilgrims or turkeys plus Indian corn, apples, and nuts. One arrangement doubles as a star cornucopia for fall fun.
- **DISCOVER** trees that tickle your fancy with their brilliant fall foliage at your local nurseries. When you see trees dressed in their full autumn attire, it's easier to choose ones that best suit your garden. Make sure to consider size, sun, and spread when buying a tree.
- **ADD** texture, color, and all season interest to your landscape by planting low maintenance ornamental grasses such as purple fountaingrass, arching maidengrass, blue fescue, or the popular, upright feather reedgrass.
- **STAY ALERT** for brush fire danger. As you cut branches and rake leaves, keep them far from your home and other burnable structures. Despite recent rains, fires happen when the winds kick up. Clean your chimney before igniting your wood burning fireplaces. Twenty years ago at this time in 1991, the East Bay hills witnessed one of the most devastating late season fires in history.
- **PLANT** your spring blooming bulbs now including daffodils, crocus, tulips, and other favorites. You'll be able to continue planting bulbs through January. Mark the location with plant tags or wooden paint sticks.
- **PERK** up your optimism quotient with perennials that energize, soothe, and lift your mood. It's planting time for Oriental Poppies, Peonies, and Bearded Iris.
- **LOOKING** for an extravagant gift for that special someone? You can have a rose commissioned with their name for fees beginning around \$9500. Roses are registered with the International Cultivar Registration Authority. I'd love a Starstyle® rose, but it may have to wait. Darn! If you have the bucks, visit http://paulzimmermanroses.com/?page_id=1141.
- **PICK** up acorns that fall from the oak trees before they take root. Put them in a pile outside of your garden fence to feed the deer and the squirrels.
- **ROAST** sweet potatoes with sliced garlic, chopped hazelnuts, sprigs of rosemary tossed with olive oil and balsamic for a savory sweet treat. Top with peppery arugula and nasturtium blossoms picked from your garden.
- **CLOSE** your garage and shed doors as you enter and leave to avoid unwanted intruders such as slithering serpents and rambling rodents who are anxious to bed down for a long winters nap. (Experience on this one, most certainly!)
- **PAMPER** our feathered friends with clean nesting boxes and plenty of food. As the weather changes, they appreciate a little help from humans.
- **SUBJECT** your Christmas cactus to cold temperatures in the 50's or leave pots of them in the dark for 12 hours a day to encourage holiday blooms.
- **WINTERIZE** your patio by covering or storing furniture, pads, and accessories Move frost tender plants in pots near the house for warmth.
- **BREATHE** in the chilly air on a clear day as you savor the season's final blossoms and scented flower fragrances. Winter is drawing near.
- **GRATITUDE** works. My heartfelt thank you to all of you who read my column faithfully. Wishing you a healthy holiday and terrific Thanksgiving.

Happy Gardening to YOU!

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The Goddess Gardener
Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
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Thrills, Chills, Gourds, and Ghouls ...continued from page D8

The blossoms of squash are delicious, but make sure you are frying or stuffing the male blossoms and not the female ones or you won't have a crop. Although both blossoms look similar, you can tell the difference because the females have a tiny fruit at the base, which matures into the vegetable we cook, while the males are smooth. Also, don't forget to save seeds both for planting and for enjoying. Dry them for a couple of weeks and roast them for school snacks.

Are you wondering what the differences are between advertised "summer" squash and "winter" squash? Simple, you pick summer squash early, at any size, when the fruit is immature—such as very small zucchini. Winter squash is harvested at full maturity when the stem is brown and frost is looming. Store all squash varieties up to three months in a cool room of 50-60 degrees instead of in the refrigerator. Winter squash recipes abound for your Thanksgiving feast.

Squash and gourds have symbolized the autumn season for centuries because of their varied colors and harvest times in fall. Orange has become the signature color for October and November. Since the origin of the Irish myth of Stingy Jack roaming the dark night with only a piece of fiery coal to light the way, children have been carving scary faces into turnips, potatoes, and of course, pumpkins to illuminate Halloween with the Jack O'Lantern,

As Albert Camus wrote, "Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." After Halloween, save those uncarved fruits, corn stalks, and hay bales for November adornment. For the Thanksgiving season, a colorful cornucopia of blue, white, and orange pumpkins combined with the multihued gourds, squash, and autumn leaves

make a welcome greeting on the doorstep.

CHILLS

A suicide honeybee? Never would have I believed this possible had I not witnessed its desire to drown with my own eyes. In the throes of heat of our Indian summer, I always make sure to keep my garden water elements filled as a cool respite for our flying friends. This week as I filled the fountain, a bee flew into the gurgling froth. Being too deep for a bee to extricate himself (I refer to the bees as male!), I carefully lifted the bee to a nearby leaf with my hand trowel. Two minutes later, the bee dove back into the water. Again, I removed him to a nearby shrub where I watched his behavior. He shook off the dampness, flapped his fairy wings, and nose-dived into the water yet again. We repeated our dance thirteen times until I realized I couldn't save him from himself. With colony collapse syndrome a real threat to agriculture and vegetation renewal, why was this honeybee determined to die? Was his demise due to the unlucky number thirteen, or was he forecasting the arrival of ghost bees in our bonnets!

Enjoy the thrills, chills, gourds, and ghouls. Carve a pumpkin with wolves howling at the full moon, hear the churchyards yawn, and grab your broomstick for the witching hour. Happy Hallowed Eve! Boo!



Pyranantha berries beckon the birds to dine!



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The ideal time to plant trees and shrubs is during the dormant season—in the fall after their leaves drop or early spring before bud breaks. Weather conditions are cool and allow plants to establish roots in the new location. The proper handling during planting is essential to ensure a healthy future for new trees and shrubs.

So don't wait until it's too late, call your local Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to help you find your perfect tree.

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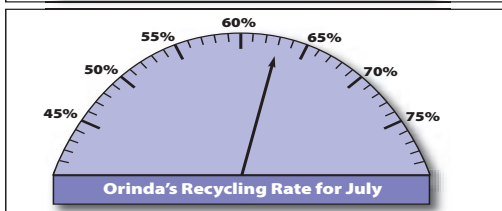
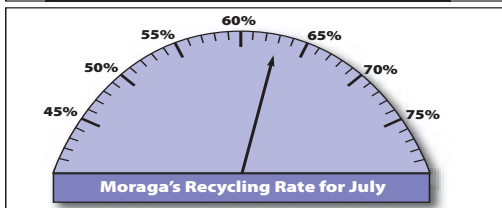
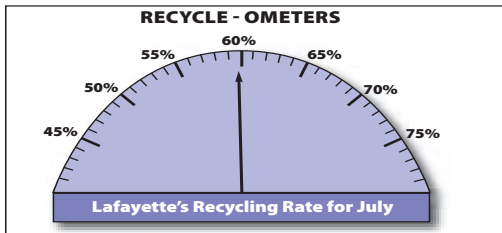
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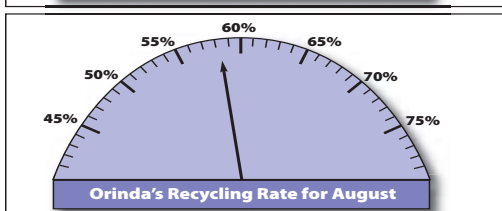
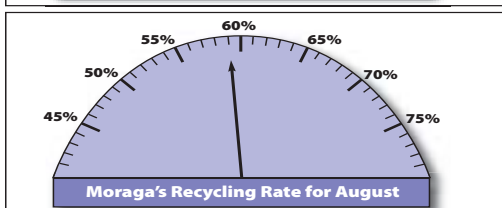
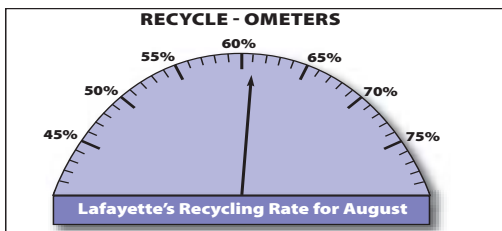
Recycling in Lamorinda

The numbers below are provided by the Central Costa County Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA) and will be included in the Lamorinda Weekly on an ongoing basis when available.

July 2011



August 2011



To register with Recycle Bank:

If you've lost the letter that contained your PIN number, no problem – Go online to recyclebank.com and click on 'register.' Enter your information, including your address. Get a new pin by mail or immediately with a message sent to your cell phone; now you can complete your registration.

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675 Carroll Drive
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Offered at \$699,000



3363 St. Mary's Road
Classic ranch on prem lot set back from road. Near Laf/Moraga trail. Great oppty for Laf schools. Nice outdoor spaces + pool. LR w/fiiple & vaulted beam ceiling. Granite counters in kitchen.

Offered at \$749,000



1825 St. Andrews Drive
Updated Sequoyah in MCC with 4bds/2.5ba. Spacious kitchen/family room combo. French doors open to courtyard, plenty of storage, striking views.

Offered at \$979,000



3376 Ridge Road
Affordable 4bd detached hm in popular Trail neighborhood surrounded by heritage oaks - truly a beautiful setting. Tons of recent improvements, walk to town/trail/schools.

Offered at \$649,000



502 Silverado Drive
Remod 3bd/2ba Burton Valley rancher with "Pottery Barn" charm hdwd flrs, new bathrooms, new windows, new roof & much more. 1850 sf on .75 acre lot.

Offered at \$829,000



3286 Sweet Drive
Lovely large home, flexible floor plan, updated throughout, granite kitchen. Sweeping views, 2 master bedrooms plus 2 more bedrooms & 4 baths in Burton Valley.

Offered at \$917,000



3272 Woodview Drive
Spacious 4bd/3ba home on sprawling .37 ac lot w/beautiful lawns in Burton Valley. Terrific views & privacy, gleaming hdwd flrs, lovely kitchen & huge family rm or use as possible full in-law!

Offered at \$949,000



3217 Sharon Court
Rebuilt from foundation up in 2005-2006. 4bd/3ba 2367 sf home nr desirable Burton Valley. Lg open great room w/bamboo floors & high ceilings, beaut mstr suite, lovely level yard with pool & play area.

Call agent for price



855 Mt. View Drive
Sophisticated design comes together boldly w/the finest materials in this fully renovated 4bd/3ba hm ready for holiday occupancy! Elegant yet comfortable, lovely pvt setting w/views.

Offered at \$1,295,000



8 Hawks Hill Court
Huge price reduction! Absolutely stunning panovus of Mt. Diablo, hills & Carquinez. Blt in 2006 w/master suite, LR/DR/FR, kitchen on main lvl, 3 more bdrms & 2nd fam rm dnstrs. Wine room too!

Offered at \$1,458,000



3829 Happy Valley Road
Rare oppty to own 2.33 ac lvl estate in Happy Valley! Pvt gated property w/tennis ct, pool, lawn, down long driveway to secluded 4bd/4ba 4007 sf home filled w/marvelous detail. Incl Art Deco movie theater!

Offered at \$2,950,000



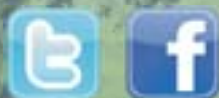
4145 Canyon Road
The Lamorinda Lifestyle at its finest! Gated 6 bedroom, 4 full bath, 3 half bath estate in Happy Valley is truly one-of-a-kind!
www.4145CanyonRd.com

Offered at \$2,950,000

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