Saint Mary's Still Undefeated after Tough Road Trip

By Alex Kozela and Caitlin Graveson

Upcoming Home Games

Thu, Feb 02, 7:00 PM vs San Diego, SMC McKeon Pavilion Sat, Feb 11, 8:00 PM vs Santa Clara, SMC McKeon Pavilion Wed, Feb 15, 7:30 PM vs Loyola Marymount, SMC McKeon Pavilion

Get your tickets at the Athletics Ticket Office Mon-Fri, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM or online at www.smcgaels.com

Matthew Dellavedova (4) and Kenton Walker II (30)

...read story on page C2

Ouote of the Week:

"Pointing fingers and debating about who should have done what is not going to get our roads fixed."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A10



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Town News	A2 - A12
Letters to the Editor	A10
MOFD	A11
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B14
Service Directory	В9
Business	B10
Food	B11
HOW TO CONTACT U	JS B11
Not to be Missed	B12-B13
Sports	C1 - C3
Classified	C2
Love Lafayette	C4
Our Homes	D1 - D12
This Week Read Abo	out:
Lifson Honored	A2
Dipping into Palos Ban	k? A4
Safe Routes to Schools	A6
CERT for Seniors	B2
Film Festival	B5

Orinda City Council Initiates Eminent Domain Proceedings to Keep Glorietta Project on Track

By Laurie Snyder

he Orinda City Council recently author- Boulevard and Jefferson and Seanna Allen of record. "We're seeking to use it." ized City staff to initiate legal proceedproperties.

"None of us wants to take this action," said Mayor Steven Glazer. "We do this out of necessity." Glazer's remarks were made during a public hearing on January 17 at which Council members and staff discussed the City's success in acquiring easements from four private property owners free of charge in connection with the Glorietta Storm Drain Improvement Project. An easement was also obtained from the East Bay Municipal Water

However, the City has been unable to finalize agreements with two other private

Glorietta Court. The City's "repeated good ings against the owners of two private faith efforts over many months to acquire the necessary easements through negotiation" have, according to a staff report, included offers of compensation to the owners, even though such payments are not required of cities under Government Code section 7267.2.

Council member Victoria Smith, who led the City's effort to negotiate a separate agreement with property owner Diane Szucs, thanked Szucs for the record and noted that Szucs declined the City's offer of compensation and suggested that the Council put the savings toward repaving the City's roads.

"We're not seeking to own the lands," property owners - Sara Harkness of Glorietta City attorney Osa Wolff clarified for the City was sued.

C1-C4

Project Overview

Council authorized the Glorietta project to prevent a recurrence of flooding near Glorietta Boulevard and Moraga Way, which was described in a 2000 incident report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): "A 6 foot wall of water and mud flowed through the yards and residences along Glorietta Court near Moraga Way. Widespread rain with twenty four hour accumulations of more than 5 inches occured [sic] over the area on Feb 13 into February 14th."

A subsequent investigation found that a severely deformed corrugated metal pipe (CMP) in the neighborhood's 50-year-old CMP storm drain system was the most likely cause. The ... continued on page A12

Life in Lamorinda

Trans K Program on Hold

New in Teen Scene

B1-B14

Life - Wings on the Grounds

Cathy Dausman talks to a local veteran who took his preflight training at SMC in 1944. B1





Miramonte Girls Steam

Roll Rivals

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Our Homes

D1-D12

Miramonte Kitchen Tour -It Takes a Community



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Civic News

Public Meetings

Tri-City Meeting City Council

Thursday, February 9, 7:00 pm Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda next regular City Council

Monday, February 27, 7:00 pm

Planning Commission

Monday, February 6, 7:00 pm Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, February 13, 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, February 1, 7:30 pm Wednesday, February 15, 7:30 pm Board Room AUHSD Office 1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, February 8, 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

Please submit **Letters and Opinions:** letters@lamorinda weekly.com

After Delays, Senior Housing Project Ready to Roll

By Cathy Tyson

n 2008 this paper reported on LEden Housing's bid for a low income senior apartment complex along Mt. Diablo Boulevard. It was described as well on its way at the time; but it was only recently, at a January 23, 2012 City Council meeting that Woody Karp, Senior Project Manager said, "I'm really happy to report we obtained the final piece of funding in order to move project forward. We should be ready to start construction in the beginning of August. Thank you for your patience

Karp explained the hold-up was all about the financing, "Affordable housing relies on very limited public funding sources to make it work." He added, "It's very competitive. Funding sources have been cut back significantly or eliminated altogether."

The original funding source was a federal program with applications taken only once per year. Eden applied three different times and ultimately tied for first place. But there was only enough money for one project, and it went to the other applicant.

Undaunted, Karp was finally able to secure funds from a state multi-



Rendering of the Senior Housing Project

family program administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. "It was pretty miraculous," said Karp.

With a great downtown location residents to enjoy. between Brown Avenue and Blackwood Lane, next to Bo's Barbeque, the almost one-acre site is very pedestrian friendly. The forty-five rental units exclusively for low-income seniors, with one manager's unit, were

designed by architect Van Meter Williams Pollack. The 52,000 square foot structure is set back from the street and has two inner courtyards for

Seventeen of the units are designed specifically for disabled residents. The building will feature a large living room style community space with comfortable sofas, a television and music, a full service back in 2008.

kitchen for residents who would like to host parties, along with amenities like a gardening club to work on the raised beds on the property, a computer learning center, and modest exercise room. Thirty parking spaces will be available underneath the building. The design hasn't changed since going through the Design Review process and gaining approval

Popular Chamber Director Receives Business Award

By Cathy Tyson

& Spa. By all appearances, Lif- save the twinkle lights. son's the most popular man in Lafayette. Beyond the charm however, is a dedicated, successful leader of the Chamber since 2005, who has increased membership by 42 percent and in-

creased revenue by 65 percent. In years past Lifson would disqualify himself, but this time around his objections were overruled. Kicking off the tribute/roast

nown for his good humor with "hip hip hurray for Jay," Mo and boundless energy, Jay Levich led a packed house to Lifson, Executive Director of the honor the man who brings resi-Lafayette Chamber of Com- dents together with the Chambermerce, was awarded the Marquis sponsored Art and Wine Festival, Business Person of the Year the Reservoir Run, Rock the Plaza, award at a celebratory dinner as well as the "Shop Lafayette event at the Lafayette Park Hotel First" campaign, and efforts to

> Family, friends and a veritable who's who of Lafayette movers and shakers raised a glass to the man of the hour. His friend for over forty years, Mac Carey lauded him as having "the rare quality of making those around him better. Everybody loves Jay." A parade of speakers highlighted his finer points including his love of the Grateful Dead, enthusiasm, and civic pride. Even a group from the City's Planning Department joined the fray with a Jay Lifson hilarious top ten list; they bestowed upon him the first ever Honorary City Planner award.

The star of the night that literally sang Lifson's praises was City Manager Steven Falk, who stripped off shirt and tie in favor of leather jacket, t-shirt and funky wig for his own version, with adjusted lyrics, of the Bob Dylan



classic, "Like a Rolling Stone." Clapping and singing along, the audience chimed in on the chorus, "How does it feel? To be right at home, to be so well known, to sit on that throne, like a Jay Lif-son."

When asked for a comment, Lifson replied, "How about the 'Hippie-Jock' –as my dear friend Mac Carey put it -makes good! I was able to

share a very special evening with my father, mother, family, friends and the wonderful people in Lafayette. The kid whose parents were told every year at report card time, 'He has so much potential, if only he applied himself,' got a chance to make his family proud. I am one of the lucky people who enjoys what they do,

Photo Andy Scheck

Police Report



Sign standoff, 1/14/2012 Someone collecting signatures for political issues claimed he was being harassed by the employee of a nearby business. The employee returned the compliment, saying the signature gatherer was blocking the business handicap access.

Ouch! 1/17/2012 Police think an 88 year old man may have mistaken his car's gas pedal for the brakes when attempting to park along Mt. Diablo Blvd. His car struck the plate glass window of a business.

And more ouch! 1/10/2012 An 89 year old man drove his car over several curb lines, struck a retaining wall, two street signs and a fire hydrant before colliding with a fence. The driver was unhurt; the wall, signs, hydrant and fence were a little worse for wear.

Hello...Goodbye, 1/17/2012 If there's one thing worse than having your car burgled, its having the burglar run right by and taunt you. A woman said she heard a loud smash, followed by the presumed burglar running by with a "see ya later!" comment. Her wallet was gone – cash and checks in the amount of \$1400 total were missing. Damage to car window: \$200. Hearing that cheeky comment: priceless.

Out past curfew, 1/17/2012 A mother filed a missing persons report when her child was not home by 8pm. The missing "child" was 38 years old, and showed up at the house just before midnight. Once a mom...always a mom.



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Mayor Federighi Delivers State of the City Recap



Carol Federighi Lafayette Park Hotel, Mayor substantial monetary safety net in the Carol Federighi reflected on the past and looked ahead to the future for the City of Lafayette. She has served as mayor twice before, and has been on that in 2012 the City Council will the City Council since 1999, so she adopt the Downtown Specific Plan. confidently gave a brief fact-filled This year will also bring improvesummary before the other event of the ment to the streetscapes – Pleasant evening, the Business Person of the Hill Road project is nearing comple-Year award.

nances, "Despite a sluggish economy, C. Tyson we finished the year with a \$2000 surPhoto Andy Scheck

www.lamorindaweekly.com

ddressing a full house at the plus." With a balanced budget and a reserve account, the city has a AAA bond rating.

Looking forward, she predicts tion and the face lift of the sidewalks Federighi discussed the City's fi- along Mt. Diablo is well underway.

BART Fleet of the Future May Take a While

By Cathy Tyson

t's only natural to start noticing a approximately \$800 million. Lefew gray hairs and wrinkles around a milestone birthday. As pected to award a contract in May se-BART turns 40, it's taking a hard look lecting one of the three finalists; all at the nation's oldest transportation are from outside of the U.S.; Alstom fleet. Regular riders know that most - France, Bombardier Transit of the cars in the system have seen Canada, and Hyundai Rotem – South better days and can definitely use a Korea. The lucky winner will be exface lift.

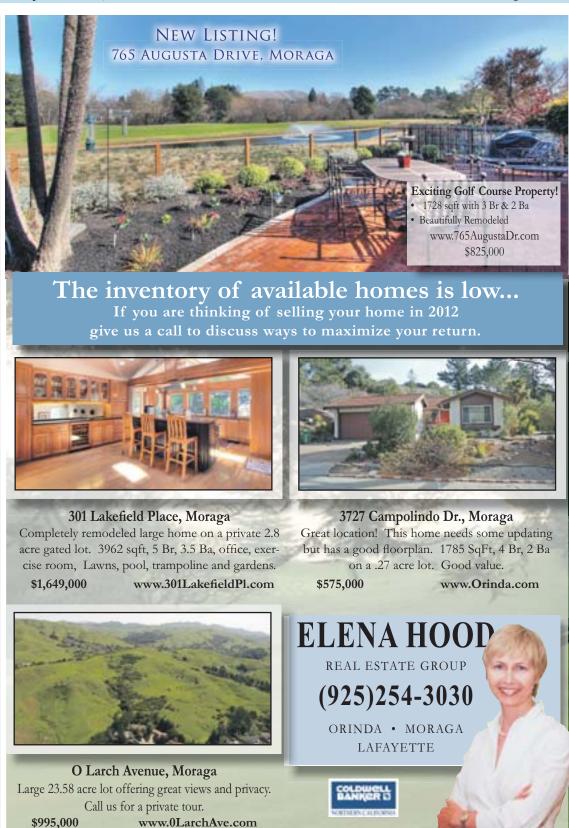
runs 110,000 miles per year; collectively the cars are nearing the end of their useful life. The BART Car Replacement Project will replace BART's existing 669 cars over time and is currently projected to cost ap- ern, sleeker, more contemporary de-MTC, with BART contributing 25%,

BART's Board of Directors is expected to manufacture ten test cars for On average a single car currently Phase 1 of the massive project to be delivered in early 2015.

> Phase 2 is slated to follow a similar formula, but voters may be asked to approve a tax to help defray costs.

> Riders will see a payoff in mod-

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Moraga

Civic News **Public Meetings**

Town Council

Wednesday, February 8, 7:00pm Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo

Tri-City Meeting

Thursday, February 9, 7:00 pm Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda

Planning Commission

Monday, February 6, 7:00 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, February 13, 7:00 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District

Tuesday, February 14, 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

Parked with pot, 1/18/2012And no medical marijuana card. Two people were sitting in a car parked on Williams Drive after midnight, not a crime in Moraga, but unusual. An officer questioned the subjects, the driver admitted to possessing marijuana and gave the cop a package with 8.5 grams of the evil weed. A search netted an additional 3.11 grams. Driver was cited for possession of less than an ounce, the passenger ended up driving both of them home.

Hit and run, 1/18/2012 At approximately 2:00 p.m. a gray Chevy Tahoe ran a red light at the intersection of Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard and clipped a Ford truck pulling a trailer. Chevy didn't stop, although it was later located on Buckingham Drive after colliding with a parked car. The driver was arrested for misdemeanor hit and run and for being unlicensed.

Uncontrollable youth, 1/19/2012 A juvenile ransacked his residence and had become a danger to himself and others. The subject eventually agreed to cooperate with police and was taken to Contra Costa Regional Medical Center by the fire department.

D.U.I., 1/20/2012 A twenty-year-old drove his car approximately fifteen feet off the road into a ditch near the Valle Staging Area on Canyon Road. The car's airbags deployed and the young man was found in the back seat. His blood shot watery eyes and slurred speech indicated to police that an alcohol screening test was in order. His test came up just past the legal limit. He was cited then later released to sober driver to head home.

Car vs. sign, 1/20/2012 Both lost. A car travelling southbound on Moraga Road jumped the curb at the entrance to the Rheem shopping center and hit a stop sign and parking light. No injuries to the driver, but the car required towing from the scene.

Kids caught smoking, 1/21/2012 At the top of Ascot Drive, around 10:30 at night, six juveniles were sitting in a car. One young man in the back seat admitted he had been drinking earlier. He was later released to his dad. One of the two young ladies in the front seat was in possession of an open package of cigarettes, her friend in the driver's seat was caught lying to cops. Both agreed to participate in the Juvenile Diversion Program.

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Finance Committee Recommends Dipping into Palos Money

By Sophie Braccini

he Moraga Audit and Fitasked with considering options the state of the Town's finances. to finance a \$450,000 note on the Its members are Administrative purchase of the Town's corporation yard at 331 Rheem Boulevard. The original plan called for selling two Town-owned properties to finance the purchase of the new building—the plan fell through when no buyer could be Mendonca. found for one property and the sale of the other met with overwhelming opposition from residents. Faced with the prospect of having to borrow nearly half of a million dollars to pay the note that's coming due in March, the Committee recommended that the Town use part of its reserve, either from the General Fund or from the \$2 million in developer fees for Palos Colorados, known as "Palos money" or "the Palos bank," that's been sitting for years and is earning less than half a percent interest.

The Town Council will decide next week whether or not to accept the recommendation. In the past, the Council has considered the Palos money to be untouchable until a long-term financial strategy is agreed upon.

The Audit and Finance Com-Services Director Stephanie Hom, Town Manager Jill Keimach, the Town's volunteer Treasurer, Bob Kennedy, resident Bradley Ward, Mayor Mike Metcalf, and Council Member Karen

At its January meeting, the Committee reviewed Hom's midyear financial report that indicated that the earnings and expenses of the Town are on track, with a probable increase in the property tax revenue. That presentation was followed by a decision regarding the Town's surplus, now predicted to be slightly higher than expected.

"We have reached our goal of 50 percent of the General Fund set aside as a reserve by allocating our surplus to that fund," said the Director. "Now the question is how we allocate the rest of the surplus." The Committee agreed that it should be saved for road repairs. "We need to tell voters that we are trying to save money for the roads as fast as we can," said the Mayor.

on the Palos Colorados property along Moraga Road next to the an account that bears a very minimal interest rate, less than 0.5 percent according to Hom. So far, the Council's position has always been to consider this money to be a "bank" for the Town, a sum that it could borrow against, but must repay, until a complete strategy is agreed upon.

The Committee also discussed a goal that's been articulated by both Hom and Mendonca: the necessity for the Town to have a five-year strategic financial plan. "This should include the Palos Colorados money," said Mendonca, "we need to have a strategy on how to invest that money for the best interest of the Town."

Council to make decisions regarding this money before a fiveyear plan is approved. "We have the Palos money sitting," said is a one-time purchase of a good bank loan.

The Palos money represents Town asset. Paying one-time nance Committee was mittee meets quarterly to review the \$2 million in developer fees money for a one-time expenditure the Town received as part of the is a good decision." Mendonca agreement to develop 123 homes agreed, noting that the Town now has a healthy reserve.

Town Manager Jill Keimach Lafayette border. The funds are in said that she believes that the community expects that the Palos money would be used for Parks and Recreation purposes. No one on the Committee was sure of the exact wording of the agreement with the Developer. "If we pay off the loan for 331 Rheem with that money, we will complete the restoration of the Hacienda de las Flores to its original purpose," said Mendonca, "and that is a part of the Parks and Recreation master plan."

The Committee voted to recommend that the note be paid off now with the Town's money, using either the Palos bank or the General Fund reserve. The Council will discuss the issue at its February 8th meeting. If the But necessity may push the Council does not support that decision, and some Council Members have been on record strongly opposing touching the reserves, the Town could create a bridge-Metcalf, "paying for 331 Rheem loan for itself until it secures a

Rancho Laguna Litigation Delays Playground Construction

By Sophie Braccini

most vocal officials. But it is now Council approved to partition the park have now been put on hold, decay.

To one wants to comment on public knowledge that a law suit space at Rancho Laguna Park and including the replacement of the

it; pending litigation has a has been filed against the Town of create a dedicated area for off- play structure that was removed way of silencing even the Town's Moraga over the plan the Town leash dogs. All projects for the from the park last spring due to

Moraga Residents Request Clarification on Selection **Process**

By Sophie Braccini

faith," said David Shapiro, referring to the way Moraga's Vice Mayor was chosen by the Town Council last December. The issue was raised by resident Ellen Beans at the Town's Goal Setting session on January 28.

here is a risk of lack of Beans said that she, and many resor among Council members." idents, had been stunned when Howard Harpham was nominated and elected Vice Mayor. "This has nothing to do with that specific choice," clarified Beans, "but a 30-plus year tradition was broken with no discussion with the public

Other residents indicated that they were also surprised when they heard the news.

According to an unwritten rule, those who sit in the mayor and vice mayor seats are those who receive the majority of the

public votes in the election that sends them to the Council. Most agreed that changing a rule, even an unwritten one, is worth a public debate. The issue will be put on the agenda of an upcoming Council meeting and will then be discussed at length.



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Thoughts of a departing Town Engineer

By Sophie Braccini

verybody agreed, at outgoing Public Works Director limits. The needs then were was my experience with building when she leaves a part of the life money had to be set aside to been quite successful over the of the party leaves with her. As maintain the infrastructure. past six years and were able to get Moraga Mayor Mike Metcalf put Today, residents pay the same a lot done." Residents will reit, she brought an infectious high amount of property tax as any spiritedness that boosted the other Contra Costa resident, but Pablo, part of Rheem Boulevard, morale of Town staff. The Public the difference is that less comes Works Director and Town Engiback to feed the General Fund of neer was described as being "one their town. of the boys", respected for her competence and direct approach, erage, half the number of staff per and appreciated for her warmth and collaborative approach to management. As she leaves her pay and benefits are in the lower office, she shared some thoughts about the past successes and the

Mercurio believes that Moraga's biggest impairment can be traced back to the passage of Prop. 13; the share that each municipality gets today from the property tax collected within its boundaries was set for perpetuity in 1978, when the town was only four years old. "Now the Town is Works Director and City Engiand adult and it is still getting neer. baby food," she says.

challenges Moraga faces.

rated in 1974, it was with the ex- Town has had a dramatic impact press mandate to keep the on the maintenance backlog. government and services to a

"Moraga operates with, on av-1000 residents than anywhere else," says Mercurio, "and the State funding for residential tier. So it was the understanding of previous Town Managers that Moraga was a training ground; a place to advance one's career, but not to retire." Mercurio says that when then Town Manager Phil Vince hired her, he asked her to stay five years. She's been in charge for six and a half years and is now taking a position with the City of Vallejo as Assistant Public

In addition to chronic under-When the Town was incorpo-staffing, the under-funding of the "One of the reasons I was hired

ing Public Works Director limited, and no one had antici- cases for getting grants for inframember the repaying of Camino and Moraga Road. The Director was also able to get funding for improvements around school grounds such as sidewalks and crossroads.

But there is no Federal or streets and that's why the roads have been degrading to the point of getting Moraga a regional rating of 'poor', at the bottom of the ladder, among Contra Costa municipalities.

"We have a maintenance backlog of about \$25 million," says Mercurio, "that is what RECON (Revenue Enhancement Community Outreach to Neighborhoods Committee) has been working on: informing residents of the situation, and establishing a roadmap to get the repairs done, the best cost-effective way possible, and staged over a few years."

Mercurio departs before the plan is complete, although she

notes that it is almost finished.

"I am not especially con-Jill Mercurio's farewell party, that pated that serious amounts of structure," says Mercurio, "we've cerned about the RECON work being interrupted with Jill's (Mercurio's) departure," says Metcalf. "Jill Keimach (the Town Manager) has arranged for the on-call services of the engineering manager in El Cerrito. Jerry Bradshaw will be joining the RECON team in the same capacity vacated by Jill Mercurio. Jerry brings experience as the engineer who formulated the El Cerrito street rehabilitation program." Metcalf points out that several years ago El Cerrito's neighborhood streets were in similar condition to Morag's neighborhood streets today and credits Bradshaw with fashioning a pavement rehabilitation program which, once voters passed the bond measure that funded it, was executed. Now El Cerrito's neighborhood streets are mostly in "good" condition. "That's exactly the outcome we're shooting for in Moraga," says the Mayor, "I'm confident Jerry (Bradshaw) can give us a lot of help. We are fortunate that Contra Costa cities are always willing to help one another out."

Everyone was very emotional

at Mercurio's farewell party on January 19, including Staff Engineer John Sherbert who said that he will miss her problem solving, mentoring, and leadership skills. In Vallejo she will deal with similar issues: infrastructure to be maintained and budget restrictions. At least she will have some money to play with; the city recently very narrowly approved a 1% sales tax to be charged on purchases of goods and services made within the city limits, to finance local services including infrastructure maintenance.

Property Tax Allocations

Of the total property tax residents pay, only a fraction goes to municipalities. That percentage was set in stone by Prop. 13. Those percentages for Lamorinda and a couple of nearby communities are:

Moraga 5.3% Lafayette 6.8% Orinda 7.4% Concord 10.4% Pittsburg 15.8%

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Joanna Truelson



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of a variety of different sources. Such information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors. If important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation. 2 Theatre Square, Suite 215 925.258.1111 ORINDA



Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, February 7, 7:00 pm Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Tri-City Meeting City Council

Thursday, February 9, 7:00 pm Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda

Planning Commission

Tuesday, February 28, at 7:00 pm Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, February 14 canceled

Historical Landmark Committee

Tuesday, February 28, 3:00 pm Gallery Room, Library 26 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District Monday, February 13, 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 In left field, 1/18/2012 An

anonymous caller tipped Orinda police about a white car sitting in an empty field. Police found a man and woman milling around the car, and luggage strewn about. The suspects fled on foot, the woman was found. Police also found a controlled substance and burglary tools. She was transported to Martinez Detention Facility and booked.

This is why DUI is illegal, 1/15/2012 Investigation of an accident on Ivy Drive resulted in the arrest of the self-admitted drunk driver. His two passengers were injured, one required surgery. The driver was medically screened before he was booked into Martinez Detention Facility and charged with 2 felony counts and 1 misdemeanor.

Right, aid...1/18/2012 Police following up on witness reports of a woman screaming and drinking wine in the Rite Aid bathroom found her on Orinda Way, clearly Drunk in Public. She was found to be in violation of her terms of probation requiring she consume no alcohol, transported and booked into Martinez Detention Facility.

Their lucky day, 1/13/2012 Two men who reportedly stole from Orinda Safeway fled the scene and led police on a merry chase in their 1986 Nissan all the way into Oakland, where OPD was instructed to terminate the pursuit.

Methinks thou dost protest too much! 1/10/2012 A protester protesting with a protest sign encountered a counter-protester when the party of the second part spray-painted the sign of the party of the first part. Original protester signed a citizen's arrest for the newbie; the counter-protester admitted vandalizing the protester's sign, and was arrested, cited and released at the scene of the protest crime.

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A New Thread in the Fabric of Orinda's Community

Michelle Lacy takes the field as Orinda's new Director of Parks and Recreation By Laurie Snyder

community," Michelle Lacy, the new Director first day with the City of Orinda was January 3, 2012.

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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAG

She's got a challenging task. With programs serving babies all the way up to seniors, and facili-

areas to landscaped medians and groomed playfields, and a diverse of Parks and Recreation whose array of arts and cultural happenings, Lacy oversees roughly ten full and part-time permanent staff and approximately 30 additional temporary and seasonal personnel

y role is to serve the ties that range from open space five major program areas – recreation, facility maintenance, facility management (rentals), parks and landscaping, and administration while keeping an eye on the current fiscal year's projected budget expenditures of \$2,178,768.

ensuring smooth operations across Center, for example. "This place

is busy all the time," says Lacy. Parks and Recreation staff work hard to tailor activities and educational offerings to the specific constituencies they serve. Programs for seniors give older men and women vital opportunities to Take the Orinda Community remain active and socialize.

... continued on next page

Safe Routes to Schools – But How?

Proposed pedestrian path on Moraga Way sparks surprising debate By Laurie Snyder



Illustration provided

conduct civil, productive discourse at monte High School. The January 24 2011. public hearing offered residents the opportunity to weigh in on proposed been concerned about bicycle and construction plans for a new pedes- pedestrian safety in the neighborhood trian pathway on Moraga Way, and for quite some time. Attendees were was led by City Engineer Janice nearly evenly divided in favor and

The idea for the pathway was an

rindans provided a primer for outgrowth of the City's larger Bicyother communities on how to cle, Trails and Walkways Master Plan prepared by Alta Planning + Design a recent community meeting at Mira- and adopted by the City in January

> Carey noted that residents have against the project.

Planners propose to create a

roughly 3,355 linear foot pathway within the public right-of-way near Miramonte High School. It would be located on the western side of Moraga Way from El Camino Moraga to Ivy Drive south. The current paved roadway shoulder would be converted to a five-foot wide asphalt pathway, and separated from bicycle lanes by an asphalt dike with conforms created for residential driveways entering onto the west side of Moraga Way. The shoulder cross slope would also be flattened to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Additionally, two push-button Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons would be installed on opposite sides of a striped crosswalk on Moraga Way at Estabueno and Eastwood Drive. Described as state-of-the-art by the representatives of outside consultants, Harris & Associates, the solar-powered beacons are viewed as less expensive and greener than in-roadway enhanced crosswalk beacons.

One neighbor observed that, "The value of having a better crosswalk at agement for a total of \$230,930. Eastwood is huge," while another expressed his appreciation for the hard work done by City staff before stating

that the project might actually make Moraga Way more dangerous since it would take space from both traffic lanes to build the pathway.

Several suggested that there are not enough walkers to warrant the expense when the City is still struggling to get its roads paved, and advised planners that children and their parents actually prefer to take back ways through neighborhoods rather than walking along Moraga Way. Others expressed the belief that, "If we build it, they will come."

One advocated an even bolder approach, recommending that the pathway be lengthened further because it would make the City safer and encourage people to get out of their cars and walk.

When Orinda City Council considered the issue at its August 2011 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) review, Council members were advised that \$35,000 would be spent for planning, design, and administration plus \$181,930 for construction and \$14,000 for construction man

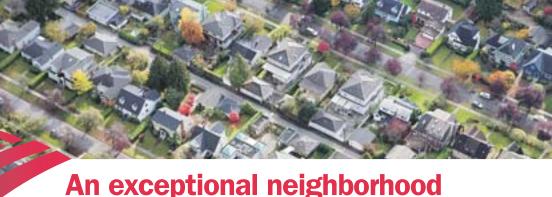
That construction figure has since been revised upward by \$100,000 for an estimated total project cost of \$330,930, as indicated on page II-21 of the final version of the CIP that was adopted by Council for 2011-2015.

Staff have already secured \$166,000 from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Safe Routes to Schools program, and anticipate making up the difference by using \$54,930 in City park dedication fees from fiscal years 2012 and 2013, \$10,000 from 2012 gas tax revenues, and \$100,000 in 2013 local traffic impact fees.

When asked about the increase in estimated expenditures, Carey explained that project costs change as the design becomes "more refined as the project design becomes more complete." Saying that there may be at least four budget phases "in estimating a project while it goes through the design stage: conceptual, schematic, design development, and working drawings," she also noted that, "We will not really know the true cost of the project until it is bid for construction."

One resident urged scaling the project back to simply create a safe crosswalk rather than building the entire pathway, stating that proposed plan was not a good solution for residents who live along the section of Moraga Way where the path would be located.

All agreed on one thing: There is an increasing need to inspire Orinda motorists to drive more safely on community roads - particularly so when driving near schools and other places where children are present.



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A New Thread in the Fabric of Orinda's Community

... continued from page A6

Traditional gyms cater mostly to young customers, observes Lacy. So community physical recreation programs are critical because they help seniors keep up their mobility at a reasonable cost. Many older Orindans also fend off the demon of isolation by playing bridge and engaging in other weekly programs to stay connected with friends.

Teens are afforded a safestructured environment where they're not pressured to do anything unhealthy or illegal.

schoolers and early elementary tenure. age children enable little ones to explore their world while finetuning their manners and learning like in the trenches. Although she how to get along with others in had thought about becoming a the wider world. While the kids are making friends, their moms are developing social and support networks.

"Parks and Rec just makes life better," says Lacy. "It brings neighborhoods together," enabling residents to play and wanted to work with youth and cessor, Todd Skinner, and adopted

spend time together and main- make a difference in their lives." taining "the fabric of the community."

Lacy is well positioned to help guide Orinda's harmonic convergence. With a degree in organizational management and nearly ten years of experience as the Town of Danville's Recreation Services Manager, she was responsible for ensuring the smooth operation of seven program areas, 30 sports fields, five public buildings, a dog park, and a \$3 million budget – a budget Programs tailored to pre- that grew significantly during her

> One other strong point in her favor is that she knows what it's teacher, she decided that there was a better path for her. So, she embarked on a career in Parks and Recreation, starting out as a day camp director and working her way up.

"I wanted to help people -

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Orinda's Parks and Recreation budget has traditionally been a strong one with user fees playing a significant role in covering operational costs. To maintain the high standard of Orinda's programs and services, Lacy will evaluate existing programs to determine where improvements might be made and will also engage staff in long-range planning. She'll also be working to keep the development of the Wilder playfields on track for a June 2012 opening, a big project that has already occupied much of her first few weeks on the job.

One only needs to peruse the 234-page Bicycle, Trails and Walkways Master Plan to get a sense of just how busy Michelle Lacy will be managing Orinda's existing wealth of resources - resources that could expand even farther based on this ambitious and far-reaching plan which was developed under Lacy's prede-

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Michelle Lacy, Orinda's new Director of Parks and Recreation, checks out the daytime activity near Orinda's tennis courts. "This place is busy all the time," she says of the Orinda Community Center and its neighboring park. Photo Laurie Snyder

by the City in January 2011.

smile." With significant re-

sources at her disposal and sup-"Well maintained public port from a community that spaces are important to the iden- draws strength from its busy cultity of the community," states tural and recreational scene, Lacy, who notes that she also she'll have ample opportunity to likes "to make kids and families do just that in the days and years



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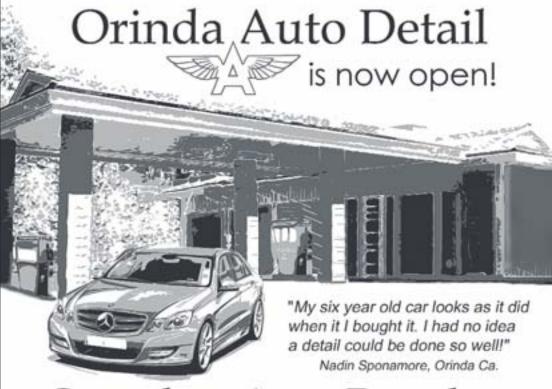




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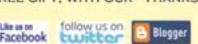
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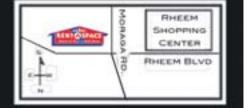
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Civic News Moraga

Moraga Police Choose Nixle for Emergency Messaging

By Sophie Braccini



cently approved the usage of Nixle by its Police Department for emergency messaging to residents. The decision followed a recent road closure on Moraga Way that created considerable inconvenience for Lamorinda residents and served as a reminder that, according to the Police Department, the community should be doing a better job of preparing for minor emergencies, as well as for major emergencies. Nixle, a communication system used by some 5,000 public agencies, will disseminate important information to as many Priebe and our Emergency Prestakeholders as possible, as quickly as possible, either to their phones or via email.

In order for the system to be effective, residents have to register their information, email and/or mobile phone. Moraga Police Chief Bob Priebe encourages all residents to sign up for Nixle. "With no cost to the Department, taxpayers, or residents, the Nixle Connect is a cost-effective solution," said the

Following the meeting, the Police Department set up an account to communicate with the public via text/SMS, e-mail, and/or Internet posts depending on what residents choose for themselves. "The messages we will send will address issues such as a road closure, a law enforcement activity, a fire response," said Priebe, adding, Town's Emergency Response Plan for communicating with residents."

You can register to receive messages from Moraga Police by sending a text message with your zip code to 888777, and online registrais also available

he Moraga Town Council re- www.nixle.com. Subscribing to Nixle is easy and free. Enter your name, address and telephone number. Adding the phone number is optional, but if you just enter your email you will not receive text messages. The system sends you alerts from official agencies located in your area that have signed onto Nixle. You will be automatically signed up to receive messages from the Moraga Police Department; other towns or agencies of interest can be added to and removed from your alarm system.

"We met today with Chief paredness Coordinator Dennis Rein," said Moraga Orinda Fire Department Chief Randy Bradley, "We'll be working also with the cities of Lafayette and Orinda. This is an area where regionalization makes sense and will improve efficiency. We will identify ways for the Fire Department to use it through the Police Department and we are very supportive

"We are excited to have the Moraga Police Department join over 4,600 agencies across the nation that use Nixle for their means of real-time communication," said Eric Liu, Nixle CEO. "With Nixle Connect, public notification is made easy. It assures that the Moraga community will quickly receive the information they need the most, such as traffic "Nixle will also be part of the reports, crime alerts, and emergency notifications." Currently, Walnut Creek uses Nixle extensively and Lafayette recently joined. Nixle indicates that more than 700,000 citizens nationwide have signed up to take advantage at of their service.

About Nixle

Founded in 2007, Nixle is a privately held company based in San Francisco. Nixle is a Community Information Service dedicated to helping people get access to the information they need, depending on their physical location. Only authenticated agencies and community organizations can securely publish information. There are four types of messages; Alerts (many would refer to this as an emergency type alert), Advisories (less urgent need-to-know information), Community Information (day-to-day neighborhood to community-level information), Traffic (very localized traffic information). Nixle is the only messaging service certified by the International Justice and Safety Networks (Nlets), which is owned by the 50 states, links together and supports every federal, state and local law enforcement, justice and public safety agency for the purpose of sharing and exchanging critical information. "Our goal will be to get every local, state and federal agency to link into the Nixle network and provide the public with every type of information, from emergency notification to day-to-day information on traffic, missing persons and local events. The more agencies and citizens you sign up, the better it will be for public safety," said CEO Eric Liu in an interview with Government Security News. In order to be able to continue to provide this free service, Nixle is now rolling out additional paid plans that incorporate added functionality plus upcoming new releases.

Meet the Mayor Continues



From left: Bill Snyder, Jill Keimach, Mike Metcalf and Susan Marcconi Photo Andy Scheck

Moraga's new mayor, Mike Metcalf, continues the tradition started by Mayor Karen Mendonca last year. The third Friday of the month, the Mayor and the Town Manager meet informally in the morning with their constituency at Terzetto Cuisine. Residents are welcome to drop by and ask questions.

Civic News Lafayette

www.lamorindaweekly.com

BART Fleet of the Future May Take a While

... continued from page A2



Although a final design has not been chosen, this image shows the most favored selection.

packages made possible with BART input from approximately 10,000 riders and concerned residents. that maximizing seating was a top priority. Designing seat configurations is a delicate balancing act of comfort and capacity," noted a of the Future.

an actual size mock-up that will muters obviously takes a while. be available to the public for inspection, tentatively scheduled ting tired of the shrill screeching for later this year. Comments noise coming from the tracks, about the sample car will be taken Salaver recommends contacting

with a layout that allows for more sign. "We've had robust public room for bikes, wheelchairs and feedback to the program," said spokesperson Luna Salaver. The first actual train car will arrive for testing in 2013. "The public spoke loud and clear Deliveries of the road tested shiny new redesigned cars should commence in January, 2015. If all goes according to schedule, delivery of the 260 new and improved report from BART on their Fleet cars for Phase 1 should run from approximately September of Once the final contract has 2016 to December 2018. Finding been awarded to one of the three a reliable, comfortable fleet to finalists, the supplier will provide handle a growing number of com-

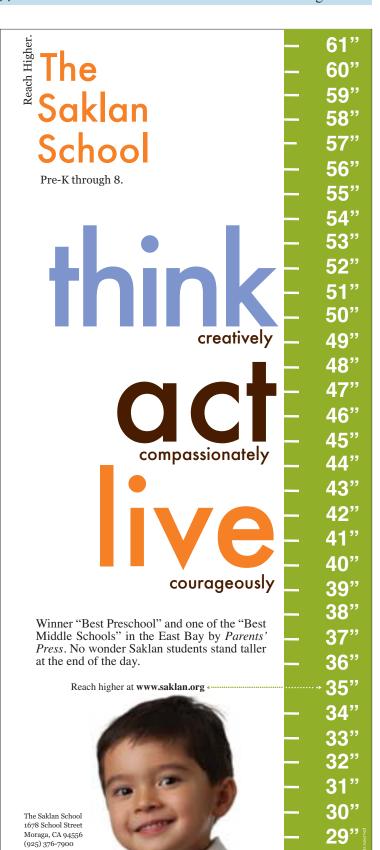
For Lafayette residents get-

BMW Designworks came up into consideration for the final de- BART Customer Service directly. Multiple comments and complaints will go to their maintenance department to encourage grinding the divots along the track that are to blame for the racket. Go to BART.gov, then click on "About BART" for the "Contact Us" page; phone numbers, along with e-mail and regular mail information can be found there. For your convenience, station agents also have postage paid comment cards. The squeaky wheel gets the grease.

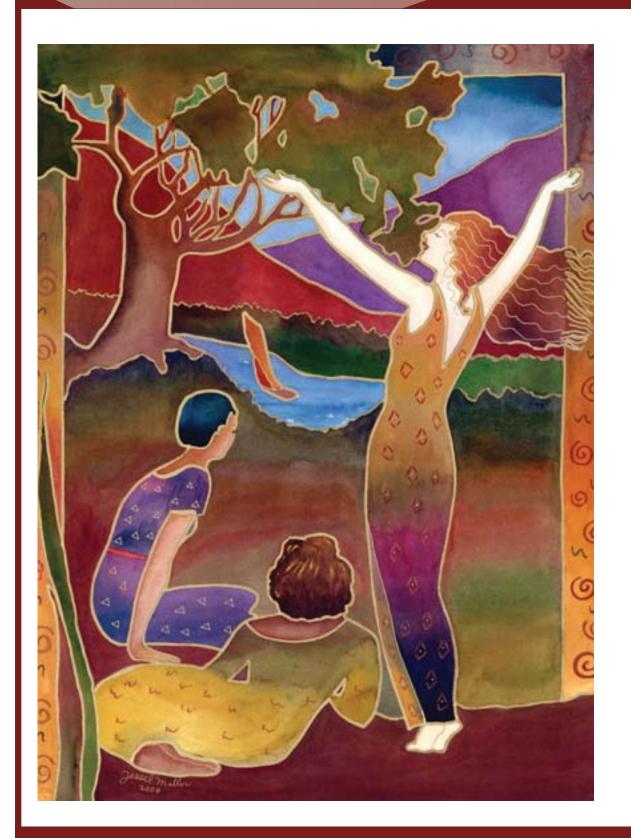
> Also in Lafayette, there were rumors of an Antique Faire in the BART parking lot starting this Organizers withdrew spring. their application and now plan on locating in downtown Concord.

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

letters@lamorindaweekly.com



Women's Heart Health



If you're like many women, you probably spend much of your time caring for others...and not enough time educating and caring for yourself. For example, do you know that the leading cause of death for women is heart disease? Many signs and signals that precede a cardiac event are different in women than in men. Cardiologist Earl Holloway, MD, will give an overview of symptoms that can be cause for concern at this free heart care discussion.



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1 (ETABLO)?

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

John Briggs De Garmo



April 4, 1924 - January 17, 2012

John (Jack) De Garmo passed away peacefully in his at Tender Touch Residential Care in Walnut Creek on January 17th, at 87 years old. He joins his wife of 57 years, Ann De Garmo, who died April 11, 2011. John was the son of Margaret (Briggs) and Kenneth De Garmo and is survived by his sister Jeane Brown of Granville Ohio, and

three children (and spouses) Lori Prince (Robert Hum), Bill De Garmo (Maureen) and Bob De Garmo (Lisa), all Bay Area residents. Additionally he is survived by four grandchildren Melody Prince, Brian, Michael, and Matthew De Garmo.

John was born in Evanston, Illinois and also resided in Rockford, Illinois and Edina, Minnesota prior to moving to California in 1967. He was a long time resident of Orinda before moving to Walnut Creek in 2006. John attended Hamilton College in New York and graduated from Northwestern University in Illinois in 1946 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He worked for Mobil Oil Corporation for a number of years before retiring from full time work. John was active in the Episcopal church as a Lay Reader and Eucharistic Visitor and committed to outreach activities, often visiting residents of nursing homes. For over 20 years he served in leadership roles in Camps Farthest Out (CFO), a group of nondenominational Christian retreats across the US. John loved music and at one time sang barbershop harmony with a local chapter of SPEBSQSA.

A memorial service will be held at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 66 Saint Stephen Drive in Orinda on Saturday February 18th at 3:00 PM. For those wishing to make a contribution in his honor, consider a gift to St Stephen's Episcopal Church memorial fund. For friends and family, an online guestbook and picture gallery is available on this site: princehum.org

etters to the Edit 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:

I am pleased to see that the City of Orinda is going to poll its residents to measure the level of support for taking action to fix our roads. I have been a resident of Orinda for 32 years. We moved here because Orinda was one of the premier communities in the Bay Area. While that hasn't changed, it is disheartening to see the continuing deterioration of our roads. As a civil engineer and a transportation planner I know what level of effort it takes over time to maintain roads. Besides the annoyance of maneuvering around the potholes, cracks and bumps, the poor road conditions pose a threat to bicyclists and pedestrians of all ages. Year after year the amount of money available has fallen way short of what is needed. Now our wonderful community is known as having some of the poorest pavement conditions in the Bay Area. It is not a matter of saving money by reducing city expenditures to put more into road maintenance. In order to put our roads in good repair

we will need something in the felt additional taxes would have range of \$60 million. The total a negative impact on property annual budget for the City is values, so together with two only \$10 - \$11 million. The day neighbors in the real estate inis gone when we can rely on outside help at the state or federal level to address these problems. Pointing fingers and debating about who should have done crease would not negatively afwhat is not going to get our roads fixed. It is time for us to step forward as a united community and do the right thing to solve this problem.

Sincerely, Bill Hurrell Orinda

Editor:

Having worked with the city and my neighbors over the past two years to successfully repave a large portion of Crestview Drive, I have come to some realizations about Orinda's infrastructure problems.

There is not nearly enough money in the city budget to address the problem. Nobody likes the idea of increased taxes, but frastructure. Be a part of the frankly, I would rather that we solution. raise the money and spend it right here where we can all keep Diana Stephens an eye it. We cannot expect anyone to effectively and efficiently solve this city's most pressing issue without resources, but

I suspect it will be very difficult such a tax, especially when half of Orindans live on reasonably sound roads. People give a myriad of reasons why they would not approve additional taxes, often reaching back into our short history to point out various expenditures that were not necessary, or to raise concerns about

cussing the problems and towards a working solution? Consider the comments you hear when discussing this topic with friends and neighbors. Consider your own personal skill set and what you can do to help the community. To give you an example, while the city was looking into the idea of benefit assessment districts, I polled my neighbors about their feelings on Vince Maiorana the subject. Some respondents

dustry, Lisa Geary and Jeannie Anderson, we polled Realtors. We found that generally local Realtors felt a moderate tax infect home values or sales, but continued deferment of road maintenance would. I also recently spoke against MOFD's proposed commercial purchase because I understood that any perceived misuse of funds by a local public entity would fuel a negative response to any future spending, and Orinda's roads are more important to me than MOFD's administrative staff having comfortable digs.

We are all familiar with the arguments for a bond measure having to do with safety, fewer car repairs, increased property values, community pride, and peace of mind, but I suggest that the more involved you are, the more you will want to see Orinda succeed in its efforts to repair its in-

Orinda

Editor:

those resources must be spent The Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) states that they have \$18 million in pension liabilities. to get 2/3 of voters to approve In reality, footnote 8 of their audited financial statements shows that they have liabilities with an accounting value of \$143 million and offsetting assets of \$125 million. The market value of these assets is less; about \$117 million. But what is the \$143 million of liabilities? It is the present value, using a 7.75% disthe negative aspects of higher count rate, of a 60 year stream of taxes, or simply not trusting our future liabilities. What is their government leaders to do the undiscounted value? No one seems to know or will tell but How can we move past dis- one person has estimated that they add up to over \$600 million. If you discount them at a lower rate, let's say 6%, the present value would be \$185 million and our "net liability" would then be closer to \$70 million just for pensions. A \$70 million pension obligation is a far cry from the \$18 million MOFD projec-

Orinda

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Friday, February 3rd

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Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities 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.

Public Forum

Seatbelt Laws and School Age Children

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) states that car crashes are the leading cause of death for children aged 3-14. On January 1, 2012, California passed a new law regarding car seat safety. The law is simple. Children under the age of 8 years old OR under 4 feet 9 inches (57 inches) need to be secured in a car seat or booster seat. Also, children under 8 years old need to be seated in the back seat. This new law has many parents questioning the "or" in the law and trying to understand what it means.

Officer Will Davis of the Moraga Police Department stated that the minimum was raised to protect our children. He commented, "The new law is the minimum. Children can stay in their seats longer, but this is the minimum." A child can move out of a booster when they reach either of the two criteria- age or height. So what should be the minimum? How does California law compare to what is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the NHTSA, which analyzes the impact and safety tests?

The AAP on their Healthy Children website (a website for Parents) has a clear, thorough explanation of when children should move from one restraint device to another and eventually out of the booster. Its guidelines for a booster state, "As a general guideline, a child has outgrown his forward-facing seat when any one of the following is true:

- He reaches the top weight or height allowed for his seat with a harness.
- His shoulders are above the top harness slots.
- His ears have reached the top of the seat.

They recommend that children remain in a booster "until 4 feet 9 inches which is generally between 8 and 12 years of

Why the discrepancy? California law says 8 years old and the AAP stretches it to potentially 12 years old? Looking at the standard growth charts that a majority of pediatricians use, an 8 year old who was 57 inches would be in the 100%. It is not until 11 years of age when boys and girls are at the 50% mark when 57 inches. So clearly, California law is setting a minimum as a 57 inch 8 year old would be off the charts. The AAP also recommends that children remain in the back seat until they are 13 years old for optimal protection. The

NHTSA also recommends keeping a child in a restraint as long as possible and waiting until age 13 to allow a child to travel in the front seat. To reiterate, California law states a child can move to the front much sooner- at 8 years of age.

Failure to comply with California law will result in a \$475 fine. Failure to comply with the AAP and NHTSA recommendations could result in far worse. You are informed and the decision is yours.

Internet Resources:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS

Healthy Children: http://www.healthychildren.org/English/ safety-prevention/on-the-go/pages/Car-Safety-Seats-Information-for-Families.aspx

California Highway Patrol: http://www.chp.ca.gov/community/safeseat.html

Becky Maher

Moraga

(Becky Maher is a Moraga mom and former Pediatric Nurse *Practitioner*)



Moraga Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings

Meetings of the MOFD Board of Directors are open to the public and take place on the third Wednesday of each month at the Moraga Library Community Room, 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga.

www.lamorindaweekly.com

Next meeting:

Next regular MOFD Board meeting February 15, 2012 7:00 pm at the Moraga

Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road Meeting Feb. 1, 2012 canceled

(go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

MOFD Board Reverses Course, Cancels Building Purchase Contract

By Lucy Amaral

the Moraga Orinda Fire District negative. Weil noted that he felt (MOFD) Board of Directors can- these negative comments came celled the purchase of a potential from not having the complete inadministrative building, sacrificing a \$25,000 deposit, and putting Board is not that we have not the District back to square one come up with a good economic with regards to where to house its plan, but rather that we did not do staff. The sale of the building a good job of educating the comhad been scheduled to close on munity," he said. January 26.

chase of the building, located at for the purchase of the building, 1150 Moraga Way, at its Decem- echoed Weil's concerns and ber 28, 2011 Board meeting. Re- changed his vote as well. Sperlocating MOFD's administrative ling said while he felt the District staff was determined to be the had fully researched this option first step in the remodeling of Sta- and he fully supported the purtion 41 in Moraga. A facilities re- chase of the building before, he port had identified gender, space felt individuals in the District and ADA required upgrades were needed for that station. One option was to combine the adminis- and it was too difficult to try and trative offices, currently split change that reality. between Station 45 in Orinda and Station 41 in Moraga, into a sin- Olsen and Brook Mancinelli, who gle office and repurpose the space in Station 41.

In a prepared statement during the January meeting, Board President Fred Weil said that easy decision for (Weil)," said while he felt the Board had vetted the purchase decision, the negative public perception could put the future of the District in jeop- there after a considerable amount ardy and he therefore now opposed the purchase of the building. "The risk is not that we going forward from here, he will not be able to continue to de- hoped they would continue to liver services to the community if make progress on their highest we buy 1150," said Weil. "But priorities: The reconstruction of rather that the District may be ir- station 43 in Orinda and upgrades rationally torn apart and that our to Station 41. correct economic decision may be the trigger."

The purchase, which was approved by a three to two vote, Chief Randy Bradley to add an was highly criticized by not only item on an upcoming agenda to the dissenting board members but discuss their office space needs also many members of the com- and options. munity. Public comments against the purchase, both at the MOFD Saturday, January 21, to formally Board Meetings and through let- cancel the contract.

n a surprising turn of events at ters to the editor in local publicaits January 18 Board meeting, tions, have been overwhelmingly formation. "The failure of this

Board Member Frank Sper-The Board approved the purling, who had previously voted have created a perceived reality through purposeful inaccuracies

> Board Members Richard opposed the purchase of the building from the outset, admitted being caught off guard.

> "That must not have been an Mancinelli later. "But my experiences on the Board with him have taught me that he arrived of thoughtful deliberation."

Mancinelli also said that,

John Wyro, who attended via teleconferencing, had no comment. Weil charged MOFD Fire

A special meeting was held

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...from Front Page

Orinda City Council Initiates Eminent Domain Proceedings to Keep Glorietta **Project on Track**

... continued from page A1

Council Member Amy Worth noted that the City has been working since the 2000 flood to identify the best way to fix the problem. Those plans are detailed in numerous staff reports on the City's web site. In a nutshell, it's complex; it's going to be hugely expensive, and "the surrounding properties will be subject to a severe risk of flooding" if the project is not completed, according to the reports.

The easements will enable the workers to get in and do what they need to do in 2012 before a section of the culvert fails completely – and during the only time the work – from June to October. Staff anticipate that the project can be completed in three months or less and "should only involve minor inconvenience for property owners." The City has also "committed to restoring the sur-

their condition before construc-

Because time is now running out, the Council concluded that the easements on the remaining properties are "compatible with the greatest public good and least private injury" and initiated eminent domain proceedings.

Seanna Allen, one of the owners of the Glorietta Court property facing eminent domain proceedings, disagrees with the City's

"We're not trying to stop the the weather will be suitable for project. We just want time to get our appraisals done," said Allen be able to work this out," said as she explained that she and her husband have been waiting on a report from an independent surveyor who only just completed work on January 6.

In addition to the surveyor's be avoided.

face of the affected properties to guidance, the Allens have been consulting with an arborist regarding the project's possible effect on their backyard, including the potential impact to a redwood tree estimated to be 75-feet tall. Removing the tree would totally change the backyard's landscaping, but leaving it in place could be problematic if the root system were to be weakened during the drainage system work.

A volunteer for community projects, Allen affirmed, "We statement that its personnel have love our community. We love our been negotiating with the Allens neighbors," and said that she and her husband look forward to working with the City.

"All of us still hope we'll still Glazer. Staff will continue their efforts to negotiate with the property owners while the eminent domain action moves forward in the hope that further legal action can

How Many Candles on Your Cake?

February



ttention Leap Year babies: Lamorinda Weekly Awants to speak with you!

If you were born February 29, we'd like to hear how you celebrate your special, once- every- fouryear birthday! If you missed the magic date by mere hours, and have a late-in-the-day February 28 birthday or an early morning March 1birthday, we want to listen to your story too! Please reply before February 22. Call our office at (925) 377-0977, or email Cathy Dausman at

cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com.

C.Dausman

Merrick Pleads Guilty

.For some, it ended quietly in a court room on January 20th.

Just days before his trial was set to begin, tered into a plea bargain and pleaded guilty to six felony charges of sex crimes against a minor for acts L.Borrowman

It was a case that shook Lamorinda to its very core. that took place on the campus of Stanley Middle School in the summer of 2010. Merrick was sentenced to five years and eight months in prison.

Merrick was arrested in October of 2010 and ar-Michael Merrick, a former Lafayette teacher, en- raigned on 25 felony counts after the 14-year-old victim, who he had been tutoring, came forward.

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Wings on the Grounds

Former St. Mary's Naval Cadet remembers the drills By Cathy Dausman





T.B. "Teeb" Thomas and wife Rudi at the St. Mary's College Navy Memorial bench honoring Preflight school cadets. Photo Andy Scheck

In a quiet grove behind St. Mary's football field is a statue dedicated to Our Lady of the Oaks. Its inscription reads in part: "in honor of the 1427 [St. Mary's College] men...who answered their country's call...in World War II." Several hundred yards away, alongside the Brother Cornelius Art Center, the "Navy Bench" invites pedestrians to pause and rest: "Reflect upon those young men who passed through St. Mary's Navy Preflight School during World War II." What follows is one man's story.



Orinda has long loved to fly. But before he got off the Cadets studied meteorology, asground, he trained as a cadet in tronomy, and math, and played the US Naval Preflight School at St. Mary's College.

in South Dakota, and moved to training included practicing water Salinas, California his senior year of high school. He signed up as a V-5 recruit to take the Navy's numbers of friendly and enemy basic flight training program in aircraft, and pistol and rifle prac-January, 1943 and graduated high tice. Thomas recalls that he and school at age 17 in February. his fellow cadets "did a lot of After a short stint at a Salinas jundrilling" and studied until 10:00 ior college, Thomas was sent to p.m. Once they hiked from the flight prep school in San Luis campus to the top of Mt. Diablo Obispo. Next stop: St. Mary's in survival gear carrying a back-College.

When Thomas arrived in March 1944, the sleepy campus turning in favor of the Allied with its pre-war enrollment of forces, officials decided to "wash barely 300 was gearing up into a out" (release) half the V-5 class. boomtown of 2,000 khaki-clad Cadets called it "the purge." Navy and Marine personnel. "Luckily," says Thomas, "I made

bunked in temporary housing, were confined to the campus during their first six weeks. There were "no cameras, no weddings and no marriages." Staying single Monterey on Valentine's Day, didn't bother most cadets, says 1946. Thomas; they were still young.

Training and discipline were the program watchwords. The .B. "Teeb" Thomas of workload combined academics with physical training, or PT. football, baseball, basketball and soccer. They swam, ran track, Thomas was born and raised boxed and wrestled. Military escapes from a mock plane cockpit, recognizing and estimating pack that held "too much."

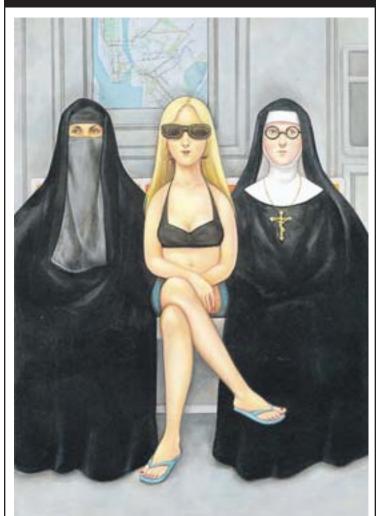
In June of 1944, with the war

Thomas became a member of the it." Thomas earned his wings at 1st Platoon, 47th Battalion. He Corpus Christi, Texas, after adsaid the campus held "a few [re- vanced flight training in a bi-wing ligious] brothers, no civilians, and Boeing Stearman 75 and an SBD it was all male." Underclassmen Dauntless dive bomber. Ensign Thomas was then transferred to while upperclassmen occupied the Naval Air Station in Deland, dorms still in use today. Cadets Florida where he met his future wife, who was then a Navy WAVE. Thomas was discharged in December, 1945 and married in

... continued on page B8

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Standing on left, instructor Rick Palmer

wenty one Moragans abandoned the shelter of their cozy homes on a rainy Saturday morning to learn how to manage a temporary shelter in the event of a disaster affecting their town. They were all volunteers taking a Red Cross shelter training session at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church (MVPC).

The session was organized by Ken Tom of Moraga. Tom, a volunteer partner liaison for Red Cross said it's been at least two years since the last Lamorinda workshop.

Attendees at this session included members of the local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), two churches (MVPC and St. Monica), Moraga Recreation Director Jay Ingram and Robert Priebe, Moraga's Chief of Police.

Red Cross instructors Briana Taylor and Rick Palmer led an interactive workshop presentation on a shelter's basic "three S's" -the site, the stuff, and the staff, where the legal responsibility rests to shelter citizens - the government - and various relief levels, ranging from a house fire displacing a single family for a short time to natural disasters like a large earthquake or hurricane. Much of the current training material came from Red Cross experiences after Hurricane Katrina.

Taylor, Palmer and class tackled the realities of opening, running and closing a shelter, housing and feeding its residents, coping with and diffusing stress, squelching rumors and responding to media, all with the expectation of having the shelter up and running in as little as two hours.

Volunteers developed an appreciation for myriad logistical challenges. They learned that folks get hungry before they get sleepy and that pizza will likely be the first hot meal offered to shelter residents. They learned it showers and kitchens on site. takes 25 volunteers to staff a 300 peralso received an eighty page manual for Shelter Operations. Shelter operations, not shelter locations.

Locations are never disclosed ahead of time, says Carole Crawford, Manager of Disaster Services for the American Red Cross in Contra Costa County. That could be dangerous, as each potential shelter must be inspected and evaluated for safety before it is opened. Crawford says Red Cross likes to look for facilities with ttkentom@aol.com.

Photo Cathy Dausman

Upon completing the course, each son shelter round the clock. Students trainee still said they would be willing to volunteer as a shelter manager for the Red Cross-Neighbors helping

> No training sessions are currently scheduled in Lafayette or Orinda, but a second Shelter Training session will be held February 11, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Lane. Enrollment is limited. For more information, e-mail Ken Tom at

Red Cross Fast Facts

Red Cross allies itself with CERT in Lamorinda, in what Red Cross calls a partnership training program.

Moraga's Red Cross volunteer liaison is Ken Tom. Lafayette's Red Cross volunteer liaison is Brianna Taylor. Tom and Taylor are joint volunteer liaison for Orinda as well.

- Red Cross in Contra Costa County falls under the Golden Gateway Region.
- The San Francisco Bay Area boasts 400,000 Red Cross trained volunteers.
- Contra Costa County has 220 volunteers serving a population of about two million.
- Approximately 40 primary shelters (capacity 300) and 90 large shelters (capacity 100) are scattered throughout Contra Costa County. Red Cross is actively engaged in adding to these facilities.
- Red Cross maintains 20 supply containers in the county. One container holds shelter necessities for 300 people; eight containers hold necessities for 200 people; and 11 containers hold necessities for 100 people: (one cot per person and two blankets per cot).
- Moraga has a container.
- Lafayette has a container.

Currently scheduled Red Cross Partner Exercises within the county:

San Ramon April 26 Antioch TBD (likely August) Rossmoor October

For more information, or to volunteer, go online at

www.redcrossbayarea.org.

Or contact Carole Crawford, (925) 603-7414; crawfordc@usa.redcross.org. C. Dausman

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Orinda Village Seniors Tackle **Emergency Preparedness**

Not without challenges for those who speak English as a second language By Cathy Dausman

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n emergency preparedness class in Orinda is nothing unusual. But imagine trying to teach basic fire or medical training to senior citizens when their native language is a Russian or Chinese dialect, Spanish or Farsi. That is the challenge Rebecca Kunzman faced recently. Kunzman is a Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) instructor whose newest class at Orinda Senior Village has 18 participants, many of whom understand

"All the students read English but about half do not understand the lec- Duncan Seibert, Gordon Nathan,

Photo Cathy Dausman tures entirely or even very little," she said. And a language barrier is just one challenge the group faced. Some can't lift heavy objects or move very quickly due to advanced age. As one senior commented, they "can't do things young, athletic CERTs can do,

but they can do *some* things..." Maryam Mojaver has lived at Orinda Village for 18 months. Her native language is Farsi, but Mojaver also needs a hearing aid. The advice she gave to those teaching the classes

was: "speak slowly and loud." Kunzman and fellow instructors

Robert Lipp and Fred Lothrop had hoped to locate volunteer interpreters to translate the oral portion of the class for their Chinese and Persian students. They had no luck. After contacting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and state of California resource sites the instructors managed to obtain a written Spanish and Chinese dialect version of Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country (http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/2005/15/; also available in Vietnamese and Korean). That still left Kunzman with only a partial, hand-written Farsi translation and no Russian translation at all. Kunzman says the very sources she asked for help asked her to send them any translations she located.

Still, the seniors persisted, sitting politely through the lecture portion of their emergency training. Then it was outside to practice using fire extinguishers. Some found the extinguishers too heavy to lift, but those who did pulled the pin, squeezed the handle and extinguished the practice fire in seconds, beaming from ear to ear. They found that a smile translates easily into any language.



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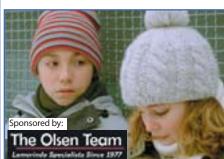
Opening NightReception and Movie:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY10TH 5:30PM **Opening Night Movie**

Monsieur Lazhar 2012 Oscar Nominee Best Foreign Language Film

This is the story of an Algerian immigrant substitute teacher who brings emotional stability to a Montreal middle school that has been shaken by the tragic death of their well-liked teacher. It is also an exploration of how adults speak to children about issues they'd rather not confront themselves.

Monsieur Lazhar, nominated in this year's 84th Oscar Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film, and The Opening Night Ceremony will be held at the Rheem Theatre, and will be hosted by NBC Bay Area News weekend anchor, Ms Diane Dwyer. Monsieur Lazhar will also screen at the Orinda Theatre on Feb 14th, 2012.

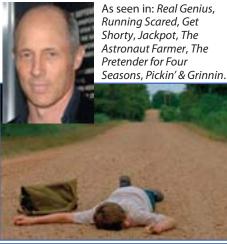


Meet Jon Gries for Q&A Special Screening Five Time Champion

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY10TH 9:30PM

While the young scientist, Julius, steadfastly researches the asexual reproduction of worms, his natural curiosity leads him to discover some inconvenient truths about those around him. He witnesses his mother's infidelity and suspects his grandfather for the same, all while he believes he is losing his best friend Shiley to a rival named Chase.

2012 Maverick Award Honoree Jon Gries will be honored at the Five Time Champion screening on Feb. 10th



2012 Slate AwardsVIP Reception and Movie:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY11TH 6:00PM

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Closing Night Meet Margaret O'Brien Reception and Movie:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY16TH 5:30PM

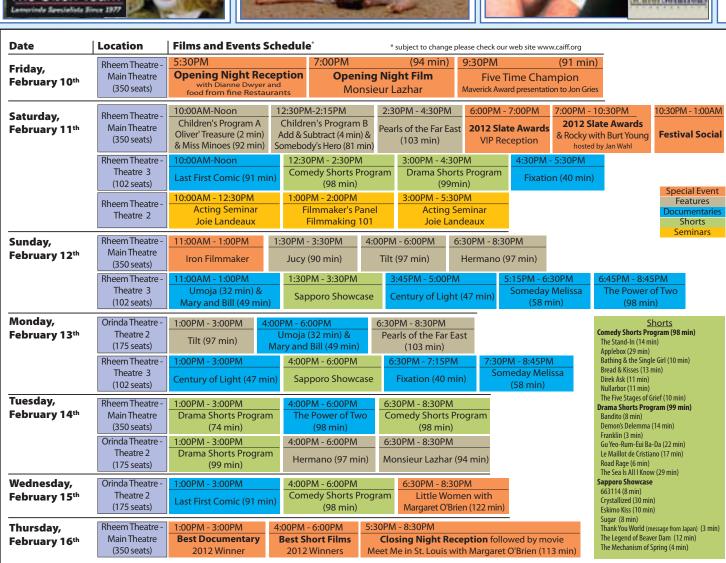
Meet Me in St. Louis

with Margaret O'Brien

The well-off Smith family has four beautiful daughters. Seventeen-year-old Esther has fallen in love with John, who has just moved in next door. He however, barely notices her at first. The family is shocked when Mr. Smith reveals that he has been transferred to a nice position in New York, which means that the family has to leave St. Louis and the 1903 St. Louis Fair.

2012 Diamond Award Honoree Margaret O'Brien will be honored at the closing night Movie





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Community Service

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Lamorinda NCL Celebrates with **Service**

Submitted by Mary Caprio



League (NCL) gathered together at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center with the hope of brightening the holidays of those less fortunate. Each year at this time, the Lamorinda NCL chapter works just a little bit harder to help those in need and this year was no different. Stockings were stuffed with treats and necessities and warm blankets were made for delivery to the Monument Crisis Center in Concord.

When the evening was over, hundreds of stockings had been filled and warm blankets had been assembled, all to be donated to the Crisis Center's many patrons in need. Lamorinda

n December, members from the Lamorinda NCL chapter president Mary Torchio commented on the evening's impact, "We dedicated our entire November meeting to working together and getting as much done as we could to help those in need at the Monument Crisis Center - one of our many philanthropy partners. I was so pleased that this year we were able to give the center an abundance of much needed support thanks to the help of our members."

NCL is a volunteer organization composed of mothers and daughters who join together in community involvement. The Lamorinda chapter has a membership of 260 mothers and daughters, in grades 7 through 12, all of whom actively participate in local philanthropic programs.

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

Acalanes NCL Adopts a Family

Submitted by Carrie Dern



Photo provided

he Class of 2014 of the National Charity League Acalanes Area Chapter participated in an Adopt- A-Family through the Child Abuse Council of Contra Costa County. The girls applied their donated funds to shop together as a class to purchase and wrap a long list of much needed gifts for the families.

National Charity League, Inc. is a mother-daughter non-profit organization dedicated to serving local communities. Nationally, there are over 168 chapters committed to fostering the mother-daughter relationship through philanthropic, leadership and cultural activities. Participation begins in 7th grade and continues through the senior year, culminating in celebrations at the Claremont Resort and Hotel in the spring. The girls are honored for their many hours of philanthropic work volunteering at The American Cancer Society, California Shakespeare, Juvenile Diabetes, Smiley Dog and Special Olympics among others.

For membership information, please visit www.nationalcharityleague.org. These volunteer activities initiate a lifelong commitment to community service and deepen the bond between mother and daughter through these shared activities.





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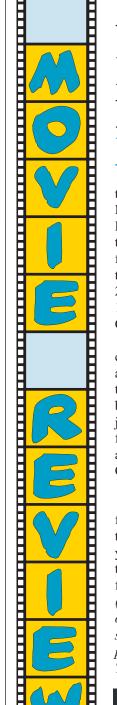


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Beau/Derek on the California Independent Film Festival

erek's two must see films at the upcoming 14th California Independent Film Festival: It will be a very momentous occasion and history in the making as our Opening Night movie. Monsieur Lazhar, is nominated for the 2012 Oscar Best Foreign Language Film. It will be the first time that Lamorinda area will be able to screen a film that is short listed by the Academy before its theatrical release and before the Oscars on Feb 26th, 2012. Monsieur Lazhar is screening on Feb 10, 2012 at the Rheem and Feb 14, 2012 at the Orinda Theatre.

My other choice is Miss Monoes. It is about children learning lifetime habits at a very young age. I encourage all parents to take their children to see this film and give them a gift of a lifetime by educating them on international cinema and the joys of being in film festivals. This fun-filled family film from Holland will be a treat for all ages. It is screening on Feb 11 at the Rheem, when CAIFF will have a Family Day event.

Beau's thoughts on the 14th Annual CAIFF:

I do not have one favorite film in our upcoming festival. The fibers of our rich fourteen-year history are interwoven in the lineup of our films this year. Everything is a must-see. Come and enjoy the filmic pursuits of our very talented filmmakers from around the globe (February 10-16, 2012). (Derek Zemrak is a filmmaker and the president of the California Independent Film Festival Association (CAIFFA); Beau Behan is the CAIFFA program director and director of the Lamorinda *Theatres.)*





www.lamorindaweekly.com

California Indie Fest—a Feast

By Andrea A. Firth



Opening night movie Monsiuer Lazhar

he upcoming California Independent Film Festival will give filmgoers a smorgasbord of movie options (a veritable feast) including foreign language films, features, documentaries, and shorts, along with a chance to eat, drink, and party. The festival will be screening movies at both the New Rheem Theatre in Moraga and the Orinda Theatre from February 10th through the 16th. Here's a the bulb has been lit (with a few taste of what attendees can see.

And the winner is...

Monsiuer Lazhar, an Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Language Film, will open the Festival on Friday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rheem Theatre. The sensitive and humorous Canadian film tells the story of an Algerian immigrant who is hired to replace a well-liked teacher who died tragically. While the students in the Montreal middle school heal under the new teacher's tutelage, he deals with the Done well it does not take long to tell pain of his former life.

Keeping it Real—CAIFF's

Documentaries

Screening throughout the six-day festival, the seven documentary films tackle a range of subjects, both weighty and lighter fare, and tell the stories of the last living burlesque comic, twin's triumphing over a genetic disease, a ninety year-old triath- borrow a cup of sugar (see the short lete and her octogenarian high called Sugar to find out).

jumping pal, an all-women's tribe in Kenya, California's single-speed cyclists, and the tragic tale of young woman's battle with an eating disor-

A little more local is the documentary film entitled Century of Light. Filmmaker Chris Leps tells the story of the longest burning light bulb. Housed in a fire station in Livermore minor interruptions) since it was first installed in 1901, that's 111 years and counting. "Things were built to last back then," says Leps who wrote, produced, and directed the 42-minute film. A stuntman by day and filmmaker whenever he can make it happen, Leps explores the innovation, technology and local people behind this remarkable bulb.

Bite-Sized Portions—CAIFF's Shorts

a good story. The short film selections night starting at 5:30 p.m. with host in the 14th annual California Film Dianne Dwyer, the weekend anchor Festival are between four and thirty of NBC Bay Area news. The Saturminutes long, with most about a tenminute watch. The quick pics are animated, funny and dramatic, with subject matter that ranges from the excitement of spring to loss and renewal and what can happen when you

Photo provided

The Festival often showcases up-and-coming filmmakers. The short selection Bandito was written, directed and filmed by San Jose-based film student Ryan Wood who is currently studying at the Art Institute of California in Sunnyvale. Like any good western, the short has hairy-faced bad guys, a gravely-voiced sheriff, a beautiful cowgirl, and of course, a gun fight. Produced on a shoestring budget, Wood's cinematography is remarkable and covers a lot of land in Hollister where the seven-minute movie was shot. Light on dialogue and heavy on mood and scene, it's a surprising

tale. Don't miss it. The opening weekend of the Festival (February 10th and 11th) is the time to eat, drink, and play at the Rheem in Moraga. The Festival kicks off with a reception on Friday day night social starts around 10:30 p.m. after the screening of Rocky and continues til...

For all you need to know about the California Independent Film Festival, including the full schedule and ticket information, go online to

Special Girls Night Out at the Library

By Cathy Tyson



Jamie G. Dougherty comes to the LLLC on February 7.

orget the chardonnay and uncomfortable shoes. "It's all about delicious ways to detox your mind and body – this will be a night of food, fun and digging deep," said Jamie Dougherty, Certified Health and Lifestyle Coach talking about her upcoming event, "Girls Night Delicious Detox" at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. She explains that the hour-long program, co-sponsored by Whole Foods, be entered to win a Detox gift basket.

is focused on eating well, self-care and getting in touch with what you want to accomplish in the New Year via nutrition and lifestyle advice.

Dougherty is a certified Holistic Health Coach and is accredited by the American Association of Drugless Practitioners. Her journey started with a diagnosis of ulcerative colitis - a chronic inflammation of the large intestine – at age 20. After trying a number of prescriptions, she found altering her diet made all the difference.

She started Jamie Living five years ago working with career women who were successful in business - but always managed to put themselves last. The self-described small girl with big hair, big feet and a big mouth has a knack for telling it like it is. Her business has evolved to include personal consultations, the "Fantastic Food Fix" – a day-long healthy food shopping and cooking extravaganza, cookbooks, a blog, and a snappy website -Jamieliving.com.

Look for a cooking demonstration featuring smoothies and snacks, along with advice about getting rid of emotional toxins and more at this first of its kind event. For those of us whose pants are a little tight post-holiday feasting and feeling less than stellar, this could be time very well spent.

Get inspired, Tuesday February 7, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, \$5 per person, payable at the door. The first twenty women to RSVP on the Whole Foods Facebook page will get a Detox goodie bag and everyone who registers will



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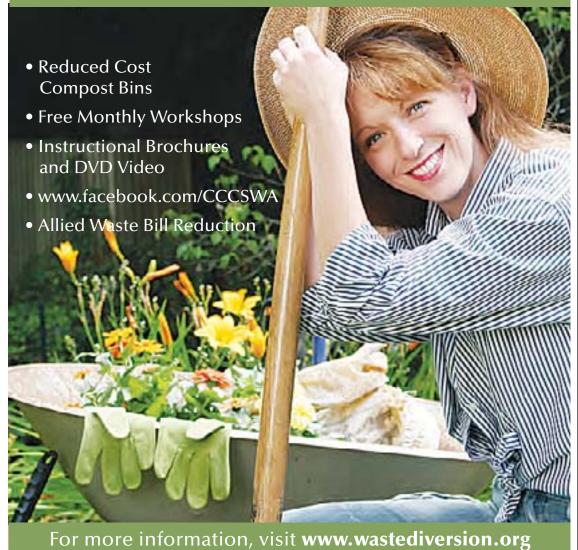
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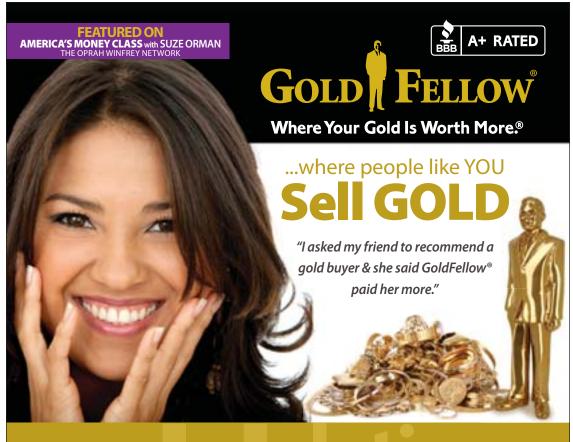
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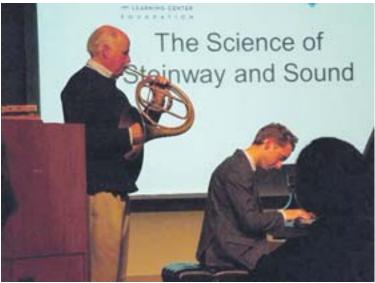
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Steinway and Sound **Program Resonates with** Audience

By Cathy Dausman



Holmes and Levitt in a musical duet

grand piano and the audience, all 130 of them, ate it up. Then Brian Holmes assembled a working trumpet from a garden hose and plastic funnel. The two were featured speakers January 24 at a Lafayette Library and Learning Center (LLLC) Foundation Science Café.

The event, The Science of Steinway and Sound, was a sold-out success. Of course Levitt didn't literally explode a grand piano—he just detailed how some of its 12,000 parts are assembled. The Steinway on display was the library's own model B. Its seven foot frame is built up from 16 laminations of hard rock maple (each layer 3/16" thick) that are bent continuously by hand. When complete, the downward pressure pulling the 240-some strings to pitch amounts to the weight of a gorilla (or another grand piano), standing on the soundboard. Levitt, store manager for likened the musical sound which travels along the wood grain to cars on a 'round and round and comes out here, and that would be the perfect intro for Brian Holmes and his portion of the

Holmes is a guest lecturer, musician (brass), composer and Professor of Physics at San Jose State University whose interests in science and music merge in the science of musical

Photo Cathy Dausman

ustin Levitt exploded a Steinway acoustics. Holmes began by shaking a 20-foot long slinky to demonstrate how sound waves form. Each wave travelled out, reached the end of the line and returned, inverted. Next Holmes enthusiastically assembled a trumpet, piece by piece, starting with a thin metal tube four and a half feet long. He added a mouthpiece, a bell, and presto! --- a modern day trumpet

The program included solo and duet piano performances by Sue Hammond, David Glass and Levitt, and a piano and French Horn duet with Holmes on the horn. The program, scheduled to last an hour, ran 30 minutes over, but the audience sat enraptured. Foundation Executive Director Kathy Merchant was most pleased: "Little did we know when our trustee (Margaret Race) broached the idea of converting the Community Hall to a "science" cafe", we would be discussing everything from the sci-Sherman Clay in Walnut Creek, ence of art conservation to building Hoover Dam."

Science Café is a regularly schedhighway. Essentially, the music goes uled presentation of the LLLC Foundation. Its next program, February 28th at 7 p.m., honors the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge. Science Café is held in the library's Community Hall. Cost is \$5 per person; reservations can be made at reserve@LLLCF.org or call (925) 283-6513, ext. 102, with questions.



From left, front: Kathy Merchant, Marinda Wu; back: Brian Holmes, Sue Hammond, David Glass and Justin Levitt Photo Cathy Dausman

Orinda Youth Ink 2012

Submitted by Molly Wilson

he Orinda Junior Women's Club (Orinda Juniors) is pleased to announce details for Youth Ink 2012, the annual creative writing contest open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students who live or attend school in Orinda. The Youth Ink 2012 theme, "There is a Knock at the Door," was chosen because it encourages highly personal writing and lends well to open style choice.

Organizers say the first rule is you can write about anything you like: Real or imaginary. There is no limit to your imagination. Whatever you write about, just remember to have

"We can't wait to see how Orinda's talented youth writers will approach this year's intriguing theme," said Cathy Opdycke, president of Orinda Juniors.

Generous co-sponsors of Youth Ink 2012, including The Orinda Association and The Orinda Community Foundation, have made it possible to

provide impressive prizes:

\$250 for 1st place, \$125 for 2nd place, \$75 for 3rd place 10 honorable mentions who receive gift certificates from a local book store

A panel of several local professional writers, including reporters and best-selling novelists, will evaluate Youth Ink 2012 submissions and choose winners. The judges' names will be shared when the winners are announced at an awards ceremony at the Orinda Public Library on Thursday, April 26, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. The

public is welcome to attend. Youth Ink 2012 submissions will be accepted on an ongoing basis but must be hand-delivered to a designated school representative or postmarked by Feb. 10, 2012 and mailed to Orinda Junior Women's Club, Post Office Box 40, Orinda, CA 94563 in order to be considered for an award. Go to www.orindajuniors.org for submission forms and more information.

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Sticky Fingers: Humor from Quebec

www.lamorindaweekly.com

By Sophie Braccini



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Sticky Fingers will appeal to funny journey is welcome in the information.

he International Film Show- those who love movies that offer case's February selection is a the possibility of redemption to hefunny and solid movie from Queroes. Here, five thieves from Quebec. Les Doigts Croches - Sticky bec will have to go through a time. Fingers – was the first movie writ- spiritual quest in order to get back ten and directed by Ken Scott who the loot they stole a few years earis very well known in Canada as a lier. The humor comes from the February 3 through Thursday, Febcomedian, scenario writer and now confirmed thieves' efforts to become honest. Their sunny and casetickets/ for times and ticket

middle of our winter; a well done and efficient comedy that rejoices the audience and speaks to its intel-

The movie is continuously happy and up-beat. The tone is easy going, with subtlety and depth. It does not try to revolutionize the art of movie making, but it is directed with a lot of maturity by Scott who gives it an excellent rhythm.

Another element that makes this movie a success is the solid group of actors selected by Scott. "I worked hard on the casting," he said to a Quebecois publication, "I wanted them to be quite different from each other, but still to create a sense of unity." All the chosen actors are experienced and quickly embody their characters, making them believable, colorful and lik-

It seems that Scott was inspired both by Spike Lee's Inside Man and Soderbergh's Ocean's Eleven, even if nothing daring comes to disturb this sound work of a movie. Additionally, it will take you on a very beautiful trip through Spain. Don't ask me why, but funny movies are always more enjoyable when discovered without knowing too much of the story ahead of

Sticky Fingers will be shown at the Orinda Theatre from Friday, ruary 9. Go to www.lfef.org/show-

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Consider This! Time + Passion=Choice?

By Steven Zhou

Ja day, how do we know where to invest our

For teenagers, making choices and focusing is the sum total of our 1440 minutes. Whether you are a middle schooler choosing classes, a high school senior applying to colleges or a university sophomore declaring your major, prioritizing time is key.

In a recent episode of our Moraga based international teen radio show, Express Yourself!, we interviewed a former Campolindo High School student who knew exactly how he wanted to spend his time. Michael Chickering transferred to the Interlochen Arts Academy boarding school in Michigan to study video production. Although Chickering had studied video at Campolindo, he wanted to immerse himself in the craft without Lamorinda distractions. He is pursuing his passion while learning from accomplished stars such as the special effects producer of the Star Wars films.

Michael's a normal teenager like us but the difference is that he recognized his gifts early and took the necessary steps to chase his dreams. He's not alone; many students are specializing. Co-chair of the Orinda Teen Advisory Council, Alex Glazer, shared her experience on air about attending a full immersion product development camp where she gained marketing skills that will enhance her communications and business career goals. Seventeen-year-old Brian Lee volunteers with San Francisco Smiles, a charity that supports other charities. He is inspired by non-profits helping one another. Courtney Tran, the voice on our theme song, invests her extra hours creating and recording a piano series for a local organization as she works at becoming a music producer.

Understandably, the hardest part for us teens is deciding where to dedicate our efforts. When we asked experts on our radio program such as author Brooks Olbrys, whose book Blue Ocean Bob inspires children to find a purpose, and education consultant Donna Zilkha, who helps incoming college students make tough decisions about what to study, the answer was clear: it didn't matter as long as you steer towards your strengths.

ven that we all have exactly 86,400 seconds in Whether you are interested in music, video, business, farming, or engineering, there is no single right answer. Choose a field that grabs you, then go for it.

Miramonte senior Olivia Wung runs because it relieves stress, boosts her energy, and makes her happier. Running may not be a career move, but it keeps her healthy while she thinks about her future. As for me, I am immensely attracted to rather mundane office duties because I'm task-oriented in my quest to find ways to complete a job in the quickest and most effective manner. Although I am co-host of Express Yourself!, I spend the majority of my time in administrative roles, which

is the professional direction that attracts me. The next time you're faced with a decision in choosing a class, an extracurricular activity, or a job, don't freak out about whether or not it's the right one. As long as you have an interest in the topic and the dedication to put in the time, the formula of time plus passion will land you at the next level, which could become your career choice.



Steven Zhou, a senior at Miramonte High School, is the administrator and co-host of the international teen radio program, Express Yourself!

Teen Scene is YOUR voice. If you have something to say or have writing skills and want to be part of our Teen Scene team, email our Teen Coach, Cynthia Brian, Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com.

The opinions expressed in Teen Scene are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

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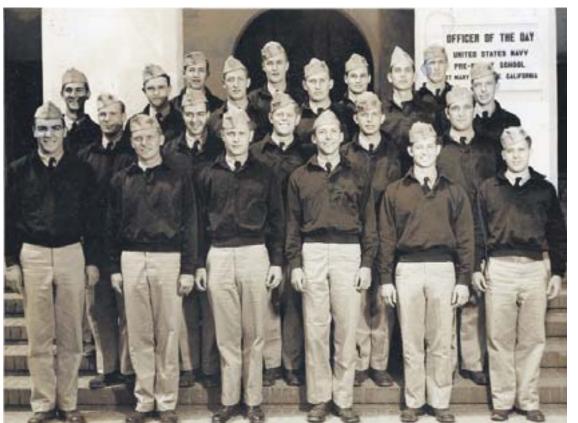
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Wings on the Grounds

... continued from page B1



Teeb Thomas, on the left in the middle row, and his classmates.

Thomas attended U.C. Berkeley on the G.I. Bill, and became an industrial engineer. He and wife Rudi settled in Orinda in 1949 because Thomas knew and liked the area from his time at St. Mary's. They put four sons through local schools. Thomas says he owned and flew private planes, including a Piper super cub and a Cessna 172, into his 80's. Although he finally gave up the pilot's seat, he still flies --as a passenger --with his pilot son. He donated his flight suit to the Alameda Naval Air Museum.

Thomas helped organize and attended a 1995 reunion for preflight school cadets, held at St. Mary's College. The cadre of former cadets is aging; many have filed their final flight plan. Those who remain are close to their 90th birthdays. But in spite of that, and the urgency of a nation then at war, Thomas says his St. Mary's College days were "one of the better times in my life."

From Private College to Government Venue: St. Mary's Becomes a 1940's

Photo provided





The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor left the U.S. military short of fighter pilots. In response, the Navy set up pre-flight training schools across the country. One of those was at St. Mary's College.

The Navy ran its school from 1942 to 1946.

A future U.S. President (Gerald Ford) coached football on campus in 1945.

1427 men with ties to St. Mary's College served in the military during WW II;

21 are known to have died in uniform.

On February 27, 1942 a telegram was sent to college President Brother Austin:

"St. Mary's College has been selected by the Navy Department as one of the four locations [across the U.S.] for preflight training. Your patriotic cooperation in this vital program is appreciated." Signed: Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy

To house and feed its 2,000 cadets, the Navy:

- Built temporary barracks, a field house (with an indoor swimming pool) and a rifle range.
- Leveled out the land from the Chapel to St. Mary's Road to make athletic fields, some of which are still in use today.
- Required East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) to construct a water pipeline to the campus: "to provide adequate water supply, both for drinking purposes and for fire protection." (Adm. L.E. Denfield, May 12, 1942).

The hills surrounding St. Mary's Moraga campus made a marvelous natural amphitheater, recalls former Marine Corps pilot Chuck Temple of Florence, Oregon. "The bugler would play taps from the [chapel] tower, once slowly, then he'd 'jazz it up', and it would echo all around the hills!" *C. Dausman*

Sources:

Pipe Dream Fulfilled: How the Navy helped bring water to St. Mary's John Grennan, author

The History of U.S. Navy Pre-Flight School, St. Mary's California, U.S. Navy, 1946

Please join us for a celebration of swingin' hits performed by The Fondettes.

Saturday, February 18th 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Cocktail hour featuring wine, cheese and hors d'oeuvres from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m.

The Fondettes will perform from 7:00 to 7:45 p.m.

The Fondettes are a vocal trio with rich three part harmony and jazzy tone quality. By singing almost solely Andrews Sisters' covers, they don't try to reinvent the music, but rather restore and carry on the classic music of the 1940's.

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turn to the experts /

Transitional Kindergarten on Hold

By Andrea A. Firth

Dublic school districts across dents must turn five by November in the fall. Lamorinda have placed their plans for transitional kindergarten on hold following the release of nary budget, which proposes to cut kindergarteners whose birthdays funding for the program.

ness Act pushes the entry age for kindergarten, currently age five by

1st to be eligible for kindergarten. A change lauded by educators.

Save Energy and Save Money

The Act also includes a provifall in September, October, and The 2010 Kindergarten Readi- November with the option to attend "transitional kindergarten." This new grade level would give these December 2nd, back requiring youngest students an extra kinderchildren to turn five by September garten year. And, the grade school 1st. The new age requirements will districts in Lafayette, Moraga, be phased in over three years. For and Orinda had plans to offer the 2012-2013 school year, stu-transitional kindergarten starting

Dr. Fred Brill, Superintendent of the Lafayette School District, says he is not 100% sure what the Governor Jerry Brown's prelimi- sion for grade schools to provide final status of transitional kindergarten is for the next school year. Communication about the program from different education resources has been vague and conflicting, says Brill. "It's extraordinarily frustrating, because I want to keep parents informed, especially the parents with incoming student who have November birthdays," he says. The Lafayette School District

planned to collect the names of students who age-qualify and are interested in attending transitional kindergarten during their registration in late January, but for now the program is on hold.

School District website, registration and planning for transitional kindergarten will not take place until state funding for the program is reinstated.

The Moraga School District, likewise, will not offer the un-mandated program. However, Courtney

Guinn, the Director of Educational Services and Instructional Technology for the Moraga School District, says the district will "pre-register" children for transitional kindergarten at the district's According to the Orinda Union upcoming February registration should the program's status change. Moraga School District will also hold a kindergarten informational meeting on February 2nd starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Joaquin Moraga Middle School Auditorium to further inform parents about these changes.

2012-2013 Kindergarten Registration

Lamorinda's public elementary schools will soon be registering next fall's Kindergarteners. To be eligible for Kindergarten, a child must have been born on or before November 1, 2007. You should register your Kindergartener at the school he or she will attend in the 2012-2013 school year.

Lafayette

Registration was held at the Lafayette School District's four elementary schools in January. For information on late registration, go to the district's website at: www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Moraga

Families new to the Moraga School District are invited to attend a Kindergarten Information meeting on February 2, 2012 at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 7:00-7:45 p.m.

Registration will take place at the Moraga School District's three elementary schools in February.

Thursday, February 9, and

Friday, February 10, 2012, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Los Perales Elementary, 22 Wakefield Drive (631-0105) Donald Rheem Elementary, 90 Laird Drive (376-4441)

Camino Pablo Elementary, 1111 Camino Pablo (376-4435)

For more information about kindergarten registration, please go to the district's website at www.moraga.k12.ca.us.

Orinda

Registration will take place at the Orinda Union School District's four elementary schools in

February 6, 7, 8, 9 (Monday thru Thursday), 2012,

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Del Rey Elementary, 25 El Camino Moraga (258-3099)

Glorietta Elementary, 15 Martha Road (254-8770)

Sleepy Hollow Elementary, 20 Washington Lane (254-8711) Wagner Ranch Elementary, 350 Camino Pablo (258-0016)

For more information go to the district's website at www.orindaschools.org.

THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

Map My Run Developer: Map My Fitness For: iPhones and Androids

ing in California is the weather. maining for your daily intake. With our mild climate we have the opportunity to spend ample time outside. With "excerising more" at the top of many people's New Year's resolution list, I've discovered a fantastic app that will not only help you enjoy the outdoors, but assist you in getting fit.

Map My Run by Map My Fitness is an easy-to-use app with a wide array of options. After downloading the app and picking a user name, you can immediately begin recording your daily workout via GPS, enabling you to track running pace, speed, calories burned and your exact route. A neat feature is the route map displaying the elevation, which can really vary in the Lamorinda area.

One of the fun options is the abilvirtual running group. This mega fit- MapMyTri. ness app also offers a nutrition tap daily intake and Map My Fitness lets Express Yourself!TM

ne of the great things about liv- you know what calories you have re-

Map My Run also suggests predetermined runs mapped by other users. For instance in the Lamorinda area there are twenty-two pre-mapped runs in Orinda and Lafayette that range in distance from 3.4 miles to 10.6 miles. The routes are uploaded by local residents including routes in Sleepy Hollow, Orinda Downs, and the Lafayette Reservoir. Lafayette/Moraga area has an enormous variety to choose from offering 208 uploaded maps with distances of three miles to a whopping 68 miles. If you are looking for a challenging run, an ascent feature is your guide.

Map My Run is a fun and easy app that motivates the user to get outside and get active. Just in case running is not your thing, Map My ity to add friends to your app. It is like Fitness also offers, MapMyRide, having the support and input from a MapMyWalk, MapMyHike, and

Eric Pawlakos is a senior at Miwith a calorie budget. If your goal is ramonte High School and on-air reto lose weight you simply record your porter for the teen radio program,

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An Intellectual and Technological Odyssey from LeapPad to Smartpen and Beyond

Lafayette's Jim Marggraff empowers people

By Sophie Braccini



Jim Margraff with an Odyssey interactive globe and a Smartpen

Photo Sophie Braccini

Marggraff is moving fast at the cutments in the complex world of the ting edge of technology and intellectransformation of waves and signals tual challenge. The creator of the into creative applications that work LeapPad and the Echo Smartpen like magic. could easily be mistaken for just an inventor, when in fact he is a human- ready believed that one idea can ist whose purpose is to empower his change the world. While some of his fellow human beings with technol-

cup of coffee and a casual conversation, warm-up your neurons beforehand – his mind speeds along at a spectacular pace that could leave you breathless. When he talks about his passions and his business ventures,

ike his red Tessla roaming the the Lafayette businessman will blow streets of Lafayette, Jim you away with his ideas and achieve-

Fresh out of MIT, Marggraff alclassmates thought of business or military applications for the technology If you ever meet Marggraff for a they were working on, his first impulse was to create tools for average people, that no one thought could ever work, let alone be a commercial success.

One of his first ventures was the Odyssey interactive globe. "I was struck by the fact that we are so ignorant about geography," he says, "so I created that tool, an atlas in the shape of a playful globe, storing millions of facts that are easily accessible by touching it." The globe compares populations and land areas between locations, it tells distances between points, it can calculate the length of geographic features such as rivers, and also contains cultural information. Removing the globe from its stand one is surprised to see that it is completely hollow: the information is transmitted wirelessly.

"The technology used for the globe is radio frequency that can pick up a touch with an accuracy of 1/8 of an inch where a non-conductive material like paper is tapped," says Marggraff, "so I thought, aha! we could take this and flatten it out and put a book on it and create an inexpensive tool to teach kids to read." That is how the LeapPad was invented. "At first people didn't get it," remembers Marggraff, "they said it would never work." Not surprisingly in hindsight, Leapfrog's doors opened and, with Margraff on board, Leap-Pad became one of the most awardwinning and successful toys of its

But Marggraff says he does not like on to hold on to his inventions past the first stages of commercialization. So he moved on to his next invention, the Smartpen. "I get my best ideas at 4:00 o'clock in the morning,"

says Marggraff who adds that he likes to go to bed with a problem - "I'll wake up at 4:00 with the solution."

He needed a tool to easily record his ideas, archive them and make them searchable. Those are some of the attributes of the Smartpen, a tool to free the imagination, as Marggraff puts it. "As people age they learn to prune their ideas, dismiss them as non-achievable," he says, "after a while, the creativity wanes." Marggraff says that people using a Smartpen testify that it changed their

The pen allows one to record audio notes that are associated with any words or symbols written at the same time. Later the audio and written notes that were photographed by the pen can be transferred to a computer with a simple cable and searched on written terms. Notes can also be instantly shared over the internet, from the paper in a Wi-Fi environment, creating pencasts that can be shared in the cloud. The Smartpen is in fact a small computer, with a mini screen, a microphone, an high-speed infrared camera that captures 70 frames per second, a storage unit that holds up to eight gigabytes, and the special paper to write on can be bought or printed from one's com-

Now that the Smartpen is a commercial success, Margraff is ready to move on. He stepped down as CEO on January 19, ready for a new adventure. "What I like is starting from nothing and making something happen," he says. That takes focus and confidence, as well as resilience. "I failed once with the first version of the globe," he says, "I lost all the money that family and friends had invested in it, but I came back with a better ver-

Marggraff is not overly precise in describing what might come next from his own think-tank. "I have ideas on how to help people realize their full potential," he says. "Web technology today can connect people to their potential in profound ways. There is so much information that especially younger people provide about themselves that, properly arranged, could offer insights to enable them to do things they were unaware they could achieve. There are extraordinary opportunities in helping people realize their potential."

Maybe it's genetic—last year Margraff's son, Blake, won first prize at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair with his partner, Matthew Feddersen, for a cancer treatment they worked on when they were both seniors at Acalanes High School. Stay tuned - Margraff is a name you will surely hear again.

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

business briefs

Just Say Yes! 61 Moraga Way, Suite 2 www.justsayyes.com



Just Say Yes Therapeutic Massage, an Indonesian-Influenced Stu-

After 11 years of bi-continental travel, practice and learning, especially in Thailand and Bali, Orinda certified massage therapist Kelly Greenwell has come back to stay. opened a few weeks ago a

studio downtown Orinda, above Peet's Coffee & Tea. She brings to Orinda the techniques she learned and incorporated in her classic training, forming her own method that she adapts to the different needs of her clients. "I studied acupressure, reflexology, shiatsu, and I've come up with my own approach, blending what I've learned," she says, "I do not have a massage menu, I customize based on the conversation I have with my clients. Some come for the relaxation, others may come with a lower back problem, and I will approach them accordingly." She also offers Thai massage, which is a different modality all together. "Clients are clothed and we work on a mat on the floor," she explains, "I guide their movements, opening the joints and pressing with my hands or feet on the 'sen lines' (the Thai equivalent to the Chinese meridians)."

News from the three Chambers of Moraga **Commerce**

Lafayette

There is no stopping the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce in its growth. This month, the Chamber greeted its 650th member - Karan Dhillon, The Contractor's Coach, www.thecontractorscoach.com - Beware Walnut Creek, Lafayette is getting close!

Mind Your Manners

Manners That Mean Business – a class presented by etiquette consultant Shashi Dosaj, on Monday, January 30, from 10-11am in the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Conference Room. According to Dosaj, research shows that people who are successful and effective in their careers or business develop not only an expertise in their field, but an overall polish in appearance and behavior. They know how to greet others and make introductions, converse on many subjects, dine with dignity and treat people of all levels with respect. Learning traditional rules of etiquette and decorum in today's high-speed, high-tech world of business are more important today than ever before. Topics covered: Self-presentation, professional image and body language for a favorable first impression; Handshake and introductions; Business card etiquette; Networking etiquette for building successful business relationships; Communication Etiquette - telephone/speakerphone/cell phone/voicemail.

Monthly Mixer at Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St. on February 8, 5:30-7pm

The first Big Band Ballroom Dance of 2012 will be held on Friday, February 3 at the Rheem Theatre in Moraga. Free dance lessons by Gail Enright, 7-8pm, dancing to the music of The Big Band of Rossmoor from 8-10pm. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Chamber office.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Moraga Rotary Club, in an effort to promote and reward the spirit of customer service in Moraga, have established an "Employee of the Month" program that will reward a different worker every month with \$100 in gift cards (to be spent, of course, in Moraga). "Everyone can nominate their favorite server, cashier, attendant, etc.," says Kevin Reneau, a Rotarian, Chamber Board Member, and owner of Senior Helpers. "Supervisors and business owners can also nominate someone." The forms are available online at moraga.ca.us or at moragarotary.org. The nomination forms should be faxed to (925) 376-8002 where Reneau will collect them and distribute them to the committee of Rotary and Chamber members who will meet each month to make the selection. "There are some areas of emphasis on the form that will be criteria for the selection and there are guidelines for nomination which the committee will also utilize," says Reneau, who wants the process to be open. The criteria include competence, customer service and community service. The monthly winners will be entered in a pool from which will be selected the Employee

Orinda

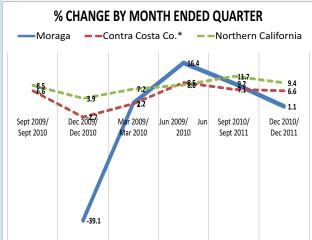
The Chamber's Orinda Country Club Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, February 24, noon to 1:30pm at the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante. The cost is \$30 per person. The luncheon's speaker will be awardwinning weekend anchor for NBC Bay Area News, and Orinda resident, Diane Dwyer. Reserve your seat by call-254-3909, or e-mail the Chamber at info@orindachamber.org.

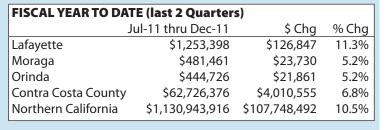
If you have a business brief to share, please contact Sophie Braccini at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com

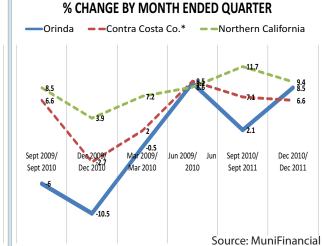
Local Sales Tax

From Shop Local campaigns to potential sales tax increases, the Lamorinda communities have a strong interest in increasing sales tax revenue. The charts below illustrate the last six quarters of sales tax activity in Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda, as well as Contra Costa County-wide and northern California. After each quarter ends, check our Business page for updated information.

% CHANGE BY MONTH ENDED QUARTER						
—Lafayette* ——Contra Costa Co.* ——Northern California						
				11.7	13	
8.5			9,5 8.6	9.6	9.4	
6.6		7.2	6.6	7.1	6.6	
3.7	3.9	5.5				
`	3.1	2				
Sept 2009/	Dec 2009/	Mar 2009/	Jun 2009/ Ju		Dec 2010/	
Sept 2010	Dec 2010 -2.7	Mar 2010	2010	Sept 2011	Dec 2011	







A Ruby-Red Pie for Your Valentine

By Susie Iventosch

month to visit our sons, my husband and filling before. I were invited for dinner at the home of some friends back there. Naturally, since we all love Connie said. "They periodically interview local cooks, to cook ... and eat, we began telling recipe tales and one recipe she mentioned really piqued my curiosity. She said that she had made a cranberry-raspberry pie how much fun readers can have perusing recipes in and that it was absolutely delicious! Though I really their local newspapers! I proceeded to make the recipe enjoy cranberries, fresh, dried or sauced, I had never with a few of our sons' friends, and instead of making

Then we were in the Chicago area last really thought of cranberries as the focal point of a pie a top crust, we decided to make a pecan-

"The recipe was published in the Daily Herald," so this recipe is some local cook's own recipe."

I just loved hearing this, because it made me realize

crumb topping for the pie.

Well, Connie was right. The pie is delicious and makes a beautiful, ruby-red Valentine's dessert.



INGREDIENTS

- 1 pastry crust (see recipe below)
- 1 recipe pecan-crumb topping (recipe below)
- 2-10 oz. packages frozen raspberries, thawed and drained, reserving
- 1 cup water-raspberry juice mixture (from reserved juice above)
- 6 cups fresh or frozen cranberries
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons corn starch
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400° F.

Thaw raspberries in bowl and drain. Reserve the liquid, and add enough water to make 1 cup. Combine cranberries with raspberry liquid in large saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium high heat. Reduce heat to low and simmer 5 minutes.

Combine sugar, cornstarch and salt in small bowl. Add to the hot cranberry mixture. Cook, stirring over medium-high heat until the mixture begins to thicken. Remove from heat. Stir in raspberries and cool for about 10 minutes.

Pour filling into prepared crust and pat crumb topping on top. Bake at 400° for 35 to 40 minutes, or until crust is slightly browned and filling is bubbling. Remove from oven and cool for at least 30 minutes before serving, to allow filling to set up. Serve with a scoop of your favorite ice cream or frozen yogurt.

Pie Crust

INGREDIENTS

2 cups all-purpose flour

½ teaspoon salt

1½ sticks unsalted butter, cut into small cubes

2 teaspoons cider vinegar

approximately 1/2 cup icy water

DIRECTIONS

Mix flour and salt in large bowl. With pastry cutter or finger tips, crumble butter into flour until well integrated. Sprinkle cider vinegar over mixture and stir in well with a fork. Add ice-cold water (strain out ice first), a little at a time, and blend with fork until dough is moist enough to roll into a ball, but not too wet. Roll into one large ball for the pie crust and a smaller ball to use for patching your crust or for cinnamon roll ups for snacking.

Pecan Crumb Topping

INGREDIENTS

1 stick butter cut into small pieces

34 cup brown sugar

¼ cup white sugar

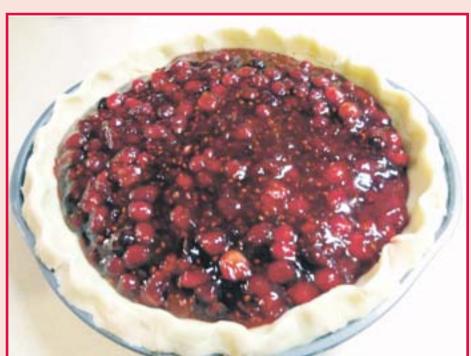
1 teaspoon cinnamon

1/4 teaspoon nutmeg ¼ teaspoon cardamom

34 cup finely chopped, toasted pecans

DIRECTIONS

In a medium bowl, mix all dries, including nuts. With finger tips or a pastry cutter, cut butter into dries until crumbly and well integrated. Pat on top of fruit in unbaked pie shell.





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 suziventosch@gmail.com. These recipe is available on our web site

If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at 925-377-0977.

www.lamorindaweekly.com





Lamorinda Weekly is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA

Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com Art, theater, community events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com Business news or business press releases:

business@lamorindaweekly.com School stories/events: schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com General interest stories/Community Service:

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- SMC and MCC Partner to Renovate Driving Range Stepping Up to Serve the Library Foundation
- SMC Gets in the Swing
- Letters to the Editor
- Consign of the Times: Furniture Consignment
- Stores Growing in Lamorinda Friends of the Library Get New Bins
- Bang the Drum Slowly...
- Every Home Needs a Heart
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ART

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The NEW Saint Mary's College Museum of Art presents: The Veil: Visible and Invisible Spaces, Feb. 12-Mar. 25. A Curator talk & reception will be held on Sunday, Feb. 12, at 2pm. For more information visit the muwebsite at stmarysca.edu/museum or call (925) 631-4379. Museum Hours: Wednesdays - Sundays, 11am-4:30pm. Admission: \$5 adults; K-12 graders and members free.

Lafayette Gallery's winter show "Heartfelt" will run through March 3. The exhibition features unique sculpture, ceramics, paintings, prints, glasswork, jewelry and photography, created by local artists. The public is invited to meet the artists at a free reception on Friday, February 3, 6:30-8:30pm. The Gallery is located at 50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette (across from Chow). Hours: Tues-Sat, 11am-5pm;

www.lafayettegallery.net; (925) 284-2788.

Moraga Art Gallery's new show, "Kaleidioscope" features the work of Gallery Member & local artist Angelica Samame, painter, as well as guest artist, Karin Lechner, jewelry designer, through March 17. The Gallery is now located at #522 Center St in the Rheem Center, Moraga.

The Dorothy Davis group will be on display at the Orinda Library Gallery through the month of February. A reception will be held on Sunday, Feb 26 from 3-5pm.

MUSIC

The Big Band of Rossmoor invites you to join the Band at the Rheem Theatre, 350 Park Street, Moraga on Friday, February 3. The doors will swing open at 6:30pm. Brush up your moves with dance instructor Gail Enright beginning at 7pm. Then at 8pm, get ready to be entertained by the 31 piece band that includes musicians from 10 years old to 92. Tickets are available for \$10 per person at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the Rheem Theater or at the door. You can call and reserve tickets by phone, (925) 284-7404, for pick up at Will Call.

Community Drumming with Jeni Swerdlow, Thursday, February 9 at 4pm, Moraga Library. No experience is necessary to participate. This is a children's event, but all ages are welcome. Register with staff or self-register by visiting our calendar of events at ccclib.org. San Francisco Bay Area percussionist and art therapist Jeni Swerdlow is a dynamic and engaging facilitator, trainer, presenter, and performer and her interactive, rhythmic events have captivated many thousands of participants at several hundred events in the U.S. and abroad.

Under the direction of David Morales, Cantare Con Vivo's Chamber Ensemble presents a concert featuring favorite songs from American movies. The audience will hear the acclaimed Chamber Ensemble's renditions of Over the Rainbow, Moon River, Summertime, When You Wish Upon a Star and more while enjoying wine and scrumptious desserts. The concert will take place Sunday, February 12th at 4pm at Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mount Diablo Road, Lafayette. Tickets are \$65 Couple, \$35 General, Young Professionals (22-35) \$25, \$10 Youth (21 and under). Tickets can be purchased at www.cantareconvivo.org or by calling the Cantare box office at (510) 836-0789. The venue is wheel chair accessible.

The Performing Arts Society evening concert on February 14, at 8pm, will open with a string nature of nuptials. Location: quartet by Ernst von Dohnanyi, Lafayette Library and Learning followed by a piano duet by Claude Debussy. After a short in- Lafayette. Time: 5:45 pm checktermission, songs by Britten, Rorem, and Joaquin Rodrigo will be performed by soprano Sarah Sloan. The concert concludes with music by Ferenc Farkas and Jacques Ibert for woodwind quintet. Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek; www.ccpas.org.

Fondettes at Aegis of Moraga. On Saturday February 18th, the retirement community celebrates the 40's and invites the community to join in the free event that will feature The Fondettes, a vocal trio with rich three part harmony and jazzy tone Lindsay Wildlife Museum presquality, sing almost solely Andrews Sisters' repertoire. The event will start at 6pm with wine, cheese and hors d'œuvres, The Fondettes will perform 7-7:45pm. RSVP required by calling 377-7900 or email

Candice.Moses@AegisLiving.com.

THEATER

The 14th Annual California Independent Film Festival will 10th, and will be hosted by NBC Bay Area News weekend anchor, thru Feb 16 at both Lamorinda own Theatres. The seven-day event Tickets are available for purchase land; (510) 465-8770, at the Rheem Theatre and Orinda Theatre or at the festival's webe-mail info@caiff.org. (See article page B5)

Town Hall Theatre presents "Distracted" from February 25 to March 17; with previews on February 23 and 24. After the matinee performance of Dis-Blaisch, M.D. will lead a talk and ney at director@ Q&A regarding ADHD, autism, eastbayeclipsesoccer.com. and other learning and behavioral Theatre Box Office at (925) 283-1557, or purchase online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

First Friday Forum presents **Dr. Glenn Robinson** "The Arab Spring"; Causes and Consequences, Friday, February 3 at 1:30 pm in the Sanctuary of the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 39 Knox Drive, Lafayette. An associate professor in the Department of Defense Analysis at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Robinson has helped design and implement development projects in the Middle East and has traveled there exnative, a graduate of Acalanes High School. and holds a Ph.D. will be served at 1pm in Fellow-News and Information.

The Commonwealth Club presents: Ralph Richard Banks: Is Marriage for White People? Wed, Feb 8, 6:30pm. Just in time for Valentine's Day, Stanford Law School Professor Banks will tackle that oh-so-controversial institution: marriage. His recent book,"Is Marriage for White People? How the African American Marriage Decline Affects Everyone", explores the deterioration of marriage in America and its implications for family and romantic relationships. Join us for an intimate look at the changing

Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in, 6:30pm program. Cost: \$22 standard, \$12 members, \$7 students (with valid ID). www.commonwealthclub.org.

Orinda's Robert Etheredge will discuss and sign copies of The American Challenge: Preserving the Greatness of America in the 21st Century at Orinda Books on Saturday, February 11 at 1pm. Orinda Books is located at 276 Village Square. For more information: (925)254 -7606; www.orindabooks.com.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

ents Animals Underground at the LLLC on Thursday, February 2, noon-12:30pm. Ms. Jenna will read a book about underground animals at 11:30am, Lindsay will arrive at noon with various animals to see and experience. Ages 2 1/2 - 5, cost: \$5/child; reserve@LLLCF.org.

The Museum of Children's Art presents Black History Month's **Invention Convention, Sat. &** open with Monsieur Lazhar, Sun., Feb 18 & 19, 1-3pm, \$8 per nominated in this year's 84th child. Many modern conven-Oscar Academy Awards for Best iences and necessities are directly Foreign Language Film. The related to the inventions of black Opening Night Ceremony will be inventors: blood banks, the refrigheld at the Rheem Theatre on Feberator, the electric trolley, the dust pan, comb, mop, brush, clothes dryer, refrigerator, lawn mower, Ms Diane Dwyer. Monsieur traffic signals, the pen and the Lazhar will also screen at the pencil sharpener to name a few. Orinda Theatre on Feb 14th. The Join us to draw out some blue film festival will run from Feb 10 prints and make a model of your fabulous invention! MOCHA, 538 9th Street, Oakwww.mocha.org.

site (www.caiff.org). For in- The East Bay Eclipse Soccer quiries, call 925.388.0752 or Club will be holding tryouts for the 2012 season on the weekend of March 3 and 4. The club is open to kids ages 5-18. For more information about the times and locations of tryouts, or to pre-register for the tryouts, visit http://eastbayeclipsesoccer.com/h ome/tryouts. If you have questracted on March 4, Dr. Brian tions, email Director Shane Car-

problems. Contact Town Hall Annual OIS Diverse Abilities Awareness Week Open House, Wednesday, February 8 from 6:30-8:30 pm at Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda. Hands on learning stations, community group representatives sharing support resources, and an exposition wheelchair basketball game. Come ready to learn and have fun! All are welcome; family participation is encouraged. Free admission. For more information, please contact Anna Tague:

Tague6@comcast.net.

Need Money for College? Contra Costa Association of Realtors Scholarship Foundation is offering scholarships to residents tensively. He is a Lafayette of Central Contra Costa County that have completed one year of full-time college, completed from UC Berkeley. Refreshments courses with emphasis on real estate, finance and/or business and ship Hall. For questions call (925) have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. If 283-8722 or click on lopc.org, you qualify, scholarship awards can range from \$1,500 to \$2,500. Further information and applications may be found on line at www.ccarscholarship.com. Deadline is April 15th.

> **Please submit** events to: calendar@lamorinda weekly.com

OTHER

Book Sale: Friends of Orinda

Library. Inexpensive, gently

used books for all ages and inter-

ests on sale, Thurs. Feb 2, 10am-

1pm at the Sorting Room and

Book Shop located at the Library,

Creating a Peaceful School

Conference on Saturday, Febru-

ary 4, 8:30am-3:30pm at

Acalanes High School, 1200

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The month of February is des-

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ness and action in behalf of

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Community Church will have a

presentation following worship

with information about heart

health, and in particular as it per-

tains to women. Sunday, February

5 at 11:30am; 10 Irwin Way,

If you are thinking about get-

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Girl Scouts 100th Birthday

Dance at the Veterans Memo-

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12, 5:45-7:30pm; Lafayette Girl

Scouts K-12 and Lafayette Girl

Scout Alumnae. Enjoy an evening

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rating, singing. Witness the

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County Supervisors. Countdown

to 7:12pm with a candle cere-

mony commemorating when Juli-

ette Low started her first troop. \$5

by February 9th. Hair care prod-

ucts will be collected to benefit

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professional dance duo Karen and Michael give lessons. A map, ad-Chamber of Commerce web site, ditional Dance Social details, and www.orindachamber.org or at any upcoming skip dates are First Republic Bank, 224 Brookwood Road. Tickets at the door (if posted

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sites.google.com/site/lafayetteteadance. \$2 for members of Lafayette Senior Center, \$4 for non-members. Just \$10 yearly to join the Center, and enjoy the complete range of activities.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

On February 4 at 7pm there will be a "Love for Ryan" concert featuring Shawn McDonald and Paul Johnson to benefit Ryan Buchanan. The event will take place at Creekside Community Church in Alamo CA. All proceeds from this event go direct to the Ryan Buchanan Trust Fund. Buy tickets at www.ryanbuchanan.org.

Soroptimist International of 24-680's annual Crab Feed & Silent Auction will be on Saturday, February 11, at the Lower Court of Oakwood Athletic Club. Tickets: \$40 each. For tickets and information: (925) 285-7797, si24-680@soroptimist.net, host the program developed by www.soroptimist24-680.org.

Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley 12th annual Crab Feed, February 18th at St Mary's College Soda Center.Silent Auction, Dancing. 6pm Cocktails, 7pm Dinner, \$50 ticket price. For tickets contact Ed Beatson @ (925) 376-3201. All proceeds benefit local charities for children.

Crab Feed & Dance, Saturday, February 25, 6-11pm Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Bring your appetites & dancing shoes. Music provided by popular DJ. Dinner & Dance \$37.50; Dance only \$10. For non-crab lovers: Chicken available by special advance order request. Dinner tickets MUST be purchased in advance. For info & reservations call (925) 672-6799.

SMC Guild's Bridge & Bunco, Thursday, Feb 23, 9:30am-**2pm**, Saint Mary's College, Soda Center. Fundraiser for student scholarships. \$32 per person-includes luncheon. Please call (925) 376-4339 for info and reserva-

St. Mary's College Guild's Irish Cultural Night - Friday, March 2, 6-10pm at the Soda Center on St. Mary's College Campus. An evening of food, music, singing and dancing in the Irish Style. Reservation be accepted until February 28. The evening is \$40/per person. Please make checks out to St. Mary's College Guild and mail to Pat Wiegmann, Carr Drive, Moraga, CA 94556. For more information, please contact Pat at (925) 376-

Lovers of laughter will have the county gardens that are pesticideopportunity to enjoy a champagne-filled night of comedy at the landmark Orinda Theatre on Friday, March 2nd. "Live at the cluded in the Tour are 5 Lamor-Orinda" comedy night will start at 6:45pm with a lobby reception featuring full no host bars. Performances will begin at 7:30pm. Master of Ceremonies, local favorite Michael Fender will sing, entertain and introduce each comedian. This year's slate features Kabir Singh (Kabeezy), Dan St. Paul, Johnny Steele and the head-

professionally liner-political comic Will Durst. Discounted performance tickets at \$35.00 may be reserved in advance until March 1st using a major credit card at the Orinda available) will be \$40.00 per per-

CLUBS

The Orinda Woman's Club is currently accepting applicants for its major beneficiary awards in 2012 Appropriate applying agencies must be non-profit 501 (c), serving women and children in need, be Alameda and /or Contra Costa County based and have an annual income of less than \$1,000,000. Application forms can be acquired from Adeline McClatchie, Beneficiary Chair at (925) 254 1162 or Adeline@mcclatchie.com. The deadline is March 5th 2012, 7pm.

AAUW/OML February Meeting to Focus on State Budget. The public is invited to the Tuesday, February 21st meeting at 9:30am to experience the California Budget Challenge. Assemblyperson Nancy Skinner will Next10 org. Attendees will be provided with response clickers that will tally the groups' "votes" about how much to spend on schools, prisons, the environment and other state programs, as well as make choices to reduce state expenses. Socializing from 9-9:45am followed by the Next Ten budget presentation and discussion. The meeting will be held at the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga.

Lamorinda Toastmasters provides a mutually supportive and positive learning environment where members develop communication and leadership skills, improving self-confidence and personal growth. We meet every Tuesday at 7:30pm - 9pm at Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. See our web-site: http://lamorinda.freetoasthost.net/

GARDEN

Montelindo Garden Club. On Friday, February 17, 2012 Garth Jacober, owner of Mt. Diablo Nursery in Lafayette, will speak on Camellias. Mr. Jacober is a master gardner and Camellia expert. He has worked in gardening and landscaping for over thirty years. The program is held at 10:30am with a social hour before. The event is held at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda and the public is cordially invited.

Registration for the Eighth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which will take place on Sunday, May 6, 2012 from 10 to 5, is now open. This free, award-winning tour features 45 Alameda and Contra Costa free, conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60% or more native plants. Ininda garden, two of them new additions. This self-drive tour showcases a variety of gardens, from large parcels in the hills to small lots in the flats. Native plant sales and talks are offered at select gardens. Volunteers are needed. Please register or volunteer at http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/.



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Q & A with Margaret O'Brien

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February 10th, 2012, 5:30PM

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February 10th, 2012, 9:30PM

Q & A with Jon Gries

Five Time Champion

Movie: 9:30PM



February 11th, 2012, 6:00PM

Q & A with Burt Young

Q & A with Margaret O'Brien

Special Screening in Honor of Oscar Nominee Burt Young: ROCKY VIP Reception: 6:00PM, Movie: 7PM - 10:30PM

February 16th, 2012, 6:30PM

Closing Night with Margaret O'Brien Meet Me in St. Louis followed by





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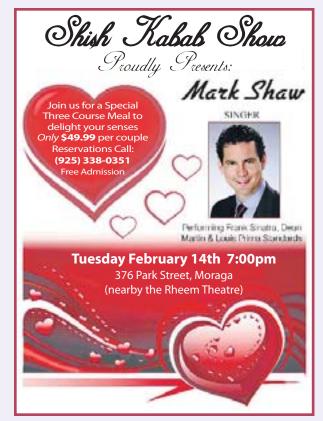
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www.lamorindaweekly.com

Miramonte Girls Steam Roll Rivals

By Conrad Bassett



Megan Reid (1)

ast week the Lamorinda girls' ✓basketball teams had one of the toughest weeks in the Diablo Foothill Athletic League schedule. There were 13. two Lamorinda rivalry games and Campolindo and Acalanes played Acalanes with 14 points. three games in a five game stretch.

When the week was over, Miramonte's girls' team continued to dominate DFAL play starting with an 82-36 win over Acalanes on January 23. The Mats raised their record to 19-0 overall while the Dons fell to 12-

McDonald scored in the first 15 seconds on a layup. Dons' senior Sophie Taylor hit two free throws, while junior Molly Martin added another and the Dons had their only lead of the game at 3-2.

The Mats answered with a free throw from senior Taylor Kizziee and two layups from sophomore Megan Reid. Miramonte never looked back as they went on a 12-0 run to build a 23-9 lead at the end of the first quar-

continued to score and built their lead to 38-22 at the half.

It was much of the same in the nine Loutzenhiser tossed in ten. third quarter; the Mats outscored the Dons 19-5, including a 13-0 run in the Hickey had 13 points and eight refinal four minutes. Miramonte continued to extend the lead in the fourth to win, 82-36.

McDonald led the Mats with 19 and senior Janine Loutzenhiser had

Matador coach Kelly Sopak was pleased with how his team got better as the game progressed. "We struggled a bit in the first half and got a little impatient as our shots were not falling. However, in the third quarter we settled down and starting rotating better in the press and got into transi-Matador senior captain Devon tion a lot better, which allowed us to do offensively so we had to make get more high percentage looks at the some adjustments," he said of Cambasket."

> Dons' coach Chris Russell said his team continued to battle despite happy with the Cougars' effort. "I being behind. "I thought our team fought all night despite the deficit we were facing in the second half."

Miramonte traveled over to Moraga to face Campolindo on January Miramonte extended its win streak to 20 games beating the Cougars 82-39.

Kizziee was one of four Mats in In the second period, the Mats double figures with 18 points. Mc-Donald scored 15 to go with six steals, Gill added 13, and senior Ja-

> For Campolindo, senior Laura bounds, while sophomore Ashley Ewing had ten points and nine re

The game started close as Kizziee

Photos Andy Scheck

points. Junior Carly Gill added 14 hit a layup and then two free throws in the first minute for Miramonte, while Ewing added four to give Freshman Taylor Odom led Campo its only lead of the game at 6-

> The Mats then went on a 17-0 run to end the period. Miramonte continued their fine play in the second period and led 51-16 at the half.

> "I was so impressed with our intensity to start the game," Sopak said.

> "Campolindo did a very nice job aking things away that we like to polindo's pressure.

> Campo coach Elgin Leslie was thought we played hard throughout the game. Hopefully we can learn from our mistakes and use this game as a springboard to get better for the second half of league."

> Miramonte had a bye on Friday and was atop the DFAL at 6-0 and was 20-0 overall.

> Campolindo (4-3 DFAL and 9-11 overall) handled Alhambra 61-35 and Acalanes beat Las Lomas 63-47. They are now 3-4 in the DFAL and 13-8 in all games.

> Acalanes played Campolindo on Tuesday, January 31 after the press deadline. Miramonte travels to Acalanes on February 14 and hosts Campolindo on February 16.



Annie Ward (23) and Taylor Kizziee (00)

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Saint Mary's Still Undefeated after **Tough Road Trip**

By Alex Kozela and Caitlin Graveson

he men's basketball team continues to creep up in the national polls as they remained undefeated in WCC play, moving from #20 to #16 in the USA/Coaches' poll and #18 in the AP poll.

Saint Mary's returned to Moraga from a three-game road stretch that saw the team earn hard-fought victories at Santa Clara, Loyola Marymount, and Brigham Young. Saint Mary's defeated Pepperdine the previous week at McKeon Pavilion, where the Gaels haven't lost all year.

"Our goal is to stay undefeated at home," said senior forward Rob Jones. "We go into each game with team, the Broncos outworked the that on our minds. It helps motivate Gaels for most of the game. In front us."

three-game stretch, Saint Mary's (21-3 overall, 10-0 WCC) played for the first time this season as a ranked team (#23/24), hosting Pepperdine (7-13, 11-8) on January 19. The Gaels came out with all the defensive stops to prevent any chance of an upset, as they handily defeated the Waves 61-47.

Jones registered his 13th doubledouble of the season with a gamehigh 17 points and 10 rebounds. Junior guard Matthew Dellavedova added 13 points, while sophomore guard Stephen Holt scored 12.

The game was a far closer affair than the two teams' previous meeting, a 74-45 Saint Mary's rout in December.

"I think the game down at Pep was an aberration," said Gaels' head coach Randy Bennett. "It's closer than that, and it was tonight. Pepperdine came to play."

and you're ranked, you're going to have to be ready for that every night," said Bennett, referring to the Waves' energy. "I'm trying to get our guys to understand that, and if we do, it'll make our guys better because we're playing against better competition."

It wasn't any easier two days later at Santa Clara (8-12, 0-7). Despite their status as the WCC's last-placed of the first sell-out crowd at the Before hitting the road for the Leavey Center in two years, Saint Mary's only led by two points at the half, up 44-42.

> The Gaels went on a 15-2 run at the end of the second half to escape an upset and defeat their rivals 93-77. The 93 points scored were the most for any Saint Mary's team against Santa Clara in a regulation game.

> Dellavedova scored 26 points, while dishing out seven assists to lead the Gaels. Jones had another doubledouble with 14 points and 15 rebounds. Sophomore guard Jorden Page had a career-high 19 points, while freshman center Brad Waldow grabbed a career-high 16 rebounds.

> The Gaels then travelled down to Los Angeles to face a feisty Loyola Marymount team. The dark horse in

the WCC, with big wins over BYU in Provo and #17 UCLA and #23 Saint Louis in preseason, LMU fought hard for another upset this season.

Saint Mary's remained persistent "If you're at the top of the league and answered every Lions' attack to win, 71-64. Holt led Saint Mary's to victory with 19 points while Dellavedova added 13. It was the 11th straight victory for the Gaels over the Lions (12-9, 5-3).

> In a physical game in Provo, Saint Mary's stayed tough to defeat WCCnewcomer BYU 80-66. The Gaels were called for 22 fouls and the Cougars, 26. Both head coaches had technical fouls and debris was thrown on the court multiple times.

> The Gaels went on a 10-0 run to build a 40-28 lead at the half. Saint Mary's rode that momentum into the second period to extend the lead to 23 points. BYU fought to within nine points with about two and a half minutes to go, but Saint Mary's held on to sweep BYU in regular season play.

Senior forward Clint Steindl had 16 points for the Gaels, going 4-for-6 from behind the arc. Waldow came up huge for SMC, notching a team-high 19 points and eight rebounds.

Saint Mary's will host San Diego on Thursday, February 2 at McKeon

"We're keeping our goals the same as the first game of the year," said Jones, as he looks ahead to the rest of the season, "to hopefully end the season as great as possible."











Saint Mary's Drops Heartbreaker to Bulldogs

By Caitlin Graveson



Jasmine Smith (32) had 20 points in the loss.

Photo Tod Fierner

aint Mary's women's basketball battled for first place in the WCC last weekend. The Gaels played host to #20 Gonzaga. With a win and an upset of #23 BYU by Santa Clara, the Gaels could have been tied for first place in the WCC standings.

Unfortunately, both ranked teams held on and Saint Mary's fell to 7-3 (16-7 overall) and fourth place in the

The Gaels kept the game close until late in the first half when Gonzaga went on a 17-0 run to build a 41-26 lead heading into the locker room.

Saint Mary's came out of the gate strong in the second half, rallying to overcome the deficit. The Gaels took the lead 66-64 off of a three-pointer from senior guard Jasmine Smith

with 3:44 to play. The Bulldogs responded with a three to regain control. With 1:04 to play, senior guard Alex Carbonel hit a lay-up to pull the Gaels within one point, 69-68.

Out of a timeout, Gonzaga hit a three-pointer with 42 seconds remaining. Saint Mary's could not overcome the deficit as Gonzaga kept possession and let the clock run out.

Smith led the Gaels with 20 points. Sophomore forward Danielle Mauldin added 18 points and 15 rebounds, both season-highs. Carbonel had 17 points.

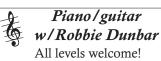
The Gaels return to action next week in Provo against #23 BYU on February 4. Saint Mary's returns home on February 9 against Portland at 6:00 p.m.



Alex Carbonel (5) hit a layup to bring the Gaels within one point, 69-68. **Photo Tod Fierner**

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Freshman Brad Waldow steps up big for the Gaels in tough four game stretch. Saint Mary's stays perfect in WCC.

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

Dons Upend Mats in Close Game

Campolindo stays perfect in DFAL

By Conrad Bassett



James Griffin (22)

Photos Andy Scheck

ast week all three of the Lamorinda boys' ✓teams played a rivalry game. Miramonte hosted Acalanes on January 23 and the Mats traveled to Campolindo on January 25 to complete the first half of the Diablo Foothill Athletic League regular season. All teams brought winning overall records into the rivalry match-ups.

In a game that had 12 lead changes, the Dons (12-6 overall) managed to hold off the Matadors (13-4) to win, 58-56.

Before the game, Dons' coach Darrell Hirashima, Jr. noted that his team was prepared for the challenge. "The team looks ready tonight and our players are improving as a team. I am looking for a strong inside game from Buster Souza."

Miramonte's senior captain Ross Anderson opened the scoring on a short jump shot and a few moments later, Dons' senior James Griffin answered with a 3-point shot to take the lead.

The Mats held a 20-16 lead at the end of the first quarter behind sophomore Joey Goodreault's six points and junior Kiran Shastri's free throws. Shas-

tri went five-of-six from the line. In the second quarter, the Dons came out on fire. Acalanes outscored Miramonte 20-11 to take a 36-

31 lead at the half. To start the second half, Griffin scored Acalanes' first seven points to help build the Dons' biggest lead, 41-33. Following an exchange of baskets, the Mats rallied back. They went on a 12-0 run led by Shastri's seven points to regain the lead, 47-43.

The fourth quarter was close and neither team led by more than four points. The Dons had a 53-52 lead with 1:47 to go.

The Mats fought back to within one with 7.9 seconds when Buster Souza came up with a big play inside. He blocked Shastri to give Acalanes the ball with seconds left in the game. Miramonte immediately fouled Dons' senior Trevor Masland who made one from the charity stripe, leaving Miramonte with seven seconds to tie or win. The Dons played tenacious defense and the Mats did not make

Jack Evans (21) had ten points against Miramonte. their last shot.

Griffin led all scorers with 25 points. Souza paced the Dons with 10 points, 10 rebounds and three key blocks. Shastri led Miramonte with 19 points, while Goodreault added 18.

Just two days later, on Wednesday night, the action moved over to Moraga where Campolindo hosted Miramonte before a packed crowd. The Matadors struck first on a layup from junior Derek Lin, but that was Miramonte's only lead of the

On the next possession, Campo junior Jack Evans nailed a three to give the Cougars the lead. The teams exchanged baskets with Campo leading 12-9 at the end of the first period.

Campo started the second quarter on a 17-4 run on their way to a 39-20 halftime lead.

Campo added to its lead in the third period at one time leading by as many as 28 points. Senior Griffin Piatt added seven points.

In the fourth quarter, Miramonte closed the gap by outscoring Campo by 18-11, but could not overcome the third quarter deficit. The final was 66-46.

Evans led Campolindo with ten points. Shastri had 21 for Miramonte.

Campo coach Matt Watson was pleased with how his team played together. "So far we have had seven different kids get game high score, which goes to show how dedicated the kids are to the team concept."

"These kids work hard in practice to make each other better every day. They are very team- oriented kids and these young men are very good basketball players, but they are even better people," he contin-

The week was completed with some non-rivalry games. On Thursday, Miramonte dropped a close non-league game at Concord 72-65 and is now 13-7 overall and 3-3 in the DFAL.

Last Friday, Campolindo ran its record to 7-0 DFAL and 18-2 overall by beating Alhambra 80-53, and Acalanes fell to 13-8 (2-5 DFAL) losing 57-45 to Las Lomas.

Acalanes played Campolindo on Tuesday, January 31 after the press deadline. Miramonte travels to Acalanes on February 14 and hosts Campolindo on February 16.



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

Lamorinda Swimmers Master "Go the Distance" Competition

Submitted by Richard Jacobberger



Don Tatzin and Susan Skilton

afayette City Council Mem-⊿ber Don Tatzin, 59, and Susan Skilton, 53, placed first in their respective age groups for the 2011 United States Masters Swimming "Go the Distance" event. This was Tatzin's third straight year in first place.

Photo provided

Tatzin recorded 1731.5 miles this year. He is only one-of-two swimmers out of 2,800 participants to complete over 1,500

miles. Skilton swam 944.20 miles in the year. She placed 26th overall (men and women).

Lamorinda Rugby Club Starts Season

Submitted by Tony McKenzie



Photo Karen Drinkwater

Love Latayette



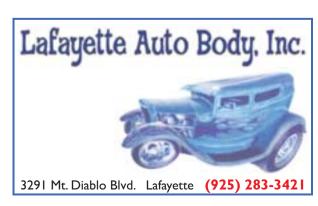
LAMORINDA WEEKLY



























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COCIR HOMES Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 24 Wednesday, February 1, 2012



Miramonte Kitchen Tour – It Takes a Community

By Sophie Braccini



Orinda's Monique Jasper in her Glorietta kitchen.

Photos Andy Scheck

he Miramonte Parents Club is aiming for the heart—for the heart of the home, with a kitchen tour; for the hearts of parents, as they visit the homes and give to the schools to support programs deprived by the State's repeated budgetary cuts. The six kitchens on this year's tour were selected to intrigue you: 6 very different settings, from a 70-year-old traditional adobe ranch house to a contemporary kitchen that has been featured in Pottery Barn. Here's a sneak peek at two of the Tour's kitchens:

The state-of-the-art, picture perfect kitchen at Wilder, where the tour begins, is located in a model home at the new development that lies just off Highway 24. The views and the incredible setting are worth the ticket price.

The kitchen is set in a 5,400-square-foot residence, conceived by Robert Hidey Architects with the intent of linking indoor and outdoor living: the central patio is accessible from different rooms and windows all around frame stunning, open views of the wilderness.

The kitchen itself has been designed as a family hub and entertainment center, full of light and peace thanks to the harmony of white and grey chosen by MEMA Design.

The kitchen nook is a bright sitting area where a large rectangular dining table can accommodate eight people. The distressed wood table fits well on one of the most interesting decorative features of the house: Black's Farmwood reclaimed hardwood floors.

At first glance it appears that there is not much in the way of storage space in the kitchen: no deep drawers near the large range in which to store pots and pans, no pantry closet, no counter space near the range, and the oversized honed marble island with its five stools seems to invite more a conversation than active cooking. But the mystery is soon explained: behind the range is another area—the "prep area", with a plethora of cabinets, a sink and a dishwasher. Because kitchens have become the center hub of many parties, it was important to create a prep/cleaning area that would be hidden from guests. The appliances are the Wolf/Sub-Zero combination and include a double-oven and warming drawer.

Interior designer Monique Jasper's kitchen is in the Glorietta neighborhood. ... continued on page D4

Glenn and Kellie Beaubelle present...

SOUGHT AFTER WILLOW SPRINGS LOCATION



Gorgeous views, flat yard, new paint, refinished hardwood floors, large rooms, built-ins, and vaulted ceilings are just a few of the outstanding amenities this home has to offer. Ideally located on one of Moraga's most desirable courts, this home is within minutes to trails, St. Mary's College, town and schools! 4 Bdrms., 2 1/2 bath, appx. 3,031sf, .71 acre price upon request

IDEAL COURT LOCATION ~ AMAZING YARD



Nice curb appeal, high ceilings, hardwood floors, designer paint colors, Andersen doors/windows, functional floor plan, and a park-like yard with views, make up this outstanding home. Minutes to downtown, highway and schools, this home is family friendly. 5 Bdrms, 3 1/2 baths, appx. 3, 109sf, 1.38 acres. price upon request

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Page: D2 OUR HOMES Wed., February 1, 2012

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT
LAFAYETTE	11	\$487,000	\$1,936,000
MORAGA	2	\$535,000	\$595,000
ORINDA	7	\$675,000	\$1,250,000

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

LAFAYETTE

859 Acalanes Road, \$960,000, 3 Bdrms, 2495 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 12-30-11; Previous Sale: \$543,000, 05-04-00

7 Arbor Way, \$745,000, 4 Bdrms, 1830 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 12-30-11; Previous Sale: \$410,000, 04-29-99

10 Carolyn Court, \$487,000, 3 Bdrms, 1074 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 12-28-11; Previous Sale: \$655,000, 06-17-04

615 Crofton Court, \$1,775,000, 3 Bdrms, 1883 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 12-29-11

3676 Hastings Court, \$1,025,000, 2 Bdrms, 1846 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 12-21-11 3641 Madrone Drive, \$520,000, 2 Bdrms, 1099 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 1-3-12;

Previous Sale: \$650,000, 07-12-07

855 Mountain View Drive, \$1,236,000, 4 Bdrms, 3093 SqFt, 2010 YrBlt, 12-23-11; Previous Sale: \$560,000, 02-17-10

3171 Stanwood Lane, \$1,250,000, 6 Bdrms, 3167 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 12-22-11; Previous Sale: \$954,500, 07-24-03

1055 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,280,000, 4 Bdrms, 3422 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 12-23-11; Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 09-14-01

831 Tanglewood Drive, \$1,936,000, 5 Bdrms, 6120 SqFt, 1925 YrBlt, 12-23-11; Previous Sale: \$1,510,000, 10-27-11

1073 Via Roble, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2621 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 12-20-11

MORAGA

1936 St. Andrews Drive, \$595,000, 2 Bdrms, 2142 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 12-21-11; Previous Sale: \$269,000, 06-11-90

1938 St. Andrews Drive, \$535,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 12-21-11; Previous Sale: \$345,000, 05-12-89

ORINDA

40 Ardor Drive, \$880,000, 4 Bdrms, 2131 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 12-23-11; Previous Sale: \$950,000, 09-29-06

20 El Patio, \$825,000, 6 Bdrms, 4042 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 12-29-11

11 Las Aromas, \$1,250,000, 2 Bdrms, 2178 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 12-21-11; Previous Sale: \$630,000, 06-30-00

44 Loma Vista Drive, \$730,000, 4 Bdrms, 2159 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 12-23-11; Previous Sale: \$765,000, 03-10-04

129 Meadow View Road, \$675,000, 3 Bdrms, 2265 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 12-28-11

605 Watchwood Road, \$1,095,500, 2 Bdrms, 2065 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 12-29-11; Previous Sale: \$851,000, 04-19-00

6 Westwood Court, \$1,170,000, 4 Bdrms, 2986 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 12-29-11; Previous Sale: \$500,000, 12-08-05

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

LAFAYETTE

Camino Vallecito, 94549, Mortgageit, 12-21-11, \$1,350,000, 3982 sf, 4 bd

MORAGA

Camino Pablo, 94556, GMAC Mortgage, 12-30-11, \$607,500, 1762 sf, 3 bd

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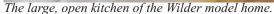
Miramonte Kitchen Tour – It Takes a Community

... continued from page D1



The Black's Farmwood reclaimed hardwood

floor is a striking feature of the Wilder kitchen.





Behind the Wilder kitchen is a complete prep area.



The Wilder kitchen, with a marble island and sink, opens onto the family room.



The kitchen is the place where her family lives, cooks and entertains. Jasper's kitchen is a mix of functionality and timeless refinement.

The Jaspers built their Orinda home five years ago and Monique, as she worked with architect Doug McQuillan, had precise requirements for the whole house in general, and particularly the kitchen. "I was quite meticulous about how the kitchen had to be laid out," she says, "I cook and I wanted things to be practical when we entertain. I also wanted the space to be a place where my three sons would hang out or do their homework."

Jasper oversaw functional arrangements such as deep drawers directly under the Viking range, and two cutting boards for efficient prep.

... continued on page D6



The beverage corner, with a refrigerator below, in Jasper's kitchen.

2012 Lamorinda Real Estate Guidebook



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Miramonte Kitchen Tour - It Takes a Community

... continued from page D1



Jasper's kitchen opens onto the garden.



Timeless detail adds to the ambience of Jasper's kitchen.

For the layout, she asked for a large nook area where her young sons come and do their home work, and for entertaining, she had the architect create a 'butler's pantry', a space between the kitchen and the formal dining room where dishes, wine or plates can be set for convenient serving.

Jasper's designing style is apparent in the overall feel she gave to the kitchen, as well as in the details. "We chose honed black granite for the center isle," she says, "while the other counters are made of basalt, which is a lighter shade of deep grey." The kitchen cabinets are white, the walls a light grey, the floor a deep, dark cherry; and the whole space is filled with light as two walls mostly made of windows overlook the garden. The kitchen opens into a family room, which is full of light itself.

The classic and elegant feel of the space is enhanced by such details as the kitchen door knobs that are miniature shiny bolts, or the design of the faucet overlooking the farmyard sink that could have come from an east coast beach house.

"The Parents' Club (of Miramonte High School) was looking for a way to bring the community together at some sort of fundraising event. We felt that a Kitchen Tour was the perfect event to host," said Miramonte parent Victoria Bizieff. "Each class donated a lovely basket stuffed with goodies for the raffle. They will be on display at Wilder, the starting point of the tour. Dianna Condon Cuisine will provide morning goodies at Wilder. Table 24 will also present food from their new south-of-the-border restaurant, Barbacoa, at one of the homes."

The Tour takes place on Thursday, February 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$35.00 and can be purchased at McDonnell Nursery, Orinda Books, Lazy K House at Orchard Nursery, or online at www.miramonteparents.com (click on Web Store).





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*per Public Records

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Natural Attractions

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." Marcel Proust



The pink/purple blossoms of Heather brighten a winter landscape.

Photos Cynthia Brian

slopes or basking on balmy beaches, in February, gardeners are forecasting future flowering. We peruse seed catalogues hunting for those special heirlooms and old fashioned favorites while dreaming of trips to nurseries to fill our flourishing spring grounds. Although I admit to thoroughly enjoying the surf and the snow, whenever and wherever I travel, I make it a point to wander through public gardens, as well as any private ones that offer an invitation. With camera and notebook in hand, I have an exhilarating field day as I discover unusual displays, exotic rarities, and humorous descriptions. How can you top witnessing tree bark that looks like the top of a tortoise shell or shrieking at the sight of a snake plant slithering through the tropical forest? My photo folder has more shots of flora than of people. While rambling through the green-

hile many people are swooshing down the ery, I fantasize about borrowing ideas that will find passlopes or basking on balmy beaches, in Februsage into my vegetative projects.

This year I've dedicated Digging Deep to getting you up, out, and moving. When the weather is dreary, blustery, and cold, a great way to combine nature with nuture is to visit a botanical garden (see list on page D10). If you are planning a winter get away, include a side trip to a flower show or regional garden as part of your itinerary. If you are staying home, delightful public gardens, conservatories, arboretums, and plant destinations await your exploration in a relaxing day trip within a couple of hours driving distance from Lamorinda's landscapes. From tropical paradises to dry oasis, I've dug up delightful display playgrounds anticipating your arrival. Participate in guided tours, educational programs, hands-on workshops, propagation classes, horticulture seminars, green living demonstrations, or just

amble at your own pace. Many have activities for children and most have gift shops or nurseries where you can purchase rare specialty species. Some venues charge a nominal fee while others are free. All will inspire and ignite your love of Mother Nature while entertaining and informing. Grab your loved ones, hat, gloves, camera, picnic, sketchbook, and enjoy the splendor of distinctive backyards with fresh eyes.

This is by no means a complete list of all the remarkable offerings available. Wineries, bed and breakfasts, historic homes, regional or city parks boast meandering brooks, enchanting paths, potagers, rose gardens and countless opportunities for botanical entertainment. I've been delighted to be a speaker and autograph my books at many of these locations and have worked as an actor in several. Work and play, play and work.

This Valentine's give yourself and your loved ones the gift of natural attractions. Even for the timid traveler, it will be love at first sight.



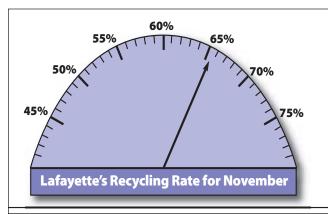
The pitcher plant drinks from its cup to satisfy it's water needs.

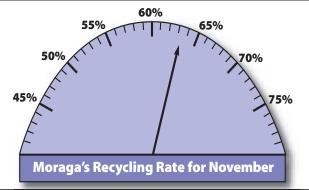


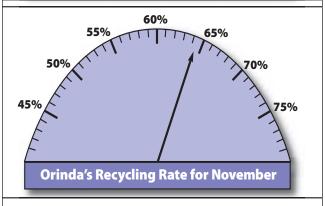
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The numbers below are provided by the Central Costa County Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA) and will be included in the Lamorinda Weekly on an ongoing basis when available.

November 2011







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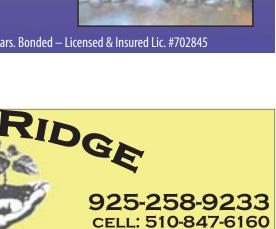
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Public Gardens:

Arboretum at University of California, Santa Cruz

1156 High Street Santa Cruz, Ca. 95064 831-427-2998 www.arboretum.ucsc.edu Open Year Round. Fee.

Ruth Bancroft Gardens

1552 Bancroft Rd. Walnut Creek, Ca. 94598 925-944-9352 www.ruthbancroftgarden.org Open Year Round. Fee.

Berkeley Rose Garden Department of Parks and Recreation

2180 Milvia Street Berkeley, Ca. 94704 510-981-6700 www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/parks Open Year Round. Free.

Cooper Molera Historic Garden

525 Polk Street Monterey, Ca. 93940 831-649-7111 www.parks.ca.gov/mshp Open Year Round. Free.

Elizabeth Gamble Garden

1431 Waverly Street Palo Alto, Ca. 94301 650-329-1356 www.gamblegarden.org Open Year Round. Free.

Filoli (I shot the movie, Heaven Can Wait, here. Three months of exquisitely manicured horticultural perfection!) 86 Canada Rd. Woodside, Ca. 94062 650-364-8300 www.filoli.org Seasonal. Fee.

Gardens at Lakeside Park

666 Bellevue Ave. Oakland, Ca. 94610 510-339-2818 Open Year Round. Free.

Gerda Isenberg Native Plant Garden

Yerba Buena Nursery]19500 Skyline Blvd. Woodside, Ca. 94062 650-851-1668 www.yerbabuenanursery.com Open Year Round. Free.

Japanese Tea Gardens

75 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr. San Francisco, Ca. 94118 415-752-1171 www.japaneseteagardensf.com Open Year Round. Fee.

Luther Burbank Home & Gardens

Santa Rosa Ave. at Sonoma Ave. PO Box 1678 Santa Rosa, Ca. 95402 707-524-5445 www.lutherburbank.org Open Year Round. Free.

Markham Regional Arboretum Society

1202 La Vista Ct. Concord, Ca. 94521 925-681-2968 www.markhamarboretum.org Open Year Round. Free.

Matanzas Creek Winery

6097 Bennett Valley Rd. Santa Rosa, Ca. 95404 800-590-6464 www.matanzascreek.com Open Year Round. Free.

Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens

18220 N. Hwy. 1 Fort Bragg, Ca. 95437 707-964-4352 www.gardenbythesea.org Open Year Round. Fee.

Niles Rose Garden

36501 Niles Blvd. Fremont, Ca. 94536 510-792-2923 Open Year Round. Free.

San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum Golden Gate Park

9th Ave. & Lincoln Way San Francisco, Ca. 94122 415-661-1316 www.sfbotanicalgarden.org Open Year Round. Free

Shinn Historical Park & Arboretum

1251 Peralta Blvd. Fremont, Ca. 95636 510-656-7702 Open Year Round. Free.

University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley

200 Centennial Dr. #5045 Berkeley, Ca. 94720 510-643-2755 www.botanicalgarden.ber keley.edu

Open Year Round. Free.

If you enjoy garden shows, these are the three upcoming major exhibitions in three states:

Northwest Flower & Garden Show, "A Floral Symphony", Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, Wash., February 8–12. www.gardenshow.com

Portland Yard, Garden & Patio Show, Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Ore., February 17–19, 2012, www.ygpshow.com

San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, "Gardens for a Green Earth", San Mateo Event Center, San Mateo, Calif., March 21–25, 2012, www.sfgardenshow.com



Pink Lantern lights up a wintery day in the Strybing Arboretum.



Seaside succulents.



Page:

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for February

"I've had enough of gardening-I'm just about ready to throw in the trowel." Anonymous

If you think you are done with garden chores because it's winter, think again! Besides perusing the seed catalogues and reading home improvement magazines, pruning takes center stage this month in the "to do" list. Because of last month's warm weather, roses, fruit trees, and vines may have been given a short reprieve. Get out there now and take care of business. Save a rose stem or two for your Valentine and give the rest of the canes to friends. My rose canes will be available to you for free beginning February 6th. Email me, Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com for details.

- BEAT the winter doldrums by forcing bulbs indoors. All you need is a sunny window, a jar, water, and bulbs. Try Paperwhite Narcissus, Amaryllis, and Lily of the Valley
- RELIEVE sunburn by cutting a tomato in half and rubbing the tomato on the burn. Allow the juices to dry.
- STOP bleeding on your hands or arms after pruning those rose bushes by saving teabags. Place the cool teabags on the cuts and they'll heal swiftly.

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- POWER up your palate by planting heart smart greens such as kale, collard, and mustard for super sources of fiber, phytonutrients, electrolytes, and antioxidants.
- RAISE your happiness quotient by placing a bouquet of blooms by your bed to boost your optimism and enthusiasm.
- MIX perennials into bulb beds for longer lasting splashes of color. Fern and hosta are excellent companions as filler foliage.
- PICK UP a Rainforest Ecological Sprinkler which breaks-up water droplets to improve delivery of water to the root zone, preventing pooling and running off. Lowers water consumption and covers up to 2000 feet with an adjustable spray.
- LEAVE moles alone. Although their runs may be unsightly for a short period, moles are meat eaters and not interested in your plants. They actually munch on snail larvae, harmful insects, and grubs so think of them as garden helpers.
- OCCUPY a green philosophy and plant a new cultivar, perhaps an impressively colored Echinacea "Solar Flair" or the Korean ground cover fern, "Sohuksan."
- REFRAIN from dressing broken limbs or injuries on trees. Wound wood will develop on trees to protect them. By putting a commercial salve on the damaged tissue, you may be inviting infections and pests.
- TAKE a trip to a botanical garden, public garden, flower show, or arboretum for inspiration, entertainment, and family fun.
- MOVE your backside off the couch and into the backyard.
- DON'T depend on the groundhogs to determine an early spring. When male groundhogs awake from hibernation they are not looking for their shadows but for females. They are the original Romeos!
- TRANSPLANT deciduous shrubs before the buds swell.
- APPLY final application of dormant spray to fruit trees.
- TILL your vegetable garden now to break up clods and help eliminate weeds.
- FEED houseplants when you notice signs of new leaf growth.
- PLANT strawberries.

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

- ADD curled parsley and garlic chives to a bed near your kitchen for all year beauty and culinary flavoring.
- TURN your compost pile.
- FEED the birds to keep them attached to your garden. Remove old nests as most avian fellows prefer to build new houses each year.
- CLEAN and sharpen your tools in preparation for spring.
- SAY "I Love You" with a colorful bouquet, a potted orchid, or a spray of fragrant posies. Flowers and amour go together.

My daffodils began blooming on January 6th and the jonquils are at their peak right now. Spring is just around the corner. This month I salute groundhogs and Cupids. Happy Valentine's Day. Let your arrows fly.

Happy Gardening to You!

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My virtual door is always open. I am available as a speaker and consultant. Feel free to contact me.





Lamorinda's Leading Independent Real Estate Firm.



106 Scenic Drive

Special ranch w/charming appeal for comfortable living. Hdwd flrs, beamed LR ceiling, big windows & sliders to outdoors. 3bd/2ba main house w/bonus inlaw w/kit, bath & privacy

Offered at \$859,000



105 Amber Valley Drive

Fabulous 4bd/3ba home in Orinda Downs. Move right in! Lovely, spacious home with 2 family rooms, master bedroom with office, all on 1.1 acre

Offered at \$1,595,000



20 Monterey Terrace

Architectural Digest worthy, 5000+ sf showplace home w/ stunning kit, fab. mstr suite, 2 FR's + sep. apt. Exclusive close-in cul de sac. Beaut. priv. 3/4 acre setting w/ lovely views

Offered at \$1,899,000

Offered at \$450,000

Offered at \$869,000



65 La Espiral

LAFAYETTE

Villa Romantica! One of OCC's finest homes. 4349 sf, 4bd/4ba on .69 ac knoll setting w/lvl lawn, saltwater pool, patios/terraces. Incredible attn to detail, numerous upper-end amenities.

Offered at \$2,595,000



101 Brookline Street

Detached spacious 2bd/2bath + ofc in MCC. Wimbledon model, large bedrooms, vaulted ceilings. Great views from top of the hill. Flat yd in back, potential patio, dog run, etc.

Offered at \$695,000



1825 St. Andrews Drive

Stylishly updated Sequoyah detached 4bd/2.5 MCC home of 3424 sq. ft. Spacious kitchen/family rm combo. French drs open to courtyard, plenty of storage, striking views

Offered at \$979,000

Offered at \$719,000



945 Mt. View Drive

Charm abounds in this 867 sf cutie on lvl lot nr Lafavette Village conveniences, 1bd/1ba w/exceptional curb appeal. Attn to detail thruout, Fr drs to gardens & decks. Sep artist studio.



Delightful 3bd/2ba 1204 sf hm at end of lane in beautiful oak tree setting. Updated kitchen & baths, spacious deck & patio, skylights, tranquil setting yet

Offered at \$549,000



3376 Ridge Road

Affordable 4bd detached home in the popular Trail neighborhood surrounded by heritage oaks - truly a beautiful, natural setting. Tons of recent improvements made to this charming home.

Offered at \$649,000



960 Hawthorne Drive

Trad 3bd/2ba hm in trail neighborhood. Hdwd flrs, Fr doors, wood windows, lovely deck for entertaining. Flat vard w/lawn & views. Nr K-8 schls, trail, shopping, restaurants & library.

3398 Ridge Road

Special Lafayette Trail 4bd/3ba home nestled among oaks with views of hills on .29 acre. Easy walk to downtown, shopping, restaurants & 9 yrs. of schools. Backs to bike trail.

3286 Sweet Drive

Lovely 3150 sf home, flex flr plan, updated thruout, granite kitchen. Sweeping views, 2 mstr bedrooms plus 2 more bedrooms & 4 baths in Burton Valley. Guest set-up w/separate entry.

3819 Palo Alto Drive

Beautifully updated sgl lvl 3bd/4ba home on .75 ac in great Happy Valley neighborhood. Walls of glass, 11 skylights, lovely pvt yard w/pool & spa. Views of surrounding hills & nr downtown Laf.

Offered at \$1,499,000

Offered at \$875,000



2600 Tice Creek Circle #2

Located right on the Golf Course, this 2bd/1.5ba home has a beautiful remodeled kitchen, plantation shutters, crown mouldings and inside laundry. Easy walk to new restaurant!

Offered at \$239,000

THE VILLAGE **ASSOCIATES:**

Ashley Battersby

Patricia Battersby Ioan Cleveland Joan Eggers Linda Ehrich **Ioan Evans** Linda S Friedman Marianne Greene Pamela Halloran Dexter Honens II **Debbie Iohnston** Hal Kaufman Margot Kaufman Susan Zeh Layng Art Lehman Charles Levine **April Matthews** Karen Murphy Ben Olsen Sue Olsen **Kurt Piper** Tara Rochlin **Judy Schoenrock** Ann Sharf Steve Smith Jeff Snell Lynda Snell Clark Thompson Ignacio Vega Terri Bates Walker Ann Ward Dan Weil Margaret Zucker

1847 Reliez Valley Road

Newly renovated w/high style & fully updated amenities & quality features. Lg new Chef's kitchen w/adj fam rm & formal living/dining rms + stylish master suite. Lots of bedrooms, new baths.

Offered at \$999,000

1258 Panorama Drive

Totally charming trad ranch hm on most coveeted street in Lafayette! Quiet cul de sac 1 blk to Happy Valley Elem. Updated thruout w/vaulted ceiling,

Offered at \$1,189,000

Visit www.villageassociates.com

to see our weekly online previews updated every Wednesday and Friday by noon.

Sunday Open House Click on

Friday after 5 PM for Open House listings





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