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Photo Rick Konlon, LightPath Photography

Orinda's Volunteer Band Keeps on Marching

By Andrea A. Firth

While there may not be 76 trombones at the lead with 110 coronets close at hand (remember Professor Harold Hill's fictitious band in *The Music Man*), Orinda resident and jazz trumpeter Mo Levich expects over 100 musicians to participate in the Orinda Volunteer Marching Band in the upcoming July 4th parade, and he is hoping to have even more.

"Anyone with an instrument is welcome to play at any level of musicianship," says an enthusiastic Levich, who has played in the July 4th

marching band since its inception 26 years ago. "If you can play one note, that is a note we did not have before," he adds.

The volunteer band is the brainchild of former Orinda Mayor Bobbi Landers who was determined to have a marching band as part of the city's original July 4th parade back in 1983. Faced with the dilemma that schools no longer had marching bands due to the funding cuts associated with the passage of Proposition 13, the "never-say never" Landers was forced to look elsewhere. She just

said 'we're gonna start one,' explains Levich, and so the Orinda Volunteer Marching Band was born.

Musicians as young as eight to as young as 88 join the march each Independence Day playing patriotic favorites on a range of instruments including trumpets, saxophones, trombones, tubas, and drums. The band's repertoire includes the John Phillips Sousa classic *Stars and Stripes Forever* and the anthems from each of the armed forces.

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The Parental Shift: When parents can no longer live independently

By Jennifer Wake



Jim Burris traded his bike for an electric scooter
 Photo Wendy Scheck

One of the most difficult times in a child's life can be when a parent can no longer care for themselves. Not only are adult children faced with the task of finding care for elderly parents, handling finances, and dealing with existing housing, but they must start an awkward conversation that can shift the parent/child role.

Anne Rosenthal, a geriatric care manager at Eldercare Services, says to try to frame your discussions in a caring way, underscoring your concern for a parent, mentioning a problem you have noticed, and how your discussion is a way for you to gain peace of mind and to keep your parent safe.

Often adult children are alerted that there might be a problem when small changes start happening.

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Where Are They Now?

By Sophie Braccini

You read about their first steps in the Lamorinda Weekly. You may already be one of their customers. How are the new businesses that opened in Lamorinda over the last two and a half years doing? Research by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics suggests that most failures of American start-ups occur in the first two years of their existence; across sectors, one third disappear during that period. Thanks to Lamorinda residents and the 'shop local' campaigns, Try Lafayette First, Shop Moraga First and Shop Orinda, most of our new businesses have survived their infancy.

One of the most comprehensive commercial developments of recent years is the Lafayette Mercantile on Mount Diablo Boule-

vard. Craig Semmelmeier, Founder and Principal of Main Street Property Services, has been instrumental in finding appropriate tenants. "We have one space remaining unrented because we are looking for a very specific business to put there," says Semmelmeier. "Cortese Investment (the developer) is holding on to its strategy to have a bakery-café there, to create the right mix of businesses." Semmelmeier, who is now negotiating with an un-named 'perfect match,' is following the performance of the Mercantile's businesses.

"Individual store sales are confidential," says Semmelmeier, but his point of view is that they are doing well considering the economic circumstances.

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Moraga Native, MOFD Firefighter ...

By Lucy Amaral



Chris Davies, a Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) firefighter didn't plan on being a hero. He just wanted to make it to the CPR class he was scheduled to teach. The fates, however, had a different idea on the morning of April 4.

Walking out of his house in Concord a little after 6 a.m., Davies heard a distinctive crackling noise, ...
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Little League Teams Battle for Championship

Submitted by Todd Bequette



The Angels pitchers continued their post season dominance as they gave up only 2 hits and struck out 13 to earn the right to represent Lafayette Little League in the District 4 Tournament of Champions. The Angels jumped out to a 2-0 lead on a single by Tommy Nimura, a double by Max Flower and a two-out double to the fence by Brian Stone.
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