Young Soldier Welcomed Home from Afghanistan

By Cathy Tyson

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Orinda Property Tax Revenues Down 3%

By Andrea A. Firth

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...continued on page A6

Orinda Books

Local Authors Fill Shelves at Orinda Books

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7TH ANNUAL SUMMER WINE FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2011

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2011
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A U sing biodegradable bags, a project that should upgrade sidewalks opened June 22 – the project had been bumped back to the fall after staff analyzed bid proposals. Engineering Services Manager Tony Sire recommended to the City Council to pursue all of the bids received thus far and to start the process all over again in the fall anticipating lower job costs and finding a contractor that meets federal minority- and business-participation goals.

Originally $350,000 was saved from the Downtown Streetlight Replacement Reserve to fix up the south side of Mt. Diablo Boulevard from the Round-Up Saloon to the Circle of Trees. Unfortunately, that still leaves $300 damage and stealing a black mini-van on a vehicle parked in a Mt. Diablo Blvd parking lot, among $350 damage and stealing a black backpack. The backpack was later retrieved to the victim, containing contents.

The thefts, located on the south side of Mt. Diablo Boulevard from the Round-Up Saloon to the Circle of Trees, was one of six crimes that occurred in the area on June 22 — the project has been bumped back to the fall after staff analyzed bid proposals. The project was recommended to the City Council to pursue all of the bids received thus far and to start the process all over again in the fall anticipating lower job costs and finding a contractor that meets federal minority- and business-participation goals.

A gardening truck was involved in an accident that sent the suspect to the hospital. Apparently the suspect was not playing Santa to her clause, according to a crime report.

A female suspect, blonde hair and number.

Someone shattered the front window on a vehicle parked in a Mt. Diablo Blvd parking lot, among $350 damage and stealing a black backpack. The backpack was later retrieved to the victim, containing contents.

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“Becoming a children’s librarian is the best job in the world, and I can’t wait to have a theme to plan everything around! How much I love being here!” said new Youth Services Librarian Jenna Skinner. Before moving on to details of her new job, I have to reach back back, “she’s my ambassador.” Her well-behaved and non-threatening behavior helps little ones feel more comfortable during story time.

With a gentle manner, countenance, and a pitch perfect “mushy” voice Skinner is the newest addition to the Lafayette Library and Learning Center staff. She replaces popular kids’ librarian Misty Donna who retired after sixteen years to pursue graduate studies.

“We feel so fortunate to have Jenna join our library team, especially on the heels of the fabulous Miss Donna,” said Susan Weaver, Senior Community Library Manager. “Jenna is so creative, knowledgeable and passionate about reading and children, that even in the short time she’s been with us, she’s brought so much to our story times and programs.”

Skinner is immersed within enthusiasm of kids for their summer reading programs. They come each week to put their progress in, to enter to win a set of Lego books, and to go through the requirements. Teachers like to take time out of their day. Their reading habits have a lot to be proud of!”

Another highlight of the job is story time, “My favorite time of the day, I try to make it age appropriate and have a theme – usually it was three different books about animals.”

Back to back story times, on Mondays and Thursdays, accommodate an ever-growing group of participants, keeping her plenty busy. In addition to stories read aloud, there are songs and rhymes, “Mother Goose and rhymes 11:30.” For this group, “Mama Jennie,” focuses on kindergarten readiness things like counting, reading and counting.”

From her early childhood days in southern California, Skinner has always been a big fan of the library, “My parents are big readers.” Both of them are teachers – her father is a college professor and her mother teaches middle school.

For the past dozen years she’s lived in northern California, getting her Bachelor’s degree from San Francisco State and a Master’s in Library Science from San Jose State University. The specialized SJSU program focuses on developing early literacy skills like narration, vocabulary and sound recognition. “It’s all about preparing the kids to read,” said Skinner.

Although she just started at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center in mid-June, she’s already getting to know quite a few of the regular pre-K participants and hopes that she will be the Youth Services Librarian in Oaks.

A fun group club for tweens – fourth through sixth graders – is on the drawing boards. Skinner is hoping to expand story times to include this group too. The Lafayette Library and Learning Center has so much to offer to tweens who grows-ups, with artistic and conditioning and a healthy policy, (check it out the swimming pool at Lafayette Cafe open door), even an adult summer reading program with prose, what’s not to like?”
A Town Muffles the Sound of Music while its neighbors are satisfied. Jill Keimach indicated that the exemption was being rescinded from the ordinance, “The Town is subject to the same regulation as everyone else—it could not exempt itself from its recent court decision served to inform the Town of Moraga that it could not exempt itself from its own sound standards,” says the outspoken gentleman, Parks and Recreation Director. “We have worked with a sound specialist to make sure that the music can be heard loud and clear in the park, but stays there,” says Jay Ingram, Parks and Recreation Director. Five sound absorbing, 7x4 foot panels behind the performers, speakers are set no more than 105 inches from the ground and are angled so the sound goes toward the hill, not the sky; one of the two subwoofers (the loudspeaker that produces very low bass frequencies, the ‘thump-thump-deep’ vibration) was removed and the other one is set in front of the stage; the grass. Ingram adds that a sound technician is hired to monitor the sound throughout the summer. “We can still hear when the concert are playing,” says Edwards, “but it is not a problem anymore.”

Town Council

Wednesday, August 24, 7:00 pm
The concerts stay in the park, no complaints; the same sound standard we do, and we need a document submitted by their property owner Kimco

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New retailer coming to Rheem Center

Sale of the Sound of Music

A recent court decision served to inform the Town of Moraga that it could not exempt itself from its own sound standards. Town Manager Jill Keimach indicated that the exemption was being rescinded from the ordinance, “The Town is subject to the same regulation as everyone else—it could not exempt itself from its recent court decision served to inform the Town of Moraga that it could not exempt itself from its own sound standards,” says the outspoken gentleman, Parks and Recreation Director. “We have worked with a sound specialist to make sure that the music can be heard loud and clear in the park, but stays there,” says Jay Ingram, Parks and Recreation Director. Five sound absorbing, 7x4 foot panels behind the performers, speakers are set no more than 105 inches from the ground and are angled so the sound goes toward the hill, not the sky; one of the two subwoofers (the loudspeaker that produces very low bass frequencies, the ‘thump-thump-deep’ vibration) was removed and the other one is set in front of the stage; the grass. Ingram adds that a sound technician is hired to monitor the sound throughout the summer. “We can still hear when the concert are playing,” says Edwards, “but it is not a problem anymore.”

The Moraga resident is still concerned about square footage of retail space between the Moraga Art Gallery and Pio Lively Noodle. This store will be the 4th produce market owned by the Martinez family; their stores also sell bread, dairy products, and meat. The Martinez’s Walnut Creek store does not sell organic produce. The owners could not be reached for an interview, but Keimach indicated that because they are a family-owned company they will work to meet the needs of the community. The good news for the Rheem Center does not stop there. The Town approved an application for a new Indian restaurant that will be located next to TJ Maxx; negotiations are still underway with Kimco. A former yoghurt shop has also been proposed.
By Sophie Braccini

Balancing Act for a Chamber

E ven in a town as young as Moraga, there are historical stories to be told. The Hacienda de las Flores is one of those places where history meets romance and the past comes to life. The Hacienda was built in 1929 by Donald Khram, son of the pres- ident of Standard Oil Company of California. When the Town pur- chased the Hacienda in 1973, for $43,750, it came with archives—inci-uding a pictorial history of the land and the building—dating back to 1857, when Jose Hall Williamson bought the land. As soon as she took office, she had written a history of the property. The pictures are mounted in six groups of a few pictures each and the plaque below tells the story. They are hung on a wall in the main corridor of the Hacienda de las Flo- res, which is located at 2104 Don- ald Drive in Moraga. The images, tell of hard working pioneers as well as elegant parties in the mans- ion of an oil magnate. The display is open to the public.

For information about the Mor- aga Historical Society go to http://www.moragahistory.org

Photo Sophie Braccini

Photo Sophie Braccini

Historical Society Tells Hacienda’s Story with Pictures

By Sophie Braccini

The Hacienda was purchased by the Historical Society in 2000.
The display of pictures and plaques shown in the article
was the result of the historical research and the display
that the Historical Society co-archivist Mary
Williams and Recording Secretary Susan Sperry,
who turned to the Moraga Historical Society for help.

“It was decided to frame the pic-
tures and do the research for the plaques that explain the history of the property,” says Historical Society Recording Secretary Susan Sperry.

“The Hacienda was built in 1929 and the building going back to 1857, when Jose Hall Williamson bought the land and the building,” says Historical Society co-archivist Mary Williams. “We decided to frame the pictures and to do the research for the plaques that explain the history of the property,” she said.

“ariously, if the money is not spent for that type of use, it is lost.”

The project is considered cost-ef-
ficient at this time, since remodeling and renovation activities are getting un- derway at the building; the addition of a large room, which could function as a Council Chamber and site for other community meetings, would add about $13 of the over-all cost that is estimated at roughly $1.5 mil-

January 2011 LAMORINDA WEEKLY  Page 8 256.285.1111   www.lamorinda weekly.com
Eden Presents Revised Senior Housing Plans to Orinda Community

A magician works his magic on Theater Square just outside the Republic of Cake last week. HDC is hosting a fun activity for kids and parents every Wednesday at 3 p.m. through the summer months. Photo A. Schick

Dear Mary,

As you may know, the City’s current budget was approved on a projection of flat property tax growth, says City Manager James Kramer. “Based on earlier communications with the Assess- or’s office and tracking trends, we felt that we were being con servative.” At this point she does not have a complete explanation for why Orinda’s property tax revenue is down more than neighboring Lafayette, which is down 7%, and Moraga, which is up 2%. The negative 3% is not totally indicative of what is going on well with real estate in Orinda,” says County Assessor Gina Kramer. The drop reflects the change in assessed values in new construction, with change of ownership, or temporary reductions, he explains. “I believe Orinda’s real estate market is healthy, probably one of the healthiest in the county,” Kramer adds.

As seen in Orinda…

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By Lou Fancher

A rash of burglaries in Orinda has Police Chief Jeffery Jennings and his department urging the community to stay on the alert.

“Since the 1990s until about 2005, there was a decrease in incidence of residential burglary,” Jennings said. “Between January and June 2011, at least some 21 sets of burglars consisting of 21 people have committed 21 burglaries.”

The unusually high number of burglary-breaks between January and June 11th have occurred between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Frequently, the burglars have selected unoccupied homes in remote locations where the front doors are not visible from the street. The criminal watches residents leave their homes, or simply looks on to the house from a nearby location.

If someone answers, the burglars pretend to be delivering a package to a neighbor or feign a repair or other need. If someone gets edgy, the burglars pretend to be delivering a package to a neighbor or feign a repair or other need. If someone answers, the burglars pretend to be delivering a package to a neighbor or feign a repair or other need.

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“A citizen followed a suspicious vehicle to the Caldecott Tunnel and did not call the police department until it was too late to talk to the occupants,” Jennings said. “We did not get some valuable information but it would have been nice to have a conversation and identify these people.”

The Orinda police department requested additional officers to assist with the increased number of burglaries in the city.

Although the crisis is not over, by participating in the Burglary Prevention Audit to learn how to make their homes less attractive to thieves.

Several immediate steps residents can take to secure their homes:

• Simple dead bolt locks on all exterior doors.

• Make sure the street address is visible from the street.

• Remotes and yard lights from the front of the house.

• Ensure that everyone with access to your home knows how to operate the alarm system properly.

• If they don’t look or feel right,” Jennings warned that these opportunities we need everyone to re-

• Insure that everyone with access to your specific property, contact Frank today!

• The Audible alarm will scare them off.

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Young Soldier Welcomed Home from Afghanistan

Patriotism was in the air as one of the many Blue Star Moms in attendance sang the Star Spangled Banner to get the party started.

Polse, a graduate of Acalanes High School, was humbled and overwhelmed. He joined the Navy after graduating from Columbia Community College in Sonora with a certificate in Fire Sciences. After stints at Camp Pendleton for corpsman training, and the China Lake Weapons Center, he was able to attach to the Marines Third Division in Kanehoe Bay, Hawaii. Deployed in November 2010 to Kandahar Province in Afghanistan, his unit was assigned embedded troop training at a forward operating base with eight Marines and 30 Afghan Nationals. Rendering emergency medical treatment in a combat zone and training the Afghans with the help of an interpreter is not easy.

Lafayette’s mayor was out of town, but former mayor and current city council member Brandt Anderson had a special proclamation for Polse from the City honoring his service. He described Polse as modest, compassionate, accomplished and brave. Polse was recognized and thanked by a representative from the County Board of Supervisors; even BART Board Member Gail Murray’s office had an envelope full of complimentary BART tickets to use while he’s home. The presenter joked that, “If he can handle Afghanistan, surely he can handle local mass transit.”

In a poignant moment, a gentleman from the Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley said, “We wanted to make sure that you get the welcome home that we never did.”

Would you like to Hear Better?

Oxinda resident Al Koorji of Lamorinda Hearing Center has been quietly helping Lamorinda hear better for the last 10 years. Al is inviting you to a complimentary:

- Consultation
- Hearing evaluation
- 30 day trial on a hearing aid - no obligation
- Hearing aid cleaning & repair

Prepare to hear better. Call Today! 925-254-6960
Eden Presents Revised Senior Housing Plans to Orinda Community

...continued from page A6

Lingering Concerns

While the majority of Orinda residents were pleased with the redesigned plans, some raised new concerns and ideas for improvement – one resident suggested a stop sign be installed at the intersection between Orinda Way and Irwin Way, and others were concerned about noise from community events such as summer concerts in the park. These issues may be addressed at the upcoming Planning Commission meeting.

The Eden Housing representatives also clarified several issues raised by Orinda residents. While there will be handicap-access from the new parking lot to the senior housing development, Orinda Way and Community Park, there will not be a route between Orinda Senior Village and the new housing development. Additionally, people from Orinda will not be professionally chosen to receive rooms in the new development; all residents must meet income requirements. Finally, several community members expressed concern regarding Eden Housing’s financial stability. Both Karp and Thatch expressed confidence in the company’s stability. “[Eden Housing] is one of the strongest non-profits in the state,” Karp stated. “It consistently secures the necessary funding for its projects.”

Looking Forward

Eden Housing has addressed the concerns relating to the appearance of the proposed housing development at 2 Irwin Way. “They have listened from last time,” said Steve Anderson, a five-year Orinda resident. “They have responded, and I’m very pleased to see the response. I can actually support this project now.”

Eden Housing will present the redesign to the Planning Commission on July 26th at 7:00 p.m.

Are you civic minded?

Lamorinda Weekly is looking for a Moraga or Orinda Town/City Reporter

Description: Attend approximately 3-4 city meetings per month in the town assigned. Build relationships with city officials and community leaders. Write a minimum of 2 articles per week covering subjects such as decisions made at City Council meetings or Planning Commission meetings, community events, citizen profiles, police activities, or other interesting news items.

Email questions or your resume to wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
I’ve traveled to so many different places, met so many different people, and have seen so many different cultures. Each place I’ve been has taught me something new. I’ve learned that people are not that different from each other. We all want the same things, we all have the same emotions, and we all want to be happy. I’ve learned that it’s important to be open-minded and to be willing to learn from others. I’ve learned that it’s important to be respectful of others, and to be willing to listen to their perspectives. I’ve learned that it’s important to be kind to others, and to be willing to help them when they need it. I’ve learned that it’s important to be grateful for all that I have, and to be willing to give back to others. I’ve learned that it’s important to be patient, and to be willing to wait for things to happen. I’ve learned that it’s important to be optimistic, and to be willing to see the good in situations. I’ve learned that it’s important to be strong, and to be willing to stand up for what is right. I’ve learned that it’s important to be honest, and to be willing to admit my mistakes. I’ve learned that it’s important to be caring, and to be willing to show compassion for others. I’ve learned that it’s important to be persistent, and to be willing to work hard to achieve my goals. I’ve learned that it’s important to be resilient, and to be willing to bounce back from adversity. I’ve learned that it’s important to be courageous, and to be willing to take risks. I’ve learned that it’s important to be flexible, and to be willing to adapt to change. I’ve learned that it’s important to be daring, and to be willing to take chances. I’ve learned that it’s important to be creative, and to be willing to think outside the box. I’ve learned that it’s important to be resourceful, and to be willing to find solutions to problems. I’ve learned that it’s important to be innovative, and to be willing to think differently. I’ve learned that it’s important to be authentic, and to be willing to be true to myself. I’ve learned that it’s important to be humble, and to be willing to recognize my limitations. I’ve learned that it’s important to be grateful, and to be willing to appreciate the good things in life. I’ve learned that it’s important to be grateful, and to be willing to appreciate the good things in life. I’ve learned that it’s important to be grateful, and to be willing to appreciate the good things in life.
The Spirit of Competition Alive at 45th Annual Lafayette City Meet

By Marissa Harnett

By Marissa Harnett

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

BY MARISSA HARNETT

By Marissa Harnett

Calling All Ants

Grasshoppers Need Not Reply

Some of us play all summer. Some of us think ahead. Guess who saves on their new heating system?

Call us now for a free estimate, days, evenings or weekends. It’s time to get comfortable.

JUMBO LOANS TO $3,000,000

Interest Rate APR
5/1 ARM 3.875% 2.875% APR
7/1 ARM 4.375% 2.875% APR

Conforming to $417,000

Conforming to $729,750

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319 Diablo Rd., Ste 103, Danville, CA DRE Lic. # 01327738, NMLS#280803, Providing premier loan products and services from the most experienced and solution-oriented professionals in your community, since 1908, Home about us.

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SPORTS
LAMORINDA’S SPORTS
Orinda Bandits Win 680 Pony Tournament
Submitted by Mike HARDwick
The Bandits beat the Danville Ramrogs 8-4 in the semifinals to take on the Pleasant Hill Hawks.
Both teams scored three runs in the first inning. In the second inning, Josh Lee suffered an injury to the kidney and was taken to the emergency room. Distraught by their teammate’s injury, the Bandits gave up four runs in the third inning. However, Orinda scored again in the next two innings to take a commanding lead and eventually the game.
The Bandits finished their season with a 24-4 record.

Orinda Aquatics “Character First” Camp
Submitted by Julie CARLSON
Orinda Aquatics’ moto is “Character First” and for the first time, coach Doug and Ron Hidlay emphasized this to their student athletes at Character Camp.
Swimmers age 10 and older spent two days at practice but also working on some just to develop technique and balance; the camp spent time discussing character building, personal responsibility and perseverance.
The proceeds of the camp are being donated to CityWater, Aquatics Program
Softball Takes Second at State
Submitted by Alan GooP
The Lafayette Lightning 16U softball team took second place at the United States Specialty Sports Association State Championships in Hayward over the Fourth of July weekend. The team played at Lafayette’s Hockey Field, the local all-stars again raced to the championship title.
Orinda’s “Best” Reaches Regional Tournament
Submitted by Dennis WONG
The nine-year old were led by flame throwers Vicencio and Kyle Mizell combined to take in the tournament, including two shutouts. Matty Torres pitched three complete games for the all-stars again raced to the championship title.

Lafayette Little League All-Stars Shine
Submitted by Todd ROBETTE
The Lafayette Little League is one of the most successful programs in local softball.

Orinda 11U All-Stars
Submitted by Ron Kroichick
Moraga 11U Bronco League All-Stars team staged a spirited comeback in its way to finishing fourth in the Pony-sanctioned tournament July 5-10 at Wagner Ranch in Orinda.
The Stars opened the tournament with a 5-2 loss to Bel Passi, the team’s eventual runner-up. Moraga scored a 2-0 lead on the first inning. Vincent Minnichitch pitched four-plus strong innings and left with the game tied 2-2. But Bel Passi scored once on its own the fifth inning and twice in the sixth inning to win.

The Stars trailed 6-1 in their next game, against Castro Valley. Moraga came up strong in the bottom of the fifth, scoring three runs to slice the deficit to 6-4. The Stars eventually scored four times, capped by Harry Carters’ RBI single and Parker Wendt’s sacrifice fly, to take an 8-4 lead.

Carter Whiting pitched the final inning to preserve Moraga’s healing 8-7 victory. The win sent the Stars into another elimination game, which they dropped to Bel Passi in the final round.

Orinda All-Stars capture the 11-year olds District 4 Championship. The team won all of its four tournament games and outscoring opponents 28-3. In the title game, Moraga’s Larry Campbell threw a no-hitter and drove in both of his team’s runs to earn the MVP award.

The Lafayette Lightning 16U softball team took second place at the United States Specialty Sports Association State Championships in Hayward over the Fourth of July weekend. The team played at Lafayette’s Hockey Field, the local all-stars again raced to the championship title.

Lafayette’s Lightning 16U All-Stars won nine-of-11 on its way to competing for championships in two tournaments. At the Tassajara Valley Tournament in Danville, the Lafayette boys rallied off a first-strike victory over Concord American League. Kyle Murph, first hit a double into the gap and Paul Gunalde roped a bases-clearing triple.

The Lafayette Lightning 16U All-Stars won nine-of-11 on its way to competing for championships in two tournaments. At the Tassajara Valley Tournament in Danville, the Lafayette boys rallied off a first-strike victory over Concord American League. Kyle Murph, first hit a double into the gap and Paul Gunalde roped a bases-clearing triple.

The six-year-old Beach Lawn Bowls tournament was held at Bowls Park in Orinda.

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The Lafayette Lightning 16U All-Stars

Girls played eight games in three days to make its finals. The team won the Son Jose Aces, Kate Chase and Olivia Ramirez earned All-Tournament MVP honors in the losing effort.
The nine-year old were led by flame throwers Vicencio and Kyle Mizell combined to take in the tournament, including two shutouts. Matty Torres pitched three complete games for the all-stars again raced to the championship title.

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Boys’ Volleyball Team Ranked Third in Nation
Submitted by Rich Jones

The Cougars boast two state championship teams in girls’ cross country and girls’ volleyball, making Campolindo only school to capture two girls’ state titles. Junior Carrie Verdon, and her 21- second victory, helped the Cougars take the title by almost two-minutes. Verdon raced into the top ten at Nationals and leading her team to yet another state championship. Boys’ cross country finished second in the NCS finals and fourth in the state championships. Led by Jon- and Thomas Joyce, the team finished for Camp, the Cougars should be ready for the 2011 season. The girls’ volleyball team upset Cathedral Catholic (San Diego) to capture the state championship three games to two. Calhoun had three consecutive years victory in the state championships, but Campolindo remained unbeaten. Some little Mary Viscuso won the Finals MVP. With half the team graduating, the Cougars will be balanced with fresh faces and experienced players when the season starts this fall. The basketball team also garnered top honors for the Cougars. Campolindo secured a second straight CIF North Coast Section champi- onship with a win over More Butte Stephens and junior pitcher James Marcel, the Cougars should be ready to fight for a third straight final-four appearance.

Girls’ basketball came a 25-second season and snatched the Northern Re- gion D III semi-finals before losing to San Ramon by five points. Mary Orders, women’s two mile winner, celebrates with Bradley Miller, men’s two mile winner, and other winners at the national championships. The Lamorinda United U13 soccer club took first place in the NCS final Semi-Finals. They finished with a 6-1-2 record to take the top spot at Nationals, and second place at the Pacific Rim Academy Boys’ 14s earned the bronze medal as the third place team at the 2011 Pac Rim tournament. They entered the tournament as the #5 ranked team in the US and the top ranked Boys’ 14s team in Puerto Rico by beating West Allis Lightening (Milwaukee) in three games to two. Cathedral had three consecutive years victory in the state championships, but Campolindo remained unbeaten. Some little Mary Viscuso won the Finals MVP. With half the team graduating, the Cougars will be balanced with fresh faces and experienced players when the season starts this fall. The basketball team also garnered top honors for the Cougars. Campolindo secured a second straight CIF North Coast Section champi- onship with a win over More Butte Stephens and junior pitcher James Marcel, the Cougars should be ready to fight for a third straight final-four appearance.

Mary Orders, women’s two mile winner, celebrates with Bradley Miller, men’s two mile winner, and other winners.

Photo Mark Orders

Four Mile Run Results:
Women—
1. Harlan Lopez, Walnut Creek, 27:11.66
2. Alison Zamanian, Orinda, 28:20.24
3. Priscilla Bayley, Lafayette, 34:37.79

Men—
1. Tyler Hanson, Orinda, 28:32.29
2. Tony Orson, Orinda, 27:02.08
3. Tyler Harrison, Orinda, 32:29.29

Two Mile Run Results:
Women—
1. Mary Orders, Moraga, 13:14.40
2. Haley Shipway, Lafayette, 14:18.14
3. Liz Churchman, Oakland, 14:28.74

Men—
1. Maris Verdon, women’s two mile winner, celebrates with Bradley Miller, men’s two mile winner, and other winners at the national championships. The Lamorinda United U13 soccer club took first place in the NCS final Semi-Finals. They finished with a 6-1-2 record to take the top spot at Nationals, and second place at the Pacific Rim Academy Boys’ 14s earned the bronze medal as the third place team at the 2011 Pac Rim tournament. They entered the tournament as the #5 ranked team in the US and the top ranked Boys’ 14s team in Puerto Rico by beating West Allis Lightening (Milwaukee) in three games to two. Cathedral had three consecutive years victory in the state championships, but Campolindo remained unbeaten. Some little Mary Viscuso won the Finals MVP. With half the team graduating, the Cougars will be balanced with fresh faces and experienced players when the season starts this fall. The basketball team also garnered top honors for the Cougars. Campolindo secured a second straight CIF North Coast Section champi- onship with a win over More Butte Stephens and junior pitcher James Marcel, the Cougars should be ready to fight for a third straight final-four appearance.

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## The Spirit of Competition Alive at 45th Annual Lafayette City Meet

**continued from page B1**

### Combined Team Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Springbrook Swim Team</td>
<td>1204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafayette Moraga Youth Assoc.</td>
<td>985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rancho Colorados Swim Team</td>
<td>851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Valley Rays Swim Team</td>
<td>667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAMORINDA Moraga Pool</td>
<td>485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakwood Athletic Club</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Record Breakers

- **Sun Valley Rays Swim Team - X**: #477 Girls 7-8 100 Backstroke (26.28)
- **Lafayette Moraga Youth Assoc. - X**: #430 Boys 9-10 200 Medley Relay (1:57.67)
- **Springbrook Swim Team - X**: #435 Girls 15-18 200 Medley Relay (1:51.92)
- **Lafayette Moraga Youth Assoc. - X**: #176 Boys 15-18 200 Freestyle Relay (1:50.44)
- **Lafayette Moraga Youth Assoc. - X**: #876 Boys 9-10 100 Freestyle Relay (53.47)

### Individual High Point winners

6-8 girls
- Allie Lane, 11/12 girls, Sun Valley Rays
- Elyse Smith, 9-10 girls, LMYA
- Carlin Smith, 7-8 girls, LMHA
- Jack Wood, 6 & under boys, Springbrook
- Jackie Geannacopulos, 9-10 girls, LMYA
- Anna Lurie, 6 & under girls, Springbrook

9-10 girls
- Will McGaughey, 7 year old boys, Moraga Ranch
- Abigail Reeder, 6 & under girls, Springbrook
- Katherine Cane, 5 year old girls, Meadow
- Lauren McAninch, 5 year old girls, Orinda Country Club
- Maren McDonald, 5 year old girls, Sleepy Hollow
- Andrew Furtado, 15 year old boys, Orinda Park Pool
- Allison Stevens, 15 year old girls, Moraga Country Club
- Nina Munson, 9 year old girls, Sleepy Hollow
- Nina Erickson, 13 year old boys, Moraga Ranch
- Nicky Erickson, 13 year old girls, Moraga Ranch

11-12 girls
- Madison Stewart, 11/12 girls, Springbrook
- Samantha Moser, 11/12 girls, LMYA

13-14 girls
- Madision Tagg, 13 year old girls, Lafayette Park Pool
- Becky Jurasius, 13 year old boys, LMYA
- Allision Stevens, 13 year old girls, Moraga Country Club

15-18 girls
- Morgan Schuman, 15 year old girls, Lafayette Park Pool
- Lauren Schuman (LMYA), 15 year old girls

### Top 10 Swimmers

- Allie Lane, 11/12 girls, Sun Valley Rays
- Helen E. Quinn, 16 year old girls
- Jack Geannacopulos, 9-10 girls, LMYA
- Beck Jurasius, 9-10 boys, LMYA
- Jack Wood, 6 & under boys, Springbrook
- Chloe Goddard, 8 year old girl, Lafayette Moraga Youth Assoc. - A
- Russel Morris, 11/12 boys, Rancho Colorados
- Reider Martinsen & Jack Larsen (LMYA), Outstanding Boys Relay (Dual Record Breakers), LMYA 9-10 Boys, Christopher Rogers, Beck Jurasius, Reider Jurasius & Jack Lassen
- Katherine Cane (Meadow), 5-7.
- Oakwood Athletic Club 44

### Combined Team Scores

1. Springbrook Swim Team 1204
2. Lafayette Moraga Youth Assoc. 985
3. Rancho Colorados Swim Team 851
4. Sun Valley Rays Swim Team 667
5. LAMORINDA Moraga Pool 485
6. Oakwood Athletic Club 44

### The 36th Annual Bottoms Up swim meet, hosted by Moraga Pool featured tight races, photo finishes, and a lot of smiles. This event was held Sunday, July 17 at the Soda Center at Campolindo High School, and featured all the teams in the Orinda/Moraga Pool Association (OMPA).

Unlike all swim meets where age group swimmers are placed together every other year, Bottoms Up features only the bottom of each age group swimming against the same. There were more than 750 swimmers participating this year. Only 100 points separated first to third place this year. Sleepy Hollow Swim Team came in first with a total of 731 team points, followed by Orinda County Club, and third place went to Moraga Ranch Swim Teams.

Several records were broken and numerous coaches and swimmers exulted as they checked the scoreboard to discover they qualified for the year and County Championships in August.

“The ties for high point winners and the records that were broken made the meet very intense,” said MVP Co-Head Coach Trevor Rose. “This just illustrates the competitive level of our league, even though this meet was exclusive to the bottom of each age group.”

Lafayette Moraga Youth Assoc. completed for top individual honors and their efforts earned them high point winners.
Artistic Student Value by Design: III. Conservatories:

Majors are in the arts. Schools: Freestanding, usually discipline or even switch majors.

A broad-based liberal arts curriculum experience. The student engages in a variety of courses in English, math and sciences to prepare for the rigors of completing a VPA degree path involves a rigorous academic program's reach (Does the program sponsor a VPA college fair each year?) Other Important Factors to Consider:

1. Student to teacher ratio
2. Program reputation (Are accepted students prepared to succeed in that program? Is there a wide range of outcomes over the past decade? Is the quality of mentorship consistent?)
3. Facilities (Are the facilities safe, clean, and well maintained?)
4. Admission.

A good fit for the student is when the student identifies a program that fits his or her needs. Important to consider when attending a college:

•  Student to teacher ratio
•  Program's reach (Does the program have a diverse student body? Is the program accessible to low-income students?)
•  Availability of internships (To what extent can students practice art, build a network, create a portfolio, perform?)
•  Location (opportunities to pursue internships, scholarships, and internships are important to students who are creative, willing to work hard, and show the potential to be successful.)

V. Vocational/Technical Schools:

While some art students may wish to pursue a VPA degree after graduation, they should consider attending a technical school to develop their skills and gain experience. Students should consider:

•  Location (opportunities to pursue internships, scholarships, and internships)
•  Program reputation (Are accepted students prepared to succeed in that program? Is there a wide range of outcomes over the past decade? Is the quality of mentorship consistent?)

Students may also wish to consider attending a vocational school for students who are interested in learning a trade or profession. These schools offer programs in a variety of fields, including automotive technology, culinary arts, and fashion design.

Extracurricular Activities

In a college admissions essay, students should demonstrate their personal characteristics and interests. Students should include:

•  Extracurricular activities
•  Awards and honors
•  Volunteering experience

The more students are involved in extracurricular activities, the more likely they are to receive financial aid. Students should also be involved in community service and volunteer work. Students should also consider:

•  Leadership roles
•  Internships
•  Work experience

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•  Work experience

Senior Spends Summer under the Hood Submitted by Jonathan Lance

N Nick Holbrook, soon-to-be senior at Campolindo, has spent his summer working at an intern at Nick’s Mercedes Service repair shop in Lafayette. Having grown up in the ROP Advanced Automotive Technology course at Campolindo, Holbrook was able to secure the ROP internship. Holbrook worked as a technician with transmission bands, help keep cars running. He replaced Mercedes models from as old as 1980 and as recent as 2007. Holbrook is nearing a great time. “I have been learning a lot this summer.” His automotive teacher at Campolindo, Steve Bone, was instrumental in helping him find the internship. Bone called Nick’s Mercedes on Holbrook’s behalf and arranged the ROP internship. Holbrook worked as a Technician, mixing different chemicals to make different chemicals. Bone told Holbrook he was a strong student. “He is eager to learn and always willing to give a hand to anyone working on his car.”

Nick Wilhelm, proprietor of Nick’s Mercedes, ran the shop and kept the customers happy with his work. He is a quick learner, and he’s getting a lot of hands-on experience.”

Holbrook had interest in cars stemmed from his interest in mechanics and technology. Holbrook hopes to attain an automotive technology school after graduation in further pursue his interest.

Eco-Art Competition

The Flower of the Earth

Ryan Baldwin, Charlie Chen, Anthony Knox and Garrett James Sanderson will be honored for their excellence in the field of art, and will receive the setting for a portfolio, perform)
Summertime is here, and summertime means it's time to take it easy. How about a day at the beach? Orinda has a great beach just a short drive away. You can also go for a swim in the pool or go for a spin on your bike. Whatever you choose to do, make sure to take a break and enjoy your surroundings.

Summer Concerts in the Park — don't miss the last one
Tuesday night Summer Concert series, sponsored by the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary at the Community Park from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for some food, fun, and music.

July 26 Pladdohg Celtic Rock

Watch for Shop Moraga August 3rd
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Cal Shakes Brings Grungy Flair to The Verona Project

By Lou Fancher

Walter Director Annemarie Doherty gets many things right in The Verona Project, Cal Shakes’ hybrid rock concert, especially the music of first love.

Inspired by William Shakespeare’s The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Doherty’s comedic romance tells the tale of two childhood friends and the self-love, other-love, and can’t live-with-or-without-it love that tests their friendship.

Bounding onto the bandshell-covered stage, eight actor-musicians emerge immediately into song with all of the grungy flair of a hard-core indie band.

Under the turquoise-tinged canopy, the characters narrate, rapidly propelling the plot; often describing their own thoughts and actions as an effective, first-person voice. There’s an urgency to the delivery, the message, and the music, that makes the story fly like a runaway train.

Drama in Project is provocative; easily comparing the teenagers in early scenes. He’s even more convincing as the self-centric man who, if he were to gaze in a mirror, regards the world and all of humanity as simply a part of his own reflection.

Arwen Anderson (Julia in Cal Shakes’ world-premiere production of The Verona Project) as Julia in Cal Shakes’ world-premiere production of The Verona Project. Photo Kevin Berne

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Andromache Anderson (Julia in Cal Shakes’ world-premiere production of The Verona Project) as Julia in Cal Shakes’ world-premiere production of The Verona Project. Photo Kevin Berne

One of the story’s most interesting characters is Julia, played by Andromache Anderson. A review that doesn’t mention the outstanding cost would miss the chance to describe Harold Pence’s wound-up energy as good Martin Doherty’s impressive range in multiple roles and as many more than one instrument. Adam Yarbrough’s melodic singing touch on the accordion and nubility as The Duke, Philip Mills’ rock-solid voice, which added depth without calling attention to itself, and Elena Wright’s enchanting, twirled stamp around the show’s drums and dreams. The first half of the play, packed with music hinting at rock, folk, country, and klezmer influences, coupled moments of tender resonance with childlike fun.

These —Doherty in cream, Wright in a mangail, rainbow-colored tutu, and Anderson in baby doll dress and boots—sang a quiet ballad before a graveyard scene. In another scene, a simple paper bird, operated by an organ-grinder mechanism reminiscent of a Buster Keaton prop, “flew”…until it was grabbed by the grungy band.

The juxtapositions were elegant, subtle, and fun. Time and instinct, two recurring themes used to humorous effect, hit a minor stall after the intermission. Perhaps it was the shift to longer dialogues and monologues, with less music, that allowed the storytelling to become a little more meandering. The second half of the play immediately “douche bag” entered the lexicon of first love —and the sensitive, sophisticated characterizations of the cast kept the production from dissolving into a trite tale of love and loss.

Still, Doherty’s masterful segues transformed Shakespearean language to modern day slang—likely the first time “douche bag” entered the lexicon of the Bard—and the sensitive, sophisticated characterizations of the cast kept the production from dissolving into a trite tale of love and loss.

Drama in Project is provocative; easily comparing the teenagers in early scenes. He’s even more convincing as the self-centric man who, if he were to gaze in a mirror, regards the world and all of humanity as simply a part of his own reflection.

Who is the character that the author describes as Julia? The author describes Andromache Anderson as Julia in Cal Shakes’ world-premiere production of The Verona Project. She is said to have a wound-up energy and melody singing touch on the accordion, which added depth without calling attention to itself. She is also noted for her enchanting twirls around the show’s drums and dreams. 

What is the significance of the title “The Verona Project”? The title “The Verona Project” is significant as it is the world-premiere production of the Shakespeare play, inspired by William Shakespeare’s The Two Gentlemen of Verona. The play explores themes of friendship, self-love, other-love, and the complexities of first love. 

Where can tickets for the production be purchased? Tickets for the production, which runs to July 31 at the Bruns Amphitheater, 108 California Shakespeare Theater Way (formerly 100 Gateway Blvd.), Orinda, are available online at www.calshakes.org or through the California Shakespeare Theater Box Office, 701 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley; (510) 548-9666, or in person at 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way (formerly 100 Gateway Blvd.), Orinda. Single tickets range from $35 to $56, with discounts available for seniors, students, persons age 30 and under, and groups. All tickets are available for seniors, students, persons age 30 and under, and groups. All tickets are available online at www.calshakes.org.
S
ummer can be a busy time of year, as are winter holidays, during which a lot of us go away for vacation. I thought I might provide some tips on how to manage your furry, feathered or scaled friend’s care while you are away.

Who should take care of your pet when you go away? There are several options including a board-

ing kennel, a family or friend to take your pet while you are away or a pet-sitter. There are too many of the pet-sitter to come to your home. Your veterinarian will be able to provide a list of boarding facilities – some take dogs and cats, some take only cats, some take only birds. If your pet receives medica-

tion or requires special care, like specific and detailed instructions regarding type of medication, dose and frequency. Make sure that you have a really good vet-

isual, as well as food, cat litter, medication and water. “Do not forget the time you'll be gone. You might want to share your pet-sitter spe-
cifics with the administration of the medication if she is not fa-
miliar with this.

An older pet might require more medica-
	tion than an adult. We have to check on your dog three or four times the day to make sure that the dog has opportunity to go outside, to move around a house. Your veterinarian will be able to provide a list of boarding facilities – some take dogs and cats, some take only cats, some take only birds. If your pet receives medica-

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miliar with this.
A story about Relay For Life events in Lamorinda, featuring the Moraga Police Cadet program, and a mention of Moraga Police Department's community involvement.

## Relay For Life in Lamorinda

**By Sophie Braccini**

Relay For Life in Lamorinda

"Neon Orange, the main color at the Relay For Life, is coming to Lamorinda," says the Moraga Police Department's Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Teams are asked to research a specific cancer and come to the Relay with a related ‘back’ message. Different activities are held during the event, such as an ‘in memory’ ceremony, Survivor lap, and other games held to promote fun and cohesion.

‘It is big component of lots of energy, emotion, fun and more!’ said Dawn Ramsay, who is a Moraga Police Cadet volunteer and team captain in Orinda where the Relay has been going on for 13 years.

In the mid-1980s Dr. Gary Goff, a Teamolindo High School graduate, decided to personally raise money for the fight against cancer. He raised $27,000 to fight colorectal cancer, a Tacomas colorectal surgeon, decided to form a nonprofit. 75% of its over $1 billion revenue goes to programs directly tied to cancer research, education, or free patient services.

For more information about the American Cancer Society, visit the website for ACS.

### Moraga Police Cadet Program: A Win-Win Deal

By Cathy Daussman

**M**

Max Jones found meaningful experience in his volunteer work with a neighbor.

The Haddon Family, Orinda Residents, Owners/Operators

Haddon Heating & Cooling specializes in residential furnaces • heaters • air conditioners • ductwork • residential furnaces • heaters • air conditioners • ductwork.

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

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There is something new on the boulevard. Carl and Linda Himmelman, the owners of Collectors Choice Antiques, have taken over the space formerly occupied by Roy's computer lab, Garaventa Hall, Rm. 205. Free, no registration required.

• Hands-on Social Marketing and Web Presence Workshop, Wednesday, July 27th, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. at the St. Mary's computer lab, Garaventa Hall, Rm. 205. Free, for Chamber members only. Limited space, please register.


• Mark your calendars for "Orinda Longest Week," starting with Dancing with the Cars" on September 24th and the Orinda Classic Car Show on September 24th and the 4th annual Orinda Restaurant Tour on September 23rd, both put on by the Orinda Community Foundation. Sign up at www.mypreptutor.com.

• Reach 60,000+ in Lamorinda Advertise in Lamorinda Weekly Call 925-377-9977 today.

For your business brief to share, please contact Sophie Braccini at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com or call the office 925-377-9977.

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The Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition recently released the results of a survey that was sent to parents of students in Lamorinda’s public middle and high schools in Lafayette/Moraga/Orinda, via the schools’ information distribution networks. In a nutshell, although a vast majority of participating parents indicated they themselves refuse to serve alcohol to minors, a significant portion of them knew, or suspected, that others do. Almost half of these interested parents are not sure about the legal consequences of providing, or allowing minors to consume, alcoholic beverages in their homes while they are present. “What this means to me is that the Coalition needs to continue its awareness campaign in Lamorinda,” said Coalition Coordinator Jamie Rich. The first question on the survey asked if parents could provide alcohol to their teen’s friends in their home. About 95% of the 484 parents responded “no” to that question, with only four saying “yes.” Asked about the discrepancy between a overwhelming majority of people that refuse to serve alcohol to minors, Jamie Rich replied, “People who serve alcohol to kids (more probably didn’t want to admit to serving because it might be happening, Rich replied.”

Asking about the whole issue. A lot of parents are likely to talk to each other about the whole issue. A lot of what I do is promoting discussions among generations and among parents.” Among Mom’s policy chief, Robert Priebe, explains the legal scene.

“California Penal Code (section 272) characterizes this crime (contributing to the delinquency of a minor) as a misdemeanor with a fine not to exceed $2,500, or by imprisonment in county jail for not more than 1 year, or by both fine and imprisonment, by probation not to exceed 5 years,” says the Chief, adding that both Moraga and Orinda have enacted Social Hosting Ordinances. “One local ordinance, passed in 2001, is an infraction with penalties (fine/fees) of up to $100 for conviction of first offense, $200 for second, and $300 for the third and subsequent convictions. However, the fines are increased dramatically by state penalties and assessments.”

Rich will continue the campaign this summer and fall. The Coalition, which is funded by Contra Costa County Health Services, will hold third events such as Lafayette’s Art and Wine Festival. All members of the community are invited to attend the Coalition’s meetings that are held monthly from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the Orinda City Hall Community Room, 2 Orinda Way. The next meetings will be on Tuesday, August 2nd and September 21. Jamie Rich can be contacted at Jamie@chd-prevention.org.
Local Authors Fill Shelves at Orinda Books

(List compiled by Cathy Tyson, with thanks to Marian Nielsen of Orinda Books)

There’s no humbling in my backyard — Gary Bogue

There’s an Opossum in my Backyard — Gary Bogue

East of Indus - Gurnam S. S. Brard

There’s a Hummingbird in My Backyard — Gary Bogue

There’s a Hummingbird in My Backyard — by Gary Bogue

There’s an Opossum in My Backyard — by Gary Bogue

The Viagra Diaries — Barbara Rose Brooker

There’s an Opossum in My Backyard — Gary Bogue

There’s a Hummingbird in My Backyard — by Gary Bogue

There’s a Hummingbird in My Backyard — Gary Bogue

There’s an Opossum in My Backyard — by Gary Bogue

There’s a Hummingbird in My Backyard — by Gary Bogue
The Back Story on The Miracle Chase

Authors: Joan Luise Hill, Katie Mahon, and Mary Beth Phillips

By Cathy Tyson

I'll start with a friendly get together at Terzetto for three friends, Joan Luise Hill, Katie Mahon and Mary Beth “Meb” Phillips. All are former nurses, but were sent off the project. They met weekly at Hill’s house, “Miracle Central,” and created a business plan, wrote a mission statement and divided up investigation tasks. They began a collaborative effort that produced “The Miracle Chase.”

Early on, Hill somehow arranged to “borrow” a meeting room at the Orinda Country Club so they could have their own retreat as they discussed their vision for a book. The end result is a warm, engaging, easy to read chronicle of their spiritual quest across history, different cultures and wonderful coincidences in their lives.

Phillips jokes that the real miracle was that they found a publisher, instead reading “Publishing for Dummies” and following the instructions.

After sending query letters to thirty publishers, they heard back from Sterling Ethos, an imprint of Sterling Publishing – a subsidiary of Barnes and Noble, just three weeks later that their manuscript was selected to be published. Now in its second printing, “The Miracle Chase” has sold approximately 10,000 copies.

For more information and pictures, visit www.themiraclechase.com

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Lilo Speaks: A Memoir with Tom Adams

By Sophie Bracina

Lilas resident Mike Heller called our attention to this book – it is about thinking about the importance of capturing and historic stories that are gone forever. Lilo Speaks: A Memoir with Tom Adams is his mother’s story, she was reluctant to tell until recently.

Once you open this short, 70 page book, you can’t stop to read. It’s not the story, which is simple and reads like the spoken word, it is the life and tumultual details in every paragraph that grabs the reader and makes one continue to turn the pages until the end.

Lilo Speaks: A Memoir tells the first 25 years in the life of Liliann Basch, (known as Lilo), who was thrown into the turmoil of the Nazi regime, escaped to Indonesia only to be held by the Japanese in a series of World War II prison camps, and finally to be held by the Nazi extermination machine; her parents, who fled to America, “It’s too painful and no one cares anymore. Why do you up the past? Not.” she said. But she is the only survivor of her German family. The racism in her country that didn’t want to leave Germany at first were swept away by the Nazi extermination machine; her parents, who fled to Ecuador, died a long time ago, she had to tell the story of the Basch family, a history of their lives in America.

Lilo Heller continues to fight for peace and social justice from her Mill Valley home. The biographic that she recorded were transcribed by Lafayette author Tom Adams and published by Big Flat Press (also in Lafayette). It is available at local bookstores and online.

For more information about the author and her upcoming projects you can visit her website at www.goldenwradsworth.com
Chow Bella Kids Chicken Parmesan

This is an easy recipe for a parent and child to prepare together. Kids love chicken Parmesan with a meaty touch. shorten the cooking time, use a prepared marinara sauce.

INGREDIENTS

2 cups fresh bread cubes
2 (32-ounce) cans crushed tomatoes
2 dried bay leaves
2-cup marinara sauce, see recipe
2 (32-ounce) cans low-sodium chicken broth
2 cups shredded Parmesan cheese
1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
1/2 cup panko [Japanese] bread crumbs
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
6 garlic cloves, minced
6 cloves of garlic, minced
3 large ripe tomatoes, sliced thinly
2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
Salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.
2. Place the bread cubes in a large bowl and add the marinara sauce, 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, and the garlic. Mix well and set aside.
3. Place the bread crumbs in a shallow dish, the Parmesan cheese in another, and the mozzarella cheese in a third.
4. Season the bread crumbs with salt and pepper.
5. Dip the chicken breasts into the flour mixture, then into the egg mixture, and finally into the bread crumbs. Gently press the bread crumbs onto the chicken breasts to make sure they stick.
6. Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the chicken breasts and cook for 4-5 minutes on each side, or until the chicken is cooked through and the juices run clear.
7. Add the marinara sauce and chicken broth to the skillet, cover, and simmer for 20 minutes, or until the chicken is fully cooked.
8. Remove the chicken from the skillet and place it onto a baking sheet. Sprinkle with the remaining Parmesan cheese and mozzarella cheese.
9. Bake in the preheated oven for 10-15 minutes, or until the cheese is golden brown.
10. Serve the chicken Parmesan with a side of your favorite pasta and sauce.
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American

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Breakfast/Brunch
Geppetto's of Orinda, 87 Orinda Way, Orinda

Mille's Kitchen, 1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Lafayette

Shelby's, 2 Theatre Sq, Orinda

Pepperpot of Orinda, 87 Orinda Way, Orinda

California Cuisine

El Charro Mexican Dining, 3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette

Shelby’s, 2 Theatre Sq, Orinda

Ino Restaurant, 3531 Plaza Way, Lafayette

Chinese

Chef Chao Restaurant, 343 Rheem Blvd, Moraga

Szechwan Chinese Restaurant, 79 Orinda Way, Orinda

Mexica Shop

Millie’s Kitchen, 1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Lafayette

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Gardino, 3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette

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Niman flat iron steak & potato gratin $17
Roasted scallops in Spanish chorizo sauce $16
Fresh seafood cioppino $19
Roasted whole salmon with potato gratin $16

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Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Page: LAMORINDA WEEKLY  C10

www.shelbyseatbetter.com

If you would like to be included on this page please call
Katie Malone at 925-310-4439
Gathering ‘Round the Railroad

By Diana LaScala-Gruenewald    Photos Doug Kohen

Under a flowering and tree lined hummock, a lumberjack loads up the bed of his truck. A moose, stock still near a curtain of waterfall, regards a downstream fisherman whose knees are deep in a glassy pool. In the nearby town, a man reclines. He reads a paper and has his shoes shined as he waits for a ruby train. Only a passing butterfly, apparently the size of a glider, belies the reality of the model railway.

Bob Evans, a long time Lafayette resident, and his wife Norma are the proud owners of this model railway. The model landscapes perhaps a third of the Evans’ yard, and includes four trains which run on one thousand feet of track. ... continued on page D11
Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Last reported</th>
<th>LOWEST AMOUNT</th>
<th>HIGHEST AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAFAYETTE</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>$355,000</td>
<td>$1,750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORAGA</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$505,000</td>
<td>$1,430,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORINDA</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$425,000</td>
<td>$1,595,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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**

856 Acalanes Road, $797,000, 4 Bdrms, 1972 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-24-11;  
Previous Sale: $730,000, 08-11-10
851 Avalon Court, $815,000, 3 Bdrms, 1602 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 6-16-11;  
Previous Sale: $365,000, 07-29-97
890 Birdhaven Court, $1,464,000, 4 Bdrms, 2574 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 6-17-11;  
Previous Sale: $1,780,000, 08-31-07
3164 Cordova Way, $699,000, 3 Bdrms, 1840 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 6-24-11
60 Knox Drive, $915,000, 4 Bdrms, 2378 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 6-17-11;  
Previous Sale: $240,000, 07-31-86
3100 La Playa Court, $740,000, 4 Bdrms, 2178 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-14-11;  
Previous Sale: $760,000, 04-22-04
3328 Las Huertas Road, $1,505,000, 4 Bdrms, 2307 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-24-11
3177 Lucas Drive, $670,000, 3 Bdrms, 1574 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 6-14-11
14 Moss Lane, $500,000, 2 Bdrms, 1442 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 6-24-11
3279 Mt. Diablo Court #7, $355,000, 2 Bdrms, 1697 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 6-14-11;  
Previous Sale: $355,000, 06-08-11
3164 Cordova Way, $699,000, 3 Bdrms, 1840 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 6-24-11
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3279 Mt. Diablo Court #7, $355,000, 2 Bdrms, 1697 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 6-14-11;  
Previous Sale: $355,000, 06-08-11
2 Olde Creek Place, $750,000, 4 Bdrms, 1842 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 6-16-11;  
Previous Sale: $475,000, 05-14-99
3802 Quail Ridge Road, $936,000, 4 Bdrms, 2363 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 6-24-11;  
Previous Sale: $357,500, 12-09-92
1268 Redwood Lane, $1,120,000, 3 Bdrms, 2047 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 6-15-11
1619 Reliez Valley Road, $1,149,000, 5 Bdrms, 3017 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-14-11
21 Samantha Drive, $1,750,000, 5 Bdrms, 4619 SqFt, 2005 YrBlt, 6-21-11;  
Previous Sale: $2,650,000, 07-14-06
3268 South Lucille Lane, $745,000, 3 Bdrms, 2146 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-17-11;  
Previous Sale: $157,000, 03-14-68
1689 Springbrook Road, $651,000, 3 Bdrms, 1124 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 6-24-11;  
Previous Sale: $450,000, 12-20-10
3724 St. Francis Drive, $1,433,000, 5 Bdrms, 3356 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-16-11
1515 Sunset Loop, $720,000, 4 Bdrms, 2008 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-21-11;  
Previous Sale: $153,000, 01-17-86
308 Willoughby Court, $1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2394 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 6-17-11

**MORAGA**

244 Corliss Drive, $995,000, 4 Bdrms, 2294 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-24-11;  
Previous Sale: $910,000, 11-30-09
795 Crossbrook Drive, $1,020,000, 4 Bdrms, 2276 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-14-11;  
Previous Sale: $560,000, 01-19-00
834 Crossbrook Court, $1,430,000, 4 Bdrms, 3316 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 6-20-11;  
Previous Sale: $535,000, 03-16-99
12 Josefa Place, $505,000, 2 Bdrms, 1442 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 6-17-11;  
Previous Sale: $695,000, 05-25-07
61 San Pablo Court, $1,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 2792 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-14-11;  
Previous Sale: $527,000, 05-23-97
3724 St. Francis Drive, $1,433,000, 5 Bdrms, 3356 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-16-11
1515 Sunset Loop, $720,000, 4 Bdrms, 2008 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-21-11;  
Previous Sale: $153,000, 01-17-86
308 Willoughby Court, $1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2394 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 6-17-11

... continued on page D4
SUE LAYNG PROUDLY PRESENTS...

STUNNING REMODEL IN HAPPY VALLEY ...

3936 South Peardale Drive, Lafayette

Situated in one of Lafayette’s most sought-after neighborhoods, this fabulous single story custom home is filled with natural light. The traditional floor plan offers four bedrooms, four baths, separate family room, inviting living room and spacious formal dining area. The state of the art kitchen features a Viking range, all stainless steel professional appliances and charming over sized banquette for informal meals. Vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, and French doors, level yard and seamless indoor/outdoor living are just a few amenities. This very special home is a must see.

Offered at $1,650,000

Presented by
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DRE # 000970956
Lamorinda Home Sales recorded
...continued from page D2

ORINDA
2 Carmen Court, $425,000, 2 Bdrms, 1320 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 6-21-11; Previous Sale: $10,500, 10-16-70
484 Dalewood Drive, $1,595,000, 5 Bdrms, 4124 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 6-16-11; Previous Sale: $16,500, 04-27-71
644 Ironbark Circle, $1,285,000, 5 Bdrms, 2944 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-16-11; Previous Sale: $366,000, 07-01-83
99 La Cuesta Road, $1,169,000, 4 Bdrms, 2720 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 6-16-11; Previous Sale: $360,000, 07-26-88
177 Moraga Way, $837,000, 3 Bdrms, 2514 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 6-23-11; Previous Sale: $680,000, 08-01-00
2 Rustic Way, $875,500, 3 Bdrms, 2623 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 6-23-11; Previous Sale: $64,000, 09-01-72

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

LAFAYETTE
927 Reliez Station Road, 94549, Aurora Loan Services, 06-20-11, $896,940, 1437 sf, 2 bd

MORAGA
1986 Ascot Drive #B, 94556, Integrity Investment Group, 06-14-11, $230,000, 1472 sf, 3 bd

Lamorinda Realtor Meeting Schedule
TUESDAY, JULY 26 ~ 8:30AM - 9:30AM
FEATURING
Paul Wildrick, Certified Business Coach:
“5 Ways to Grow Your Business”
Free to attend, for full meeting details see LamorindaREGroup.com.
Location: Lafayette Lower Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette
Light continental breakfast provided

Art Lehman
925 200-2591
Artlehman.com
DRE# 01159698
Updated Campolindo Two-Story with Large, Level Yard
This traditional home with a charming covered porch in front features 5 bedrooms (with a possibility for 6), 3 baths, plus an office, and a large, level yard with lawn, patio and play area. It has been updated with attention to detail throughout and custom touches abound. The kitchen features stainless, high-end appliances, and views of the yard. The bathrooms have been remodeled with granite and marble. There is an oversized master bedroom that could be divided into two rooms if desired. The house has hardwood floors, dual-paned windows, and two-zone air conditioning. It's close to top-rated Campolindo High School, the Campolindo Cabana Club, and has an excellent commute location.

Offered at $1,079,000

Cute-as-a-Button Single Story on Corner Lot
This absolutely charming 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath single-story home on a level lot is ready for you to move in and enjoy. It's been updated with dual-paned windows, granite kitchen countertops, and a newly remodeled master bath. Situated on a corner lot, there is a large, flat front yard, and level backyard with patio, lawn and play structure. The home features two wood-burning brick fireplaces, hardwood flooring, and exposed wood-beamed ceiling in one of the bedrooms. In addition, there is an office/bonus room with half bath attached. Close to top-rated schools and shopping.

Offered at $689,000
Recent Sales of distinctive homes!

**SOLD**

Orindawoods Decorator Showcase

1609 Las Trampas, Alamo (Buyer)

50 York Place, Moraga

**SOLD**

787 Augusta, Moraga Country Club

900 Camino Del Rio, Lafayette

4 BR, 3 BA, 2440 sq. ft. $1,195,000
A stunning architect remodeled traditional in a great private location! Near Burton Valley Elementary school with great commute location close to Highway 24.

272 Tharp Drive, Moraga

3 BR, 2 BA, 1580 sq. ft. $759,000
Beautifully landscaped single level home is move in ready! Spacious formal living room, sunny formal dining room, great patio for entertaining. Tucked away in a quiet neighborhood close to Rancho Laguna Park, and Camino Pablo Elementary.

80 Lynwood Place, Moraga

Incredible private gated estate in close-in gorgeous views and abundant wildlife. 5 Bedroom Large chef’s kitchen with butler’s pantry. Do quarters, 3-Car Garage, wine cellar, amazing Call for more information or a private sho

22 Charles Hill Rd, Orinda

Eichler-inspired mid-century modern built in the same family for 57 years! Architect Sco to imagine how the property could be updat

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

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

— Don and Dotty Miller

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

— Del and Janice Kolbe

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

— The Erickson-King Family

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

— Sellers at 50 York Place

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

— Trustee of an Orinda Estate

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Top 4 Opportunities in 2011
1) Buy foreclosures in select neighborhoods and cities in Contra Costa County, for strong rental income returns, with future appreciation.
2) Buy a home in Lafayette, Moraga, or Orinda, in a rare buyer's market.
3) Sell in the under $1,000,000 range in Lamorinda, where sales are now improving, and move up to your dream house in a higher price range where the best negotiating opportunities exist.
4) Downsize, and sell in Lamorinda, where the market has not dropped as much, then buy a great one-story home at a bargain price in a nice neighborhood where homes have dropped more. Keep a low property tax by transferring it to the new house within Contra Costa County.

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The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS

The second quarter of 2011 showed consistent activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate. The biggest change came in the sales price per square foot where the averages dropped in each community versus the year ago period.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from April 1 through June 30, 2011, 89 single-family homes closed in Lafayette which was far above the 36 that closed in the first quarter of the year and about the same as the 85 in the same quarter of 2010. Sales prices ranged from $400,000 to $2,575,000. There was one home that closed where the sales price was not reported to the MLS. The average number of days on market was 44 days versus 37 in the same period for 2010. The average sales price was $1,073,771 which was close to the $1,125,428 for the same 90-day period a year ago.

In Moraga, the number of single-family closings was 40 which was up from 34 in the second quarter of 2010 and 17 in the second quarter of 2009. Prices ranged from $550,000 to $1,725,000. The average sale price was $930,642 up significantly from $791,154 a year ago. The average marketing time was similar at 27 days on market where a year ago it was 28 days.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was up to 44 from 43 in 2010. Sales prices ranged from $425,000 to $2,700,000 with an average price of $1,073,694. In the same period of 2010 the average was $1,140,414. It took an average of 38 days to expose a home to the market; it was 65 days a year ago and 45 days on the market for the same time frame in 2009.

In the second quarter of this year, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at $418 per square foot a decrease of $42 per square foot since last spring. Moraga homes sold for $385 per square foot, down $11/foot versus a year ago and Orinda was at $400, dropping from $421 in 2Q 2010.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had two closings at $364,250 and $480,000; Moraga had 20 ranging from $97,200 to $738,000 and Orinda had three—a low of $220,000 and a high of $972,500. Two were condos on Brookwood and the third in Orinda Woods.

As of July 13, 2011, there were 97 homes under contract per the MLS in the three communities combined with asking prices of $199,900 to $3,450,000. It should be pointed out that there are 15 “Potential Short Sales” that are currently pending and were subject to lender approval. Twelve of the pending sales are REOs (bank owned properties.) The number of REOs in Lamorinda has increased significantly but is still very low on a percentage and actual basis when compared to other communities.

The seasonal nature of the market is also evident as, of the 97 pending sales in the area, 56 have received acceptable offers since June 15. That is an average of about two per day.

Inventory has fallen off a lot when looking at the available homes a year ago. In Lafayette there are 102 on the market while at this similar point in 2010 there were 123. In Moraga buyers have their choice of 54 homes or condominiums down from 64 in 2010 and Orinda inventory has fallen from 98 available properties in 2010 to a current supply of 61 homes.

In total, as of July 13, 2011, there were 219 residences available in the three communities including one in Canyon. Asking prices range from $159,000 for a short sale condominium in Moraga to $10,750,000 for a Lafayette property.

... continued on next page
California wisdom

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As is the case nearly every quarter, the most active price range is the more “affordable” price range. At the high end, six homes sold above $2,000,000 in the three communities combined. Five were in Lafayette and one in Orinda. In the same period in 2010, eight homes closed above $2,000,000 in Lamorinda and in 2009 the number was only two. There are 20 currently available above this amount—ten in Lafayette, nine in Orinda, and one in Moraga.

Interest rates continue to be attractive and many corporations continue to relocate families both in to and out of the area. We still often see families heading from other local areas for the climate and the schools and as gas prices stay high, many come for the proximity to BART and employment centers in Oakland and San Francisco. However, another piece of the real estate market—the corporate owned property segment—is appearing less often.

Corporations used to buy homes from their transferring employees if the employee could not sell the home prior to a corporate “buy out.” Now, buyouts are becoming less commonplace as the costs to make up losses and the carrying costs have hit their corporate bottom lines and many companies have trimmed back their relocation benefits.
Come live on the Golf Course!
Level-In, Prime Rossmoor location
A real value at $239,000!

2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, approx 1049 sq’
Beautifully remodeled kitchen
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Recycling in Lamorinda

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

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

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Each train stands about six inches high, and winds over bridges, through tunnels and around elaborate scenery. Evans’ model includes 110 live trees, one hundred buildings, about fifty cars, over two hundred people and dozens of other carefully placed props. The scenes surrounding the train tracks “are things that I just imagine,” he says. “For example, there are kids playing in the sand lot, [and] there’s a couple gardening. We have a policeman eating a doughnut over there, and we have a funeral scene, with the grieving widow clutching her head and crying as her husband is lowered into his grave.”

Evans, like many, nurtured a love for trains in his childhood. “I always used to have model trains when I was younger,” he says. “When my son got to be five or six, I used it as an excuse to go out and buy some for him. They became mine.” The railway that currently inhabits the Evans’ backyard has been evolving since 1994. When asked about the parts of railroading that he enjoys most, Evans says: “I like recreating reality on a miniature scale.” The gardening, construction and fresh air are also pleasant.

Evans belongs to the Bay Area Garden Railway Society, whose members periodically hold open houses to view each other’s railroads. About five years ago, after their son left for college, Norma Evans suggested that the couple do the same for their friends and neighbors. Now the Evans family holds an annual open house to display their railway and make lasting connections within their community. While the attendees are mostly neighbors and work associates, any train enthusiast is welcome to come, share lemonade and cookies, socialize and even participate in a scavenger hunt that highlights the detail that Evans has incorporated into his model. Kids are welcome too; in fact, they seem to be the most delighted guests as they run back and forth and shriek with each passing train.

“Kids are intrigued [by the trains],” says Evans. “Sometimes they just get locked in, and sit and stare for hours.”
52 Las Cascadas
Swiss Family Robinson retreat in heart of Orinda Country Club! Never before on market. Hidden away in serene wooded setting at end of cul de sac. Walk to lake. Bring your imagination!

Offered at $539,000

22 Charles Hill Road
Classic Mid-Century modern on large private lot in desirable North Orinda. Super potential with lots of room for expansion. Great commute location, close to HyW 24 and BART.

Offered at $599,000

18 La Vuelta
Custom hm above Lake Cascade built before Orinda was even a city. Updated w/quality while keeping the original warmth & charm. A separate apt. above garage offers a bonus exercise room.

Offered at $1,650,000

5 Woodcrescent Road
Spectacular 3.8 ac setting up a long drive sets the tone of this estate home. Magnificent quality + renovation in all rooms w/finest craftsmanship & materials. Ideal family-living floor plan.

Offered at $1,999,000

502 Miner Road
One acre w/lawns, rose garden, fruit trees, lg sports court, blt-in BBQ & garages. Home has been totally remodeled w/gourmet kitchen, lg formal DR & LR + court, blt-in BBQ & gazebo. Home has been totally

Offered at $2,495,000

272 Tharp Drive

Offered at $759,000

927 Augusta Drive
Prof decorated & remodeled detached hm w/grt views of trail & hills. Privately located. Gracious & spacious - 4 bd, exercise rm can be 5th bd. Lots of hdwd, vaulted ceilings,lg mstr.

Offered at $895,000

1350 Bollinger Canyon Road
Fabulous Opportunity!!! 33 ac gated estate w/ vineyard & lots of usable land. Incredible views throughout this updated executive hm. 4-bd + ofc, au pair/in law downstairs w/pvt entry.

Offered at $1,545,000

1042 Sunnybrook
Charming cottage close to fvy, public trans & dwntwn Lafayette - tucked away on creekside lot & quiet street. Beautiful LR w/beamned vaulted ceiling, wood-burning fireplace & hdwd floors.

Offered at $589,000

3363 St. Mary’s Road

Offered at $799,000

652 Augustine Lane
Charming 3bd/2ba home in Burton Valley area. Hardwood flrs, crown molding, updated kitchen and baths. Private location with level yard, pool, play area, brick patio and garden.

Offered at $925,000

1847 Reliez Valley Road
Newly renovated w/high style & fully updated amenities & quality features. Lg new Chef's kitchen w/adjoining fam rm & formal LR/DR + stylish mstr suite. Lots of bedrooms, new baths.

Offered at $1,225,000

3936 So. Peardale

Offered at $1,650,000

2600 Tice Creek #2
Level-in Yosemite located on the golf course. Beautiful remodeled kitchen w/granite counters, newer cabinets/applis. New paint, cpts, crown molding & plantation shutters. WD, sunny patio.

Offered at $239,000

314 Warwick Drive

Offered at $649,000

Visit www.villageassociates.com to see our weekly online previews updated every Wednesday and Friday by noon.

Click on Sunday Open House

Friday after 5 PM for Open House listings