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Lamorinda Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein presents the FireWise Community Recognition award to Sleepy Hollow neighborhood representative Deb Stephenson May 8. Looking on, from left: MOFD's Kathy Leonard, fire marshal, and Stephen Healy, fire chief; Cal Fire division chief David Shew; and state fire marshal Tonya Hoover. Photo Ohlen Alexander

A Wise Neighborhood

By Nick Marnell

Charles Green attended a briefing in 2011 held by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, which urged citizens to take responsibility to protect their property so that it will not burn. "There was a denial, or a disregard, of a potential threat to

our area," said Green of the Orinda community. So he organized his Sleepy Hollow neighbors to conduct a wildfire hazard assessment of their properties and develop a plan to address safety concerns.

The group attended training classes in Sacramento and at Saint Mary's College and completed evaluations of 80 yards and areas surrounding Sleepy Hollow homes. "Things we pointed out cost very little money," said Green. ... continued on page A12

Advertising

Quote of the Week:

"Don't be afraid to write down the words that are in your head." - Read Springhill Students Artwork Displayed in SF, page B4.



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Rally in Plaza Park

By Cathy Tyson

Organizer Jean Follmer is not kidding around, with eye-catching orange and white hats, loads of orange balloons and snacks, she and a group of supporters gathered at Plaza Park in Lafayette last Friday afternoon to express their frustration with the current funding of the educational system. Honking from passing motorists signaled support to kids and grown-ups waving signs around the park at the corner of Mt. Diablo and Moraga Road, but unfortunately not many others turned out for the low key rally.

The idea behind the statewide campaign is to show state leaders the level of anger among parents and students about "the increasing and unreported diversion of schools' share of property taxes to pay state debts that have nothing to do with education," said Follmer, and allow voting to stop the diversion of school allocated property taxes.

"We are asking our legislators and our Governor to work together to allow California voters to decide if using the poorest school districts in California as the interest-free lender of first resort to the state is the way we want to finance our schools," said Cushon Bell of Altadena, a former teacher and a board member of Educate Our State, a parent led non-profit organization.

"The Lafayette community is standing up to give children a voice. California schools have loaned billions to the state, interest free, since 2007 and, compared to every other state in the nation, we are at the bottom of the barrel in per student funding," said Follmer. According to Suzy Pak, Springhill Elementary School parent and board member of Educate Our State, Contra Costa County reports that 49 percent of property taxes go to fund schools, when the actual number is 37 percent; Pak calls this a complete violation of the public trust.



A small group of supporters donned in orange and white gathered at Plaza Park in Lafayette last Friday to vent frustration over education funding. Photo Gint Federas

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

Little Free Libraries



Take a book, return a book; charming trend arrives in Lamorinda - page B1.

Sports C1-C4

Going For It

Dons, Mats lacrosse play in NCS semifinals tonight - page C2.



Camps D1-D4

Summer Camps and Classes

55 listings to sign your child up - page D1.

Our Homes E1-E20

The Rain Has Gone

Don't miss the final installment of Cynthia Brian's series on drought gardening - page E16.





Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, May 27, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, June 2, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Tuesday, May 27, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, May 21, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room at 1212
Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, June 25, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Stanley Library
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

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Best Practices to Prevent Burglaries Discussed at Town Hall

By Cathy Tyson



Lafayette police chief Eric Christensen and Dale Fredericks at the Happy Valley Elementary School Library. Photo Cathy Tyson

While the subject matter was serious, Lafayette police chief Eric Christensen couldn't have been more entertaining and reassuring to concerned residents who attended a town hall meeting at Happy Valley Elementary School in the wake of a robbery and recent burglaries in the neighborhood.

Kicking off the meeting, Rees Morgan, a member of the city's Crime Prevention Commission, introduced his fellow volunteer commissioners and described himself as a "federal prosecutor in a previous life."

He discussed the educational goal of the meeting – to spread crime prevention best practices to the community that, due to its proximity to the freeway and perception of affluence, is a potential target for bad guys. The commission is wrapping up its research on motion-activated cameras that currently are in use in a number of communities, are cost effective and produce crisp images of license plates. In August the group will present its findings to the City Council, which is investigating a collaborative effort of homeowner cameras and

city-owned cameras at key locations in Lafayette.

Christensen explained that the recent robbery was a random act; the alleged suspect has been connected to other robberies.

Focusing on proactive solutions, the charming chief had residents chuckling with clever asides, such as calling a jewelry box a "to-go container" for burglars. His advice – jewelry is a priority item when would-be burglars make the traditionally quick pass through a house so make sure expensive items are in an unusual place.

Fifty signs were recently printed up and are available for neighborhoods to display to send a clear message that cameras are in use. New technology options are being used to track bike thefts at the library and will soon be used on "bait" packages purposefully

left on front porches in plain sight.

Rear door window smash is the most common mode of entry – so the chief recommends locking side gates in order to discourage prospective criminals from selecting your home as a target.

"Who knows the neighborhood better than you do?" asked Christensen, who strongly suggested residents call or email whenever something is unusual at 94549tip@gmail.com or via 911 or dispatch at (925) 284-5010. He emphasized that this can be crucial information to help complete an investigation, if someone saw a questionable car or person – pass that information to the police as soon as possible. Residents can also sign up to receive alerts from the police department at www.nixle.com.

Going on vacation? Here are some tips from Chief Christensen:

- Lock doors and windows; never leave a house key hidden outside.
- Don't stop the newspaper, have a neighbor pick it up.
- Have the Post Office hold your mail.
- Make the house appear lived in; use timers on lights.
- Leave a radio on.
- Leave a locked car in the driveway.
- Leave your trip plans and an emergency phone number with a trusted neighbor or friend.

What Passage of Measure B Means

By Cathy Tyson

Voters in the Lafayette School District resoundingly passed Measure B on May 6 with 73 percent of the vote, well exceeding the two-thirds majority required. The \$539 per parcel tax extends two existing parcel taxes that were set to expire in June, 2015.

Unlike prior parcel taxes, Measure B has no sunset date; supporters argued that this provides sustained funding that the district can count on, and that funds are essential to maintain the district's

schools and educational programs.

"We are deeply grateful to the entire Lafayette community for their support of both Measures A and B," said Rachel Zinn, superintendent of the Lafayette School District. "Given that Measure B is 15 percent of the budget, or \$4.6 million for the Lafayette School District, its passage was critical to our ability to sustain important, quality programs for our students." She describes its passage as "huge," explaining the absolute need for a stable dependable source of funding. "The

fact that the tax doesn't sunset means, as one board member shared, we don't have to bet the farm every time we have to go out for a tax."

State funding has been reduced over the past five years by 22 percent, or \$1,433 per student. Lafayette's per pupil funding is well below the state average. Seniors aged 65 and older can apply to be exempt from the tax – applications are available from the school district's website at www.lafsd.k12.ca.us.

What about Measure A?

Measure A, the parcel tax renewal that supports the Acalanes Union High School District – made up of Lamorinda high schools, Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte, along with Las Lomas in Walnut Creek and Acalanes Center for Independent Study, was also approved with just over 75 percent of the vote. The \$112 per parcel tax has no sunset date.



Lafayette Police Department Incident summary report, April 27-May 10

Alarms	75
911 Calls	13
Auto Burglary	
3100 block Stanley Bl	
4000 block Mt Diablo Bl	
3400 block Solana Ct	
Acalanes High School (2)	
1000 block Carol Ln	
EB El Nido Ranch Rd	
Avalon Av/School St	
Residential Burglary	
1000 block Miller Dr	
3100 block Plymouth Rd	
Child Molestation	
3700 block Meadow Ln	
Death (non-criminal)	
800 block Mt View Dr	
Disturbance	
BART (fight)	
1st St/Mt Diablo Bl (fight)	
10 block Rancho Diablo Rd	
3200 block Quandt Rd (domestic)	
Topper Ct/School St (juvenile)	
Location n/a (juvenile)	
900 block Paulson Ct (domestic)	
3300 block Moraga Bl (juvenile)	
DUI Misdemeanor	
Upper Happy Valley Rd/El Nido Ranch Rd	
Mt Diablo Bl/Carol Ln	
Parsons/OLY	
Hit & Run	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl (3)	
Stanley Middle School	
Neighbor Dispute	
3300 block Lucille Ln	

Panhandling	
Safeway	
Trader Joe's (2)	
Post Office (3)	
Petty Theft	
Safeway (2)	
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Withers Av/Taylor Bl	
1100 block Woodborough Rd	
Lafayette School	
Grand Theft	
200 block St Mary's Rd	
3200 block Acalanes Av	
Reckless Driving	
Deer Hill Rd/1st St	
Moraga Rd/St Mary's Rd	
Mt Diablo Bl/1st St	
Olympic Bl/Pleasant Hill Rd	
Moraga Bl/2nd St	
Shoplift	
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl	
Suspicious:	
Circumstances	12
Vehicle	22
Subject	16
Traffic Stops	36
Trespass	
1000 block Timothy Ln	
Vandalism	
3300 block Sweet Dr (3)	
3300 block Moraga Bl	
Lafayette Police Dept.	
Vehicle Theft	
Mt Diablo Bl/Lafayette Cr	
1400 block Pleasant Hill Rd	
Warrant	
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl (arrest)	



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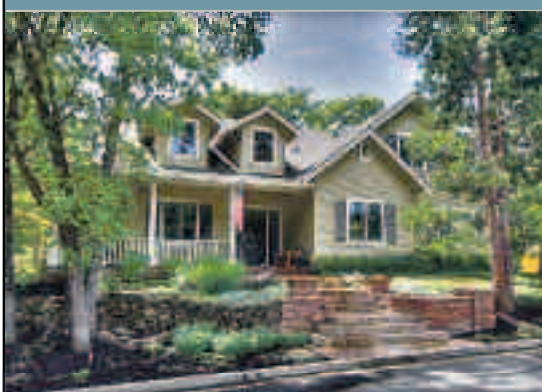
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Downtown Parking – Working Toward a Solution

By Cathy Tyson

As drivers continue to grumble and deal with parking challenges, behind the scenes volunteers and city staff are working towards finding a solution. “Managing our success” is how Tom Chastain describes working on an updated parking ordinance, due to Lafayette’s popularity with shoppers and restaurant goers who clearly are not walking to establishments. He and fellow Parking Ordinance Subcommittee members are working on how to craft rational and flexible rules to create a fair and shared parking system in Lafayette.

As part of an annual update of the work plan for the city’s Planning and Building Department, a presentation was made by the Parking Ordinance Subcommittee to the City Council as one of the many high priority projects on staff’s to do list for the coming fiscal year, now that the Downtown Specific Plan has been adopted.

Figuring out how to manage limited parking in the downtown isn’t easy, so the subcommittee, with the help of city staff, started at the beginning to assess current and proposed parking ratios but ultimately found that didn’t always make sense. Parking ratios are the number of parking spaces required based on the square footage of a proposed use – usually

based on the gross floor area. For example a large grocery store would need more parking than a small barbershop.

Non-conforming uses and management of existing parking was also reviewed. Staff helped by finding out what similar cities do; in addition, the committee met with developers at La Fiesta Square who gave helpful insight into how they manage their parking needs and accommodate the new successful nearby restaurant, The Cooperage.

Gleaned from all of the meetings was a greater appreciation to look at parking comprehensively, and to focus on flexibility. “Every single site doesn’t have to accommodate 100 percent of parking need,” said Chastain.

Employee parking seemed to be a recurring issue, suggested Councilmember Brandt Andersson, and a potential element of a solution. Mayor Don Tatzin pointed out that parking standards affect the amount of traffic; cars circling looking for parking add to street congestion, which has been documented in a variety of studies.

Further review and refinement is scheduled; the Parking Ordinance Subcommittee is slated to come up with a fresh revised ordinance by the end of the 2014-15 fiscal year.

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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, May 28, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, June 11, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, June 2, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Tuesday, May 27, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us
Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District

Tuesday, June 10, 7:30 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2



Moraga Police Department

Tennis shouting match, 5/10/14 Cops responded to St. Andrews Drive to check on a report of a verbal disturbance at the tennis courts. Two tennis players stated a subject had made threats and cursed at them. Officers contacted the subject who stated he confronted the other players due to statements they made to him a few months prior. The subject left without further incident.

Hit and run, 5/10/14 A car parked on Hansen Court was hit by an unknown suspect which caused moderate damage to a Subaru Impreza's door. No note, just a dent.

Youth and booze, 5/10/14 Officers went to Augusta Drive to look into an anonymous report of an underage party in the middle of the afternoon. About eight to 10 teenage males were sitting around a table in the backyard. When officers attempted to contact the resident, all but one of the young men fled over the rear fence. The kid left behind and the juvenile resident had not been drinking – however the police report details a "copious" amount of beer which was photographed and destroyed. Cops looked for the kids that took off with negative results.

Smashed window, 5/09/14 A car window had been smashed at a Donald Drive residence after midnight. Officers confirmed that yes, indeed, the window had been smashed and tried to contact the registered owner. The registered owner is out of the country, but his family was notified. Damage to window and door frame is estimated at \$500. No suspects or witnesses at this time.

Cranky email, 5/07/14 A Carroll Drive resident went to Moraga police headquarters to report threatening emails from a person he was involved in a car crash with. Police determined the notes were offensive, but not legally threatening. The reporting person asked that the situation be documented in case the emails escalate.

Runaway teen 5/06/13 A female Campolindo student was being counseled in the associate principal's office and suddenly fled, leav-

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Councilmember Accuses Moraga Planning Commission of Insubordination

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga Councilmember Mike Metcalf is known for his direct language, but rarely, if ever, has he publicly scolded appointed commissioners for their actions - until the May 14 meeting of the Moraga Town Council, when he announced that the Planning Commission committed "an act of outright insubordination." The design of a pedestrian bridge and a new crosswalk on Moraga Road is the bone of contention that led to the confrontation.

The bridge and crosswalk are part of the pending Summerhill Homes development on Camino Ricardo and will link the Moraga Commons to a new nature area on the opposite side of Moraga Road. The Planning Commission had decided that the cross-

walk should not be set at the level of the skate park, because a majority of planning commissioners believed it was too close to the bend in the road and presented safety issues. But when the Town Council reviewed the development agreement it decided that the bridge should indeed be at the level of the skate park and asked the Planning Commission to change the conditions of approval to align with its decision.

Planning commissioners instead upheld their first decision.

"In our prepared staff report we outlined for the commission what the Town Council had done and had directed the developer to do," explained Shawna Brekke-Read, planning director. "We recommended that the

commission follow the Council's lead and change the conditions of approval," at its April 21 meeting.

The commission voted 4-1-1 to confirm the conditions of approval without the change requested by the Town Council. Chair Christine Kuckuk cast the dissenting vote and commissioner Steve Woehleke abstained.

After the Town Council meeting, planning commissioner Frank Compelli said he was saddened, disappointed and a little disturbed by Metcalf's statement. "To the best of my knowledge, the commission is an independent body," he said. "Our role is to discuss issues and make decisions that can be overruled by the Town Council. We are not sub-

servient to or controlled by the Town Council; it is perfectly okay for it to make a final, and different, decision."

At the end of his statement, Metcalf said that he would be pleased to learn that "those planning commissioners ... have tendered their resignations."

Mayor Ken Chew said later that the entire Town Council agreed with Metcalf. "The Planning Commission is an advisory body that carries out the policy decisions made by the Council," he stated. The Town Council overturned the Planning Commission's decision, which had been appealed by the developer, and confirmed the positioning of the bridge and crosswalk near the skate park.

New Rules for Signs in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

Local business owners and the Moraga Chamber of Commerce have repeatedly voiced concern over the lack of visibility of local businesses. The Moraga Planning Commission recently completed its task of revising the town's sign ordinance – the introduction of a few new concepts should allow businesses in Moraga to spend less time and money installing compliant signs that may make it a bit easier to attract potential customers. The revisions will likely go into effect this summer.

The Town Council will consider the question of how to enforce the new rules as it discusses the enforcement and nuisance abatement code on Wednesday, May 21.

The modifications to the sign ordinance were conceived with a num-

ber of rules supporting business visibility. As a general rule Moraga only allows signs that are indirectly lit by a non-visible light source, but soon a business could have a single, internally-lit window sign as long as it doesn't blink. The code also allows for portable signs to be installed in commercial districts for a year, as long as they are removed at night, not lit, and not more than four feet high.

Other regulations were added with the intent to simplify and clarify the permit process. Many signs will now be approved administratively and will no longer require a lengthy and costly Design Review Board hearing. Such signs include wall signs of less than 50 square feet, portable signs, awning signs, permanent non-lit window signs, and signs

conforming to something new in Moraga: a master sign program.

A master sign program is a set of rules that are common to multi-tenant business areas and approved by the town. New multi-tenant areas must seek approval for their master sign programs; existing multi-tenant shopping areas will not be required to get a sign plan approved unless a space of more than 5,000 square feet is renovated, or a new monument sign is envisioned, or a new conditional use permit is requested.

Commercial property owners who came to the Planning Commission meeting expressed regrets over what they perceive as a tendency by government bodies to over-regulate and create hindrances to a healthy competitive climate. Ella Samonsky, the town's associate planner, believes

otherwise. "A master sign program will give the opportunity to any new or existing tenant to get their sign approved administratively if it is conforming to the group's pre-approved rules," she said. At this time, the only multi-tenant area in town that has a master sign program is the Rheem Shopping Center.

In addition, the 2014-2015 capital improvement plan should include way-finding signs that direct people to shopping areas and the revised sign code includes provisions for way-finding signs inside shopping centers.

Commissioners asked that the rules be reviewed after a year, with special attention paid to portable signs. The Town Council will have two readings of the revised code, in May and June, and it should go into effect in July.

Livable Moraga Road Meets Town Council

Proposed lane reduction rocks the boat

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Planning Department has conducted multiple public workshops over the last few months in order to develop a plan for Moraga Road between Campolindo and Saint Mary's Road, dubbed the Livable Moraga Road project. The gathering of public input led to the definition of a preferred scenario that staff presented to the Town Council on May 14 so council members could offer feedback before a final series of outreach meetings begin.

Shawna Brekke-Read, the town's planning director, summarized the el-

ements incorporated in the preferred scenario: a multi-use path accessible to pedestrians and children on bikes; a continuous sidewalk; bike lanes for serious cyclists; and safe and fluid transit lanes for all car users, including commuters going to schools and beyond. (Read related articles about the Livable Moraga Road project in our archive at www.lamorindaweekly.com.)

One aspect that caught council members' attention was a reduction in the number of lanes between Corliss and Donald drives from four to two, with an added turning lane, to create

enough space for the pedestrian and bike lanes. The Town Council was divided. Mayor Ken Chew praised staff for the quality of the outreach effort and the creativity of the new configuration, while Councilmember Dave Trotter forcefully opposed the idea of only two travel lanes on that stretch of road, arguing that commuters had not been sufficiently involved in the outreach activities and would not favor the change. He also asked staff to check the width of the town's right of way along Moraga Road to see if it could accommodate the scenario's continu-

ous sidewalk and multi-user path.

Jill Keimach, town manager, suggested that the town simulate the proposed configuration with barriers or plants to test the scenario in real life and raise commuters' awareness. "Our consultant did such a simulation in another city recently," said Brekke-Read, "it's a great idea." Keimach noted that a simulation should be done over several weeks to bring significant results; and with school soon out for the summer, it might be better to wait until September when traffic returns to its normal level.

Town of Moraga Upcoming Community Meeting schedule



Housing Element Update

Thursday, May 22, 2014, 7-9 PM, Hacienda de las Flores, La Sala Building
The Town of Moraga is updating its current Housing Element. Attend this workshop to learn more about the update, and provide input on how the Town and community can address housing challenges facing Moraga.



Hillsides and Ridgelines Regulations Update: Workshop #2


Thursday, June 5, 2014 7-9 PM,
Hagerty Lounge at De la Salle Hall,
Saint Mary's College
This second community workshop will be an opportunity to learn about Moraga's current hillside regulations, and help identify and prioritize key areas for improvement. Learn more at www.moraga.ca.us/hillsides

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Sports Facilities Subcommittee Considers Options

By Sophie Braccini

The Ad Hoc Facilities Planning Subcommittee met in early May to examine facts and start formulating recommendations to improve the availability of sports facilities in town. Parks and Recreation director Jay Ingram had a pro-bono consultant present cost estimates for improving fields and building new facilities. He then asked the subcommittee members to “dream big” about where they would choose to make a difference if they had \$13 million to spend on sports fields and facilities.

The subcommittee, comprised of representatives from the schools, the town and local sports groups, generally agreed that Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School has the best potential for a new sports field; the same location was also favored by many members as a good site for a new or expanded gymnasium.

Steve Sutherland, principal at SSA Landscape Architects, offered to estimate costs pro bono for the town. His study looked at renovating sports fields in different locations with both natural and artificial turf options.

According to Sutherland’s estimates, the lower field at Campolindo High School could become a full size rugby/lacrosse field at a cost of \$855,116 with natural grass or just over \$2.6 million with synthetic turf. The field at JMIS could be improved to accommodate multiple youth soccer

fields as well as a full size soccer field and a touch football field at a cost of close to \$1.6 million for natural grass and over \$6 million for synthetic turf. The field at Rheem Elementary School was also studied for a full size rugby field, costing \$640,000 for grass and well over \$1.8 million with synthetic turf. Sutherland highlighted maintenance costs, which he said would be millions of dollars over a 10-year period.

Sutherland was also asked to look at where a 22,000 square foot recreation center could be built in Moraga. He considered the pear orchard next to JMIS and the back acreage at the Moraga Commons Park and found both locations too small. Jill Keimach, town manager, said there could be many different options but that the subcommittee’s focus is on sports-only facilities and where to construct additional gyms.

Two options for indoor courts were studied – expanding the current gym at JMIS or building a multi-use sport facility, essentially a tent installed on a concrete foundation, which would accommodate two or three full size indoor basketball/volleyball courts. The cost estimate for doubling the size of the current gym was presented at roughly \$5.5 million and the multi-use facility at less than \$2.9 million.

When subcommittee members

were asked to dream about what they wanted for their constituencies in terms of recreational fields and facilities, Campolindo principal John Walker advocated for the renovation of the field at the high school and suggested that the school’s small gym could be expanded to accommodate more indoor practices. Councilmember Dave Trotter said his choice would be the construction of a community gym with at least two full size basketball courts. Chris Maher, of the Moraga Sports Alliance, proposed to have a large gym built on the blacktop at JMIS where outdoor basketball is played now; he suggested that music and other activities be moved to the existing gym and the small building that currently houses the music room become a parking area. This idea gained quite a bit of traction among the subcommittee members.

Councilmember Mike Metcalf was the only one to mention the need for a multi-generation community center that he said could be built in the pear orchard next to JMIS.

Ingram cautioned that the dreaming session was preliminary and that the next meeting will allow the subcommittee to refine its vision and come up with a plan. Funds for the improvement of sports facilities in town would come from developer fees related to the Palos Colorados project.



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 PENDING



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Offered at \$900,000 by Adam Hamalian 925.708.5630.

CalBRE 01917597

653 Augusta Dr, Moraga
 PENDING



Lovely, spacious townhouse in Moraga Country Club with 4 bedrooms and 2-1/2 bathrooms, located on a premium corner lot. Wonderful location close to tennis and the newly remodeled clubhouse.

Offered at \$775,000 by Monica Clarke 925.297.7289.

CalBRE 01029160

2811 Market Street, Oakland
 PENDING



Charming triplex with and in-law unit in West Oakland features 2811sf living space plus 1000sf unfinished attic space. This gated property has a 4600sf lot with beautiful gardens and a 2-car garage.

www.2811Market.com
Offered at \$390,000 by Maureen Caldwell-Meurer 510.915.0092.

CalBRE 01731662

TIP OF THE WEEK

Persistence Pays Off!

Here are the homes some of our buyers have recently purchased with the help of our agents. Many had to write offers on quite a few homes before securing theirs, but are happy now--congratulations!

598 El Capitan Dr, Danville	\$1,110,000	Larry Jacobs & Kress Hauri
5 Corte Bombero, Orinda	\$1,100,000	Kathy Wu
47 Kingston Pl, Walnut Creek	\$830,000	Ruth Eddy
1860 Gilly Lane, Concord	\$525,000	Tina Van Arsdale
519 Solano Drive, Benicia	\$437,000	Janine Hunt
4704 Wall Ave, Richmond	\$358,000	Sheri Wedlake

Meet our Featured Agents ...



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 ruth.eddy@bhghome.com
 CalBRE#01313819



Kress Hauri/Larry Jacobs
 925.899.5739/925.788.1362
 larry.jacobs@bhghome.com
 kress.hauri@bhghome.com
 CalBRE#01465617/#01495118



Tomi Izuno
 925.890.9785
 tizuno@comcast.net
 CalBRE#00975179



Sheri Wedlake
 925.324.2091
 sheri.wedlake@bhghome.com
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Regina Englehart,
 Broker-Manager
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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, June 4, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 27, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, May 28, 6 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District

Monday, June 9, 6 p.m.
OUSD Office, Vintage Building
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2



Orinda Police Department Incident summary report, April 27-May 3

- Alarms 56
- 911 Calls 7
- Animal Cruelty
 - 70 block Moraga Wy
- Auto Burglary
 - 80 block La Cuesta Rd
 - 50 block La Cuesta Rd
 - 100 block La Cuesta Rd
 - Casa Orinda Restaurant (2)
 - 50 block Via Floreado
 - 60 block Brookwood Rd (3)
- Brandishing a Weapon
 - Brookwood Rd/Moraga Wy
- Residential Burglary
 - Stein Way/Moraga Way
 - 10 block Bates Bl
- Commercial Burglary
 - Rite Aid
- DUI Misdemeanor
 - Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante
 - Moraga Way/Camino Encinas
 - Moraga Wy/Leslee Ln
- Disturbance
 - 30 block Overhill Rd (domestic)
 - 100 block Moraga Wy (domestic)
- Forgery
 - Location n/a
 - 100 block Ardith Ct
- Hit & Run
 - Well Fargo, Moraga
 - Camino Sobrante/Orinda Wy (2)
 - 10 block Las Piedras
 - Orinda Safeway
 - 70 block Claremont Av
- Health & Safety
 - Miramonte High School
- Missing Juvenile
 - 10 block Altarinda Rd
- Reckless Driving
 - 10 block Valley View Ln
 - Moraga Wy/Brookside Rd
 - Moraga Wy/Camino Encinas
- Panhandling
 - Safeway (2)
- Petty Theft
 - 600 block Crossridge Pl
 - 90 block La Cuesta Rd
- Suspicious:
 - Person 10
 - Circumstances 11
 - Vehicle 12
 - Traffic Stops 71
- Vandalism
 - 300 block Camino Sobrante
 - 10 block Camino del Cielo
 - 10 block St Hill Rd
- Vehicle Theft
 - Bates Bl/Davis Rd
 - 500 block Tahos Rd



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Gateway Valley Shakes off Troubled Past

By Laurie Snyder

"They say that the gateway of the morning is guarded by the twin lions Sef and Duau: Yesterday and Tomorrow. If the sun were to linger near the one, mourning what is past, or hesitate before the other, fearing what is to come, the earth would grow cold and die. I learned long ago to mourn what is gone and then continue living." – Diana Wilder

The pace of change in Orinda has long been described by Orindans as "glacial." One only need recall the history of the Gateway Valley off Highway 24 to appreciate just how often Orinda plans heat up only to grow cold and die.

Back in 1994, the Orinda City Council attempted to thaw things out a bit when they authorized the city to enter into an agreement with Pacific New Wave Corporation, but the manner in which the developer hoped to transform the Gateway Valley troubled many. An opposition group, Save Our Open Space-Gateway Valley, formed and, with input from the Sierra Club and Golden Gate Audubon, froze the initial proposal and further revisions. Along the way, a smaller effort – Montanera – was also considered, but faced strong opposition because its golf course would have harmed local wetlands and

wildlife.

Exhausted by the jousting, Pacific New Wave sold out to Orinda Gateway LLC in 1996, which assumed responsibility for the Development Agreement with the city. Eventually that group's name would become OG Property Owners, LLC. A further decade of dueling ensued until both sides finally compromised in 2004. Two hundred and forty-five single-family residences would still be built, but only on 215 acres. The remaining two square miles would be golf course-free, preserved as open space – significant chunks of which would be owned by the East Bay Regional Park District and East Bay Municipal Utility District.

Unfortunately for OG Property Owners, America's Great Recession stalled the project once again. Since 2005, the city ended up amending the original development agreement four times, adjusting timelines for the construction of playfields, installation of irrigation systems, planting of trees and other site improvements. It wasn't until just a few short weeks ago – at a recent Orinda City Council meeting – that council members and residents received word that OG Property Owners and Wilder had finally turned the corner.

Seven homes now dot Wilder's hills. Five are officially being called home sweet home by new Orindans, one continues to be utilized as a sales office, and the owners of the seventh are expected to move in shortly. Five more are under construction as another 20 make their way through design and permitting. Toll Brothers has also acquired interest in 25 other lots, Taylor Morrison has inked a Purchase and Sale Agreement with OG Property Owners for another 25, and Shapell Homes, Inc. has secured building permits for five more.

Scott Goldie, of OG Property Owners, presented those statistics May 6 as part of his company's annual status report to the City Council as mandated by state law. The public hearing assessed whether or not the firm remains in good faith compliance with the terms of the development agreement. As in previous years, staff found that OG Property Owners had fallen short on several conditions while doing well with others.

Of particular concern, the developer failed to pay the Moraga-Orinda Fire District \$2,000 per dwelling unit prior to the issuance of building permits as required by the development agreement. However, the company

did pony up \$180,000 to purchase an equipped ambulance and recently also established a \$20,000 fund to cover developer-related requests to expedite MOFD site inspections at Wilder.

Council members were also asked to consider several potential amendments to the development agreement, including defining completion dates for the Edgewood Emergency Vehicle Access and parking by mid-October, converting rear slope landscaping to a phased plan, and the possible relocation of Wilder's Art and Garden Center from its initial planned location at the southern end of the Wilder site to an area between the fourth and fifth playfields.

In general, city leaders were pleased but declined to take action regarding the art center, instead directing staff to bring the item back for future discussion. The City Council then found that OG Property Owners was in substantial compliance with the development agreement. The company will return at a later date with defined details regarding the timing of trail openings and will work with staff to schedule a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Wilder playfields.

Orinda Farmers' Market, Season 17



The Orinda Farmers' Market opened its 17th season on May 3 with a new theme – Harvest Young! The market will sprout up every Saturday through Nov. 22 on Orinda Way in front of the Orinda Community Park. Market hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fun activities for kids will be offered the second Saturday of each month.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

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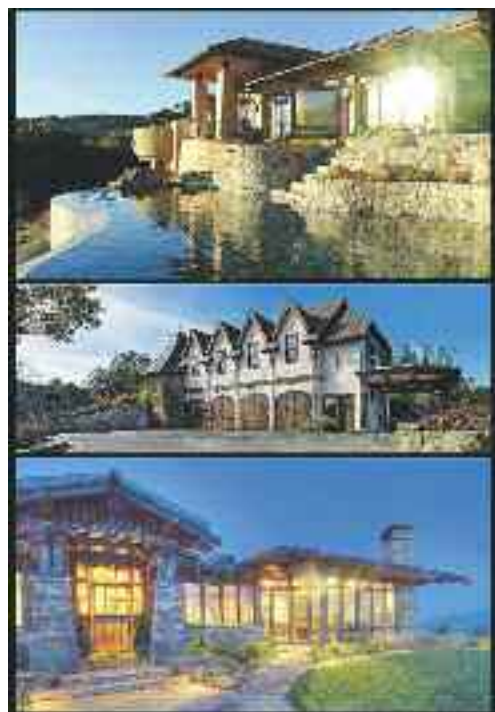
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Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation Launches Summer Movie Series

By Laurie Snyder

If laughter is the best medicine, Orinda is in for some much needed healing these next few months thanks to the launch of a new summer entertainment program. An outgrowth of the popular movie nights hosted previously by the city's Teen Advisory Council, Movies Under the Stars is being presented free of charge in July and August by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation.

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together," said Mayor Sue Severson of the family-friendly film fest. Describing the new program as a great way for kids to have fun in a setting that parents can trust will be safe, she added that she hopes Orindans of all ages will come out and "enjoy an evening right here, downtown."

Summer movie season will begin July 10 with the sing-along version of "Frozen," the latest in Disney's Ani-

mated Classics series. Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen," the film is a coming of age tale with an epic journey and not one, but two Disney princesses – Anna, voiced by Kristen Bell, and Elsa, voiced by Idina Menzel, the vocal powerhouse best known for her work on Broadway in "Rent" and "Wicked." Her film-stopping moment in the Disney outing is "Let It Go," a song that has gone platinum with more than a million sales to date.

And because the show must always go on, fans of Beaker and Miss Piggy will be on the edge of their lawn chairs July 24 as Fozzie, Animal and Walter help Kermit escape from the clutches of Tina Fey before taking on "the world's most evil frog" – all while trying to thwart the theft of England's crown jewels in "Muppets Most Wanted."

The general goofiness will con-

tinue Aug. 14 when Orinda's littlest minions giggle and guffaw as Miranda Cosgrove, Steve Carell and Russell Brand return as Margo, Gru and Dr. Nefario in the Oscar-nominated, multi-award-winning "Despicable Me 2" – this time wielding lipstick tasers and other nifty gadgets in an effort to vanquish the vile villains behind the disappearance of a covert Arctic laboratory.

After a summer of new memories made, Orinda Movies Under the Stars 2014 will wrap Aug. 21 when local master builders and other Lego fans bond while booing Lord Business as he plots to capture the Kragle and put the universe permanently on ice in "The Lego Movie."

Each film is rated PG and will be shown at the Orinda Community Park. Movies will begin in July at approximately 8:30 p.m. and at 8:15 p.m. in August.

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Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247



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Kathy McCann CalBRE#00946092



ORINDA \$1,695,000
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David Pierce CalBRE# 00964185



ORINDA \$2,450,000
6/4+. Stunning Mediterranean w/ flexible floor plan, gourmet kitchen, verandas, and views.
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MORAGA \$1,275,000
3/2. This home is gorgeous! Meticulously remodeled w/superb finishes & attention to detail. Lovely garden & patio.
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Moraga Garden Center – a Business Like No Other

By Sophie Braccini



Kenny Murakami, with a young Japanese maple.

Photo Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Garden Center is the domain of Kenny Murakami who, like a priest ministering in his church, celebrates and shares his love of plants every day. Returning customers have made this business a success for 30 years. Some of them are more than clients, they are aficionados who seek out Murakami because they know that whatever their question is, he is the man with the answer; while others spend time there in search of hidden botanical treasures.

"I must go there once a week; I just can't drive by and not stop," says

Moraga resident Bobbie Preston, who has completely redone her garden with plants from the Moraga Garden Center because, beyond his good plants, Murakami has given her advice about what will work and how to make it thrive. "There are a lot of us who just love Kenny," she says with a warm smile. "My husband calls him my 'other husband.'"

The nursery is organized with plants in alphabetical order by botanical name, with specific areas for maples, bamboo, fruit trees, native plants, and seasonal displays of roses, day lilies, vegetable and herbs. "Peo-

ple want to be here because they can find treasures. Kenny has a selection of native plants and things you won't find anywhere else," says John Hessler of Lafayette, who was in the nursery exploring the natives section and found a rare *Sphaeralcea munroana*, a beautiful, fast-growing desert plant that produces orange flowers. "If you go through here you will be amazed at some of the plants you will find, hidden not just among the natives, but everywhere else," adds Hessler.

Rebecca Wiseman was a customer when she worked as a judge with the 5th District Court of Appeal.

"He taught me how to garden in the East Bay, how to deal with clay soil, with deer and critters," she remembers, "and sometimes I came here just for the peacefulness of the place, as a refuge." When Wiseman retired she asked Murakami if she could work at the Moraga Garden Center. "I knew this would be a good place to work; Kenny is like a father figure," she adds. Wiseman took classes at Merritt College and started working, learning along the way. She describes Murakami's teaching as following a Socratic method. "You ask questions, he asks questions and you learn from there." Wiseman adds that she's loved learning about flowers, textures, colors, creating pictures with nature and understanding what plants are compatible with each other. "There is one thing that is very important to Kenny – that we never give a wrong answer to a customer," she says. "If we don't know something, we can find the answer by going to him, or in the office library."

Young James Creek worked for Murakami during the summers of

2012 and 2013. He met Murakami when he was restoring a creek by planting native plants as his Eagle Scout project; he appreciated the free advice and great deal on plants. "I liked Kenny a lot as a boss," says Creek. "He always kept us busy, but also asked us what we wanted to do. I learned a lot just shadowing him." Creek also appreciates the fact that Murakami refuses to sell anything that is on the list of California invasive plants. "It's not illegal to sell them, but Kenny decided that he would not contribute to the problem and he would rather lose a sale."

Murakami, who has little interest in self-promotion, declined to be interviewed for this article. "What Kenny really wants is for people to succeed in their gardening," concludes Creek.

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

business briefs

Unique Gift Shop Opens in Orinda

Echo Grove
2 Theatre Square #112, Orinda
(925) 253-1266, www.echogrovestore.com



Dean Shutt at his store, Echo Grove in Orinda's Theatre Square.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Mags Doty and Dean Shutt have opened their first retail store in April. The couple comes from the virtual world; Doty spent 12 years with Cisco, while Shutt was doing online producing. They wanted to work together at something that would be more tangible and real. "We talked about a gift shop and we decided that it would be cool to sell only things that are handmade," says Shutt. "When we choose something it is because it is cool first, then second, it has to have been uniquely made by hand by an artisan." The wide range of gifts can accommodate almost any occasion and includes cards, candles, belts, hats, buckles, iPad covers, beauty and skin products, pottery, diaper bags, dog treat bags, reusable sandwich bags and a few things for children. "It's been a lot of fun," says Shutt, who is in charge of sales, displays and building the fixtures in the store; Doty handles the purchasing. The two entrepreneurs are learning by doing. "We've read a couple of books and just started doing it," says Shutt. "We chose Orinda at first sight and so far it's worked really well." Echo Grove is open Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday; it is located in Theatre Square, halfway between Sweet Dreams and Barbacoa.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce Lafayette

Chamber mixer from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11 at The Mechanic, 3328 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Rock the Plaza from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on June 6, 13, 20, and 27 at the Lafayette Plaza Park. Find a detailed program at www.lafayettechamber.org.

Save the date for the July Mega Mixer at Cal Shakes with six chambers of commerce, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9 at 100 Shakespeare Way, Orinda.

Moraga

Save the date for the all-day Moraga Chamber Golf Tournament to be held July 14. For more information, go to www.moragachamber.org.

Orinda

Chamber mixer from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 22 at RPM Mortgage, 51 Moraga Way #2, Orinda (across from CVS Pharmacy).

Ribbon cutting for Echo Gove from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 29 at 2 Theatre Square #112, Orinda.

Save the date for the first Chamber Brunchon, from 8 to 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 17 at Barbacoa in Theatre Square. Enjoy delicious brunch food while meeting with the board of directors and ambassadors, hear the annual report presentation, and get the latest chamber news. RSVP to Candy Kattenburg at info@lamorindachamber.org; the cost is \$10.

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

Correction, issue date May 7, 2014, Orinda Trivia Bee Buzz:

The winners of the April 25 Orinda Trivia Bee received a check payable to their favorite non-profit in the amount of \$500 and also won a raffle prize valued at \$150.

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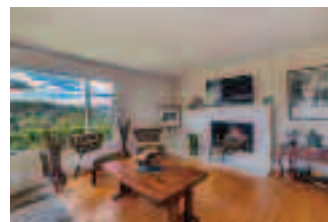
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Correction, issue date May 7, 2014, The Tangled Web of Lamorinda Ambulance Service:

The contract for ambulance service discussed in this article is between American Medical Response and Contra Costa County, not between AMR and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.

Lamorinda Fire News Briefs on page A14

The Ambulance Wheels Are Turning

By Nick Marnell

In his search for more revenue and to increase efficiency in the operations of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, fire chief Jeff Carman identified a unique opportunity: that the district compete for the exclusive operating contract for ambulance service in Contra Costa County. The county's current ambulance provider is American Medical Response, whose contract expires in December 2015.

Carman presented the idea to the Board of Supervisors in April, and the board approved his request to hire a consultant to analyze the feasibility of ConFire assuming that contract.

After completing the request

for proposal process, the district entered into an agreement with The Ludwig Group, a fire and emergency medical services consultant in Memphis, Tenn. headed by Gary Ludwig, a national fire and EMS professional with more than 30 years experience in the industry.

"We received three proposals," said the chief. "Two were very close in price, and Ludwig was a little higher in price than the low bid but his background lends itself to a lot of credibility in this area of expertise." A consultant fee of up to \$15,000 was approved by the board; the report from Ludwig is expected no later than Aug. 1.

The Ludwig Group recently completed a study for the Loudoun County, Va. Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management on the establishment of an EMS transport reimbursement program. In January, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors approved Ludwig's recommendation and the program is expected to be implemented in July, confirmed Mary Maguire, spokeswoman for the department.

"Gary will give us a good report we can trust," said Carman. "I know we are going into a fight with AMR, but I'd be negligent on behalf of the district not to do it."



Next meetings:
Wednesday, May 21 - meeting canceled
Next meeting: Wednesday, June 4
check website for updates
(Go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)

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

Over 500 Orinda Neighbors Urge You to Vote YES on Measure J Let's Fix Our Residential Roads!

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Fuad S. Sweiss, PE, PLS, LEED AP & Orinda resident
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"Voters should approve Orinda roads measure." Contra Costa Times

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Letters to the Editor

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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:

We are writing to state our support for Measure J on the June ballot which would provide \$20 million in bond funds to fix Orinda roads. The bonds would be paid for by a tax of about \$110 annually on homeowners. We find that Measure J is a sound and prudent investment in long-overdue infrastructure repairs and necessary to maintain our quality of life and the economic viability of our semi-rural residential neighborhoods. We disagree with those who urge a No vote on Measure J for the following reasons:

Measure J is part of an orderly and timely multi-year plan which supplements earlier revenues from a half-cent sales tax voters approved in 2012. Each phase of the financing plan enables the city to repair roads and storm drains so that we will no longer have the lowest rating in Contra Costa County.

Low interest rates and an urgent and unquestioned need for road and storm drain repair prompts us to agree that now is the time to approve this bond act. Further, long term debt when paid for by a designated revenue source, is an appropriate and legitimate funding mechanism for capital improvements which provide long-term benefits to the residents of our community.

Measure J contains safeguards through citizen oversight and an annual audit to convince us that the funds will be well spent implementing the Orinda Roads and Drainage Repair Plan. This plan has been vetted and publicly approved. We disagree with opponents who call for each road repair project to be specified. This is inconsistent with representative democracy and smacks of the ballot box budgeting, reviled by public finance experts.

We the Undersigned are meeting on a monthly basis to dialogue with each other and with organizations and individuals in Orinda ~under the umbrella theme Envisioning 21st Century Orinda. We are still in formation, but welcome conversation with all those who live and work here who are concerned about our community's future. One of the values we hold dear is quality infrastructure for our city, and thus we wanted to express support for this important ballot measure.

Sincerely,

Karen Brockwell, David Finkbeiner, Michael Hofmayer, Rev. Hubert Ivery, Elisabeth & Micheal Kersten, Eartha Newsong, Valerie Sloven, and Bill Waterman
Orinda

Editor:

Common sense says Fix Orinda's Roads. They are only going to get worse and then cost even more to fix. Our "city fathers" have done a good job in starting the fix but there is much left to be done and we can't stop now. Otherwise we will slip further back in the hole again.

Dot and Ray Wilson

Orinda

Editor:

On the June 3, 2014 ballot Orindans will be voting on a 20-million-dollar road and drain tax, Measure J.

The Orinda City Council will not tell each of the Orinda voters what improvements will be made to their street using the proposed road and drain tax or when these improvements will be made. You will pay the tax, but what will you get for your street?

In the January 24, 2014, issue of the Lamorinda Sun, which is part of the Friday Contra Costa Times, Charles Swanson, the Orinda Public Works Director, told the Sun that a 20-million-dollar tax would fund the repair of about a third of the City's residential streets. In other words, 60-million dollars in bonds would be needed to fix all the streets. Orinda residents living on private roads will pay the tax but get NO money for their road.

In the March 7, 2014, issue of the Lamorinda Sun it was reported that the principal and interest on a 20-million-dollar bond would be 30.6-million dollars. So to furnish the needed 60-million dollars to fix all the roads 3 x 30.6-million dollars or 91-million dollars (principal and interest) will be needed. Can we afford 91-million dollars in new taxes? This proposed 20-million-dollar bond is merely the first step in a series of taxes which will cost taxpayers 91-million dollars (principal and interest) to bring all Orinda roads and drains up to good condition.

If you dislike the fact that the City Council will not tell you when your road will be brought up to good condition, please vote NO on this ballot. If you don't feel you can afford to fund 91-million dollars in new taxes to upgrade all Orinda residential streets to good condition, please vote NO on this ballot.

Clyde Vaughn

Orinda

Editor:

Everyone in Orinda understands that our roads are in deplorable condition. Measure J is a prudent and responsible plan that is designed to accelerate the repair of Orinda's worst roads and storm drains. A Yes vote will expend approximately \$20 million over the next four years to repair the worst of our residential roads. Expenditures will be audited and are under the supervision of a citizen's infrastructure oversight commission, using established criteria and focusing on repair of the worst roads first. A No vote will only further delay these needed repairs (perhaps for years) as the roads continue to deteriorate, costs increase and we quarrel over how to pay for something we essentially all agree needs to be done as soon as possible. A Yes vote, on the other hand, will allow us to begin residential road repair now and to do so in a way that will have a major positive impact on our worst roads. It will improve the safety and appearance of our roads, reduce unnecessary tire wear and auto repairs, enhance property values and increase the quality of life in Orinda. We should not further delay these needed repairs. Please vote yes on Measure J!

Brad Barber

Orinda

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Voting NO for Measure J (phase2) is necessary so we can get all roads repaired in a timely and cost effective manner! The city plan is to have voters pass Measure J this year and then pass Phase 3 & 4 in future years. Sounds good, but here are the barriers to achievement. First, Measure J needs two-thirds majority to pass. Second, each phase will be competing with other needs such as school funds. Third, if Measure J is approved then fewer voters are likely to approve the next phase because their roads have been repaired, thus the required two-thirds majority will not be achieved. The proposed approach leads to getting very few of the roads repaired. The best approach is to have the total need for repair provided as a Measure. This way all citizens know their road repair needs will be accomplished. The piecemeal approach that the proponents of Measure J propose leads to a lot of uncertainty and doubt that the total job will ever be achieved. As a retired civil engineer with 35 years of experience in the National Forests in California I say with confidence, Measure J is NOT the way!

Jerry Wooten
Orinda

Editor:

I am usually opposed to any new taxes and skeptical of government promises. But I do not understand the argument being made by some that we should vote no on Measure J because it would not collect enough to fix our roads. Measure J's \$20 million bond does not entirely solve our problem or make up for past neglect. However, Measure J is a good investment that will make a difference. All funds are dedicated to the residential roads that need help most, managed under the oversight of a citizen committee. Vote Yes on J, now, and stay engaged in finding long term solutions to fixing and maintaining our roads!

Jason Kaune
Orinda

Editor:

Ten Millions for big banks?

Mayor Sue Severson's letter states that the average homeowner will pay about \$100 to \$150. Annually for \$20 Million general obligation bond over 20 year life. She did not say the bond's actual costs will be \$30 Million. Ten Million to the big banks.

Using the \$150 figure to calculate how many homes & businesses there are in Orinda gives us first a cost of \$3,000 over 20 years for each one which then calculates to be 10,000 homes and businesses.

Can we avoid paying 10 million dollars to the big banks? If the 10,000 homes and businesses would voluntarily contribute to a street fund, we could save 10 million and the cost would be only \$100 per year.

The city is talking about three of these bonds, one every few years. Will it only take three bond measures? No! Check out Sleepy Hollow Lane, North side, which was repaved about 5 years ago. Too bad it shows signs of failure from one end to the other. This street will need to be repaved again soon. Some homeowners have out of necessity paved their own street.

I say the city should collect the funds necessary on the first of each year for road repair thru voluntary gifts to "Fix our Roads" organization which would then funnel the gifts to road repair fund. Homeowners and businesses would need to know what their minimum voluntary contribution would be.

One hundred dollars per year for each of the 10,000 would be one million for road repair per year.

I just can't find it in my heart to vote 10 million for big banks.

Gerald Perry
Orinda

Editor:

I am writing to show how Orindans can come together to fix our roads. For the record, I have been a member of Orinda's Citizen's Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC) since it was created seven years ago, and I am a supporter of the June bond. I believe the majority of Orindans agree with me. But there are some who oppose the bond despite agreement that (1) our roads are in deplorable condition and (2) we should start by fixing our worst residential roads, as the June bond will do.

The dissenters argue that we need a more detailed plan for what comes after the June bond. But this is putting the cart before the horse. We need to start by fixing our worst residential roads. We have a list of these roads - road segment by road segment - and engineering estimates of the cost of repair. Detailed engineering analysis will be completed for each road as additional revenue becomes available. This is standard project management process in road management. The current Chair of the CIOC has a lifetime of professional engineering experience managing roads and road policy. We know what needs to be done and have an appropriate plan. Any disagreements about "What comes next" should not stop us from doing what all know should be done now.

Some have argued that we cannot "trust" the city to use the June bond funds wisely. But there also is no controversy over how the City has been spending available funds on the roads. The City has focused current (gas tax) funds on arterials and collectors - the roads most heavily used by nearly all Orindans, and all of these roads are expected to be in good to excellent condition within the next five years using existing funding sources. The new sales tax revenues approved by voters in 2011 are being used to begin fixing our worst residential roads. The first two roads are currently out for bids and will be rebuilt this summer. Without exception, the City Council has endorsed and implemented all of the recommendations of the CIOC regarding road policy or road selection. There is no controversy here. There has been some controversy in Orinda over planning issues, but it would be silly to use this controversy to stop us from doing what we all agree needs to be done now -- fix our worst residential roads.

Here is my proposal. Let's all come together and do what we agree on now - vote for the June bond (Measure J) and get our worst residential roads fixed. Then after passing the bond, let's all come back together to work out legitimate differences that we may have for the remainder of the plan. The City's roads plan expressly calls for a reevaluation every two years. We could start working on a revised plan in 2015, aiming for adoption and voter approval in 2016.

We can make local politics work. A big "yes" vote on the June bond is the best way to jump start this effort and keep us working together to achieve what is a common and important goal.

Richard Nelson
Orinda

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Community Service

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

Tech Trek and Scholarship Winners an Inspiration

Submitted by Sandy Fox-Sohner, Mary Ann McLeod and Sally Swanson



Scholarship Award winners, from left: Karen Trang, speaker Dr. Marinda Wu, Linda Phung, Samantha Garcia, and Emma Patton. Photos provided

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) – Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) Branch sponsored six tech trek and scholarship awardees, who wowed an audience with their passion and drive at a April 27 celebration and awards meeting. Marinda Wu gave an inspirational presentation by about the challenges she faced as she pursued her Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry at a time when few women were entering such fields. Prior to her presentation, these outstanding young women spoke about their work, their talents, and their dreams for the future.



Tech Trek Scholarship winners, from left: Sharon Yuan, Claire Gallagher, Sofia Elise West, Dara Kazmierowski, Dr. Marinda Wu, speaker, Ally Scarpitti, and Jane Fong.

ate safe buildings to save lives; Dara Kazmierowski of OIS loves biology and is focused on a career in science or medicine; Ally Scarpitti of Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School has been a passionate "techie" since she was 5 years old and helps family, friends, and even neighbors with technology challenges; Sharon Yuan of JM is a curious, big thinker who loves many areas of science including computer programming, biology, and medical science; Claire Gallagher of Stanley Middle School exudes enthusiasm for math and science and hopes to build a robot that can explore the ocean so she can combine being an engineer and an oceanographer; and Sofia Elise West of Stanley is interested in engineering and math, with a possible career in chemical engineering or veterinary medicine. She built a hovercraft for a science fair.

The six Lamorinda middle school girls will attend the Grace Hopper Tech Trek camp on the Stanford University campus in July. Since 1998, AAUW OML has sent 59 girls to Tech Trek camp. This year, science, math, and technology teachers at local intermediate schools nominated 40 girls for Tech Trek camp.

In addition to these six award winners, the following four young college age women were acknowledged for their academic achievements and passion for the sciences with scholarships: Karen Trang (\$5,000 award from the Gayle Ulkema gift), Saint Mary's College; Linda Phung (\$5,000 award from the Gayle Ulkema gift), Miramonte High School; Samantha Garcia (\$800 from the AAUW-OML), Campolindo High School; and Emma Patton (\$800 from the AAUW-OML), Miramonte High School.

For more information about AAUW-OML, visit <http://oml-ca.aauw.net/>.

Cookie Sales Help Dogs and Cats

Submitted by Shannon Cahoon



Photo provided Lafayette Brownie Troop 32146 recently presented a check from cookie proceeds donated to ARF.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

From Front Page

A Wise Neighborhood

... continued from page A1

The first community project was finished in 2012. "Five of us worked on our yards. We raised the height of low limbs on oak trees and we got rid of dead pine trees," said Green. Brush was cleared and highly flammable plants were removed along sides of roads. The following year, the community realigned and renovated the emergency evacuation path behind Sleepy Hollow Elementary School. Sleepy Hollow recently became the first neighborhood in Contra Costa County to be recognized by FireWise Communities/USA, a project of the National Fire Prevention Agency. The program is a nationwide initiative that recognizes communities for taking action to protect people and properties from the risk of fire in wildland and urban areas. Deb Stephenson, the Sleepy Hollow FireWise Community representative, said that there is still much more to be done.

"I remember the Oakland Hills fire," she said. "And my kids went to the Sleepy Hollow school. We need to build awareness of what individuals can do, and I will continue to get the word out to help bring our properties up to speed." For information on how your neighborhood can qualify as a FireWise community, contact Lamorinda Emergency Preparedness Director Dennis Rein at (925) 698-4575 or drein@mofd.org.



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Three Orinda Persian Cats Hope to Find New Homes

Submitted by Bobbie Cummings



Orinda Persian, little Hattie, is beautiful once again after her ordeal. She weighs a mere 6 pounds, and has all the true Persian features including a smashed-type nose. She is loving and enjoys being petted. She would thrive as the only pet in the household.

Photo provided

Three Orinda cats, Hattie, Tori and Chika, are looking forward to being adopted during the Community Concern for Cats free cat and kitten adoption weekend as part of Maddie's Pet Adoption Days May 31 to June 1 in Lafayette. The three felines are a part of "The Sweet Sixteen" which once had a good life but lost it all when their elderly owner was moved into a care facility. Unfortunately, he made no provisions for his 16 Persian cats and so they were put outside to survive as best they could. CC4C was asked to help and contacted Dr. Laurie Langford of Theater View Veterinary Clinic in Orinda, whose care made it possible for 11 out of the 16 to be adopted quickly.

Normally CC4C charges from \$100 to \$125 to adopt, but this weekend adoptions are free to qualified homes, thanks to Maddie's Fund, which has set aside \$10 million this year to give stipends to rescue organizations and shelters for

each animal that finds a home. The stipends range from \$500 to \$2,000 for each adopted cat. Cats that are older or have treatable/treated health issues bring in the larger Maddie's donations. Last year CC4C had 74 adoptions during this event.

"Most people don't realize that the regular adoption fee doesn't even come close to paying the cost of rescuing a cat – costs include tests, vaccinations, deworming, medications, flea treatments and spay and neuter. So the funds from Maddie's Days allow us to do more rescues all year long," says Candace Olsen, past CC4C president.

"Finally, someone is doing something good for animals in a very visual way," adds CC4C president Gemma Osendorf-Boyd. "We are very thankful for Dave and Cheryl Duffield, founders of Workday and PeopleSoft, who started the fund."

For 29 years, CC4C has been offering spay and neuter, foster care, adoption, and medical rehabilitation for abandoned and homeless cats and kittens. They lend traps and provide trap-neuter return programs as needed. The adoption days will be held at Pet Food Express in Lafayette on Saturday, May 31 from noon to 5 p.m., and Sunday, June 1 from noon to 4 p.m. CC4C adoptions will also take place at Pet Food Express in Pleasant Hill and Petco in Walnut Creek during the same hours. Visit www.communityconcernforcats.org for information and to see other available cats. Not all of the younger kittens may be pictured – new ones arrive daily.

CC4C has no physical shelter or paid staff; all its rescued cats are fostered in homes. They urgently need foster homes now that it is "kitten season." Please call to help: (925) 938-2287 or email them at mail@communityconcernforcats.org.

Two of Moraga's Top Volunteers Honored

Submitted by Sara Mooradian



From left: Nancy Kendzierski, Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns, and Kathy Ranstrom. Photo provided

Two of Moraga's most dedicated volunteers were honored at the 16th Las Trampas Creek Founders' Day luncheon on Tuesday, April 29. Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns presented Kathy Ranstrom and Nancy Kendzierski with one of PTA's highest recognitions, the Very Special Person Award. The VSP Award is given to individuals or organizations that demonstrate outstanding service to their PTA. Ranstrom and Kendzierski most recently co-chaired the successful Measure B parcel tax campaign, a \$192 parcel tax for

Moraga's K-8 schools. Voters passed the measure during the November 2013 election with 68 percent of the vote.

Their list of accomplishments and service to Moraga's schools was too extensive for Burns to list individually, however, Burns told the group of Lamorinda superintendents, principals, PTA presidents and executive board members that he was extremely grateful for their "unparalleled service, steadfast leadership and unmatched passion to ensure a high quality education for our students."

Lafayette Girl Scouts Celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Week

Submitted by Linda Bailey



Photo provided

Girl Scout volunteers were recently recognized for their efforts at a local Service Unit Leader Meeting for not just giving of their time and skills, but building upon a legacy that has developed girls and young women all over the world for nearly 100 years. Pictured (not in order): Janene Goodman, Stephanie Burton, Sandy Magnus, Lisa Palma, Colleen McCarty, Linda Bailey, Julie Bishop, TJ Kirke, Darci Olson, Kristin Ingram, Alison Wash, Kim McLellan, Joan Lo, Joan Toney, Tanya

Parmelee, Lulu Braunstein, Diella Wottrich, Heidi Felt, Susie DeCarlo, Leslie Machtmes, Charisse Stratford, Carolyn Wan, Liz Shipman, Francesa Lohman, Angela Starbuck, Justine Parmelee, Tina Sappal, Robin Nick, Sibel Giftgi, Queen Hui, Trish Gregovich, Nicole Carberry, Danette Webb, and Sue Reimer. There are currently waiting lists to place girls in troops. For information about getting involved as a volunteer or to join Lafayette Girl Scouts, visit www.lafayettegirlscouts.org.

Lafayette Girl Scouts Earn Bronze Award

Submitted by Belinda Young



Photo Belinda Young

Lafayette Elementary Troop 32851 recently learned their Bronze Award, the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can achieve! The troop of 13 fifth-grade girls hosted an Earth Day event in coordination with the Lafayette Elementary School spring campus cleanup day. The event included multiple display booths and activities that offered students and local scouts a hands-on opportunity to learn about three key conservation values: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. The booths included information about

water pollution, debris accumulation in the North Pacific Gyre, how to make tote bags out of old T-shirts, tips for water conservation, composting, and how to separate trash from recyclables. The displays were fun and engaging, including a simulated wildlife cleanup using rubber duckies. The girls will receive their Bronze Award certificate and pin during the Lafayette Girl Scouts 2014 Awards Ceremony at the Acalanes Performing Arts Center on Friday, May 30.



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Civic News Fire Districts

Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

MOFD Seasonal Staffing Increase

Because of a general fund deficit, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District lowered its daily on-duty minimum staffing level from 19 to 17 in November. But with the district facing drought conditions and the risk of a large vegetation fire, particularly in north Orinda, fire chief Stephen Healy requested a staffing increase from May 12 through Oct. 31 at the May 7 board of directors meeting.

Healy specifically recommended that the district re-staff the ambulance at Orinda Village station 45 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. "It will increase the availability of engine 44 in south Orinda, which will add three additional firefighters to a vegetation fire the majority of the time," said the chief. His proposal will increase overtime charges by \$65,000 this fiscal year and \$142,000 in 2014-15.

A motion to approve the staffing increase passed 4-0, with board president John Wyro absent.

MOFD Budget Workshop

After three consecutive years of General Fund deficit spending, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District presented a fiscal year 2014-15 budget with a projected operating surplus at its May 14 Finance Committee meeting.

"We were given direction to present a balanced budget for 2014-15," said Gloriann Sasser, administrative services director. "In order to do that, significant changes had to be implemented."

Many of those changes resulted from the new four-year labor agreement struck by the district with Local 1230 in April; under the new contract, salaries decreased 3.5 percent for the first year and health benefits were capped at 2010 levels for active employees and retirees. The district will also continue to operate with one less division chief. As a result, salaries and overtime are projected to decrease nearly \$600,000 for the new fiscal year.

Though 2014-15 property tax revenue is projected to increase more than \$1 million, the district's retirement contribution jumps nearly \$2 million. Combined with a \$300,000 increase in workers' compensation charges - mainly due to the major accident on Highway 24 in 2012 (see our online archive for details, www.lamorindaweekly.com) - the district will use more than \$700,000 of its fire flow tax revenue to fund operating

expenses.

Total district revenue for 2014-15 is projected at \$22.2 million, with total expenditures - including capital expenditures and debt service fund expenditures - equaling \$21.7 million.

Sasser also updated the district's Long Range Financial Plan. "We will have a balanced general fund, with revenue meeting expenditures in each year," she said, with the positive trend resulting from projected rising property tax revenue and lower retirement costs. Sasser also projected that the general fund balance will exceed 10 percent of budgeted general fund revenue by 2019.

"Last year we were looking into a chasm," said director and finance committee member Steve Anderson. "Labor and management have done remarkable work in keeping us from falling off the cliff."

Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force

One of the issues on which many members of the Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force agree is the completion of proposed fire station 46, a joint venture between the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. A precipitating event in the formation of the task force was the closing of ConFire station 16 in Lafayette.

ConFire chief Jeff Carman and MOFD chief Stephen Healy have said that they are very close to an agreement on the construction and operation of the new station. At the March task force meeting, however, Carman said that he was reticent to present a station 46 plan to his board when, at the same time, Lafayette was considering secession from the district. "I need to decide where to put our emphasis," said Carman.

The task force approved a draft of a resolution at its May 15 meeting to present to the Lafayette City Council affirming and supporting the concept of station 46. "This resolution does not end our discussion of governance, modeling, financing and response times," said co-chair Traci Reilly. "But it will be an affirmation from Lafayette that we're not packing our bags." Co-chair Brandt Andersson added, "We do want this and we think that station 46 should be built."

The draft will be presented for approval at the May 27 City Council meeting; Carman's station 46 presentation is expected to be delivered to the Board of Supervisors on June 3.

Community Foundation Grant Giving Celebration

By Cathy Tyson



Representatives from grant-winning organizations: Lafayette Community Garden, Food Bank, Generations in Jazz, Town Hall Theatre, Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Interfaith Council, Las Trampas, Lamorinda Adult Respite Care, Spirit Van, Gold Coast Chamber Players, along with Board Members Sereta Churchill and Kathy Bowles.
Photo Cathy Tyson

It's not surprising why the Lafayette Community Foundation is so popular. The foundation, now in its 15th year, began with the sole purpose of raising funds for the spectacular Lafayette Library and Learning Center, ultimately securing over \$12 million for the project.

Currently the LCF hands out generous grants twice per year to local non-profit organizations, large and small, that serve a wide array of needs in the area. They have given away more than \$300,000. The group takes its mission seriously, investing in programs and projects that promote and enhance the civic, cultural, educational and environmental health of Lafayette.

In a first-ever afternoon event to

celebrate all the recipients, one lucky winner, Janet Thomas representing the Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center, proudly announced when they got the call, "we started digging." The lovely garden that was once a patch of dead dirt near the entrance to the Lafayette Reservoir is now thriving. What had been a very labor-intensive manual watering effort will be replaced with a much more efficient timed drip irrigation system, thanks to a \$2,000 grant from the LCF.

Grant chair Kathy Bowles explained, "Our donations come from community members, along with the Garage Tour and participating in the Taste of Lafayette. I urge you to support us so we can continue to support

you." Despite the temperature on a record breaking day, a parade of very thankful recipients came forward to graciously accept their checks. From Generations in Jazz, which received funds to replace its aging audio speakers and microphones, to Lamorinda Adult Respite Care Center that provides care and activities for memory-impaired participants, and Town Hall Theatre for the purchase of stage lighting, a total of 10 non-profit organizations received checks from the LCF.

The foundation received 23 grant requests this cycle. "It's a bit frustrating that we don't have the money to fund everyone who applies," said LCF volunteer Matt Geiser. For more information, go to www.lafayettecf.org.

Little Free Libraries in Lamorinda

By Amanda Kuehn



Donna Pickthall accepts book donations at her "Something for the Weekend" booth at the Orinda Farmers' Market. Photo Ohlen Alexander

If you park your car outside 67 Loma Vista Drive in Orinda, walk up to the bright red box roughly 5 feet tall and 3 feet wide at end of the drive, nestled between two baby evergreens, and crack open the door you'll find three shelves of books, ranging from Amanda Foreman's "The Duchess" to Don Freeman's "Corduroy." At the bottom of the base, a plaque reads simply: "Take a book, return a book. Little Free Library."

The Little Free Library (LFL) Project started in 2009, when Todd

Bol of Hudson, Wis., built a model of a one room schoolhouse, filled it with books and put it on a post in his front yard with a sign reading "Free Books." It was so popular that Bol built two more. LFL's started popping up throughout Wisconsin, and with the advent of the LFL website in 2010, the movement went national. By the end of 2011 there were 400 LFL's across the country. As of January 2014, there are over 15,000 LFL's worldwide, each doing its part to create

"a gathering place where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories."

The Lamorinda area boasts two such spaces: Donna Pickthall's box on Loma Vista Drive and Bobbie Preston's book lantern at 1307 Larch Avenue in Moraga. Pickthall and her family moved to Los Angeles from London four years ago. "I couldn't have made L.A. my permanent home," Pickthall commented. Shortly after moving to Orinda, she recalled thinking she'd found "the most amazing neighborhood with just the most lovely people." Pick-

thall considers the LFL to be "a gift; a sort of thank you to the community for accepting us."

Pickthall heard about LFL from a fellow member of the Lamorinda Moms group. "I Googled it and there wasn't one [in Lamorinda]. And I just decided, yeah, I'm going to do this." Pickthall's LFL was built by her father and made to look like an English phone kiosk. She keeps books for younger kids at the bottom, adults on the top. Her LFL is registered through the project's website and officially opened last October.

"Initially, it was just nice that the kids in the neighborhood used it," said Pickthall, who has been amazed at the number of books that have cycled in and out of the box. Now six months in, "It's actually very self-managing."

Bobbie Preston is still waiting to see some real action with her LFL, which has only been out since April. An avid gardener and advocate of literacy, Preston first read about LFL's in a gardening magazine. "They're quite big on the East Coast," she said.

Preston kept it simple, buying a large outdoor light lantern, mounting it on an old kitchen stool and setting



Moraga's Little Free Library on Larch. Photo Amanda Kuehn

it near the curb. "A lot of people walk and run on Larch," she noted. "I hope people will see it, and get in the habit of taking a book and leaving a book." Preston filled the library with "a little bit of everything," including high brow, low brow and children's books. "I find it very hard to give up books without giving them away," she said.

... continued on page B2

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art Four New Exhibitions Sunday, June 1 - Sunday, July 20



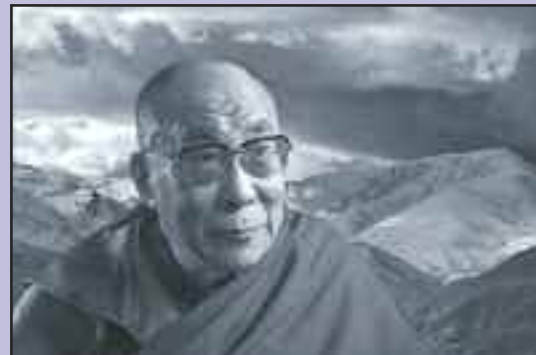
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Chihuly's Venetians

61 glass works of art, some enormous, and 11 of Dale Chihuly's preliminary drawings, inspired by the artist's love of Venice and Venetian glass. From the George R. Stroemple Collection, a Stroemple/Stirek Collaboration.



Michael Collopy: Face to Face with Movers and Shakers



Large scale photographs, including the Dalai Lama, Michael Phelps, Mother Teresa, Steve Jobs, Bono, Cesar Chavez, Nelson Mandela, Tim Lincecum, Kerri Walsh Jennings, Carmelo Anthony, Ray Charles, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Johnny Cash, Clint Eastwood, Carmen Electra, Dave Navarro, BB King, and more.

All Natural: Pamela Blotner and Sam Perry

Environmental sculpture: Perry's reclaimed and fallen wood; Blotner's mixed-media, hand felted imperiled animals.



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New Website Helps Students Study Mandarin Online

By Cathy Dausman



Acalanes High School student Will Goldie.

Photo Cathy Dausman

Will Goldie loves a challenge. Recently, the Acalanes High School junior designed a website to help fellow students learn Mandarin.

When Goldie searched online for Chinese language study aids but did not find what he wanted, he designed one himself, calling it Hanyu Guru (<https://hanyu.guru/>). Hanyu means Mandarin, and guru (Sanskrit for "teacher") is a web domain name.

"I built Hanyu Guru after I realized how hard it was to study Mandarin vocabulary," Goldie explained. He said learning Mandarin requires students to study "hundreds of Chinese characters" each year. "I saw myself and others struggle to recall esoteric words that we had learned in years past, and decided to build a set of digital flashcards to help me maintain my knowledge," he said.

Goldie devoted at least 100 hours of his "spare time" beginning in early March to develop the website which now contains 1,300 cards and follows the AHS Mandarin curriculum.

"Hanyu Guru is a full-stack website, built on the Node.js platform," Goldie explained, adding, "I used Express for the framework, and handled page templating with Jade."

Hanyu Guru is essentially a study

guide built of giant flashcards and based on the honor system. The site's registered users can access it from their smartphone, tablet or desktop computer. Pages are divided into English, Pinyin (the pronunciation transcription), and Chinese characters.

Students view each section of the card consecutively and mark their answers right or wrong. The system hones in on incorrect answers and drills the users with frequent repetitions. The site was developed using free software where available; only the home page photo required a license fee.

Goldie recoups the site's nominal hosting fee by charging users \$15 per year. The site had its soft launch in mid-April.

"Will has computer coding skills not taught at school," Acalanes Digital Design teacher Susan Lane said proudly. "In 20 years of teaching I have not had a student with so much potential and skill; it's as if coding is a natural extension of his thoughts," she said.

Lane expected Goldie's project to gain additional recognition through its submission at Project LPIE, an alliance between Lafayette Partners in

Education and Acalanes High School. Goldie placed third in his category. He and other Project LPIE winners were recognized May 16 at a presentation at Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

Goldie first studied Mandarin when it was introduced as a foreign language elective for Stanley Middle School students; he is currently enrolled in a combination fourth/fifth year class at Acalanes taught by Ma-Chen Tu.

"Will really has the talent and he loves the language," she said. Tu explained that not a lot of students learn Mandarin, so this will be a "very, very useful" tool. She hopes to spend some time this summer helping Goldie fine-tune some of the Mandarin characters which Goldie says are still "a little off" in translation.

"I'm not a genius Mandarin student," Goldie said modestly, but those using Hanyu Guru might disagree, and reply in Mandarin: "Hen Hao (well done)!"

Goldie's computer-based Eagle Scout project was also featured in a recent edition of Lamorinda Weekly: http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/arc_hive/issue0801/The-13-New-Eagle-Scouts-of-Troop-204.html.

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Little Free Libraries in Lamorinda

... continued from page B1

Preston hopes her LFL will facilitate community.

"In Texas, we sit on the front porch," she said. "In California, having a sense of community can be hard." She also hopes that the LFL will encourage literacy. "I think reading is incredibly important."

You can get involved by visiting your local LFL and donating to its collection. (Pickthall will also take donations at "Something for the Weekend," her baked goods booth at the Orinda Farmers' Market). You can also start an LFL of your own. You can even purchase a ready-made structure through the website.

Once you have your LFL put together, "make it official" by registering through the LFL website. LFL will send you a steward's packet and charter sign. Your library will become a part of the global network connecting readers to books and people to their communities.



The Little Free Library in Orinda.

Photo Amanda Kuehn

A Special Trip to Vietnam

Orinda couple and team bring gift of hand tools for those who lost limbs

By Bobbie Dodson



Orinda resident Don Jenkins helps fit a hand tool to a recipient in Vietnam. Photos provided

“Imagine being fitted with a hand tool and then writing your name for the first time in 20 years. Seeing the joy of the man who did this was so exciting and heart-warming,” says Orinda resident Linda Jenkins. She and her husband, Don, were part of an eight member team who journeyed to Vietnam with 500 hand tools in their luggage to fit them on as many people who had lost limbs as possible in their two week stay.

Don Jenkins explains, “It doesn’t look like a hand as it is basically three fingers, or hooks, on the top and two underneath. The wrist can rotate 180 degrees, has complete mobility and can grasp up to 50 pounds. Operating it requires using the other hand to open or close it, or it can be hit on something. To be eligible to receive one the recipient must have at least 10 percent of their forearm below the elbow. All it took was a one-day training session for us to learn how to fit and put them on. After being instructed in how to use the hand tool, those who received them could use silverware, pick up a cup, write, comb their hair and even type. Once back into their homes they could do such things as rake, hoe, or become a barber again.”

Linda Jenkins adds, “One of the sad times was when someone had traveled hours to get to us and we had to turn them away because they didn’t have the forearm. But for those who acquired the hand tools it was life changing. Now they can perform a multitude of daily tasks that we do without giving it a thought. A man told us, ‘Now I don’t have to wait until my wife wakes up to get my teeth brushed. I can do it myself.’”

Rotarians have been sponsoring projects to provide hands for six years. The Lamorinda Sunrise group donates \$2,000 every year which buys 50 hands. Over 1,000 hands have been donated in Vietnam and over 15,000 throughout the world.

On this trip, where they joined with the LN-4 Hand organization, the team was comprised of the Jenkins from the Lamorinda Sunrise club, who were first timers, Rotarians John

Bernardin and wife, Charlotte, from El Sobrante, who have gone five times, Randy Linquist and wife, Barbara, from Chico Sunrise, four timers, and Jeremy Francis, a 20-year-old who got his Eagle Scout award for training 20 other Scouts on how to repair the hand tools as they inspected them to be sure they worked properly. They paid for all their personal expenses.

“The group stopped in seven cities including Hanoi and Saigon. Each town put the word out that we would be there giving out free hands and people came from miles around. Some had lost both hands, but we could only give them one this time,” Don Jenkins explains. “The loss for older people was usually land mines, and some were blinded too. Younger ones had lost limbs mostly in industrial and farm accidents and a few were birth defects. The clients were mostly men, though we saw some women and children too.”

“Our days were long, but sometimes made longer when special needs arose,” Linda Jenkins adds. “One evening when we had everything put away two men rode up on a motorcycle. They had driven for an hour and one had no hands. We brought out all our equipment and provided each with one hand. This happened three more times that day, people arriving late, but we couldn’t think of not helping them. We also fit a hand in the lobby of our hotel for someone who heard about us after hours, and wanted so much to receive a hand tool.

“When you are in a room with perhaps 350 people all missing hands, one gets a new perspective on what has happened to the citizenry of Vietnam,” she continues. “Although the war ended in April of 1975, there continue to be many who still suffer from loss of limbs which occurred during the conflict and those who later lost limbs to land mines. We were happy we could help better the lives of those we were able to treat.

“Their smiles were a reward we will always treasure,” she adds. “And Rotarians will be back.”



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SMC's Professors of the Year Celebrated

By Amanda Kuehn

Saint Mary's College professors, students, alumni and community members packed into the Orinda Room at the Soda Center April 9, eager to hear history professor Myrna Santiago present an address entitled "Anger, Love, and Teaching," which focused on the resilience of her students and her love of teaching about the past.

With a bachelor's degree from Princeton, Fulbright experience in Mexico and a Ph.D. in Latin American History from UC Berkeley, Santiago already had quite a resume. She has now added to it the honor of being named Saint Mary's College 2013-14 Professor of the Year.

At some universities, the profes-

sor of the year is given a substantial load of responsibilities and speaking engagements. At SMC, however, this isn't the case. Though the professor of the year is expected to give a presentation in the spring, the award, which comes with a \$5,000 stipend, is seen as recognition of what has already been accomplished. "It should be an honor of achievement, celebratory of the [professor's] accomplishments and impact on campus," said SMC Provost Bethami Dobkin, Ph.D., who was recently named as one of the "Most Influential Women in the Bay Area" by San Francisco Business Times.

Santiago was given carte blanche regarding the topic of her address. "It took me pretty much the whole year to think about the frame and title," said Santiago, who knew right away that she wanted to focus her message on why she teaches and what motivates her year after year. The presentation and reception is open to all. "This particular one had a lot of students," Dobkin noted, "which speaks to [Santiago's] engagement with her students."

Nominations for the award can

come from any member of the Saint Mary's community, including students, faculty and staff. The incoming Professor of the Year is announced each spring at an end-of-the-year dinner hosted by the provost. Two months prior to the announcement, the Rank and Tenure Committee, joined by the provost and the deans, meets to discuss nominations. According to Dobkin, selection is made based on "all around achievement" including academic research, service and teaching, as well as the information provided by students and peers.

On receiving the award, Santiago was flattered and surprised. "It felt like it was a little early," she said, noting that she has only been at Saint Mary's for 15 years, far less than past recipients. Santiago, who is used to working more or less anonymously, found herself frequently blushing. "It feels funny to be in the spotlight," she said, also noting that, "It's a great honor that your colleagues think you deserve that recognition."

On Thursday, May 15, David Bowen was named the 2014-15 Professor of the Year. With a strong background in business manage-

ment, Bowen helped to set up Saint Mary's MBA program, (the first executive MBA program in Northern California), back in the mid '70s and has been teaching as a full-time professor since 1983. Bowen was scheduled to teach a class the night of the banquet before he was summoned by an email from the provost.

"Of course I knew what happens that week," said Bowen. "My first reaction was sort of disbelief. I couldn't imagine how I pulled that off; there are so many wonderful professors at the college."

Dobkin countered, stating, "Professor Bowen has earned the highest regard from his colleagues, particularly for his wise and compassionate leadership, his mastery of the theory and practice of organizational behavior, and his inspiring work with students."

Needless to say, Bowen made it to the dinner. "Once I got over the shock I rearranged the class."

Alongside Santiago, Dobkin was proud to recognize yet another outstanding member of Saint Mary's faculty. "Any chance we have to show them off we need to take," she said.

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Myrna Santiago



Photo Tony Burditt David Bowen Photo courtesy Saint Mary's Magazine

Springhill Students Artwork Displayed in SF

By Cathy Tyson



Springhill Elementary School student Sam Swan's poem and artwork will be part of the "Befriending the Imagination" exhibition through June 27.

Photo provided

A celebration of kid wisdom and creativity can be found in San Francisco through June 27 in an exhibit at the Commonwealth Club called "Befriending the Imagination," which examines human imagination as an essential natural resource – not rare, but precious.

The exhibit features 35 picture poems made by children, along with 10 of Lafayette resident J. Ruth Gendler's monotypes – a kind of printmaking produced by drawing or painting on a smooth, non-absorbent surface. Gendler has been a Poet in the Schools for over two decades, and has been at Springhill Elementary School in Lafayette since 1994.

Gendler feels that now more than ever, there is a need for the arts for children due to their increasingly digitized and constantly interrupted world. "Creativity is contagious" she explains. "It's very easy to lose it." Her lessons to third, fourth and fifth graders at Springhill have more of a human rhythm, with poems, questions, and building on examples of things like water or faces, sometimes seeing old things in a new way. The student's thoughts are expressed visually and with language creating truly unique and authentic personal imagery.

"Adults who have seen the show so far have been charmed by the children's art but surprised and moved by

the sophistication of the writing. As I like to say the children's writing is often casually profound and profoundly hopeful," said Gendler, who has published three books, and is a poet and artist herself. Stanley Middle School student Sarah Zemelman, whose work will be on display explains that "it's a great way to express feeling." Fellow artist and Stanley student Sam Swan enjoys the creative process and suggests, "don't be afraid

to write down the words that are in your head" as a method of finding subject matter.

The Commonwealth Club is located at 595 Market Street, second floor, in San Francisco. The exhibit can be viewed Mondays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. For more information, call (415) 597-6700.

My words are paint
Making an image to last the ages
To create a picture in your mind
To touch the delicate fabric of thoughts
To create a web of ideas
To make a story for young people to enjoy
To paint on the canvas of reality for all to see.
– Sam Swan, written in fifth grade, 2013

My face holds the past
Sorrow, loss, joy, bravery and same
of ancestors long gone by
With many tales
of heroism and pain.
Lost in the pages of time.
Leading up to the present
Me
My eyes shadow other faces
Thousands of years old
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My nose a crease of endless time
My features old, cruel and kind.
– Sarah Zemelman, sixth grade

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Rules of Engagement

Moraga School District's 2014-15 Teacher of the Year

By Diane Claytor



Rheem Elementary School third-grade teacher Ann Ralph in class.

Photo Diane Claytor

Visitors to Ann Ralph's Moraga classroom shouldn't be surprised to see her 23 third graders stomping their feet and swinging their arms to some jazzy music. Or, if they arrive during "genius hour," visitors might have the opportunity to hear one of the students say "I'm a genius at ..." and then make a

presentation on what makes people ticklish, or how to teach a parakeet to talk. The kids get to choose something they really want to learn about. "I want the kids to come here, learn and have fun. I want them to leave every day wanting to come back the next day." Ralph said.

With five younger siblings, Ralph has undoubtedly been teaching since she was a child. And with seven older siblings, the Orinda native was obviously being taught from a very young age. "It was part of our family dynamic to show the younger kids how to do things ... from a very young age. "It was part of our family dynamic to show the younger kids how to do things ... from a very young age. "It was part of our family dynamic to show the younger kids how to do things ... from a very young age."

Moving back to the Lamorinda area to be closer to her large, extended family and raise her own children, Ralph returned to teaching in 1996, joining the staff at Moraga's Donald Rheem Elementary School. For 13 years, she taught fifth grade, which she loved. "I loved the rich curriculum, the challenges. It was so exciting to teach math, science, U.S. history," she explained. When an opening for a third grade teacher presented itself several years ago, Ralph decided to make the move. "Third graders are still so impressionable, they want to do what's right and it's my job to show them," she said. "If the kids can walk into my class-

room, know it's going to be fun but also know that I have high expectations, they'll always rise to the occasion."

Ralph is one of four teachers from the Lamorinda area nominated to represent their districts in the 2014-15 Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year competition. According to Rheem's principal, Elaine Frank, Ralph is the "perfect choice" for Moraga's Teacher of the Year. She is "well respected by students, parents and colleagues. She consistently designs lessons that promote student engagement ... has infectious energy ... and diligently challenges students to think independently and creatively."

"Teaching would be far less exciting for me if I didn't always try to find ways to engage the kids," Ralph said. She spends hours researching, reading blogs, learning what works for other teachers. As Frank observed, "Ralph has a constant desire to learn more, take risks, improve. ... She is enthusiastic about new programs, methodologies and systems to promote deeper learning."

Ralph says she "loves trying new things. ... If I was the kind of teacher that did the same things every year, I probably would have retired by now."

Frank noted that Ralph's fearlessness at trying new things is

most impressive. "She knows there will be bumps along the way," she stated, "but she embraces the challenges as growth opportunities."

Ralph is extremely humbled by the Teacher of the Year nomination, noting that she sincerely appreciates the recognition but is fully aware "that I couldn't accomplish this without my grade level colleagues, the support of the parents, principal, the entire staff."

Contra Costa County began recognizing outstanding teachers in 1972, establishing the Teacher of the Year program, which is directed by the Contra Costa County Office of Education. It is open to all K-12 teachers in public and private schools. The selection process involves both in-person observations of the nominees by a committee of education specialists followed by a personal interview with each of the district's Teacher of the Year representatives.

Lamorinda Weekly will feature Lafayette School District representative Olivia Vann of Springhill Elementary School in an upcoming issue. The Acalanes Union High School District Educator of the Year, Jane Kelson, was featured in the March 12 issue of Lamorinda Weekly and the Orinda School District Teacher of the Year representative, Trisha Newhart, was featured in the May 7 issue.

Are We Overpowered?

By Cathy Tyson



Antenna tower at Saint Mary's College as seen from the Lafayette-Moraga trail. Photo Andy Scheck

Are cell phones and cell towers dangerous? Is there reputable research about negative health effects of both? What exactly is electromagnetic radiation? Concerned residents have a chance to hear about these topics at an upcoming event at the Lafayette Library. W.I.S.E., Wireless Education and Safety Education is sponsoring "Overpowered," a presentation on the health effects of cell phones, cell towers, smart meters and other devices. Author Martin Blank, Ph.D., has studied the subject for more than 30 years and earned his doctorate from Columbia University. He'll be speaking at the event about the biologic effects of wireless and electromagnetic devices and how to keep our families and communities safer while using this valuable technology.

Also featured will be special guests California State Senator Mark DeSaulnier and KTVU Health and Science Editor John Fowler.

Organizer and sponsor of the event Ellie Marks, executive director of the grassroots non-profit organization, the California Brain Tumor Association feels the public is not informed about these potentially dangerous technologies, and she feels there is compelling data on the adverse health effects of electromagnetic radiation.

Marks became involved when her husband Alan was diagnosed with brain cancer a few years ago. "The public deserves the right to

know that the fine print in cell phone manuals tells one to never hold the phone to the body," she says. "Also, cell towers do not belong near schools."

The cell tower issue has been a hot topic in Lafayette recently with concern over a potential AT&T cell tower at St. Perpetua church and school. The event is scheduled at 6:30 p.m. May 29 in the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Admission is free but seating is limited. Organizers ask that you register your seat at Overpowered.brownpertickets.com.

In related news, Susan JunFish, director of Parents for a Safer Environment is concerned about chemical use at the Acalanes Union High School District. There is a meeting scheduled on May 21 at the District offices to discuss the issue, which the public is welcome to attend. "We care about student safety, along with maintaining the taxpayer's investment," said Steve Fishbaugh, AUHSD director of maintenance.

AUHSD has a pesticide application notification that lets parents and students know what may be used in and around schools, for students who are sensitive to chemicals. Upon request, the district will supply information at least 72 hours before application. The herbicide RoundUp Pro with the active ingredient glyphosphate and the insecticide Nisus Terro-Pco Liquid Ant Bait with an active ingredient of Borax is used - both are categorized as Category III (least toxic) materials.

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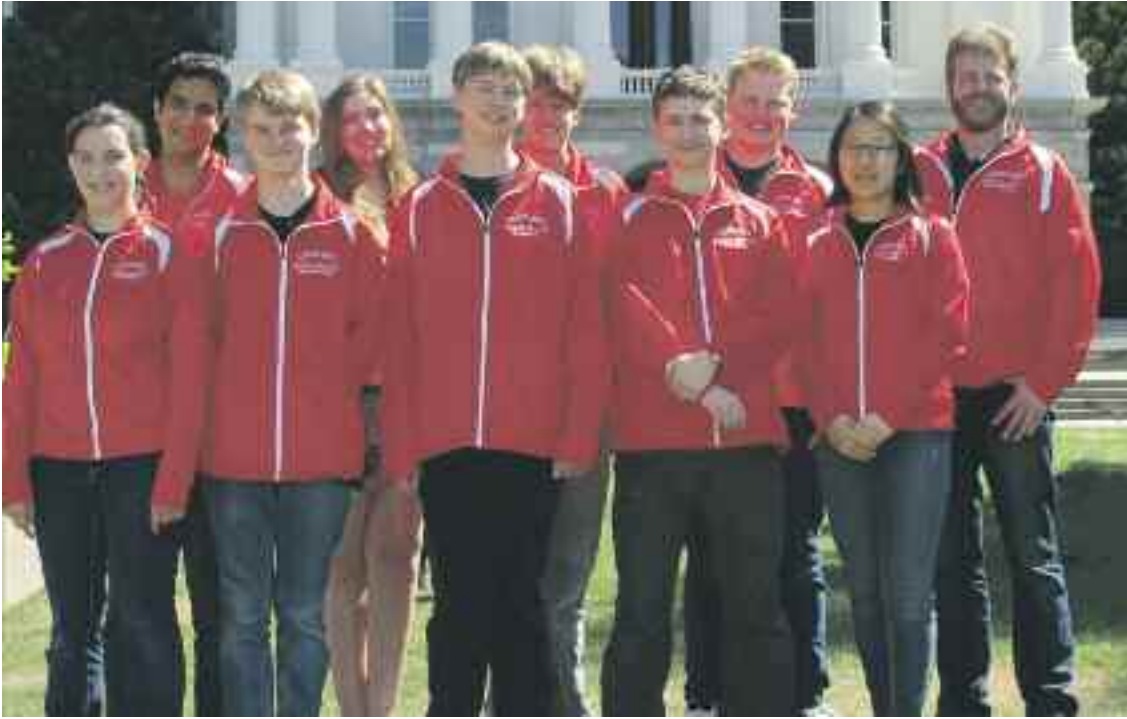
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Campolindo Returns as Champions in the National Academic Decathlon

Submitted by Jonathan Lance



Campolindo's Academic Decathlon team, from left: Uma Gaffney, Vikram Bhaduri, Christoph Steefel, Sarada Symonds, Graham Wade, Zach Scherer, Tristan Caro, Samuel MacAdam, Marina Han, and Coach Paul Verbanszky. Photo provided

For the second year in a row, Campolindo High School's Academic Decathlon team, representing the entire state of California, recently earned National Champion status for medium-sized schools.

"When I found out we won Nationals for the second year in a row, I was incredibly excited," says Campolindo's Academic Decathlon coach Paul Verbanszky, who teaches AP psychology and government/economics, and has been Campolindo's Academic Decathlon coach since 2005. "The team has worked very hard to accomplish this. An opportunity like this does not come often in a lifetime. These are some of the finest students I have ever worked with in my 13 years of education!"

Although Campolindo is a medium sized school, it placed 10th overall at the 2014 State Competition, held in Sacramento this past March, competing against schools several times its size (see the March 26 Lamorinda Weekly story at <https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0802/Campo-Finishes-on-Top-at-California-State-Academic-Decathlon.html>). U.S. Congressman George Miller came to the Campolindo campus last week to present the team with Congressional Recognition.

"I am really proud of how far our school's Academic Decathlon has come in the three years I have been in it, and how successful it has become," says Campolindo Academic De-

cathlon member Christoph Steefel. Team member Graham Wade added, "I did not believe it at first, but I was really excited and happy that all of our hard work had paid off."

Directed by the Contra Costa County Office of Education and with the assistance of community volunteers, the East Bay Regional Academic Decathlon provides an opportunity for high school students to compete as individuals and teams in a series of 10 academic tests and demonstrations. The curriculum includes art, economics, language and literature, mathematics, music, science, social science, essay, interview, speech (prepared and impromptu), and the Super Quiz™.

10-Year-Old Del Rey Student Qualifies for Chess Championships

Submitted by Kaimi Niemann



Hans Niemann

Photo provided

Del Rey Elementary School student Hans Niemann, age 10, has qualified to play in the World Youth Chess Championships in Durban South Africa. He was the youngest winner of a recent Mechanics Institute Chess Club tournament in its 159 year history.

A letter from the United States Chess Federation arrived at Hans' door April 22 informing him that he qualified to play in the 2014 World Youth Chess Championships in the Open Under 12 Section. "Should you accept this invitation," wrote Jerry

Nash, USCF special projects and national education consultant, "you will have the opportunity to compete as a member of an elite team of players and coaches who will represent the United States in Durban, South Africa, from September 18-30."

The letter went on to congratulate Hans as one of the top rated players in his age group in the United States. "You can be proud of the results of your hard work. You are certainly to be congratulated for this milestone in your life."

Bookmark Contest Draws Hundreds of Entries

Submitted by Mary Ransdell



Back row, from left: Gavin Jones, Owen Gonzales, Felix Varnai; Kristi Conner and Hayden van Steyn; front row: Chaya Tong, Ella Thomason, Leela Anzenberger and Declan Henderson

Photo provided

Nearly 450 Lafayette students participated in the annual Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Bookmark Contest. The Awards Ceremony took place at the Lafayette Library on April 30. Each first-time winner received a \$25 gift certificate from the Storyteller and the "Hall of Fame" winners received a \$25 gift certificate from the Friends

Corner Book Shop. The Hall of Fame honors students who submit outstanding artwork and have won the contest previously. In addition, Anthony Ruiz of Fastframe in Lafayette, who also frames all the winners' artwork for display in the Library, will frame each student's bookmark free of charge. He has generously supported the Bookmark Contest for over 15 years.

The winners are:

First Grade – Leela Anzenberger, Burton Valley Elementary School;
Second Grade – Ella Thomason, Springhill Elementary School;
Third Grade – Declan Henderson, St. Perpetua School;
Fourth Grade – Kristi Conner, Lafayette Elementary School;
Fifth Grade – Hayden van Steyn, Happy Valley Elementary School;
Sixth Grade – Gavin Jones, Stanley Middle School; and
Seventh Grade – Felix Varnai, Stanley Middle School.
Hall of Fame winners: Chaya Tong, a fifth-grader at Springhill Elementary School and Owen Gonzales, a sixth-grader at Stanley Middle School.

Orinda Girls Head to Iowa for Odyssey of the Mind World Finals

Submitted by Frank Tse



From left, Julia Sato, Kaydee Tu, Madi Lehman, Sara Lehman, Shelby Tse, Penny Hopkin celebrate with their state championship trophy. Photo Stephanie Yee

Thanks to winning performances at the state and district competitions, a team of Orinda Intermediate School sixth graders will travel to Iowa State University for the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. Over 800 teams are expected at the World Finals at the end of May. The Odyssey of the Mind program is the world's largest international creative problem-solving competition. "OM" teams spend months creating their creative solution to a selected long-term problem, which is then pre-

sented and graded at district-level and state-level contests.

The OIS team presented a hilarious skit about famous paintings and statutes that come to life. The team includes Penny Hopkin as Athena, Madi Lehman as Mona Lisa, Sara Lehman as Venus de Milo, Julia Sato as the Girl with a Pearl Earring, Shelby Tse as barmaid in Manet's Bar at the Folies-Bergere, and KaydeeTu as Rodin's Thinker. Parents Stephanie Yee and Michelle Lehman coached the team.

George Bernard Shaw's 'Candida' at Town Hall Theatre

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Alan Coyne (Lexy), Derek Robertson Fischer (Morell), and Maggie Mason (Candida). Photo Stu Selland

There is something intimate and special about witnessing the rehearsal of a play close to opening night; the actors have memorized the script, their performance is almost set, the emotion is there, but some of the choreography is still in the making – and one literally sees a story being born.

The provocative and witty characters of "Candida" in George

Bernard Shaw's 1894 play about a classic love triangle, which opens May 24 at Town Hall Theatre, are played by young actors, many of them new to THT, bringing a lively charm and delightful humor to the Lafayette stage. The story, set in Victorian England, tells of the turmoil that results from the intrusion of a young romantic poet into the lives of a well-established clergyman and his

charming wife, Candida.

"The biggest idea in this play is the relationship between love, marriage, domesticity, and poetic love," says director Molly Aaronson-Gelb. "Shaw is asking the ways those go together and how we make compromises." The play is totally relevant today, she says, both as an explanation to young people that moving out of the "honeymoon phase" is a more

rewarding part of married life, and as a reminder that you can feel an attraction to people outside of your marriage. "Temptation will exist, always," she says. "It's the covenant that you make with your partner, the faith you put in each other, that preserves the harmony of the relationship."

Aaronson-Gelb, who is the co-artistic director at Just Theater in Berkeley, has directed many new plays by local playwrights. She is a native of the Bay Area, and was offered this direction by former THT artistic director Clive Worsley (now replaced by Joel Roster), who has great respect for her work.

The group of actors functions very well together; their liveliness highlights the humor that Shaw put into the play. "At the core of the story is the idea that this very strong, confident man, Pastor Morell (played by Derek Robertson Fischer), has his confidence toppled by an 18-year-old boy," says the director. "Morell for me reads like a giant football player, a popular man in a constant positive feed-back loop who suddenly realizes that it happened through the work of others, and he should not take his privilege for granted."

Luke Meyers plays the young poet, Eugene Marchbanks, who challenges Morell. "He has collapsible ankles," says Aaronson-Gelb of the actor. "He melts and puddles all over the floor in a simply delightful way."

The center of their rivalry, Candida, is played by Maggie Mason. A lovely actress, she also has smarts and poise. "Maggie Mason had an immediate connection with the language and Candida's irreverence," says Aaronson-Gelb. "She says that her husband is the master of the house, but that she is the one who made him so. I think that Shaw, in all honesty, was trying to say that women have power, and they create environments and opportunities."

Shaw, without being a real feminist, supported the right of women to vote and believed they should have a more powerful role in society. In the play, Candida is the central anchor; she does not change, while the two men around her realize things about themselves as they examine their love and relationship with her.

"Candida" will play at Town Hall Theatre from May 24 to June 12 with previews on May 22 and 23. For tickets and more information, visit www.townhalltheatre.com.

Cal Shakes Turns 40

Season opens tonight

By Lou Fancher



From left: Ryan Nicole Peters as Ruth, Zion Richardson as Travis, Marcus Henderson as Walter, and Margo Hall as Lena in Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun," directed by Patricia McGregor, playing at Cal Shakes May 21-June 15. Photo Kevin Berne

Cal Shakes is getting ready to prove that turning 40 is glorious.

Orinda's outdoor Bruns Amphitheater will bristle during California Shakespeare Theater's 40th anniversary season, running May 21 to September 28. Artistic Director Jonathan Moscone recently announced the season: Lorraine Hansberry's American classic, "A Raisin in the Sun;" William Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors;" George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion;" and The Bard's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Why bristle? Because audiences

who've sipped Sauvignon Blanc while fanning themselves in July's heat, or bundled into a blanket on a late September evening, know that true temperature-testing occurs onstage, as much as in the seats. Led by Moscone's boisterous charge towards theater that engages, enriches and even agonizes or enrages human imagination, the atmosphere isn't just "outdoor theater," it's fearlessly so.

In classic and contemporary masterworks, the acting company – adept avoiders (or swallowers) of bugs and overcomers of auditory conflicts with occasional airplanes passing overhead or cattle on the venue's golden hill

backdrop – parade their consistent artistic depth. An array of technical skills has endeared the actors to the Bay Area's knowledgeable, opinionated theater-goers. Crisp, highly-individual directors and rarely-praised-enough costume, set, lighting and sound designers, complete the package. And yet, there's more: Philippa Kelly, Cal Shake's terrific resident dramaturg, Susie Falk, managing director and inspiring "Peet's Coffee & Tea!" prompter, Clive Worsley, director of artistic learning and former Town Hall Theatre director, and a staff one must resort to a cliché to describe, by using

the term "crackerjack."

If not every production is a bell-ringer, it's more a matter of personal taste than timid direction or lack of talent, which is exactly as professional theater should be.

"Every year, as we figure out a new season of work up at the Bruns, I want to provide as surprising and dynamic a roster of works of theater for as many people as possible," Moscone said, in a season announcement. "I'm thrilled to present this eclectic and varied slate of plays as we move forward with our commitment to making theater that resonates with the broad community of diverse audiences throughout the Bay Area."

Starting off the season, Patricia McGregor returns to direct "A Raisin in the Sun," after recent stints directing the company's "A Winter's Tale" (2013) and "Spunk" (2012). The play, a rigorous exploration of prejudice, poverty and racism set in 1950's Chicago, opened at Broadway's Ethel Barrymore Theatre on March 11, 1959, and ran for 350 performances over 19 months. Marking the first time a play written by an African American woman was produced on Broadway, Hansberry's contribution to playwriting offers indisputable evidence of the enduring themes – many of them troubling – in America's history.

"Slapstick" is a word frequently applied to The Comedy of Errors, one of Shakespeare's earliest comedies about twins separated at birth. Director Aaron Posner has proven he's unafraid of strong choices (his 2009 "A Midsummer Night's Dream" spiraled in unexpected fashion) and adept at

discovering new ways to tell oft-told stories. With program notes and casting to come, it's all fingers crossed that associate artists (Danny Scheie, Dan Hiatt, L. Peter Callender, Catherine Castellanos, to name just four) will be on the playbill.

In July, Moscone goes musical with "Pygmalion," George Bernard Shaw's most famous comedy – and the basis for the play and subsequent film, "My Fair Lady." Attending pre-show "Grove Talks" prior to any performance is a fantastic way to get a foothold on the productions. But this year's "Inside Tech" rehearsal (the familiar "Inside Scoop" talk normally held in the Orinda Library), with Moscone and the entire cast (hearts beat for associate artists Stacey Ross, James Carpenter, Julie Eccles and more) and the crew for "Pygmalion," on Friday, July 25, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the amphitheater, is the summer's best free – yes, that's no typo: free and it comes with ice cream – ticket.

The company will conclude the season with director Shana Cooper and choreographer Erika Chong Shuch joining forces to spin out "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Cooper and Shuch have both worked with the company before and the promise of their partnership turns the bitter thought of the season's end into sweet reward.

In addition to the usual ticketing and calendar information, the website offers useful tips about amenities, special events, age-appropriate productions (children under age four are not permitted) and even how to access up-to-date weather tweets. For information, visit www.calshakes.org.

Wagner Ranch Elementary Presents 'Oliver!'

Submitted by Robyn Lewis



"Cast A" will perform at 4 p.m. Friday, June 6 and at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 7. Photos provided



"Cast 1" will perform at 7 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Saturday.

Lights, camera, action! Wagner Ranch Elementary School proudly presents its annual spring musical, "Oliver!" Friday and Saturday, June 6-7. Sure to be a theatrical event that will be enjoyed by audiences of all ages, "Oliver!" is Charles Dickens' classic tale of an orphan

who runs away from the orphanage and hooks up with a group of boys trained to be pickpockets by an elderly mentor. Director Ron Pickett, producers Ara Jelalian, Ursula Jost, and Julia Meckas, and musical accompanist Tania Johnson, have been working with the fourth and

fifth grade actors at Wagner Ranch for months. Show times are 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday and 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at www.showTix4u.com: \$12 reserved, \$10 general seating.



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OIS Students Named Winners at Local Writing Contest

Submitted by Cecilia Kilmartin



Photo Jennifer Lyons

Six Orinda Intermediate School students attended an awards luncheon hosted by the California Writers Club Mt. Diablo Branch May 10 after being named winners in a recent writing contest sponsored by The California Writers Club. The Club received 388 submissions – 100 more than last year – from 40 schools in Contra Costa County; the OIS students were six of 29 students to receive awards for their writing. The winners are pictured from left: eighth grader Lexi Reinecke, who won

third place for a short story; seventh grader Emma Rust, who won first place for her personal narrative; seventh grader Hannah Brown, who won first place for a new category this year—humor; seventh grader Katie Lyons, who won second place for her personal narrative; eighth grader Kiki Immel, who won first place for her personal narrative and also had an honorable mention for another submission; and seventh grader Blaire Murphy, who won third place, also for a personal narrative.

TEEN SCENE

The Balancing Act

By Youngjoo Ahn

Life is like a circus, and an entertaining circus needs a little bit of everything – elephants, acrobats, magic, and people! A fulfilled life needs to strike a balance between social experiences, school demands, and extracurricular activities. With all the opportunities we are afforded as teens, the sooner we learn the balancing act, the happier we will be.

Elephants

What is a circus without elephants? When I think of this traveling extravaganza, elephants are first on my list. Elephants represent the necessities of living. It's important to prioritize the most important elements in your life. Before committing to any other activities, ask yourself: "Will this take away from my elephants?" Sophomore Sommar Ververka said, "Right now my biggest priority is lacrosse. It's my first year on varsity and my coaches expect a lot. Although I'd like to say that school is my number one concern, it just doesn't seem that way."

Acrobats

At the show, it's incredible seeing people moving in ways that you didn't think were possible. Flipping, contorting, and flying through the air, acrobats may not be essential but they keep the circus exciting and thrilling. In life, it's good to have something that takes us out of our comfort zone, even if it means giving up something else. "School is my main focus, but lately, speech and debate tournaments have been a huge added interest," freshman Andrew Chow said. "Although I haven't had time to hang out with friends, I don't regret joining public speaking."

People

Without people to clap and holler, there is no circus. Humans are social animals. In life, you need people to talk to, trust, have fun with, and lean on when the stress is overwhelming. Junior An-

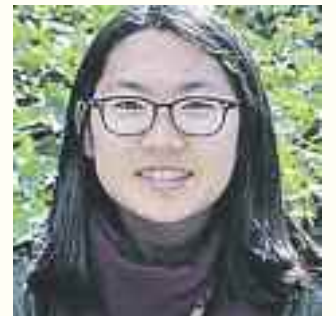
drew Bower commented: "I enjoy working with friends on school assignments and then we go out to eat afterwards as a reward for our hard work."

Magic

Watching magicians is like watching kids eat candy for the first time. Magicians are the extra sprinkle on top of the cupcake. Activities that add pizzazz to your routine are the magic of your life. They're the last things you add on and often the first things you give up. Before adding to your already full plate, make sure you are juggling the rest of your circus well. "For me, Netflix is a never ending world of discovery," senior Jenny Li said. Junior Meghan Rogers' magical moments are drawing and writing in her spare time.

Balancing is all about knowing how comfortable you are with juggling. You can't do everything and balancing involves choosing and compromising wisely. To achieve success, we aspire to include the entire circus – elephants, acrobats, people, and magic. Pursue what you truly desire, then remember to build slowly on top of your main priority: your elephants.

Youngjoo Ahn, a senior at Miramonte High School is the President of Club BTSYA, Host of Express Yourself!™ Teen Radio, and a fan of the circus, especially elephants.



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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A Fresh Take on the New Side-Dish Staple: Quinoa

By Susie Iventosch



Quinoa Salad with fresh peas, carrots, mushrooms, and arugula in lemon vinaigrette. Photo Susie Iventosch

My family has become a big fan of quinoa lately. We usually serve it as a side dish, either plain like rice, or as a pilaf, with mushrooms and onions. It seems that most restaurants serve quinoa

on their menus nowadays, and it can be on the breakfast menu served with eggs, as a side dish, or as a stand-alone salad. Just last week we had lunch at Zut! in Berkeley and ordered a red quinoa dish made with

maitake mushrooms, parsnips, carrots, Pecorino, crème fraiche and sautéed greens. It was fabulous! Then two days later, we enjoyed lunch at Metro in Lafayette and once again, I ordered the delicious Organic Quinoa and Spring Vegetable Salad with walnuts and lemon vinaigrette. It was made with fresh peas and slices of snap pea pods, and I am not sure what other veggies, but it was excellent.

A few days later I made a salad combining these two dishes and it turned out great. I used red quinoa and a combination of fresh and sautéed veggies, along with julienned arugula, oyster mushrooms and grated Pecorino Romano, all tossed in a tangy lemon-dijon vinaigrette. We also tossed in some bite-sized pieces of leftover grilled chicken, which made it a little heartier for lunch.

The assortment of textures was really fun with the crunchy veggies and al dente quinoa. You really could add just about any vegetable that pleases your palate! You can also use whatever nuts you like best, such as toasted almonds or pecans. Or, you can run over to these restaurants and give their versions a try!



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

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Red Quinoa Salad with Chicken and Lemon-Dijon Vinaigrette

(Serves 4 for lunch)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cups red quinoa, rinsed through a fine mesh sieve
- 3 cups chicken broth (or water)
- 2 small carrots, cut into matchstick pieces
- 2 shallots, finely sliced
- 1 cluster of oyster mushrooms, use small ones whole, and slice larger mushrooms
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 12 or so, pea pods, sliced into 1/4 inch strips (some of the peas will fall out and you want those, too)
- 1/2 cup finely julienned arugula
- 1/2 cup freshly grated Pecorino Romano (or crumbled feta cheese)
- 1/2 cup walnut pieces, toasted
- 1 cooked chicken breast, cut into bite-sized pieces
- Lemon wedges for garnish

DIRECTIONS

In a pot, bring chicken broth (or water) to a boil. Add quinoa and bring back to a boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer until liquid is absorbed. Remove from heat and cool.

In a sauté pan, heat olive oil. Add carrots, shallots and mushrooms and sauté until slightly browned, but still al dente. Remove from heat and cool.

Add sautéed veggies to quinoa, along with all remaining ingredients. Toss with lemon-dijon vinaigrette and serve cold or at room temperature over a bed of lettuce or finely sliced cabbage. Drizzle any extra dressing over entire dish and serve lemon wedges for extra zest!

Lemon-Dijon Vinaigrette

- Juice of one lemon
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- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
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- Salt and pepper to taste

Place all ingredients in a container and shake well.

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ART

May and June mark the debut of "Second Fridays" at the Lafayette Art Gallery— monthly receptions to which the public is cordially invited. Come between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 13 to meet the artists, have a glass of wine, enjoy good conversation with art aficionados like yourself, and, of course, feast your eyes on a dazzling array of fine art on display at the gallery's beautiful new quarters on Mt. Diablo Boulevard at Brown Avenue. For info, call (925) 284-2788 or visit www.lafayetteartgallery.com.

Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents "Belonging," an exhibit featuring the work of Laura VanDuren and Carol Aust. Through sculpture and paintings, the show explores identity, home and our relation to it. "Belonging" will be on exhibit June 7 through July 19, with an opening reception held from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 7. There will also be an artist talk at 7 p.m. on June 21. The exhibit will be open to the public Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment, at Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For more information, contact Jennifer Perlmutter at (925) 284-1485 or jp@jenniferperlmuttergallery.com.

Moraga Art Gallery's current show, "Illuminated by Nature," featuring paintings by Kerima Swain and Karen Kramer will run through May 31. The Gallery is open from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesdays - Sundays, and is located at 522 Center St., Rheem Valley Shopping Center, Moraga. For info, visit moragagallery.com.

Air and Substance. A group exhibition featuring six local artists working in a variety of mediums including acrylic, watercolor, steel sculpture and more are showing works inspired by nature in a celebration of spring through June 6 at the Klein Gallery, 50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. For information, visit www.kleingallery.net.

Dale Chihuly: The Venetians. An exhibition of 72 works from Chihuly's Stunning Glass Venetians opens June 1 at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art and runs through July 20 from the George R. Stroemple Collection, A Stroemple/Stirek Collaboration. Three more new exhibitions open Sunday, June 1: Michael Collopy Face to Face: Movers and Shakers, Armistead Gallery; All Natural: Work by Pamela Blotner and Sam Perry, Studio Gallery; Keith's The Big Paintings, William Keith Gallery; and Panel Discussion with the Artists, featuring Pamela Blotner and Sam Perry, moderated by Museum director Carrie Brewster, 2 to 3 p.m., Soda Center; with a reception following in the Art Patio. Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission: Adults \$5; members and K-12 graders free (parking free). For info, call (925) 631-4379 or visit stmarys-ca.edu/museum.

MUSIC

Please join Acalanes Instrumental Music for their annual spring concerts held at 7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, May 21-22, at the Acalanes High School Performing Arts Center. Both groups will be offering a varied program to conclude a successful musical school year. Graduating seniors will be recognized at this event. There is a suggested donation of \$5.

Contare Con Vivo's crowd-pleasing season closer! Cantare Chorale, Chamber Ensemble and Nova perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 31 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Enjoy a full spectrum of early American folk songs and hymns, a Porgy and Bess medley, popular songs by Cole Porter, Paul Simon's "The Sound of Silence," a stirring rhythmic rendition of the West African saying, "It Takes a Whole Village," and much more! Order tickets online at www.contare-convivo.org; general \$25; seniors \$20; students \$10 (general and senior \$5 higher at the door).

WomensSing presents "Southern Exposure II" from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, June 1 and from 8 to 10 p.m.

Tuesday, June 3 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Artistic Director Martin Benvenuto leads WomensSing in this choral exploration of nature, freedom, and Latin American music. Cost: \$30 premium seats; \$25 general admission; \$20 seniors; \$10 students/youth 18 and under. For more info, visit http://womensing.org/2014/04/june-concerts-southern-exposure-ii/ or call (925) 974-9169 or email info@womensing.org.

Lafayette's Annual Jazz Café will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, June 6 in the Stanley Middle School Auditorium. There is a fabulous lineup featuring: the Wednesday Morning Jam Session, The Stanley Crusaders, The Stanley Jazz Messengers, The Campolindo Big Band and The Acalanes Jazz Ensemble. General admission is \$10.00 per person, reserved seating \$15, elementary students \$5.00 and children under 6 are free. If that's not enough, Los Primos Taco Truck will be selling scrumptious food from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dessert, coffee and beverages will be available for purchase all evening. And to top it off, drawings will be held to give away fabulous gift baskets!

THEATER

Shaw's Classic "Candida" Rounds-Out Town Hall's 2013-14 Season - Reverend James Morrell's world is shaken when a young poet catches the attention of his beautiful wife, Candida. Shaw's charming take on social mores remains funny, touching and poignant to this day. Candida runs from May 24 to June 14, with previews on May 22 and 23. Check website for showtimes and ticket prices. Contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office at (925) 283-1557, or purchase online at www.TownHallTheatre.com. (See story page B7)

California Shakespeare Theater presents "Raisins in the Sun," which opens May 21 and runs through June 15. "Raisins in the Sun" is the saga of the Younger family of 1950s Chicago, and the inheritance check that threw into question everything they knew. This American classic about a dream deferred was the first play written by an African American woman to be produced on Broadway, and was proclaimed by the New York Times to have, in its world premiere, "changed American theater forever." For info, visit www.calshakes.org.

Diablo Ballet's Annual Dance on Film Festival will screen "Oklahoma" (1955), the Academy Award winning Rodgers and Hammerstein musical starring Shirley Jones and Gordon MacRae at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 5 at the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Enjoy a pre-screening fun facts discussion by Diablo Ballet Artistic Director Lauren Jonas. Cost: \$5. At 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 10, the film will be the Oscar-nominated musical "Funny Face" (1957), with songs by George and Ira Gershwin, starring Audrey Hepburn and Fred Astaire.

Wagner Ranch Elementary School proudly presents its annual spring musical, "Oliver!" Friday and Saturday, June 6-7. Show times are 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday and 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at www.showTix4u.com: \$12 reserved, \$10 general seating.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

The Commonwealth Club presents David Ewing Duncan, author of "When I'm 164: The New Science of Radical Life Extension, and What Happens if It Succeeds and Experimental Man," who will discuss advances in biotechnology and the impact and implications of being able to live to age 164 or beyond at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 22 at the Lafayette Library. (Check-in at 6 p.m.) Cost: \$22 non-members; \$12 members; \$7 students (with valid ID). For info, visit http://www.commonwealthclub.org/events/2014-05-22/when-im-164-new-science-radical-life-extension#sthash.QPax9Sxl.dpuf.

A scientific presentation sponsored by the California Brain Tumor Association on the health effects of cell phones, cell towers, smart meters and other devices will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 29 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. Admission is free but seating is limited. Register at overpowered.brownpapertickets.com or contact Ellie Marks at (925) 285-5437. (See story page B5)

Dementia specialist Laurie White will present information about why a person exhibits challenging behaviors and will help participants approach them in a thoughtful, respectful and person-centered way from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 31 at Aegis Living, 950 Country Club Drive, Moraga. No charge. Free parking and complimentary refreshments. Please RSVP to nancy.robinson@aegisliving.com or call (925) 297-6760.

LLLCF Distinguished Speaker Series presents: Kelly Corrigan and Katie Hafner, in conversation on the topic of Mothers and Daughters at 5 p.m. Sunday, June 8 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Author Kelly Corrigan is a New York Times bestselling author whose explorations of family life and parenthood have brought her to the forefront of the pack of new American writers. San Francisco based author Katie Hafner writes about the deeply binding relationship between mothers and daughters in her remarkable memoir "Mother Daughter Me." Cost: \$25. For info, visit www.lafayettelib.org.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Advantage Point Tennis in collaboration with the USTA (United States Tennis Association) will be hosting a free tennis play day/festival for ages 5-14 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 25 at the Bentley Tennis Center at Bentley School, 1000 Upper Happy Valley Rd., Lafayette. Come out and play tennis. There will be food, prizes and games for everyone! Sign up required at www.advantagepointtennis.com.

Kids, like to sing? Join Contra Costa Children's Chorus. Free placement interviews Wednesday, May 28, for fall session at rehearsal site, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Scholarships available. Weekly rehearsals in Lafayette, two free tickets to spring concert with each confirmed interview appointment. New: Metrognomes Program for 4-6 year olds, no interview necessary. Check our website for questions, registration forms, and general chorus information at www.childrenschorus.org. Email elainelind@comcast.net.

OTHER

Composting 101 - from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, June 7 at the Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center, 3932 Mount Diablo Blvd. Presented by the Contra Costa County Solid Waste Authority, Linda Mizes returns to the garden to share her expertise on home composting. Learn how easy it is to enrich your soil and reduce your waste while letting nature do the work. You'll leave with all the information you need to start a simple home composting system, as well as how to use the compost in your garden. Methods of simple vermiculture (worm composting) will also be covered and you'll learn ways to use worm castings and tea. Register at www.wastediversion.org. Free, ages 18 and up (families welcome).

Drivers take note: Saint Mary's Commencement Weekend May 23-25. The Undergraduate Commencement takes place at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 24 in the SMC Stadium. The Graduate and Professional Studies Commencement ceremony is at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 25.

... continued on next page

Please submit
events to:
calendar@
lamorindaweekly.com

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

Campolindo Junior Sam Larson is collecting new and gently used toys, sports and rec equipment, backpacks, athletic apparel, outerwear, accessories, jewelry, and shoes for underprivileged kids preschool to age 18. These items will be given away at a "New to You" event held in September in San Pablo. Collection starts now and continues through August. Drop your items at 243 Paseo del Rio, Moraga, or call (925) 284-8142 for pickup. Email californiasam22@gmail.com for info.

Free cats and kittens to good homes! On May 31 and June 1, Community Concern for Cats, the oldest cat rescue organization in Contra Costa County will participate in Maddie's Pet Adoption Days. Cats and kittens will be

available for adoption for free to qualified homes at: Lafayette Pet Food Express (3610 Mount Diablo Blvd.), Pleasant Hill Pet Food Express (2158 Contra Costa Blvd.) and Walnut Creek Petco (1301 S. California Blvd.) from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. For info and pictures, visit www.communityconcernforcats.org. Not all kittens will be pictured and new ones arrive daily. (See story page A13)

SENIORS

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Social hour at 11 a.m.; lunch at noon. The June 4 after-lunch speaker will be Russ Aubry, who will present a unique slideshow of his recent trip to Cuba.

He will provide his assessment of the culture, the current standard of living in urban and rural areas along with what the future holds for the country.

Sons In Retirement, Las Trampas Branch 116 luncheon meeting lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. Monday, June 16 at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr. The speaker will be Mr. Dan Franklin, a survivor of the Normandy Invasion on June 6, 1944 and the recipient of the French Legion of Honor. His presentation will incorporate first-hand experiences of what went on before that day, during the invasion and the days following the landing. Guests are welcome and may make reservations by calling (925) 322-1160 by Wednesday, June 11. Cost: \$15. For information about SIR activities for retired men, please visit www.Branch116.org.

Service Clubs Announcements



Explore Lamorinda Rotary clubs The heart of Rotary is our clubs- dedicated people who share a passion for both community service and friendship. Learn about Lamorinda's Rotary clubs.

A global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.


Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club

We meet Friday mornings at 7 am at Celia's Mexican Restaurant, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

May 23: Personal trainer and LSR member, Mark Larks will speak to us about "The Truth About Obesity"	May 30: LSR member Don Jenkins will "Expose Himself" and share about his recent trip to Vietnam to fit LN-4 prosthetic hands.
--	---

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MOVIE REVIEW

'Chef'

By Derek Zemrak



Photo courtesy Open Road Films

If you have an appetite for a superior food movie then see "Chef" that opens at the Orinda Theatre on May 30. Just don't see it on an empty stomach, for the numerous culinary scenes will result in your stomach growling in the theater. "Chef" is written, directed by and stars Jon Favreau who knows how to prepare a film that Hollywood's elite would jump through hoops to be in. His track record as a director is the result of using star-studded casts in the films "Swingers," "Elf" and the first two "Iron Man" movies. "Chef" is filled with A-listers, including Scarlett Johansson, Robert Downey Jr., John

Leguizamo, Sofia Vergara and Oscar winner Dustin Hoffman.

Carl Casper is one of the top chefs in Los Angeles but the restaurant's owner Riva (Dustin Hoffman) is suppressing Carl's creative talents. Their conflict comes to a head when restaurant critic and blogger Ramsey Michel (Oliver Platt, "West Wing") plans his next review. Things do not go as planned for Carl and on a return visit by Ramsey, Carl is out of a job.

Carl's ex-wife, Inez, played by Sofia Vergara ("Modern Family") has always encouraged him to own a food truck in order for him to showcase his creative aptitude for cooking as well as having total control in his kitchen. Out of desperation, Carl reluctantly agrees and receives a beat up old taco truck from Inez's ex, Marvin (Robert Downey Jr.), who lives in Miami. It is the restoration of the food truck and the bonding with Carl's young son, Percy (portrayed by Emjay Anthony from the television series "Rake") that adds sweetness to the film, as they journey from Miami back to Los Angeles. Father and son teach each other the most important gift anyone can give someone - time. They are joined on the journey with friend and co-worker Martin, portrayed by Golden Globe nominee John Leguizamo ("To Wong Foo Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar").

"Chef" has all the right ingredients - comedy, solid performances and a sweet, tender well-written script. This is an excellent movie. "Chef" is rated R for language and some suggestive references and has a TRT (total running time) of 1 hour and 55 minutes. This film is worth a second helping.

Listen to Derek every Saturday morning at 8 a.m. on Real to Reel, 1450AM KEST.

diablo ballet

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Mats Take Second in NCS Tennis Tournament

By Clare Varellas

The Miramonte varsity tennis team huddled next to their home courts on May 13, as the captains rallied their players, who in turn clapped each other on the back, voicing words of encouragement. About to take the courts in their first playoff match in the North Coast Sectional (NCS) tournament against Cal High, the team was fired up and ready to focus on the matches to come that week.

"It's more of the mental preparation," said Miramonte senior David Ellman. "These are the biggest matches of the season."

At the same time, the Acalanes Dons prepared to face Analy High School in their first playoff match.

After three more rounds of playoffs, Miramonte secured a second place finish in NCS on May 17. Acalanes lost to Miramonte in the second round, ending the Dons' season.

Both teams entered the sectional tournament after successful individual-based DFAL tournament play May 1-3, with notable wins by Acalanes' Ryan and Dan Cardiff and Kyle Everly and Miramonte's Peter Martin, Neil Weikert, Kyle Rechnitz, Bryce Hummer, and Alex Huang. The teams' deep talent pools allowed each of them to easily win the first round of matches, with Miramonte beating Cal High 6-1 and Acalanes beating Analy 7-0.

Inter-league rivalry and similar

levels of ability created heated competition on May 15. Miramonte narrowly beat Acalanes 4-3. Miramonte's Huang defeated Acalanes' sophomore Everly to break the tie and take the win.

Acalanes had defeated Miramonte twice before during the season in normal league play, winning 6-3 both times. But in NCS play, the number of matches played in each round is seven, instead of nine, making the three doubles matches even more important. Miramonte, known for its impeccable doubles talent, shifted its lineup slightly to take advantage of the change.

"We spend a lot of time especially from midseason on developing

strong doubles, and that paid a lot of dividends when we beat the number three team, Acalanes," said Miramonte coach Michael McColom.

Acalanes' season ended after that match, but Miramonte went on to play against San Ramon Valley in NCS semifinals on May 17, securing another 4-3 victory using the same strategy. Later that afternoon, the Mats faced off against No. 1 Dougherty Valley and were defeated 6-1, finishing in second place.

Both Acalanes and Miramonte hope to improve in seasons to come. Miramonte, after losing several key players from last season, was content with its high-ranking NCS finish, earned by weeks of hard work by the

remaining and newer players.

Acalanes had what coach Brent Bird calls the most incredible season in its history, overtaking Miramonte and Campolindo in normal league play to take a number two spot behind Dougherty Valley. Bird says that he plans on developing the team's doubles skills in 2015, which will come in especially handy during next year's NCS tournament.

As NCS finalists, the Mators will be playing in the CIF tennis tournament in Sacramento on May 23-24 against the most highly-ranked teams in Northern California.

Cougars Look to Fourth Straight NCS Title

Miramonte knocked out

By Marissa Harnett



Campolindo prepares to take the court in the NCS tournament.

Photos Gint Federas

Halfway through the NCS volleyball championship, top-seeded Campolindo is the only Lamorinda team remaining. The Cougars, who boast an overall season record of 32-2 and went undefeated, 10-0, in league play, have held the NCS title for the last three years and their chances of a fourth look promising.

"I feel like if we choose to keep our focus and our motivation to play fundamentally sound disciplined volleyball our chances are high," head coach David Chen said. Chen knows not to take anything for granted though. "We're also focusing on the

concept of the team's worth and how that alone can help to lead the team toward success or without it, drive us to fail," he added.

With only 11 teams in the bracket, Campo enjoyed a first round bye and moved directly to the quarterfinals. In that round on May 16, the Cougars dispatched Miramonte's ouster, No. 8 Livermore, in less than an hour - 25-12, 25-15, 25-13.

The Cougars appeared confident from the start and immediately surged ahead, keeping Livermore on the defensive. The Cowboys managed to string together a few winning plays, but scored mostly

on Campo's few errors.

Livermore found a groove in the second set and kept the score differential hovering around one until Campo junior Ryan First started serving. His rocket serve notched seven consecutive points, creating a gap impossible for Livermore to close.

The Cowboys kept fighting into the third set. They took the lead early on, but as in the sets before, they were no match against Campo. In play after play junior Joe Worsley set the ball for senior Stephen Buhl to make the kill. Junior Jack Eisner and First also nailed winning strikes.

... continued on page C3



Jack Eisner (11) recorded key hits in the win over Livermore.



Joe Worsley (1) led the Cougars' rally with strong serves.

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Acalanes Looks Towards NCS Title

Mats, Cougars fall

By Scott Wu



Sean Quinn has been key for the Dons.



Jack Mariani looks down field.

Photos Gint Federas

Lamorinda high schools were dominant in boys' lacrosse this year, as all three schools made it to the NCS playoffs. No. 8 seed Miramonte (7-5) and No. 10 seed Campolindo (7-5) were both eliminated from contention in the opening round. Acalanes (11-1), who is ranked 18th in the state of California, and earned the No. 1 overall seed, cruised to the semifinals. Acalanes will play No. 5 Piedmont at home tonight, May 21, with the NCS Division II finals on the line.

With a chance to win their second consecutive NCS championship, the

Acalanes Dons have been competing at a high level. After beating Bay School last week 18-1, Acalanes coasted against Saint Mary's of Stockton to win by a score of 16-4.

"We have a group of ambitious players who are always ready to compete," head coach Brent Ringwood explained. The Dons are particularly strong in their offensive game. In the regular season, the Dons outscored their opponents 168-38.

"Although our defense has gotten much stronger this season, our offense is still our strongest area of competition," Ringwood stated. With

this productive offense and the No. 1 seed, the Dons are on the verge of solidifying their stellar season.

The Miramonte Matadors, who have been consistent in previous years, used strong senior leadership to help them throughout their successful season.

"Team captains Jackson Doyle, Jack Murphy, Patrick Swan, and Matthew Moran really stepped up for us this year," head coach David Winford said. The Mats' defense was especially effective this year, with junior Joshua Chen and senior Moran providing a solid foundation for the team.

"These guys showed up and left everything on the field each day," Winford explained. Unfortunately, the Matadors lost to Saint Mary's of Stockton last week, 7-6. Nevertheless, they are content with their season.

"Each of our players respected one another and learned to work as one team," Winford said of the team dynamics this season.

Campolindo's team found similar success to that of the Mats. Posting an identical record, the Cougars were able to advance to the NCS playoffs. They faced San Francisco University.

Despite losing 12-10, Campo is proud of their accomplishments this season.

"We fought hard in every game to the last minute of every game," head coach Mitchel Frey said. With a strong base of players returning next season, including Austin Mello who led the DFAL in goals scored, the Cougars appear poised for future success.

"I believe we can make a significantly deep run into the NCS playoffs next year," Frey states.

Make sure to check @lamorindasports for NCS updates.



Jack Murphy has provided the Mats with leadership this season.



Austin Mello (22) led the DFAL in goals scored.

Dons, Mats Reach NCS Semifinals



Acalanes has been strong all season and dominated Drake 21-2. The Dons reached the semifinals on May 20.



Photos Gint Federas

All three Lamorinda girls' lacrosse programs earned a trip to the post-season. After two rounds, the Dons and the Mats reached the semifinals.

After a strong season, the Acalanes Dons (13-6) earned the No. 1 seed in the

NCS Division II girls' lacrosse tournament. Miramonte (13-2) and Campolindo (7-11) also earned berths at the No. 3 and No. 6 spots, respectively.

The Dons earned a first round bye and faced No. 8 Sir Francis Drake on May 16.

The Dons dominated the visitors, beating them 21-2. In the semifinals, the Dons took on No. 4 San Francisco University at home on May 20.

Both the Mats and the Cougars similarly earned first round byes. The Lamor-

inda rivals faced off in Orinda on May 16. The Mats walked away with the 15-8 win. Miramonte advanced to face No. 2 Piedmont on May 20.

Check @lamorindasports for updates. C. Mitchell

Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com



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WE'LL GET YOU BACK IN THE GAME



First Place in the Kart Race

Submitted by Brad Lew



Bryson Lew (center) celebrates first place.

Photos provided

The Northern California Rotax Challenge kart races were held on April 27 at Simraceway (Sonoma Raceway). Moraga resident Bryson Lew took first place in the Mini-Max class, ages 10-12. In the race,

there were 12 kart racers and each reached 50 mph. Race day starts with warm-up, qualifying, and two heat races, where starting positions are determined for the final race.



Cougars Look to Fourth Straight NCS Title

... continued from page C1

Campo worked hard to get to this point and feels ready for what lies ahead. "It always creates a little bit of anxiousness, and nervous excitement because finally after three and half months of work your season comes down to unique 2-3 day seasons where if you survive one round, then you have only 2-3 days to prepare and stay alive for the next," Chen explained.

Campo's semifinal match against No. 4 Redwood will be played tonight at Campo at 7 p.m. "We haven't played or seen them play so we don't know how we match up with them," Chen said. "However, as the rounds proceed the competition gets tougher so we just have to match that intensity and evolve with our opponent," he added.

Miramonte was the other Lamorinda team to earn a slot in the tournament. The No. 9 Mats lost in a first round heartbreaker to Livermore. Miramonte was up two sets, when Livermore stormed back for the win, 25-22, 28-26, 24-26, 19-25, 10-15.

Head coach Lisa Bachtold called the game a thriller. "Both teams fought hard, both teams wanted it so badly, and unfortunately we were so close and it just slipped through our fingers," Bachtold said. "They were down two games, but the crowd rallied behind them, and it was now or never. It was a well fought match," she added.

Bachtold was excited to make it into the tournament at all and is proud of her team's hard work and accomplishments. "What a tremendous turnaround from last season. They only won one match, and this season we notched six wins and made it to NCS. We really worked hard and deserved it," she said.

This season was Bachtold's first with Miramonte, and she is excited about the future. "Coaching the team this season has been such a rewarding experience bringing a new group of guys together with such different backgrounds and experience to play volleyball," she said. "Now that we have had a taste of NCS I can only anticipate what's to come."

Champion of Champions

Submitted by Sarajane Lagomarsino



From left: Sophomore Will Lagomarsino, junior Robert Young, senior Matt Klein, coach Steve Robinson, sophomore Austin Fischer, senior Manny Manzone and senior Jim Coon. Photo provided

Campolindo's varsity boys' golf team finished in second place at NCS Tournament of Champions and sent a school record six golfers to the NorCal regional tournament. Leading the Cougars, Robert Young and Austin Fischer finished with 69. Fischer even

had a hole in one. Seniors Manny Manzone and Jim Coon shot 72 and 73. Will Lagomarsino and Matt Klein rounded out the scores shooting 76.

Campolindo competed on May 19 in the NorCals. Check @lamorindasports for results.

CYO Track Finals

Record Run

Submitted by Jeanne Balczewski



Photo Tim Krozek

St. Perpetua's 4x100m relay team of Katherine Montoya, Mia Sides, Maddie Krozek and Natalie Means won first place and set a parish record at the CYO Track Diocese Finals May 10.

Top Finish

Submitted by Alan Go



Photo provided

From left: Caitlin Smith, Megan Go, Lyla Cox, Beth Hamalian The St. Perpetua fifth grade sprint medley relay team finished in second place at the CYO Track Finals.



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LAMORINDA SPORTS

National Champions!

Submitted by Tony Samaniego



Iggle star Joe Cowley in Luke Sauser's unrelenting grasp. Photos provided



Mark Bowers laying his full weight on the Iggle.

Saint Mary's rugby accomplished a feat 100 years in the making—the Gaels won the national title. Saint Mary's rugby won USA Rugby's Division 1A national championship on May 10 against Life University.

At halftime, the Gaels were down 3-6 to Life. After the break, SMC went on a 18-0 tear to defeat Life 21-6.

Cooper Maloney was named MVP of the game.

Highest Honors

Submitted by Julie Greco



Emily Shearer (2)

Photo provided

Local product Emily Shearer was honored with the Gatling Award by Cornell Track and Field. Shearer is a 2010 graduate of Acalanes. The award is given to the senior who has done the most for the Big Red pro-

gram over his or her career. She was captain of the cross-country and track and field teams. An All-Ivy performer, Shearer was also named Female Athlete of the Year by the *Cornell Daily Sun*.

Diablo Wins Cup

Submitted by Elizabeth Munson



Top row, from left: John Roemer (coach), Annelise Miller, Brooke Westphal (Lafayette), Jenna Seaman, Madeline Smith (Lafayette), Sophie Lurie (Orinda), Andrew Milkovich (coach), Ali Lurie (Orinda); bottom row: Jewel Roemer, Nina Munson (Moraga), Claire Rowell (Lafayette), Alex Mould (Lafayette), Zoe Benisek (Lafayette) Photo provided

Diablo's 12U water polo team went undefeated in the 21st Annual San Diego County Cup on May 2-4. After winning five games in two days, the team held on to win the championship game on Sunday after two

overtimes and a sudden death decision.

Three members received tournament recognition: Jewel Roemer – MVP, Nina Munson and Madeline Smith – All Tournament Team.

Basketball Champions

Submitted by Laura Limson



Back row, from left: Matthew Raddell, Bradley Nestal, Luke Lamison, Brady Cook, Malcolm Caminero, Harry Llewellan, and coach Jose Rivera; front row: Marco Chao, Dylan Golan and Kyle Ng

Photo provided

The Flight Elite 10U Blue team won a fast-paced, come-from-behind victory over the Roadrunners Basketball Club

on May 4. With the win, Flight Elite became the Bay Area Spring Classic 10U Gold Division champions. With four minutes to go,

Flight was down by 11 points, and then proceeded to score 18 points for the win.

Submit stories to
sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
(we prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide)


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2014 SUMMER CAMPS/CLASSES

Alphabetical listing of all 55 camps and classes

Summer is Nearly Upon Us ... Are you Ready?

With the official start of summer just one month away, and school almost over, there's only one question to ask: Are you ready? Signing up your child for a summer camp is a great opportunity for you to not only get them from behind a computer screen or off of your couch, but out trying something new or building new friendships. Fortunately, there is still time to sign up for some fantastic local programs and the following list of 55 camps – from Shakespeare to skateboarding, rowing to horseback riding – will help you get started.

(Part 1, Full Day and Overnight Camps published on March 12 and Part 2, Half-Day Camps published on April 9 can be found on our website www.lamorindaweekly.com)

2014 Summer Camps and Classes

5th Annual Summer Jazz Band at Stanley (Lafayette)

Covers the basics of Big Band Jazz with concentration on playing parts and improvising.

(925) 631-0343
tbonetommy1@sbcglobal.net

Academy of Language and Music Arts/ ALMA (Orinda)

Private lessons in instruments and languages; special summer group classes and performing ensembles.

(925) 254-5056; (925) 254-5053
www.alma-leap.com

Advantage Point Tennis (Lafayette)

Summer Tennis Camp held at Bentley for ages 5-18, Pee Wee, Junior Development and High School.

(925) 465-5184
www.advantagepointtennis.com

Adventure Day Camp (Walnut Creek)

Swimming, horseback riding, sailing, skateboarding, woodworking, science, arts, sports, etc. Ages 3-15.

(925) 937-6500
www.adventuredaycamp.com

Amazing Math Classes (Moraga)

Elementary school math and science, sports and statistics, algebra I and II, high school geometry - with fun teachers.

(925) 888-7036
m.adler@sbcglobal.net

Artemis Rowing (Oakland)

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www.oaklandyouthrowing.com

... continued on next page

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Call: 925-376-3550

Click: www.willowspringchurch.net

Cost: \$60

Scholarships Available

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Learn to Row Crew!

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One Week Introductory Sessions (8:30 - 11:30am)

Tidewater Boating Center

June 16th - 20th (Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
July 7th - 11th (Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
August 4th - 8th (Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)

San Pablo Reservoir

June 23rd - 27th (Intermediate* 11am - 2pm)
July 14th - 18th (Intermediate* 11am - 2pm)
August 18th - 22nd (Intermediate* 11am - 2pm)

*Intermediate sessions available to athletes who have completed a prior one week introductory session or our middle school program

Ideal for students entering 9th or 10th grade!

Learn More & Sign Up!
www.oaklandstrokes.org



Redwood Ranch Summer Riding Camp 2014

Ages 6 to 16
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2014 Summer Camp
June 16-20, 23-27, 30-July 3
July 7-11, 14-18, 21-25, 28-Aug.1
August 4-8, 11-15, 18-22, 25-29

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2014 Summer Camps and Classes ... continued

Artemis Rowing (Oakland)

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Christian Adventure Camp (Moraga)

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(925) 376-3550
www.willowspringchurch.net

iD Teen Academies (Stanford)

Overnight two-week, pre-college programs for ages 13-18. Create apps, video games, C++/Java, etc.
1-888-709-TECH (8324)
www.iDTech.com

Bay Area Adventure Camps (Orinda, Concord and Martinez)

Windsurfing, paddle boarding, horseback riding, archery, indoor skydiving, sea kayaking, and more. Full day.
http://bayareaadventure-camp.com

City of Lafayette - Recreation Summer Camps (Lafayette)

Soccer, cheerleading, cooking, dance, fencing, theater, lacrosse, science, Spanish, engineering & more! (925) 284-2232
www.LafayetteRec.org

Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop (Lafayette)

Music workshop directed by Stanley Middle School music director Bob Athayde. Aug.3-8 for ages 11+.
www.lafsmw.org (www.lafayettejazz.wordpress.com)

Berkeley Rep School of Theatre Summer Theatre Intensive (Berkeley)

Study with artists and playwrights, create an original play to be performed onstage at Berkeley Rep. (510) 647-2972
www.berkeleyrep.org/summer-intensive

City of Orinda Recreation Camps (Orinda)

Art, babysitting, clay, carpentry, dance, engineering, gymnastics, musical theater, nature camp and sports!
(925) 254-2445
www.cityoforinda.org

Little Fingers Wanting to Play! (Lafayette)

Piano lessons for very young children (ages 3-4) with Grammy Award winner, director Xiomara Di Maio.
(925) 878-5159
xiomydma@gmail.com

Cal Athletic Camps (Berkeley)

Recreational and sport activities for kids of all ages full of adventure, friendship, confidence building and fun.
calcamps@berkeley.edu
www.calbears.com/camps/cal-camps.html

Cooking from Zero to Wow! (Lafayette)

Work on the skills and techniques it takes to be comfortable, and safe, in the kitchen.
(925) 284-1120
www.backtothetablecooking-school.com

Lorne Smith Lacrosse (Saint Mary's College, Univ. of Oregon, Lake Tahoe)

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www.lornesmithlacrosse.com

Cal Shakes (Orinda)

Five- and two-week classes: acting, improvisation, stage combat, voice, and movement for grades 3-12. (510) 809-3293
www.summershakespeare-camp.org

Cougar Youth Football Camp (Moraga)

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www.campofootball.com

MATS Youth Football Camp (Orinda)

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(925) 284-2232
www.LafayetteRec.org

Green Stuff at UC Botanical Garden (Berkeley)

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www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

Meeting Nature through Miwok Eyes (Lafayette)

8 to 12 year olds immerse into the world of nature as experienced by local Native Americans.
www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org

Camp Brainy Bunch (Orinda)

Public speaking, creative writing, DIY engineering, leadership; small group sizes and outdoor fun. (510) 548-4800
www.CampBrainyBunch.com

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http://bayareaadventurecamp.com

Moraga Parks and Recreation Summer Camps (Moraga)

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(925) 888-7045
www.moraga.ca.us

Camp Hacienda (Moraga)

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www.moraga.ca.us

Hello Horse Camp- Roughing It (Moraga)

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(925) 283-3795
www.roughingit.com/horse

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church (Moraga)

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(925) 376-4800
www.mvpctoday.org

Camp Kefli (Lafayette)

Two one-week sessions for K-8 Aug. 11-22. Creative theme days and adventures both on and off site.
(925) 284-9191
www.temple-isaiah.org/kefli

Hunter Gallaway's Junior Summer Camp (Lafayette)

Stroke development, drills, live ball games and point for ages 4-16 years of age.
Hunterhg@comcast.net
www.lafayettetennis.com

Oakland Strokes (San Pablo Reservoir or Oakland Estuary)

Focused on taking kids from never rowing, to being proficient; ages sixth through 12th grade.
oaklandstrokes@gmail.com
www.oaklandstrokes.org

Camp Orinda (Orinda)

Games, arts, crafts, hiking, skits, sports, special fun days, and twice-weekly field trips for ages 6-10 1/2.
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www.cityoforinda.org

iD Tech Camps (Saint Mary's College, UC Berkeley, Stanford)

Ages 7-17 create apps, video games, C++/Java programs, mods with Minecraft, movies, robots, and more.
1-888-709-TECH (8324)
www.iDTech.com

Orinda Academy (Orinda)

Algebra I and II, pre-calculus, geometry, U.S. history. Personalized instruction with 9:1 ratio.
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www.orindaacademy.org

... continued on page D4

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www.MoragaValleyPool.org

You may download our Summer Camp Guide:
www.lamorindaweekly.com



Hunter Gallaway's Junior Summer Camp

June 2- August 22, 2014. Juniors 4-16 years of age.

Camp Director: NCAA Division 1 Pro: Carmen Selaru-Stewart

Program: Stroke development, drills, live ball games and point play.

Half Day: 9:30 AM-11:30 AM or 1:30-3:30 PM

Full Day: 9:30 AM-3:30 PM, includes lunch and swimming.

Contact: Hunterhg@comcast.net or Sheena: 925-360-7051

Applications online: www.lafayettetennis.com

SonTreasure Island Day Camp

June 23 - June 27, 9 am - Noon

Ages 3 - 12, All are welcome!

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for more details and sign up soon to reserve your spot in the summer fun.

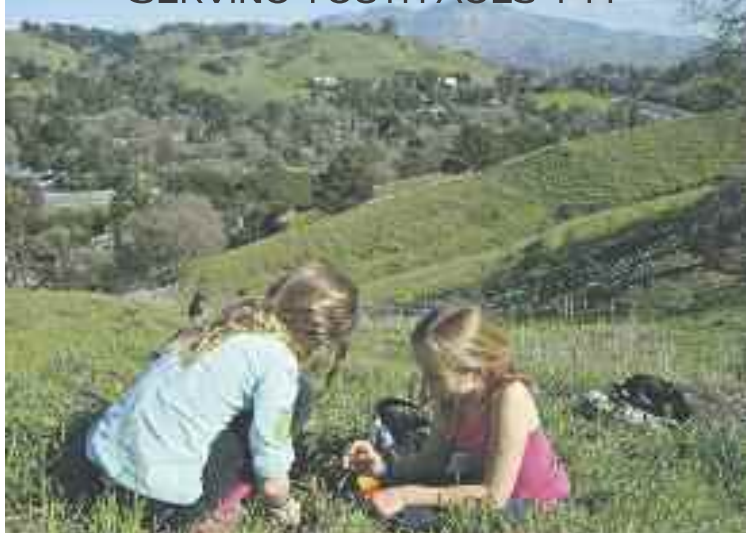


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Coming this summer:

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Registration for the Lafayette Parks and Recreation 15th Annual Summer Basketball/Volleyball programs is underway.

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Activities begin when school gets out and continue through the end of July. **Boys currently** in 1st grade through 7th grade are eligible to play basketball and **Girls currently** in grades 3 through 7 can sign up for volleyball. Events are all held in Lafayette School District gyms and multi-purpose rooms. There are no games or practices on Wednesday evenings or Saturday mornings, so swimmers can participate.

Go to www.lafayettesummerbasketball.com, yes, for volleyball, too, for more information and registration instructions.

2014 SUMMER CAMPS/CLASSES

2014 Summer Camps and Classes ... continued



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(Oakland)
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www.redwoodranchstables.com

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Saklan School
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www.thelumc.org

Sports Plus Adventure Day Camp
(Orinda, Concord and Martinez)
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www.Shakespeareforkids.us

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(Lafayette)
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www.shermanswim.com

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www.siennaranch.net

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Mornings skateboarding/scooter at the best area skateboard parks plus afternoons of adventure fun.
<http://bayareaadventure-camp.com>

SMC Summer Camps
(Moraga)
40-plus sports camps for ages 4-18: baseball, basketball, lacrosse, running, soccer, softball, tennis and more.
(925) 631-4FUN (4386)
www.smcgaels.com, click camps

Steve and Kate's Camp
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www.steveandkate.com

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The Art Room Summer Day Camp
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(925) 299-1515
www.theart-room.com

The Writing Studio - Camp Young Writers
(Lafayette)
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www.lafayettewritingstudio.com

Town Hall Education Summer Camps and Classes
(Lafayette)
Skills-based and performance-based theatre classes for preschool to high school-aged students.
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www.TownHallTheatre.com

The Lamorinda Weekly Summer Camp listings are not paid advertising. Our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. In the event we have inadvertently printed misinformation please let us know. LW is not liable for errors or omissions.



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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 6 Wednesday, May 21, 2014



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page E16

Lean Back, Open the App, and Manage Your Systems

Technology enables homeowners to run everything from hot tubs to TV from afar

By Chris Lavin



Peter Lineweaver of Moraga starts his evening shopping at Safeway in Moraga by queuing up his Bose stereo system at home so that it will be playing when he arrives.

Photo Chris Lavin

It was only 15 years ago that reporters at the San Francisco Chronicle attended a mandatory training session regarding references they were making to technology in their stories. “Don’t,” the trainer admonished, “write, ‘And they’re talking about it on the Internet.’ That’s a big old ‘duh’ by this point.”

In 1940, reporters were writing the same thing, only they were calling it the telephone.

Now, in this story that will likely be deemed a big “duh” two years from now, people are indeed running their homes – from their security systems to their washing machines – via an application (OK, OK, an “app”) on their phones.

“This is just the beginning,” said Edward Zeidan, of Lafayette. He started his Nerd 4 Rent business back in 1984 and while he’s had ups and downs with the economy, he’s been in demand ever since. “People buy a nifty alarm system but then they need help with getting it synched with the rest of the network. It’s all about the network.”

Homeowners throughout Lamorinda are synching everything. Gone are the days of pulling out the remote for the automatic garage door opener, now so passé.

... continued on page E6

THE *Beaubelle* GROUP



NEW LISTING ~ MORAGA ~ \$1,275,000

Tucked along a quiet court is a charming and traditional one-story ranch-style home meticulously remodeled with superb finishes and attention to detail. The three-bedroom, three-bathroom home offers hardwood floors, vaulted beamed ceiling, bay windows, marble, slate, chef's kitchen, French doors and so much more! The park-like setting on the almost one-third-acre lot features a beautifully landscaped exterior.



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	19	\$645,000	\$2,700,000
MORAGA	11	\$552,000	\$1,800,000
ORINDA	12	\$555,000	\$1,875,000

Home sales are compiled by CalREsource, 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 CalREsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

- 1036 Dolores Drive, \$1,310,000, 4 Bdrms, 2555 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 4-15-14;
Previous Sale: \$750,000, 05-23-01
- 4060 Fiora Place, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 1508 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-16-14;
Previous Sale: \$39,000, 06-25-71
- 2 Hartwood Court, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2418 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 4-11-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 07-15-04
- 1250 Laurel Lane, \$2,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 3652 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 4-24-14
- 677 Moraga Road, \$2,130,000, 4 Bdrms, 5702 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 4-14-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,450,000, 02-12-13
- 3620 Mosswood Drive, \$820,500, 3 Bdrms, 2072 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 4-25-14;
Previous Sale: \$600,000, 02-24-03
- 3353 North Lucille Lane, \$645,000, 2 Bdrms, 1097 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 4-15-14
- 3137 Old Tunnel Road, \$885,000, 3 Bdrms, 1563 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 4-15-14;
Previous Sale: \$599,000, 04-25-01
- 3141 Padre Street, \$900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2126 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-24-14
- 12 Park Gate, \$1,275,000, 5 Bdrms, 3258 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-25-14
- 971 Pleasant Hill Road, \$950,000, 4 Bdrms, 2497 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 4-15-14;
Previous Sale: \$405,000, 07-21-93
- 3398 Ridge Road, \$895,000, 4 Bdrms, 2088 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 4-17-14;
Previous Sale: \$848,500, 03-29-12
- 3340 Rowland Drive, \$2,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 4627 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 4-11-14;
Previous Sale: \$825,000, 05-30-97
- 3290 Springhill Road, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1576 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 4-18-14
- 990 Stow Lane, \$1,755,000, 3 Bdrms, 3031 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 4-11-14;
Previous Sale: \$510,000, 02-26-93
- 3760 Sundale Road #3762, \$947,000, 4 Bdrms, 2375 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-17-14;
Previous Sale: \$910,000, 06-29-05
- 1226 Warner Court, \$847,000, 3 Bdrms, 2004 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 4-23-14
- 1 West Creek Court, \$857,500, 3 Bdrms, 1926 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 4-25-14;
Previous Sale: \$525,000, 09-28-11
- 3280 Woodview Drive, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2477 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-18-14;
Previous Sale: \$725,000, 06-07-13

... continued on page E12



KURT PIPER GROUP

Pocket Listing



- 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3100± sq. ft.
- Flat .37±AC with pool & sport court
- Close to town, trail, schools

679 Los Palos Dr, Lafayette
Offered at \$1,750,000

Just Listed



- 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, Burton Valley
- 3769± sq. ft. big floor plan
- .63±AC beautiful private yard

529 Morecroft Dr, Lafayette
Offered at 1,550,000

Just Listed



- 3+ bedrooms, 2 baths, 1700± sq. ft.
- Expandable .74±AC flat lot
- Close to town, trail & schools

710 Saint Marys Rd, Lafayette
Offered at \$1,250,000

Just Listed



- 4 bedrooms + office, 2 baths
- Lovely yard spaces. Large patio.
- .55±AC with views of Mt. Diablo

3380 Reliez Highland Rd, Lafayette
Offered at \$1,195,000

Pending ~ Represented Buyer



- 3 bedrooms + office, 2 baths
- Close in Burton Valley location
- Flat .25±AC parcel

616 Lancaster Dr, Lafayette
Offered at \$1,287,000

Sold ~ Represented Buyer



- 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 4600± sq. ft.
- Exquisite over 1±AC flat lot
- One-of-a-kind park-like setting

3340 Rowland Dr, Lafayette
Offered at \$2,650,000

Sold ~ Represented Seller



- 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2000± sq. ft.
- Sparkling pool & big yard
- .25±AC cul-de-sac lot

326 Lowell Ln East, Lafayette
Offered at \$1,149,000

Sold ~ Representes Seller



- 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2298± sq. ft.
- Spacious kitchen. Built in 1975.
- Desirable Orinda Country Club

52 Miner Rd, Orinda
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Sophisticated Moraga Country Club Living



38 Corte Pinon, Moraga

Updates abound in this spacious, 2-story home. From the Brazilian cherry floors to the stainless and granite kitchen and updated baths, there's nothing to do but move in and enjoy. There are 3 bedrooms, including 2 master suites, a loft, and 3.5 baths. The kitchen opens to an inviting family room with fireplace. The dramatic living room has a vaulted ceiling and second fireplace and opens to the formal dining area and a private deck. Enjoy all that Moraga and the Moraga Country Club have to offer. Close to the Moraga Farmer's Market, top-rated schools, walking paths and more. **Offered at \$849,000**



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3176 Rohrer Drive, Lafayette

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Wonderful Neighborhood

3 BD, 2 BA 2104 Sq Ft* .23 Acre*

Super Yard and Location

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4 BD, 3 BA 2263 Sq Ft* .3 Acre*

Large Living & Family Rooms

Updated Granite Kitchen

Favorite Neighborhood

Close to Town, Commute

\$1,395,000



*per Public Records



Lean Back, Open the App, and Manage Your Systems

... continued from page E1



Edward Zeidan of Nerd 4 Rent shows that his car is safe and sound in the parking lot. He's shopping for a similar system for his Lafayette home that will be able to monitor his house by phone.

Photo Chris Lavin



Small cameras are popular security devices that can be integrated into home networks, so that any motion or pictures can be sent to a cell phone.

The gate and the door are on the smartphone, too.

"There are so many more devices now that connect to the network," Zeidan said. "Audio visual – the audio-visual folks are having a terrible time adapting, because everything is computerized now, and didn't used to be. But starting in the mid-2000s everything started getting integrated into the network. Your speakers, hot tubs, swimming pools, lighting, shutters, room temperature – everything."

Zeidan picked up his phone and punched the icon for the security camera pointing to the parking lot.

"My car's still there," he said.

In his hand he held an average smartphone, and even that has more computer power than got the Apollo space mission to the moon in 1969. RAM memory has become so inexpensive, he said, that almost any electronic device in the home can be programmed to interface with a phone or a tablet. You can start the wash, turn on the hot tub, or filter your pool. He said Sonos wireless hi-fi systems and Lorex home security systems are particularly popular.

... continued on page E10



Zeidan doesn't rely totally on technology for security. In what he calls "hillbilly security," he is not afraid of large metal locks.



Coming Soon!

232 Ivy Drive, Orinda

Spacious fixer-upper in great neighborhood, just minutes to K - 12 schools, shopping & BART bus. 4BR/3BA, approximately 2,146 sq. ft. on approximately .26 acre lot with large level yard and room for expansion.



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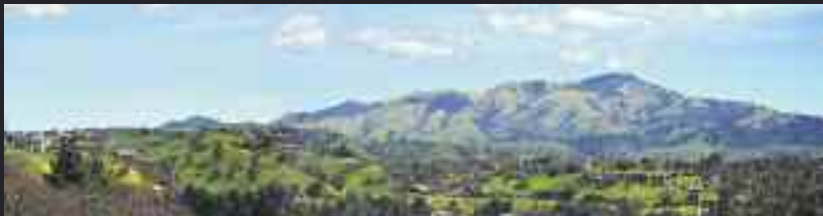
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16 Quail Xing, Moraga

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3 Bedrooms // 1 1/2 Bathrooms // \$389,000



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1608 Springbrook Road, Lafayette \$765,000

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Lean Back, Open the App, and Manage Your Systems

... continued from page E6

“Your smartphone is your universal remote,” Zeidan said. “You don’t have to have individual remotes for anything anymore.”

Zeidan’s real-time cameras could catch a thief in the act. He’s poised and ready: His business has been burgled twice. He now has cameras and motion detectors throughout his Concord office, and is shopping for a system for his Lafayette home. Depending on the cameras’ resolution, a system will run from around \$250 to \$1,200. Zeidan likes high resolution.

“If someone is breaking in, I want to be able to see a face,” he said. “I want a license plate.” He has so many cameras that if you’re talking to him in the office and waving your arms you can see yourself on his phone.

Zeidan occasionally runs late getting home, and

if there’s a favorite TV show coming on, all he has to do is pick up his phone and have his home network record it. One of his favorite jobs was in a large home that threw big parties, so he hooked up the network so that music could be synchronized by phone for the dance floor, with different music piped to the area where people were quietly chatting over hors d’oeuvres, and other areas. “You don’t want loud dance music in all those areas,” he said. But you don’t have to run from one area to another to keep it all going, either, he said.

Sarah Kellar, a realtor with the Dana Green Team, has been surprised by how many homes now have Nest systems installed to control indoor temperatures. The systems also send alerts to a phone when a smoke or carbon monoxide detector goes off.

“Probably half of all homes have them now,” she said. “We’re headed into a new world again.”

And even more people have them in their second homes, she said. Going up to Tahoe? Turn on the heat from the highway. “You program your phone to turn on the heat and you don’t have to wait for three hours for the house to warm up. You can just turn on the furnace en route. Lots of people are using these systems that way.” In reverse, you can turn your lights on and off back home to make it look like you’re home, while monitoring your security cameras.

No app is available yet for shoveling the snow for arrival or cleaning the kitchen before you return. But they’re probably not far off.



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page E2

MORAGA

- 76 Ashbrook Place, \$1,349,000, 5 Bdrms, 2531 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 4-22-14
50 Ascot Place, \$613,000, 2 Bdrms, 1455 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-15-14
1432 Camino Peral, \$552,000, 3 Bdrms, 1440 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 4-18-14;
Previous Sale: \$605,000, 07-27-07
24 Carr Drive, \$1,236,000, 5 Bdrms, 2084 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-11-14;
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 04-18-03
833 Crossbrook Court, \$1,115,000, 4 Bdrms, 2128 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-17-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 06-25-09
1704 Del Monte Way, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2317 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 4-15-14;
Previous Sale: \$955,000, 04-02-08
24 Hanson Court, \$639,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 4-16-14;
Previous Sale: \$264,000, 05-14-93
60 Hardie Drive, \$1,235,500, 4 Bdrms, 2541 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-11-14
3 Hastings Court, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3743 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 4-16-14
119 Sandringham Drive #S, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2772 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 4-18-14;
Previous Sale: \$532,500, 05-01-97
420 Stonefield Place, \$1,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 2759 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 4-25-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,152,000, 08-09-05

ORINDA

- 73 Brookwood Road #5, \$555,000, 2 Bdrms, 1020 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-23-14;
Previous Sale: \$565,000, 03-15-06
106 Camino Don Miguel, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 3017 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 4-10-14
171 Camino Pablo, \$983,000, 3 Bdrms, 1431 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 4-18-14;
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 05-28-03
5 Corte Bombero, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 1531 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 4-22-14;
Previous Sale: \$953,000, 10-23-08
5 Edgewood Court, \$795,000, 3 Bdrms, 1504 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 4-16-14
19 Ivy Drive, \$790,000, 3 Bdrms, 1808 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 4-24-14
52 Miner Road, \$919,000, 3 Bdrms, 2298 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 4-22-14
68 Morello Place, \$1,339,500, 4-11-14
207 Orchard Road, \$940,000, 2 Bdrms, 1640 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 4-18-14;
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 06-24-03
550 Orindawoods Drive, \$1,875,000, 3 Bdrms, 4961 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 4-23-14
52 Singingwood Lane, \$1,555,000, 4 Bdrms, 2635 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 4-15-14
28 Southwood Drive, \$986,000, 4 Bdrms, 2709 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 4-10-14;
Previous Sale: \$600,000, 02-28-01



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Memorial Day, Helpful People and Gratitude: A FengShui Perspective

By Michele Duffy

Memorial Day may mean the beginning of summer, backyard barbecues and the slathering of sunscreen while donning a new swim suit at one of the area beaches, but for many, it is symbolic of one ideal: gratitude.

Learning to appreciate what you already have (yogi's call this *samtosha*) instead of what you lack is a valuable life skill to promote a sense of well being. From a FengShui perspective, gratitude is easily expressed through healthy plants, joyful family photos, and warm colors that we infuse inside our homes. A home filled with gratitude is fantastic FengShui.

While each of us have our own ideas of what constitutes health and happiness, there is some consensus that solid relationships, a healthy outlook and a sense of curiosity about life contribute greatly to achieving contentment. When we express thanks it impacts the receiver and it also benefits the one giving thanks.

There are nine "life" areas of the FengShui Bagua map (see diagram). By focusing on the "Helpful People" area of the Bagua Map, we can recognize the blessings in our lives. Acting upon them regularly improves our quality of life and our awareness and appreciation of others. This is good FengShui and karma since none of us achieves lasting happiness, health or success without the constant help of others.

Albert Schweitzer, the Nobel Peace Prize recipient, once said, "At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."

If you stand at your front door looking into your home, the Helpful People area is located to the near right corner from where you stand and is connected to and symbolizes blessings and helpful people who bless your life. When we fully "activate" a particular Bagua area, like Helpful People, we do this in the house, master bedroom and the yard so the garden receives a lot of healthy FengShui.

The Helpful People area of the FengShui Bagua is governed by the metal element. We can "activate" the metal element of this life area by placing metal sculptures of our loved ones, angels or Buddhas, and the colors that represent metal including white, grey, silver, and metallic in that location. Place art that depicts all we are grateful for or who we are grateful for, including photos in metal frames of our helpful people or benefactors. Infuse the area with reflection.

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"Activate" the Healthy People life area of the Bagua using metal sculptures of angels or Buddhas in yards.
Photos Michele Duffy



Use colors that represent metal including white, grey, silver, and metallic.

The earth element “creates” or produces metal, so use the earth element in the Helpful People area. Since fire melts metal, avoid red and the fire element in this area to keep it strong and vibrant.

Helpful people always include family and friends – even trusty and faithful pets – but they also include enemies and strangers. While it is easy to see the connection with why family and friends may be blessings in our lives, our enemies can

be our most profound teachers of patience or impermanence. Also, remember that our enemies today can become friends tomorrow, and our friends today could someday turn against us.

Heaven also occupies the Helpful People area, underscoring that the Divine is always the most helpful to us; we turn inward, to our spiritual food for strength and spiritual grounding, so many blessings manifest. Expressing gratitude for our spirituality can give us great and real comfort, especially on Memorial Day, when we may contemplate those we have lost.

This Memorial Day tell your loved ones how much you appreciate counting them among the blessings in your life. Activate and bless the Helpful People area of your home, expressing your gratitude with specific symbology that is personal, physical and spiritual.

Share your gratitude and give thanks to all those who have given of themselves, without expectation of repayment so life could be filled with peace. As you do, reflect that you contribute to the global good, hope, light and peace in the world, and that perhaps you honor them best, this Memorial Day, by starting first with your own heart.



Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating “Space as Medicine” FengShui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch FengShui Master, International FengShui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. For more info, visit www.mandalafengshui.com, email spaceharmony@gmail.com, or call 520-647-4887.

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

I Can See Clearly Now, the Rain Has Gone

“Do I dare disturb the universe?” – The Love Ballad of Alfred J. Prufroc

Scientists have speculated the possible return of El Nino in 2015. Even if the storms do return, the forecast predicts only moderate precipitation for Northern California. Fortunately enough rainfall in April greened the golden hills, yet as we approach summer, we must be extra diligent in our conservation methods. The fire danger is enhanced because of our dry winter. In fact, the fire season of 2013 was still in progress as we entered the beginning of the 2014 fire season this month. As humans we have altered the climate and stressed our great globe. It's not too late to begin being better stewards. In my past two Digging Deep's, I've outlined how we can prepare our garden for the forthcoming drought. This is the third installment of the Drought Gardening Series with a list of plants that can thrive with little water.

If you missed Part 1 and 2, you can visit the Lamorinda Weekly website to read them online:

Part 1: Singing in the Rain

(<https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0801/Digging-Deep-Gardening-with-Cynthia-Brian-Singing-in-the-Rain.html>);

Part 2: Don't Doubt the Drought

(<https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0803/Digging-Deep-Gardening-with-Cynthia-Brian-Dont-Doubt-the-Drought.html>).

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A water trough makes a rustic raised bed for all plants, not just edibles. Pictured: rosemary and variegated cordylines.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Artichokes require minimal water yet provide a hearty, tasty crop year after year.



A variety of colors, sizes, and textures make these aloes, succulents, and grasses a gorgeous addition to a drought garden.

Drought Gardening Series – Part 3

Drought Tolerant Plants from Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Enriched, compost amended soil is the most important foundation element to growing any garden. Apply three inches of mulch to maximize water savings, maintain moisture, reduce run-off, and shield the soil from direct sunlight. Group plants with similar water needs together, stop fertilizing, eliminate weeds, deadhead before seed pods form, build wind barriers, create shade, and water appropriately, infrequently, yet deeply. Choose a sampling of these drought resistant, low maintenance specimens:

Annuals	Daylily	Shrubs	Dill	Vegetables	Squash
Amaranthus	Echinacea	Abelia	Fennel	Armenian Cucumber	Swiss Chard
Cosmos	Fern	Holly	Feverfew	Artichoke	Tomato
Cleome	Geranium	Hibiscus	Lemongrass	Bean	Turnip
Dusty Miller	Ginger	Hydrangea	Marjoram	Beet	Zucchini
Lupine	Helleborus	Palm	Oregano	Corn	
Marigolds	Ice Plant	Nandina	Parsley	Chile	Grasses
Poppy	Lamb's Ear	Oleander	Purslane	Eggplant	Blue Oatgrass
Portulaca	Lamium	Pomegranate	Rosemary	Garlic	Fountain Grass
Verbena	Lavender	Viburnum	Sage	Lettuce	Japanese Bloodgrass
	Russian Sage		Spearmint	Mustard	Leatherleaf Sedge
Perennials	Sedum	Herbs	Savory	Onion	Maiden Grass
Agastache	Succulents	Anise	Stinging Nettle	Pea	Pampas Grass
Bush Sage	Yarrow	Bay	Thyme	Peppers	Reed Grass
Blanket flower	Yucca	Catmint	Wild Garlic	Radish	Zebra Grass
Cactus		Catnip		Rhubarb	
Currant		Chives		Spinach	

This is not a complete list of plants that will grow with minimal moisture and maintenance. Talk to your nursery professional for more advice and local recommendations. Visit garden centers to see the specimens that will work best with your landscaping requirements. Remember that all plants need water. Natives, succulents, and cacti fare the best in dry conditions and may add beauty and texture to your existing garden with less care. Bulbs are always excellent choices providing perennial color, form, and fragrance. Consider xeriscaping as it conserves 50-75 percent of water utilizing creative landscaping techniques.

Until next time, remember that to build a better future we must nurture nature. We are blessed to live on planet Earth. Care for the land and all of God's creatures and we will reap the benefits. Never forget that love always wins when kindness prevails, plus gardens make us happy. Read a book in May – it's a garden in bloom. Stroll through the garden to actually smell the roses! They are glorious this year.

Happy Gardening! Happy Growing!



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Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Reminders

- PLANT flowers in drifts of several colors to enable bees and butterflies to see them better.
- CREATE a wide defensible space perimeter around your home to protect your family from fires.
- CONTINUE succession planting of beets, carrots, turnips, radishes, and other root edibles for uninterrupted harvests all season.
- COLD hardy peonies are popping up creating waves of color in the garden. Peonies make sophisticated floral arrangements.
- PULL weeds that are zapping your water, especially teasel rosette. This roadside weed is a biennial and quite prickly to touch. Nonetheless, many people use the dried flower heads in arrangements because of their interesting shape and size (they can grow up to 2 meters tall). This widely adapted plant is native to Eurasia.
- EAT the pea-like flowers of the fava bean plant as well as the leaves. Fava leaves are nutty tasting while the flowers have a mildly sweet flavor akin to spring peas.



Fava bean blossoms and leaves are edible with a nutty flavor.

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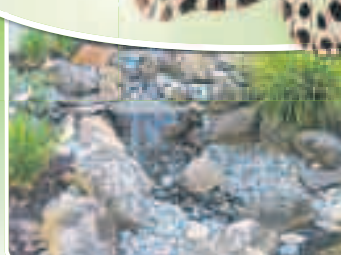
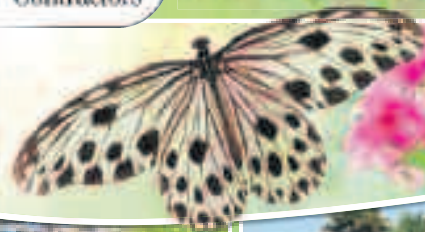
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8 Via San Inigo Quiet nature surrounds this spacious 4bd/3ba 2840 sf home on .52 acre. Best of both worlds, with easy access to Orinda, Berkeley & Tilden Park. Level yard, great patio & VIEWS!

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New Listing

81 La Cuesta Beautifully renovated Country Club charmer w/ great view, close in location on idyllic country lane. Fabulous master retreat w/state of the art bath, super kitchen, lovely appointments throughout.

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89 Tarry Lane, Orinda Wonderful Sleepy Hollow location on .78 acre with 3bd/2ba, 1711 sq. ft., hardwood floors, large living room, family off kitchen, knoll setting. Views of the surrounding 'Hollow' hills.

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137 El Toyonal Super family hm of unmatched charm, grace & beauty. Wonderful setting w/big yds, spectacular grdns down long drive from street. Incredible attn to care by owners who raised their kids there. A gem!

\$1,325,000

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New Listing

393 Miner Road Warm & elegant New England traditional on oak studded acre. Large living & dining rms w/French drs to enchanting garden, impeccably updated kitchen w/keeping rm, sunroom. 3bd/2.5ba, sep. office.

\$1,395,000

ORINDA



New Listing

71 Scenic Drive Stunning traditional ranch hm on gorgeous private 1/2 ac. Lovely view, expansive lawn & patio, flowering grdns. High ceilings, Fr. drs & Palladian window, hdwd flrs & beautiful custom woodwork.

\$1,785,000

MORAGA



New Listing

626 Augusta Drive Rarely available single story detached hm in heart of Moraga Country Club. This is the one you have been waiting for. Tastefully updated & in pristine condition. Beautiful garden w/blooming roses.

\$915,000

MORAGA



New Listing

157 Hodges Drive Great curb appeal, one level Camino Woods home. Kitchen opens to family room. Lots of hardwood floors, large master suite. Minutes from elementary and middle school.

\$1,199,000

MORAGA



New Listing

39 Ashford Place This house has it all! Cul-de-sac location, huge kitchen/family room combo, spacious master suite, resort-like backyard all on one level and close to school.

\$1,475,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3176 Rohrer Drive Burton Valley charming traditional hm - great neighborhood, schools. Large expanded great rm/kitchen w/high ceilings, walls of glass opening to yd, all updated. Close to trail, community center.

\$995,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

1009 Windsor Drive Never before on market! Classic hm w/great family flr pln incl. formal din. rm, huge fam. rm w/Andersen wood dr leading to inviting yd w/mature lndscpng & lvl lwn. Lovely hdwd flrs & pastoral views!

\$998,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

533 Silverado Drive Highly sought Burton Valley neighborhood. 4bd/2ba rancher on level .23 acre lot. Private yard, gleaming hardwood floors, dual pane windows & slider, master suite, expansion possibilities.

\$1,050,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

1172 Glen Road Heart of Happy Valley Glen, highly desirable nghbrhd near town. Well maintained 4 bdrm, spacious living rms, hdwd, beaut. updated kit. adj to large fam rm, walls of glass open to gorgeous yard.

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New Listing

5 & 7 Lark Creek Lane Magnificent property on 1.65 ac close in Reliez Valley. Two sep. lvl parcels. Home updated to perfection by Momsen Constr. Charming guest house, fab. barn/ofc, pool, gorgeous grounds, rm to build.

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New Listing

2724 Foxglove Court Desirable Stoneridge Place nghbrhd, custom kitchen & baths fully remodeled in 2011, designer fixtures, community pool, close to shops. Next door to award-winning Mohr Elem. & Amaral Park.

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