A city official set out tables and chairs, bottled water and cupcakes, residents streamed in to see the ribbon-cutting ceremony of Miner Road. Work crews hurried to clear the site, right up to the minute Orinda Director of Public Works Larry Theis spoke. “We’re aren’t quite finished, but we’re very close. I’d like to go back a bit in time...’’ They described the sinkhole discovery, realizations of its seriousness, and late nights planning and collaborating to satisfy governing agencies. He thanked everyone who gave long hours.

Orinda Mayor Eve Phillips said, “A lot of work went into making sure we were providing the right feedback. We’re always here for your feedback. We’re hoping this will never happen again, but if it does, we probably learned a few things along the way. I think the end result, frankly, that we’re getting the road reopened in pretty good amount of time for any public works project that I’ve seen, is not too bad of an outcome.”

-- continued on page A10

With fanfare, Miner Road reopens to the public after sinkhole

By B. B. Kaye

Lamorinda’s doctor in the dugout

By Nick Marnell

The group known as Save Lafayette Trees has filed a complaint in court demanding the reversal of a tree-cutting agreement in order to protect 272 trees deemed at risk from PG&E’s gas pipelines.

The complaint was filed in Contra Costa Superior Court against the City of Lafayette and PG&E on June 26.

Save Lafayette Trees claims, “Not only did the city fail to notify residents of the plans to circumvent their own tree protection ordinance, both the city and PG&E bypassed very important environmental review regulations, including the California Environmental Quality Act.”

The growing group of residents formed the organization after learning of the city’s March 27 agreement with PG&E to remove 272 trees. The utility company deemed the removal necessary to ensure the safety of the high transmission gas pipelines under its Community Pipeline Safety Initiative.

However Save Lafayette Trees does not believe the removal of the trees is needed... continued on page A9

Complaint filed in attempt to save targeted trees in Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher

Letters to the Editor A9

Community News B4

Not to be Missed B6/B7

Classified C2

Shop Orinda C4

Civic News A1-A10

Life in Lamorinda B1-B8

Sports C1-C4

Fire Districts A1-A5

Get the dirt on preparing soil for your gardens this July... page D1.
Mark Kindzhinares, residing on a vacant property on the Lafayette School District board.

By Pippa Fisher

APlanning for the restoration and development of the downtown creeks is under way. A selection of new listings are unveiled — including viewing areas and patios, creek access and crossings — members of the Community Creeks Plan were before the Lafayette City Council praised detailed report for its breadth and flexibility.

A measure to adopt the Downtown Creeks Plan was before the council on June 26. Creeks Coordinator James Will Janecek, along with Gunes and consultant Steve Guse, presented the project's findings.

Together they explained the plan’s vision and goals: parks and open space throughout the next 20 years as creek-side parcels of land that are currently privately owned come up for redevelopment.

The board will interview candidates at a public meeting to be held at 6 p.m. Aug. 16. If one or more candidates, a special election will be held. A person re- ceiving the majority of the votes will be appointed to the board. The June 12 A-F board oversees the four elementary schools in Lafayette as well as Stanislaus Middle School (www.laf.k12.ca.us) by following the steps or announcements on the website.

Kindzhinares reflected, “If my limited time on the board, my extremely proud of my work in participating in the design approach, purchasing the Old Lafayette Library, making thoughtful, difficult, but required cuts to reduce expenses, continuing the Child Abuse Pro- visioner’s collaborative efforts, getting to know and better understand the needs of the special education community, reviewing the district’s strategic plan and approving the Local Control and Accountability Plan.

“We are a welcome addition to the board,” said Gerson. “His focus and thoughtfulness, his collaborative approach and addressing the issues of the day. We wish him great success in his new position and wish this move to southern California.

Lafayette School District Governing Board Vacancy

Application and Selection Procedure

The Lafayette School District Governing Board has a vacant position due to the resignation of a board member effective July 31, 2017. The board is proceeding with filling the vacancy by appointment for a two-year period. The board has decided to hold a special election, the winner then would have com- pleted the remainder of the term, ending in December 2020.

However Gerson said that the board decided on the appoint- ment process in part because of the August versus holding a spe- cial election, which is expensive and would require several more months before we would have a new board member seated.

Gerson explained that we will seek and hire one qualified candidate apply for the position in the appointment process.”

The board will interview candi- dates at a public meeting to be held at 6 p.m. Aug. 16. If one or more candidates, a new position will be a vote. A person re- ceiving the majority of the votes would be appointed to the board. The June 12 A-F board oversees the four elementary schools in Lafayette as well as Stanislaus Middle School (www.laf.k12.ca.us) by following the steps or announcements on the website. Kindzhinares reflected, “If my limited time on the board, my extremely proud of my work in participating in the design approach, purchasing the Old Lafayette Library, making thoughtful, difficult, but required cuts to reduce expenses, continuing the Child Abuse Pro- visioner’s collaborative efforts, getting to know and better understand the needs of the special education community, reviewing the district’s strategic plan and approving the Local Control and Accountability Plan.

“The appointment process is a no cost to the district and we shall be afforded all the powers and duties of a board member upon appointment. A candidate for a provisional appointment to the Lafayette School District Governing Board must be submitted no later than Tuesday, August 8, 2017. The appointment package must include:

- Letter of intent relating to pertinent experience
- Current resume
- Completed application form

Application forms are available at the Lafayette School District Office, 3477 School St., Lafayette or online at www.laf.us. Candidates are considered eligible if they are 18 years of age or older; a citizen of the state; a resident of the school district; a registered voter; and not disqualified by the constitution or laws of the state from holding office. CANDIDATE APPLICATION PACKETS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAIL at the Lafayette School District Office, at 3477 School Street, Lafayette, BY NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M. on AUGUST 8, 2017.

By mail: Application packets must be received at the Lafayette School District Office on or before Tuesday, August 8, 2017. In person: Application packets can be delivered to the district between the hours of 8 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The board will interview candidates at a public meeting on Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the Stanley Middle School Library, 3455 School Street, Lafayette CA. The board will accept oral or written public input and will select the provisional appointee by a majority vote at this meeting.

Within 10 days following the board meeting the district will post a notice in all district schools and the newspaper stating that the vacancy has been filled. and that unless a petition is filed that meets the requirements of Education Code section 35176, the position in the appointment process will lapse.

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By Pippa Fisher

A planning for the restoration and development of the downtown creeks is under way. A selection of new listings are unveiled — including viewing areas and patios, creek access and crossings — members of the Community Creeks Plan were before the council on June 26. Creeks Coordinator James Will Janecek, along with Gunes and consultant Steve Guse, presented the project's findings.

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Applications for the position in the appointment process will lapse.

Within 10 days following the board meeting the district will post a notice in all district schools and the newspaper stating that the vacancy has been filled. and that unless a petition is filed that meets the requirements of Education Code section 35176, the position in the appointment process will lapse.

Women to Serve on A-F School Board

By Pippa Fisher

A planning for the restoration and development of the downtown creeks is under way. A selection of new listings are unveiled — including viewing areas and patios, creek access and crossings — members of the Community Creeks Plan were before the council on June 26. Creeks Coordinator James Will Janecek, along with Gunes and consultant Steve Guse, presented the project's findings.

Together they explained the plan’s vision and goals: parks and open space throughout the next 20 years as creek-side parcels of land that are currently privately owned come up for redevelopment.
Leigh Creekside Park is as controversial as ever

By Pippa Fisher

M ore than 30 meetings later, the controversy around Leigh Creekside Park remains as acrimonious as ever with many residents questioning the fairness of the focused Environmental Impact Report.

The Lafayette City Council heard a status update at the meeting July 26 from Parks, Trails and Recreation Director Jonathan Katurangi, who said that the focused EIR that city staff had been ordered to prepare at the February meeting would begin in July. The results of this EIR, which is solely on noise, should be available in early 2018. The city is working with the environmental consultants Place/Works.

During the February meeting, the council approved the development of the controversial play structure to be built subject to the results of the focused EIR, against the wishes of those residents who prefer the park to remain “passive”—left in its natural state which is what they claim was intended all along for that parcel of land.

On the opposite side are those who want a play structure; who want a more “active” park. And, several years since the first meetings about this park, both sides are still divided as ever.

The “passive” argued that the city has ignored a glaring need for complete environmental review by opting for the narrow EIR. They say that many areas need further study, including traffic, parking, damage to tree roots, soil compaction, loss of habitat for birds and other wildlife, including the endangered western pond turtle and California red-legged frog.

One speaker, among the several, was a Lafayette resident and lead consultant Place/Works. Mayor Cam Burks said it showed that the gazebo area was too close to Mount Diablo Boulevard and the city had already been covered with concrete. He said that the gazebo layout was “out of touch” with the vision of the city and lead proponent for the play structure.

Grace Dixon, did not agree. She said that the gazebo area was less environmental damage since the area has already been covered with concrete. She said, “we ignore at our peril.” She said there was significant risk of litigation, but said beyond that, is “not the way Lafayette does business.”

Creekside Park is currently lacking in activities for creative alternatives, suggested building a “tot lot” by the gazebo area, as the implications for cost in the future date.

Lafayette resident and lead consultant Place/Works, Samson both said they would be putting it back on the agenda at a future date.

By Pippa Fisher

Leigh Creekside Park is as controversial as ever

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Adorable 3BR/2BA home in a wonderful neighborhood - close to town, swim club and schools. Call for more information.

By Pippa Fisher

Leigh Creekside Park is as controversial as ever

Vision for Lafayette creeks... continued from page A2

The plan addresses the improvement of water quality, encourages piece-meal enhancements and proposes using the public projects in the west end of La- fayette as a catalyst for private projects.

Uniting elements include the creeks, walkways, interpretive signage, creek icons and uniform fencing.

Water quality will be improved through low impact development requirements, pervious paving, rain gardens, which take runoff water from the streets to gardens that serve to purify the water before it goes to the creeks, and riparian habitat restoration, including some removal of non-native plants.

Elder explained that the plan was to focus initially on the west reach and to start by addressing erosion. He said that once the public sees what can be done, it would be a catalyst for private development. They plan to re- store the creek all the way along to the gazebo on the west end, through the downtown area.

Using the creek which flows from the Contra Costa as an example of a private project, Elder said they are looking into replacing the current concrete sections of the creek with stone, making the walls more decorative and re- placing the current chain link and barbed wire fencing with a more attractive alternative.

City council members uniformly praised the work of the creeks committee. Council mem- ber Cam Burks said it showed excellent vision” and noted having only just seen the report, that he would like more time to review it before making further comment on something that could cost the taxpayers millions of dollars.

Similarly Council Member Mark Mitchell said that because of the financial implications he would need more time to study it and give it the time it deserves.

Creekside Park currently lacks in activities for creative alternatives, possibly building a “tot lot” by the gazebo area, said Samson both they would be putting it back on the agenda at a future date.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com
Moraga Town Council postpones local Police Laureate decision

By Sophie Braccini

The mayor of the Moraga Town Council could not decide if a local poet laureate should be appointed at the recommendation of uniquely Moraga’s. Two projects are competing for local approval: a local access to a local poet laureate who would work in the parks and recreation department in collaboration with SMC. The idea started germinating in 2015 when Onoda and other art-minded Lamorinda people met with the Onoda Arts Council that had decided, under the leadership of Maestro Lorell Kohl, to embrace the idea of a community’s poet laureate. At the time, the idea was to combine the creativity and energy of the three communities, not only SMC and local schools. Lamorinda’s project to appoint a laureate to work with the three towns, or only two if Moraga does not want to join in. private monies have raised money to give that person. The laureate will be appointed for two years, while poetry events and community classes in schools. The program does not require Moraga’s financial participation. The mayor is quite passionate about the Lamorinda’s poet laureate project for Moraga. She explained at the June 28 meeting that this would contribute to make Moraga a fabulous place. She added that she would talk with SMC’s president Jim Donahue countless times about this. SMC is a powerful poesy with the head of the creative writing department being the poet laureate. The editor for New Times concluded that she did not want to exclude anyone, but that she was the mayor of Moraga, not of Lamorinda. Council Member Dave Tottle argued that President Donahue had a letter to the council indicating that both options—a Moraga or a Lamorinda poet laureate—were being considered, but declaring it could not proceed. The council decided that this project was a private one, since she believed that the town should not spend time and money on it. She added that the city needs to discuss the proposal, but that it was not fully developed yet. All agreed to postpone the decision in a late fall. Kohl said that the Moraga only project had merits, but it was not fully developed yet.
Jay Ingram reflects on future challenges for Moraga Parks and Recreation
By Sophie Braccini

Moraga Parks and Recreation
Director Jay Ingram left the town of Moraga after the Fourth of July festivities to take a new position in Pleasanton, where he will lead the much bigger community services department. Many in town expressed their sadness about seeing him go after 10 years, saying that he grew the department to a full-service level.

Ingram said he was proud of the work he did and that he will miss the people on staff and in town whom he established great partnerships with over the years. He added that the greatest challenge of the coming months is to plan for the future of the Hacienda de las Flores.

In a recent letter to the board of the Moraga Park Foundation, its president, Karen Mendenhall, wrote that over the past 10 years Ingram brought a calm, assured leader that over the past 10 years Ingram brought a calm, assured leader that over the past 10 years Ingram brought a calm, assured leader that over the past 10 years Ingram brought a calm, assured leader that over the past 10 years Ingram brought a calm, assured leader that over the past 10 years Ingram brought a calm, assured leader that over the past 10 years Ingram brought a calm, assured leader that over the past 10 years Ingram brought a calm, assured leader that over the past 10 years Ingram brought a calm, assured leader that over the past 10 years Ingram brought a calm, assured leader that over the past 10 years Ingram brought a calm, assured leader that over the past 10 years Ingram brought a calm, assured leader that over the past 10 years Ingram brought a calm, assured leader that over the past 10 years Ingram 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By Sora O’Doherty

When Main Street America

Orinda Country Club

Trespass

10 block Stanton Ct.

Burglary, Residential

100 block Donna Maria Way

Europa Hofbrau

40 block Brookwood Rd.

Dependent child

10 block Camino del Cielo

Injury Accident

200 block Camino Sobrante

20 block Moraga Way

Donald Dr./Hall Blvd. (2)

Shoplift

Manzanita Rd/Camino Pablo

Taste of the World food trucks coming to Orinda

By Sora O’Doherty

On June 15 from 4 to 9 p.m., Taste of the World (TOW) will host seven food trucks in downtown Orinda at the library plaza. The event will include live music on the Library Plaza stage, and games in the plaza. There will be portable seating areas, and games in the plaza. The event will include live music on the Library Plaza stage, and games in the plaza. There will be portable seating areas, including 24 in the plaza in addition to seating areas around levels of density, building-scale, impacts on parking, and other community amenities. The complete report can be read at https://cityoforinda.box.com/s/5b3nl4y7d7s3u7knlk0b0

Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Aug. 15, 6 p.m. Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, July 25, 7 p.m. Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda: www.cityoforinda.org

Chamber of Commerce: www.orindachamber.org

Notes and announcements

June 14 to July 1

Al fresco concert

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Traffic stops

Suspicious Circumstances

10 Suspicious Vehicles

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

40 block Brookwood Rd.

Antioch Bank

Europe Harbuck

100 block Donna Maria Way

50 block Mill Rd.

Barry Blake

10 block Stanton Ct.

Dependent child

Post Office

District Office

10 block Donald Dr.

Dispute

8 block Diablo Vista View

10 block Orinda Way

20 block Moraga Way

Fraud

20 block Camino Sobrante

Health & Safety violation

10 block Diablo Vista View

ID Theft

10 block Ivy Dr.

30 block Ruby Ct.

Injury Accident

60 block Ed Dr.

E Al tima Sora Orinduinoes

Mineral Adult

10 block Atiker Dr.

Mineral Jerid

10 block Camino del Cielo

Promiscuous Shooting

10 block Marine Vista Rd.

Relaxing Driving

Camino del Camino Sobrante

10 block Brookwood Brook Rd.

Camino del Camino Sobrante

10 block Diablo Vista Rd

Thomas Vahide

10 block Overhill Ct.

Trespass

Kiley Rd Orinduinoes

10 block Sunnydale Dr.

Orinda Country Club

Two managers will be present at each food truck event, and the area will be thoroughly cleaned by TOW staff at the end of the event. TOW donates 10 percent of the proceeds to the Orinda Community Center, and offered to donate to a different organization if preferred, but the city council indicated that they support the work done by the center.

TOW’s slogan is “Taste international, support local,” and the organization is partnering with local establishments as part of its efforts to contact the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, and will indicate that they support the council’s concern about deciding on the best night for the event in order to assure its success. TOW began in and is headquartered in Oakley and serves in several East Bay cities including Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek, Concord, to the Richmond and Hercules Permanents facility. Two managers will be present at each food truck event, and the area will be thoroughly cleaned by TOW staff at the end of the event. TOW donates 10 percent of the proceeds to the Orinda Community Center, and offered to donate to a different organization if preferred, but the city council indicated that they support the work done by the center.

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Orinda Planning Commission supports Short Term Rental restrictions

By Samuel Ganten

Orinda has a long history voicing strong opinions about housing development and increased density, with one of those issues being short-term rentals (STRs). As part of a continuing discussion on development in the Lamorinda area, the Orinda Planning Commission recently voted unanimously on a resolution to support restricting short-term rentals, agreeing to a cap of 100 STRs in Orinda.

Orinda’s sales tax consultant, Muni Services, looked at AirBnb as well as other listing sites and estimated there are approximately 37 active short-term rental listings in the city, according to the staff report presented to the commission.

The changes to the ordinance would require short-term rental owners to register with the city, confirm the city’s transient occupancy tax applies to STRs, and emphasize that STRs must comply with various city rules.

To address concerns of events being held at STRs, the ordinance would also cut the maximum occupancy from 30 persons to two per bedroom, plus five, with a three-bedroom home able to house 11 people.

Beyond this, the amendment to the Orinda zoning code would limit the amount of STRs to a maximum of one for each single property.

At the public hearing portion of the June 27 meeting, residents expressed support for the restrictions, citing issues with traffic and congestion they perceived with the short-term rental units. In several cases, the speakers advocated for either a total ban on STRs or a shift in case-by-case consideration, similar to Lafayette, which requires a Land Use Permit approval for short-term rentals. Lafayette’s land use permit application fee is between $2,250 and $5,700. No recent short-term rental land use permit requests have been submitted, the staff report noted.

One speaker during the public comment portion stated that despite the occupancy being cut significantly, the amount of cars on the streets would still be tolerably high, leading to traffic and parking issues, while another resident commented that there should be no regulation on STRs due to the valuable services it encourages, such as immigration and tangible economic benefits to renters and other members of the community.

The commission expressed appreciation for residents’ desire to reduce stress on the roads yet simultaneously encouraged middle ground between ownership of STRs and the concerned residents. Commissioners Joe McGrath and Mautner, with the rest of the committee, moved for the approval of the amendment to cut the maximum occupancy from its current proposed level with consideration of these issues.

Despite support for the resolution, Planning Commissioner Louis Adamson agreed with one speaker’s expressed concern over the lack of an enforcement mechanism for the resolution. However, the commission as well as staff and that enforcement of the ordinance was not a concern. The Planning Commission forwarded its recommendation to the Orinda City Council for future discussion and a vote.
The doctor in the dugout

Gutierrez loves children, and he thrives on the adrenaline rush. “Out of 100 kids, maybe one is as close as a second cousin away, maybe one will be seriously ill. That one comes to the UC,” he said, before the action starts. Gutierrez leads a department of doctors, nurses, therapists, nutritionists, pharmacists and paramedics, and it makes the hospital rounds together. Adhering to such a tight team concept was an easily transferable skill from his days on the diamond, and that background also helps Gutierrez deal with the fears his patients experience; as a doctor, an infant smaller in size but far more serious than the other patients are expected to recover. “It’s a little bit more,” he said.

But miracles do happen. To this day, Gutierrez does not understand one miracle in particular: a baby boy, in neonatal intensive care, and a number of damaged organs, was brought into the hospital through “a window of a car, like you were going to get a big mac, or, you know, the window goes down, and Gutierrez, who would know because he has done all three, explained. Gutierrez plays baseball not only because he loves it but also because of his kids. “You make a trip, you strike out, you lose a ball game — it’s not that big of a deal. But when you get up to the on-deck circle and they say, ‘You’re going to get to go back to the batting cage, try again,’ I love the challenge of batting against the ball. And off the field, I love the kids,” he said. “I love the challenge of batting against the ball, and off the field, I love the kids.”

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Got gas? Many people think plumbers deal only with water and sewage. Not true! We install and repair all types of gas lines and fixtures too.

When I say “good,” you say “neighbor.”

By John T. Miller

Looking for an overflow crowd of more than 200 residents, the Contra Costa County Planning Commission voted 4-1 to approve Supply Equity Group’s plan to build Saranap Village; Board of Supes next meeting.

LeapFrog Planning Commission OKs Saranap Village; Board of Supes next meeting

For an overview crowd of more than 200 residents, the Contra Costa County Planning Commission voted 4-1 to approve Supply Equity Group’s plan to build Saranap Village; Commissioner Donna Allen, who echoed some of the concerns expressed by community members at the meeting and voted against a motion to place the plan onto the agenda for future public comment.

An overwhelming majority of speakers spoke out in favor of the project, but a handful of community members expressed concerns to the Planning Commission to look at the project’s impacts on various areas to both the project and create guidelines for the future that would alleviate neighborhood concerns. "We’re on the rise," the chief said.

The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors in Saranap is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2018, the chief said. "We have to have an agreement with the city, and know how to deal with government."
Dear Editor,

Even though Moraga’s small public works department has a fairly small and amazing amount of job getting the Commons back after the four days of July restoration, a tremendous amount of trash on the handball hill needed to be removed on the morning of the July 5. It made our wonderful dark尾巴不可触碰，我们希望在那个早晨，天空必须是蓝色的，太阳必须是上升的，人们在做运动，而不是看书。

To do so, office staff still sign the road “Next mother doesn’t work here, clean up after yourself!” Do the national and state parks still instruct visitors to “Leave nothing behind but footprints”? I recommend that we post signs like that at the Commons, as well as adding more receptacles, with the signs attached to them.

Community leaders insist the Moragans aren’t responsible for the mess, that it is people from out of town. One’s suggestion that we build a wall and make another city pay for it is probably isn’t fair because the tidus appears to have failed at another level of government, which still welcomes visitors to the Commons, and all we ask is that they clear up something that did on the morning of July 5. It is Moraga’s living room.

Dale Walworth
Moraga

Letters to the Editor

Clean up your trash at the Commons

Dear Editor,

Although Morris’s small public works department does a terrific job of picking up trash along the Commons, we still wish to encourage a clean up of the Commons. Office staff still sign the road “Next mother doesn’t work here, clean up after yourself!” I recommend that we post signs like that at the Commons, as well as adding more receptacles, with the signs attached to them.

Community leaders insist that the Moragans aren’t responsible for the mess, that it is people from out of town. One’s suggestion that we build a wall and make another city pay for it is probably isn’t fair because the tidus appears to have failed at another level of government, which still welcomes visitors to the Commons, and all we ask is that they clear up something that did on the morning of July 5. It is Moraga’s living room.

Dale Walworth
Moraga

Less students on the bus means more cars on the road

Dear Editor,

Reportedly a “School Bus Stop Moraga 
It is Moraga’s living room.

ask is that they not leave it looking so neat. We build a wall and make another city pay for it is probably isn’t fair because the tidus appears to have failed at another level of government, which still welcomes visitors to the Commons, and all we ask is that they clear up something that did on the morning of July 5. It is Moraga’s living room.

Dale Walworth
Moraga

Complaint filed in attempt to save targeted trees in Lafayette

...continued from page A9

They missed up discussed opportunities along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail and at the Lafayette Reservoir to answer questions from residents.

In the letter dated June 7 from the city to PG&E, Mayor Mike Anderson said, “We are not discounting the expertness of the people conducting the search documents.” The search documents prove that PG&E’s own study concludes that pipeline integrity is not impacted by tree roots. These first responses stated that tree roots don’t impede a pipeline emergency response in a pipeline emergency.

“Before the pipeline can be repaired, the roots of the trees (the LSITA) are likely to be a decision as soon as possible. We are looking for long-term solutions to this problem rather than short-term fixes,” said Sullivan.

The school bus also benefits every member of our community by decreasing traffic congestion on Canyon Pablo and Moraga Way and at our schools, maintaining property values in affected neighborhoods, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, and providing our children with a healthier and beneficial transportation opportunity for independence and social interaction.

Despite the absence of any significant problems with the existing school bus service, the consultant studied recommended the elimination of current Orinda school bus routes. Eliminating school bus service will add scores of vehicles to our roads during the morning and afternoon commute.

The school bus is the safest and most efficient method of transportation for children with a beloved and beneficial opportunity for independence outside of the courtroom.

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With fanfare, Miner Road reopens to the public after sinkhole

...continued from page A1

She thanked elected officials. “We lean on all these folks, because it was any number of state, regional, and federal agencies we had to interact with. The City of Orinda by itself doesn’t always have quite the loud voice that we think we do, so we want to thank all these folks for their support.”

State Senator Steve Glazer added, “Total cost came in at $2.8 million dollars, this from a city budget of $11 million. In a small town, that’s a big number.”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, the State Water Resources Control Board, the Contra Costa Sanitary District, Caltrans, and more, all had to come together to approve every step to get subsidies... the good work from Larry Theis reversed, we believe, in significant subsidy... 75-90 percent covered by other agencies.”

EBMUD Director Marguerite Young said, “This is an amazing list of collaborators coming together. Hats off to Orinda for getting this done in record time.”

Afterward, Public Works Inspector Tod Fierner painted some graffiti: “People wonder why it took six months. Three of those months were because of the rain. What was ironic about the day (the sinkhole started) is we had driven over this area three times, because we had a tree down. A School buses went through there that morning. Beneath it was air. The asphalt held everything up. There was no base underneath at all. Oh, my God, it was lucky nobody got hurt. About 6,000 people use this road.”

Chris Carpenter, community affairs representative for Central Contra Costa Sanitary, District, shared, “We had to work within the scope of existing sewer lines. We had pumps at the manhole up the street, pumping out and over into this manhole. The pipes are supported by ground, so when ground went away, pipe support went away, and the pipes broke. We were here 24 hours a day for months, making sure we don’t have an overflow into the creek system. Once a creek is involved, you get water agencies involved, and state legislature... it ends up a big deal. PAG & has gas lines through, and water mains. All the permits required... once you crest the slope line of a creek. Fish and Game, Army Corps of Engineers, everybody has to approve... if you just fix what’s there, you can get reimbursed pretty easily... But if you just put back what was there, they may face the same issue again. In trying to improve, and still get reimbursed, there was a lot of work. The right thing to do is fix all the problems. I’m sure many of Larry’s (Theis) late nights and hours were spent working with people to pull that off.”

At 8 p.m. on Friday, June 30, Miner Road was reopened to public traffic.

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Lamorinda Pétanque goes global
By Sophie Braccini

Do you know pétanque? Four-year-old Lafayette resident Noah Sonet does and he is representing Lamorinda at the pétanque world championship in Marseilles, France this summer.

The young member of the Lamorinda Pétanque club is one of three young Americans on the U.S. junior team. While his son Noah is competing in France, Gilbert Sonet will be featuring the local club in San Francisco on July 15 as part of the annual celebration of the French-American friendship that connects clubs all over the world.

Noah was born in Lafayette and grew up with French-speaking parents. Saint Mary’s Road less than 10 years ago would have to be called champions! Gil Sonet was instrumental in the start of the club in the creation of the club. He is a native French businessman who has been working in the restaurant and retail industry for years and lives in Lafayette with his family. His son Noah has been playing pétanque with his family of games that involve rolling a ball toward a target, boules. It is part of the very ancient and wide family of games that involve rolling a ball toward a target, boules: is part of the very ancient and wide family of games that involve rolling a ball toward a target, boules.

Gilbert Sonet insists that even if some players at the Lamorinda Pétanque club are very serious, the majority just play to have a fun family time and a picnic under the trees of Lafayette. He says that the majority of the members are English speakers, always ready to show the game to beginners on a Sunday afternoon and lead some bowls.

It is the same spirit of inclusion that drive Gilbert Sonet to say yes when he was contacted by Charles Ségalas to organise pétanque demonstrations and games at the San Francisco Bastille Day celebrations. Ségalas is the president of the majority just play to have a fun family time and a picnic under the trees of Lafayette. He says that the majority of the members are English speakers, always ready to show the game to beginners on a Sunday afternoon and lead some bowls.

It is the same spirit of inclusion that drive Gilbert Sonet to say yes when he was contacted by Charles Ségalas to organise pétanque demonstrations and games at the San Francisco Bastille Day celebrations. Ségalas is the president of the French club in the Bay Area. There are some 30,000 French citizens in the Bay Area, and many more who have become Americans and have French parents.

Ségalas says that the July 14 party at Justin Herman Plaza at the Embarcadero has been revived by the French Consul in San Francisco, Emmanuel Lebrun-Damiens, with the support of San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee. The event will feature local French businesses, entertainment, food and libations. After 6 p.m., a dance party is organized on the plaza.

Gilbert Sonet and members of the Lamorinda pétanque will start playing and teaching the game starting at 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. It has already prepared the “boules,” the Lamorinda family has already prepared a boules, m’s joyous energy along with an unmissable French accent that will do wonders to get people to participate.

By the time the party ends, Gilbert Sonet should have the results of the world tournament and hopes he will be able to announce it. The event is free and opened to the public. More information is available at www.bastilledaysf.org.

Lafayette Plaza rocked by Lamorinda Idol finalists

By Pippa Fisher

Lamorinda Idol contestant Maggie Heiskell sings during Rock the Plaza.

C onvals enjoyed the evening’s spread and the musical sounds of Lamorinda’s finest young musicians, packing the Plaza on a recent Friday night as many of the 36 solos and 10 groups selected as finalists for the Lamorinda Idol Competition performed at the Lafayette park.

These finalists will be given this chance to perform at several events over the summer prior to the finals, which will be held at the Orinda

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OFFER EXPIRES: 9/15/17
Morgan runs half marathon to take Global Healing to its next phase
By Sophie Braccini

Photo provided

The 8th Grade Advantage at OA: Students take high school electives Easy transition to high school Upper level student peer mentoring Faculty advisor

www.orindaacademy.org 19 Altarinda Rd., Orinda, CA

John Donnelly and Dr. Karl CENTERS at the Walnut Public Hospital in<br>Honduran Do not as John Donnelly has never been afraid to reinvent himself in order to achieve what he believes in the climbing. The Mount Rainier resident was an immunologist who conducted research in most of his career until he decided to cross the divide and work for nonprofit organizations. He now provides Global Healing, a non-profit based nonprofit that aims at training and empowering health practitioners in countries that lack sufficient medical funding, especially those working with mother and their young children. He will run the San Francisco half-marathon on July 23 to raise funds for his organization.

Donnelly portrays himself as a serial entrepreneur, a polite way to say that he quit some of his former employers. He retired from Merck before joining Chiron and retired again after it was purchased by Novartis. He then joined his first nonprofit, Path, a 40-year-old organization that provides services to mothers and children in countries that need it most. Donnelly negotiated contracts with companies such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to organize the low-cost production of vaccines for children in these countries. He explained that pharmaceuticals are more expensive and Global Healing needs support with this.

It is predeceased by his parents, Bill Coleman; brother, Bill Magrath; wife, Maureen; two daughters, Bill, and sister, Anne Magrath. Donnelly speaks of Global Healing needs support with this. He is acutely aware that in many poor countries as the standard of living increases the basic medical needs are taken care of, such as vaccines and contraception. But when people get really sick, doctors do not have the latest treatment and equipment that will allow them to save their patients.

Donnelly gives the example of Vietnam’s mammoth pediatric hospital where Global Healing works in the pediatric Intensive Care Unit. He has traveled to the country several times and formed ties with many people there. He is acutely aware of the difficulties people still face to get medical treatment. It can take 10 hours to reach the national hospital for a very sick child who needs advanced treatment. Vietnam does have a rapidly growing economy, but big discounts exist between regions.

Global Healing works with American volunteers who are sent abroad to train the medical teams and also bring the appropriate technology. In the Viet Nam example, the device is very expensive and Global Healing provides it.

The nonprofit works with experts, such as Professor J. Colin Partridge of SE, to identify the techniques that are most easily transferable and will make the most impact. Global Healing currently works in Honduras, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia and Vietnam.

Donnelly leads an organization with a staff of four, including himself, a board of directors, and advisory board and scores of medical filmmakers and administrators who volunteer the world to train others.

Global Healing needs support here also: volunteer photographers, filmmakers and administrators who volunteer the world to train others.

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Moraga Troop 212 celebrates
10 new Eagle Scouts
Submitted by Siv Ricketts

Troop 30638 earns Silver Awards
Submitted by Yuka Akerka

Girl Scouts earn Bronze Award
Submitted by Yuka Akerka

Rotary helps fund buses and other aid for Indian orphanage
Submitted by Frank Darling

Some members of Campolindo ninth-grade Troop 30638 earned their Silver Award for their project. "Poly styrene Bin for Moraga School District," Family M., Ava A., Aislinn W., and Alexandra Y. focused on the Moraga School District. "Emily M., Ava S., Award for their project, "Polystyrene Ban in Alaska, kayaking in Oregon and pack-rafting in Montana. For their Eagle projects, on average involving about 100 hours of planning, leadership, and work, the group of Eagles focused largely on schools and improving educational experiences for students locally and around the world. Drennan and Brian Gross built and installed garden boxes at Morwood Children's Center and Los Perdidos Elementary School. Warner refurbished Richmond High School's band room while Wright installed a permanent basketball hoop at Campolindo High School. Gabrielson built furnishing for Harbor House in Oakland and Gannett rebuilt a storage shed for MVPC Nurtury Preschool. Sonnenschein and Grosson both collected backpacks and school supplies, for an honor Mission in Mexico and the other for Kids Alive International in the Dominican Republic. Grosson refurbished donated laptop bags for Kids Alive International in Peru. Eddie Gross made over 100 survival strap bracelets for overseas US troops. Troop 212, under the leadership of Scoutmaster John 0lter, "Dor is, chartered by Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church since 1983, Troop 212 has awarded 415 Eagle Scouts with Scouting's highest honor. The Bronze award winners of Troop 0712. The Bronze ward winners of Troop 0712. Onda Intermediate School sixth-grade Troop 3290 earned their Bronze Award for their project, "Camp Supplies for Kids in Need." The Juniors chose Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, Alternative Family Services, The Taylor Family Foundation, and Trinity Center in a special ceremony at the Lafayette Community Center.

Lafayette Juniors raise $60,000 for local nonprofit charities
Submitted by Rachelle Lara

The Lafayette Juniors raised $60,000 for the last 12 months for local nonprofit organiza- tions. On June 1, the Lafayette Juniors awarded the funds to Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, Alternative Family Services, The Taylor Family Foundation, and Trinity Center in a 2017 benefit. Lafayette Juniors is looking forward to continuing this tradition of giving and is accepting applications for new until July 31, 2017 from all nonprofits in Contra Costa and neighboring counties in the San Francisco Bay Area who serve women, families, and seniors in the community. The Juniors will select four organizations from the applicant pool to become their 2017-2018 beneficiaries. Funding for these groups will begin this fall. To obtain an application or learn more about the Lafayette Juniors, visit www.lafayettestjuniors.org.
O
c
ce again the Moraga Lions gave out Lions Pride awards to students from the Lamorinda middle schools. The students are recommended by teachers and selected by the administration of each school. The 2016 winners and families are pictured below.

Stanley Middle School

Pictured, from left, Frank Tiley (grandpa), Lady Tiley (step grandma), Mike Evans (Danny’s step father), Patte Curtis (Danny’s mom), Danny Tiley (Award winner), Dan Hagan (Moraga Lions), Ryland Nella (Award winner), E.J. Hella, (Laura Hella Top Row: from left, Stanley teachers and staff, Di Hartman (special services assistant), Sue Appuhn (home economics teacher), Alexis Reddam (instructional support teacher), Dale Webber (instructional support teacher), Tiffany Sullivan (counselor), David Schrag (principal).

Joaquín Moraga Intermediate School

Pictured, from left, Ricci and Bruce Jamgotchian, Isaac Jamgotchian (Award winner), Ray Casa-Joaquín Moraga Intermediate School

Pictured, from left, Keum Roberge (mother), Lauren Roberge (Award winner), Dan Hagan, Jack Saint Perpetua School

Pictured, from left, Xander Deenhardt (Award winner), Clay Deenhardt (Xander’s father), Ray Casabonne, Patti O’Brien (Julia’s mother), Julia Miller (Award winner).

Saint Perpetua School

Pictured, from left, Kwan Riberge (mother), Lauren Riberge (Award winner), Dan Hagan, Jack Ritter (Award winner), Chris Ritter (mother), Heidi Schwarck (teacher).

Service-Learning Camp offers teens a diverse experience

By Adam Blake

H

Il

lden boulders towering shelves of canned goods and fresh produce, a group of 15 cheerful Lamorinda day-campers diligently bagged puffy plums into bright green bags.

These young volunteers were helping the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano package food for the 190,000 individuals unable to serve every month, thanks to the help of altruistic community members.

The Concord warehouse was merely one step on a busy schedule of diverse hands-on service activities campers engaged in as a part of Lafayette United Methodist Church’s Day Camp from June 26-29.

“Through the service projects, we hope to teach teens that people come from different economic levels and circumstances, and help teens to reach out and help others in their community,” said Sue Remno, who has served LUMC’s Day Camp director for the past 17 years.

From playing board games with special needs adults at Futures Explored in Lafayette to assembling snack bags for homeless clients at the Trinity Center in Walnut Creek, each day camper was introduced to new, tangible ways to make a positive impact right in their own backyard.

Pat Hershey, head of the service-learning program, has been a regular volunteer at the food bank for seven years, acting as somewhat of a liaison to the church by organizing food drives and ushering in new volunteers. She prides herself as a member of the “Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.”

Hershey introduced the service-learning component for older campers 10 years ago and fun activities that teach basic values. Enthusiastic campers rotated through lively stations, including a petting zoo in the spirit of this year’s harvest theme.

“We wish our program to complement the efforts of local parents in teaching good values to their children, specifically this year: love, joy, peace, patience and kindness, through stories, music, skills, games, crafts and fun,” Remno said.

Remno introduced the service-learning component for older campers 10 years ago in an effort to instill the importance of understanding and serving those that come from less fortunate economic backgrounds, a sentiment Hershey also underscored.

“Sometimes living in Lafayette and our Lamorinda area, we don’t always see the face of hunger, even though there are hungry people right here,” Hershey said. “I’d like for the campers to come away understanding and serving those that come from less fortunate economic backgrounds.”

“Sometimes living in Lafayette and our Lamorinda area, we don’t always see the face of hunger, even though there are hungry people right here,” Hershey said. “I’d like for the campers to come away understanding and serving those that come from less fortunate economic backgrounds.”

By  Adam Blake

Thanks for helping!

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Janet Magley, Cal Shakes, Director of Marketing & Communications

Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Lamarinda’s Religious Services

The Lamarinda Arts Alliance presents a new visual exhibit titled Fall Days at the Dublin Fine Art Gallery in Walnut Creek that runs from July 5 to Aug. 5. Fall Days is a reflection of a period of peace and stillness that we all can use. The exhibit is a collection of paintings and sculptures that capture the essence of fall. The exhibit runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays. For more information, call 925-568-9900.

An Evening with Bill Nye, presented by The UCTheatre, will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 18 at the Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. The event is presented by the University of California, Berkeley, and is free and open to the public. For more information, call 925-939-2674 or visit www.theuctheatre.org.

The Berkeley Kiln is festival from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on July 29 and 30 at the Bay Area Underpinning Community Center, 941 the Alameda, Berkeley. The festival will feature live music, local food vendors, and art exhibits. For more information, call 510-254-4212 or visit www.berkeleykiln.com.

The Kathryn Show is a weekly radio program that features a variety of guests and topics. It airs every Saturday at 6 a.m. on KALW, 91.7 FM. For more information, visit www.kathyshow.com or call 415-282-2001.

Join Us for Worship

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 33rd & Beech, Lafayette, CA 94549. Sunday 5:30-6:15 p.m.

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church
66 St. Stephen’s Drive, Orinda 254-3770. www.ststephensorinda.org Sunday 8am, 10am, and 4pm

St. Anselm’s Episcopal Church
A Loving Community
Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM
Im-Church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery/Childcare
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 784-2470. www.stanselms.org

Lafayette United Methodist Church
959 Moraga Road 925.284-4765 thelumc.org Sunday 10am Worship and Faith Formation for all ages Opposite to Lafayette Love, Others, and Serve the World

Make Solar Fairy Lanterns from Nye’s new book. “Make:Light,” Nye’s new book, is dedicated to parents and children of all ages. It is filled with creative and fun ideas for making solar-powered lanterns. The book is available now at your local bookstore or online at www.oreilly.com.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society presents the 10th Annual Nonprofit Bridge Tournament. The tournament is open to all, with registration starting at 10 a.m. and play beginning at 11 a.m. The event takes place at the American Legion Post 14, 9014 the Alameda, Berkeley. For more information, call 510-843-2222 or email ggas@goldengateaudubon.org.

Contra Costa Tale Spinners at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 25 at the Contra Costa County Library, 740 Main St., Richmond. For more information, call 510-235-KITE or www.AnotherBullwhaleShow.com for vendor info.

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Sail the Titanic, laugh out loud and enjoy sleight-of-hand at Lamorinda Theatres

By Derek Zemrak

There are several special events coming to the Lamorinda theatres in the next few weeks beginning with “Titanic” at the Orinda Theatre from Friday, July 7 through Sunday, July 9. The story of the Titanic begins in the present, 2.5 miles under water where a fortune hunter (Bill Paxton) is looking for treasure amongst the ruins of the broken ship. From this point the film moves into the past and the launching of the ill-fated ship and the love story of artist Jack Dawson (Leonardo DiCaprio) and Rose DeWitt (Kate Winslet).

7 p.m. Saturday, July 15, at the Orinda Theatre, Derek Zemrak will present a history of the Life of Marilyn Monroe. She was famous for playing the character “Blonde Bombshell” and became one of the most popular sex symbols of all time. Come and learn more about her fascinating life through Zemrak’s lecture, rare movie clips and live music from the movie performed by Patrice Leitner. Marilyn Wines from Cine Cave will be sold at this event. Admission is $15.

2 p.m. Wednesday, July 19, at the Orinda Theatre – “Morgan Nevers Meets Love with Lurid Swindle.” “Yankoo Doodle Dandy” starring James Cagney, Joan Leslie, and Walter Huston is the biographical musical about the life of renowned playwright, composer, actor, dancer and poet George M. Cohan. Admission is $7.

8 p.m. Thursday, July 20, at 8 p.m. Comedy Night at the Orinda Theatre with comedian Johnas Steele. He is a comedian, talk show host, writer, impromptu, political satirist, actor and all-around loudmouth commentator. Admission is $20.

6 and 8 p.m. Saturday, July 22, is the return by popular demand of Illusionist Timothy James. After sold-out shows on May 20 and June 3, James has agreed to return on July 22 for two additional shows – 6 p.m. for kids and 8 p.m. for the PG13 show. Get ready for a night of amazing sleight-of-hand, hilarious audience interaction and the grand finale. These shows are fun for all ages and for all generations! Pianist Pati Leitner will accompany him on the baby grand piano. Admission: Kid’s Show, $19 under 18; $15 18 and over. Admission to the PG13 show is $15.

A realistic and raw version of ‘The Glass Menagerie’ at CalShakes

By Sophie Braccini

John Jordan and Phoebe Fox. Credit: Disney / almost surely with a little sex on a record player old record player. Tommie Williams, in a play about The Glass Menagerie is a play about understanding, yes, but painful memories. The kind that tear you apart and growing up and that can only be fixed with the help of a loving parent. Growing of understanding and forgiveness many years later. Director Lisa Dawson made the choice of realism by choosing to portray Laura as a woman with a real handicap.

Why highlight the physical difference of one actor? Because it creates a different vision of Wilma. Dussie Mae is the daughter who escapes reality in the world of her glass menagerie. The character played by Phoebe Fox is heartbreaking and capturing a woman who is indeed disabled shows Portas’ determination and has a realistic and deftness by a cast of four actors. The staging, the costumes, the lights, and of course the marvelous scenic design and to this writer the most moving part of the play is the ending. After the battle between a woman wanting to control a boy and wanting to escape, there is a figurative angel of purity, Laura, the daughter who escapes reality in the world of her glass menagerie.

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A kid up growing in the Lamorinda area, Alex Berber al- ways had the feeling that he would some time or another be- come a truly fortu- nate person.

The Berber family left An- gel Island, a federal prison, and moved to a much larger house in San Leandro.

Today, the business is run by the family’s fourth generation, Manuel Berber and his sons An- doe and Alex. Both boys are grad- uates of Cornell University and the University of Colorado.

Tasty Treats for Tortilla Time
By Susie Iventosch

A note to caregivers when it’s time for outside care for elderly loved ones
By Linda Fodrini-Johnson

In my many years of work- ing with family caregivers and my own personal journey as a mom to assisted living, I feel the most real feeling of guilt is that sadly experienced by most of us.

The other kind is “bad” guilt, and that is the kind of guilt that family members often experience after a family member is put in a care- setting, giving up the day-to-day care that one can no longer care for themselves. It is bad because this is not something you would choose if things were different. The true feel- ing is being saddled with guilt, grief or even some anger at “why us” as it is in our lives.

The reason this is considered bad guilt is that you did nothing to bring it about; you did nothing to make things happen. It is the guilt you choose to make this move, it truly is, but the other person’s needs are greater than your energy or emotional reserves.

Remember in care setting the indi- viduals employed work only eight hours. 24 Monthly Affirmation: “Love is doing what is needed, not what is necessarily wanted.”

Jim Colhoun, Relocation and Home Marketing Specialist

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“Wendy, my new ad looked great. What a response!” Jim Colhoun, Relocation and Home Marketing Specialist

“Thanks very much for your help in making our Shakespeare Summer Conservatory a big hit!”

Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, LPC, a Lamorinda Family Therapist and Certified Care Manager. She has been providing professional care management (now called aging) since 1989. To make an appointment call (925) 377-0777. She has worked for ElderCare Services, a full-service care management and home care company since 1989, which now employs over 200 caring people. ElderCare Services has been providing Bay Area families with care management services, home care services (samar- itan), home care services (samar- itan), counseling, support groups and education for 28 years.

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Brooke Panfil's first love is basketball. As a head coach of the basketball program and an assistant on the baseball staff – Panfill's two teams – Silva is uniquely qualified to speak on the impressive tenure of the new grad.

“I've been coaching for 10 years, (and) she might be the most athletic girl I've ever been around,” Silva said. “She's fast. She's strong. She's got a drive too,” Silva explained. “That's the coordination. She's a fantastic shooter. She might be the best shooter I've ever seen.”

Panfil, who ran the point for the Dons basketball team, secured first-team all-league honors in the Valley Division of the DAL after averaging 16.7 points per game and 3.9 steals.

Panfil followed that up by landing a place on the first-team of the DAL.

Panfil was never especially vocal in college, somebody would take the whole team on her shoulders. Everyone has always got along with Brooke, they've all been really respectful of her and she's been a good athlete. She's the captain on both teams. She has a drive too,” Silva added. “That's the sport that she loves and so it's just going to be basketball (at Saint Edward's).”

Panfil, who had previously played as an off-guard before taking over the point in her senior season, helped pilot the Dons to a 19-11 record (6-4 in DAL) and the No. 3 seed in the NCS DII bracket. Panfil ended up pouring in 21 points. The Dons won 69-67.

“She was our go-to pitcher,” Silva continued. “She was very talented. Like I said, baseball was her sport, but she was a good pitcher. She was the captain on both teams.”

As Silva noted, even though Panfil was never especially vocal on the court or on the diamond, she was her sport, but she was a good athlete. She was very talented. Like I said, baseball was her sport, but she was a good pitcher. She was the captain on both teams.

The amazing thing is at Acalanes, everyone has always get along with Brooke, they've always respected her and she's been a leader in quiet ways,” Silva said. “I think you can ask anybody on the team and they'd tell you that. She's someone you can count on.”

“Basketball is Brooke's true love,” Silva said. “She's just that athlete. Like I said, basketball has a knack for bringing her teams together. She has a drive too,” Silva explained. “She's the sport that she loves and so it's just going to be basketball (at Saint Edward's).”

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2016-2017 Boys DFAL All League, Spring Sports

DAL All-League – Valley Division
Baseball – 2016-17
Co-Most Valuable Players
Connor McCarthy (Acalanes)
Matt Welcomer (Acalanes)
Honorable Mention
Charlie Hawkins (Miramonte)
Ryan McCormick (Campolindo)

Second Team: All-League
Joey Gladden (Acalanes)
Foster Jones (Campolindo)
Kannah Cruickshank (Campolindo)
Will Rack (Campolindo)
Ryan Doyle (Campolindo)
Colin Jeffries (Acalanes)

First Team All-League
Nate Welcomer (Acalanes)
Drew Cecili (Campolindo)

First Team
Colin Jeffries (Acalanes)
Ryan Doyle (Campolindo)
Michael Berg (Campolindo)
Will Rack (Campolindo)
Kanamiru Nakahara (Campolindo)
Josh Baginski (Campolindo)
Foster Jones (Campolindo)
Josy Gladden (Acalanes)

Honorable Mention
Marty Mariani (Acalanes)
Adam Shaffer (Campolindo)
Matthew LoPresti (Campolindo)
John Cecili (Campolindo)
John Berg (Miramonte)

DAL All-League – Foothill Division
Boys Volleyball – 2016-17
Most Valuable Player
Ryan Nagle (Campolindo)

Second Team
Nolan Brown (Miramonte)
Jake Hassard (Miramonte)
E.J. Hidges (Miramonte)
Ben Jungbhuth (Miramonte)
Casey McGonigle (Miramonte)

1st Team
Sam Liang (Miramonte)

Co-Most Valuable Players
Ben Jungbhuth, Ryan Nagle (Miramonte)

2016-2017 Boys DFAL All League, Summer Sports

DAL All-League – Valley Division
Baseball – 2016-17
Co-Most Valuable Players
Tom Tagari (Miramonte)
Sam Liang (Miramonte)

1st Team All-League
Cajan Jeffries (Acalanes)
Ryan Doyle (Campolindo)
Michael Berg (Campolindo)
Will Rack (Campolindo)
Kanamiru Nakahara (Campolindo)
Josh Baginski (Campolindo)
Foster Jones (Campolindo)
Josy Gladden (Acalanes)

Honorable Mention
Marty Mariani (Acalanes)
Adam Shaffer (Campolindo)
Matthew LoPresti (Campolindo)
John Cecili (Campolindo)
John Berg (Miramonte)

DAL All-League – Foothill Division
Boys Volleyball – 2016-17
Most Valuable Player
Gage Wrench (Campolindo)

2nd Team
Charlie Sanchez (Campolindo)

Honorable Mention
Christian Lim (Miramonte)
Matt Li (Campolindo)

DAL All-League – Valley Division
Boys Volleyball – 2016-17
Most Valuable Player
Connor McCarthy (Acalanes)

2nd Team
Bijan Shahabi (Acalanes)
Nick Smyrnios (Acalanes)

1st Team
Josh Cecili (Campolindo)

Honorable Mention
Alex Franke (Acalanes)
Lamorinda U16 Girls reach Champions State Cup Final
Submitted by Christine Pitt

The U16 Lamorinda girls soccer team reached the champions U16 State Cup Final, the highest level of the State Cup. For many of the Lamorinda players this is a continuation of a journey that began when they entered the Lamorinda developmental program at the U8-U10 age group. During these formative years the players acquired their technical skills in a fun, learning environment. Later these players are challenged to perform at the highest level in club tournaments at the state and national level.

The U16 girls team amassed an impressive 18-6 record during the cup run and faced Davis Legacy, the No. 1 team in the nation in the final. Lamorinda gave Davis a great game and kept the game close for 60 minutes down 2-1 and hit the woodwork three times during this period. Later as they sought the equalizer Lamorinda gave up two more goals. Currently the team is ranked No.2 in Northern California and No. 16 in the nation.

MBA Yankees win Mustang division championship
Submitted by Brian Myers

Front row from left, Emily Cohen, Mira Ruch, Jordan Goularte, Sierra Harley, Sierra Gandlao, Julia Horner-Bell, Ara Schillinger, Alina Sekory, Margaux Clarke, Alinya Wengert, Isabel Fine, Alkion Whipple, coach Mohamed Mohamed.

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LMYA SWIM Attends 1st Annual Oakland A’s Bay Area Swim Team Night!

Fantastic family fun night for all! Each attendee received an A’s Swim Cap to commemorate the outing! It was the perfect mid-season break for LMYA families and Coaches to bond as a team while supporting a local Bay Area sports team. As proud hosts of “County”, the LMYA swim team is currently busy planning the 57th Annual Contra Costa County Swim Meet. To keep up to date on all things related to the LMYA swim team please visit www.lmayaswim.com, Like us on Facebook, and/or follow us on Twitter (@LMYASwim).
Orinda Aquatics hosts the 2017 Pacific Swimming Junior Olympics

By Karl Buscheck

Beginning on July 7, Orinda Aquatics hosted the 2017 Pacific Swimming Junior Olympics at the Sola Aquatic Center in Moraga.

The meet, which featured approximately 1,000 swimmers, was the championship event for the top athletes, aged 14 and under, from across Northern California.

“We try to do a good job for the swimmers and the parents and for the coaches,” said Don Heidary, coach and co-founder of Orinda Aquatics. “So, it’s an honor, but it’s also a great responsibility to present the best competitive environment for the kids.”

Orinda Aquatics has put on the meet, which is awarded by a bidding committee, in the past, and will host the Far Westerns, a five-day meet which will take place at the end of July 2018.

Heidary credited the parent volunteers who help the Orinda Aquatic coaches with organizing and staffing the three-day meet for making it a success.

“Our parent community does a great job in trying to make the meet work, make it efficient and make the accommodations as positive as possible for the coaches,” Heidary said. “You can’t run a meet like this without a strong parent-support group,” Heidary added. “It’s definitely not the coaches that do this, it’s the parents.”

Zach Le-Nguyen placed 3rd in the individual medley

Photo Gent Federas

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Talking Dirt
By Cynthia Brian

You're not a realist unless you believe in miracles. ~Anwar Sadat

The singular American summer festivity of Independence Day is a time for people to gather, celebrate, travel, and spend treasured moments with family and friends. Picnics, barbecues, swim parties, parades, concerts, and, of course, fireworks are the highlights of the Fourth. As homeowners prepare their patios, porches and backyards for the forthcoming celebrations of the summer season, I’ve been busy consulting with clients on how to improve their landscaping.

The number one problem in the gardens that I visit is the quality of the soil. Long ago my Daddy told me there is a difference between dirt and soil. We can be dirt rich and soil poor. Unfortunately, many gardens are filled with lots of dirt and very poor soil.

Mother Nature is a miracle worker, yet it’s up to those of us who till to create the vision and set the groundwork for her to do her real work. In order to grow a healthy and beautiful garden, the richness of our soil is paramount. Just as we wouldn’t build a house without first constructing a solid foundation, we can’t plant a garden unless healthy soil is in place. Over the years, times of droughts or seasons of heavy rainfall deplete the nutrients in our soil.

... continued on page D12
### Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Last reported</th>
<th>LOWEST AMOUNT:</th>
<th>HIGHEST AMOUNT:</th>
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<tr>
<td>LAFAYETE</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$689,000</td>
<td>$3,830,000</td>
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<td>MORAGA</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$1,150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORINDA</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$425,000</td>
<td>$3,900,000</td>
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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.

- **LAFAYETE**
  - 989 Carol Lane, $1,125,000, 5 Bdrms, 2235 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-30-17; Previous Sale: $290,000, 09-19-96
  - 391 Castello Road, $920,000, 3 Bdrms, 1286 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 5-30-17
  - 1018 Dyer Drive, $820,000, 2 Bdrms, 1164 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-23-17
  - 4111 Hidden Valley Road, $895,000, 3 Bdrms, 1352 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-25-17; Previous Sale: $32,500, 05-21-71
  - 3398 La Caminita, $1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2630 SqFt, 1930 YrBlt, 5-23-17; Previous Sale: $880,000, 01-20-06
  - 847 Las Trampas Road, $1,185,000, 4 Bdrms, 1921 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 5-26-17; Previous Sale: $775,000, 07-22-11
  - 1042 Leland Drive, $910,000, 3 Bdrms, 1582 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-25-17
  - 561 Morecroft Road, $1,775,000, 5 Bdrms, 3388 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 5-30-17; Previous Sale: $1,330,000, 10-28-09
  - 628 North Silverado Drive, $1,210,000, 3 Bdrms, 2135 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 5-26-17
  - 888 Paradise Court, $1,075,000, 3 Bdrms, 2560 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-17-17; Previous Sale: $217,000, 24-10-86
  - 529 Silverado Drive, $1,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 2044 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 5-25-17; Previous Sale: $439,000, 06-24-92
  - 595 Silverado Drive, $1,615,000, 4 Bdrms, 2620 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 5-24-17
  - 627 St. Marys Road, $980,000, 3 Bdrms, 1549 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-31-17; Previous Sale: $278,000, 10-28-93
  - 3744 Sundale Road, $689,000, 2 Bdrms, 771 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-22-17; Previous Sale: $382,000, 11-08-13
  - 1201 Upper Happy Valley Road, $3,830,000, 5 Bdrms, 4956 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 5-25-17; Previous Sale: $2,837,500, 09-15-10
  - 3385 Woodview Drive, $1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2575 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 5-25-17; Previous Sale: $1,090,000, 12-11-07

- **MORAGA**
  - 1084 Baitx Drive, $1,775,000, 2 Bdrms, 2596 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 5-31-17; Previous Sale: $1,135,000, 01-25-16
  - 1324 Rimer Drive, $1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 1840 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-31-17
  - 2180 Sky View Court, $2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 4433 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 5-31-17; Previous Sale: $748,000, 02-14-97

... continued on page D10
This exquisite one-of-a-kind classic farmhouse exudes all the charm and ambiance of country living, while boasting all the modern conveniences and amenities the most discerning homeowner expects in a home of this magnitude. With a breathtakingly warm and inviting interior and precise attention to quality craftsmanship, this timeless masterpiece integrates elegantly with a spectacular 0.88± acre outdoor paradise ... complete with an enchantingly beautiful guest house, huge flat yard and a lovely pool ... in a perfect Lafayette location. Simply magical!

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925.766.1447
Chris@ChrisSwim.com
ChrisSwim.com

Tracy Keaton
BRE #: 01051349
925.766.1136
Tracy@TracyKeaton.com
TracyKeaton.com

28 Dos Encinas, Orinda
5 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, 2 half bathrooms | 3042± sq.ft. | Flat park like .85± acre
Hardwood floor, wood beam ceilings and walls of windows | Private and inviting pool for summer time fun | Large deck perfect for entertaining
New Price | $1,595,000

1982 Reliez Valley Road, Lafayette
Home completed 2001 | Main house is 4000± sq. ft. | 4 Bedrooms and 4.5 Bathrooms Guest house is 750+ sq. ft. | 1.12± acre lot | 3-car garage is 770± sq. ft. | Stunning European-style manor with exquisite finishes | State of the Art smart-house systems | Incredible grounds
New Price | $2,995,000

Kurt Piper
925.818.8000
Kurt@KurtPiperGroup.com
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The Real Estate Quarter in Review

Spring home sales bloom in Lamorinda
By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS-T

The second quarter of 2017 was again seasonally strong with an increase in year over year closed sale activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate. Supply continued to be low, pending were sales up, and the average sales price remained high in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from April 1 through June 30, 2017, 114 single family homes closed in Lafayette. This was an increase from the 89 single family homes closed in the same period one year ago. Sales prices ranged from $740,000 to $6.3 million and the average number of days on market was 19. In the year ago second quarter it was also 19 days, the same as in 2014 and 2015. The average sales price was $1,684,206 up from a year ago when it was $1,548,262. In the second quarter of 2015 it was $1,670,209. In the second quarter of 2014 it was $1,396,941. Previous second quarter averages were $1,226,216 for 2013 and 2012 when it was $1,053,173.

In Moraga the number of single-family closings was 52, an increase of 10 from the year-ago period. Prices ranged from $725,000 to $2,650,000. The average sale price was $1,401,392 which was an increase from $1,316,655 in the second quarter of 2016. In 2015 it was $1,368,425. In 2014 it was $1,301,236 for the same period and $1,144,668 in 2013 and $983,785 in 2012. The average marketing time was down slightly to 27 from 31 days a year ago.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was at 84, an increase from the second quarter of 2016 when it was 74. Sales prices ranged from $885,000 to $3.9 million with an average price of $1,723,552. A year ago it was $1,584,174. In the spring of 2015 it was $1,532,761. In the same period in 2014 it was $1,434,930. The 2013 average was $1,282,236. It took an average of just 18 days on the market to sell which was a little higher than the 15 days on the market a year ago.

The average sales price figures in all three communities were the highest for any quarter ever.

In the quarter ending June 30, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at $660 per square foot versus $598 per square foot in 2016. It was $594 in 2015. It was $537 per square foot in the second quarter of 2014 and $495 per square foot in the same time in 2013. Moraga homes sold for $588 per square foot this last quarter and Orinda was at $626.18. In 2016, in the same calendar quarter, these amounts were $566 and $600 respectively.

In Lafayette, the average sales price was 102.7 percent of the final asking price, the same as last spring. In Moraga it was 102.4 percent and in Orinda it was 103.3 percent.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had five resale closings between $689,000 and $860,000, Moraga had 17 ranging from $350,000 to $952,500 and Orinda had three that ranged from $425,000 to “$1 million.

... continued on page D8

Corrections
In the June 14 issue of the Lamorinda Weekly, David Mazaika was improperly identified in the article “Where there's smoke there's barbecue.”

In the July 12 article “Outdoor living, great schools, and accessibility keep Lamorinda real estate hot,” realtor Jim Colhoun's name was misspelled.

The Lamorinda Weekly regrets the errors.
Everything renovated
EXCEPT FOR THE VIEWS

90 Hillcrest Drive, Orinda
±2129 Sq. Ft. - 4 bedrooms - 2 baths - .37 Acres

Charming Glorietta remodel with Awesome views of Mt. Diablo in the heart of Orinda! Extensively and thoughtfully remodeled throughout, with Canadian Maple Hardwoods, New Anderson Windows, stainless steel appliances, spacious bedrooms, marble counter tops, smooth walls all new decking and landscaping and more. Open floor plan with fabulous indoor / outdoor flow for both family and friends to enjoy the views and wonderful California living.

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$1,460,000
Open House Sunday 7/16/17 1-4pm

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1200 Glen Road, Lafayette

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- Vaulted Ceilings, Walls of Glass
- Spacious Rooms, Open Floor Plan
- Newly refinished Hardwood Floors
- Lovely Views of Surrounding Hills and Lafayette Reservoir

- 5 Bedrooms | 5 Baths | Library | Bonus Room
- 3653 sq ft* | 1.10 +/- Acre*
- Attached Apartment/In-law/Au-Pair includes 1 Bedroom/1Bath (above), Full Kitchen and Spacious Living/Dining Room and Separate Entrance
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- 12 Years of Top-Rated Schools
- Desirable Happy Valley Glen Neighborhood

*per Public Records
A home that flows, inside and out.

This desirable floor plan promotes an effortless flow for entertaining, all easily connecting with the outdoors and catered by a tremendous chef’s kitchen.

At a Glance
• Whole-home renovation completed in 2014
• Sought-after Silver Springs neighborhood just one-half mile to acclaimed schools
• Design by renowned Sutro Architects
• Interior design by Culture Interiors
• One level with 5 bedrooms and 4.5 baths
• Approximately 4,035 sq. ft of living space
• Finished 2-car garage with electric charger
• Professionally landscaped with seasonal color year-round
• Pool and spa, fire pit terrace, and custom play house
• Exceptionally private creekside lot of approximately 0.77 acre
• Well for irrigation
• Highly regarded Lafayette schools

3564 Silver Springs Road, Lafayette

Sue Layng
// BROKER

925.963.7189
sue@suelayng.com
www.suelayng.com
BRE# 000970956
The Real Estate Quarter in Review

Spring home sales bloom in Lamorinda
... continued from page D4

As of July 7, 2017, there were 97 homes under contract in the MLS in the three communities combined with asking prices of $419,000 to $4,995,000. A year ago there were 71 homes under contract per the MLS in the three communities combined with asking prices of $435,000 to $3,625,000. It should be pointed out that there is only one “Potential Short Sale” that is currently pending and subject to lender approval. At this same time a year ago there were none. There are no pending REO (bank owned) sales.

This is due to property values continuing to increase versus four years ago and many of those sellers are no longer “under water” or have been able to refinance their homes and are no longer at the point of foreclosure.

Inventory, however, remains low. There are 118 properties on the market and a year ago there were 107 available properties in the three communities combined. Two years ago there were 110. This is quite a change from July, 2011 when the inventory was at 219 homes.

There are “only” 50 properties on the market in Lafayette — about the same as the 44 at this same time a year ago. Asking prices in Lafayette currently range from $699,000 to $25 million. In Moraga, buyers have their choice of 27 homes or condominiums listed between $399,000 and $3,050,000. A year ago at this time there were 18. So supply is up in Moraga.

In Orinda there are 41, nearly the same as the 45 on the market at the same time a year ago. The list prices range from $875,000 to $16.5 million.

There are no bank-owned or short sales currently in the MLS available in any of the three communities.

At the high end, 54 homes sold above $2 million in the three communities combined. A year ago there were 25. There are 40 currently available above this amount in the three communities combined.

Interest rates continue to be at very attractive levels and many corporations have expanded their businesses and continue to relocate families both into and out of the area.

Lastly, it is important to look at what homes are selling for versus their list prices. Often homes come on the market at unrealistic prices, and they do not sell, but in the second quarter of this year many homes have had multiple offers and have sold at or above the list price.

We are also seeing many buyers having to make offers without the traditional contingencies of obtaining financing or having a home appraise or even having the home inspected. Many sellers are now opting to obtain presale inspections in order to understand the condition of their homes and to also prevent a buyer from trying to renegotiate a lower price or repairs.

Of the 114 single-family sales that closed in Lafayette in the second quarter of 2017, 79 sold at or above the final list price.

In Moraga, 36 of the 52 sales were at or above the asking price and in Orinda, 60 of the 84 sold at or above the final listing price.
Park-like Setting and One Level Living in the Coveted and Convenient Glorietta Neighborhood!!

173 Glorietta Boulevard, Orinda  |  3 beds  |  2 baths  |  1296 sq. ft.  | .75 Acre

Open Sunday 1-4pm

Big Spaces in Special Glorietta Location! Ideal for Large Family or Rental Income Opportunity!

32 Heather Lane, Orinda  |  6 beds  |  4.5 baths  |  3904 sq. ft.  | .80 Acre

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded
... continued from page D2

ORINDA

2 Berrybrook Hollow, $2,625,000, 5 Bdrms, 4505 SqFt, 2005 YrBlt, 5-31-17;
  Previous Sale: $54,500, 12-01-95
73 Brookwood Road #49, $425,000, 1 Bdrm, 673 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-30-17;
  Previous Sale: $291,000, 08-05-14
80 Davis Road, $550,000, 3 Bdrm, 1996 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 5-31-17;
  Previous Sale: $550,000, 02-29-16
16 East Altarinda Drive, $1,615,000, 3 Bdrms, 2577 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 5-31-17;
  Previous Sale: $1,525,000, 02-19-14
286 Glorietta Boulevard, $1,099,000, 2 Bdrms, 1397 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 5-25-17;
  Previous Sale: $527,500, 03-14-02
238 Hall Drive, $945,000, 3 Bdrms, 1735 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-30-17
228 Longview Terrace, $1,165,000, 3 Bdrms, 2130 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-31-17;
  Previous Sale: $750,000, 09-19-03
5 Meadow Park Court, $1,415,000, 4 Bdrms, 2167 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-22-17;
  Previous Sale: $716,000, 06-18-03
24 Moraga Via, $2,530,000, 4 Bdrms, 3593 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 5-31-17;
  Previous Sale: $2,200,000, 05-14-04
70 Moraga Via, $1,735,000, 4 Bdrms, 2659 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 5-24-17;
  Previous Sale: $1,385,000, 06-08-10
27 Orinda View Road, $3,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 5159 SqFt, 2012 YrBlt, 5-26-17;
  Previous Sale: $3,425,000, 05-15-13
5 Owl Hill Court, $2,675,000, 4 Bdrms, 4699 SqFt, 2007 YrBlt, 5-25-17;
  Previous Sale: $400,000, 05-26-93
246 Sundown Terrace, $2,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 3948 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 5-30-17;
  Previous Sale: $2,415,000, 02-03-06
48 Tappan Lane, $1,179,000, 3 Bdrms, 1698 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 5-24-17;
  Previous Sale: $1,055,000, 03-23-05
208 The Knoll, $950,000, 2 Bdrms, 2116 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-22-17;
  Previous Sale: $855,000, 04-29-14
18 Via Hermosa, $1,255,000, 2 Bdrms, 1544 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 5-22-17
Built in 2007 with great attention to detail, this home contains a thoughtful, well-appointed 4 bedroom, 4 bathroom floorplan with all the modern amenities you might expect in a luxury home, including extensive quality millwork, Brazilian cherry hardwood floors, an open floor plan, dramatic, large light filled rooms and tall ceilings.

A Chef’s kitchen entirely open to a huge family room, with an amazing flow through double French doors which open up to a Connecticut Bluestone patio and backyard. Enjoy the scenic privacy and serene, expansive, approximate 1.5 acres. Plenty of room to roam with beautiful views.

Located in the coveted Country Club neighborhood, this superb home is in the award-winning Sleepy Hollow district. It takes just minutes to downtown, transportation, and BART.

Price: $2,795,000

Melanie Snow  |  CAL BRE# 00878893  |  Cell: 925.360.0344  |  Melanie.Snow@camoves.com
New Web Site! www.MelanieSnow.com

7 LA CINTILLA, ORINDA
Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Talking Dirt
... continued from page D1

When our fruit trees are not producing or our flowers aren’t blooming we question why this is happening. My first response is to gaze at the ground. When was the last time you added compost? Do you mulch regularly and fertilize when needed? Have you had your soil tested? Do you need to purchase clean soil?

I am a big proponent of having new fresh enriched soil delivered every few years to enhance the condition of the dirt. Home gardeners can have their dirt tested for a fee from a variety of labs across the United States to find out about the physical contents, contaminants and chemicals. With this information, you’ll be able to optimize the growth of your plants and diagnosis any soil-related issues. Here is a sampling of places in California that you can contact. Visit their websites for more information or call to find out what is required.

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<tr>
<th>A &amp; L Western Laboratories, Inc.</th>
<th>Harmony Farm Supply and Nursery</th>
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<tr>
<td>Modesto, CA 95351</td>
<td>Sebastopol, CA 95472</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.al-labs-west.com">www.al-labs-west.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.harmonyfarm.com">www.harmonyfarm.com</a></td>
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<td>209-529-4080</td>
<td>707-823-9125</td>
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<th>Control Laboratories</th>
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<td>Watsonville, CA 95076</td>
<td>Grass Valley, CA 95945</td>
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<th>Dellavalle Laboratory, Inc.</th>
<th>Soil and Plant Laboratory, Inc.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fresno, CA 93728</td>
<td>San Jose, CA 95128</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.dellavallelab.com">www.dellavallelab.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.soilandplantlaboratory.com">www.soilandplantlaboratory.com</a></td>
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<td>800-228-9896</td>
<td>408-727-0330</td>
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<th>Fruit Growers Laboratory, Inc.</th>
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<td>Stockton, CA 95215</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.fglin.com">www.fglin.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>209-942-0182</td>
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Test results of soil samples may indicate an excess of salts, improper nutrient levels, too high or low pH, or problems with the soil itself. With the guidance provided by soil testing, gardeners will be able to fertilize properly and amend your dirt, creating the soil for optimum growing.

Dig in the dirt! Amend the soil. Miracles will appear.

... continued on page D14
It’s April in Lamorinda for Real Estate

Coming Soon: 5 Estates Drive, Orinda

Glorietta Classic
Traditional and
Close to Town
4 Bedrooms
3 Baths
Approximately
2,630 SQ FT
.44 Acre
Warm hardwood
floors, spacious
living, dining and
family rooms,
oversized bedrooms.
Master retreat is light
filled and delightful!

Call for Price

Glorietta Classic
Traditional and
Close to Town
4 Bedrooms
3 Baths
Approximately
2,630 SQ FT
.44 Acre
Warm hardwood
floors, spacious
living, dining and
family rooms,
oversized bedrooms.
Master retreat is light
filled and delightful!

Call for Price

Trai Neighborhood Charmer

862 Birdhaven Court, Lafayette

Nestled on a delightful tree-lined street in the much sought after Trail Neighborhood, sits this picturesque home with storybook appeal. This charming 4BD/2BA, 1,986+/- sq. ft. home enjoys hardwood floors, lovely living & family rooms, a formal dining area & an eat-in kitchen. The sprawling level .24+/- acre yard is a paradise with endless possibilities. Fall in love with this home in the heart of Lafayette, close to downtown shops & dining, BART, freeway access, the trail & Lafayette’s highly regarded schools.

862BirdhavenCourt.com | $1,395,000

Lisa Brydon 925.285.8336 | Kristi Ives 925.788.8345
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CalBRE#: 01408025
CalBRE#: 01367466
Cynthia Brian’s Mid-Month Gardening Guide

HARVEST garlic. Dig the heads out with a spade. Don’t just pull on the stems. Move the garlic out of sunlight immediately to a shady, dry area such as a porch or a garage where circulation is good. (My garage smells like a delicious Italian kitchen!) Garlic cures best with the leaves on. Don’t wash your garlic or scrape the dirt off of the bulb. Either lay flat or gather the stems into bunches to hang upside down to dry. Braiding works with softneck garlic. Curing will allow you to enjoy your garlic into winter. You can eat the garlic immediately as well. Save a few of your biggest heads to use as seed garlic for planting in the fall.

PLAY a lawn game that is new to you. How about the beanbag toss game or the ring toss similar to horseshoes called Quoit? If you are not too adventurous, stick to croquet and bocce!

PROLONG the life of lemons by filling a jar with water, adding the citrus, and covering tightly. The fruit will last longer than in the refrigerator and the jar makes a pretty counter display. Limes work the same except they require refrigeration.

REHYDRATE wilted vegetables by placing them for 15 minutes in a large bowl of cold water.

PICK carrots at their prime when they are still young, thin and sweet. The bigger they get, the stringier and tougher. Carrots don’t need to be peeled. Scrub and go.

GATHER seeds from faded nasturtiums and four o’clocks to replant wherever you want more plants. Nasturtiums are beautiful cascading over a retaining wall or climbing a trellis while four o’clocks open their blooms in the afternoon at – surprise – 4 p.m. daily.

CUT rose rosettes to dry for a fragrant and elegant potpourri display.

WATCH for butterflies, especially yellow swallowtails. They are so intent on the flowers that they appear unafraid of the camera lens.

PICK plums and prunes. Large crops may cause branches to break. Food banks welcome fresh fruit when you have extra.

ENJOY the bounty of fruits and flowering trees and shrubs of July.

SWIM and have fun in the sun this summer. Don’t forget your sunscreen!

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!
Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is a New York Times best selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3.
Tune into Cynthia's Radio show at www.StarStyleRadio.com
Her new book, Growing with the Goddess Gardener will be available soon!
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51 Valencia Road  Magical home & setting w/stylish updates, spacious & open floor-plan & wonderful in/out living. Enjoy wood floors, updated kitchen & baths, & numerous upgrades. Convenient to town, schools, BART. $1,325,000

90 Hillcrest Drive  Charming remodel with awesome views on a favorite Glorietta street in heart of Orinda! Canadian maple hardwoods, Anderson windows, stainless steel appliances, marble counter tops, all new decking & landscaping. $1,460,000

160 Camino Don Miguel  One of a kind estate overlooking Orinda Country Club. Rebuilt from the ground up in 1996 by the finest craftsmen to preserve the original elements of the home. Resort quality pool & spa, gardens, views & guest house. $4,950,000

10 Winding Lane  A tasteful estate situated up a winding lane of 8.6 acres. 3 main structures of apx. 23,422 sq ft. with Main Residence, Carriage House & Sports Complex. Handcrafted features well beyond the norm. $16,500,000

102 Brookline Street  Modern elegance, vaulted ceilings, custom finishes & abundant light are some of the wonderful features of this detached 3 bedroom, 2 bath, apx. 2098 sq ft. renovated Moraga Country Club home. $1,165,000

5 Hilary Way  Beautiful apx. 2854 sq ft. home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Highlights include updated kitchen with stainless appliances. Close to elementary school and Rim Trail. $1,695,000

12 Crestview Court  Contemporary inspired home on priv. cul de sac with pano. views of Orinda hills. Spacious home, 2 master suites, family rm/kitchen combo. Pool, pool house & full size water slide. Easy commute to BART, schools. $1,785,000

3 Neighborhood  Adorable 1950 Cottage, apx. 1224 Sq. Ft., 3 Bedrooms, 2 New Baths, Hardwood Throughout, Fresh Paint. $1,685,000

115 Bando Court  Spacious 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home, new kitchen, updated baths. hardwood floors, sparkling pool on cul-de-sac. $1,685,000

71 Rincon Road  Adorable 1950 Cottage, apx. 1224 Sq. Ft., 3 Bedrooms, 2 New Baths, Hardwood Throughout, Fresh Paint. $940,000

110 Montclair Place  3 bedroom, 2 bath home, apx. 1479 sq. ft. situated on an apx. 7000 sq. ft. lot in prime location! $829,000

118 Hall Drive  Beautiful Craftsman style single level home on private 1 acre. Natural wood vaulted ceilings, walls of windows & spacious open floor plan. 4 beds, 3 baths in apx. 2548 sq ft., hardwood floors, large level patio & lawn. $1,650,000

429 El Toyonal  Located in the Orinda hills amongst the trees, this private home is near trails, open space & a short distance to Tilden Park. Updated kitchen, French doors to balconies, hwd flrs thruout, built-ins, .92 acre. $1,585,000

80 Hillcrest Drive  New Listing

22 Van Tassel Lane  Quality crafted 5bd/4.5ba Mediterranean style w/ideal inside/ outside living spaces. Over-sized rooms offer great light & elegant spaces to entertain. Atrium, guest cottage, sauna, wine cellar, pool & spa. $2,585,000

9 Las Piedras  Gorgeous recently remodeled gated estate, minutes from downtown Orinda. Apx. 3,850 sq ft. custom 5bd/3ba home on .48 park like acres. Level lawn, pool, views of Briones Reservoir, Mt. Diablo. $1,795,000

188 Hall Drive  New Listing

3 Neighborhood  Beautiful apx. 23,422 sq.ft. remodel with awesome views on a short distance to Tilden Park. Updated kitchen & baths, & numerous upgrades. $1,165,000

4025 sq. ft. renovated Moraga Country Club home. $4,950,000

1121 Studebaker Road  Live in the heart of Walnut Creek’s charming Saranap neighborhood. Apx. 1922 sq. ft. home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths and office. Expansive yard with pool. Great commute location with Lafayette schools. $959,500

3564 Silver Springs Road  Sought after Silver Springs neighborhood! Totally remodeled in 2014 with outstanding quality and taste this apx. 4025 sq. ft. 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath with a .77 level lot is a must see and a dream come true. $2,995,000

THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

Visit www.villageassociates.com  Click on Sunday Open Homes