

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY



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Peter Brassinga of the Rancho Colorados swim team came in first in the boys 15-18 100-yard breaststroke with 59:52.

Photo Gint Federas

## LSC High Point goes to Springbrook

Over 940 swimmers from 60 teams met over the weekend of July 29-30 at the sixth annual Lafayette Swim Conference Championship Meet, held at Acalanes High School where families erected tents, set out lawn chairs and blasted music in the packed breezeways of the school. High fives and congratulations were shared among the steady stream of swimsuit-clad competitors on the hot day. Claudia Dumais, a 12-year-old Lafayette swimmer at the Lafayette Moraga Youth Association, qualified for five different events – the butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, freestyle and the individual medley but she was only allowed to swim in two different events. “I practice for over an hour five days a

week,” said Claudia, who also plays basketball and soccer. “I began swimming competitively when I was 9. I have been able to improve by learning new techniques.” She hopes to continue swimming through high school.

Springbrook Swim Team landed the top slot with 5,537 points followed by Rancho Colorados Swim Team with 4,295.50 and LMYA Dolphins Swim Team with 2,847.50 points.

Nine swimmers broke records at the meet, five by individual swimmers and four by relay teams. (See the list of LSC results and individual winners on page C2.)  
 - By Jon Kingdon

**LAMORINDA WEEKLY**

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### An inconvenient liability, presented by Lamorinda public agencies

By Nick Marnell

According to the latest audited financial statements, Lamorinda school districts, municipalities and the local fire district carry a combined net pension and retiree health care liability of nearly \$200 million, more than \$3,000 per Lamorinda resident.

“It’s a gigantic problem, and a well-reported crisis, but residents aren’t paying attention,” said Seth Freeman, Moraga financial advisor.

Net pension liability is the difference between what the pension plan has in the bank and what the plan owes its members and retirees. Calculations are similar for other post employment benefits, or retiree health benefits, resulting in a net OPEB liability.

Together with investment losses from the Great Recession, not achieving projected investment returns and the longer lifespan of retirees, the dollar amount that Lamorinda public agencies owe to their pensioners - but do not have in the bank - has increased from \$164.9 million in 2015 to \$195.2 million in 2016.

Why the big jump? Partly because pension plan managers like the California Public Employees’ Retirement System and the

Contra Costa County Employees’ Retirement Association have experienced lower than expected returns on the investments they use to fund retiree benefits. For example, CalPERS announced investment gains of only 4.4 percent over 10 years through fiscal year 2017. The low returns add to the pension liability, as pension plan managers base their expected gains on percentages ranging anywhere from 7 to 8 percent.

“The projected returns in general are rarely achieved,” said Freeman. “Not only are the amounts large now, until they are dealt with, they will only get larger.”

Among Lamorinda public agencies, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District leads the way with nearly \$64 million in net pension and OPEB liability, followed by the Acalanes Union High School District with \$55 million. The Orinda Union School District and Lafayette School District report nearly \$30 million each, with the Moraga School District at about \$13 million. The Town of Moraga reports a net pension liability of \$3.8 million but no net OPEB liability.

... continued on page A8

### Window of opportunity missed for fast permanent restoration

By Sophie Braccini



The sinkhole site during construction

Photo Andy Scheck

The work for restoring the sinkhole finally started on Rheem Boulevard, with the consequence of closing that arterial until October. Public Works Director Edric Kwan explains that the town had to wait over a year for the Federal Highway Administration – through the California Department of Transportation – to validate the restoration plan. He adds that the FHWA changed its permanent restoration process for the 2016-17 winter damages in California, something Orinda was able to benefit from, but that came too late for the

Moraga sinkhole and ended too early for the Canyon bridge.

There is a difference between permanent restoration and emergency reopening. Emergency reopening funding gets expedited and approved within a few months. It has limitations, too: usually the agency funds only the reopening of one lane of traffic. As soon as a drive-through is restored, the situation is no longer an emergency and the approval process for the permanent restoration of the damaged infrastructure takes a much longer time.

... continued on page A5

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Traffic concerns raise ire of Orchard Road residents – page A6	Tough at any age, local man is hooked on hockey – page B1.	Tyler Petite’s journey from Campo to USC – page C1.	The returning appeal of mid-century modern homes – page D1.
<b>Fire Districts</b> A8	MOFD tackles Healy transition – page A8.		



**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Monday, Aug. 14, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

Monday, Aug. 21, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**

Monday, Aug. 14, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
**City of Lafayette:**  
www.ci.lafayette.ca.us  
Phone: (925) 284-1968

**Chamber of Commerce:**  
www.lafayettechamber.org



**Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report**

<b>July 16 - July 22</b>	
<b>Alarms</b>	41
<b>911 Calls (incl hang-ups)</b>	7
<b>Noise Complaints</b>	8
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	34
<b>Suspicious Circumstances</b>	7
<b>Suspicious Subjects</b>	12
<b>Suspicious Vehicles</b>	7
<b>Service to Citizen</b>	13
<b>Abandoned Vehicle</b>	
Oconnor Dr/Oak St.	
3300 Block Victoria Ave.	
3600 Block Bickerstaff St.	
<b>Auto Burglary</b>	
4100 Block Coralee Ln.	
1000 Block 2nd St. (2)	
3400 Block Black Hawk Rd.	
<b>Battery</b>	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.	
<b>Civil Disturbance</b>	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.	
3900 Block Valley View Rd.	
<b>Civil Standby</b>	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.	
<b>DUI Misdemeanor</b>	
Moraga Rd./Hamlin Rd.	
<b>Fire/Ems Response Info</b>	
1200 Block Woodborough Rd.	
Read Dr./Rohrer Dr.	
<b>Found Property</b>	
3100 Block Camino Diablo	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
<b>Grand Theft</b>	
3700 Block Highland Ct.	
<b>Harassment</b>	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
<b>Hit And Run Misdemeanor</b>	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.	
<b>Identity Theft</b>	
700 Block Tofflemire Dr. (2)	
<b>Litter</b>	
10 Block Wallabi Ct.	
<b>Lost Property</b>	
1000 Block Pine Ln.	
<b>Medical Police Needed</b>	
1000 Block 2nd St.	
<b>Ordinance Violation</b>	
3500 Block Wilkinson Ln.	
1200 Block N Scenic Dr.	
900 Block S Thompson Rd.	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
<b>Panhandling</b>	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
<b>Patrol Request</b>	
Reliez Valley Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Deer Hill Rd./Miller Dr.	
Reliez Valley Rd./Vaughn Rd.	
<b>Petty Theft</b>	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3300 Block Vaughn Rd.	
10 Block Greenvalley Dr.	
<b>Petty Theft From Vehicle</b>	
3400 Block Black Hawk Rd.	
<b>Phone Harass</b>	
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.	
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1st St.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Moraga Rd./Rimrock Rd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
St Marys Rd./S. Lucille Ln.	
Lancaster Dr./Somerset Dr.	
St Marys Rd./Cattle Chute Rd.	
Glorietta Blvd./Acalanes Rd.	
<b>Shoplift</b>	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
CVS Laf	
<b>Subject Stop</b>	
Miller Dr./Deer Hill Rd.	
500 Block St Marys Rd.	
<b>Supplemental Report</b>	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.	
<b>Traffic control - Minor Injuries</b>	
600 Block Glenside Dr.	
<b>Traffic control - Property Damage</b>	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Olympic Blvd.	
Taylor Blvd./Withers Ave.	
Condit Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
<b>Vandalism</b>	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	

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# Moraga Road fatality underscores the importance of pursuing solutions to Lafayette's traffic woes

By Pippa Fisher



The crosswalk on which a pedestrian was struck and killed July 24. Photo Pippa Fisher

With the start of a new school year right around the corner, drivers are urged to pay extra attention when traveling along busy Lafayette streets.

Lafayette City Council Member and primary council liaison to the Downtown Congestion Reduction Plan Steering Committee Mark Mitchell commented that while traffic increases and the city makes improvements, "One of the biggest problems is out of our direct control. Drivers are distracted, and pedestrians and cyclists are not paying enough attention."

The comments follow the July 24 tragic death of 60-year-old Lafayette resident Sui Yuen, who was struck by a Ford F150 pickup truck while walking in the crosswalk across Moraga Road. The truck was making a left turn onto Moraga Road from Moraga Boulevard. The driver remained on scene and Yuen was taken to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek where he later died of his injuries.

Mitchell said that the council members are all deeply saddened by the tragic accident. He added that council members, city staff and the police continue their efforts every day to make the streets safer by focusing on the three areas of engineering, education and enforcement.

Within the area of engineering, the Public Works Department maintains and repairs roads, Transportation Planner James Hinkamp works with the circulation committee to address concerns and implement solutions and City Engineer Tony Coe works to design and implement traffic and safety improvements. The Downtown Congestion Study goals include increased safety for cars, pedestrians and bicycles.

... continued on page A12

## Pleasant Hill Road traffic trials

By Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette City Council is supporting the continued exploration of ways in which to lessen Reliez Valley Road traffic woes as it considers the twofold problem of traffic either traveling at unsafe speeds or, during rush hours, barely moving at all.

The challenge is part of the bigger issue of congestion on Pleasant Hill Road, which makes taking Reliez Valley Road as a bypass from Taylor Boulevard via Withers Avenue all too tempting in times of high volume traffic.

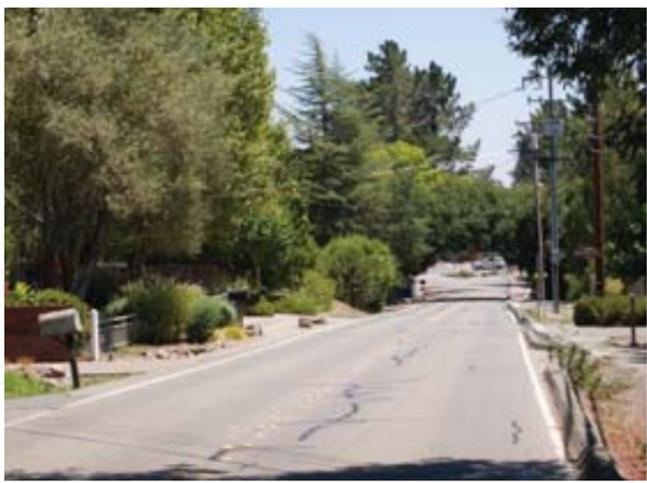
At the July 10 city council meeting Lafayette City Engineer Tony Coe presented the results of further study by TJKM Consultants, requested by the city council earlier in the year.

to pay attention to them only the first few times they see them.

Several residents testified to the problems with one gentleman calling the situation a "mini crisis." He said that his commute from north of Withers Avenue to Springhill Elementary School, which used to take seven to 10 minutes two years ago, now regularly takes him 30 minutes.

The same resident pointed out that Waze works from data feedback, so as traffic times on Reliez Valley Road are improved the app is actually more likely to divert traffic along that route.

... continued on page A12



Reliez Valley Road faces either congestion during peak hours or empty roads and speeding drivers at other times. Photo Pippa Fisher



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\*per Public Records \*\*per appraisal measurement

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**Sardines Insalata:** calamata olives, green beans, potato, feta cheese, balsamic olive oil .....9  
**Niman Flat Iron Steak:** potato gratin, green beans, chimichurri sauce.....18  
**Fresh Seafood Cioppino:** in a rich tomato-basil sauce, parmesan, garlic toast..19  
**Roasted Scallops:** spinach, salciccia sugo .....19  
**Roasted Wild Salmon:** white wine, capers, braised greens, and potato gratin..17  
**Veal Scallopini:** mushrooms, garlic, marsala wine .....17

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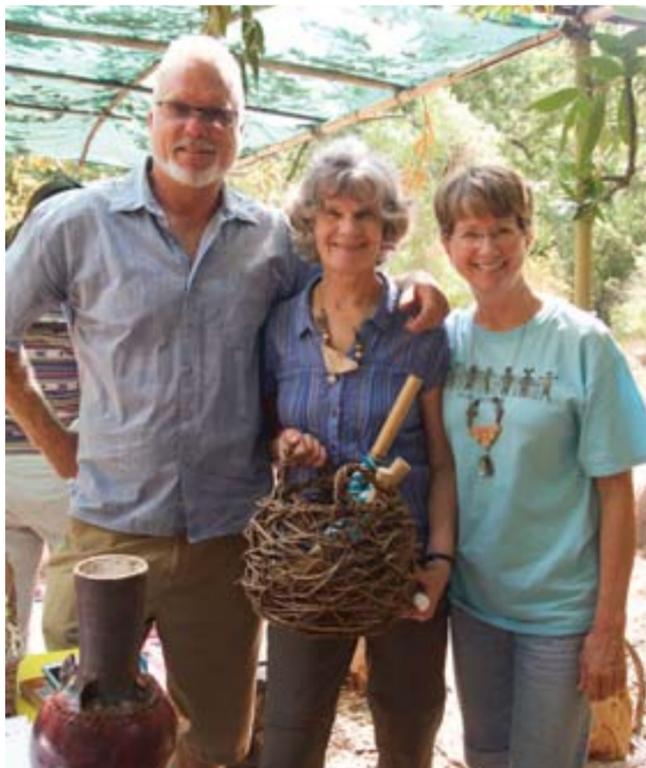


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## Miwok tribe recreated in Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher



From left: James Wright (aka Soaring Hawk), Barb Hollenbach (aka Swaying Tree) and Peggy Magilen (aka Elder River) Photo Pippa Fisher

With the emphasis on Native American values of respect, honor and being connected to the earth, retired third-grade teacher and longtime Lafayette resident Peggy Magilen recreated a tribe within Lafayette for an intergenerational workshop teaching the ways of the local Saklan Miwok Native Americans.

Miwok experience – creating family names and necklaces, pounding acorns, practicing hunting skills and playing games.

A large display of artifacts, art and children-centered projects greeted visitors to the garden demonstrating connective and successful indigenous living.

Magilen’s goal? To send everyone home with a special sense of Native belonging, which was clearly accomplished with lots of fun along the way.

With the help of volunteers, Magilen gave the 26 attendees of the free event Aug. 5 in the Lafayette Community Gardens the

## Local residents can get a charge at three new Lafayette EV stations

By Pippa Fisher



Two new EV charging stations at the intersection of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Risa Road. Photo Pippa Fisher

Lafayette electric vehicle drivers have more choice in locations when powering up their green cars now since the city has installed three new ChargePoint stations.

ette City Council and are partially funded through a grant from the Bay Area Air Quality and Management District.

Drivers, who previously had to deal with privately owned charging stations such as the ones in the Whole Foods parking lot, will now be able to drive up, swipe their credit card or ChargePoint membership card and pay the 39 cents per kilowatt-hour.

The new stations are all on city-owned public parking lots – one at the intersection of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Oak Hill Road just down from Uncle Yu’s Restaurant and the other two stations at the intersection of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Risa Road.

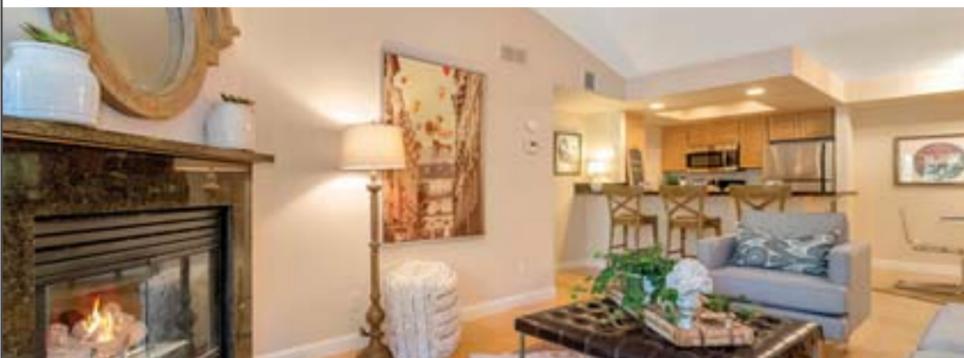
So far these are the only charging stations on city land but more are planned, although the timeline is not yet known.

The stations became operational during the last week of June following approval by the Lafayette

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## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 6 p.m.

Moraga Center Specific Plan

Implementation Project Study Session

Wednesday, Aug. 23, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Monday, Aug. 21, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Design Review

Monday, Aug. 14, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

Phone: (925) 888-7022

#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

#### Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

## Moraga Police Report



#### Summary covers:

July 12 to 25

total records: 35

#### Alarms

7/12 700 block Country Club Drive

7/14 1300 block Rimer Drive

7/16 Moraga Valley Lane

7/17 Rimer Drive

7/19 Camino Pablo School

7/22 location unreported

7/23 location unreported (2)

7/24 location unreported

7/24 Danefield Place

#### City Ordinance Violation

7/14 loud party on Buckingham

#### Driving with Suspended License

7/20 Augusta Drive at Gleneagle – driver cited; vehicle moved by another

#### Drug

7/16 16-year-old male passenger in possession of marijuana

#### Domestic

7/15 father/son argument; son left premises

#### DUI

7/21 Moraga Road at St. Mary's Road driving 62 in 35 zone

7/22 1500 block Canyon Road; 0.18 blood alcohol

7/23 Moraga Road at Corliss Dr. driving 50 in 35 zone.

#### Fire Assist

7/14 Corte Amigos; residence fully engulfed; occupants safe

#### Fraud

7/12 Saint Mary's College (online)

7/25 bank fraud online

#### Larceny

7/13 location unreported; several hundred dollars and property taken

7/17 Miramonte Gardens; \$575 in property taken from unlocked car

7/24 100 block Ascot Ct; fence board stolen

#### Missing

7/13 West county detention center subject; unable to locate

#### Miscellaneous

7/13 firearms surrendered for destruction

#### Resisting an Officer

7/14 male and female in possession of drugs forcibly subdued

#### Speeding

7/17 200 block Rheem Blvd.

#### Stolen Vehicle

7/18 Miramonte High School at Ivy Drive; recovered locally

#### Traffic Incident

7/25 location unreported; excessive speed

#### Welfare Check

7/12 subject found safe

7/19 location not disclosed; resident deemed safe



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3 bed, 2 bath  
2nd St., Lafayette

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## New book offers pictorial journey of Moraga's history

By Sophie Braccini



Susan Skilton, author of "Images of America, Moraga" Photo provided

At a recent meeting of the California Conference of Historical Societies, four Moraga residents received awards for their service to the Moraga Historical Society, a local institution that will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year. Among them, genealogist Susan Skilton was recognized for her recent completion of a book about the history of Moraga commissioned by Arcadia Publishing to be part of its "Im-

ages of America" collection.

Arcadia states on its site, "Images of America is an ambitious collection of chronicles that accurately capture the essence of what gives each American small town, neighborhood, and downtown its unique flavor." Skilton set out to document this feel for Moraga's unique essence over a year ago through many pictures and text.

There are over 300 photographs in Skilton's 126-page book, which offers a good introduction to the history of this town that over 16,000 people call home. Skilton decided on the book's eight chapters and followed Arcadia's format that dictates the number of words and pictures per page.

The Moraga author has been a member of the MHS for almost 10 years, and this is where she started her research for the book, with the help of Elsie Mastick, the society's archivist. She says that, due to the publisher's format, she had to make choices and decided to focus on certain aspects while leaving others out. She is aware that some topics such as the churches, the schools, and the local sports were not given all the development it could have.

Skilton, however, did dedicate an entire chapter to the trains that once passed through Moraga – potentially one of the missed opportunities for the little town to ever

become a vibrant economic center. The loss of the trains that connected Moraga to Oakland on one side all the way to Sacramento, the decision not to have the United Nations set its headquarters in Moraga – yes, that was a credible proposition made in 1945 – and more recently the disengagement of the Gateway freeway project linking Highway 24 to 680 through Moraga were all decisions that contributed to making Moraga an enclave town, for the pleasure of most of its residents.

The chapter on Saint Mary's College documents, among other aspects, the preflight school that was operated there by the Navy during World War II as well as Lake LaSalle that existed on what is now playing fields.

The book also highlights many of Moraga's founding people such as presidents of the Moraga Company that owned most of the town and started to create the first housing subdivisions, after Joaquin Moraga and his descendants sold their land grant in the late 19th century.

Even those who already know a lot about the town's history may be surprised by some interesting facts: that Campolindo's front field was a lake; that the first housing development was built in Valle Vista and was later demolished by the water company when it acquired that land

(now the staging area on Canyon Road); that Reginald Tibbetts who was Moraga's postmaster established a listening post in Moraga to listen to Japanese news during World War II; that the Moraga Barn on Viader Drive was originally a hotel built in 1911; and that many of the names of streets in Moraga come from the early ranchers that raised cattle and pigs in town, such as the Sanders and the Carrs.

This is Skilton's first book, but she has also published a number of genealogy articles. The Moraga resident's first career was teaching German language and literature at Diablo Valley College. She started doing research about her own family history and developed a passion for the activity that combines research, tenacity and creativity. She is now a registered genealogist and works for Ancestry.com's division that offers help for people who are having difficulties with research.

The book can be purchased at the Moraga Historical Society and online. Arcadia has also published an "Images" book about Lafayette by Mary McCosker and Mary Solon and a history of Saint Mary's College by Ronald Isetti. The MHS also sells "Moraga Pride," a book that traces history from the first overland expedition of Spanish colonists into Alta California to today.

## License plate readers in sight for Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

A generous and anonymous Moraga family is offering a matching grant of \$15,000 to the Moraga Community Foundation to complete the \$60,000 in necessary funds to purchase video security cameras for the town. The foundation has through the end of August to raise the matching \$15,000 from the community.

Tom Schnurr, current president of the MCF, explains that the nine-person foundation board is mobilized to raise the money and he sees the generous grant as an opportunity to successfully end a campaign that started last May. "Then we will hand the money to the police department, earmarked for purchasing the license plate readers," he says. At the end of July, the MCF had raised \$36,000 toward the purchase of the camera system.

The town council approved the installation of five cameras back in 2016, but funding became impossible, so Moraga residents decided to take it upon themselves to find the money. Paul Cohun and Kristen Beckwith convinced the MCF to become the fundraising arm of the campaign.

The police department's plan is to install the cameras in strategic places around town with the sole purpose of taking pictures of cars entering and exiting the town, and reading their license plates. The images are transmitted to a server at the police department. Chief of Police Jon King indicated in his original presentation that the information would be transmitted on a private network and would not be accessible via the internet.

King also stated that the information collected would only be used in connection with and during an investigation into an actual crime. Recordings will be stored

for only 30 days before being destroyed.

The MCF campaign has consisted of presentations to service groups and active presence at different public events such as Fourth of July or the farmers' market. The

MCF will have a table at the market on Sunday, Aug. 20. The person staffing the table will be able to answer any questions or concerns residents might have regarding the cameras.

Schnurr wants to thank the

anonymous donors for their generosity. He believes the license plate readers have proven their utility in Lafayette and Orinda where the crime statistics have improved significantly since the systems were installed.

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# Hacienda Nights: Food trucks a big success again this year

By Sophie Braccini



A recent Hacienda Nights event.

Most cities that have food truck events sign a contract with a company that organizes it for them, such as Off The Grid or Taste of the World. No such company wanted to take the Moraga risk, however, so the Parks and Recreation staff decided to take it upon themselves and organized Hacienda Nights, Moraga's own food truck event. These happenings started last year and continue to be a big success this summer.

Staff members Clinton Calkins and Kimberly Nelson organized the trucks this year. Nelson says one reason why they decided to orga-

clean eating and a healthy lifestyle by offering vegan food that's gluten-free and organic. It is all plant-based, thus the name of Baagan that according to Pal is a Hindi word that means garden.

Moraga resident Ellen Beans tried the burger patty at that truck and reported how tasty it was. Pal recommends staying tuned for news about Baagan's creations, as some will be coming to the Rheem center's New Delhi Bistro in the fall.

The next food truck event on Aug. 11 will be at the Moraga Commons instead of at the Hacienda. Like other nights, it will all be organized by the small city staff – the director left a few weeks ago and has not yet been replaced.

Nelson is not sure what crowd size to expect on Aug. 11, since this is the week after the final swim meet and some families might be out of town. But staff wanted to test how the event would be received at the Moraga Commons, where it would have much more visibility. Nelson says that the trucks typically get about 600 patrons, with a high of 700 at the end of the season last year.

The parks and recreation coordinator explains that it may be a little less stressful for them at the Commons. When the trucks are at the Hacienda, she, Calkins and the town's janitor are in charge of cleanup that night to make the space pristine for the next day's wedding ceremony. She notes, however, that

patrons have been very respectful of the place and that there is very little litter to pick up afterward.

On Aug. 11 the trucks will use part of the parking lot next to the park off St. Mary's Road. Patrons are encouraged to park on the street, in the skate park parking lot, or in the overflow lot on the Bruzzone property across the street. The trucks scheduled to be there are Yummi BBQ, Stuff My Waffle, Q-Craft, United Bites and izzyA's Frozen Custard. Nelson adds that some people follow that specific truck around and come to events just for its thick ice cream.

Hafiz Haidari, owner of Risorante Amoroma in the Rheem center, says he has not noticed any negative impact from the food trucks on his business. The restaurateur indicated that business in general has declined, compared with last summer, but he blames it more on the traffic detour. He believes that the trucks attract a different clientele than the people dining at his place.

There will be two more opportunities to enjoy the trucks this summer after the Aug. 11 event at the Commons: on Aug. 25 and Sept. 8, back at the Hacienda.

Courtesy Moraga Parks & Recreation

nize the nights themselves was because they wanted it to be on a Friday night, something that the truck companies do not typically do. She and Clinton look for trucks that are not in competition with Moraga's own restaurants, Nelson says.

One of the trucks, Baagan, which was at the first event on July 11, has strong ties with Moraga businesswoman Roos Pal, the owner of New Delhi Bistro (and formerly of Terzetto as well) who is friends with Baagan food truck owner Rajbir Randhawa. Pal describes herself as the sales manager for Baagan. Randhawa promotes

## Window of opportunity missed

... continued from page A1

This is what happened to the Moraga sinkhole: the minute traffic was restored, it was not an emergency reopening.

The winter of 2016-17 was so detrimental to California's infrastructure that the FHWA decided in March of last year that disasters declared between December of 2016 and February of 2017 would benefit from an emergency treatment of their repairs even for permanent restoration of the damaged infrastructure. This meant that public work agencies were not limited to reopening just one lane of traffic and could completely restore their infrastructure with an expedited approval process. It was a year too late for the Moraga sinkhole.

Kwan says that this program allowed Minor Road in Orinda to be completely repaired relatively quickly, and not subjected to the just-one-lane-restored rule that it would otherwise have had to apply in order to get emergency treatment. Public Works Director Larry Theis added that Orinda's incident did happen during a period eligible for rapid complete restoration, but that the city still had to drive a hard bargain with the administration since the opening of a detour could have been considered as a way to end

the emergency nature of the incident.

Caltrans Robert Haus confirmed that his agency sent the information of the policy change along to all agencies that had repair projects dealing with damage suffered in the winter storms

of 2016-17. The Canyon Bridge could not benefit from this program since it happened later, in the spring of 2017. In order to now fall under the emergency reopening procedure, Moraga can only open one lane of traffic at the bridge.

## Bridge and sinkhole update

Public Works Director Edric Kwan confirmed that the Federal Highway Administration approved the emergency replacement of the Canyon Bridge with a one-lane temporary connection. This means that Moraga should be completely reimbursed from the expense it will incur. The estimated amount approved by the FHWA is \$2.06 million. Meanwhile, the sinkhole is being excavated so the old culvert can be extracted and then replaced – all according to plan, said Kwan.

The old Canyon Bridge needs to be removed first, the director explained, because the one-lane emergency replacement bridge will be set in its place. This will give enough space for the town to start the construction of a new permanent bridge, once that project is approved for funding.

As the town staff prepares the bid documents for the construction of the new bridge abutments and installation of a prefabricated replacement bridge, utilities are relocating lines that would interfere with the demolition and/or construction. As soon as this is complete, demolition will start. Kwan expects the one-lane bridge to be operational by the end of October.

The culvert under Rheem Boulevard should be repaired and the intersection reconstructed at around the same time. The contractor is removing the failed culvert and is also constructing a bypass for the sewage going through the hole.

Kwan added that the town would conduct more outreach using signage to support the retail establishments located around the road-closure area and remind the community that they are all open for business.

— By Sophie Braccini

## Food Trucks

# Moraga Commons

## Friday, 8/11, 5-9pm

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Donations designated for the Community Watch Campaign will be used exclusively for the purchase of the Moraga Police Department video camera systems.

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## Orinda

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

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

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Aug. 22, 7 p.m.  
Special Joint Meeting with City Council  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Citizens' Infrastructure

#### Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### City of Orinda:

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

#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

#### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



### Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report July 23 to 29

<b>Alarms</b>	36
<b>Noise complaints</b>	2
<b>911 Calls (includes hang-ups)</b>	4
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	27
<b>Suspicious Circumstances</b>	5
<b>Suspicious Subjects</b>	1
<b>Suspicious Vehicles</b>	10
<b>Accident (property)</b>	
200 block El Toyonal (2)	
Moraga Way/Camino Pablo	
<b>Barking Dog</b>	
200 block El Toyonal (3)	
200 block Glorietta Blvd	
<b>Burglary, Residential</b>	
100 block Zander Dr (2)	
<b>Disturbance (domestic)</b>	
10 block Olde Creek Pl	
<b>DUI</b>	
St Stephen's/Tahos Rd	
<b>Embezzlement</b>	
60 block Orinda Way	
<b>Fire/EMS</b>	
30 block Bobolink Rd	
<b>Hit &amp; Run</b>	
20 block Orinda Way	
<b>ID Theft</b>	
70 block Estates Dr	
<b>Medical/Hospital</b>	
20 block La Noria	
10 block Altarinda Rd	
<b>Missing Adult</b>	
100 block Rheem Blvd	
<b>Panhandling</b>	
Chevron	
Santa Maria Church	
<b>Public Nuisance</b>	
Orinda Oaks Parks	
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd	
Hwy 24/Camino Pablo	
Moraga Way/Overhill Rd	
20 block Altarinda Rd	
200 block Sundown Terrace	
Orinda Theatre	
Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante	
<b>Theft, Grand</b>	
Orinda Intermediate School	
<b>Theft, Petty</b>	
Hwy 24/Camino Pablo	
<b>Trespass</b>	
Camino Sobrante/El Ribero	
<b>Warrant Service/Arrest</b>	
Camino Pablo/Hwy 24	

### Correction:

In the July 12 story, "Taste of the World food trucks coming to Orinda," the start date of the food truck event in front of the Orinda Community Center was incorrectly reported as Aug. 5, but that date was postponed due to insurance issues. The first food truck event is now scheduled from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17. We regret any inconvenience.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorinda weekly.com



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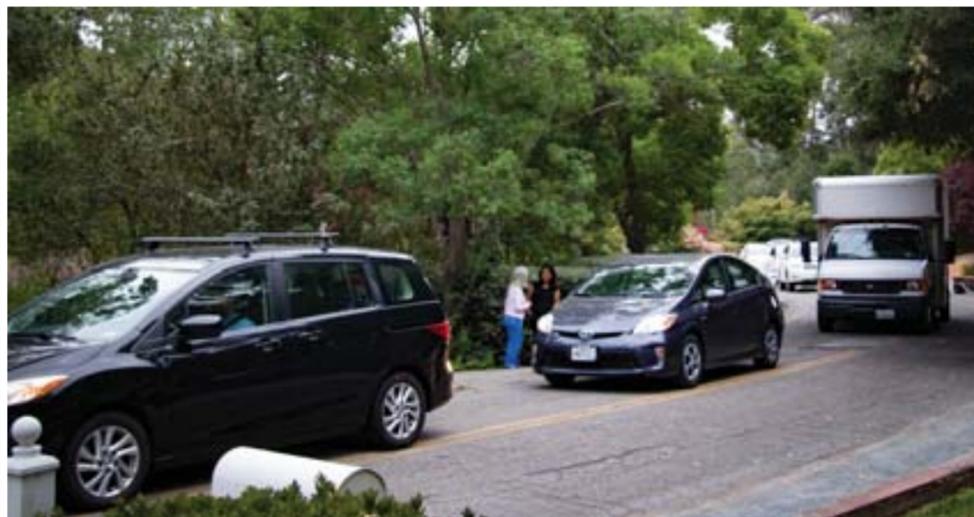


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## Nightmare on Orchard Road

By Sora O'Doherty



A snarl of traffic clogs Orchard Road Aug. 4 in Orinda.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

Residents of a tiny residential road in Orinda showed up in earnest at the Aug. 1 city council meeting to express concerns and to protest the use of Orchard Road as a detour from Moraga Way while the East Bay Municipal Utility District performs necessary repairs to water pipes. As rules prohibit the Orinda City Council from responding to matters raised in the public forum, members added the matter to the agenda for the next meeting on Aug. 15.

Days after the protest, EBMUD responded to the residents' concerns by changing its work schedule to complete the repairs by the first week in September and to ease congestion when school begins. EBMUD is adding weekend work when traffic will not be diverted onto Orchard Road, and will also be working some Fridays previously set as non-work days.

The EBMUD work involves replacement of 2,000 feet of water pipeline on Moraga Way. The existing cast iron water main has had a recorded total of 17 main breaks with seven major breaks occurring in the past five years, according to EBMUD Community Affairs Rep-

resentative Kathryn Horn who attended the meeting. These breaks have put nearly 70 customers out of water each time, created major traffic impacts and resulted in the discharge of chlorinated water into nearby creeks. The pipes are being replaced with new, eight-inch steel pipe, which will provide reliable water supply to nearby residents for decades.

Originally, it was planned to have two lanes of traffic on Moraga Way but based on the placement of the utilities, it was necessary to go to one lane being flagged in either direction. That resulted in massive 45-minute delays for commuters. The City of Orinda directed EBMUD to detour traffic onto Orchard Road.

Lynn Ballou, who lives on Orchard Road, estimates that hundreds of additional cars are traveling on her road each hour during the 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. detour period, and worries that this is putting an additional strain on this road that was not designed for such heavy traffic.

There are 37 homes on the stretch and 150 residents, according to Gloria So. The traffic, the

residents say, is causing actual damage to their properties and potential danger to themselves and their children, not to mention making it practically impossible to back out of their driveways during rush hour. Susan Cole fears that utilities under the street will be damaged, and, more importantly, that the city is putting the lives of residents at risk. EBMUD estimates the repair work will take 10 weeks to complete. Residents are particularly concerned because this traffic chaos is occurring even before the start of school traffic in late August. They want the detour to Orchard Rd stopped, longer working hours by EBMUD to hasten the end of the project, and better communication from EBMUD to affected residents.

Horn said that since the detour began, many residents have expressed their concerns. To address traffic and safety issues EBMUD has added additional signage, including 15 mph signs, asked Orinda Police Department for additional patrols, added three temporary speed bumps to the half mile stretch of road, and restricted right turns onto Orchard Road. EBMUD said that they have been detouring

truck traffic off of Orchard Road and down Moraga Way, but residents report that some trucks were still using Orchard Road.

In her later update, Horn said that EBMUD would immediately have a street sweeper clean dust and debris on Orchard Road, weekly, for the duration of the project. She added that they would work with their flaggers to make sure they are doing their absolute best to ensure that trucks are not entering Orchard Road, with the necessary exceptions of delivery, garbage and other utility trucks with business on Orchard. In addition to appearing at the next city council meeting, EBMUD also promised weekly updates to the council and residents.

The traffic near Moraga Way is also being compounded by work being done by Moraga to repair the sinkhole on Rheem Boulevard. Horn noted that the Town of Moraga has proposed their own detours, including the use of residential roads, but that they have not found one that would reroute traffic efficiently enough.

Director of Public Works Larry Theis said that the residents had very reasonable concerns, but that if the project were stopped, it might be a year before EBMUD could return to it, and that in the long term there would be bad effects.

Council Member Inga Miller, after asking if residents could call a flagger to assist them in exiting their driveways, was told that they could. Mayor Eve Phillips asked if the residents wanted the work to continue on weekends and Vice Mayor Amy Worth wondered how many days could be saved by weekend work.

Council Member Darlene Gee said she had so many questions that she requested that the matter be agendaized, and the rest of the council agreed.

## Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Draft submitted; additional \$1.75M needed to cover storm damage

By Sora O'Doherty

In order to be eligible for FEMA mitigation funding, Contra Costa County has to submit a draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) by the end of August and Orinda's part was due to the county on Aug. 7. Prepared by Planner Daisy Allen, the draft plan aims to address future risk from hazards and floods. The final draft for city council adoption is anticipated by late fall 2017. Planning Director Drummond Buckley and the Orinda City Council praised Allen for her work on the very large and complex project.

The plan must assess the risk of eight natural hazards: dam and levee failure, drought, earthquake, flood, landslide, severe weather, tsunami, wildfire, and, as of this year, climate change. Hazard events affecting Orinda have overwhelmingly been related to storms, flooding and landslides.

All capital improvement projects from the 2010 LHMP have been completed. Other ongoing projects and policies from the 2010 LHMP have been carried over to the 2017 LHMP. Recommended actions include the following:

#### Countywide action items (suggested for adoption by all planning partners)

- Support retrofitting or relocation of structures in high hazard areas, prioritizing structures that have experience repetitive loss.
- Integrate LHMP into other plans and update the General Plan Safety Element with the new LHMP once it is approved.
- Maintain the LHMP (annual review and update).
- Maintain good standing and compliance under NFIP.

#### Capital Improvement Projects

- Camino Sobrante Slope Stabilization
- Santa Maria Park & Ride and City Hall parking lot slope stabilization
- Annual drainage facilities improvement program
- Oak Springs/Candlestick Road storm water improvements
- Miner Road Bridge over San Pablo Creek

#### Plans and Policies

- Consider hazard mitigation in CIP update; focus on unfunded projects for HMA grant opportunities.
- Continue to allocate funding for tree trim and removal.
- Prepare Green Infrastructure Plan
- Update San Pablo Creek Restoration Plan
- Investigate cost and timing for Floodplain Manager Certification.
- Investigate requirements to join CRS for floodplain management.
- Coordinate with State Division of Safety of Dams regarding dam inspections.
- Conduct inventory of soft-story structures in downtown Orinda.
- Develop and update educational materials for the public regarding hazards.
- Prepare a Climate Action Plan.
- Incorporate hazard mitigation concepts in downtown planning process.
- Train staff to understand LHMP and better disseminate hazard mitigation information to the public.

#### Storm damage costs

In another action, the city council adopted a resolution transferring \$1.75 million from the General Fund unrestricted reserves and the restricted emergency reserves to the capital improvement storm damage fund and appropriated the money to cover the storm damage expenditures from last winter's storms, including the Miner Road sinkhole, felled trees, slope destabilization and flooding. At the mid-year budget, the council approved the transfer of \$2 million but projected costs have now risen to \$3.75 million, leading staff to recommend the additional transfer of funds. At some point in the future, Orinda may qualify for federal reimbursement, but in the meantime, the contractors need to be paid.

#### No city manager yet

In other news, Orinda was not satisfied with any of the candidates for the vacant position of city manager, and so will continue its recruitment efforts. Interim City Manager Steve Salomon has agreed to remain.

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**Old yellow house opens to public for fourth Fandango for Moraga Adobe**

By Sora O'Doherty



Architect James Wright in the upstairs hall of the Old Yellow House, which he has renovated to be a net-zero energy use building. The "wallpaper" is old newspapers found under the flooring dated back to pre-WWII days. Photo Sora O'Doherty

Supporters of the historic structure, the Joaquin Moraga Adobe in Orinda, will be treated to tours of another historic building, known as the Old Yellow House in Orinda on Moraga Road. The Yellow House will be the site of the fourth annual Fandango at 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26.

Ticketholders will be offered 20-minute tours of the renovated 1890 structure, a gourmet barbecue dinner and an evening of music including a historical musical, staged

on the surprisingly extensive grounds of the house. Although no parking is available at the house, shuttle vans will be provided from St. Mark's United Methodist Church at 451 Moraga Way, and will run continuously from 4:45 to 9:30 p.m.

Architect James Phillip Wright embarked on a labor of love when he rebuilt this 19th century structure, originally constructed as a railroad bunkhouse in 1890. Wright will give the tours of his historic home, which blends

history with green energy technology and amazingly creative reuse.

Residents of Lamorinda watched with interest as the restoration of the old building moved forward, so this is a rare opportunity to see the inside. Probably most people have never noticed that the old house has two front doors, which mystified Wright until one day in 2014 while laying brick on the front porch, Orinda resident Janis Milstead, whose father was an engineer for the railroad, stopped by and told him how as a young child she would go with her father on business excursions, staying in railroad overnight housing just like the Old Yellow House. She explained that the two entrances were a remnant of the caste system: the main door was for whites and the other for the Chinese and other laborers who worked on the railroad.

Although built for the California Nevada Railroad, the structure was never occupied by the company, owing to its bankruptcy at the end of the railroad era. The Charles Nelson family lived on the property from 1918 through 1966, after which the property was left vacant and unaltered until purchased by Wright in 2012. Wright decided to make the building a showcase for his skills at developing geo-solar passive houses, a technology which he passionately advocates.

Tickets to the Fandango cost \$100, and are available online <http://www.moragaadobe.org/fjma-fandango.html> or checks to the

Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe can be mailed to: Fandango Tickets/FJMA, P.O. Box 872, Orinda, CA 94563. No tickets will be available at the door. For information, email [events@MoragaAdobe.org](mailto:events@MoragaAdobe.org) or contact Bobbie Landers at (925) 254-8260. An estimated \$80 of each ticket is expected to be tax-deductible.

The plan is that the Moraga Adobe will be rehabilitated and open for public use in conjunction with the construction of a housing development surrounding the site. All proceeds raised by the Fandangos go toward the restoration of the Adobe. FJMA is far from its goal of raising \$1 million to rehabilitate and run the Adobe. The FJMA will contribute \$500,000 toward the rehabilitation of the structure, which the developer will match, and will also cover any unexpected excess. FJMA is also seeking grant funding and additional sponsors and donors.

For information on the "Old Yellow House," see [green.jpwarch.com](http://green.jpwarch.com).

You can also read stories about the Old Yellow House and the Moraga Adobe in the Lamorinda Weekly archives at <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0901/Orindas-Old-Yellow-House-Everything-old-is-new.html> and <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1012/At-175-Years-Old-Moraga-Adobe-is-Slated-for-Restoration.html>.

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### Fire Districts

#### Public Meetings

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District** Board of Directors  
 Wednesday, Aug. 16, 7 p.m.  
 Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

**ConFire** Board of Directors  
 Tuesday, Sept. 12, 1:30 p.m.  
 Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez  
 For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

## MOFD board appoints interim chief, retains search firm

By Nick Marnell



Soon-to-be interim fire chief Jerry Lee  
Courtesy MOFD

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District board of directors named Battalion Chief Jerry Lee as the interim fire chief effective Sept. 20, the day of Fire Chief Stephen Healy's departure. The board also agreed to retain an executive search

firm to assist in the recruitment of the new chief.

Consistent with the district's hard-driving push to improve its financial picture, MOFD appointed an interim chief who has procured \$2.9 million in grant funding since his promotion to battalion chief in 2012. Lee secured a \$1.1 million FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant in 2013, which covered the salaries and benefits of four firefighters for two years, and he recently obtained a federal grant to cover the purchase of four power gurneys for district ambulances.

"It's an honor to serve the men and women of MOFD and the community. It's something I've been wanting to do throughout my career in the fire service," Lee said of

his future elevation to interim fire chief. Lee has served with MOFD since 2003.

Though he praised the announcement of Lee as interim chief, former MOFD director Dick Olsen, who went through the hiring process of Fire Chief Randy Bradley, urged the board to search as far and wide as possible for the new fire chief, if for no other reason than to confirm that Lee is the proper selection. "It's always best to use an open process," Olsen said. "Over the years, you'll be paying a person more than a million dollars to oversee tens of millions of dollars. It's a pittance of an investment."

After interviewing potential search firms, the MOFD fire chief recruitment ad hoc committee rec-

ommended that the district retain Roseville-based Bob Murray and Associates to conduct the search for the new chief. "The company has hired 15 fire chiefs in the last two years," said ad hoc committee member Craig Jorgens. Once executed, the contract with Bob Murray and Associates will not exceed \$24,000.

Director Steve Anderson cast the only vote against retaining the search firm. "I used to own a recruiting company," he said. "We would always allow a carve-out. If you make an in-house hire, you don't pay."

According to the committee, the terms of the financial arrangement with the search firm would remain the same whether for an internal or separately sourced candidate.

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Photo Courtesy Stephen Healy, MOFD

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District dispatched two engines and a water tender to the Aug. 2 vegetation fire that burned 20 acres deep into the hillside near Fish Ranch Road and Grizzly Peak Boulevard. The fire was not far from the 1991 Oakland hills firestorm that killed 25, destroyed more than 3,000 structures and burned 1,520 acres.

"This is why we practice mutual response drills," said MOFD Chief Stephen Healy, an Incident Commander of the multi-agency response team. "Agencies as different as MOFD, Oakland Fire and Cal Fire worked together seamlessly."

One Cal Fire firefighter suffered minor injuries. The origin and cause of the fire remain under investigation. — By Nick Marnell

## An inconvenient liability, presented by Lamorinda public agencies

... continued from page A1

To pay down those balances if investment goals are not achieved, agencies have to increase contributions into their pension and OPEB accounts, and according to a 2015 Contra Costa County Grand Jury report, that money "must come from either budget cuts, increased revenues, tax increases or some combination of the three. Budget cuts mean service or salary cut-backs, deferred maintenance and postponed capital improvements." Those options would hurt Lamorinda residents and impose hardships on employees.

Agencies may also prefund in order to mitigate pension plan financial performance. The fire district board recently voted to contribute into OPEB and pension trust funds, but not everyone was thrilled with the policy decision. "I have concerns with MOFD," said Vince Wells, president of Local 1230 of the firefighters union. "They seem super-focused on funding those plans. Then you start risking the services you provide."

In a roundabout way, Freeman agrees. "If agencies didn't have to make a net pension liability payment each year, that's more money that could go to services," he said.

Not only to services but also to employees. The OUSD board on June 26 planned to contribute an additional \$25,000 a year into the district OPEB trust account, but with labor negotiations underway, the teachers bargaining unit objected. "It's starting to feel to OEA leadership that this is just another way to hold money aside," said Charles Swanson, Orinda Education Association president. The board voted to not increase contributions to the OPEB account.

Because the two cities do not offer defined-benefit pension plans, Lafayette and Orinda carry no unfunded pension obligations. Moraga, which has struggled with

its finances to the point of declaring a fiscal emergency in June, is the only Lamorinda municipality that reports pension expense and a net pension liability. "The town's pension costs are not a contributing factor in the declaration of fiscal emergency," said Amy Cunningham, Moraga administrative services director.

As of 2016, the funded ratios for most of the Lamorinda agencies' pension plans hover under the 80 percent threshold, which is considered unhealthy by financial analysts. Jack Weir, president of the Contra Costa Taxpayers Association, says it's time to take corrective action and he delivered this admonition to public agencies, for starters.

"Be frank and candid about the problem," Weir said.

(Public agencies like BART, the East Bay Municipal Utility District, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and the county itself report net pension and OPEB liabilities, which also affect Lamorinda residents, but this article focuses only on agencies headquartered in Lamorinda.)

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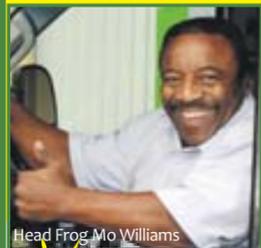
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# Letters to the Editor

## Lafayette PG&E tree cutting

PG&E wants to lower the cost of monitoring and maintaining their existing natural gas pipelines by remove hundreds of priceless trees in our community. I would like you to consider this within the context of what we must do in the coming decades to control global warming.

Climate scientists tell us that we have to dramatically reduce our emissions of greenhouse gasses in the next few decades if we are to have any chance of avoiding a global catastrophe.

We know that we must stop the emissions of methane that occur during the exploration and extraction of fossil fuels. Methane, the primary ingredient in natural gas, also commonly escapes into the atmosphere through distribution networks and when used in our homes for cooking and heating. We also know that we must eliminate most emissions of carbon dioxide that result from burning fossil fuels such as natural gas. In other words, we will have to stop the exploration, extraction, distribution and use of natural gas.

Fortunately we already have the technology and knowhow to replace our home use of natural gas with electric cooking and heating devices powered by renewable energy. It will of course take us some time to come to our senses in recognition of these facts and to gradually make the transition. But there is no mistaking that we must make these changes well before midcentury.

Many of the trees that have been selected for removal have been here for well over 100 years and those that are younger will live hundreds of years into the future if we will just nurture them. These trees support a multitude of species and enrich our lives in countless ways. It seems to me that this destruction to what little we have left of our natural ecosystem in support of an energy source that will be obsolete in a few decades is short sighted and irresponsible.

James Leach  
Lafayette

## A fond farewell from a Lafayette business owner

The Need of Hope  
We had a fire!

A wonderful building died alone in the dark all by itself without anyone there by its side.

A terrible disaster to happen to any building which has supported people for decades had needs to be cared for with love.

One Hundred Lafayette Circle needed tender loving care from its owners, we, who were present within its walls, were grateful, respectful and admiring of its grace and charm, but that wasn't enough, it needed a face lift, as a lot of beautiful buildings receive to keep up appearances.

One Hundred served Lafayette well, being the Heart of the Chamber of Commerce along with eight other businesses.

A wonderful restaurant, La Finestra, graciously welcomed patrons for their evening meal.

Suite one Hundred Two, a hair salon, serving clients for over thirty years, I being one of those were located on the first floor.

The second floor was home for six individual professionals,

A cherished esthetician, an accountancy firm and a therapy group, all deserving of Lafayette's respect.

One hundred Lafayette circle, was for those of us who relished its location, understood its standing within the community, adored its structure, and enjoyed the setting on the corner, with its large grand eucalyptus trees standing guard over its convenient, coveted park-

ing's spaces.

February of this year, two thousand and seventeen, gave us a shudders, the grand eucalyptus tree, which guarded its entrance, collapsed from lack of water to nurture its continued aliveness, into its future, a sad day, which will be remembered in infamy for all of Lafayette's citizens to recall at chamber meeting.

One Hundred's cover had fallen away, exposing it to all those who walked by and marveled at its appearance. It was never viewed the same after that disturbance.

I will remember One Hundred Lafayette Circle, with all its wonderful unique architecture and all the special memories it has created for me and its friends for years to come.

With respectful regards,  
Christopher P. Georgeovich

Lafayette

## A plea for return to old police blotter

I cannot believe when I opened the paper today, turned to my favorite section "the Moraga crime report", and it was boring!!!

I have talked to my friends regarding the man's letter (on June 28) criticizing the report and all said what a shame that anyone could be that narrow minded and not have the joy in his life to appreciate the effort that someone put into making our little town's crime report entertaining to read.

Please, BRING IT BACK.

Charlotte Scherer  
Moraga

## One victim's response to humorous police report

Several years ago when living in Orinda, my house was burglarized. The burglars stole my large jewelry collection. I had many valuable, unique and special pieces. On that terrible day, among many other valuable items, I lost my diamond engagement ring and a necklace my dad had bought me when I was 9 years old. I was devastated having lost so many irreplaceable items.

When I would read the "humorous" Moraga police reports in the paper I would feel insulted. I know from my personal experience, that crime is no laughing matter. My loss and the fear I continue to carry with me should not be act like the comics. Why should being a crime victim be written up in such a way that it makes readers laugh?

Catherine Billings  
Moraga

## Response to MOFD morale issues

This is in response to the July 26th edition article entitled: "Morale plummeting at MOFD due to board actions."

With all sincerity, I greatly admire the tremendous personal risk firefighters bravely take upon themselves to protect lives and property. They are true heroes, and their knowledge regarding what resources they need to carry out their duties is of course very valuable. With that said, I also applaud the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board for having the courage to hold the line on expenditures to preserve long-term financial stability. Implying that the new Board members are unqualified because they have "financial backgrounds" and criticizing them for "...putting financial stability ahead of fire service" just highlights how financially irresponsible past MOFD Board decisions have been. If the Board ignores financial reality and lets

the district go broke, would that be good for fire service?

As to the morale problem, I have worked for companies that have gone through painful cost reductions involving layoffs, salary cuts and division closures. I have also stood side by side with private industry construction union members as they endured painful wage and benefit cuts. As those cutbacks unfolded, I have watched good leadership ensure the morale of their employees and union members did not deteriorate. Part of that involved helping workers understand that the cost reductions were necessary to keep their employer in business. I've also seen innovation and new ideas come forward when workers have been asked to do more with less. Is it asking too much for a Fire Captain to keep his or her workforce dedicated to a job with life and death responsibility, even if they didn't get everything

they want in their contract? Personally, I think the moral fabric of the men and women who have stepped forward to wear those uniforms is strong enough to push through this without their "morale plummeting." If not, maybe a few

of the retirees on the collection end of that \$64 million pension liability could swing by the station house and give a pep talk.

Tony Angelo  
Moraga

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# Community-based babysitting service connects Lamorinda parents with trusted caregivers

By Diane Claytor



Lamorinda Night Out founders Heather Aguiar (left) and Nicole Damhesel  
Photo Diane Claytor

**D**ate night. Reservations at a romantic restaurant have been made. But wait ... who's taking care of the kids? You have a long-planned girls' night out but, just your luck, your husband had to go out of town, or you were told about a last minute business dinner you have to attend and your usual babysitter is on vacation. What are you going to do with the kids?

Nicole Damhesel and Heather Aguiar, two Lafayette residents (as well as local preschool teachers and former nannies), have the answer for you: Lamorinda Night Out.

Damhesel, the assistant director at Lafayette's Building Bridges Preschool, and Aguiar, a Building Bridges teacher, formed LMNO last year. "Working in a preschool,"

Aguiar explained, "we often get approached by families looking for babysitters."

She and Damhesel began talking about using their contacts and experience to "create a network of families and babysitters that we know and trust," Aguiar continued, resulting in the creation of LMNO, an organization connecting "trusted and qualified child care professionals" with families needing their services.

Both Damhesel and Aguiar are well aware of the many other sites helping families find sitters. In fact, they've even used them. But, they noted, those sites typically send you sitters you don't know. "You just have to take what you get," Damhesel said. "We thought it would be nice if there was a local service employing people from the community and convenient for both families and sitters."

"So many of the people asking us about sitters are like family to us," she continued. "We want them to have sitters they can trust, someone who is safe, reliable and responsible."

LMNO is a membership-based service. Families pay a fee – \$30 for one month, \$300 for an annual membership – and are guaranteed a sitter anytime and every time they need one. "Once a family becomes a member," Aguiar said, "they can hire one of our sitters once a month, once a week or every other day." If one of the regular LMNO sitters is unavailable, either Damhesel or Aguiar will take on the task.

Sitters are paid directly by the families and their rates, generally \$15-20 per hour, are set by LMNO, based on experience and qualifications. The entire amount goes to the sitter. "Everyone knows the rate in advance so there's none of those awkward 'how much do I owe you' conversations," Aguiar noted.

Families complete an extensive membership form, providing information on their children's personalities, activities and interests. "That way," Damhesel said, "we can send the most appropriate sitter for the family." She remembered one family that had a very lively, active child. "One of our sitters has three brothers so she was the perfect choice for this 'high energy' kid."

LMNO has very precise, and clearly spelled out, policies for both families and sitters. Families know there is a three-hour minimum for sitters; there may be a fee for last minute requests or cancellations; and an additional fee may be charged if multiple families are using the sitter.

Sitters are expected to spend time with the kids, or as Aguiar said, not spend time on their phones or watching TV. "We hold our sitters to a very high standard," she stated, and the policies basically spell out how they should act on the job. "We'll send sitters out with games," Damhesel added. "Or movies if parents are OK with letting their kids watch one. We want the sitters to be interacting with the kids, not sitting on the couch." Sit-

ters must be CPR-certified before they can care for kids under the age of 10.

Potential sitters are "tested" by taking care of Damhesel's 8-year-old daughter. "She's the final approval," Damhesel said. "If I can trust my child with the person, then I'm comfortable sending him or her out to care for other families' children. My daughter also gives great feedback, letting me know if the sitter actually played with her or just watched."

"We want sitters who are serious about the job so they can give attention and love to the families they're caring for," Damhesel said. LMNO wants their families to have the security of knowing their sitter is committed and "that their children will be well cared for," she noted.

Everything is done online; membership applications and sitter request forms are on lamorinda-nightout.com; potential childcare providers can find application information on the website, too.

The one-year-old company remains small. "We're servicing a community, not trying to be a massive business," Aguiar explained. Damhesel continued, noting that they want LMNO to be "home grown. We've put a lot of heart and passion into this organization. We don't want to be a large babysitting chain but a small, community-based service."

# New AUHSD schedule hopes to broaden scope of student learning

By John T. Miller

**S**tudents at the Acalanes Union High School District will be greeted by a new bell schedule and a modified block schedule when they return to school on Monday, Aug 21.

The schedule is a result of work by a stakeholder task force that researched various schedules from other districts and made recommendations to the governing board.

The AUHSD governing board supported the change after many meetings over an eight-month period. According to the district's website, teachers will have the opportunity for "professional development to support the instructional/curricular shift with the schedule and the longer instructional blocks, as well as to design the Academy period systems to op-

imize the potential of this change."

With a few small revisions, the schedule is basically the same as what the schools experimented with last spring for a two-week period.

AUHSD Associate Superintendent Amy McNamara said, "One of the driving forces behind block schedule is to go deeper in the curriculum with more analysis and critical thinking, while at the same time slowing down the schedule and addressing student stress."

She added that, with the common core shift to more in-depth discussion, the block schedule allows the students and teachers to cover "more depth and less breadth."

The new Academy periods give teachers and students opportunities to talk and work together and allows flex time in the week for intervention and enrichment.

"We are very aware of teachers needing time to redesign," said McNamara, pointing out that there will be three days of in-service before school starts and opportunities for teachers to adjust to a "time of transition and change."

The new schedule features a full seven-period day of 50-minutes each beginning at 8:35 a.m. on Mondays. Tuesdays and Thursdays will begin at 8 a.m., with students attending first, second, third, and seventh periods of one-and-a-half

hours each. On Wednesdays and Fridays the day begins for students at 8:35 a.m. with fourth, fifth, and sixth periods – on these days the teachers will have time for staff meetings and collaboration from 7:30-8:30 a.m., and there will also be an Academy period of 55 minutes between fourth and fifth period.

While the schedule may be confusing at first, more and more schools across the nation are going to some sort of modified block schedule to better meet the needs of today's students.

The district recommends that questions regarding the block schedule be directed toward the student's principal's office.



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9:20-9:25-Passing	9:30-9:40-Passing	8:30-8:35-Passing	9:30-9:40-Passing	8:30-8:35-Passing
2nd Period 9:25-10:10	2nd Period 9:40-11:10	4th Period 8:35-10:05	2nd Period 9:40-11:10	4th Period 8:35-10:05
10:10-10:15-Passing	11:10-11:15-Brunch	10:05-10:15-Passing Academy 10:15-11:10	11:10-11:15-Brunch	10:05-10:15-Passing Academy 10:15-11:10
3rd Period 10:15-11:00	11:15-11:25-Passing	11:10-11:15-Brunch	11:15-11:25-Passing	11:10-11:15-Brunch
11:00-11:10-Brunch	3rd Period 11:25-12:55	11:15-11:25-Passing	3rd Period 11:25-12:55	11:15-11:25-Passing
11:10-11:15-Passing	12:00-12:05-Passing	5th Period 11:25-12:55	5th Period 11:25-12:55	5th Period 11:25-12:55
4th Period 11:15-12:00	12:50-1:25-Lunch	12:55-1:25-Lunch	12:55-1:25-Lunch	12:55-1:25-Lunch
12:00-12:05-Passing	1:25-1:30-Passing	1:25-1:35-Passing	1:25-1:35-Passing	1:25-1:35-Passing
5th Period 12:05-12:50	6th Period 1:30-2:15	6th Period 1:35-3:05	6th Period 1:35-3:05	6th Period 1:35-3:05
12:50-1:25-Lunch	2:15-2:20-Passing	7th Period 2:20-3:05	7th Period 2:20-3:05	7th Period 2:20-3:05
1:25-1:30-Passing	7th Period 2:20-3:05			

# Principal changes for Moraga

By Sora O'Doherty



Brian Sullivan with family

Photo provided

Joaquin Moraga Assistant Principal Brian Sullivan has been hired to replace retiring Elaine Frank as principal of Donald Rheem Elementary School for the 2017-18 school year. The Moraga School Board also hired Stephanie Richards as principal of Los Perales Elementary School. Both new principals started their positions in July.

Elaine Frank served at Rheem for 20 years, 30 years total in the Moraga School District. Superintendent Bruce K. Burns commented on Frank's time in Moraga: "Frank's leadership established a very special Rheem School community. For more than 20 years, Principal Frank has dedicated herself to ensuring Rheem students not only received a high quality academic education, but also one where there was concentrated focus on each and every student's

social and emotional well-being. How Principal Frank dedicated herself to Rheem School has been her trademark, one that created an exceptional learning environment."

In honor of her service, the multipurpose room at the school has been renamed the Elaine Frank Roadrunner Hall. It will be graced with Frank's gift to the school: a seven-by-seven foot quilt she sewed from her collection of 20 years of Rheem spirit wear. The campus has also been beautified by a mosaic commissioned by the PTA from tile artist Mark Panelli, who is the uncle of two Rheem students. The mosaic is installed on the outside wall of the office, with a plaque dedicating it to Frank, with one of her oft-repeated phrases: "I love this school!" The mosaic features a butterfly theme to echo the kindergarten Butterfly Parade. Kim Habas, president of the PTA,

said they love that theme because it symbolizes kindergartners going from chrysalis to flying out into the world. And, she added, that is like Frank, who is launching herself into a new life.

Frank is enthusiastic about the arrival of new Principal Sullivan. "I am often proud of the positive spirit of Rheem students, but I had a unique opportunity to be especially impressed by their caring and enthusiasm," Frank said. "Rheem's next principal, Mr. Brian Sullivan, stopped by to tour the campus with me and also to meet the students during their lunch time. The kids were wide-eyed and curious as they saw me escort the tall, tie-clad man onto the Multi-Use Room stage. Then, I told them that this person was someone very special ... 'the next principal of Rheem school ... Mr. Sullivan!' With that announcement, the room immediately erupted into rousing cheers and hearty applause. In that one spontaneous moment, without skipping a beat, the students welcomed Mr. Sullivan with a big-hearted, 'Rheem Team' outpouring of trust and enthusiasm.

"During lunch recess, I received a call on the walkie-talkie from a yard supervisor, 'Who is that man out on the field?' So, I explained. The response: 'OK, just wanted to make sure! The kids are just swarming him!' I had to smile."

Sullivan served as vice principal at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School for one year. Before that he was at Saint Agnes School in Concord for 10 years as both teacher and vice principal. Born in San Francisco, Sullivan grew up in Concord with his brother and sister. He now lives in Moraga with his wife, Kelly, and their three children who attend Camino Pablo Elementary School.

Sullivan loves the real team spirit at Rheem, shared not just by the staff, not just by the students, but by everyone. Sullivan is a team guy, having played college basketball Eastern Washington University and coached high school basketball



Elaine Frank

Photo Sora O'Doherty

for 23 years.

After Eastern Washington, Sullivan attended Saint Mary's College for his administrative certificate and master's degree before teaching at Northgate High School for seven years and De La Salle High School for 17 years. Highlights of his career include being part of three state champion teams. Sullivan loves connecting with kids and seeing them years later, whether it be one, two, or 20 years.

Richards had a long career in Oakland schools before coming to Moraga, and she couldn't be happier with the warm welcome she has received thus far. Even on her second interview, Richards was impressed when the Superintendent of Schools phoned her to warn her of the Canyon Bridge problem.

Richards graduated from Antioch College in Ohio and began teaching in Oakland in 1998, first substitute teaching, then teaching at Acorn Woodland Elementary School. She was chosen for the Bay Area New Leaders to receive

a full scholarship under which she received her administrative credentials in two years. She then worked as co-principal at Education for Change Public Schools in the Fruitvale area of Oakland and was Assistant Principal of Achieve Academy.

Richards, who lives in Oakland, is excited to share what she has learned in Oakland, but also thinks that the new job will be an amazing learning opportunity. She looks forward to getting to know the students, the families and the community. Impressed with teaching she has observed at Los Perales, Richards says the new job feels right. She added that she doesn't want to go beyond being a principal because for her the connection to the classroom is very important. She has met with the PTA, and she is continually impressed.

"I feel very blessed that I get to wake up every day with a smile, Richards concluded, "so blessed to be able to do the work I am so passionate about."

## Lamorinda bids a fond farewell to local retiring teachers and staff

The following is a list of additional retirees from the Acalanes Union High School District, the Moraga School District, and the Orinda Union School District. The Lafayette School District would not release the entire list of names of retirees without their consent, but we included one retiree's submission.

### AUHSD Retirees

#### Acalanes High School

**Robert Barter** came to Acalanes High School in 2003 where he has taught Social Science for the last 14 years and has been active with the BTSAs program, an advisor to the Model UN Team and participated in teacher committees to review and recommend new textbooks. Students benefited from outside guest speakers from areas such as economics, law and public policy.

**Bear Begelman** came to Acalanes in 2005 after teaching woodshop at Foothill Middle School in Walnut Creek. Mr. Begelman joined the Acalanes Union High School District with 25 years' experience in woodworking and teaching. He has worked with the department to setup, equip, design and modernize the fabrication lab.

**Bruce Downing** served the students at Acalanes High School for the last 18 years. Mr. Downing has been very active in extracurricular activities by coaching volleyball, and an advisor for Academic Decathlon, a teacher advisor for the Acalanes Science Bowl for 15 years. In addition, notably, the Acalanes Science Bowl competed in the National Science Bowl Championship in Washington, D.C.

**Susan Lane** was assigned to Acalanes High School in 1999 to teach digital design. Susan also taught at the Acalanes Adult Education Center. Susan furthered her knowledge of technology by earning a Designated Subjects Vocation Credential in Technical Illustration, Computer Applications & Office Occupations by attend-

ing Diablo Valley College, Contra Costa County of Education, Mac World Expo, UC Berkeley, and various online courses.

**LeeAnn Martini** started with the district in 2007 as the Testing Technician at Campolindo High School. In 2010, LeeAnn was promoted to school administrative assistant at Acalanes High School, working with three principals during her tenure.

#### Campolindo High School

**Vicki Erlan** has been a fixture in the Campolindo High School community for the past 31 years and supported students as the study hall instructional assistant since September 1986.

**Anne Hebert** taught English and social science. Ms. Hebert's dedication to Campolindo went beyond the classroom as she actively participated in Sunshine and Staff Development. She attended workshops and conferences for professional development and participated on the leadership team and advisory board for the California History-Social Science Project.

**Patricia Purvis-Thielman** began her career with the district in February 2002 as a transition assistant in the Workability program. She quickly found a place to apply her technical knowledge within the technology department. In October 2002, Patty was promoted to district technician. She then became the district's web development and technology support specialist, better known as the "HELP desk."

#### Las Lomas High School

**Ellen Smith** was hired in September 1994 as the school improvement secretary at Las Lomas High School and in October 1995, she was promoted to career center coordinator, now known as college and career center advisor.

**Mallorie Wilkerson** joined the Las Lomas High School teaching staff in 2000

with 26 years' experience teaching Spanish in the Bay Area, and incorporated personal experiences from her studies abroad and props to capture her students' interest and enhance lessons.

#### Miramonte High School

**Vince Dell'Aquila** came to the Acalanes Union High School District in 1997 to teach physical education at Miramonte High School and has been very involved as a P.E. teacher, department chair, athletic director and head baseball coach.

**Barbara Denny** joined the Miramonte High School faculty in 2001 where she taught for the last 16 years, and attended workshops and took advantage of extra training in the biotech area for the benefit of her students. She modified the biotechnology labs to fit into the 50-minute periods, and was instrumental in the development of the AP Environmental Science course.

**Aileen Gell** taught drafting at Skyline High School for 12 years before joining Miramonte High School staff to complete her 35-year career in education. She served as department chair for Vocational Education, a WISE Mentor, and attended a multitude of workshops and conferences to improve technology in the classroom.

**Deborah Hovey-LaCour** joined the Acalanes Union High School District in 2001 and hired as a permanent teacher in 2002. For the past six years, Ms. Hovey-LaCour taught all levels of art and digital photography at Miramonte.

**Patricia Richards** finished her 14 years with the Acalanes Union High School District teaching French at Miramonte High School. She has been engaged in professional growth and development by attending workshops with focus on the French language and culture, and by traveling to French-speaking countries.

**Maria Valente** was promoted to Caf-

eteria Manager in 1999 and has served Miramonte students, staff, and AUHSD for a total of 32 years.

### OUSD retirees

**Rebecca Bertacchi**, District Office Account Clerk

**Bronwen Horton**, OIS Core Teacher

**Kathy Marshall**, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

**Hillery Paterson**, District Art Teacher

**Sally Thompson**, OIS Core Teacher

### MSD retirees

**Joan Caraska** (Rheem) Third Grade Teacher

**Don Read** (Joaquin Moraga) French Teacher (Teacher of the Year - 2015)

**Jeanie Wieden** (Los Perales) First Grade Teacher (Teacher of the Year - 2004)

**Mary Bruzzone** (Camino Pablo) Classroom Aide

**Lorie Forshay** (Los Perales) Assistant Secretary

**Nancy Magdoff** (Rheem) Classroom Aide

**Lynn Middlebrook** (Rheem) Instructional Assistant, Intensive

**Cheryl Moore** (Los Perales) Instructional Assistant, Learning Center

**Linda Wu** (Rheem) Assistant Secretary

### LafSD retirees

(listed is the one submission Lamorinda Weekly received)

Susan Comber concluded 25 years of teaching music at Lafayette Elementary School last June, completing a 42-year Music Teaching career. She began teaching Graduate Music Theory classes at Holy Names University and, she says, "have been working my way down ever since." - information compiled by John T. Miller



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## Moraga Road fatality

Lafayette Circulation Committee Chair Kristina Sturm said that following the second round of public outreach in May, which involved a month-long online survey and a community workshop with over 600 participants, city staff and the consultancy firm Arup are now analyzing the results. The draft Downtown Congestion Reduction Plan will be presented to the city council in the fall for final review and adoption. A number of improvements are proposed on Moraga Road.

Regarding areas in which education is offered, Mitchell pointed to the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee that hosts safety fairs at schools and looks for street and crosswalk improvements, and the multiple meetings each year of

the school board and city council subcommittee which address issues around each of the Lafayette schools as well as the Circulation Commission which provides a forum for direct public input on problems and provides public review of city proposals.

A large component in public safety is enforcement and Mitchell said that Police Chief Eric Christensen deploys additional police cars where requested, performs accident analysis including accident history and works with the engineering department and the city council when appropriate.

Additionally Christensen always supplements enforcement activities at all of the schools when summer ends, said Mitchell, but added, "The council has not, as of

... continued from page A2

yet, been asked by the chief for changes or more monitoring on Moraga Road, above and beyond the extensive measurements performed in the Downtown Congestion Study.

"The city and the school district continue to work on circulation issues at Lafayette Elementary. As the school district modifies Lafayette Elementary, the city continues to work cooperatively, share data and ideas with the district on our common goals of safety and efficiency. The joint subcommittee continues to address safety and circulation issues at all of the schools."

Ultimately, most agree safety is a shared responsibility and drivers, pedestrians and cyclists all need to stay alert and focused.

## Pleasant Hill Road traffic trials

The resident also said that Waze would only change if the law changed by making the turn on Withers Avenue illegal.

The residents who spoke agreed with the findings that have shown improvement in congestion since the city changed the traffic signal timing to favor Reliez Valley Road, allowing traffic to get onto Pleasant Hill Road more easily.

Council Member Mark Mitch-

ell said that he would like to keep the question of an extended right hand turn lane to Deerhill Road on the table and would like to find out more about the cost. He expressed interest in turn restriction signs and said he would like that brought up in a public forum meeting.

All members agreed money would be better spent on speeding enforcement rather than speed feedback signs.

Mayor Mike Anderson added

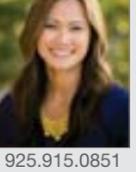
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that he hoped a future public meeting with neighbors would have a broad scope to discuss all angles and ideas.

A motion was passed unanimously by all five members directing staff to coordinate a meeting to get public feedback, to begin police speed enforcement, to get a cost estimate on extending the southbound right hand turn lane and to look further into turn restriction signs.

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# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Snoopy hosts hi-octane hockey seniors

By B. B. Kaye



Charles MacNulty of Moraga (far right) happily waits on the bench with his team, the Wanderers. Photo B.B. Kaye

Moraga local Charles MacNulty said, "I'm the youngest on my team, at 70. Someone here is around 84," as he prepared in the locker room with his hockey team, the Wanderers, for their match with the Portland Old Buds July 20. While they chatted and checked their gear, the Spokane Oldtimers versus New York Apple Core could be heard battling it out on the ice.

These tough players from all over the world converged at the Redwood Empire Ice Arena in Santa Rosa for the 42nd annual Snoopy's Senior World Hockey Tournament. Peanuts creator Charles M. Schulz, who featured ice hockey as a recurring theme in his comics, opened the arena in 1969. He introduced the senior

tournament in 1975, and it became a major event, hosting competition between over 60 visiting teams in one week every summer.

Teams are divided by age group, from 40 to 75, but there are many players in their 80s and at least one in his 90s. Older players can play in younger categories, but younger players may not play in older groups.

"This is my 18th year playing the Snoopy Tournament," said 82-year-old Wanderer teammate Rick Lohnes. "This (the Wanderers) is a makeup team for this year. Regular members couldn't make it, so Blake Johnson, the tournament director, connected us all."

Martin Thompson, 79, traveled from Vancouver, BC, Canada. "I've been playing for 77 years,

and cycles with Team In Training, an organization that raises funds through marathons for research to battle leukemia and lymphoma, and he does volunteer hospice care. "It's a good way to give back. It's one of the most rewarding things I've ever done, because people are so reflective of their lives. They've shared so many stories with me."

Inside the arena, air was cold and crisp. The frosty scrape and slice of blades on ice, and hockey sticks impelling a rock-hard puck across the cold white surface, filled the cavernous space with equally white noise. Players dipped and turned, sparring, bursting across the ice in attack and defense, effort punctuated with grunts and terse barks of command and encouragement, sweat glistening under the lights.

Seventy teams competed in 105 games in this year's jam-packed 10-day tournament. The tight schedule had games start as early as 5:30 a.m., with last games of the day beginning as late as 11:30 p.m.

As Spokane and New York exited the rink, the Wanderers and Old Buds lined their benches, eager and alert, ready for their hour under the lights. After a warm up, the referee signaled to start, and the teams faced off.

The play that commenced fulfilled no expectation of ginger caution or eggshell frailty. These were warriors, fierce, fleet, boys again with red faces and shining eyes, exulting in sheer physical bliss. They charged and spun, banking deeply at speed, vaulting the puck airborne with aggressive

strokes, attacking, intercepting and blocking without regard for possible injury. A few face-planted, sliding prone across the ice, and rose again to throw themselves into the melee undeterred. When called, replacements on the bench launched themselves fervidly over the low rink side wall, not to waste one precious instant of this once-a-year treat by filing through the available door.

The match ended with a score of 13-2, Portland Old Buds badly besting the Wanderers. Happy nonetheless and glowing with exuberance, players headed back to their locker rooms to change for the next best part of this event: a barbecue in the parking lot with old and new friends.

As players and family socialized in the sun outside, 92 year-old Mark Sertich, member of Charles "Sparky" Schulz's original team the Santa Rosa Diamond Iceers, hauled his equipment case behind him, heading toward the arena entrance. He was there to play with team Continental 75's and his son, Mark Sertich Jr.

Stately and erect, sporting a perfectly formed Salvador Dali moustache, he stopped to chat. "I've missed the tournament only two times. Over the years, it's been more important to be here and see the guys and know they're okay – more important than the game itself."

He bid goodbye, and headed into the arena. He had twisted his knee the day before. It was swollen, but he came to play nonetheless.

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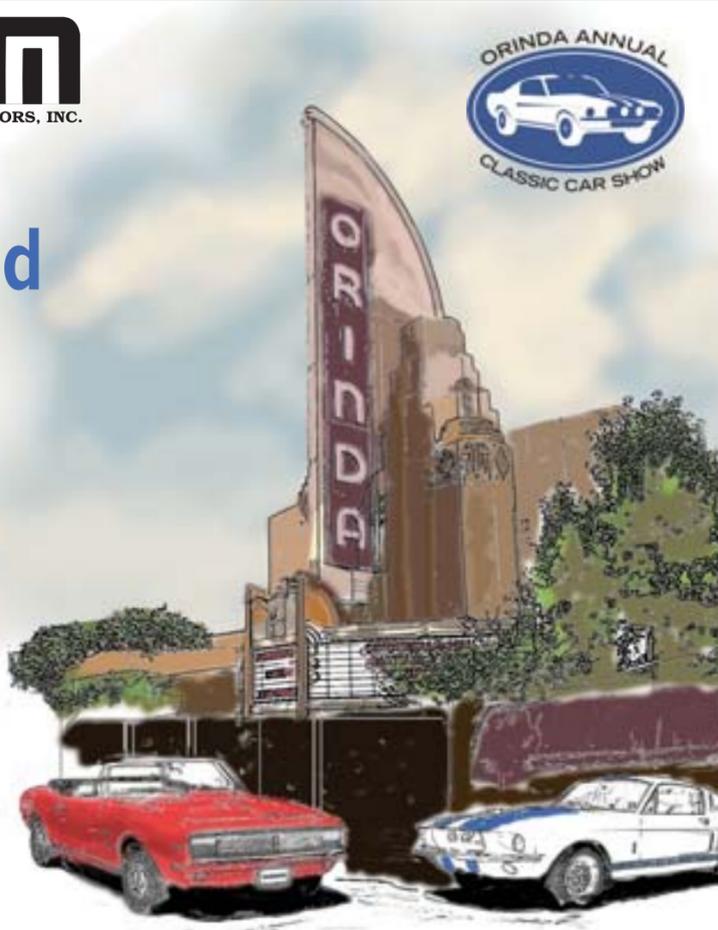
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# New book underscores teens' truth

By Sophie Braccini



Four Intuitive Writing Project authors, (from left) Charlotte Houston, Sofia Ruiz, Maddie Alvarado, and Veronika Pister

Photo provided

**"D**eclare What You Know To Be True" is a manifesto and an ode to the freedom and creativity felt by a group of Lamorinda teen girls. The recently published book is a compilation of original texts from high school students who have participated in one of the Intuitive Writing Project classes. Some of the young authors will read passages Aug. 20 at Orinda Books, where the book can be found.

Elizabeth Perlman started the Intuitive Writing Project – an after-school writing program for teen girls to find their voice – in Orinda four years ago. Perlman, who said she struggled as a teen to find her true calling, developed the different multi-week sessions to support young women's desire for empowerment and authenticity.

In this first edition the young women share their vision of what the world is like to them today. They write poetry, fiction, non-fiction and describe the struggles, the battles, the joys and triumphs of this generation of girls "who were made for these times."

While these young authors all have unique voices, each of them very different, they all exude a comfortable confidence in their writing. Some are feisty – "I've got my own back," "let all of life be guided by your 'unfettered howl'" – others talk about politics, about

love, about philosophy, about finding who they are and reclaiming it proudly, about getting respect, about finding their place in the world.

Perlman says that the texts are very personal and always tell something about the author, even, she explains, when fiction work reveals a piece of us covered in metaphor. In her classes, Perlman uses the Amherst Writers & Artists system that encourages everyone to create art, while all comments highlight only the positive aspects of the work. The result is a compilation of high-caliber texts that are well constructed and creative, each with a purely genuine style.

The girls in the classes have written much more than what is in the book. What is published there is what they were ready to share with others, with their names in print. The different categories in the book are journalism and creative nonfiction, fiction, and poetry.

Perlman explains that most of the fiction writing comes from girls in the "Heroine's Journey" class where girls 13 and up learn to say their truth. Perlman says that when the girls write their stories, they discover things about themselves, learn to value what is inside them, and trust their intuition. There is no grade, no judgment in these writing groups, the expression itself is enough, she says. What is shared

in the class stays in the class. Perlman adds that she would share with parents if a danger to self or others emerged.

In the class called Intuitive Leadership the students develop their ability to articulate what they are most passionate about. Perlman says that many of the texts produced in that class were too personal to be shared in a book.

In "Our World, My Voice" the girls reflect and write after sharing texts that address global issues. The nonfiction part of the book certainly comes from that workshop. But also, as Perlman notes, a lot of the poetry in the book comes from these reflections that underscore deep emotions in the young women.

In the introduction of the book, Melissa Quiter, who directs the middle school program, wrote that the work of the Intuitive Writing Project is to build a movement of intuitive self-trust, supporting all people to speak from the heart and declare what they know to be true. This book is the tangible manifestation of this goal.

The Orinda Books presentation is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 20 from 1 to 3 p.m. Genuine Goodness will provide refreshments. Registration is \$10. For reservations, visit <http://bit.ly/DWYKTBT>

# Battle of the Bands at the Roundup

By John T. Miller



One Night Stand plays at the Roundup Saloon.

Photo John T. Miller

**I**n front of a packed house at the Roundup Saloon in Lafayette, four bands competed in a Battle of the Bands July 21 to see which one would get a paying gig to open the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival next month.

Playing good time party music, One Night Stand beat out the other three cover bands for the opportunity to play on Saturday, Sept. 16, from 10:30 to noon on the main stage.

Opening the evening's entertainment was Rubber Soul, a tasteful Beatles cover band. The Dark Side played next with alternative

'80s-plus music, followed by Definitely Maybe, a rock cover band with a focus on the '90s, and One Night Stand rounded out the evening.

The winning band plays around locally as The Jesters, but for the Roundup event they used a stand-in drummer and bass player. It's unsure which band they'll play as for the Art and Wine Festival. The other three bands all have the opportunity to play Sunday, Sept. 17.

The event was sponsored by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the Music Cooperative and the Roundup.

Jennifer Grossi, the founder of Music Cooperative, put on the event, saying, "It was absolutely awesome. All the musicians were amateurs. Some of them were dads and grandpas who played music over the years and came back together. The competition was challenging and I'm glad I wasn't a judge."

Ryan Lentz, a musician and instructor at the Music Co-op, and Johnny Koeller, a musician who used to book all the entertainment at the Roundup, did the judging. Jay Lifson was pegged to represent the Chamber of Commerce, but with the trauma of the recent fire he was given the night off.

The Music Co-op, with studios on Tice Valley Boulevard and Golden Gate Way, works closely with the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. They give their students gigs while providing music and entertainment for the city's events, such as Earth Day and A Taste of Lafayette.

For more information on the Art and Wine Festival visit the Chamber of Commerce website at [www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org).



From left: Don Richardson - Keyboards, guitar, harmonica and vocals; Nelson Martinez - Guitar and backing vocals; Brian Macintosh - Bass and backing vocals; and Scott Moe - Drums

Photos provided

# Don't fall for this romantic entanglement

## 'Sweetheart scams' on the rise

By Sophie Braccini



"Beverly" in Orinda today  
Photo Sophie Braccini

An Orinda resident, whom we will call Beverly to protect her privacy, recently lost all her money to someone she met online, becoming victim to an ever-increasing and disturbing trend: the sweetheart scam. She not only faces a very difficult financial situation, but the ridicule by some for what they see as extreme naivety. But Beverly is not alone as an internet scam victim. In 2016 the FBI recorded 14,546 cases of confidence fraud/romance in the U.S. for an estimated loss of \$219,807,760.

Today, at almost 70, Beverly is looking for a job and a place to live.

The Orinda resident had been divorced for five years and lived in Orinda with enough financial resources to envision a peaceful retirement, but the prospect of being alone was, and still is, distressful.

A sophisticated and intelligent woman, Beverly is a self-described artist. Her loneliness pushed her to create a profile on Match.com where she met "Jack." FBI experts explain that online predators hack into dormant online accounts and impersonate real people, something that internet service providers have a hard time identifying.

Even today, Beverly has difficulty recognizing the warning signs that should have alerted her. To her, Jack was exactly what she had been dreaming of: a sophisticated man of the world, who loved art and could recite an entire poem when she started quoting one. The FBI agent that the Orinda police referred her to explained that the man was likely a whole group of probably 20 to 30 people, working together, doing internet research and writing the emails and poems she received, even though she only met one person.

The man said he was a German citizen who worked in the fashion fabrics industry and constantly traveled. The job details he gave Beverly, she says, were very realistic and she never doubted that he was who he said he was.

FBI reports on sweetheart scams reveal tactics that "Jack" used, such as planning a weekend

in Paris or Rome and canceling at the last minute. Beverly says that the romance went on and off for months as he canceled appointments, then regained her attention online before finally meeting her in New York. She would not share how many times she met Jack in person, in New-York or in Orinda, but she remembers how sophisticated and classy he looked and behaved.

Once he completely gained her trust he offered to open a joint account with her, explaining that her financial advisor was not getting her enough return for the money he managed and that a joint account would allow him to give her the benefit of his multi-million-dollar operations. She trusted him and transferred all her money to the joint account. But that was not all.

Jack suggested that he and Beverly move in together to a home in Sausalito. He asked her to look for a property "costing no more than \$10 million" and that he would take care of it. He asked that as a token of her commitment, she sell her Orinda residence and invest the money in the house. She did and confidently wired the money to the Ukrainian account he gave her.

The wire set off banking system bells and whistles, and the Orinda police and the FBI contacted Beverly, who reassured them that all was well. She even dismissed friends who tried to warn her.

On the day the two had set, she vacated the sold residence, put all her belongings in storage and took her pets with her to a Sausalito hotel. The next morning, with a beating heart and still no doubts, she arrived at the house that had been chosen. Jack never showed up, no real estate agent could be found, and after a few hours of trying unsuccessfully to reach someone she finally realized the scope of the disaster.

Today she lives at a friend's house, but she will soon have to leave. She is selling her furniture and art through an auction house, and is looking for a job. The FBI agent she worked with told her that there was no way to trace her money. All is gone to countries like Nigeria where it cannot be retrieved. All the agency can do is provide her with a letter for the IRS so she does not have to pay taxes next year.

According to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center, online romance crime is on the rise because it is very easy to pretend to be anybody you want. Favorite targets are women between ages 50 and 70. Scams targeting men are also on the rise. Anyone interested in helping Beverly can send an email to this newspaper.

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Classes begin the week of August 28th, 2017 for all ages

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### FBI tips to avoid romance fraud

If you develop a romantic relationship with someone you meet online, consider the following:

- Research the person's photo and profile using online searches to see if the material has been used elsewhere.
- Go slow and ask lots of questions.
- Beware if the individual seems too perfect or quickly asks you to leave a dating service or Facebook to go "offline."
- Beware if the individual attempts to isolate you from friends and family or requests inappropriate photos or financial information that could later be used to extort you.
- Beware if the individual promises to meet in person but then frequently comes up with an excuse why he or she can't. If you haven't met the person after a few months, for whatever reason, you have good reason to be suspicious.
- Never send money to anyone you don't know personally.

If you suspect an online relationship is a scam, stop all contact immediately. And if you are the victim of a romance scam, file a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center.

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# Three new Eagle Scouts join ranks of Lafayette's Troop 224

Submitted by Suzanne Campillo



From left, Niko Vo, Ivan Dikov and Carson Blocker

Photo Suzanne Campillo

Boy Scout Troop 224 of Lafayette members Carson Blocker, Ivan Dikov, and Niko Vo achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout and celebrated their Eagle Court of Honor on June 24 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church.

Troop 224, which began in May 1953, is a boy-led Boy Scout Troop dedicated to the ideals of the Boy Scouts of America national organization. The troop holds an annual Christmas tree sale next to the Lafayette Community Garden and meets at Happy Valley Elementary.

To achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, the candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges,

demonstrate leadership and scout spirit, and successfully complete an Eagle service project that benefits the community.

For their Eagle Scout projects, Acalanes High School junior Carson Blocker built sturdy redwood picnic tables for students at Acalanes High School; Ivan Dikov, also a junior at Acalanes, installed plantings at Springhill Elementary School, creating a protective green screen between the school playground and nearby roadway; and Niko Vo, a junior at Campolindo High School, built a "hugelkultur" permaculture garden mound for the science programs at Pleasant Hill Middle School.

# Troop 303 honors three new Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Jim Brovelli



William Walker

Taylor Dixon and Paul Griessel

Photos provided

Boy Scout Troop 303 in Orinda honored three new Eagle Scouts at a Court of Honor Award Ceremony at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church. Taylor Dixon, Paul Griessel and William Walker earned the highest advancement rank in scouting by fulfilling requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills, as well as completing at least 21 merit badges and organizing and leading a service project benefiting their community. These three young men joined the less than 4 percent of all scouts who achieve Eagle rank.

For their Eagle projects, Dixon, who was attending Bishop O' Dowd High School in Oakland at the time, worked with the Oakland Zoo to construct wooden platforms for utility cabinets that the camels, lion and tiger keepers use to store supplies. Acalanes High School graduate Griessel installed a bike repair station along Moraga Way part of the 17-mile Lafayette - Orinda - Moraga Loop. The bike repair station features a DERO

Fixit, Air Tire Pump and Swerve Racks. The Fixit includes all the necessary tools to perform basic repairs and maintenance. There is also a QR code on the Fixit so that smartphone users can look up common repair "how tos." The repair station is the same one used at Google Headquarters and can be located using an app. Rising Campolindo senior Walker worked on various construction projects at St. Stephen's Church in Orinda, including building a fence, repairing directional signs, and replacing classroom signs. He and those who assisted him logged over 250 hours to complete the project.

For over 53 years Orinda Boy Scout Troop 303, chartered by the Rotary Club of Orinda, has been providing boys with a variety of hiking, camping, community service and leadership opportunities. To learn more about the troop, visit www.bsatroop303orinda.com or contact scoutmaster Jim Brovelli (925) 997-8437.

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

# Orthodontics office donates to all-access playground



From left, Keith Reneau of the Moraga Rotary Club, Axelrode Orthodontics patients and Dr. Eric Axelrode.

Photo provided

Axelrode Orthodontics patients donated their orthobucks, which were matched by the orthodontics office, raising \$256 for the Rotary Club of Moraga and the all-access playground at the Moraga Commons.

# Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

[www.Lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.Lamorindaweekly.com)

Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:



- Morale plummeting at MOFD due to board actions
- Total devastation in Lafayette Circle fire
- Saint Mary's new Athletic Director is committed to Gaels' winning legacy
- Conflict of interest in commissions is causing trust issues in Lafayette
- Moraga is stuck with its dire finances
- Lamorindans react to the EBMUD water rate hike
- Housing ordinances dominate Orinda City Council meeting
- Roundabouts take shape on St. Mary's Road
- First Student puts the brakes on some Orinda school bus routes
- Lafayette artist rises from ashes to create new works inspired by local landscapes

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) and click the link below the story.

# Saklan students discuss world food challenges at EF Global Leadership Summit

Submitted by Victoria Obenchain



Sofia Koepke, Mikayla Perrin, Claire Wilcox-Black, Finn Anders, Cal Baker and Alex Campigli

Photo provided

Earlier this month, Saklan School science teacher Vickie Obenchain and Kim Parks, the middle school dean, traveled with a group of 13 students and parents through Europe to a variety of destinations that connected culture with cuisine, while learning about "future of food" trends related to production, security, sustainability and climate change. They then met up with 1,500 high school students and teachers from around the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Asia to participate in a two-day EF Global Leadership Summit - a leadership conference that this year focused on student collaboration to create innovative solutions that address global food challenges.

"During the global leadership food summit in Milan, Italy I learned that by being open to working with people from all over the world can help you get different perspectives when trying to fix worldwide issues such as hunger and food waste," explained Saklan alumna and current Bentley School sophomore Priya Brinton.

"The Summit immersed our students into each destination's cultural cuisine and gave them the opportunity to collaborate alongside other students to study and respond to a learning challenge focused on the future of food," Obenchain said. "From the impacts of climate change to the benefits of composting, the Summit encouraged students to create innovative solutions for global food challenges."

## Exercise caution when encountering local wildlife

By Mona Miller, DVM

During the last week of July, a positive rabies test result came back on a bat discovered in a Clayton park. This bat was found sick and brought in for treatment, but died several days later, serving as a reminder to us all that rabies is present everywhere in the continental United States, and to exercise caution when encountering wildlife, whether dead or alive.

Rabies is a deadly virus that infects the central nervous system, and can affect all mammals. Bats, skunk, raccoons, coyotes and foxes are the most common carriers in the United States, and transmit the virus most often through saliva and bite wounds. The virus then travels through the nervous system to the brain. In humans, once symptoms start, the disease is almost always fatal. Luckily, humans who have been exposed to rabies can be successfully treated before signs start, with a series of post-exposure injections. Unfortunately, this is a disease that is not treated in animals – it is always fatal. Diagnosis in animals is made after death, with brain tissue analysis.

The California Department of Public Health 2015 report shows that all 58 counties in California have been rabies areas since 1987. In 2015, 230 animals had confirmed rabies, which is an increase from the previous 10 years, which averaged 205 cases per year. In California, the most common animals carrying rabies are bats (198), followed by skunks (29), cats (2) and coyote (1). Contra Costa County had seven rabies-positive animals – all bats – and there were 13 bats in Alameda County in 2015.

With regular vaccination, rabies is a preventable disease in our pet dogs and cats. The most widely used vaccines are extremely effective and very safe; it is very unlikely that a vaccinated animal bit by a rabid bat will develop the disease. This is a legal mandatory requirement in dogs in the United States. California law now allows for dogs and cats to be vaccinated at 12 weeks old. In my opinion, all cats, even those kept exclusively indoors, should be vaccinated as well. By vaccinating our pets, we provide a protective “firewall” for humans, as well as for the pet. One client of mine described how her friend’s senior cat caught a bat inside the

house. At a recent social gathering, a friend relayed a story about his son touching a dead bat while camping, and had to receive prophylactic rabies exposure vaccinations.

When encountering wildlife, I recommend avoiding handling wild animals. Be especially careful around mammals that seem to behave unusually, such as bats active during daylight, animals approaching without fear, or exhibiting twitching, salivating or seizures. These animals should all be reported to local animal control.

In general, wild animals that are injured or scared will often fight back when they feel cornered, and will resort to biting. Bites often result in bacterial infection, notwithstanding the possibility of rabies as discussed above, and further injury to both the wild animal and the rescuer.

I suggest that you keep your pets current on rabies vaccinations and seek veterinary care if your dog or cat has wounds that could be from a bite. Contra Costa Animal Services recommends that you do not handle wild animals – dead or alive. If you find a dead animal, contact Animal Services directly, or the sheriff’s office if Animal Services is closed.

Further information about rabies can be found at the websites for Contra Costa Health Services and Center for Disease Control and Prevention:

<http://cchealth.org/rabies/>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>



Dr. Mona Miller lives in Lafayette with her son, two cats and yellow Labrador. She attended UC Berkeley as an undergraduate, and received her DVM from UC Davis. She has been happy to call Lafayette home since 2001. She can be reached via email at [MonaSDVM@aol.com](mailto:MonaSDVM@aol.com). She welcomes questions from readers that may get incorporated into a column.

## Lafayette couple celebrates 60 years of marriage



Pictured from left: Dan Lightfoot (son-in-law), Leslie Pedder Lightfoot (daughter), Stan Pedder, Diane Pedder, Brooks Pedder (son), Eliza Pedder (granddaughter), Natalia Pedder (granddaughter), Roseanne Pedder (daughter-in-law), Grant Pedder (grandson), Brooks Lightfoot (grandson), Lexi Lightfoot (granddaughter), Nick DesGeorges (Lexi’s fiancé).

Stan and Diane Pedder celebrated 60 miraculous years of marriage on Saturday, July 22 with their children and grandchildren at Postino Restaurant in Lafayette. The Pedder family originally settled in Lafayette in the 1930s and has stayed loyal to its Lafayette

roots for five generations. Stan has been practicing law here since 1960 and is still active while Diane trained champion quarter horses at the family ranch up until very recently.

## Large crowds could eclipse the eclipse itself

By Cathy Dausman

Planning a trip to view the Aug. 21 eclipse from up north? If you like crowds, this will be your lucky day. The 2017 solar eclipse reaches its first U.S. landfall mid-morning near Newport, Oregon, before traversing southeast across 13 other states and The Washington Post estimates seven million visitors will crowd the path of totality where 12 million people normally live.

Not only is the event astronomical, but the crowds may well be too. Lamorinda Weekly will recap several Lamorinda resident eclipse experiences in our Sept. 6 issue, but for now Lamorinda travelers should know that Oregon, a state with four million residents, will likely host conservatively one million visitors.

Most will arrive between Aug. 17 and 20 and depart by Aug. 22. Authorities statewide, from local police and fire officials to Oregon State Police and Oregon Department of Transportation management anticipate possible fuel shortages, increased fire danger, communication overload and are planning how to address those concerns.

Fire Chief Larry Goff of suburban Portland’s Lake Oswego says authorities expect between 50,000 and 100,000 visitors at the Oregon coast and tens of thousands more in Central Oregon. He’s been told the drive

between Madras, Oregon, (population approximately 6,700, and inside the path of totality) and Bend, Oregon, (population approximately 91,000 and just outside totality), normally a 45-minute trip might take seven or eight hours Aug. 21, and he worries how a small town and all-volunteer fire department can look after 100,000 guests.

Arriving by air? Portland International Airport Aviation Media Relations Manager Kama Simonds says incoming flights will be 90 to 100 percent full, “especially those originating from the West Coast.” Nearly 400,000 passengers are expected to pass through PDX between Aug. 17 and 22, she says, and the biggest challenge may be rental car return. “It is projected more than 17,000 rental cars will be returned Monday evening and Tuesday – a busy week’s worth of business in a few days,” Simonds says. “We’re reminding folks who have flights to allow plenty of time to get to the airport,” she cautions. Goff says he and other authorities are struggling to filter solid information from rumor, especially when the event is still 12 days out. “It’s a fabulous planning event (for emergency personnel and management) Goff says, but emphasizes, “there’s going to be impact!”

## Piedmont East Bay Children’s Choir Competes in 2017 Eisteddfod

Submitted by Wendy Waggener



PEBCC Lamorinda residents, from left: Audrey Cleveland, Natalie Ung, Kyle McDonald, Sydney Gong, Phoebe Schmidt and Mia Lim. Photo courtesy Wendy Waggener

Piedmont East Bay Children’s Choir (PEBCC) competed in two categories at the 2017 International Musical Eisteddfod, held July 3-9 in Llangollen, Wales, United Kingdom, winning second place in both the Children’s Folk Song Choir competition and the Senior Children’s Choir competition. The festival, a 70-year-old cultural event that draws participants from around the world,

took place in a massive pavilion, broadcast by the BBC and Llangollen TV. PEBCC competed against and admired other choirs from all parts of the world, with everyone coming together at the end in a parade of nations through the town of Llangollen. The event capped out a two-week trip to England and Wales for PEBCC, with stops in London, Cambridge and Sutton Coldfield.

## In Memory

### David Pierce



Forever optimistic were words David Pierce applied to every facet of his life. In matters of health, he had battled cancer twice before and triumphed, but despite his indomitable spirit, that third occurrence refused to retreat. Appreciating the extra years he was granted, David lived life to the fullest, while showing kindness and caring for all he met along his journey. For his daughters, Kimberly and Brooke, and his wife, Ellen, life with David was forever broadening--be it adventures with him or new challenges his vocation & endeavors brought.

Following a career in corporate life with GE, 3M and Crown Zellerbach, David began his second career in 1987 in real estate. His clients treasured him for his financial background, real estate expertise and laser-focused caring for their specific needs. David felt privileged to serve. He was past President of Rotary Club of Orinda; past President and Director of Orinda Chamber of Commerce; real estate consultant to Standard & Poors, past Director of Contra Costa Association of Realtors, and past Director of Friends of Big Band Jazz. David’s love of music and support from Orinda Rotary made it possible to bring Big Band music to the Orinda Community Park in the summer.

This year’s event on August 15, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., is dedicated to David. As David embarked on the final days of his life’s journey, he passed away peacefully at home in Knoxville, TN, cared for and comforted by Ellen, Kimberly, Brooke, son-in-law Tim and granddaughter, Lillian.

Remembrances can be made to: St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Memorial & Honor Gifts, P. O. Box 100, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38148 or at <https://www.stjude.org/give.html>.

## In Memory

### Jill Dewey Duckworth

March 5, 1929 – May 30, 2017



Jill Dewey Duckworth, age 88, passed away peacefully at her home in Winchester, Ore., on May 30, 2017. Jill was a native of Toronto, Canada and a longtime resident of Orinda where she was in real estate sales for many years. She is survived by her daughters, Suki Dewey White and Kimberly Michell, son Peter A. Dewey, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Her son Richard R. Dewey predeceased her. Jill had a strong connection to the San Francisco Bay. Her final wish was to be scattered in these waters.

## Lamorinda's Religious Services

**Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422  
www.holyshepherd.org



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE  
9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
Coffee Fellowship 10:30 a.m.  
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

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955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 thelumc.org  
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## ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

### ART

**The Moraga Art Gallery announces its new show** entitled "East-West Portal," signifying a mix of contrasting cultures embodied in the collages of resident artist Pamela Murray and jewelry by guest artist Jyotsna Chawla. The show runs from Aug. 16 through Oct. 21. The public is invited to a free opening reception to meet the artists, enjoy wine, light snacks and live music from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 19. For more information, visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com), call (925) 376-5407 or email [moragaartgallery@gmail.com](mailto:moragaartgallery@gmail.com).

**Valley Art Gallery's featured new artist is Ruth Hussey.** For more than 40 years Hussey has concentrated on perfecting her skills, specializing in portraiture, figure and still life paintings. This exhibition will feature her works done in egg tempera, a medium used by many famous masters in the late medieval and early Renaissance periods. There will be a free reception at the Gallery from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 12. For information, visit [valleyartgallery.org](http://valleyartgallery.org).

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**Shoulder Injuries & Prevention: Is it My Rotator Cuff?** This free lecture will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29 at Lafayette Physical Therapy, 3468 Mount Diablo Boulevard Suite B110 in Lafayette. Learn about the anatomy and applicable biomechanics of the shoulder and how dysfunctions may contribute to pain and functional limitations in one's activities. Rotator cuff injuries, common "wear and tear" and sports injuries will be discussed as well as how to prevent and rehabilitate. For information, visit [lafayettept.com](http://lafayettept.com).

### MUSIC

**Free concerts from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. light up Thursday evenings** at the Moraga Commons Park. Bring your picnic blanket or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the band shell. Enjoy the music while your children enjoy the park. The volunteers of MPF will cook dinner with the Snack Bar opening at 6 p.m. Aug. 10: Apple Z - Rock and roll; Aug. 17: Fundamentals - Red hot rockin soul.

**Don't miss the final Summer Concert in the Park** featuring Big Band Jazz with the food truck Kenny's Heart & Soul (Soul Food) from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15 at the Orinda Community Center Park and Tennis Courts. For info, visit [cityoforinda.org](http://cityoforinda.org).

**Big Band Concert: 4-6 p.m. Sunday Sept. 10,** Lafayette Christian Church Courtyard Patio. 584 Glenside Drive. 16 piece band plus vocalist with some members having played with Judy Collins, or Harry James Orchestra. Suggested Donation of \$25 will include all refreshments and snacks provided. No reservation. [www.lafayettechristianchurch.org](http://www.lafayettechristianchurch.org) or 925 283-8304. To hear sample music visit [www.lafayettebigband.com](http://www.lafayettebigband.com).

### THEATER

**Orinda Starlight Players present Malcolm Cowler's** adaptation of L. Frank Baum's "The Wizard of Oz" in the Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way. Regular admission: \$16; senior \$8. Tickets are available at the Box Office, call (925) 528-9225 or email [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org) for reservations. Last week: 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10 and 8:30 p.m. Friday, and Saturday, Aug 11 and 12. This is an outdoor theatre so dress appropriately and bring blankets.

**Cal Shakes presents the West Coast Premiere of "Black Odyssey"** written by Marcus Gardley and directed by Eric Ting Aug. 9 to Sept. 3 at the Bruns Amphitheater located off the Wilder Road exit of Highway 24. There is a free, 20-minute informational Grove Talk starting 45 minutes before each and every performance with plenty of picnic benches. Tickets and exact show times available at [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

**Catch "LEGO Batman" at the final Summer Movies** in the Park at 8:15 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17 at the Orinda Community Center Park and Tennis Courts. For info, visit [cityoforinda.org](http://cityoforinda.org).

### FESTIVALS

**The California Independent Film Festival opens** Thursday, Sept. 7 at the Rheem and Orinda Theatres. Visit [www.CAIFF.org](http://www.CAIFF.org) for full schedule and tickets. (See story page B7)

**Don't miss the 13th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show** Weekend: "Dancing with the Cars." Pre-party, 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8 and Classic Car Show, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9. Enter your car and buy party tickets today at [www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com). These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda and other local charities.

**The Lafayette Art & Wine Festival 2017** will be held from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16 and from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17 in downtown Lafayette. An award-winning art, wine and music festival with four live stages, 20+ cover bands, 260+ artists and a Kid-Zone. There will be food, wine and beer. Free admission. Near BART. For more info see [www.lafayettefestival.com](http://www.lafayettefestival.com) or call (925) 284-7404 or email [festival@lafayettechamber.org](mailto:festival@lafayettechamber.org).

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**NorCal Kids Triathlon 8 a.m. to noon Saturday,** Aug. 26 at Miramonte High School, Orinda. Each participant swims, bikes and runs the triathlon course, as adjusted for age appropriateness. Age Divisions include: 6 and under, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, and 13-14. All divisions include girls and boys categories. Sign up early so you don't miss out on the fun. Individual registration fee: \$40. For info, visit [www.norcalkidstri.org](http://www.norcalkidstri.org)

**The Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) is excited to announce** that the 12th annual Lamorinda Idol singing competition will take place from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27 at

the Orinda Theatre. This community-based event is free to the public, and Idol finalists, kindergarten to 12th grade, will compete throughout the day for the chance to become the next Lamorinda Idols.

### OTHER

**Food trucks and family fun from 5 to 9 p.m.** Friday, Aug. 11 at Moraga Commons Park.

**Botanical Drawing Workshop with botanical artist** and instructor Catherine Waters, who will introduce attendees to botanical art and guide them through hands-on exercises to experience the practice of botanical drawing at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 9 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Materials provided. Space is limited. Register online at [ccclub.org](http://ccclub.org), call (925) 254-2184 or visit in person at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way.

**Diablo Ballet's Annual Gourmet Gallop** food and wine walk returns to downtown Walnut Creek for the seventh consecutive year from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10. The event invites guests to sip, sample and stroll their way through 16 downtown Walnut Creek locations as they experience a one-of-a-kind culinary adventure. Cost: \$45 per person. Tickets are available online at [www.diabloballet.org](http://www.diabloballet.org) or by calling (925) 943-1775. Group rates are available.

**August is an awesome time to adopt a kitten** or cat from Community Concern for Cats. Find your purrfect pet at this weekend's adoption event from 1 to 4 p.m., Aug. 12 and 13, at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see [www.communityconcernforcats.org](http://www.communityconcernforcats.org).

**Lunch Meditation for Busy People at noon** every Tuesday in downtown Orinda, Atma Yoga Studio, 99 Brookwood Rd. Suite 201. Wear comfortable clothes to sit on cushions. Free.

**Contra Costa Tale Spinners invite you to a story swap** with Linda Yemoto to hear folktales and personal stories that help us understand the natural world at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Share, listen, expand your universe.

**House feeling cluttered? Want to have a garage sale** but don't want to organize it? Come sell your treasures at the Heavenly Treasures Community Flea Market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26. Cost: \$25 plus a donation of 10 percent of proceeds to the church. The event will be held at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way. Contact [heavenlytreasurescfm@gmail.com](mailto:heavenlytreasurescfm@gmail.com) for more info and to sign up.

### POLITICAL GATHERINGS

**Join the Lamorinda Democratic Club for a fun evening** of Frozen Drinks and Political Trivia at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10 at the Lafayette Library and Community Center. Please visit [www.ldclub.org](http://www.ldclub.org) or contact Tracy Brog at [t.brog@comcast.net](mailto:t.brog@comcast.net) for additional information.

Please...



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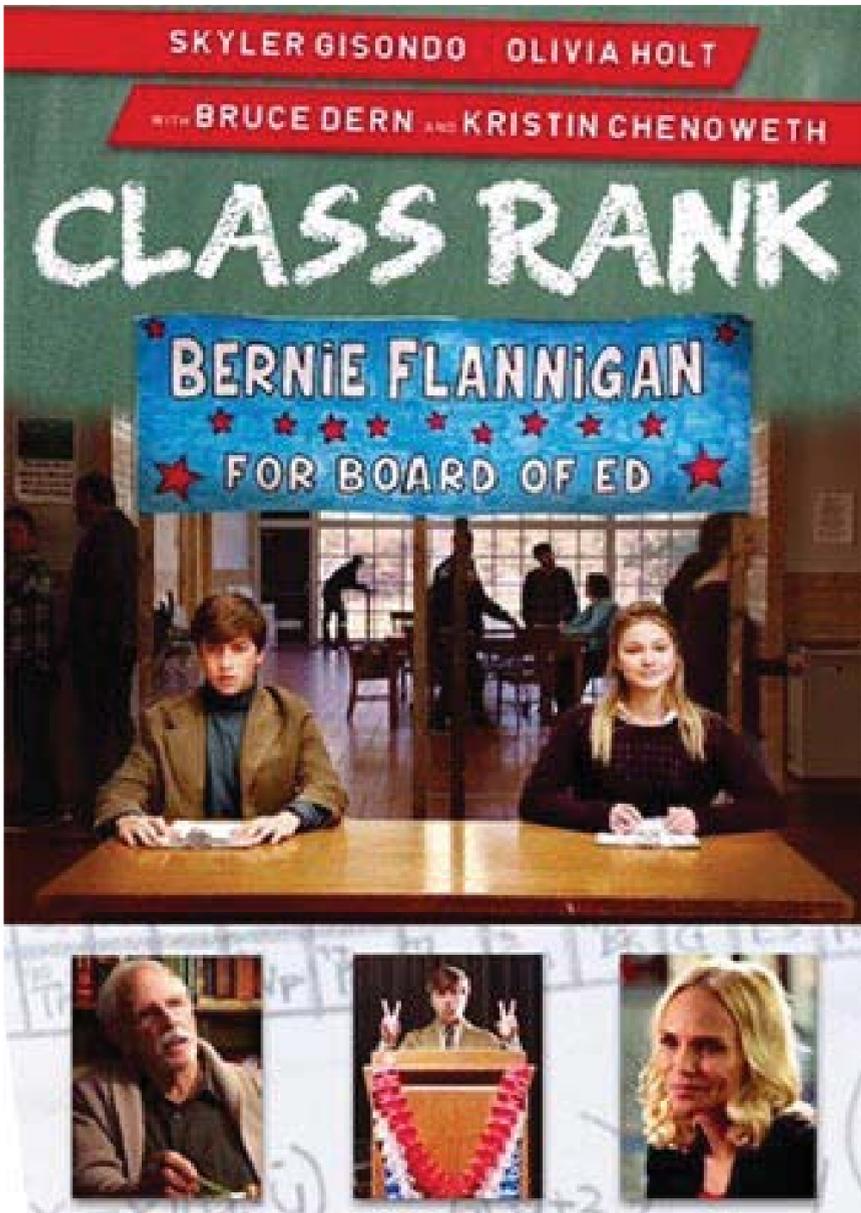
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Film Clips

# A multitude of movies scheduled for this year's CAIFF

By Derek Zemrak

MOVIE REVIEW



The 20th Annual California Independent Film Festival is right around the corner, Sept. 7-16, and CAIFF is very excited about the amazing lineup of films. Our slogan, "Something for Everyone from Around the World," holds true with over 75 films from the U.S., Canada, China, Australia, Taiwan, Japan, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom. There will be something for everyone to enjoy.

"Opening Night, Thursday Sept. 7 at the Rheem Theatre will set the tone for the 20th festival," states CAIFF festival Director Lindsay Pirkle. The evening reception will begin at 6 p.m. with food provided by Cine Cuvée and Sushi Fighters.

Also included on the program will be the announcements for the 2017 Slate Awards and a tribute to Martin Landau, a longtime supporter of the California Independent Film Festival and the first CAIFF Lifetime Achievement Award honoree, who passed away on July 15.

The opening night short film, "Yours Sincerely, Lois Weber," is a delightful film from CAIFF alumna, Svetlana Cvetko. The film examines the achievements of the highest paid

silent film director at Universal in 1916, a woman named Lois Weber. It is told through the fictionalized character of a young magazine photographer who hopes to impress her. This is the Northern California premiere for "Yours Sincerely, Lois Weber."

The opening night feature, "Class Rank," directed by Eric Stoltz, is also a Northern California premiere showing and the perfect film for the CAIFF celebration of 20 film festivals. Bernie is back – Bernard "Bernie" Flannigan (Skyler Gisondo), that is, in this delicious and supremely satisfying indie comedy/civics lesson/pair of teenagers and grandparents falling in love – in age appropriate ways. The film, starring Bruce Dern, Kristin Chenoweth, Olivia Holt, and Skyler Gisondo, has been compared to the work of Wes Anderson and John Hughes.

Festival tickets are now on sale to CAIFF members and will go on sale to the public on Aug. 15. View this year's lineup of films online at [www.caiff.org](http://www.caiff.org). It is never too early to start planning your festival schedule.

See you at the festival!

Image provided

Please submit:

- Events: [calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)
- Stories: [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)
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- Opinion: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)

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## Service Clubs Announcements

**August 11**  
The What, Why and How of Solar Eclipse and other Celestial phenomena will be explained by Gerald McKeegan, Adjunct Astronomer of Chabot Space and Science Center.

We meet Friday mornings at 7:00 am at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette.  
For more info, please email us at [lamorindasunrise@gmail.com](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com)

**August 18**  
Our very own District 5160 Governor, Gary Vilhauer, will inspire and motivate us to move forward in service to humanity.

*Community, Service, Fun and Friendships*

## Lafayette Rotary Club

**Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting.**  
Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

<b>August 10:</b> District 5160 Governor, Gary Vilhauer will join us for lunch	<b>August 17:</b> Ash Habibullah (CSI - Computers and Structures Inc.) Global pioneer leader in software tools for structural and earthquake engineering analysis and design
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[www.rotarylafayette.org](http://www.rotarylafayette.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366](https://www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366)

## Free concerts to rock Lamorinda this summer

**Moraga**  
Thursday evenings at the Commons are for relaxing with friends and enjoying the bands. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the band shell. The volunteers of MPF will cook dinner for you with the snack bar opening at 6 p.m.  
Aug. 10 Apple Z - Rock and roll  
Aug. 17 Fundamentals - Red-hot rockin' soul  
The County Food Bank will have collection bins near parking lots each Thursday. Concerts start at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m.

**Orinda**  
It's time to sit back and unwind at the free summer concerts at the park series on Tuesday nights.  
Aug. 15, Big Band Jazz  
Food Truck: Kenny's Heart & Soul (Soul Food)  
The concerts run 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Also coming up in Orinda this summer:  
The Orinda Village Starlight Players have three plays at the Orinda Community Park this summer:  
Malcolm Cowler's adaptation of L. Frank Baum's "The Wizard of Oz" runs July 21 through Aug. 12  
Robert Merrill's "Five-Door Farce," Sept. 1 through Sept. 30

# The perfect pick: Huckleberry pie

By Susie Iventosch



A bumper crop of huckleberries

This is the very first year I've ever gone huckleberry picking and even though I was dragging my feet when my husband suggested we go, I had a wonderful time once I was out there. It

is so much fun, especially when you find a good plant with lots of huckleberries on it. It's even better, when the plant is tall enough so that you don't have to crouch down on hands and knees to pick

Photos Susie Iventosch

the berries.

I've read that huckleberry plants grow anywhere from two feet up to about 10 feet or more if they're situated in the shade, but in the patch we worked, the plants were about four feet tall, and were in full afternoon sun. They tend to grow up a hillside, so we worked our way up the hill so as not to trample bushes we had yet to pick. When picking wild berries, always make sure you're with someone who knows what they're doing and who can identify edible versus poisonous berries. This is a great idea for any sort of wild foraging you might endeavor.

Huckleberry picking requires patience, because some of the bushes have merely one or two berries, while others have 20 or more. The berries are often hidden underneath the leaves, which requires lifting the branches and turning them over to see what you find. Some people use a string and bucket to pick the berries, which allows lots of leaves to fall into the mix. We simply picked each berry by hand, and even

though it's a bit slower process, it made for easier cleaning once we got home. We used a plastic milk jug with the top cut off to collect the berries, but I suggest having a second container with a tight-fitting lid to transfer them after each cup or two are collected. When a horsefly came buzzing by, I was startled and spilled two cups of this precious booty on the ground. Lesson learned.

After spending almost two hours picking, we measured the crop and we had roughly four cups of berries, which is not nearly enough to make a whole pie. So, the next day, I went back out

and wound up with about 10 cups of berries! This was plenty for a pie with some leftover for snitching. After I washed the berries, and set them in a single layer on a baking sheet to air dry, the whole kitchen smelled of those divine berries.

Huckleberries are much smaller and tarter than blueberries, but you can make a pie using almost the exact same recipe for both. You might add slightly more sugar to the huckleberry pie, or you might not, because part of the glory of huckleberries is the mingling of sweet and tart bursting with flavor.

We picked our huckleberries in Idaho the last week of July, but the season for California huckleberries is a bit later, more into August or September. The variety of huckleberries found in California are *Vaccinium ovatum*, while the Idaho berries are generally *Vaccinium membranaceum* or *deliciosum*. I'm not a botany expert, so you might find more varieties in both states than those I know.

For more information about California huckleberries please visit: <https://baynature.org/article/in-search-of-an-elusive-yummy-california-native/> <https://honest-food.net/berries-of-the-coastal-range/wildhuckleberry.com/2014/08/28/huckleberry-picking-canada-california>

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## Huckleberry Pie

(Recipe for one 9- or 10-inch pie)

### INGREDIENTS

#### Crust

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 and 1/2 sticks (12 tbsp.) unsalted butter, chilled and cut into small cubes  
2 tsp. cider vinegar  
1/4 to 1/2 cup ice water

#### Filling

8-10 cups huckleberries (can mix with other berries, too)  
1/2 cup flour  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
1/2 cup white sugar  
1 tsp. cardamom  
1 beaten egg white for on top of lattice crust  
4 tbsp. raw sugar or granulated sugar for sprinkling over the lattice crust

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 420 F.

For crust, place flour and salt in a large bowl. Using a pastry cutter, or your fingertips, cut butter into flour until butter is integrated and just tiny pea-sized pieces remain. Stir cider vinegar into mixture with a fork. Slowly stir in water, a little bit at a time, (no ice) into the flour mixture until you are able to gather the mixture into a ball. Now, divide the dough in half, but one half slightly larger, using the larger one for the bottom crust and the smaller one for the lattice top.

With a rolling pin, roll dough out on a well-floured board or pastry cloth into a circle that is about 1 1/2 to 2 inches wider than the top outside edge of the pie dish. Lay pastry into the dish, fitting it into the bottom and sides of the dish, leaving about a 1 1/2 to 2-inch overhang. Set aside.

Roll out the second ball of dough to a circle roughly the same diameter as the top edge of the pie dish. Cut into 1- to 2-inch strips. Leave on board until ready to assemble pie.

For the filling, place washed berries, flour, salt, brown sugar, white sugar and cardamom in a large bowl. Gently toss so that sugars and flour begin to blend in with the berries. You will still see plenty of white, but don't worry, it will all cook down together.

Pour berry mixture into pie dish lined with the bottom crust.

Now, using a lattice pattern, lay half of the pie dough strips going in one direction, and the remaining pieces crossing alternately over and under the pieces going in the original direction. (See photo.) Tuck the ends of the strips into the top edge of the pie dish and roll the excess dough from the bottom crust up and over, giving it a fluted edge.

Brush tops of lattice crust with egg white and sprinkle with sugar.

Bake at 420 F for approximately 45 to 50 minutes, or until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbly and hot all the way through. If you find that you need more time for the filling, but the crust looks done, loosely cover the top of the pie with a piece of foil for the remainder of the bake time.

Remove from oven. Pie may be served hot, warm, room temperature or chilled and garnished with ice cream or frozen yogurt. The cooler the pie is when serving, the less runny the filling will be. If you like to serve it warm, you can always cool completely and reheat, too. This will help the filling gel a bit before serving.



Huckleberry pie, ready to enjoy!

## Cooking Term of the Week

### Kamut

Kamut is an ancient grain, cultivated in Egypt roughly 4,000 years ago. I first had it in a small restaurant in Seattle, and it was served as a chilled salad with sun dried tomatoes, feta cheese and some kind of yummy vinaigrette. It is kind of like a barley or even a wheat berry in texture, firm with a nice chewy bite when you eat it. It can be served hot or cold, but I love it as a primary ingredient in a grain salad. It could easily be mixed with other grains, as well. The grain is also known as Khorasan wheat or Pharaoh grain, because Kamut grains were discovered in ancient Egyptian tombs. Kamut has more protein and fiber than wheat, roughly 30 percent more, and can be more tolerable for those who have issues or problems with traditional wheat.

You can find most of the recipes published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website. Click Food tab. [www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html)

Susie can be reached at [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com).

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



# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Tyler Petite – from Campolindo to the University of Southern California

By Jon Kingdon



Tyler Petite Photo provided

According to the National Collegiate Athletic Association, in 2015-16 there were 1,083,308 high school football players. Of this number, 73,660 went on to play at an NCAA school, either Division I, II or III.

This works out to be 6.8 percent of the high school players. Only 28,000 - about 2.5 percent - go on to play Division I football, the highest collegiate level.

Tyler Petite, a 2015 graduate of Campolindo High School, is one of the few to make it in Division I, entering his junior year at the University of Southern California after

playing as a freshman and sophomore.

As a rule, most freshmen are "redshirted" where they do not play as freshmen so as to further mature without losing a year of eligibility. With an unexpected shortage at the USC tight end position, Petite, a freshman, went on to play all 14 games, catching 10 passes, including two touchdowns. As a sophomore, Petite played in all 13 games, starting twice and catching 15 passes with one touchdown.

There were major adjustments for Petite when he first arrived at USC. "It's a real grind. We work out seven days a week. The players were bigger, stronger and faster than most of the players I had gone up against in high school. However with USC's strength program and dining table, I was able to get bigger and stronger as well. Fall camp started in August and when I made it through camp and saw that there was an opportunity for me to play as a freshman and that I was able to compete for a spot on the roster, my confidence grew."

Petite found some similarities as well as differences in comparing Campolindo to USC: "The team

at Campolindo was so tight-knit and close, it was something that you could not replicate. Though there is a much wider diversity at USC, we did find a way to come together as a team. The weight room program at Campolindo and the strength coaches really prepared me for the grind in the workouts in college."

The talent at USC ranks with any school in the nation. The attitudes of some of the players did not match what Petite saw in his Campo teammates: "Some of the players were so talented, they did not feel the necessity to work that hard."

Tyler's parents, Joe and Toni, still live in Lafayette and Joe coaches the freshman team at Campolindo. The athletic talent in the family is not restricted to Tyler as his older sister Lauren is on the soccer team at the University of Pennsylvania.

Petite's father, who played football at Dartmouth College, saw the potential of a great athlete early in Tyler's life: "Tyler had great size and was bigger and more athletic than the players he competed against. It was not until he was a

junior in high school when I saw that he was able to still stand out against players that were of equal size. He was a multi-sport player but ended up focusing entirely on football."

Kevin Macy, Tyler's high school coach, saw Petite's potential early on at his summer camps. "As a freshman, he began as a quarterback but he fit much better as a tight end and defensive end where he dominated. He was so athletic that we could use him in various formations on offense."

With the size of a tight end and the skills of a wide receiver, Petite went on to be selected to numerous All-America teams. Being heavily recruited, his choices came down to Duke and USC.

Joe Petite asked his son, "When you're lying in bed at night, where do you visualize yourself going to school and playing football?"

His answer: "USC."

The number of college players that go on to play professional football drops precipitously. In the Lamorinda area, three players have gone on to play professional football. Drew Bennett was a quarterback at Campolindo and went on to

play sparingly as a wide receiver at UCLA. After an outstanding workout at UCLA's pro timing day, he signed as a free agent with the Tennessee Titans, beating the odds by going on to play nine years in the National Football League.

Ken Dorsey, who played quarterback at Miramonte High School, went on to a very successful college career at the University of Miami, eventually being drafted in the seventh round by the San Francisco 49ers and ended up playing six seasons in the NFL.

You would have to go back to Norm Van Brocklin, who played quarterback at Acalanes High School, to find another Lamorinda athlete who played in the NFL. Van Brocklin was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams in 1949 and went on to have a very successful 12-year career. He also coached the Minnesota Vikings and the Atlanta Falcons, eventually being voted into the NFL Hall of Fame in 1971.

Petite, who anticipates graduating after his junior year, has similar aspirations: "As I continue to develop these next two years, my goal is to play in the NFL."



## Prestigious MCC tourney touts top tennis talent

Runs through Aug. 13

By John T. Miller



Last year's Heritage Bank of Commerce men's singles winner Karue Sell returns a serve. Photo Ron Tong

The 31st annual Heritage Bank of Commerce Open Tennis Championships is now underway at the Moraga Country Club and will run through Sunday, Aug. 13.

Prize money totaling \$25,000 will be awarded to the top finishers in men's singles and doubles, women's singles and doubles, and mixed doubles. It is one of the most prestigious open events on the West Coast.

The tournament, which is free for spectators at what is billed as one of the best facilities for viewing tennis competition, draws a mixed group of players, from high school standouts, top collegiate players and touring pros.

A full complement of 128 men's singles players is led by last year's champion, No. 1 seed Karue Sell, who was born in Brazil and came to the U.S. in 2012, winning more than 100 matches at UCLA. Victor Pham (No. 2 seed) won first team All-Ivy League

honors last season at Columbia, losing to Sell in the quarterfinals last year. Trevor Johnson (No. 3 seed) attends Texas Christian University, receiving All-Big 12 honors last year, and Loran Staggs (No. 4) had a 21-4 record for UCLA last year and lost in the quarterfinals of the Heritage Bank of Commerce Open a year ago to the eventual runner-up.

Women's singles drew 37 competitors, and is highlighted by No. 1 seed Jovana Jaksic, a Serbian who has been a professional since 2009. She has won 16 singles and two doubles titles on the International Tennis Federation pro tour. The No. 2 seed is Allie Will from Boca Raton Florida who boasts 11 doubles titles in her professional career.

The men's doubles features local favorite Tyler Browne, a Northgate grad who played for, and now coaches, at UC Berkeley, and his partner Nick Brunner. The two of them won doubles last year and will be representing the U.S. in the over-30s at a Davis Cup-like event in Great Britain.

Many local players are entered in the event, including Miramonte grad Luke Bohuslav, who just graduated from Loyola Marymont; Acalanes grads Ryan Cardiff, now at UC Berkeley, and Kyle Everly who attends Gonzaga; and Campolindo grad Tilden Oliver, now at Trinity College. Orinda resident Julie Silveira is entered in the women's competition.

Mark Orwig, head tennis pro at MCC who is in charge of the tourney, says, "There's a lot of very good players here, especially some excellent college players who could really do damage to the draw."

A host of notable players have come to the tourney in the past. Many have gone on to the quarterfinals at Wimbledon, and Glen Mitchibata, once ranked No. 1 in the world as a doubles player and who now coaches at USC, competed here.

The tournament is presented by The Heritage Bank of Commerce and Pine Grove Business Center of Orinda.

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## LSC Championship Meet 2017 Results

### Team Rankings - Through Event 82 Combined Team Scores

Place	Team	Points
1	Springbrook Swim Team	5,537
2	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	4,297.50
3	Lmya Dolphins Swim Team	2,847.50
4	Sun Valley Rays Swim Team	2,597.50
5	Pleasant Hill Dolphins	2,107.50
6	Oakwood Athletic Club	695

### Record breakers:

#### Individual swimmers:

- MacKay, Sophi - Female - Age: 12 - SVST-LF Girls 11-12 50 Free 25.89  
Previous: MACK - DOB: 3/13/2005 26.16, LCM Record: 26.02
- Hawkins, Wayne - Male - Age: 18 - RC-LFBoys 15-18 100 Back 54.67  
Previous: HAWK - DOB: 12/7/1998 59.56, LCM Record: 54.98
- Tseng, Audrey G - Female - Age: 6 - OACS-LF Girls 6&U 25 Fly 18.48  
AUDGTSEN - DOB: 8/24/2010 19.20, LCM Record: 19.45
- Dumais, Claudia D - Female - Age: 12 - LMYA-LF Girls 11-12 50 Fly 28.36  
CLADDUMA - DOB: 2/2/2005 28.70, LCM Record: 28.55
- McCarthy, Anna - Female - Age: 14 - SPBRK-LF Girls 13-14 50 Fly 27.09  
ANN\*MCCA - DOB: 7/28/2002 27.34, LCM Record: 27.23

#### Relays:

- Lmya Dolphins Swim Team - 'A' Boys 11-12 200 Medley Relay 2:03.38  
Owen Salmon 12, Nathan Chan 12, Harley Venable 12, Austin Voong 12  
Previous: 2:08.44, LCM Record: 2:04.49
- Rancho Colorados Swim Team - 'A' Boys 15-18 200 Medley Relay 1:39.97  
Alex Low 16, Wayne Hawkins 18, Brad Robison 18, Peter Brassinga 18  
Previous: 1:41.52, LCM Record: 1:42.31
- Rancho Colorados Swim Team - 'A' Boys 7-8 100 Freestyle Relay 1:01.46  
Jasper Brock-Utne 8, James Cusumano 8, Jr., Patrick Gould 8, Josh Lee 8  
Previous: 1:02.41, LCM Record: 1:01.80
- Rancho Colorados Swim Team - 'A' Boys 15-18 200 Freestyle Relay 1:30.03  
Brad Robison 18, Cole Lauritzen 17, Wayne Hawkins 18, Peter Brassinga 18  
Previous: 1:33.52, LCM Record: 1:30.03



Celebrating members of the Springbrook Swim Team

Photos Gint Fedaras



Outstanding Relay: Rancho 15-18 Medley Relay from left: Brad Robison, Wayne Hawkins, Peter Brassinga and Alex Low

Place	Name	Age	Team	Points
-------	------	-----	------	--------

#### Top 5 6 & Under Girls - Individual Scores

1	Tseng, Audrey G	6	Oakwood Athletic Club	72
2	Schlehr, Ella R	6	Springbrook Swim Team	61
3	Staino, Farren B	6	Sun Valley Rays Swim Team	59
4	Meadows, Reece	5	Springbrook Swim Team	58
5	Millar, Brooklynn	6	Pleasant Hill Dolphins	55

#### Top 5 7-8 Girls - Individual Scores

1	McSorley, Madden L	8	Lmya Dolphins Swim Team	68
1	Sandberg, Ava	8	Springbrook Swim Team	68
3	Motes, Anna K	8	Lmya Dolphins Swim Team	66
4	Phan, Maddie M	8	Springbrook Swim Team	62
5	Strause, Annabelle	8	Springbrook Swim Team	57

#### Top 5 9-10 Girls - Individual Scores

1	Suppiger, Sadie E	9	Springbrook Swim Team	72
2	Ames, Addi S	10	Springbrook Swim Team	69
3	Roggensack, Sisi	10	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	59
4	Page, Kayden E	9	Springbrook Swim Team	57
4	Palma, Lily	9	Sun Valley Rays Swim Team	57

#### Top 5 11-12 Girls - Individual Scores

1	Seib, Airi	12	Pleasant Hill Dolphins	69
2	Hilsabeck, Hailey	11	Springbrook Swim Team	64
2	MacKay, Sophi	12	Sun Valley Rays Swim Team	64
4	Dumais, Claudia D	12	Lmya Dolphins Swim Team	63
5	Forschler, Elle	12	Springbrook Swim Team	61

#### Top 5 13-14 Girls - Individual Scores

1	McCarthy, Anna	14	Springbrook Swim Team	72
2	White, Laurel	14	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	68
3	Eubanks, Sophia	14	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	61
3	Katz, Lauren	14	Pleasant Hill Dolphins	61
5	Passalacqua, Audrey	14	Springbrook Swim Team	60

#### Top 10 15-18 Girls - Individual Scores

1	Maxwell, Claire E	16	Sun Valley Rays Swim Team	69
2	Rasmussen, Emily	17	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	66
3	MacKay, Ava	15	Sun Valley Rays Swim Team	65
4	Edwards, Nicole	16	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	57
5	Wong, Megan	15	Lmya Dolphins Swim Team	55

#### Top 10 6 & Under Boys - Individual Scores

1	Raynor, Rodney M	6	Springbrook Swim Team	72
2	Miller, Max H	6	Springbrook Swim Team	62
3	Andre, Owen C	6	Springbrook Swim Team	60
4	Barclay, Gavin W	6	Sun Valley Rays Swim Team	58
5	Curran, Oscar G	6	Lmya Dolphins Swim Team	53

#### Top 10 7-8 Boys - Individual Scores

1	Stratton, Wyatt J	8	Springbrook Swim Team	66.50
2	Brock-Utne, Jasper L	8	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	66
3	Cusumano, Jimmy	8	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	64
4	Lee, Josh	8	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	60.50
5	Palmer, Evan J	8	Springbrook Swim Team	58

#### Top 5 9-10 Boys - Individual Scores

1	Mendelssohn, Jon	10	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	69
2	Popov, Misha K	10	Lmya Dolphins Swim Team	67
3	Smith, Walker	10	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	65
4	Chivers, Garrett	10	Springbrook Swim Team	62
5	McClane, Jaden A	10	Lmya Dolphins Swim Team	56

#### Top 5 11-12 Boys - Individual Scores

1	Sappal, Andrew	12	Sun Valley Rays Swim Team	69
2	Eubanks, Grant	12	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	65
3	Salmon, Owen	12	Lmya Dolphins Swim Team	63.50
4	Leenhouts, Harrison E	12	Sun Valley Rays Swim Team	61
5	Voong, Austin N	12	Lmya Dolphins Swim Team	58.50

#### Top 5 13-14 Boys - Individual Scores

1	Del Rosario, Ethan A	14	Springbrook Swim Team	72
2	Archer, Peter	14	Springbrook Swim Team	64
3	Goodson, Dean L	13	Lmya Dolphins Swim Team	63
4	Graham, Ryan	14	Springbrook Swim Team	60
4	Grosz, Gavin	14	Springbrook Swim Team	60

#### Top 5 15-18 Boys - Individual Scores

1	Robison, Brad	18	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	66
1	Hawkins, Wayne	18	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	66
3	Low, Alex	16	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	61
3	Brassinga, Peter J	18	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	61
5	Lauritzen, Cole O	17	Rancho Colorados Swim Team	59

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## Lafayette Buckeyes are the 2017 Turf and Dirt Champs

Submitted by Anthony Giorgianni



From left, back row: coaches Andy Orear, Anthony Giorgianni, Mark Weaver, Adam Gallegos; middle row: Gus McKinney, Reid Aldrich, JD Orear, Jack Giorgianni, Harrison Labrosse, John Weaver; bottom row: Kiran Foster, Peter Thorn, Grant Eubanks, Pierce Gallegos, Ace Reeder, Lucas Dissman, Dane Foster; not pictured: Liam Krackeler

The Lafayette Buckeyes 11U took home the Championship at the "Turf and Dirt" baseball tournament in Danville. The Buckeyes won six games in five days and came from behind to win the title with a dramatic 6-5 victory over Granada.

## Lafayette Little League's 10-year-old All Star team Champions

Submitted by Luisa Miles



From left, top row: coach Brian Miles, Manager Matt Pecci, Mac Fisher, Austin Wampler, Ben Pecci, Brady Quinn, James Stadt, coach Mike Michlitsch; bottom row: Brendan Miles, Dominic Patitucci, Cody Michlitsch, Niko White, Jake Yoshinaka, Wyatt Cooper, Austin Bilello

Lafayette Little League's 10-year-old All Star team had quite a run of baseball this summer. In June and July the 10's won six straight games to capture the District 4 Championship and then followed that up with four consecutive wins to become Section 1 Champions. This qualified Lafayette for the Northern California State tournament which consisted of the top seven teams in Northern California. The team was recently eliminated from the Northern California State tournament bringing its amazing summer season to an end.

## Lafayette Generals Baseball Team takes second place

Submitted by Kevin M. McCarthy



From left, back row: coach Josh Greenfield, Brody Greenfield, Zack Roder, Cole Mason, Jake Megabow, Will Marusich, Theo Milnes, Michael Hamilton, coach Kevin McCarthy; front row Colby Ebner, Trevor McCarthy, Miles Clayton, Blake Hutchinson, David Gonzalez; not pictured Sammy Foster, Hank Bauer, Coach Jeff Hutchinson

The 9-10 Lafayette Generals capture second place in the Summer Baseball Classic in Albany. The boys played hard throughout the tournament, including an exciting, late-inning come-from-behind win, to make it to the championship game.

The boys played hard throughout the

## 2016-2017 Girls DAL All League, Spring Sports

DAL All-League Girls Lacrosse - 2016-17

Most Valuable Player

Taylor Geary (Miramonte)

(In addition to the published list and pictures, Lamorinda Weekly received this photo)



Taylor Geary

Photo provided

## Lafayette Little League 11-year-old stars win the Buckeye Classic

Submitted by Linda Choi



From left: Sammy Lee, Dune Gesink, Jake Boselli, Everett Glass, Christian Gotterup, Mason Zirkel, Tyson Bates, Nikko Woodson, Henry Souza, Colin Malmquist, Gavin Bender Photo Linda Choi

Lafayette Little League hosts an annual baseball tournament at Buckeye Fields. This year was the 5th annual Buckeye Classic, July 15-20. Clayton, Alameda and Oakland participated in the 9, 10, 11, and 12-year-old divisions. The 11 year old All Star Team, won their age group in the championship game.

Teams from Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette,

## Diablo Valley Track and Field Club brings home gold from national Junior Olympics

Submitted by Erika Pringsheim-Moore



Boys 11-12 4x800m relay team: Tyler Hunt, Tyler Bergren, coach Harlan Lopez, Trevor Rogers and Alex Lodewick

The 2017 National Junior Olympic Track and Field Championships in Lawrence, Kansas was one of the most successful in the Club's 49-year history, producing five National Champions and nine medals in total. Eighteen Diablo Valley athletes attended the event, in which nearly 10,000 athletes competed at Rock Chalk Park July 25-30.

Gold medal winners included Tyler Hunt in the boys 11-12 800 and 1500 meter, Kai Rednour in boys 13-14 long jump, and both the boys 11-12 and men's 17-18 4x800 meter relay teams, pictured here.

Other medal winners included: Alex Lodewick, 3rd place in boys 11-12 3000 meter; Niki Moore, 3rd place in men's 17-18 1500 meter; Dylan Gunn, 4th place in boys 13-14 3000 meter; Tyler Bergren, 4th place in boys 11-12 800 meter

Men's 17-18 4x800m relay team: Parker Wilkerson, Andy Buchanan, Jason Gomez and Niki Moore

Submit stories to [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

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# 2017 OMPA Championship Final Results



Kelly Murphy, Sleepy Hollow Legends

Will Clark, Meadow Swim Team

Photos Gint Federas

Team Rankings			Most Improved Team		
Place	Team	Points	Ellwood Douglas - Doc Webster Memorial Plaque		
1	Orinda Country Club	4739.0	Team Name	2017 Points	2016 Points
2	Meadow Swim Team	3252.5	MVP	2772.5	2331
3	Sleepy Hollow Legends	3179.5	<b>Most Improved Team without Relays</b>		
4	Moraga Valley Pool Swim Team	2772.5	Dan Siri / Mike Anjedani	Honorary Plate	
5	Moraga Country Club	2354.5	Team Name	2017 PPS	2016 PPS
6	Orinda Park Pool	1877.0	SH	9.03	7.63
7	Moraga Ranch Swim Club	1589.5	<b>Team Sportsmanship</b>		
8	Miramonte Swim Club	946.5	Heidary Sportsmanship Trophy		
9	Campolindo Cabana Club Marlins	755.0	Team Name: CCC		

Boys 2017 Individual High Point Awards					
Age	Place	Name	Place/Stroke	Points	Team
6 & under	1st	Jack Deal	1st FR, 1st BR	48	Park
	1st	Grant Stevens	1st BK, 1st FL	48	OCC
	3rd	Stone Cohen	2nd BR, 3rd FL	41	MVP
7-8	3rd	Jake DiBiase	2nd FL, 3rd FR	41	Park
	1st	Ellis Culleton	1st FR, 1st BK, 1st IM	72	MCC
	2nd	Tyler Schmidt	1st BR, 1st FL, 3rd IM	68	MRSC
9-10	3rd	Joseph Goett	2nd IM, 3rd FR, 4th BR	60	MCC
	1st	Grant Kurtz	1st FR, 1st FL, 1st IM	72	MVP
	2nd	Lincoln Sovik	1st BK, 2nd FR, 2nd IM	66	OCC
11-12	3rd	Patrick Stice	2nd BK, 3rd FR, 4th IM	60	MVP
	1st	Matteo Petty	1st BK, 1st IM, 3rd FL	68	MVP
	2nd	Grant Roesch	1st FR, 3rd BK, 4th FL	63	MCC
13-14	3rd	Justin Cole	1st BR, 2nd FR, 7th IM	61	MVP
	1st	Chris Bruen	1st FR, 1st FL, 1st IM	72	MVP
	2nd	Dalen Schnayer	1st BR, 2nd FR, 3rd BK	65	Mead
15-18	3rd	Donovan Davidson	1st BK, 3rd IM, 4th FL	63	SH
	1st	Will Clark	1st BK, 1st FL, 1st IM	72	Mead
	2nd	Christian Schillinger	1st BR, 2nd 100FR, 3rd IM	65	Mead
3rd	Max Younger	1st FR, 2nd FL, 5th BK	63	Mead	
3rd	Christian Meckfessel	1st FR, 2nd IM, 5th BR	63	SH	

Girl 2017 Meet High Point (Outstanding Swimmer)				
Name	Age Group	Team	Place/Stroke	Total Points
Katrina Drake	15-18	OCC	1st 100FR; 1st BK; 1st IM	72
Record in Event 15-18 50 BK, New record = 0:26.37 (Old record = 0:27.08)				
Record in Event 15-18 100 FR, New record = 0:51.67 (Old record = 0:51.73)				

Boy 2017 Meet High Point (Outstanding Swimmer)				
Name	Age Group	Team	Place/Stroke	Total Points
Will Clark	15-18 Boys	MEAD	1st/BK; 1st/FL; 1st/IM	72

2017 Outstanding Relay-Girls			
Team	Age Group	Event	Time
OCC	15-18	MR	1:50.35
Relay Names: Charlotte Wu, Savannah Sherwood, Katrina Drake, Katie Lyons			

2016 Outstanding Relay-Boys			
Team	Age Group	Event	Time
Mead	15-18	MR	1:53.86
Relay Names: Will Clark, Christian Schillinger, Campbell Strand, Max Younger			

2017 Meet Records							
New Record				Old Record			
Swimmer Name	Team	Event	Finals Time	Swimmer Name	Team	Year	Time
Grace Tehaney	Mead	15-18 Girls 50 BR	0:30.86	Molly Pines	Mead	2016	0:31.13
Lily Holloway	MCC	7-8 Girls 25 FL	0:14.46	Sophia Kosturos	OCC	2009	0:14.89
Katrina Drake	OCC	15-18 Girls 50 BK	00:26.4	Katie Bilotti	SH	2009	0:27.08
Katrina Drake	OCC	15-18 Girls 100 FR	0:51.67	Katrina Drake	OCC	2016	0:51.73
Emmie Appl	SH	13-14 Girls 50 BR	0:30.31	Betsy Gherini	PARK	1990	0:31.05
Grace Clark	MEAD	11-12 Girls 50 BK	0:28.50	Natalie Ung	PARK	2015	0:29.24
Grace Clark	MEAD	11-12 Girls 50 BK (200 Medley)	0:28.82	Natalie Ung	PARK	2015	0:29.24
Grant Stevens	OCC	6&U Boys 25 FL	0:17.35	Brody Crouch	MRSC	2010	0:17.64
Charlotte Wu	OCC	15-18 Girls 200	1:50.35	Katrina Drake	OCC	2016	1:51.48
Savannah Sherwood		Medley Relay		H. Eberle			
Katrina Drake				Charlotte Wu			
Katie Lyons				Katie Lyons			

Girls 2017 Individual High Point Awards					
Age	Place	Name	Place/Stroke	Points	Team
6 & under	1st	Ellie Letulle	1st FR, 1st BK	48	Mead
	1st	Mackinsey Lee	1st BR, 1st FL	48	MVP
	3rd	Hayden Holloway	2nd BR, 2nd FL	42	MCC
7-8	1st	Lily Holloway	1st BK, 1st FL, 1st IM	72	MCC
	2nd	Samantha Lurie	1st BR, 2nd FR, 4th IM	64	Mead
	3rd	Maeve McCashin	2nd BR, 2nd IM, 3rd FR	62	OCC
9-10	3rd	Amelia Knutson	1st FR, 2nd FL, 6th IM	62	MCC
	1st	Elisabeth Butler	1st FL, 1st IM, 3rd FR	68	OCC
	1st	Emma Knutson	1st FR, 1st BK, 3rd IM	68	MCC
11-12	3rd	Tali Stryker	1st BR, 2nd IM, 2nd FL	65.5	OCC
	1st	Meghan McAninch	1st BR, 1st FL, 1st IM	70.5	OCC
	2nd	Dania Innis	1st FR, 1st IM, 2nd BK	67.5	OCC
13-14	3rd	Grace Clark	1st BK, 2nd FL, 5th IM	63	Mead
	1st	Emmie Appl	1st BR, 1st FL, 1st IM	72	SH
	2nd	Mackenzie Murphy	1st FR, 1st BK, 2nd FL	69	OCC
15-18	3rd	Beth Daughters	2nd FR, 2nd IM, 3rd FL	62	Mead
	1st	Katrina Drake	1st 100FR, 1st BK, 1st IM	72	OCC
	2nd	Grace Tehaney	1st BR, 2nd IM, 3rd FL	65	Mead
2nd	Charlotte Wu	1st FL, 2nd BK, 3rd IM	65	OCC	





# LMYA Welcomed 2-Time Olympian and 5-Time Olympic Gold Medalist *Missy Franklin!*

What a great way to kick off spirit week leading into the Lafayette Swim Conference Championship Meet (LSC)! LMYA hosted an in-the-water clinic with Olympic Gold medalist Missy Franklin and her former Cal Berkeley Associate Head Coach, Kristen Cunnane. Swimmers from all over the county were invited to attend this event and over 140 excited participants benefited from their stroke instruction, positive attitudes, and contagious smiles!!



## LMYA Dolphins - Power of the Pod



After an exciting fun-filled spirit week that included a trip to Waterworld, an on deck pancake breakfast, coaches appreciation day, Missy Franklin clinic, pasta feed in the park, car decorating, and coaches tuck-ins for the younger swimmers the LMYA Dolphins were ready for the Lafayette Swim Conference Championship Meet! We are proud to announce that LMYA finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Pop Time Achievements, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Overall Points per Swimmer, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Overall Points Per Team. LMYA also had some notable achievements accomplished by several Dolphins: Claudia Dumais broke a 2013 record in the girls 11/12 50 FLY with a 28.36 and our 11/12 boys Medley Relay Team comprised of Owen Salmon (back), Austin Voong (breast), Harley Venable (fly), and Nathan Chan (free) broke a 2009 record with a finishing time of 2:03.38. Madden McSorley tied as High Point Winner for the 7/8 girls. All LMYA Dolphins had a fantastic meet with several swimmers popping times, swimming personal bests, and qualifying for County in several strokes. Many thanks to our coaches Corey Dolley, Kira McDonough, Weston Carpenter, and Monica McNamara for all the hours dedicated to these swimmers all season long! The Lafayette Swim Conference Championship Meet could not have been possible without the dedication of the LSC Board and parent volunteers from all teams. Special thanks to LMYA parents John Griscavage and Brennan Geraghty for leading the charge as Meet Directors for the past 2 years.



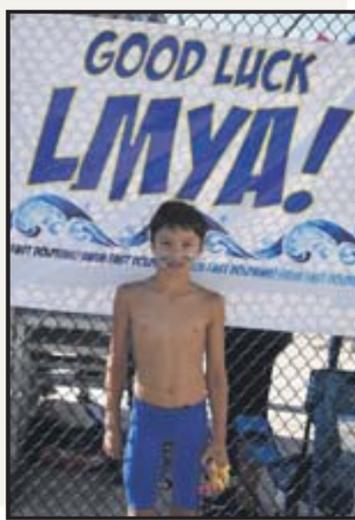
**Claudia Dumais**  
Broke the 2013 Record in 11-12  
50 Fly with a 28.36 Time



**LMYA 11-12 Boys Medley Relay**  
Broke a 2009 record with a Time of 2:03:38  
Owen Salmon (back) Austin Voong (breast)  
Harley Venable (fly) & Nathan Chan (free)



**Madden McSorley**  
Tied as High Point Winner  
for 7-8 Girls



The LMYA Dolphins season is not over yet. Over the course of the next two weeks LMYA families will be busy planning to host one of the largest (and fastest) recreational meets in the country for the 57<sup>th</sup> year, the Contra Costa County Championship Meet (aka "County").

**Swim fast Dolphins! There is POWER IN OUR POD!!!**



# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 12 Wednesday, August 9, 2017



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

*...read on page D12*

## The recurring allure of mid-century modern architecture

By Paula King



*Architect Joseph Esherick designed this mid-century Lafayette home built in 1951.*

*Photo courtesy of Ashley Battersby*

With sweeping hillside views and window walls that showcase outdoor living spaces and lush grounds, Lamorinda's mid-century modern homes fit the indoor and outdoor California lifestyle and are more popular than ever.

"I have been lucky to list many of them in recent years," said Lafayette Realtor Ashley Battersby. "The classic design features of that mid-century movement fit well with how we live today."

On any given weekend in Lamorinda, prospective homebuyers, mostly in their 20s and 30s, are rushing to open houses to admire the current mid-century modern finds on the market. This younger generation strongly appreciates the architecture's unique features such as panoramic views, large outdoor wraparound decks, vaulted ceilings, oversized windows, exposed beamed ceilings, built-in shelving, wood siding, open floor plans, spacious dining rooms and light-filled ambiance.

The push for these homes in the market began about three or four years ago, noted Regina Englehart of Better Homes and Gardens in Orinda and Walnut Creek.

"Most of the clients I see like the look and feel of those properties," Englehart said. "They are interested in the lines of mid-century homes and the high ceilings and windows." She added that the newer architecture is now emulating this style.

Orinda real estate agent Laura Abrams said that these young homebuyers often shop for furniture at IKEA and they love the Eames leather lounge chairs of that time period. From 1945 to the 1980s, the mid-century home movement focused on simplicity in architecture paired with a connection to nature.

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*... continued on page D4*

# THE *Beaubelle* GROUP



## MORAGA - CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION

Tranquil setting that is just minutes from shopping, walking distance to top-rated schools, trails and the coveted Sunday Farmers' Market. This approx. 3,222-sf home sits on more than a quarter acre level lot with pool. The home features 4-bdrms and 3-baths with a main level guest suite/office, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, new carpeting, recessed lighting, plantation shutters and Andersen dual pane windows.  
Offered at \$1,495,000



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	21	\$850,000	\$3,525,000
MORAGA	17	\$350,000	\$2,650,000
ORINDA	17	\$500,000	\$2,475,000

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

### LAFAYETTE

- 23 Almaden Court, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 1688 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-26-17;  
Previous Sale: \$535,000, 01-11-01
- 8 Amanda Lane, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1953 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 6-28-17;  
Previous Sale: \$940,000, 10-26-10
- 3232 Brookwood Drive, \$1,610,000, 4 Bdrms, 3219 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 6-16-17;  
Previous Sale: \$690,000, 05-09-00
- 3231 Camino Colorados, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1527 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-16-17;  
Previous Sale: \$785,000, 10-19-12
- 1 Cattle Chute Road, \$1,055,000, 2 Bdrms, 2651 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 6-29-17;  
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 06-24-03
- 33 Deer Trail Road, \$2,450,000, 3867 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 6-29-17
- 9 Gable Lane, \$1,530,000, 3 Bdrms, 1872 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 6-29-17
- 1154 Glen Road, \$3,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 4460 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-28-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,315,000, 11-01-07
- 3322 Glenside Drive, \$2,685,000, 5 Bdrms, 3601 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 6-20-17;  
Previous Sale: \$825,000, 02-01-13
- 3484 Hamlin Road, \$2,065,000, 4 Bdrms, 3788 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 6-27-17;  
Previous Sale: \$186,000, 12-30-85
- 892 Las Trampas Road, \$2,000,000, 2 Bdrms, 1458 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 6-27-17;  
Previous Sale: \$910,000, 01-23-15
- 3940 Los Arabis Drive, \$1,475,000, 3 Bdrms, 3094 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 6-16-17
- 1205 Monticello Road, \$1,525,000, 5 Bdrms, 2370 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-27-17
- 84 Silverwood Drive, \$1,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 4184 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 6-16-17;  
Previous Sale: \$820,000, 05-03-04
- 835 Solana Drive, \$1,475,000, 3 Bdrms, 1469 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-30-17
- 1161 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 3813 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 6-20-17;  
Previous Sale: \$614,000, 10-03-97
- 1145 Vallecito Court, \$2,175,000, 5 Bdrms, 3400 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 6-28-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,560,000, 06-14-12
- 3313 Vaughn Road, \$1,455,000, 3 Bdrms, 2808 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 6-30-17;  
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 05-31-94
- 3590 Walnut Street, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 1584 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 6-16-17;  
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 10-04-06
- 1003 Woodbury Road #101, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 1110 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 6-30-17
- 1003 Woodbury Road #102, \$860,000, 2 Bdrms, 1110 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 6-29-17

### MORAGA

- 1153 Alta Mesa Drive, \$1,137,500, 3 Bdrms, 1954 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-26-17;  
Previous Sale: \$370,000, 03-31-92
- 124 Ascot Court #C, \$490,000, 2 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 6-16-17;  
Previous Sale: \$354,000, 06-03-04
- 2087 Ascot Drive #224, \$350,000, 1 Bdrms, 790 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 6-23-17;  
Previous Sale: \$112,500, 08-14-98
- 1974 Ascot Drive, \$395,000, 2 Bdrms, 1234 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-28-17
- 678 Carroll Drive, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1352 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 6-20-17
- 244 Claudia Court, \$2,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 3349 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 6-30-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,836,000, 07-11-07
- 3 Julianna Court, \$2,320,000, 4 Bdrms, 3983 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 6-27-17;  
Previous Sale: \$2,900,000, 10-30-07
- 10 Kimberly Drive, \$1,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 2892 SqFt, 2012 YrBlt, 6-26-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,585,000, 03-05-13

... continued on page D11



# Active | Pending | Sold 2017

Active | Offered at \$649,000



4293 Cedarwood Dr, Concord

Sold



514 Silverado Dr, Lafayette

Sold



1414 Eagle Point, Lafayette

Sold



141 Westchester, Moraga

Sold



2342 Brantford Ct, Alamo

Sold



1000 Dewing #316, Lafayette

Active | Offered at \$1,595,000



28 Dos Encinas, Orinda

Sold



3268 Ameno Dr, Lafayette

Sold



550 Merriewood Dr, Lafayette

Sold



989 Carol Ln, Lafayette

Sold



4043 Valente Ct, Lafayette

Sold



264 Draeger Dr, Moraga

Active | Offered at \$2,295,000



1982 Reliez Valley Rd, Lafayette

Sold



626 Moraga Way, Orinda

Sold



104 Hodges Dr, Moraga

Sold



3332 Stage Coach, Lafayette

Sold



3569 East View Ter, Lafayette

Sold



40 Via Floreado, Orinda

Pending | Offered at \$525,000



4615 Santa Rita Rd, Richmond

Sold



454 Turrin Dr, Pleasant Hill

Sold



754 Glenside Dr, Lafayette

Sold



3451 Echo Springs, Lafayette

Sold



312 Primrose Dr, Pleasant Hill

Sold



5801 Knobcone Ct, Richmond

\*KPG represented either the Buyer or Seller in the above properties

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# The recurring allure of mid-century modern architecture

... continued from page D1



High-beamed ceilings bring the outdoors in.

Photo courtesy Regina Englehart

“Everyone loves the period of time they were built in,” said Abrams. “They are so interesting looking and they are unique in their design. That is what people are looking for.”

Since Lamorinda developed and grew during the mid-century modern boom, the community has its fair share of these real estate gems. According to Vlatka Bathgate, a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker in Orinda, these popular homes have character and bigger yards than more modern houses.

“They have lots of details,” Bathgate explained. “They are not cookie-cutter homes. Some of them are dated but most of them have been worked on.”

Abrams noted that these customized homes have a desired architectural quality that is lacking in the rancho homes of the area. She noted that the average price for one in Lamorinda is \$1.2 million and some of them still need to be renovated.

... continued on page D6



Outdoor decks offer another connection with the outdoors.

Photo courtesy Vlatka Bathgate



Walls of windows capture fantastic views.

Photo courtesy April Matthews



An overhang shades the front entrance of this mid-century modern home.

Photo courtesy April Matthews



*I'm focused on*  
**FINDING THE RIGHT FIT**  
*for buyers and sellers in Lamorinda*



**Helping Buyers and Sellers in 2017**

- 117 Broadview Terrace, Orinda \$1,607,500
- 36 El Patio, Orinda \$2,300,000
- 24 La Campana Rd, Orinda \$2,100,000
- 85 La Encinal, Orinda \$1,005,000
- 11 Las Palomas, Orinda \$1,365,000
- 42 Morello Place, Orinda \$1,385,000
- 37 Southwood Dr, Orinda \$1,565,000
- 246 Sundown Ter, Orinda \$2,700,000
- 109 Van Ripper Ln, Orinda \$2,304,000
- 29 Via Callados, Orinda \$1,270,000
- 90 Hillcrest Dr, Orinda \$1,460,000
- 918 Dewing Ave, Lafayette \$790,000
- 16 Diablo Cir, Lafayette \$1,605,000
- 33 Diablo Circle, Lafayette \$1,488,000
- 1253 Panorama Dr, Lafayette \$1,905,000
- 1083 Upper Happy Valley Road, Lafayette \$1,905,000
- 25 Byron Dr, Pleasant hill \$900,000
- 141 Brodia Way, Walnut creek \$2,400,000
- 38 Valley View Drive, Orinda, Listed for \$3,495,000



**FINDING THE RIGHT FIT**



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Village Associates  
93 Moraga Way  
Suite 103  
Orinda, CA 94563  
Phone: 925.212.3897  
Email: amy@amyrosesmith.com  
Web: www.amyrosesmith.com  
Web: www.iloveorinda.com  
CalBRE: #01855959



# The recurring allure of mid-century modern architecture

... continued from page D4

While Abrams says mid-century homes that have a contemporary feel are popular, she is quick to point out that these minimal homes have their drawbacks for today's homebuyers including limited kitchens, dysfunctional bathrooms and small master bedrooms. She said there can be a problem when floor plans need to be altered significantly, but true mid-century modern enthusiasts are willing to deal with that issue.

"Nothing about them is what modern people want except the style and they are so pretty," Abrams said. "They (buyers) absolutely still see the challenge of it. They make the sacrifice."

Most of the time, buyers will transform the small kitchens into larger, entertaining kitchens that are mainstays of homes today, Abrams said. Luckily, spacious and lavish dining rooms were the norm in the 1950s, so those mid-century modern rooms fit the current housing trend.

What mid-century modern homes lack in room size, they make up for in scale and proportion, according to Battersby, who said they are very efficient and livable houses. She doesn't see the popularity of these homes fading anytime soon.

"People go nuts over them. They appreciate the original features," she said. "It takes the right buyer. There is a big demand. I think there was a movement back then that was really popular and there is a resurgence right now."



Photo courtesy Regina Englehart

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*At Home with Amanda*

# Tips on how to save those design dollars – and when to splurge!

By Amanda Eck



*We accessorized this client's music room, which had floor to ceiling bookshelves that needed to be styled, using a mix of vintage shop pieces, trinkets collected from their travels, and a handful of items purchased from the local HomeGoods to put the right finishing touches.*

*Photo Amanda Eck*

**C**an you believe we are already winding down summer, school is almost here, autumn is only a few weeks away, and the holidays are just around the corner?

Wait ... the holidays? I know, I know. It seems too early to start thinking about “tis the season.” If you’ll hear me out though, before this article ends, I’ll share a special holiday planning tip that’s only accessible for the next few weeks.

As someone who feels the need to be a good steward of the money my clients entrust in me, I share options for allocating funds that ensure the best design possible. When approaching any project, I start by determining which parts afford a choice, allowing for spending flexibility.

Here are my top three suggestions for where to both save, and splurge, which are applicable regardless of what time of year it is.

### **Where to save:**

**1. Accessories:** Accessories are important for creating that “finished” look but do not necessarily have to break the bank. Shopping local antique markets, vintage shops or online stores like eBay for unique pieces, results in a more authentic look at a reasonable price.

**2. Accent furniture pieces:** Smaller furniture pieces like side tables, decorative benches, or storage bins are not used as often and generally act more like highlight pieces. They are easier to replace should the room need to be reconfigured or changes in taste encourage a fresh look. As a result these items should veer toward a smaller proportion of the budget.

**3. Rugs:** If you are part of a young family with small children or pets, I suggest purchasing an inexpensive machine-made rug that can be easily replaced. Let’s face it, little feet tend to leave trails of their presence behind.

### **When to splurge:**

**1. Furniture:** Investing in high quality furniture is important. More than anything else in your design, you will hold onto these pieces for years to come. Even if the initial appearance doesn’t pass the test of time, with classic lines it’s quite easy to change things up. A new wood stain or upholstery renews the appearance.

**2. Lighting:** Never, ever skimp on lighting. Good lighting can make or break a space. It’s easy to think of your lighting as just a functional element. In reality it can be so much more. Like a chronograph on your wrist or a handbag on your arm, it is an opportunity to marry form and function in a way that creates a level of distinction that’s hard to match.

... continued on page D10





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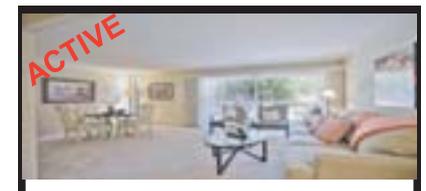
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**ACTIVE**  
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**PENDING Represent Seller**  
116 Castle Rock Ln., Walnut Creek. **Pre-recorded msg 800-489-1443 ID# 3338**



**PENDING Represent Buyer**  
230 Willowbrook, Moraga. New construction. Overseas cash buyer. Listed at \$ 2,200,000.



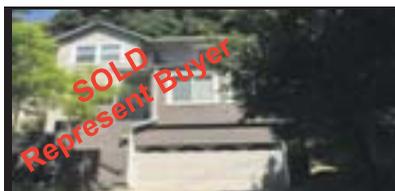
**PENDING Represent Buyer**  
83 Donald Dr., Orinda. Listed at \$2,488,000



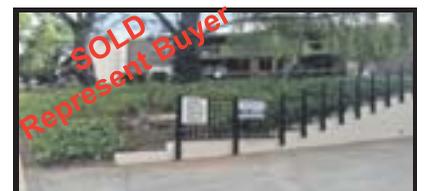
**SOLD Represent Seller**  
2129 Ascot Dr. #1, Moraga. Multiple offers. Sold price: \$ 650,000



**SOLD Represent Buyer**  
472 Millfield Pl., Moraga. Sold price \$1,171,000



**SOLD Represent Buyer**  
7727 Claremont Ave, Berkeley. Sold price: \$1,010,000



**SOLD Represent Buyer**  
2083 Ascot Dr. #232, Moraga. Overseas cash buyer. Sold price: \$528,850



**SOLD Represent Buyer**  
175 Camino Don Miguel, Orinda. Cash buyer. Sold price \$1,200,000



**SOLD Represent Buyer**  
128 Diablo View Dr., Orinda. Overseas cash buyer. Sold price \$1,768,950



**SOLD Represent Buyer**  
3832 Via Granada, Moraga. Overseas buyer. Sold price \$1,438,000



**SOLD Represent Seller**  
23 Carr Dr., Moraga. Multiple offers. Sold price \$1,030,000



## At Home with Amanda

# Tips on how to save those design dollars – and when to splurge! ... continued from page D8



*This living room is a perfect example of both saving and splurging. The clients have two young children and a puppy. All the upholstered furniture pieces were custom made but the rug was purchased from a local retail store. And yes, a few days after the install, said puppy “piddled” on the rug.*

*Photos Amanda Eck*

**3. Window Treatments:** Custom window treatments can be costly, but provide details that set your space apart. Even simple linen panels tailored to fit your windows make a huge difference. Off the shelf drapery that is too short or too long draws the wrong kind of attention, like an ill fitted pair of trousers. It’s always beneficial to have a seamstress hem your drapes to the appropriate length.

Now, for that that special holiday-related tip, let me share some “coming attractions.”

Throughout the summer I receive requests to engage our services. Start dates get pushed back however, due to vacations and the start of school. Before you know it, September is past, it’s early October and clients just start getting around to kicking off their projects. Their biggest concern now is ... trying to get the install complete before the holidays. Unfortunately, by October, that ship has probably already sailed.

If clients submitted their orders earlier, they’d enjoy the benefits of avoiding the holiday rush. They’ll sidestep back-ordered items, which can cause compromises in choices toward potentially more expensive pieces, they avoid “rush-order” requests, which mean higher fees from craftsman and delivery services, and dodge warehouses swelling due to holiday shipping, increasing the chance that a critical



*We used a simple linen fabric custom designed with a contrasting banding.*

piece won’t arrive in time. This is truly a case where the early bird gets the worm.

Hopefully both the general and time-sensitive tips I’ve shared will guide you when you are making upcoming decisions for decorating your home. Until next time dear friends!

As the Owner and Principal Designer of Lamorinda-based Amanda Carol Interiors, Amanda Eck believes your home’s interior should be both approachable and well-appointed. She often asserts, “Beauty is a necessity.”

With a distinct sense of style that mixes contemporary and classic design she fashions spaces that are both elegant and inviting. Her design aesthetic is inspired by anything visual but especially fashion, architecture and art.

Visit <http://amandacarolinteriors.com> for more design ideas.



## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

### MORAGA ... continued

- 59 Lambeth Square, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2487 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-30-17;  
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 04-28-10
- 1056 Larch Avenue #A, \$1,145,000, 3 Bdrms, 1936 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 6-30-17;  
Previous Sale: \$670,000, 02-25-11
- 651 Moraga Road #24, \$442,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 6-27-17;  
Previous Sale: \$310,000, 11-21-13
- 1151 Rimer Drive, \$1,290,000, 3 Bdrms, 2067 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 6-30-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,080,000, 04-08-13
- 1391 Rimer Drive, \$1,260,000, 4 Bdrms, 2171 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 6-21-17;  
Previous Sale: \$399,000, 12-10-93
- 1095 Sanders Drive, \$920,000, 3 Bdrms, 1536 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 6-27-17;  
Previous Sale: \$78,200, 09-29-76
- 132 Selborne Way, \$1,376,000, 5 Bdrms, 2463 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-28-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 10-07-15
- 1838 St. Andrews Drive, \$940,000, 3 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 6-30-17;  
Previous Sale: \$199,500, 11-19-80
- 157 Westchester Street, \$875,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 6-30-17

### ORINDA

- 49 Acacia Drive, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 3165 SqFt, 2004 YrBlt, 6-19-17;  
Previous Sale: \$699,000, 06-28-02
- 11 Cresta Blanca, \$1,162,000, 2 Bdrms, 1926 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 6-26-17
- 45 Don Gabriel Way, \$1,332,500, 3 Bdrms, 2331 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-19-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,115,000, 07-10-14
- 19 Dos Encinas, \$1,495,000, 4 Bdrms, 2139 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-26-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,170,000, 06-22-05
- 282 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,010,000, 3 Bdrms, 1252 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-19-17;  
Previous Sale: \$103,000, 08-02-78
- 378 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 1972 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-21-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,151,000, 06-20-14
- 61 Heather Lane, \$1,355,000, 3 Bdrms, 1866 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-30-17;  
Previous Sale: \$15,000, 09-15-97
- 37 Las Cascadas Road, \$1,127,000, 4 Bdrms, 2660 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 6-30-17;  
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 12-28-10
- 36 Loma Vista Drive, \$500,000, 2 Bdrms, 964 SqFt, 1934 YrBlt, 6-30-17
- 13 Sally Ann Road, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 2221 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 6-20-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,299,000, 08-23-06
- 14 Scenic Court, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 2006 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 6-16-17;  
Previous Sale: \$825,000, 07-17-12
- 17 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,285,000, 3 Bdrms, 1803 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-28-17;  
Previous Sale: \$995,000, 11-27-13
- 452 Tahos Road, \$1,680,000, 5 Bdrms, 2488 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-29-17;  
Previous Sale: \$760,000, 08-31-01
- 38 Tara Road, \$1,001,000, 3 Bdrms, 2366 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 6-27-17;  
Previous Sale: \$927,000, 05-03-17
- 224 the Knoll, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2252 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-21-17;  
Previous Sale: \$470,000, 03-31-99
- 26 Via Hermosa, \$2,475,000, 4 Bdrms, 4039 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 6-30-17;  
Previous Sale: \$983,000, 03-28-91
- 6 Westwood Court, \$1,798,000, 4 Bdrms, 2986 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 6-20-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,170,000, 12-29-11



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## Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

# In Praise of Farmers

By Cynthia Brian

*“Let us never forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man. When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of civilization.” – Daniel Webster*



Apples are ripening and will be available through the fall.

Photos Cynthia Brian

With so many luscious fruits and vegetables at their peak of perfection in August, the prospect of the perfect meal awaits! Ripe and juicy nectarines, peaches, apricots and Asian pears are devoured right off the tree, or drizzled with olive oil to be grilled on the barbecue. Tomatoes, peppers, corn, cucumbers, zucchini, eggplant, blackberries, melons and beans offer the promise of culinary creativity as we harvest yet another bushel. Farmers' markets tender the very best of the season, a good reason to stock up on freshness and quality to freeze or can for the winter months.

But have you ever pondered the labor involved from the farmers behind the superior produce you discover at the farmers' markets or in your local grocery aisle?

Throughout my teen years, I worked in the fruit cutting sheds along with my two sisters where we would halve and pit apricots, peaches and pears, laying them on wooden flats to be sun dried, packaged and sold. For years afterward I couldn't eat any of these three fruits because of the memories of the dirty, exhausting work in the hot summer sun. We were



A half lug of fresh peaches.

paid by the 50-pound lug of fruit cut, with apricots earning us about 20 cents a box containing two or more "cots." Peaches and pears paid half as much because they were bigger and therefore, less fruit was packed in a lug. Cutting peaches was the nastier job. The peach fuzz stuck to our skin as the juice ran from the peach pit to our armpits. When the gong rang at 4:30 p.m. indicating that our nine-hour shift was terminated, our itching bodies would dash home for a shower. If we had earned \$20 for a full day's work, we were considered in the top 1 percent of farm employees.

Although the work was tough, when I reminisce about those farm day experiences, I am grateful for the manual labor of my youth. Whenever I purchase a fruit or vegetable that hasn't grown in my personal garden, I am filled with appreciation for the toil of the farmers and the laborers who have worked rain or shine for many seasons to bring these crops to market. These hard working people are the unsung heroes of our lives.

... continued on next page





A turtle pokes its head from beneath the lily pads in the pond.

My Daddy was one of those men. Farming was a career that demanded attention 365 days a year. He could work for several months only to have a complete crop and his one annual paycheck devastated by rain or pests or drought. When he was asked why he didn't like to gamble he'd retort that being a farmer meant that every day was a gambling day. He didn't have to go to the tables to wrestle with Lady Luck.

From the time my siblings and I could toddle, we worked the fields. As our age and abilities grew, we were given more responsibilities. By 8 years of age, we all drove tractors, plowed the vineyards, picked fruit, and worked the harvest. We always knew where our food came from because as farmers, we planted, weeded, watered, tilled, mowed, hauled, mulched, fertilized, pruned, sprayed, protected and harvested, then started the process all over again prepping for the next season of crops.

There have been surveys done around the world asking children to explain from where their food came. Responses in the United States included that cucumbers come wrapped in plastic, eggs come from cartons, peas are found in the freezer, and chocolate milk is from brown cows. Recently, 27 percent of Australian kids in their final year of primary school believed that yogurt grew on trees while 75 percent thought cotton socks came from animals. In England, one-third of the country's children thought fish sticks came from pigs or chickens, tomatoes grew underground, potatoes grew on bushes, and cheese was raised on plants. More disturbing was the majority of children stated that everything originates in the supermarket. Unfortunately adults didn't fare much better in surveys. These statistics reflect poorly on the intelligence of citizens in first world countries. We need to do better educate our public of where our food is grown, how long it takes to grow, and the hazards that farmers face.

America was an agrarian society until the early 1900s. Now we are a technology-focused country. As of the last census, only 1 percent of Americans are farmers. I commend the schools where gardening is part of the curriculum. We can all become more appreciative of the growing cycles when we become knowledgeable, and even more so when we become home farmers ourselves.

We have the responsibility to involve our children in the growing process by giving them the opportunity to plant, water, and tend to fruits, vegetables and herbs. Besides being a superb science lesson, children will develop an appreciation for farm freshness and feel a sense of achievement and accomplishment. An added benefit is children enjoy eating what they grew. Thankfully, there has been a renaissance in learning the skills of canning. Baking pies from scratch is becoming fashionable again. As a child, "putting up" our fruits and vegetables for winter consumption was a fun family affair, one I passed on to my children, and hope that one day they will pass it on to their progeny.

The next time you bite into a peach – fresh, dried or canned – say a little prayer of thanks for the extraordinary efforts that went into its development. Farmers are the foundation of our civilization and we need to honor and respect their art. It's time we get back to our roots.

... continued on page D14



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# Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Nature Guide



*Asian Pears need to be yellow before picking for the sweetest flavor.*



*Black Eyed Susan shines in a garden.*



*Bougainvillea brightens an arbor.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

**Allow** Asian Pears to ripen on the tree. When the skin color changes from green to yellow they are ready for picking. Fruit can be stored at room temperature for two to three weeks and up to six months in refrigeration.

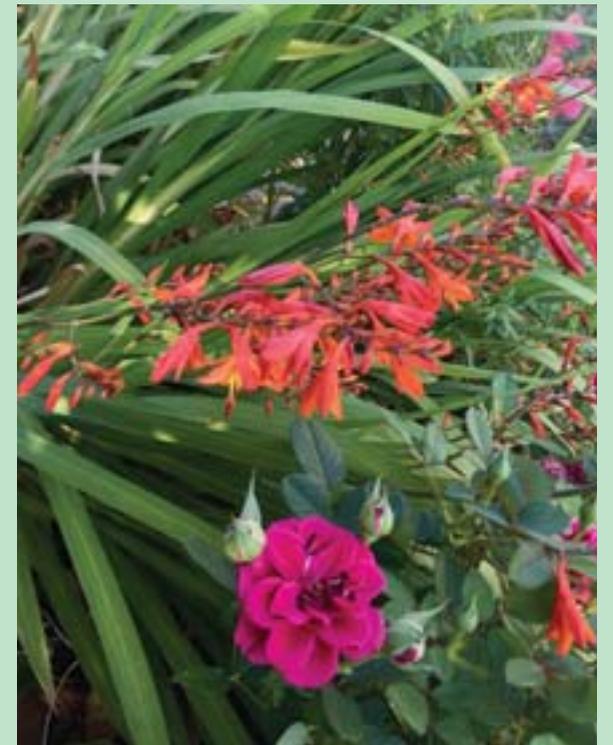
**Super Star Vegetables:** Kale has been on the popular healthy vegetable list for several years. In the near future, you'll start seeing more publicity around beets and cauliflower. Packed with vitamins C, K, and B6, cauliflower can be roasted, mashed, steamed or eaten raw. Beets have anti-inflammatory properties, lower blood glucose, improve muscle power, and aid heart health. Plan on planting all three this autumn.

**Order** or be on the look out for bulbs of garlic, shallots and onions for fall planting.

**Warning:** Coyotes are getting bolder. In less than a week, I came within 10 feet of a coyote on my driveway at 9 a.m. and another ambling down Camino Pablo at the school sidewalk around 3:30 p.m. Neither of these large carnivores were frightened by me. Keep your small animals and children safe. My article "Rats, Rattles, and Voles" (<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1111/Gardening-Guide-for-August-Rats-rattles-and-voles.html>) increased the conversation concerning wild animals around our homes. Readers reported an increase in skunks, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, deer, moles, voles, rats, mice and snakes. Although these critters were here before we settled, we do need to be vigilant to protect ourselves.

**Win \$50,000 for your Garden:** Enter America's Best Gardener Contest. Grand prize is \$50,000. Show the world that your thumb is the greenest. I was chosen as a judge for this competition! <http://www.americasbestgardener.com>

**Pre-order** my forthcoming garden book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener," Book I in the Garden Shorts Series. Publishing was greatly delayed but copies of the book will be shipped by September. All pre-orders will receive extra goodies such as heirloom seeds, bookmarks, and more. Book is \$14.95 for black/white interior. Price for color interior photos has not been determined yet. Email me for details, [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com). 25 percent of the proceeds benefit the 501c3 Be the Star You Are!® charity. <http://www.GoddessGardener.com/>  
Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



*Crocosmia firecracker with miniature roses.*



Shasta daisies are especially stunning when surrounded by natural rocks.



Cynthia Brian by a stream.

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 and order her books at [www.StarStyleRadio.com](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com)

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### ORINDA



New Listing

**129 Rheem Blvd.** Great Orinda Opportunity. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, updated kitchen & baths, A/C, tankless water heater, newer carpet, new sod. Needs TLC. Close to Rheem shops, Theater. Orinda Schools & backs to Rim Trail. **\$899,000**

### ORINDA



New Listing

**11 Patricia Road** Serene setting & scenic views in this beautiful apx. 2442 sq. ft. home with brand new gourmet kitchen & stainless steel appliances, bamboo flooring, expansive decks & guest suite with separate entrance. **\$1,100,000**

### ORINDA



**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**

### ORINDA



New Price

**32 Heather Lane** Big spaces come alive in a well maintained family home w/ income producing option w/ two bedroom, one bath apartment w/ separate entrance. Abundance of windows, views & walk to Meadow Swim & Tennis. **\$1,699,000**

### ORINDA



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

### ORINDA



New Listing

**136 Manzanita Drive** Exquisite Spanish revival style built new in 2008 with exquisite charm inside & outside. New professional custom landscaping on private, beautiful, sun splashed level acreage. Close to town, commute & top schools. **\$2,395,000**

### ORINDA



**160 Camino Don Miguel** One of a kind estate overlooking OCC. 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**

### ORINDA



**10 Winding Lane** A setting like no other. 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. **\$16,500,000**

### MORAGA



New Price

**1988 B Ascot Drive** Comfort, convenience and location in top-rated school district. 2 bedroom, 2 bath spacious condo with volume ceiling in living and dining rooms. Great opportunity. **\$479,500**

### MORAGA



New Listing

**7 Harold Drive** Spacious 3 bedroom, 3 bath home with apx. 2722 sq. ft. on .25 acres. Highlights: hardwood floors, fresh paint, new lighting and landscaping. Near school & shopping. **\$1,395,000**

### MORAGA



**1031 Bollinger Canyon Rd.** Horse lover's dream home! Rancho Dos Rios is a 10.51 acre ranch w/ apx. 3,432 sq.ft., 4bd, 2.5ba home, detached 4 car gar. w/ apx. 1,018 sf in-law apt, pool, 2 stall barn w/ paddocks, arena, mare-motel, 2 pastures. **\$1,995,000**

### LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**3476 Echo Springs Road** Build Your Dream! This 1.1 acre lot offers privacy, views & the opportunity to call Lafayette's coveted Echo Springs Road home. Conceptual plans avail. for an apx. 3606 sq.ft. Craftsman-style house. **\$425,000**

### LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**3144 Plymouth Road** Well-maintained, ranch-style home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, apx. 1828 sq. ft. on a lush .23 acre, cul-de-sac lot. Hardwoods. Easy commute location and walking distance to acclaimed Lafayette Schools. **\$1,099,000**

### LAFAYETTE



**1200 Glen Road** Happy Valley Glen contemporary with fabulous views of Reservoir & hills. Updated kitchen & baths. 5 bedrooms + library + bonus room + full apartment attached. Close to town, BART. **\$2,375,000**

### LAFAYETTE



**4015 Happy Valley Road** Rare opportunity to own elegant French Country home in prestigious Happy Valley. Classic 2 story, apx. 6,011 sq.ft., 5 beds, 5.5 baths, flat .97 acre, saltwater infinity-edge pool/spa, outr kitchen & pergola. **\$4,995,000**

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