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Windy Margerum shows off her winning medals (left). Margerum in long jump (top right); Monte Upshaw, 1954 (lower right). Photos provided

Keeping track of Lamorinda long jumpers

By John T. Miller

Three generations of track and field stars continue to make news in the Lamorinda area. Monte Upshaw, the patriarch of the family, passed away in July and will be honored next year with a long jump festival. His eldest daughter Joy continues to excel in Masters track and field competition worldwide; a younger daughter Grace – a two-time Olympian in the

long jump ('04 and '08) – stays active with private coaching, and Joy's daughter, Acalanes High School grad Windy Margerum, is off to a flying start at UC Berkeley competing in track and field. Joy's eldest daughter Sunny is a former Central Coast Section champion long jumper whose college career at Berkeley was cut short by an Achilles injury.

Joy and Grace, along with their other siblings Chip and Merry, plan to honor their father with a Monte Upshaw Long Jump Festival to be held at Edwards Stadium next year. The event is being planned to coincide with the Brutus Hamilton Invitational meet on April 27-28. Proceeds will go to benefit the UC Berkeley track program.

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Advertising



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Lafayette department of engineering to merge with public works

By Pippa Fisher



New Public Works/Engineering Director Mike Moran Photo Lamo archive

Lafayette's engineering and public works departments are set to merge in early February in a minor reorganization.

Recently approved by the city council, the shuffle was prompted in part by Lafayette City Engineer Tony Coe's announcement that he will be retiring on Feb. 12.

The public works and engineering departments will be combined into a single entity under the public works director; the city engineer position will be eliminated. Two existing employees will be reclassified into new mid-management positions of engineering services manager and public works superintendent.

Additionally the city will be adding a full-time position in administrative services – a communications analyst who will manage the city's social media accounts, write the "Vistas" quarterly newsletter and coordinate the new "Lafayette Listens!" online public opinion-gathering website.

City Manager Steve Falk explains, "Many if not most cities have a single person who directs public works and engineering." He says that Lafayette will be following that approach.

"Mike Moran will assume the new combined position of public works/engineering director. Meanwhile, Donna Feehan will be reclassified as the public works maintenance manager, and Matt Luttrupp will be reclassified as the engineering services manager," says Falk.

... continued on page A12

Rheem Theatre closes its doors: Will the phoenix rise up again?

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Leonard Pirkle, Linda Summers Pirkle, Edy Schwartz and Derek Zemrak were among more than 100 attendees at the final viewing of "Shape of Water" on Sunday night at the Rheem. Photo Andy Scheck

The Rheem Theatre's lights went out for good on Sunday, Jan. 7. A fairly large number of residents came to the last evening and expressed their sorrow at seeing the only Moraga entertainment venue closed. Questions about whether the Moraga Community

Foundation might be able to capitalize on these regrets and raise enough money to buy the theater, how much money it would need to purchase the venue, and whether the theater is even viable in the long run continue.

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SMC Women's Basketball season starts – page C1.



Our Homes D1-D12

Which wood would burn best in your fireplace or pit? – page D1.





Lafayette

Public Meetings
City Council
 Monday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Planning Commission
 Tuesday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review
 Monday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
 Arts & Science Discovery Center,
 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings
Acalanes Union High School District
 Wednesday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m.
 AUHSD Board Room
 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
 www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District
 Wednesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.
 Regular Board Meeting
 District Office Board Room
 3477 School St., Lafayette
 www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

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

 The Lafayette Police Department has changed their reporting and we were unable to get the complete information before press time.

Is Lafayette ready for cannabis?

By Pippa Fisher
 With the legalization of recreational marijuana effective from the beginning of this month, does the wording of Ordinance 660, adopted by the city council at the end of 2017 to impose further restrictions, go far enough?

In November 2016, voters passed Proposition 64 making the recreational use of cannabis for adults legal, effective Jan. 1. The proposition allows adults 21 years and older to possess up to one ounce of cannabis and to be able to cultivate up to six plants per property for personal use.

Furthermore, local jurisdictions are able to impose reasonable regulations of their own on indoor and outdoor cultivation and operating cannabis-related businesses within the city. In November the Lafayette City Council unanimously adopted Ordinance 660 prohibiting outdoor cannabis cultivation and all commercial cannabis activities with the exception of cannabis deliveries originating outside the city.

Additionally Lafayette has added wording to ensure that all deliveries within the city from state licensed retailers can only be transacted for electronic payments, to address concerns about delivery drivers carrying large amounts of cash.

Environmental Prevention Program Director at the Center for Human Development Jaime Rich says that she is very concerned that both Orinda and Lafayette have allowed mobile delivery.

“Allowing mobile delivery simply brings more marijuana into the community and into homes increasing access for young people,” says Rich. “There are no written procedures for a van driver delivering marijuana to know how to check IDs. How do we know that they won’t be delivering to someone under 21? We don’t.”

Rich questions whether police are prepared for issues around deliveries.

... continued on page A11



CONGRATULATIONS TO DANA GREEN!

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“If you don’t recognize this name, you really need to get out more often. Dana has been the leading Realtor in Lafayette for a decade and her love for Lafayette knows no bounds. Who knew the same streets she walked down as a child would one day be the place she would decide to do business and always with a smile. Being #1 is rewarding to Dana, but being involved with the community is just as important. Dana is happy to share her success with many non-profits and their projects. How does she do it? Passion for her clients and community and the help of one amazing team. Together they have helped shape this little town into something we are all proud of.”

- Jay Lifson, Executive Director, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

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Emergency response training at schools includes active shooter scenario

By Pippa Fisher



Teachers and staff listen to the police chief discuss how to handle an emergency at Lafayette elementary school. Photo Pippa Fisher

“You are not helpless. What you do matters.” This is the main message from Lafayette police in their emergency response trainings, currently ongoing for all staff in Lafayette’s public elementary and middle schools.

The trainings cover response to different emergencies but the focus is largely on active shooter situations.

“The intent is not to scare,” said Lafayette police Chief Eric Christensen. “Just to be prepared.”

For most people the idea of a

school under gunfire is the definition of the unthinkable. But for Christensen his attitude is never that it can’t happen here. And his argument is that it is exactly by thinking about it ahead of time that people can be better prepared, were they ever to be faced with that unthinkable situation, in the same way that regular fire drills at schools prepare for a fire situation.

The trainings are being held at the schools for all staff including administrative and janitorial staff.

“We have done one series prior

to this for the administrators of all the campuses,” explains Christensen. “Some of the smaller day-cares had us do it with all of their employees last year. Last year, we focused a lot on making sure everyone had basic incident command training.”

Christensen says that his department plans on doing more of these types of courses with local businesses and anywhere crowds gather. “We had a few churches mixed in with the various groups over the last classes as well.”

Christensen, who presented the training himself along with Lafayette PD’s Youth Services Officer Larry Seliga, spent much of the hour reminding the teachers and staff that their decisions and immediate response to a shooter on campus matters and will make a difference, saving lives.

With some specific strategies discussed, the message that students’ lives are the teachers’ responsibilities until the police arrive and take care of the situation was loud and clear. “You have the ability to save lives,” Christensen told the audience.

“I think this type of training is important because like any team, everyone has to know what the basic plan is. Once everyone knows what the game plan is, then we start

to work on practicing the plan,” says Christensen. “By rehearsing and talking about what could occur in an emergency we are going to be much better prepared when anything happens.”

Feeling part of a team is important to Christensen. “Meeting each other, shaking each other’s hands is one of the most important things. They (teachers and staff) all now know Larry and me – we’ve had a chance to meet them. When something happens, it’s no longer strangers meeting – it’s people who have met and have a common foundation.”

Christensen credits Lafayette Schools Superintendent Rachel Zinn for bringing this training in. “She is a driving force behind the programs within the schools,” he says.

Vice Mayor Cam Burks believes this initiative is of the utmost priority. “In my opinion, nothing is more important than protecting our children. Chief Christensen’s forward-leaning approach with our schools will enable our fantastic community of educators to be prepared in the event of a crisis. This is yet another example of how our police department’s innovative emergency planning strategy is focused on the right things at the right time.”

A transparent and ethical local government is of utmost importance to Lafayette’s ‘new’ mayor

By Pippa Fisher



Don Tatzin Lamo archive

As Don Tatzin starts his eighth term as mayor and his 33rd year on the Lafayette City Council, he discussed goals for the upcoming year (and years beyond), reflecting on the changes he has seen and lessons he has learned since he joined the council in 1985. This clearly isn’t his first rodeo.

Originally from Melbourne, Florida, Tatzin has lived in Lafayette since 1976. He earned a bachelor’s degree in urban studies and planning as well as a bachelor’s in economics and a master’s in city planning from MIT, before earning a second master’s in economics in Australia, where he worked for a time following his studies.

Now retired, he and his wife, Ellen, like to spend time at their cabin in the mountains whenever possible along with their border collies, Cloud and Greylock.

Tatzin appears to have boundless energy, rising early most days and finishing his (mostly daily) swimming workout by 7 a.m. “I was a mediocre high school competitive swimmer and have kept at it when I can find a pool,” he

says. The mayor also plays the euphonium with eighth graders in the Stanley Middle School Band, which he really enjoys, and Tatzin and his wife are talented

truffle makers, too. The couple will once again share their talents during two upcoming classes put on by the Lafayette Library on Jan. 24 and Feb. 6. Signups are

on the library website, although these free popular classes fill fast.

Tatzin’s first goal for 2018 involves transparency.

... continued on page A11

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- 4043 Valente Court, Lafayette
- 87 Bates Drive, Orinda
- 3227 Withers Avenue, Lafayette
- 1020 Vista Pointe Circle, San Ramon
- 502 Florence Drive, Lafayette
- 91 Diablo View, Orinda
- 629 Crossridge Terrace, Orinda
- 723 Park Hill Road, Danville
- 1413 Ptarmigan #8, Rossmore
- 2025 Golden Rain #8, Rossmore
- 2208 El Lago Drive, Oakley
- 2706 Edward Ave, Concord
- 3639 Deer Trail Drive, Blackhawk
- 3881 Palmwood Drive, Concord
- 140 Walnut Meadows Court, Oakley
- 339 Columbia Circle, Benicia
- 1205 Monticello Road, Lafayette
- 2904 Rio Grande Drive, Antioch
- 4006 Roland Drive, Concord
- 4017 Terra Granada #8, Rossmore
- 21665 Lake Chabot, Castro Valley
- 21859 Fallview Drive, Sonoma
- 15 Crest Road, Lafayette

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Dana Green – at home in community

By Pippa Fisher



Dana Green, Business Person of the Year, pictured with her family, from left: daughter, Kendall, son, Brad, Dana and Todd Green. Photo provided

For Lafayette Realtor Dana Green, it is all about community. In fact it is her love and appreciation of community in Lafayette that drives all she accomplishes and is a large part of why she is so deserving of this year's Business Person of the Year award.

Green needs no introduction to many in the Lamorinda area. She has been the No. 1 Realtor in Lafayette for nine consecutive years, as well as No. 1 in Contra Costa County for seven consecutive years and No. 1 in Lamorinda for six consecutive years.

She has been named No. 47 in the Wall Street Journal's Top 1,000 agents in the nation and No. 6 in the San Francisco Bay Area by San Francisco Magazine and the Luxury Marketing Council. For the past five consecutive years Green has been the recipient of the Five Star Professional Award.

But the awards and accolades, while an indicator of her business savvy, don't tell the whole story.

The lifelong Lafayette resident, who attended Burton Valley Elementary School, Stanley Middle School and Campolindo High School and graduated from the University of the Pacific traces her love and appreciation of the Lafayette community back to her early years as a teenager when she and her two sisters lost their mother to cancer. Green says the family was so supported by the amazing community at that time and again, seven years ago, when her father passed away.

Now at the head of a successful realty business, Green is committed to giving back to the community she loves. Most recently the Dana Green Team partnered with the non-profit Grateful Gatherings to sponsor a chapter event in which they provided furnishing for two families transitioning out of homelessness. "The entire team worked all day to set up the homes. It was exhausting but so rewarding," said Green.

Additionally Green is a huge supporter of schools and donates to Lafayette Partners in Education with every house sale they make and is a major sponsor of LPIE's auction fundraiser. She supports the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce as a sponsor of the annual holiday lights and "It's a Wonderful Life in Lafayette" event.

Green also sponsors the Lafayette Juniors' Annual Kitchen Tour, having started that event herself over 18 years ago when she was chairperson of the major fundraiser.

Green feels very connected to the community. She says there are reminders all over the city of her family's involvement – her father, who worked in industrial/commercial real estate, volunteered on the Parks and Recreation Commission and was instrumental in establishing the bike trail. Her mother worked as an aid at Burton Valley Elementary School.

Green and her husband have

two grown children, away at college. She says she loves to walk their golden retriever at the reservoir and counts among her interests gardening and interior design. She also counts her job among her interests, as she so loves what she does.

After college Green started a marketing and public relations company, Green Marketing. Next she drew on her love of interior design and formed a staging company, Tailored House Inc., marketing homes through staging and from there it was only a matter of time until she got her real estate license.

To Green, the progression of her career is a continuation of her marketing and PR start. "PR is a big part of what I do," says Green, explaining that just as advertising is telling a story, so too is selling a house. "You are telling the story of the home."

Green says that selling real estate in Lafayette is unique because there are no "cookie cutter" homes. "You are not selling model A, B or C. Everything is older, different, with remodels and updates." So she says that her team needs to understand the homes and the neighborhoods as they match clients to find the perfect fit.

Green clearly does it well. "If you love the community you want to do it right." She says that relationships are huge for her, explaining that she strives to be her clients' realtor for life, to be a resource for them.

Green credits her team – she has five licensed Realtors working with her, including her husband, Todd, a real estate attorney, as well as staging, marketing and administrative staff. She says that she is surrounded by wonderful and talented individuals on the team that make her look good. Green explains that it takes a team of people to stage, market and promote homes. Alone, she says, she would only be able to sell one home at a time. The team now has roughly 98 transactions per year.

Green's longtime friend, who also now works as a consultant in brand and operations for The Green Team, Ann Marie Quinn says that for her the best way to sum it up is Green's unwavering passion for the Lafayette community. "All aspects, not only a particular neighborhood or restaurant or business – but her optimism, her ability to connect people and businesses in various ways, and her desire for all to succeed and to fully enjoy being part of a true community."

Of being named Business Person of the Year, Green says she is honored. "It is humbling. I am grateful to so many people and appreciative of the people who nominated me and to the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce for all they do."

"I owe so much to this community for their support and belief in me," she says. "How lucky is that, to be embraced by a community for a whole life?"



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	Under 2000 Sq. Ft.		2000-2500 Sq. Ft.		Over 2500 Sq. Ft.	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Total Homes Sold	28	34	37	49	29	60
Avg. Days on Market	16	17	18	21	35	41
Sold Over Asking Price	22	26	21	25	11	23
Sold Under Asking Price	4	7	13	17	16	29
Sold at Asking Price	2	1	3	7	2	8
Avg. Sales Price	\$1,079,000	\$1,119,000	\$1,280,000	\$1,302,000	\$1,548,000	\$1,684,000
Avg. Sales Price Per Sq. Ft.	\$604	\$642	\$570	\$575	\$525	\$531

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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Thursday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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 Dec. 26 to Jan. 1



- Alarms 11
- Traffic 21
- Suspicious Circumstances 4
- Suspicious Subject 1
- Suspicious Vehicle 4
- Service To Citizen 13
- Patrol Request 10
- 911 Hangup**
20 Block Shuey Dr.
- Accident Properly**
Bank Of America
Moraga Way/School St.
- Barking Dog**
200 Block Scofield Dr.
- Civil**
Police Department
- Civil Standby**
Not Available
- Disturbing The Peace**
10 Block Woodford Dr.
- Excessive Speed**
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.
- Juvenile Disturbance**
Safeway
Campolindo High School Library
- Loitering**
500 Block Augusta Dr.
- Lost Property**
Police Department
300 Block Park St.
- Loud Party**
10 Block Waterloo Pl.
10 Block Julianna Ct.
- Medical Hospital**
300 Block Tharp Dr.
- Ordinance Violation**
20 Block Sarah Ln.
- Petty Theft**
100 Block Miramonte Dr.
600 Block Moraga Rd.
- Purse Shoplift**
400 Block Center St.
- Public Assembly Check**
Rheem Valley Shopping Center (2)
Campolindo High School
- Reckless Driving**
Campolindo High School
Moraga Rd./Sky Hy Dr.
Camino Ricardo/Moraga Way
- Supplemental Report**
Home Goods Moraga
Home Goods Moraga
400 Block Center St.
Bank Of America
- Traffic Hazard**
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.
- Verbal Dispute**
40 Block Cumberland Ln.
- Welfare Check**
St. Marys Rd./Stafford Dr.
100 Block Danefield Pl. (2)

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Interim town manager brings a wealth of experience to Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Jim Holgersson in his new Moraga office. Photo Sophie Braccini

There must be something left of his adventurous Swedish ancestors in Jim Holgersson's blood to explain the many adventures he lived as manager of cities in many states. From Texas to Michigan, from Illinois to California, Holgersson has lived the highs and the lows, the excitements and the challenges of the profession, keeping intact in his heart a desire for social improvement and building communities. In Moraga, he should have a

few months to give the benefit of his years of experience to the town.

Holgersson started working in Moraga a month ago; although the office's doors were closed, he used the quiet time to get familiar with upcoming issues. He said a head-hunter called him when he was on a cruise with his wife and he interviewed with the Moraga council via Skype. His first response had been "no," since he was enjoying retirement after leaving Modesto, his last city manager position, but he could not long resist the temptation of effecting change once again.

The interim manager says that he is a child of the '60s and as he was developing into adulthood there were many positive public figures that led him to believe that public service was the place to make a difference. He chose local government, where he felt that he could have a measurable impact.

Holgersson was raised by parents who emigrated from Sweden. The family history is intricate, with

grandparents coming to the United States at the beginning of the 20th century, a father who went back to Sweden after the Great Depression, and a Swedish mother who left her country at age 17, after World War II, on a boat with one hope: that her fiancé would be on the dock when she arrived.

The manager's first government job was with the city of Davenport, Iowa. Early on, his personality and talent led him toward community building to address social challenges. He remembers how in San Jose, as deputy city manager, he was in charge of creating neighborhood associations that led public-private partnerships to address the population's needs in terms of safety, employment and housing. Holgersson does not believe that the government can solve everything, but that it can be a catalyst to energize partners. From Waco, Texas, to Germantown, Tennessee, or Kalamazoo, Michigan, Holgersson tackled some tough city issues,

moving on after five to eight years for a better opportunity or because of a change in elected officials.

Holgersson says that the job of the city manager is mostly outside of the office, meeting people. He has tackled much bigger problems than those in Moraga, and that gives him a calm perspective about the small California town.

Talking about the fiscal emergency that the town declared, he says that most cities grapple with similar issues and that a 50 percent reserve, such as what Moraga had, is an unattainable dream for most cities. The recommendation is 15 percent reserve, or about \$1.1 million for Moraga, something he believes is attainable. Holgersson would not comment about whether or not it had been a good idea to declare the financial emergency; the experienced manager is not someone to judge in haste and without the whole picture.

... continued on page A9

Rheem Theatre

Derek Zemrak announced Jan. 3 that the Rheem Theatre would close on Jan. 7. He, with partner Leonard Pirkle and the large team of volunteers and employees, invested a wealth of imagination and passion to transform the old venue into a vibrant community gathering spot. But in the end, Zemrak said that it did not make sense to continue to personally sponsor the operations every month.

On Sunday night emotions ran high with final moviegoers. Resident Edy Schwartz, who has spent the last five years supporting the theater, sent a message to all her friends thanking Zemrak and Pirkle for putting their hearts and souls into the Rheem for the past eight years. Citizen of the Year Bobbie Preston summarized the general mood when she said that the closure was a huge blow to the community. Tom Frainier, CEO of Semifreddi's Bakery and huge supporter of the Rheem felt sad at losing Moraga's sole entertainment venue. And Paul James, a longtime Moraga resident, could not believe that the theater was closing and told Zemrak that he would participate in a citizen-led effort to salvage the venue.

The theater will stay intact for now, with all its equipment, but it is closed for the foreseeable future. Tom Schnurr, president of the Moraga Community Foundation, said that the board was sad to hear that the Rheem Theatre was going dark. MCF was created about two years ago with a primary goal to support community projects, including funding strategies to keep the theater open as a nonprofit. Schnurr confirmed that over the past year, the MCF has worked toward securing a long-term future for the theatre and that it still hopes that a viable solution can be reached that benefits the community as a whole.

Moraga Mayor Dave Trotter also came to the last showing. He said he feels optimistic a solution might be found with the property owner Mahesh Puri. While no one was willing to confirm anything, it seems that discussions with the owner have been going on for some time.

For months now Zemrak and Pirkle had a month-to-month lease with the theater's owner. Puri did

not respond to a request for comment in time for this article.

Zemrak confirmed that he was not abandoning the town. He added that he would come back if the theater would become a community-owned nonprofit venue.

Over the past eight years, Zemrak and Pirkle made the Rheem a place for great movies, raised enough money to purchase digital projectors, created a film museum and a Hall of Fame, and held countless events, including a large portion of the California Independent Film Festival, at the venue. But Zemrak says that movie attendance never really took off at the theater, that the upkeep of the 60-year-old theater was very high and that labor costs also went up. Zemrak, who is

a CPA, said that if anyone looked at the numbers from a purely financial perspective, that person would throw in the towel. For Zemrak, however, offering theater and movies to the community is a matter of love.

The film industry as a whole has been facing stagnation, if not a decline in movie attendance over the last 10 years. The Motion Picture Association of America reported in 2016 that the U.S./Canada box office revenue was \$11.4 billion, up 2 percent from \$11.1 billion in 2015, a relatively flat number since 2009. The preliminary numbers for 2017 show a decline both in terms of number of tickets sold and revenue. The number of movies released by major studios has sharply declined

... continued from page A1

from 128 in 2006 to just 78 in 2017. The number of movie screens in the U.S. has stayed stable over the last six years. Independent theaters, often historical buildings, are developing ways to anchor urban and suburban neighborhoods and inventing creative public-private partnerships, seeking help through the National Park Service to renovate older venues.

Zemrak said that the Orinda Theatre that he is also operating with Pirkle is doing well and will continue to show blockbusters as well independent films. He plans to continue to run the CAIFF there and at the Castro in San Francisco in 2018.

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Jan. 27: A day for West Commons

By Sophie Braccini



Star Thistle

Photos provided



Bristly Oxtongue

What do you do for a park that needs extra care in a town that has barely enough maintenance staff to do the everyday upkeep? If you're the town of Moraga, you call on volunteers.

The new downtown Moraga open space passive park, West Commons, was found riddled with invasive plants when it opened to the public last September. At its November meeting, the Park and Recreation Commission, all volunteer residents, made the unusual decision to volunteer to clean up the park themselves in the coming months. Once the town of Moraga officially accepts the completed project from Summerhill, which is still the official owner of the park, the previously announced Jan. 27 work day will be rescheduled. Once a date is set, commissioners will be calling on other residents to come and help.

When naturalist Malcolm Sproul visited the park last October he was quick to point out the Bristly Oxtongue that covered most of an area that should be grassland in the 2.5-acre park. He recently added that it would be a good idea to start removing the perennial invasive now, and that another cleanup will be needed in the spring. As far as Star Thistle, another invasive plant present in the park, it is not visible now as it is an annual, but the seeds are in the ground. Sproul indicated that July would be the best time to remove these plants, before they spread the next seed generation.

Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda was delighted when resident Bobbie Preston came to the town council at the end of last year and made a case for the maintenance of the park, its grassland and its old pear trees. Onoda has been fighting for the very existence of this park since the project came to the planning commission as part of the Summerhill development of Harvest Court, off Camino Ricardo. She remembers how the vacant space was first scheduled to receive fill from the grading for the new homes,

space passive park instead. The developer finally agreed to take the fill off site; some of it went to the other Summerhill development off Rheem Boulevard.

Onoda will support every effort toward making her dream come true: creating an open space recreational area in the middle of town, not high up in the hills, where school children can go study the natural fauna and flora of our region, and where residents of all ages can enjoy a peaceful and beautiful space.

which would be 8 feet deep. As a planning commissioner at the time, she went onsite and created a visual simulation of what the fill would do to the old pear trees and asked her fellow planning commissioners to recommend the creation of an open

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 Sold! Representing Buyer 306 Bonanza Wy, Danville	 Sold! Represented Seller 51 Donna Maria Wy, Orinda	 Sold! Represented Buyer 131 Valley Oaks Dr, Alamo	 Sold! Represented Seller 26 Loma Vista Dr, Orinda	 Sold! Represented Seller 110 Montclair Pl, San Ramon
 Sold! Rep. Buyer & Seller 200 Glory Lily Ct, San Ramon	 Sold! Represented Buyer 402 East E St, Benicia	 Sold! Represented Seller 1056A Larch Ave, Moraga	 Sold! Rep. Buyer & Seller 10 Creedledge Ct, Danville	 Sold! Represented Buyer 157 Westchester St, Moraga
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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure

Oversight Commission
Wednesday, Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

School Board Meetings

Orinda Union School District
Monday, Feb. 12, 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

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Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

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The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

Dec. 24 to Dec. 30

Alarms	28
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	4
Traffic	52
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subjects	6
Suspicious Vehicles	11
Patrol Request	4
Security Check	55
Service To Citizen	19
Supplemental Report	5
Abandoned Vehicle	
100 Block Camino Don Miguel	
Accident Injury	
Valley View Dr./Moraga Way	
Auto Burglary	
10 Block Wilder Rd.	
Beat Info	
San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek	
Death Non Criminal	
100 Block Lombardy Ln.	
Dependent Adult Abuse	
100 Block Orchard Rd.	
Fire/Ems Response Info	
Moraga Way/Valley View Dr.	
Identity Theft	
Police Department	
Juvenile Disturbance	
Orinda Theater	
Loud Music	
40 Block Descanso Dr.	
Medical Hospital	
100 Block Stein Way	
300 Block Overhill Rd.	
Occupied Stalled Vehicle	
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way	
Ordinance Violation	
20 Block Ramona Dr.	
Other Non Criminal	
Manzanita Dr./Camino Pablo	
Out Investigate	
100 Block Orchard Rd.	
Prom Shoot	
100 Block Orinda Way	
Public Nuisance	
Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo	
Resist Delay or Obstruct	
10 Block Theatre Sq.	
Traffic Hazard	
Moraga Way/Brookside Rd.	
Vehicle Theft	
70 Block Oak Rd.	
Verbal Dispute	
300 Block Camino Sobrante	
Violation Custody Order	
300 Block Village View Ct.	
Welfare Check	
10 Block Orinda Way	
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Trash talking with a techie accent

By Sora O'Doherty



Bigbelly trash cans in downtown Walnut Creek Photo Sora O'Doherty

Orinda will soon be considering joining the ranks of those using "smart" trash cans provided by Bigbelly. The company, which has been in business for 14 years, uses technology to make trash and recycling collection greener and more efficient in cities, on university campuses and other venues. Used in a significant number of locales in California, including UC Berkeley, the Yerba Buena Center in San Francisco, and the city of Walnut Creek, Bigbelly receptacles can also be found in all 50 states and 54 countries around the world.

The sleek, fully enclosed containers utilize 100 percent renewable solar power for their "smart" functions. The bins can periodically compact the contents and use a cellular data system to communicate the condition of each bin to the responsible authority, including how full the bin is as well as any maintenance issues. A software program allows the authority to see when the bin needs to be emptied, which can reduce costs by avoiding unnecessary trips to empty bins that don't need it, which also means that the damage to streets caused by large, heavy garbage trucks can be reduced as well.

Orinda's Director of Public Works Larry Theis said some trash and recycling from city locations is processed by a subcontractor to Republic Services. Containers in the parks are picked up by the city and brought to a central point. While the cost of the Bigbelly service is significant, he said, it can be taken out of the city's reserve "trash fund" under the contract with the Recycle Smart joint powers authority. Long term, the city believes that costs will be reduced by lower pickup and maintenance costs.

Kevin Schoenthaler, Bigbelly regional accounts director, explained that the company produces a variety of systems in order to provide the right sized solution for each customer. High capacity containers have the ability to compact the contents, while standard capacity containers do not. Compaction is only one part of the system. He also explained that the compaction used on recycling bins is very light: not enough to break glass bottles or even push the tops off, but sufficient to reduce the amount of air in

the container, which, for a regular trash can is typically about 90 percent.

Because of the solar-powered high-tech components contained in each Bigbelly container, they can also function as Wi-Fi hot spots with an approximately 200-foot radius, although Orinda is not considering this feature.

The possibility of contracting with Bigbelly will come before the city council early this year. More information about the company can be found at <http://bigbelly.com>.

2018 may bring surprises for Bella Oaks development

By Sora O'Doherty



Bella Oaks site Photos Sora O'Doherty

Last June Paul Ugenti, developer of the Bella Oaks project at 25 Orinda Way, was disappointed when the city council refused to grant a waiver that would let him lease a large ground floor space to Chase Bank. But now Ugenti has done a turnaround and come up with what might be an exciting project for the city, more in line with the concept of downtown development: he wants to turn the space into a gourmet market hall, much like the Oxbow public market in Napa – a sprawling marketplace that features a riverside deck,

food vendors, local produce and more.

Ugenti says that he has two new tenants as anchors, and is aiming to put together the best of the East Bay under one roof. "We continue to focus on creating a casual gourmet food destination for Lamorinda residents and beyond," he added. He plans to put the building permit to the planning commission soon, and hopes to break ground on the project in May. His aim is to deliver the space in the first quarter of next year.





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Art & Garden Center rises in Wilder

By Sora O'Doherty



The Art and Garden Center groundbreaking in June 2017

Photos Sora O'Doherty

It has been a long time coming, but the Art and Garden Center at Wilder is taking shape and will open to the public this year. The Center is a 6,600-square-foot building that features a 3,150-square-foot room that can accommodate many different uses. Accordion walls enable this space to be subdivided into three separate studios, and the building also features an additional, separate studio to maximize programming potential. The building wraps around a small amphitheater area, which serves as an outdoor gathering space. Behind the building will be a garden area and one of the five sports fields that make up the Wilder field complex. The overall facility offers tremendous flexibility for uses by Orinda's parks and recreation department.

The history of the project goes back more than a decade. In 2003 the Orinda City Council subcommittee approved Wilder's development agreement. In 2004, the developer worked



The Art and Garden Center at Wilder as of Jan. 5.

with the Sierra Club, Save Open Space, and Golden Gate Audubon Society to resolve key community concerns and reserved a location at the south end of the valley for an Art and Garden Center. In March 2005, the City Council approved the Second Amended and Restated Development Agreement, which included the terms for a 6,000 square foot Art and Garden Center.

Construction on the Wilder project began in July 2006, but the economic recession of 2008-11 presented many challenges. In 2011, Wilder and the city of Orinda entered discussions to considered relocation of the Art and Garden Center to the Community Playfields to increase recreational use and synergy. Ground was broken in June of 2017 and it is anticipated that the center will be open to the public by this summer, some 15 years from the beginning of the development agreement.

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Best wishes to our families, friends, and neighbors for a happy, healthy, and safe 2018.



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Bottom Row: Dexter Honens II, April Matthews, Linda Ehrich, Sue Layng, Ann Ward, Patricia Battersby, Judy Schoenrock, Linda Friedman, Joan Evans, Karen Murphy, Angie Traxinger, Lynda Snell, Meara Dunsmore, Jenny Wilhite, Carol Stevenson, Anne Knight, Araceli Cortez, Margaret Zucker, Amy Rose Smith, and Jaime Roder

Not Pictured: Ann Sharf and Jeff Snell

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107,
Administration Building,
651 Pine St., Martinez
For meeting times and agendas,
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

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Plenty of 'new' for MOFD in 2018

By Nick Marnell



In the district crosshairs in 2018
Photo Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District redefined the "new" of the new year Jan. 3 as new board president Brad Barber convened the first 2018 district meeting at a new time – 6:15 p.m. – in a new location – a conference room at the Orinda City

Hall complex.

New goals were proposed for the district by Orinda resident Richard Nelson, starting with the timely rebuild of Fire Station 43, around the corner from which Nelson lives. "The public will forgive mistakes of the past but only if they are not repeated in the future," Nelson said of the beleaguered project that suffered through two false starts in 2017. Nelson also stressed the importance of improving the inadequate flow at many Orinda fire hydrants, which are owned by the East Bay Municipal Utility District. "It's time to work with the city of Orinda and EBMUD," Nelson said. "It's our problem, not somebody else's problem."

New Fire Chief Dave Winacker announced a new schedule for the Station 43 rebuild, with bidding on the project to close Jan. 19,

board approval of the contract on March 9 and the first shovels to hit the ground March 21.

The chief shared news from the Milligan family of Santa Barbara, whose house was saved by an MOFD strike team during the December Southern California wildfires. Fire roared down the hillside into the neighborhood and burned houses on all sides of the Milligan property, and due to the efforts of Capt. John Bensley, engineer David Mazaika and firefighter-paramedics Andrew Leach and Jeremy Kshevatzky, Marshall Milligan said his house was unscathed.

Milligan thanked the MOFD crew members for their effort. "Their response was as professional as their performance in the field. They said they appreciate the opportunity to serve and don't deserve any special thanks," said Mil-

ligan, who offered special thanks nonetheless via a \$2,500 donation to the Rescue One Foundation, a nonprofit which supports emergency medical programs and purchases medical equipment for the district.

Barber added a new topic under the district announcement section of the meeting, calling for future agenda items to be discussed by the board. Barber kicked off the new format by offering quick reinforcement to Nelson, ordering an agenda item for Feb. 21 on steps to take to improve the inadequate water flow of underperforming district fire hydrants.

The district also announced a new meeting schedule for 2018, doubling the number to the first and third Wednesdays of each month, rotating between Moraga and Orinda.

ConFire all-day training session preps first responders for medical emergencies



Capt. Gary Hearn, firefighter Brian George and engineer Sean Tracey of Lafayette Fire Station 15 participate in December in an all-day emergency medical services training session with recruits from Academy 51.



The recruits learn how to use a Rapid Intervention Crew pack. A Rapid Intervention Crew is a specialized fire crew that rescues firefighters in distress. Photos courtesy Danny Nguyen, ConFire

Contra Costa LAFCO seeks one special individual

By Nick Marnell

If you made a new year's resolution to become more active in local government, an alternate public seat with the Contra Costa

Local Agency Formation Commission may be just what you are looking for.

According to statute, LAFCO

is an independent agency created by the state of California, charged with encouraging orderly growth, discouraging urban sprawl and preserving agricultural and open space lands. The commission meets these objectives by regulating the boundaries of cities and special districts and conducting municipal services reviews and other special studies.

Lamorinda residents may be familiar with the commission's objective of regulating special district boundaries, as the city of Lafayette considered seceding from the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District in 2013 and briefly discussed annexation by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. Had the city and the two districts worked out the details of the planned detachment and annexation, MOFD or the city would have submitted an application to LAFCO for approval.

"LAFCO would consider the impact on the government agencies, and would look out for the best interests of the residents of Contra Costa County," said Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin, a LAFCO commissioner since 2010.

Tatzin said that most of the applications that LAFCO receives deal with annexations and consolidations. If LAFCO doesn't agree with the submitted terms, it would send the parties back to restructure the deal or to rethink the entire process. In rare events, LAFCO is sued over its decision. "LAFCO doesn't lose many of those lawsuits," Tatzin said.

Contra Costa LAFCO comprises seven voting members and four alternates. These include two

members from the Board of Supervisors, two members from municipal councils, two members from independent special district boards and one public member, plus one alternate in each sector. Alternate members participate in meetings, but vote only when the regular member is absent or has a conflict of interest. The alternate public member recently resigned, hence the current opening.

Candidates face few rigid requirements. Lou Ann Texiera, LAFCO executive officer, said that since the alternate public member is a public official, that person must fill out a standard annual financial disclosure statement with the California Fair Political Practices Commission. The alternate public member may not be an elected public official or a member of a special district board.

"I'm not set on a certain type of person, other than someone who is willing to invest the time required, is interested in planning, land use, public safety and healthcare, and has a strong sense of fiscal responsibility," said District 2 Supervisor and LAFCO Commissioner Candace Andersen.

Tatzin stressed that public sector experience is not required of those applying for the alternate public position. "You have got to be comfortable looking out for what's best for the residents of Contra Costa County," repeated Tatzin, a member of the LAFCO ad hoc committee that will interview candidates and recommend finalists to the commission.

Details of the position, including an application, are listed on the Contra Costa LAFCO website.

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Letters to the Editor

Go Gaels women's basketball!

As one of four retired guys who follow women's and men's St. Mary's Basketball please note that Thursday, Jan. 18 the St. Mary's Women will play the Gonzaga women in Moraga at 6:30 p.m. We will be at midcourt cheering for the women and we ask that all of the Lamorinda community make plans to attend this game to show support for these student athletes, every one of whom will graduate with an earned degree.

When St. Mary's travels to Gonzaga they will be met by 6,000 Bulldog fans. Our women usually play before 400 or so fans. So there are more than 3,000 empty seats available for the Lamorinda community to fill and cheer on the women as our McKeon gym holds 3,500.

Some of these role models are babysitters and nannies for your children. This game is an opportunity for the community to show its support for the women. The game starts at 6:30 p.m., so if a fan and family left the house at 5:45 p.m.

and watched a bit of pregame, then the game, one would be home by 8:15 p.m. – two and a half well spent hours.

Please join us on Jan. 18 and cheer on the Women of St. Mary's basketball. Go women's Gaels.

William R. Anderson
Moraga

Thank you for the article on private roads

I think the unfairness of having about a quarter of Orinda residents pay for all public road maintenance without getting any support for their private road maintenance was under-emphasized.

I had only lived in big cities prior to purchasing my Orinda home 23 years ago. When the agent told me it was a private road my reaction was "My how quaint," not having any understanding of the implications.

My fellow private road residents have been maintaining our culverts and our private road with our own funds for about 50 years.

During all this time we have been paying the same taxes and assessments as our neighbors on public roads. We regularly clear debris from our road drains. When our street drainage gets blocked we individually call Roto-Rooter and pay the bill. When the road needed repaving, we asked all the property owners to share in the cost but only a few were willing to participate. We really wish to maintain friendly relations with our neighbors so recourse to the law is not an option. Furthermore the law is not clear on the cost sharing responsibilities.

Road maintenance public funds both avoids neighbor alienation and acts as a disaster insurance policy. Should a road collapse and an expensive repair be required the cost is shared by all Orinda residents rather than falling upon the few residents of one particular private road.

The city council represents the interests of the entire community of Orinda, yet to date it has failed to deal with this fundamental unfairness which diminishes our col-

lective sense of community. The requirements for a road to become public exceed the specifications of many, possibly most, currently publicly maintained residential streets. In addition to bringing our street up to unreasonable specifications staff have also suggested a special 20 year assessment for our road would be required. This seems both excessive (\$1000/year/parcel) and unfair, as we have been paying for both our own private road maintenance and paying taxes and assessments all along.

It is of course reasonable for the city council to hesitate taking on the additional liability, but the cost is completely unknown. The private roads have not been surveyed to determine their current condition. An estimate of \$22 million was mentioned in the last city

council meeting but this is a speculative guess and in my opinion possibly an order of magnitude to high. (Caltrans only spends about \$100,000 per mile lane for road maintenance.) It seems to me reasonable to have the city council request a survey of all private roads and their culverts to be able to assess the repair and maintenance cost realistically. Some of these costs may be shared with the state and federal government by increased miles in the public infrastructure.

The Orinda private road residents enjoy their public road neighbors to stand in solidarity with them to rectify this inequity. This issue has been ignored for too long.

Charles Porges
Orinda

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

EBMUD updated Watershed Master Plan available for public view

By Nick Marnell



Siesta Valley in Orinda

Photo courtesy EBMUD

Each Lamorinda community presents a unique challenge to the East Bay Municipal Utility District as it manages the 29,000 acres of land and water under its jurisdiction. Many of those challenges are outlined in the EBMUD 2017 Watershed Master Plan, released for public scrutiny in December. Here are examples of district management directives for each local municipality.

Lafayette

EBMUD manages not only the water in the Lafayette Reservoir but also the land in the watershed surrounding it. An ongoing district goal is to "continue to modify as necessary and implement the Lafayette Reservoir watershed fire management plan" and to maintain the fire roads in the watershed. According to the district Lafayette Reservoir Vegetation Management Plan, accessible watershed areas are mowed, and "goats and sheep, supplied by Goats-r-Us, may also be supplemented into the treatment regime, if they are available." The district occasionally employs hand crews occupied by the CALFIRE Delta Camp.

"When using CALFIRE, it's a cheaper resource, they do great work, we interact with their agency and provide good training for their personnel," said Ed Gonzales, assistant fire chief of the Contra Cos-

ta County Fire Protection District, which responds to fire and other emergency calls in the Lafayette watershed area.

Moraga

EBMUD states its goal of "co-ordinating with the town of Moraga on the planning and development of the Larch Avenue area to limit water paragraph quality effects, risk of wildfire, and degradation of views on the Upper San Leandro Reservoir watershed." The Larch Avenue area lies in the drainage of Moraga Creek, which drains to the reservoir.

According to Interim Town Manager Jim Holgersson, EBMUD "made a broad PR presentation about new water infrastructure system-wide which was in response to inquiries about why EBMUD rates were going up. Otherwise we are not aware of the details yet."

Orinda

Just about the entire city of Orinda lies within either the San Pablo Reservoir or the Upper San Leandro Reservoir basins. The potential for development anywhere along the watershed interface has implications for EBMUD and the district lays out a management directive for the El Toyonal area "to limit the effects of development on water quality, fire and fuels management, public encroachment, degradation of views, and street

extensions and to improve public access and egress and emergency access to this area."

However, the concern of north Orinda residents over the inadequate water flow from many of the hydrants is not addressed under fire and fuels management. "That directive regarding coordination with Orinda is not a new goal but continues the type of coordination we have had in the past regarding shared boundaries, interface areas, rights of way, etc. Upsizing the water distribution system to increase hydrant flows is not the

type of item that would trigger this provision," said Richard Sykes, EBMUD Director of Water and Natural Resources.

Larry Theis, Orinda director of Public Works and Engineering, had no comment on the Watershed Master Plan as his department had not yet reviewed the document.

Regarding a recreational directive that affects all of Lamorinda, EBMUD had proposed a two-year trial for allowing mountain bikes on a limited number of its trails, but the trial period was not specifically mentioned in the master plan. "The

watershed document now proposes about seven miles of trails in the Pinole Watershed which will be open to bicycles and about one mile from Tilden down to San Pablo Dam Road. Given the limited size of this, we decided to not call for the trial but to just change the signage and trail configuration to make it happen," Sykes said.

The public has until Jan. 29 to submit comments to the district regarding its 2017 Watershed Master Plan. The document is available on the EBMUD website.

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Moraga interim town manager

... continued from page A4

He knows that his time in Moraga is likely to be rather short; he does not want the permanent position, but he wants to use his experience to evaluate the town's organizational chart and may reassess some staffing needs. He was struck, however, by the thrifty state of the town that has low funding as well as one of the lowest cost and staffing per capita in California. For him saying that Moraga is not efficient is an opinion, not a diagnosis based on fact.

Holgersson says that seeking funding for the maintenance of the storm drains is the right thing to do. He adds that he has seen other cities very successfully use low-inter-

est state stormwater loans to handle their drainage issues, and will support Moraga's attempt to do so.

He says he is looking forward to seeing the hillside and ridgeline regulations being finalized, the winery regulations being considered, and the emergence of new development projects. He believes that with the Moraga Center Specific Plan and its zoning regulation underway, Moraga is giving itself the opportunity to develop harmoniously and sustainably. Holgersson has also worked with many colleges and universities, and considers that uncovering more areas of common interest can foster the completion of new projects.

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First Lamorinda boba tea opens in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Customers get their boba tea at i-Tea in Moraga

Photo Sophie Braccini

Boba tea, also known as pearl milk tea, is an interesting concoction that, according to CNN Travel, originated in Liu Han-Chieh's Chun Shui Tang teahouse in Taichung, Taiwan in the 1980s. It has since spread to all the corners of the world, including the Bay Area for a few years and to Lamorinda since last November, with the opening of i-Tea at 1460 Moraga Road, in the Moraga Shopping Center.

Set in the Moraga Center shopping area, at the corner of Moraga Way and Moraga Road, where Asia Palace used to be, the new franchise is owned by Moraga residents and owners of Golden Palace, Jay Liu and Krystal Chang. The new restaurant also serves food all day long, such as ramen soup bowls or popcorn chicken.

For those familiar with boba tea as well as novices, the experience is pleasant and easy to customize. This reporter's favorite is an Oolong tea with boba and soy milk, no sugar, no ice. Most of the teas are served cold in a large plastic cup, sealed, and presented with a big straw. The ritual consists in taking the big straw out of its plastic wrapping and firmly piercing the plastic opercula with the pointy side of the straw. Bobas are gobbled through the big straw as part of the drinking experience.

The tea is brewed in the shop, most of the time a milky texture is

achieved with a plant-based creamer – no dairy there, and customers can add all kinds of supplements to their drink: boba pearls made of tapioca, jelly, pudding, or red beans. Liu says that customers can taste the additions prior to purchasing it. i-Tea also serves regular hot tea, and a large range of iced tea from Jasmine to fruit teas.

Liu and Chang are eager to show off the tea house's kitchen and prep area. All the teas are labeled in sealed packages in the back kitchen. These are loose-leaf teas that are provided by i-Tea. Liu explains that the basic teas are prepared according to the franchiser's recipe and made fresh every four hours. Besides the basic teas, the tea house has tea machines that can make instant tea on demand using specialty leaves also provided by i-Tea.

The owners followed a three and a half month training in the Hayward i-Tea headquarters to learn the subtlety of making a perfect tea that never becomes bitter, bobas that will stay tender but not soggy, and smooth milk teas.

As for any franchise, the benefit to customers is a consistency in taste and quality. The décor is also exactly what the brand has designed, a great improvement over the old Asia Palace, in soft greens and purples.

Crowds of young people have been fast to find the place, from

Miramonte, just a few blocks away, Campolindo, Saint Mary's students and younger middle school children. Free Wi-Fi and a pleasant atmosphere also entice professionals and families.

On a given afternoon, one can find there friends having a bowl of ramen for a late lunch, students out of school relaxing before homework, young children with their moms. Jorgen Jensen from Canyon noted that the broth for the ramen he was having was particularly tasty. Liu is quick to show the huge pot in the kitchen where the broth is simmered for eight hours. Two Orinda high school students noted that their boba tea is just as good as anything they have tasted elsewhere and rejoice that this is now available so close to home.

Liu and Chang, husband and wife, have a daughter at Rheem Valley Elementary School and say that they are happy to support the local schools and sports teams. The owner explains that he has started discussion with a group of Miramonte students who want to raise money for their school; he will agree to sell them a large number of teas at a discount with the difference being their fundraising.

One of the only spots open a bit later at night in Moraga, i-Tea is open seven days a week, 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and until 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

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TK and Kindergarten registration for 2018-19 school year

Registration for Lafayette students entering TK and Kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year will take place Jan. 16 and 17. In addition, an informational presentation, "A Roadmap to Kindergarten" will be held at the Springhill Elementary Multi-Purpose Room from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Jan. 11 for all interested parents in the Lafayette School District. Further information can be found at www.lafsd.org.

- Lafayette Kindergarten/TK registration times: Jan. 16-17**
- Burton Valley Elementary: 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., 561 Merriewood Drive, Lafayette (925) 927-3550
 - Happy Valley Elementary: 9-11 a.m., 3855 Happy Valley Road, Lafayette (925) 927-3560
 - Lafayette Elementary 9 -11 a.m., 950 Moraga Road, Lafayette (925) 927-3570
 - Springhill Elementary 9-11 a.m., 3301 Springhill Road, Lafayette (925) 927-3580

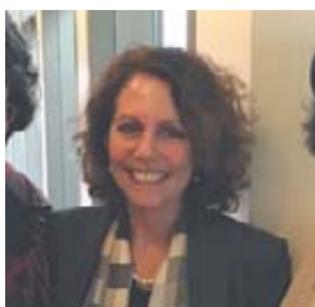
The Moraga School District TK and Kindergarten registration is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Feb. 1-2 at Camino Pablo, Donald Rheem and Los Perales elementary schools. For information about 2018-19 registration, visit the MSD website at <https://www.moraga.k12.ca.us/childergarten>.

The Orinda Union School District Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration for children entering an Orinda public school in August 2018 will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at each of four elementary schools starting Monday, Feb. 5 through Thursday, Feb. 8. For additional information regarding registration instructions, please check the OUSD website: www.orindaschools.org.

Kindergarten students must be at least 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2018, and if a child has their 5th birthday between Sept. 2, 2018 and Dec. 2, 2018 they are eligible for Transitional Kindergarten.

Celebrating an Anniversary?
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Superintendent Zinn announces her retirement



After 38 years in education, longtime leader of the Lafayette School District, Rachel Zinn, announced her retirement as superintendent on Jan. 5. According to a memo sent to Lafayette families and community members, Zinn said she made

the decision to retire at the end of August.

“There aren’t words to convey how much I have loved the 12 years I have spent working in this very special District,” she wrote. “It has been an incredible, amazing journey with so many

special memories that I will treasure forever. To be able to serve the community in which I live and to get to have the opportunity to connect with so many of you has been one of the greatest privileges of my career.”

The governing board will be-

gin conducting a formal search process to find the next superintendent.

– J. Wake

Is Lafayette ready for cannabis? ... continued from page A2

“If there is a police officer in California who did not see this (legalization) coming a long time ago, they are living with their head in the sand,” says Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen.

He concedes that there really is no way to monitor deliveries out there right now. “My main concern is regarding deliveries that may come into Lafayette from out of town,” he says. “Any time that people carry cargo that has value, or cash, they increase the probability of some type of problem.”

“Officers are going to come across people who are making deliveries when they stop them for a vehicle code violation,” says Christensen. “One of the things that we have tried to reduce in Lafayette through our municipal code section is the amount of cash that the driver carries. Our code identifies that transactions need to be made using an electronic payment to the distributor, who then delivers the product. The driver should only have an invoice and the product, which keeps them a lot safer.”

Overall, Christensen says, he doesn’t expect a significant impact

on police operations. “For years now we have had medicinal marijuana and when that transition happened there were some significant growing pains. I don’t expect those same problems as we have already dealt with this issue for several years.

“One area where we may see an increase in activity is in our code enforcement unit, which deals with smoking violations,” adds the chief. “It’s likely that we will receive a few more complaints regarding people who believe that it is now lawful to smoke in a public place, which may not be the case.”

Rich is particularly concerned about how the new laws will impact schools and youth. “Basically, the perception of harm for marijuana has always been low; ‘It’s natural, right?’ Now that it will be legal, it will seem even more benign for all, including youth.”

Rich makes the point that it’s not only your ‘60s smokeable joint. “Marijuana can be infused into almost anything – liquids, foods, etc.

“Also with the many forms of marijuana, goes an increased concentration of THC,” says Rich.

“Edibles contain more THC usually than a regular joint and marijuana in the form of wax is the most dangerous of all – being often as high as 98 percent THC.”

Rich notes that young people are increasingly using vape pens. “They are easy to conceal and can look like mascara, pens and even thumb drives. Also there is no tell-tale marijuana smell produced by the use of a vape pen.” She says that teachers and parents have to navigate this ever-changing landscape of marijuana often without much knowledge of what to look for.

Additionally Rich is concerned that young people may also be checking out of their normal teen lives because they are relying on marijuana for all of their pleasure. “The things that used to make them happy – sports, listening to music, exercising, hanging out with friends – can stop bringing the same results as a young person relies more and more on marijuana to connect with all of their pleasure sites in their brain.”

Lafayette’s ‘new’ mayor

He says there is always room for improvement, and he wants to see the commissioner code of conduct completed and in place by the end of the first quarter. He also wants to foster communication with residents, would like to resolve outstanding lawsuits, continue the high performing police activities and the new police station, and fix roads and drains while maintaining infrastructure.

He wants to see continued prudent and transparent fiscal management as well as a working environment that attracts and retains valued city staff, and wants to address major traffic and parking concerns. He also says Lafayette should provide input on new state and regional agencies’ actions. “We have a bipartisan combination of state senator and assembly member who seek and respond to constituent input and we should provide ours.”

Finally, in honor of the city’s 50th anniversary of incorporation and its upcoming celebration, Tatzin hopes to get as many residents and businesses as possible to switch up to 100 percent renewable sources through Marin Clean Energy.

Tatzin says what creates improvement in a suburban community are excellent public education, a healthy economy, a safe environment, a pleasant and appealing environment, a transparent government, and tapping the skills and time of residents. “Even a small number of people can make a difference,” he says.

Looking ahead to the next 30 years or so, Tatzin says he would like to see Lafayette remain a place where people want to live and where they want to contribute to making their community better. He says he would like it to be a community where the public sector is held in high regard because of what it accomplishes and how it behaves. “And that we survived the earthquake well,” he adds.

Tatzin points to the improved physical condition of the city over the past 33 years due to investments in roads, drains and public places. He says that the city is in a strong financial position for which he largely credits the efforts of former Mayor Dick Holmes, who helped convince the state legislator to grant the city a portion of the property tax, which led to more investment in the downtown area,

but contributed to an unfortunate loss of moderately priced housing, due to Lafayette’s appeal. “People who work in Lafayette and who we know find it increasingly difficult to afford to live here,” he says.

“Traffic is still the big problem,” he adds, “and has been for over 30 years.”

How it is possible to come to issues afresh each time after 33 years? Tatzin says that when you like what you do, the effort is fun, not work. “I now bring more wisdom and experience to issues than I had at the beginning. That helps me understand the critical aspects to each topic,” he says, adding, “Also I don’t get as ‘worked up’ about things as I once probably did.”

Tatzin says his council position led to appointments to 10 other government boards that serve multiple cities, our county of more than one million residents, and a state joint powers authority. “I have the perspective of a council member in the middle of our federal system ... serving residents on one hand and trying to comply with new regional, state, and federal missives on the other.”

He observes, “Almost regardless of the level of government you serve, there are occasions when governments that are higher in the federal system seem out of touch with local needs (for example, why did the state take redevelopment away) and those at levels of government below you and the public may fail to see the bigger picture and perhaps are NIMBYs (for example, if you are at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission you may wonder why a community won’t upzone to allow denser housing close to transit stations.)”

This experience, he says, has taught him the importance of not becoming the layer of government that others deride and to instead prove your worth, listening and staying in touch with the public as well as those at other levels of government to learn their thoughts and concerns and to influence them before they make policies.

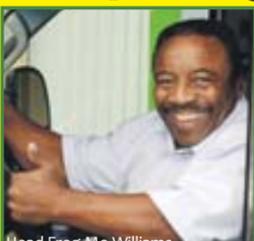
As for the current city council, Tatzin compliments voters, saying they have consistently elected qualified individuals who have a desire to serve rather than to use the office for personal aggrandizement.

“Council members put in a lot of time, are well prepared, have good discussions and get along well even when we have differenc-

... continued from page A2

es,” he says. “Having seen a lot of councils in other cities since 1985, our condition, unfortunately, is not a given.”

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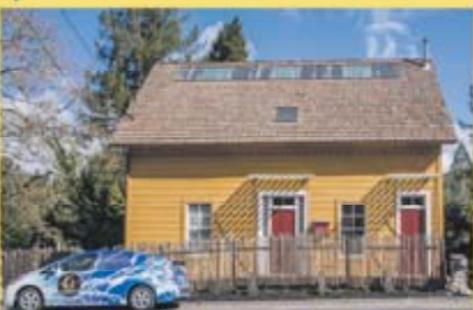


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Keeping track of Lamorinda long jumpers

... continued from page A1

The venue is appropriate, since the long jump pit at the stadium is memorialized with a plaque in Monte's name. Monte and Grace Upshaw are the first father/daughter pair inducted to the UC Berkeley track and field Hall of Fame.

The pit is also the scene of three generations of championship performances by the Upshaws and their offspring. In 1954, Monte eclipsed the Olympic great Jessie Owens's national high school record with a jump of 25 feet 4.25 inches. In 2009, at the Brutus Hamilton Invitational, Grace broke the meet and Edwards Stadium record with a jump of 22 feet 3.75 inches. And, more recently, Margerum won the long jump at the North Coast Meet of Champions last year with a personal best 19-foot 1.75-inch jump in that same pit.

The jump put Margerum in second place all-time at Acalanes High School. First place belongs to her aunt, Grace Upshaw, at 19 feet 3 inches. Margerum im-

proved her personal best to 19 feet 5.75 inches in a Berkeley preseason event, and, in addition to track and athletics, she has also jumped into music and dance at the campus.

Joy Upshaw traveled the globe last year, participating in Masters track and field events in Australia, South Korea, Japan, and Canada. She holds numerous American and world records for her age group in hurdles, sprints and relays.

When she's in town, Upshaw runs Joy's Jackrabbits Track Club. The Club meets on Mondays at Acalanes High School. More information is available on the Jackrabbits' website. She is also co-head track coach for Acalanes High School, and recently was named chair of National Exhibition Events for Masters.

"My goal is to show the general track and field public that our Masters can race at any age." She will be coordinating Masters races during National track and field events.

One person Joy would dearly love to recruit to Masters competition would be her sister Grace. The two-time Olympian is busy raising two children (who are also in the Jackrabbits) and is a high performance training coach. Knowing what it takes to reach the highest level of competition, her specialty is working with the high school athlete that is looking to compete in college, as well as collegiate and open athletes that have Olympic aspirations. Masters track may be down the road for her; she says she may start competing when she turns 50.

For now, though, the family will turn their energy toward organizing the Monte Upshaw Long Jump Festival.

"These types of events are very popular in Europe where fans can sit in bleachers very close to the action, whether it be vaulting, jumping or any other event," says Joy Upshaw. "It's super fun and you can feel the great energy. My dad would love it!"

Lafayette departments merge

... continued from page A1

The merger will take effect in early February. Falk says that Coe will be a part of the transition until he leaves.

After the reclassifications are accounted for, Falk says he believes the savings will be close to \$100,000 annually. However, he points out, "That savings will then be offset by costs associated with the new communications analyst position. Overall, I think we'll be close to cost-neutral."

Moran likes the reorganization and says that he believes merging engineering and public works not only makes them more consistent with similar-sized cities, but also allows better flexibility to share staffing and budget resources between what are now separate de-

partments.

"The retirement of Tony Coe (Lafayette's city engineer for more than 20 years) will leave a large void and I personally would feel uneasy about backfilling that void if we didn't already have a tremendous and experienced staff ready and willing to step up to the challenge," says Moran.

"Matt Luttrupp with his two decades with Lafayette engineering will provide a critical role as the new engineering services manager and one of his main focuses will be development review. Donna Feehan has also worked for Lafayette for more than two decades, first with our finance department but mostly with our public works department. She is very familiar with

the everyday tasks, the special projects, and all the contracts associated with the department and I have great confidence that as the new public works services manager she will make sure the public continues to be served well."

Moran is extremely grateful for the opportunities he has received with the city. "I can look back at my last 20 years and remember the streets that were reconstructed, the retaining walls built, the storm drain pipes and traffic signals installed, and the many other tasks I had a hand in, and I feel like I have been part of the many contributors that help keep Lafayette such an incredible place to live, work, shop, eat, explore, and just be."

Fire extinguisher recall

By Cathy Dausman



Image courtesy of U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
 More than 40 million disposable fire extinguishers in 137 models manufactured by Kidde have been recalled throughout the U.S. and Canada, as well as several thousand in Mexico.

The product recall, issued Nov. 2, involves plastic handle extinguishers manufactured between 1973 and 2017 as well as eight models of plastic push button Pindicator fire extinguishers made from 1995 to 2017.

Kidde Professional or Badger branded fire extinguishers, or those with metal handles and valve assemblies are not included in the recall.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website advises these extinguishers "can become clogged or require excessive force to discharge and can fail to activate during a fire emergency. In addition, the nozzle can detach with enough force to pose an impact

hazard."

One 2014 death was attributed to extinguisher malfunction when emergency responders trying to put out a car fire could not get the Kidde fire extinguisher to work. Nearly 400 other reports of property damage and injuries including smoke inhalation and minor burns have been received.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Fire Marshal Kathy Leonard said the state fire marshal's office announced the recall in November. She said recall instructions "require the consumer to contact Kidde directly, not local fire agencies."

Kidde advises its consumers not to discard a recalled extinguisher before receiving its replacement, and although Leonard usually recommends expelling the product in the fire extinguisher before throwing it away, in this case "it would be potentially dangerous to do so."

Consumers may request a free replacement of affected models by calling Kidde toll-free at (855) 271-0773 or filing a form online at www.kidde.com.

Kidde hotline hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET Saturday and Sunday.

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Campolindo high-schooler tracks toward Formula One career

By B. B. Kaye



Photos provided



Bryson Lew

Motor sports require a lot of space to play in, and enough distance from housing to soak up the ear-splitting roar of unmuffled big-bore engines. That much space in Lamorinda is impossible; but travel North along the two-lane freeway of Route 37 through the flat, coastal wetlands and nature preserves of San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Preserve, and at the junction with Route 121 you will find, nestled in hills overlooking the bay, a true motorhead sanctuary: historic Sonoma Raceway.

The track hosts nearly every kind of motor racing – NASCAR, IndyCar, SuperBike, Top Fuel, Funny Car and Pro Stock drag, Enduro, Truck, Drifting, and Go-Kart. Opened in 1968, the course has seen rubber laid down by racing greats whose names even those with the most fleeting of glances at sports news will recognize – Al Unser, Mario Andretti, Mark Donahue, and many more.

Aspiring to such greatness, Campolindo High School student Bryson Lew has been building his racing skills with Cameron Karting at Sonoma Raceway every week since the age of 8. Now 14 years old, and already with an impressive record of wins and podium placings, he is transitioning from the Karting class of racing into full-sized, FormulaSPEED race cars. Bryson is training to race this car, potent at 200 horsepower, with a six-speed transmission and weighing about 1,150 pounds, in the Goodyear Formula Car Challenge for which it was designed, a series created to cultivate motorsports teams of the future. Each individual car is made to fit a particular driver's body like a glove and, given the power-to-weight ratio and sophisticated engineering, is faster on a road course than any "exotic" street sports car in the world.

"I have loved cars since before

I was 5 years old," Bryson said. "I grew up watching IndyCar and other races at Sonoma Raceway." His sights are set on racing as a full-time career path. "Hopefully we can make it happen, but the budget is a huge factor of whether you can move up the ranks or whether you have to stay down in the lower cost stuff. You have to reach out for sponsors."

Bryson trains at Sonoma Raceway with World Speed Motorsports, designers of the FormulaSPEED car and a comprehensive racing driver development program. He cross trains by playing basketball year-round, mountain biking, running, and possesses a black belt in Kung Fu. "These sports require upper and lower body strength as well as cardio conditioning, which is crucial for kart and auto racing," he said.

Any sport is a challenging profession to aspire to, and Bryson is not neglecting to build alternative skills: "Even though I spend a lot of time at the race track, I'm very focused on maintaining good grades. As a backup plan to professional auto racing, I hope to study mechanical engineering because it impacts many aspects of race cars."

There is difficulty for racers to attract sponsors at this level, because televising of entry-level events is practically nonexistent.

Tevo Stewart, president of World Speed Motorsports, said, "Production costs are pretty high, as far as them putting out a real televised show. So a lot of the series – even if they have done it in the past – are backing off from that and going to online stuff. There are benefits – because it's easier to quantify viewership. It's also easier to have on-demand viewing, so even a series like this, that a lot of people never heard of, would (otherwise) end up on TV at a less-than-optimal time. It doesn't matter who

the driver is: at some point, they're going to need external funding to keep the whole thing going. To be an ambassador for those partners is pretty important."

Less than one-sixth the expense of Pro Indy racing, the Formula Car Challenge was designed with cost containments to allow drivers to make the move from karts into cars without breaking the bank; but it is still an expensive sport to make headway in. "It's a nice step coming out of karting, although not less than some people spend on karting. It doesn't matter what racing it is, if you travel around the country it adds up. We designed these cars to be the perfect car to graduate people up into car racing," said Stewart.

Formula Car Challenge engines go 6,000-8,000 miles before being replaced, whereas full-on pro Indy cars only get between 1,000-2,000 miles between complete engine rebuilds. The total cost of running an entry-level FormulaSPEED car is about \$7 per mile, compared to a professional Indy car at \$20 per mile.

Bryson's father, Brad Lew, said, "I was at an event where there was an Indy Lights driver, retired, a local guy. He said his family had funded everything. He said his best advice is not to self-fund, because you don't really have a benchmark as to the quality of your driving. If you're getting outside funding, you have other eyes looking at you, assessing ... what's the prospect of

this guy being successful?"

"There are very few families in the world who can self-fund an Indy Car. Some families can self-fund through Go Karts, some through this, some can self-fund through Pro Mazda or Indy Lights, but at some point you're going to need somebody's help," said Stewart. "And so, the sooner you start developing that skill off the track to couple with on-track skills, the better. Drivers who can fund up to Indy Lights are suddenly hit with a multimillion dollar budget to raise. Being able to keep somebody engaged and feeling like they are getting a reasonable return on investment is just as important as learning how to drive this thing."

Bryson's years of kart racing came to some fruition in 2017. He took multiple wins and podium placings, and in October was selected to be one of seven drivers representing Team USA in Lonato, Italy, where 48 countries sent their

best drivers to compete in the ROK Cup International Finals. "My six years of kart racing provided the skills to quickly learn new track layouts. This enabled me to race competitively against the local Italian drivers, even though I had only one day to learn their track."

Bryson enjoys mentoring younger kart racers. "To be successful in racing, one must have a passion for race cars, be competitive, willing to stay focused, have a technical mind to analyze your driving, and have the dedication to spend many hours practicing at the track," he said. Though enjoying every moment of racing now, his sights are firmly set on future goals: "In five years I hope to be racing Formula 2 or Indy Lights. In 10 years I hope to be successful in Formula One or IndyCar."

For updates to Bryson's growing career, you can visit www.brysonlewracing.com. Keep your eye on this young man.

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Local touring company combines a love of gardens with English history

By Sophie Braccini



A modern 9-acre Sussex garden with great drifts of colorful flowers and wispy grasses. Photo Darron Brackenbury

Sometimes an individual's life path can gain meaning when they embark on a new adventure where all the facets of their previous experiences seem to coalesce. Once her children reached college age, longtime Moraga resident, Contra Costa master gardener, and former parks and recreation professional Gillian Gray embarked on such a journey, creating Rose and Heather Tours, a company that takes people through well-known as well as secret gardens of Sussex and Kent. The British woman is now spreading her wings and developing what she loves.

Saying that Gray loves gardens is an understatement. At age 9, she visited the Arundel Castle and Gardens in West Sussex, England, where she experienced her first sense of unique completeness. She was living with her family in Sussex at the time, and she says that the feeling of joy always stayed with her. Over the years, she visited many more gardens in Sussex and Kent, discovering private gardens off the beaten path – some whimsical, some uniquely creative – and she selected those that had the beauty she felt would most satisfy discriminating travelers and garden lovers.

The diversity and the richness of the gardens Julie Stokstad saw during a Rose and Heather Tour was the highlight of her vacation. A fellow docent at the UC Botanical Garden, Stokstad went on the

breakout trip Gray organized last August. She said that her favorite days were when she saw three different gardens in one day. "One had so many salvia, which is one of my favorite plants," she says. "Another one was created around ruins, with different layers created by incredible tree strata." She remembers one that was composed with beds of different plants with the same color – one yellow, one orange, one red – and included different textures, heights and graphics. In the more private gardens, she said most people visiting there were British, and there were no big crowds; being off of the beaten path really pleased her.

Stockstad was met by her son during the trip. The young man, who lives in England and also enjoys gardens, also appreciated the historical aspect of the trip. Gray includes historical, and/or literature discoveries on her trips so people can indulge in different types of intellectual pleasures, such as meditating in the garden Churchill liked to stroll, or staying in a hotel that was first patronized by Queen Elizabeth I over five centuries ago.

Stockstad also appreciated Gray's command for logistics and how quickly she works to satisfy her clients. One of the historical accommodations felt on the very small side to Stockstad, and since the trip is designed to provide luxurious accommodations, Gray inter-

vened and made changes to please Stockstad.

Gray explains that part of her career in England, after getting her degrees in environmental science and business, was working for the Parks and Recreation Department of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. She says that this is where she learned how to make people happy and solve all kinds of problems.

Her tours accommodate 10 to 14 people for 11 days and 10 nights, touring in an executive mini-bus and staying in unique local high-class hotels. Some garden tours are guided, others are self-paced; Stockstad said she really enjoyed the freedom of the self-guided tours.

Gray began the tour company almost two years ago; she created a business plan, made comparative studies with other tour operators, conducted focus groups, worked on her marketing plan, and constructed her website. Before the first breakout tour, Gray made two test visits to select the accommodations, the food options, choose the right bus company and fine-tune her logistics.

The next two Rose and Heather Tours are scheduled for May 7-17 and May 28-June 7. There is an early bird discount for people registering before Jan. 30. For information, visit www.rose-and-heather-tours.com.

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Free classical concert at SMC Chapel, Jan. 26



Ensemble ARI

Photo provided

Ensemble ARI, a group of Korean American musicians in the Bay Area dedicated to bridging Korea and other communities through western instruments while honoring Korean history and culture, will be collaborating with Calystone, an early music ensemble that specializes in the music of Western Europe from the 13th through the 15th centuries, for a performance at 8 p.m. Jan. 26 in the Saint Mary's College Chapel.

Ensemble ARI was founded by two Orinda musicians, composer Jean Ahn and pianist Sharon Lee Kim, and includes five other musicians dedicated to classical music that connects to the community.

Ahn, who is the Ensemble ARI director, holds a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley as well as master's and bachelor's degrees from Seoul National University, and has been recognized, awarded, and honored by many. Her compositions have been featured at Aspen New Music Festival, American Composers Orchestra's Ear Shot (by Memphis Symphony), June in Buffalo, Oregon Bach Festival, Etchings Festival, Festival of Contemporary Music, IAWM, Berkeley Symphony Under Construction, Pacific Korean Music Festival, and College Music Society Conferences, among others. Ahn is also the assistant director of UC Berkeley Chamber

Chorus, is currently lecturing at UC Davis and has taught at UC Berkeley, University of the Pacific and Dominican University.

Calystone, which will perform Renaissance music using big recorders and a lute, includes Allison Zelles Lloyd, voice and harp; Frances Blaker, recorder and hammered dulcimer; Letitia Berlin, recorder, doucaine and psaltery; Shira Kammen, vielle, harp and voice.

Strings will play with non vibrato, as if they are gut strings (in the style of 15th century), says Ahn. The free concert will feature music by Brahms, Gordon, and 15th century German composers.

– J. Wake

Rotary camper gets a home

By Cathy Dausman



Grady (atop camper), brother Owen and their father David Evans pose with the Rotary camper they won. Dog Pepper is interested in something else. Photos Cathy Dausman

It might be a stretch to call it a perfect fit for the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary camper's new owners, but it is a good fit. "It would have been great when the boys were little," David Evans said candidly (sons Owen and Grady are 12 and 9 respectively), but he also says the trailer will be a welcome addition as a new bedroom for the Lafayette family's summer cabin near Mount Lassen.

The Evans' cabin is just 800 square feet, so gaining an extra 30 square feet and its attached camp kitchen is definitely a plus. And, said Evans, "it'll fit right in; it's a pretty rustic place."

Evans, his wife Catherine and their sons spend a lot of time at the cabin during summers, making trips almost every weekend and

staying on for a two-week period at one point.

Evans bought the winning ticket ("maybe two?") for the Rotary-named "Teardrop Inn" during Moraga's Haunted House event in 2016.

"I'd kind of forgotten about it," he said.

The family learned of their new acquisition when their name was drawn during this year's tree lighting ceremony in Lafayette.

"Grady had been checking out and climbing around the trailer while there with friends," Evans said, adding "he left just a few minutes before they did the drawing!"

Proceeds from the trailer raffle generated about \$40,000, with the profits (\$25,000) donated to a variety of good causes, said Rotarian

and project manager Gary Fulcher. The winners (minus Catherine, who had a previous commitment) and their dog Pepper were recently photographed with the trailer at San Pablo Reservoir.

The boys admitted they weren't sure whether they or their parents would sleep in the trailer; they also weren't sure whether Pepper would be allowed to bunk in. As Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary hands off its third fundraising project, work has already begun on another wheeled project.

This time it's a dune buggy!



David (left) and Owen Evans test out the trailer kitchen.

Tony Award winner John Lloyd Young to open Orinda Theatre Live Concert Series, Feb. 1

Submitted by Derek Zemrak



John Lloyd Young Photo provided

The 180-seat auditorium at the Orinda Theatre will be transformed Feb. 1 into a classic cabaret venue. The stunning venue will be a place where audiences will experience exceptional performers at close range in an exceedingly elegant setting. Tony Award winner John Lloyd Young will kick off the spring series.

Young originated the role of Frankie Valli in Broadway's Award-winning Best Musical and international hit, "Jersey Boys." By also starring in Clint Eastwood's film adaptation of the show, Young joins a select few actors in the entertainment industry that took their Tony-winning stage role to the big screen. He sings lead vocals on the Grammy-winning platinum Original Broadway cast album as well as the "Jersey Boys" movie soundtrack album. As Frankie Valley in "Jersey Boys," Young became the only American actor in history to win all four major leading actors honors in a Broadway debut: the Tony, Drama Desk, Out Critics Circle and Theatre World awards.

"To see this quality of international talent here in the East Bay is as much of a treasure as is the historic Orinda Theatre," states Derek Zemrak, owner of the Orinda Theatre. The Orinda Theatre first opened its doors in 1941 and is a landmark of the East Bay.

The performance will take place at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1. Tickets range from \$50 to a \$100 VIP ticket, which includes seating in the first three rows, a meet and greet with Young after the show at Cine Cuvee and a "Jersey Boys" Blu-ray. Tickets are available at the Orinda Theatre box office and online at www.lamorindatheatres.com.

On the evening of the concert, Cine Cuvee Wine Bar will be featuring food and drink specials before the show.

Live at the Orinda Theatre Concert Series - Spring 2018 will also include Grammy and Golden Globe winner Amanda McBroom ("The Rose") on March 1, Amanda King ("A Salute to Ella Fitzgerald: The Early Years") on April 5, and Tony-nominated Broadway star Andrea McArdle ("Annie" and "Les Misérables") on May 3, closing the spring series. Subscriber and sponsorship packages are available.

"There's nothing like live music in front of you and getting to experience renowned artists of this caliber in the beautiful and historic Orinda Theatre will make for some very special and memorable evenings," states producer, Michael Williams.

Live at the Orinda Theatre Concert Series is produced by Zemrak Pirkle Productions, LLC and Michael Williams.

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CLOWN (*) CONVERSATION

by: Marilyn Erickson

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Contemplating or simply reclining.

Often real people join clowns on the floor,
Pose and take photos, selfies, galore.

Children nestle up, start conversation,
Whisper and giggle with fascination.

But,
What if,
One of the clowns moved?

*Clowns by Ugo Rondinone © BAMPPA



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American Legion dedicates bench at Moraga Bocce Courts

Submitted by Michael Gilson



Photo provided

American Legion Post 517 of Lafayette recently dedicated a new bench at the Moraga Commons Bocce Courts to honor two longtime Moraga residents who loved to play bocce and who loved American Legion.

Dominic Sidari and Tony DeVenuta, both members of Post 517 had been planning to see the bench installed during their time with the Post to honor the town they loved and the game of their passion. Unfortunately, both

Sidari and DeVenuta passed away before the bench could be purchased and the bench installed. Recently Drew Holland and Mike Gilson of Post 517 (pictured) visited the bench to remember and honor their friends who served their country and wanted this bench to honor all veterans and the friends they made playing bocce. The bench includes a plaque to honor Sidari and DeVenuta and the many friends they made in Moraga.

Record sales at this year's Holiday See's Candy shops

Submitted by Steve Woehleke



From left: Karen Reed and Leslie Engler at the Moraga Kiwanis Holiday See's Candy shop.

Photo provided

Thanks to the Lamorinda community's support of the Moraga Kiwanis' 2017 Holiday See's Candy shops, this year's effort was an outstanding success, producing record sales and many shoppers happy with the easy parking, customized gift wrap and shipping services. The See's fundraiser, along with the club's annual Lobster Fest

provide the majority of proceeds for the Kiwanis Clubs' Giving Program which contributes approximately \$60,000 annually to local charities focusing on children and families.

For further information on this year's Lobster Fest, scheduled for March 24, go to moragavalleykiwanis.org or call (925) 388-0492.

www.Lamorindaweekly.com Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:



- "A Strong Will" becomes Moraga family's mantra
- LimeBike coming to Lamorinda?
- State throws down caution flag over tower repair plans
- Orinda marks passing of former mayor with moment of silence
- Lafayette encourages residents to opt up to Deep Green energy
- All systems go for ConFire Station 16 construction
- David Trotter is Moraga's new mayor
- Residents on private roads hit with second tax benefiting only public road residents
- MOFD cautiously welcomes in the new year
- New Vice Mayor enthusiastic about Orinda downtown development

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to www.lamorindaweekly.com and click the link below the story.

19 East Bay Debutantes Presented at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland Winter Ball

The 60th annual Winter Ball was held Dec. 22 at the Westin St. Francis in San Francisco to raise funds for UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. Nineteen debutantes were presented as future leaders in the effort to support the hospitals' mission of providing the best possible health care to all children regardless of their ability to pay. These young women focused on raising funds for a new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and funding specialized neonatal cribs. A magical evening was enjoyed by all.



Katherine Genevieve Cane, Megan Elizabeth Gordon, Molly Catherine Davis Photos provided

Debutantes from Lamorinda:

- Molly Catherine Davis - Lafayette
- Katherine Genevieve Cane - Orinda
- Kai Marju Otsmaa - Orinda
- Makenna Anne Millham - Orinda
- Caroline McKinnley Schafer - Orinda
- Lucy Elizabeth Stenovec - Orinda
- Raquel Maris Wescott - Moraga



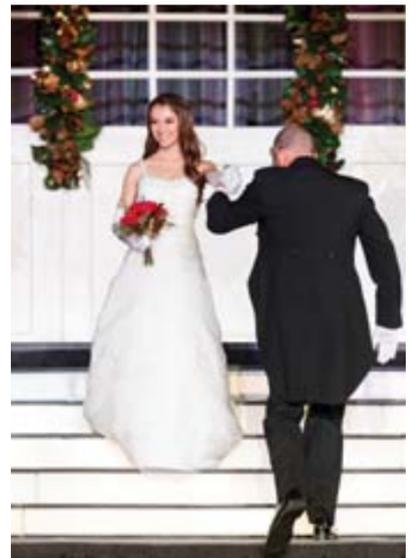
Kai Marju Otsmaa, Caroline McKinnley Schafer



Mckenna Anne Millham, Brian Millham



Lucy Elizabeth Stenovec, Andy Stenovec



Raquel Maris Wescott



Gretchen Gibson, Kristine Smith, Michael Anderson, Lucy Talbot, Elizabeth Shaw

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 with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

'Garden Abstraction' opens at the Moraga Art Gallery

Submitted by George Ehrenhaft



Basket created by Alejandro Santamarina

The Moraga Art Gallery's 2018 schedule of shows begins with paintings by Orinda artist Lisa Gunn. Entitled "Garden Abstraction," Gunn's work captures the light, the colors and the shifting shapes and shadows found in the course of a day in her lush backyard garden.

"These works were done in the course of a week in my garden at different times of the day from early morning to very late afternoon reflecting the shadow shapes and colors that change with these intervals of time," said Gunn.

Along with paintings, photographs, ceramics, and jewelry by the gallery's other artists, the exhibit features a collection of functional and sculptural stainless steel

baskets created by Alejandro Santamarina of Petaluma, as well as a display of unique photographs by the late Wayne F. Miller (b. 1917, Chicago, d. 2013, Orinda) chronicling post-war Lamorinda through the eyes of then school-age baby boomers.

Miller's photographs are among those which appeared in his acclaimed book, "The World is Young" (1958), an effort by Miller to turn his lens to the future following World War II, during which he served as a Naval photographer and chronicled the aftermath of the blast at Hiroshima. In 1955 Miller helped develop "The Family of Man," an exhibit at New York's MOMA as well as a four-million copy best-selling book. Miller's

work also appears in Dr. Benjamin Spock's "A Baby's First Year," an indispensable and popular guidebook for more than a generation of new parents.

The show runs from Jan. 10 to March 17. The public is invited to a free opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13 in the gallery at 522 Center Street in Moraga's Rheim Shopping Center. Come to meet the artists, enjoy a glass of wine, light snacks, and live music.

The gallery is open Wednesday to Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, go to www.moragaartgallery.com, call (925) 376-5407 or email moragaartgallery@gmail.com.

Photos provided



Painting by Lisa Gunn

Image provided



Photograph by Wayne F. Miller

Photo provided

Advertising Opportunity

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— special section in Lamorinda Weekly

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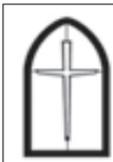
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ART

Diablo Fine Art Gallery announces that it will be closing Jan. 20. Maggie Lucas-Hill and Judy Miller, the gallery directors, are grateful to have had the opportunity to work with so many fine and gifted artists at this gallery and at the Lafayette Gallery. Everyone is invited to a farewell reception at the gallery from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 19.

"Intention" Exhibit of new work by Dee Tivenan, Jennifer Perlmutter, Victoria Huckins, Merl Ross and others runs through Jan. 27 at the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd. You are invited to stop in this month and see the artists chosen, read the titles they give their work and ponder the metaphor, subjects, colors, and stories they bring to their work. Check the website for details: www.jenniferperlmuttergallery.com

"Garden Abstraction" at the Moraga Art Gallery featuring paintings by Orinda artist Lisa Gunn. Gunn's work captures the light, the colors and the shifting shapes and shadows found in the course of a day in her lush backyard garden. The show runs from Jan. 10 to March 17. The public is invited to a free opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13 at the gallery at 522 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center. Come to meet the artists, enjoy a glass of wine, light snacks, and live music.

MUSIC

In the Name of Love, The 16th Annual Musical Tribute Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 14 at Oakland Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakland. Tickets: \$25- \$40; children 12 and under \$8-\$12. Purchase at Livingjazz.org/mlktribute. For additional info, call (510) 858-5313 or visit <https://www.livingjazz.org/mlktribute/>.

Gold Coast Chamber Players concert, Fantezie at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3 in the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Tickets: \$45 General, \$40 Senior, \$15 Student. Purchase online: www.geplayers.org or by phone: (925) 283-3728.

San Francisco Performances presents Alexander String Quartet with host and lecturer Robert Greenberg from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13 at St. John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, 2727 College Avenue, Berkeley. San Francisco Performances presents the final concert of Part 1 in the Saturday series with the Alexander String Quartet and Robert Greenberg. Cost: \$45. For more info see <https://sfperformances.org/performances/1718/ASQBerkeley.html> or call 415-392-2545 or email info@sfperformances.org.

Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, the Bay Area's premier women's vocal ensemble, has openings for experienced women singers for its Spring 2018 season – particularly altos. Voci rehearses Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 10 p.m. in Orinda and performs primarily in the East Bay. Auditions will be held through Jan 17. Spring concert dates are Feb. 11, April 15 and April 21. For more information or to schedule an audition please contact Artistic Director Mitchell Covington at mitchellcovington.com. More info at www.vocisings.org.

Ensemble ARI, a group of Korean American musicians in the Bay Area dedicated to classical music that connects to the community, will be collaborating with Calectone, an early music ensemble that specializes in the music

of Western Europe from the 13th through the 15th centuries, for a performance at 8 p.m. Jan. 26 in the Saint Mary's College Chapel. The free concert will feature music by Brahms, Gordon, and 15th century German composers.

Live at the Orinda Theatre Concert Series opens at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 1 with Tony Award winner John Lloyd Young. The stunning venue will be a place where audiences will experience exceptional performers at close range in an exceedingly elegant setting. Tickets start at \$50 and are available at the Orinda Theatre box-office and online at www.lamorindatheatres.com.

Exciting, impish, and gorgeous original music with occasional reference to Broadway, Prokofiev, and New Orleans — all this imaginatively performed on stage by composer pianists themselves at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2 at Grace Presbyterian Church 2100 Tice Valley Blvd near Rossmoor in Walnut Creek. This free event is sponsored by the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society (www.ccpas.org) with donations supporting our student scholarship program.

THEATER

Diablo Ballet celebrates the New Year with the second program of its 2017-18 Season, Harmonious Beauty, at 8 p.m. Feb. 2 and 2 and 8 p.m. on Feb. 3 at the Del Valle Theatre in Walnut Creek. The program is composed of four unique ballets and one short film, including a World Premiere by Danielle Rowe. Immediately following each performance, ticket holders are invited to stay for a post-performance Q&A with dancers, choreographers and musicians followed by a dessert and coffee reception where you can meet and mingle with the dancers. Tickets are \$25-47. For tickets, call (925) 943-SHOW (7469) or visit www.lesherartscenter.org or www.diabloballet.org.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Registration for Lafayette students entering TK and Kindergarten for the 2018-2019 school year will take place Jan. 16 and 17. In addition, an informational presentation, "A Roadmap to Kindergarten" will be held at Springhill Elementary, Multi-Purpose Room from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 11, for all interested parents in the school district. Further information can be found at www.lafsd.org.

OTHER

"Israel's Place in the World" with Shlomi Kofman - Israel's Consul General in San Francisco to the Pacific Northwest at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11 at the Temple Isaiah Sanctuary at 945 Risa Road, Lafayette. Free. Community dessert reception to follow. More details and R.S.V.P. at temple-isaiah.org/israelandworldjewry.

Open House at The Saklan School on Friday, Jan 12, 1678 School Street, Moraga. Get an inside look at Saklan's middle school program, including project-based, hands-on learning curriculum and an active social and emotional educational program. Please register at saklan.org.

New Year's is a purrfect time to adopt a cat or kitten from Community Concern for Cats. See beautiful kitties at the adoption event from 1 to 4 p.m., Jan. 13 and 14. Locations are Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see www.communityconcernforcats.org.

ESL Conversation Circle at 1 p.m. every Thursday at the Orin-

da Library. Practice speaking and listening to English in a casual group guided by trained ESL instructors. No registration required and free of charge.

KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents Bandy X. Lee and Dee Mosbacher: The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 17 at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Avenue, Berkeley. Bandy X. Lee and Dee Mosbacher discuss The Dangerous Case Against Donald Trump, answer questions and sign books. Hosted by Joanna Manqueros. Cost: \$12 advance; \$15 door. For more info see <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3210560> or call (510) 967-4495.

Free Bankruptcy legal workshop available through the Contra Costa Bar Association from 5 to 6:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18 at the CCC Bar Association, 2300 Clayton Road, ste. 530 in Concord. RSVP by calling (925) 370-2540 or online at <http://www.cccbba.org/community/calendar>.

Introduction to Chair Yoga at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Students will be led through a 30-minute class that combines poses, breath work, and body awareness during this introduction to chair yoga presented by Atma Yoga Studio.

Contra Costa Tale Spinners at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan 25 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Join us for a story swap with featured teller, Ben Tucker, who will tell a few stories from his memoir, "A Good Run." Share, listen, expand your universe.

SEED is hosting a screening of an award-winning documentary called "Swim Team" about a New Jersey swim team that is comprised of athletes on the autism spectrum, followed by a discussion moderated by Lafayette School District Psychologist Jenna Krook at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette. For info, visit <http://www.seedlafayette.org/event-2764484>.

Be a powerful voice for a child in Foster Care. You have the powerful opportunity to impact the life of a vulnerable child when you volunteer with CASA of Contra Costa County. CASA volunteers may be the only reliable and stable presence in a child's life to help encourage, support and motivate them to keep going. Info sessions will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Jan. 17 at 2151 Salvio Street, Concord and from 12:30 to 2 p.m. on Jan. 26 as a Webinar. You must be 21 years or older to volunteer. <http://cccocasa.org/menus/become-a-volunteer.html>

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

Appointments Training from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Jan. 23 at Walnut Creek Library, Oak View Room, 1644 N Broadway. Ever considered getting involved in your local community as an appointee to a board or commission? Want to know more about how the process works? Join California Women Lead and Assemblywoman Catharine Baker for an appointments training to learn the process that one should take to be appointed to a board/commission/committee at the local and state level. This training is free and open to the public. No Admittance without Prior RSVP. To RSVP visit www.cawomenlead.org/event/WalnutCreekAppointmentsTraining.

... continued on next page

Please submit events:
[calendar@lamorinda
weekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)

Film Clips

'The Post'

By Derek Zemrak



Photo Niko Tavernise

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When Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg collaborate on a project for the first time it is a must see. If they are all on board for the same movie project, the standards are set very high. "The Post" is that movie and it will not disappoint.

Spielberg directs Streep and Hanks in "The Post," a thrilling drama about the unlikely partnership between The Washington Post's Katharine Graham (Streep), the first



film is perfectly directed and the acting is superb. Streep once again transforms herself into Graham and with Streep's amazing acting ability you do not see the actor on the screen. It is the subtle things that she does with her eyes, facial expression and hands that draw you in. For this role, Streep will receive her 21st Oscar nomination. Tom Hanks gives his best performance since "Cast Away" in 2001. Both Streep and Hanks received Golden Globe nominations for their roles in "The Post." Overall, "The Post" received six Golden Globe nominations, including Best Picture, Drama, and Best Director, Steven Spielberg.

The film features an acclaimed ensemble cast including Alison Brie, Carrie Coon, David Cross, Bruce Greenwood, Tracy Letts, Bob Odenkirk, Sarah Paulson, Jesse Plemons, Matthew Rhys, Michael Stuhlbarg, Bradley Whitford and Zach Woods.

"The Post" starts at the Orinda Theatre on Friday, Jan. 12. It is rated PG-13 with a total running time of 1 hour and 55 minutes.

My favorite seven films for 2017 are:

- 7) "Dunkirk"
- 6) "Big Sick"
- 5) "Coco"
- 4) "Lady Bird"
- 3) "Three Billboards from Ebbing, Missouri"
- 2) "I, Tonya"
- 1) "The Shape of Water"

We all know the outcome, but it doesn't matter when a

Service Clubs Announcements



Meets Friday mornings at 7:00 am at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Check us out at www.lamorindasunrise.com or email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

January 12

KPIX Chief Meteorologist Paul Deanno. Here to sort out all the floods and hurricanes!

January 19

Our Contra Costa Homicide inspector has had numerous fascinating and high-profile cases to unravel. Inspector John Conaty will give us inside scoop on the "who, what, and where?" of homicide investigations. You won't want to miss this!

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.

January 11: Andrew Parrott, CFP on the 2018 economic/investment outlook

January 18: CCC Sheriff - David Livingston

www.rotarylafayette.org
www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366

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Not to be missed Not to be missed

SENIORS

Mindful Aging: Brain Chargers at 10:30 a.m. on Mondays starting Jan. 22 at the Orinda Library. Sign up for an hour of brain stimulating activities - Elder Paws (reading aloud to a dog, solving puzzles, and coloring). Open to adults 55 years or older. Space is limited. Sign up for a session by phone or in person at the Orinda Library.

Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. A Matter of Balance is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. A program of MOWSOS in partnership with Lamorinda Village, the 8-week program starts at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 12, at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church - Davies Room, 49 Knox Drive Lafayette. Registration is \$15. Call (925) 283-3500 for more information. https://lamorinda.helpfulvillage.com/events/1498.

Healthy Brain, Healthy Memory - Join memory expert Dr. Linda Sasser for an educational and entertaining presentation on how memory works and age-related brain changes. You will learn about lifestyle practices that help maintain and improve brain function as well as easy-to-use strategies for remembering names, information, and tasks. The presentation is from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 12 at Lamorinda Village, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Call (925) 283-3500 to register!

Branch 116 Sons In Retirement (SIRS) will be holding its 11:15 a.m. lunch meeting Jan. 15 at the Clubhouse at Boundary Oak, 3800 Valley Vista Road, Walnut Creek. The guest speaker will be Monica Sanders, program director of the First Tee of Contra Costa and a LPGA member. Luncheon cost is \$25. For reservations or information please call (925) 322-1160 or email

branch116@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.branch116.org.

Lamorinda Village presents a series of workshops on financial topics that are important and relevant for seniors. Our speakers, all experienced investment advisors who advise clients daily, will address common issues and answer questions at the end of the workshop. The workshop runs from 11 a.m. to noon on Jan. 23 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, and will cover investment strategies.

GARDEN

The Moraga Garden Club will hold its next meeting at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The guest speaker will be William McNamara, executive director of the Quarryhill Botanical Garden. The subject of his discussion will be "Plant Hunting on the Edge of the World." Interested parties are welcome to attend the 9:30 a.m. social hour, the 10 a.m. meeting, as well as the presentation by Mr. McNamara, immediately following the meeting.

Montelindo Garden Club Meeting (third Friday of every month, September through May) will be at 9 a.m. Friday, Jan. 19 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Presentation: Fresh Ideas for Your Front Yard; speaker Janet Sluis, director of Sunset Western Garden Collection and a Berkeley-based horticulturist who will look at new trend-setting ideas for your California front yard.

Winter Rose Pruning Workshop at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 27 at McDonnell Nursery, 193 Moraga Way, Orinda. To reserve a space please call (925) 254-3713 or email info@mcdonnell-nursery.com.

Please submit events: calendar@lamorinda weekly.com

Is this too young to go to Cal?



Actually, it's just the right age to get an eye exam at the University of California Eye Center. And again at three years. And regularly after that. (We developed ways to test kids' eyes while they play!) We're part of the UC School of Optometry, and offer you LASIK surgery, contact lenses, and an Eyewear Center with a vast collection of designer frames, too. We take most insurance plans, and major credit cards. It's time for your whole family to go Cal!



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Radish Salad with so many greens!

By Susie Iventosch



Radish salad

Photo Susie Iventosch

Cooking Term of the Week

Verjuice (or verjus)

This term stems from the French vert (green) and jus (juice). Verjuice is a liquid made from unripe grapes, crab-apples or other fruits. This sour juice is used to flavor sauces, mustards or even salad dressings. It's a great alternative to lemon or vinegar and gives a different kind of sour flavor. Here are two recipes for making grape verjuice:

<https://www.giverecipe.com/homemade-fresh-verjuice/>
<https://honest-food.net/how-to-make-verjuice/>

Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com.

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



Acalanes Adult Ed course focuses on three mysteries with strong historical context

When Joan Trezek's husband was dealing with some serious heart issues, they were trying to figure out how best to treat the problem and find ways to fill the "down time." Trezek headed to the library and found the thickest spy novels she could find. "That seemed to do the trick until he was ready to become more active," said Trezek.

The trip sparked an idea: the experienced teacher, who holds a master's in English from the University of Illinois, decided to pursue teaching a class through Acalanes Adult Education.

For the past three years, Trezek has taught "Favorite Award-Winning Mysteries," a six-week course offered through AAE. She changes the titles/authors with each session. The upcoming session, which begins Jan. 18, focuses on three works featuring solid historical context: "Maisie Dobbs," with a World War I backdrop; "In the Woods," which structures events around the economic downturn in Dublin, Ireland, in the early '80s; and "The Round House," which focuses on social and legal issues on a North Dakota Indian reservation.

"I provide the titles in the school brochure which is sent to all previously enrolled students as well as to all the libraries in Con-

tra Costa County. In that way, those who sign up can get a head start reading if they choose." Trezek introduces each book with biographical information on the author, their awards as well as literary criticism and often brings in video clips of author interviews as well as historical figures/events. "I typically prepare what I hope are thought-provoking questions related to the characteristics of all stories: plot, setting, theme, characters and then break the class into small groups for 15 minutes or so, in order that they can share insights. Then we come together as a larger group and discuss."

The classes tend to draw avid readers, Trezek says, particularly of mystery/suspense novels. "Many grew up on Christie/Doyle as well as Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys, or so it would seem. Participants tend to be repeat customers and often husband/wife couples attend together."

The class runs from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursdays, Jan. 18 through Feb. 22. AAE is located at 1601 Tice Valley Blvd. in Walnut Creek. Cost is \$80 general; \$72 for seniors. To register, visit www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/adultedonlineregistration or call (925) 280-3980. The course number is 064037.

— J. Wake

Family Focus

Signs You May be Over-Indulging Your Children: Part Three

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

There is often a fine line between loving parenting and indulgent parenting. Because so many parents have wonderful intentions and are highly motivated, sometimes they may overlook how much they are actually doing for their children.

Here are a few more signs that you may be over-indulging your children:

1) You have abandoned date nights with your spouse or partner and most other social activities that don't involve the whole family. Your life revolves around your children.

Yes, this is a personal preference and one that does not necessarily cause any harm. But sometimes it can. If couples don't commit to spending time with each other away from their children, they run the risk of losing their personal connection with each other. Instead, they may become enmeshed in their roles as mom and dad in the family.

Not only do you not experience the positive elements that brought you together in the first place – perhaps a sense of fun and adventure, or shared interests apart from your family, or solid communication, or all of these – but you also demonstrate to your children that they are the prime people in your lives, and not each other. Or the family is the primary entity, and not the adult partners.

In addition, not devoting special time to your spouse or partner may have an adverse effect the emotional health of your children. You and your significant other will consistently subordinate your own needs and feelings to those of your children. In this way, the children are the central figures in the family in a heightened way. Of course children benefit from feeling very integral and significant to their parents. However, too much of a good thing can cause children to have an inflated sense of their own importance. And later on, they may well have expectations that others in their lives will cater to their needs as well.

One couple I worked with had varying views on the issue of making time for one's partner. "Sam" felt alienated from his wife of 12

It seems appropriate to take a break for crunchy greens and veggies after the holiday season, which is chock-full of rich food and fabulous goodies. While radishes are not a favorite of everyone, I love their fresh taste and crunchy character. They make a great snack all by themselves, but they also brighten up a salad, both in texture and color. Watermelon radishes with their fuchsia meat and lime green exterior, would be beautiful in this salad, but I didn't have any on hand, so I used regular red-skinned radishes – also pretty.

Besides radishes, this salad

calls for watercress, micro greens and cucumber along with feta cheese crumbles and toasted pine nuts (not pictured). I've been buying BrightFresh Microgreens, which offers miniature cilantro, arugula, or kale and are usually available at Safeway and other grocers. These greens make a wonderful base for salad. They do, however, need to be washed, and I usually rinse them and spin them in the lettuce spinner and then wrap them in paper towels to dry. The watercress gives a peppery flavor to the salad, too, which is nice.

INGREDIENTS

10 radishes, thinly sliced
 1 cucumber, (optional to peel) thinly sliced
 1 bunch watercress
 1 package micro arugula
 1 package micro cilantro
 1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese
 2 Tbsp. toasted pine nuts

Recipe lemon vinaigrette:

1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
 1/4 cup fresh squeezed lemon juice
 1/2 tsp. lemon pepper
 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
 Salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

Place all cleaned greens in a salad bowl or on a serving dish. I kept the stems on the watercress, but you can also remove them and use just the leaves, if you prefer. Arrange cucumber and radish slices over the greens and sprinkle feta cheese and pine nuts on top. Drizzle with dressing for a pretty presentation, or toss ahead of time if you're not concerned about the presentation.

years, and initiated couples therapy. He frequently suggested going out to dinner or a concert so they could spend time together alone. They even had a built-in babysitter because his wife's sister was living with them. "Maura," Sam's wife, stayed home with their two young children who were in first and third grades. She resisted Sam's efforts to have couples time, and was quite content to limit their time together to shared family activities. Naturally, Sam felt quite hurt and rejected.

It's always interesting to see why people react the way they do. Neither of Maura's parents had spent much time with her and her sister while they were growing up. They were constantly working and socializing and didn't pay much attention to their children. As children, Maura and her sister had a retinue of babysitters. In therapy, Maura was able to realize that lavishing attention on her own children was her way of dealing with the hurt she had experienced in childhood. She also realized that she was unconsciously guarding against repeating the hurtful pattern she had experienced with her own parents. She had often felt abandoned and didn't want her children to experience this.

Happily, once Maura recognized what was holding her back from going out with her husband, she willingly planned and participated in regular dates together.

2) If your child is slightly unhappy or bored, you take it upon yourself to "fix it" instead of letting him or her learn how to resolve the situation themselves.

Naturally, if your child is very unhappy you will want to help him or her through it as best you can. But when the inevitable happens, and your child (over the age of 3 or 4) is just mildly dissatisfied and bored, this is an opportunity for him to learn how to help himself. Not only will he achieve more satisfaction and self-confidence while learning to solve his own problem, but he will also potentially be happier for doing so. He will know that he has the ability to help himself at these times so they won't feel so daunting to him.

If you feel guilty or responsible when your child is unhappy

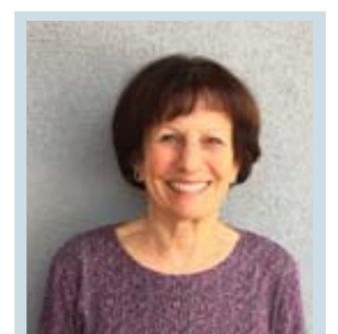
or bored, try to use these times as learning experiences for you both. Make only a few casual suggestions, along with a calm message that you know he'll figure out what he can do. Then, after you see results of his ability to self-direct, you can provide positive reinforcement by praising his efforts.

3) You don't assign your child regular chores.

Giving children household chores at an early age helps to build a lasting sense of mastery, responsibility and self-reliance, according to research by Marty Rossmann, professor emeritus at the University of Minnesota.

Chores also teach children how to be empathetic and responsive to others' needs. One essential component of selecting possible chores for your child is to be sure some are family-based, such as vacuuming the living room or doing everyone's dishes. It's not enough for your child to just take care of her own room or laundry, for example; in order to build a sense of caring and empathy she needs to help others as well as herself.

Let your child select which jobs she wants to perform from a list you create (then vary them over time if she wants), and try to avoid tying chores to punishment or monetary payoffs. The more matter-of-fact you can be about the message, "We all do chores and help each other," the better.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a marriage and family therapist in Orinda and Walnut Creek. She is the author of *Appetite for Life: Stories of Recovery from Anorexia, Bulimia and Compulsive Overeating and Treat Your Partner Like a Dog: How to Breed a Better Relationship*. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com.

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**Your publishers,
 Andy and Wendy Schreck**

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Saint Mary's women's basketball season starts strong

By Jon Kingdon



Jasmine Forcadilla

Photos Tod Fierner

Head Coach Paul Thomas, entering into his 12th season at Saint Mary's, has compiled a composite record of 215-137.

So far this season, the Gaels with a 10-5 record, have proven if nothing else, an entertaining collection of players for Coach Thomas: "I like this team. We have great character and characters. It is an enjoyable team to be around. They're all good people"

This is a balanced team experiential wise. The team starts one senior, two juniors, one sophomore and one freshman, along with another freshman coming off the bench.

Like the men's basketball team at Saint Mary's, the women's team is represented by players from Australia and New Zealand. Sophomore Forward Megan McKay (Australia) is the team's leading scorer, averaging 14.5 points per game. Guard Stella Beck (New Zealand), the lone

senior starter is averaging 13.5 points per game and is second on the team in assists. Sophomore guard, Jasmine Forcadilla (Australia) is averaging 8.6 points per game. Thomas has consistently recruited players from the South Pacific. He cites "their experience in international basketball."

Thomas has come to rely on Beck: "She is the team's undisputed leader but it also helps that there are no egos on our team."

Sydney Raggio (San Bruno) has shown constant improvement and is second on the team in scoring, averaging 14.4 points per game.

This is a team that needs more consistency overall. According to Thomas: "We have to care what we put out on the floor. We have had good and bad games. There have been long stretches when we have not played well."

Thomas is holding his two freshmen, forward Madeline

Holland (Burlingame) and guard Emily Coddling (Santa Rosa) to a high standard: "We are expecting our freshmen to mature quickly and will not allow them to use their being freshmen as an excuse." Holland is averaging 7.0 points per game and is tied with third on the team in assists. Coming off the bench, Coddling is averaging 4.3 points per game.

If there has been bugagoo for the Gaels, it has been their propensity for committing turnovers. The Gaels have been averaging 19.0 turnovers per game, a number that Thomas agrees is an area that needs improvement and he is trying to address the problem: "If the team commits two turnovers in a row in practice, everybody runs. However. I have yet to see a difference in the games."

Thomas is, however, very pleased with the aggressiveness of his team. Saint Mary's is av-

eraging nine more free throws and eight more rebounds per game than their opponents which pleases Thomas: "We are a powerful team and this speaks to how we play defense and how aggressive we are getting to the basket."

Thomas has made good use of his bench, going nine and 10 deep in most games in preparation for the upcoming league games. It has been a real opportunity for Thomas to utilize various combinations of players and see how well they work to-

gether but "I won't be going to the bench as much when league play begins."

Saint Mary's opened their league season with a loss to Loyola Marymount but has responded with three straight wins over Brigham Young 57-49, Pacific 70-69 and the University of San Diego 75-53. The Gaels will now play four straight home games versus Santa Clara on Jan. 11, Pepperdine on Jan. 13, Gonzaga on Jan. 18 and Pacific on Jan. 20.



Stella Beck



Megan McKay

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2017-18 DAL All-League – Foothill Division and Valley Division

... continued from last issue



Ben Miller Photos Gint Federas

Giorgio Alessandria

Duncan Creed

Will Clark

Jake Stone

Max Stryker



Grace Tehaney

Savannah Sherwood

Katie Klein

Erin Neustrom

Jewel Roemer

Lexi Rowell

Boys Cross Country – 2017-18

- 1st Team All-League
Edward Buckley Campolindo
Dylan Gunn Campolindo
James Bull Miramonte

Boys' Water Polo – 2017-18

- Most Valuable Player – Foothill Division
Beck Jurasius Campolindo
Outstanding Goalie – Foothill Division
Ben Miller Campolindo
1st Team All-League – Foothill Division
Giorgio Alessandria Campolindo
Michael Wheeler Campolindo
Nick Schroeder Campolindo
Duncan Creed Miramonte
Will Clark Miramonte
Mike Dakis Miramonte
Jake Stone Acalanes
Garrett Dunn Campolindo
2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division
Soren Jensen Campolindo
Marcus Longton Campolindo
Jackson Painter Miramonte
Leo Berkman Miramonte
Max Stryker Acalanes
Bennett Winther Acalanes
Tommy Hawkins Campolindo
Honorable Mention – Foothill Division
Peter Hillen Miramonte

- Jacob Parker Acalanes
Tom McGuire Campolindo

Girls Cross Country – 2017-18

- 1st Team All-League
Isabella Chao Campolindo
Alicia Hober Campolindo
2nd Team All-League
Emma Overell Campolindo
Jessie Foxworthy Campolindo
Ellie Guthrie Campolindo

Girls Golf – 2017-18

- Co-Most Valuable Players –
Foothill Division
Ashley Pan Campolindo
First Team All-League – Foothill Division
Avalon Schenone Acalanes
Kaydee Tu Miramonte
Katie Ingrey Miramonte
Second Team: All-League –
Foothill Division
Harper Orr Miramonte
Grace Andronico Acalanes
Honorable Mention: All-League –
Foothill Division
Kate Nelson Miramonte
Izzy Campillo Acalanes

Girls Tennis – 2017-18

- 1st Team All-League – Foothill Division
Singles
Amber Lee Miramonte
Eliza Bates Acalanes
Jess Simon-Parker Campolindo
1st Team All-league – Foothill Division
Doubles
Olivia Kudzus/Paige Millham Miramonte
Megan Cardiff/Maddie McDonagh Acalanes
2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division
Singles
Macey Dowd Miramonte
Sydney Bell Acalanes
Sasha Schtein Acalanes
Allison Burkhalter Miramonte
2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division
Doubles
Hannah McDonnell/Juliette Barller Campolindo
Kat Peterson/Michelle Tang Miramonte
Honorable Mention – Foothill Division
Singles
Jasmine Toni Acalanes
Celia Campo Campolindo
Kiki Immel Miramonte

Girls Water Polo – 2017-18

- Most Valuable Player – Foothill Division
Grace Tehaney Miramonte
Outstanding Goalie – Foothill Division
Savannah Sherwood Miramonte
1st Team All-League – Foothill Division
Carson Broad Miramonte
Katrina Drake Miramonte
Katie Klein Campolindo
Kelly Murphy Miramonte
Erin Neustrom Campolindo
Jewel Roemer Acalanes
Lexi Rowell Acalanes
Skylar Savar Miramonte
Bella Wentzel Acalanes
2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division
Zoe Crouch Campolindo
Christina Crum Campolindo
Sally Fellner Miramonte
Katie Lyons Miramonte
Camryn Sutter Campolindo -
Goalie
Kylie Walker Acalanes
Brooke Westphal Acalanes
Honorable Mention – Foothill Division
Ava Donleavy Acalanes
Chloe Morrison Miramonte
Sidney Vranesh Campolindo

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The Lamorinda Soccer Club '07 girls win championship

Submitted by Jean-Paul Cozzatti



Photo provided

The Lamorinda Soccer Club '07 Girls 3-1 to win the Championship at Copa Del Rey in Rancho Cordova on Dec. 10. bested the San Juan Soccer Club '07s

St. Monica 7th grade basketball girls wins tournament

Submitted by Jay Williams



From left: Charlotte Arnsward, Camille Yabu, Mina Wang, Catie McCauley, Kylie Williams, Ava Garcia, Allie Cummins, Anna Mooradian. Photo provided

The St. Monica seventh grade American girls basketball team prevailed in the 17th annual MVP Flight Holiday Classic, a three day tournament comprised of seventh and eighth grade teams.

St. Perpetua 4th-grade National boys win tournament

Submitted by Andrea Hilsabeck



Photo provided

Back row, from left: coach Rick, coach Brad, coach Tony; front row: Mark Bellusa, Gabriel Van Houten, KJ Kaplanes-Jones, Eli Dudum, Alessandro Curletto, Gavin Beers and Preston Hilsabeck. (not pictured: Saaj Shah and Adam Caceido) The St. Perpetua fourth-grade National Fieldhouse winning all three of their games against Santa Maria, Santa Monica and St. Mary's.

Submit stories to
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(We prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide.)

You can find all of the our sports stories published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website. Click Sports tab.

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Photography by Lauren McSorley

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 23 Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D8

Snap, crackle, pop: a fireside story

By Cathy Dausman



A gas fire on logs can be used on Spare the Air days.

Photo Cathy Dausman

Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius once said “a blazing fire makes flame and brightness out of everything that is thrown into it.” More than 1,800 years later we’re still burning wood. We may be more fire conscious and slightly more environmentally friendly than decades and centuries ago, but roast chestnuts and marshmallows still cry out for an open fire.

So, what kind of wood should you use?

Michigan’s Nick Greenway has developed an entire website devoted to all things firewood. Greenway says hardwoods take longer to season (dry) and burn hotter, slower and cleaner than conifer-softwoods. Pine, a softwood, is sappy, full of rosin and high in creosote – a dangerous byproduct in chimney flues. But softwoods may work well for campfires, simply because they are quicker and easier to

light. And hardwood generally costs more.

Cut wood sells by the cord, or portions thereof. One cord of wood measures 128 cubic feet, and stacks roughly 4 by 4 by 8 feet. You can find wood through tree services that recycle their cuttings; or pre-cut wood is available online through businesses and even Craigslist. Manufactured logs like Duraflame or Pres-to-Logs and small bundles of wood are available at hardware and grocery stores. Lamorinda Weekly even found bundled wood available in a nearby pharmacy.

You can buy seasoned, ready-to-burn wood, or green wood at a discount and season it yourself. Firewood needs to air dry for a minimum of six months before it is burned. The water content of freshly cut wood runs as high as 50 percent; with seasoned wood the water content drops to between 15 and 20 percent. And the type of wood varies from oak, almond, cherry, elm, hickory, madrone or walnut.

One East Bay wood source says customers compare the aroma of their thoroughly-inspected-and-seasoned-for-two-years almond wood to that of fine wine. If you buy your wood in the spring or summer, demand is lower; buy it for use this winter and you’ll pay a premium. Want it split, cut to length and stacked? The extra labor adds to the cost. And be sure to store the wood outside to keep ants, beetles, pill bugs or termites away from your hearth. And stack that wood away from the house for fire safety.

There are times, however, when you can’t use a wood-burning fireplace. “We’ve had a record number of Spare the Air days this year,” says Moraga-Orinda Fire District Fire Marshal Kathy Leonard, citing the smoke and ash that has made its way north from the current crop of Southern California wildland fires. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is the public agency that regulates “stationary sources of air pollution” in the greater San Francisco area, including Contra Costa County. It is illegal to burn wood, fire logs, pellets or any other solid fuels in a fireplace, woodstove, or other wood-burning device between Nov. 1 and the end of February when a Spare the Air day is declared. The air district has even developed a free mobile phone app to notify users of Spare the Air days.

... continued on page D4



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	12	\$756,000	\$1,850,000
MORAGA	12	\$610,000	\$1,675,000
ORINDA	11	\$1,175,000	\$2,585,500

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

- 3216 Acalanes Avenue, \$855,000, 2 Bdrms, 1484 SqFt, 1945 YrBlt, 12-6-17
 17 Black Forest Court, \$756,000, 2 Bdrms, 1174 SqFt, 1910 YrBlt, 11-28-17
 3414 Deer Hill Road, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2752 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 12-6-17;
 Previous Sale: \$770,000, 09-27-02
 3151 Diablo View Road, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2579 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 12-5-17;
 Previous Sale: \$675,000, 05-06-99
 502 Florence Drive, \$1,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 2120 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 12-5-17
 1029 Hampton Road, \$1,735,000, 4 Bdrms, 2320 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-27-17;
 Previous Sale: \$951,000, 09-14-12
 1010 Katherine Lane, \$1,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 1583 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 11-28-17;
 Previous Sale: \$856,500, 06-19-12
 3216 Los Palos Circle, \$1,850,000, 3 Bdrms, 2362 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 11-28-17;
 Previous Sale: \$475,000, 06-26-97
 880 Mountain View Drive, \$1,305,000, 4 Bdrms, 2749 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 12-7-17
 3391 Orchard Valley Lane, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1164 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 12-5-17;
 Previous Sale: \$124,000, 08-17-84
 3176 Surmont Drive, \$1,280,000, 4 Bdrms, 2642 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 12-5-17
 18 Toledo Court, \$1,695,000, 4 Bdrms, 3331 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 12-6-17;
 Previous Sale: \$405,000, 09-19-86

MORAGA

- 912 Augusta Drive, \$1,090,000, 3 Bdrms, 2560 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 12-8-17;
 Previous Sale: \$420,000, 10-01-96
 315 Bedford Place, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 3079 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 11-30-17;
 Previous Sale: \$340,000, 06-04-85
 232 Calle La Mesa, \$1,475,000, 4 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 12-8-17;
 Previous Sale: \$845,000, 06-30-11
 3 Corte Santa Clara, \$1,035,000, 4 Bdrms, 2383 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 12-5-17;
 Previous Sale: \$365,000, 04-23-92
 9 Corte Azul, \$1,230,000, 4 Bdrms, 2178 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 11-30-17;
 Previous Sale: \$471,000, 08-26-98
 722 Crossbrook Drive, \$1,360,000, 4 Bdrms, 2352 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 12-11-17;
 Previous Sale: \$451,000, 05-23-97
 5 Lisa Lane, \$1,675,000, 5 Bdrms, 3202 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 12-6-17;
 Previous Sale: \$1,330,000, 06-08-00
 2 Miramonte Drive, \$670,000, 3 Bdrms, 1447 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 12-1-17;
 Previous Sale: \$380,000, 01-24-13
 48 Miramonte Drive, \$629,000, 2 Bdrms, 927 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 12-12-17;
 Previous Sale: \$450,000, 03-20-14
 49 Miramonte Drive, \$610,000, 2 Bdrms, 1436 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 12-12-17
 1095 Sanders Drive, \$1,167,500, 3 Bdrms, 1536 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 12-8-17;
 Previous Sale: \$920,000, 06-27-17
 20 Wandel Drive, \$895,000, 3 Bdrms, 1726 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 12-1-17

... continued on page D6

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Snap, crackle, pop: a fireside story

... continued from page D1



Fireplace use was common in New Hampshire, where retired nurse Terry Ann Black once lived. She said her neighbors saw it as a more affordable option than heating an entire house using heating oil. “I never thought about the (health) implications,” she said.

She does now.

In addition to having an asthmatic grandson, Black chairs the Lafayette Senior Services Commission. She says exposing the elderly to smoke means possible damage to their heart, lungs, throat and eyes.

“I understand the ambiance (of a fire in the fireplace),” she says, “but...”

Leonard says wood-burning fireplaces must be properly maintained – their interiors kept free of creosote, the chimney spark arrester in good repair and outside vegetation trimmed back 10 feet from chimneys. And proper ventilation for the fireplace room prevents the buildup of deadly carbon monoxide gas, but mainly it’s the sparks Leonard worries about.

She says while manufactured logs make for cleaner burning fuel and leave less ash, those too are banned from use on Spare the Air days. Leonard also cautions against attempting to put out a manufactured log once it is lit; she suggests that people opt for a shorter-burning log if they’re uncertain how long they will be home. Leonard says you may operate gas fireplaces even on Spare the Air days, which might explain why most new homes are being built only with gas fireplaces.

Wood burning fireplaces “are really on their way out in most urban areas,” she says.

Just don’t tell Nat King Cole.

Learn more about wood-burning fires:

Manufactured logs versus split wood:

http://www.science20.com/science_motherhood/firelogs_vs_wood_fires_whats_right_choice_cozy_winter_fire

Nick Greenway website: <http://www.firewood-for-life.com/>

<http://woodheat.org/good-firewood.html>

Spare the Air app: <https://tinyurl.com/yb3lov49>

After tree cutting free fire wood is regularly offered.

Photo courtesy East Bay Tree Service



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

ORINDA

- 26 Coffee Berry Lane, \$2,585,500, 5 Bdrms, 4239 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 11-30-17
325 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,198,500, 3 Bdrms, 1658 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 12-7-17;
Previous Sale: \$725,000, 05-21-10
- 18 Hall Drive, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 1872 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 12-5-17
206 Holly Lane, \$1,205,000, 2 Bdrms, 1196 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 12-4-17;
Previous Sale: \$600,000, 07-20-15
- 30 Moraga Via, \$1,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 2486 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 12-11-17
23 Overhill Road, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 2467 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-29-17;
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 04-11-03
- 133 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$2,410,000, 4 Bdrms, 2714 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 11-28-17;
Previous Sale: \$2,230,000, 05-02-14
- 62 Van Ripper Lane, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2552 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 12-11-17;
Previous Sale: \$395,000, 12-02-88
- 22 Van Tassel Lane, \$2,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 4260 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 12-11-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,379,000, 06-01-05
- 22 Warford Terrace, \$2,430,000, 6 Bdrms, 3768 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 12-12-17;
Previous Sale: \$925,000, 02-08-13
- 10 West Hill Way, \$2,082,000, 4 Bdrms, 3196 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 12-7-17;
Previous Sale: \$24,440,000, 12-30-15

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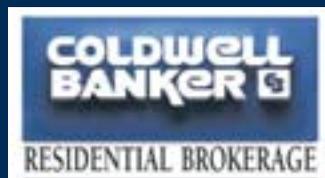
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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Garden pharmacy

By Cynthia Brian

"Hope and faith flower from the cheerful seeds of the old year to the sprouting garden of the New Year's dawn." ~Terri Guillemets



Navel oranges and ginger root.



A tree filled with delicious and healing Meyer lemons.



Spearmint will freshen your breath when chewed. Photos Cynthia Brian

For the past few weeks it seems that everyone I encounter has been sick with a cold or flu or has been nursing a loved one who is suffering from such malaise. The drastic change in weather conditions plus the excitement and multiple engagements of the holiday season have exacerbated this time of illnesses. To help aid in the symptoms that are bothering you, the closest pharmacy may be your garden.

Food has always been the best medicine. What we eat and how we eat it determines our vitality and our health. Culinary herbs and spices such as basil, mustard, oregano and thyme enjoy both flavor enhancing and digestive benefits. Using echinacea or goldenseal, both bitter herbs, can be helpful in clearing congestion and boosting your immune system. Chamomile or passionflower tea helps you relax and unwind, quieting your body and your mind.

A natural remedy to soothe a sore throat and still a cough that I have been using for decades in my work as an actor is a hot tea brewed with a combination of grated ginger, torn mint leaves, the juice, rind and leaves of a Meyer lemon mixed with honey. (If you are fortunate to be a beekeeper as our Lamorinda Weekly publishers are, the most valuable honey in the world is derived from the bees in your garden!) This herbal tea tastes delicious and really helps with clearing my sinuses. For an extra boost of vitamin C, add the juice and rind of a naval orange to the concoction. Pair almost any herb with ginger and lemon for an extra healing enhancer. If you have an upset stomach, motion sickness, or feel nauseous, chewing on a slice of ginger root relieves the symptoms rapidly.

Herbal medicine, herbalism, or phytotherapy have been utilized for centuries around the globe in many cultures for the prevention and treatment of illness. Powerful chemicals that can assist with natural healing are contained in many plants. How-

ever, before ingesting or using any plant as a medication, make sure you are certain of its identity and be aware that allergic reactions can occur. If in doubt, leave it out. Always consult your physician for any ailments that worsen. Pregnant and breast feeding women need to err on the side of caution by always discussing any new remedies or herbal concoctions with their doctor before using.

Here are a few of the botanical medicinal plants that many people already grow in their gardens that I have safely used.

Basil: Besides being extraordinarily flavorful in just about everything, adding basil leaves or flowers to your salads, sauces and stews aids digestion, alleviates anxiety, and reduces gas. As an annual herb, basil grows vigorously in the warm weather and is slowly dying back at this time of the year. Harvest the leaves now to freeze or dry.

Bee balm is a bergamot with edible flowers. The leaves are spicy and the shoots can be made into a pesto just like mint or basil. Dry the bergamot leaves and flowers to use in a steam bath to loosen phlegm and coughing. Make an herbal compress of the plant to treat bacterial or fungal infections. Bee balm spreads vigorously by runners just like mint. It is a pollinator attractor and can be harvested all year long.

Calendula has been used for centuries to heal burns, wounds and rashes. It can be used topically or ingested. The edible flowers are filled with antioxidants and I love adding them to salads and frittatas. Dried flowers can be added to stews and soups to enhance your immune system. Calendula spreads by seeds and in my garden, it flourishes yearround because as a plant dies I scatter the seeds elsewhere and within a short time new plants emerge that flower quickly.

... continued on next page

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HERE COMES 2018!

The end of the year is such a busy time, we hope you and your family had a moment to come up for air and enjoy ringing in the New Year. Over the holidays inventory is traditionally low. No one wants to be bothered to show their home when family and friends are visiting and when there are so many other distractions. More importantly buyers are often out of town, waiting for their year-end bonus and the New Year to begin to start their home search. Despite the traditional holiday lull, December delivered some record high sales which we believe can be partially attributed to buyers and sellers scrambling to sell or buy before the new tax bill was enacted. A 1958 square foot home on .43 acres sold in the Springhill neighborhood of Lafayette sold off market with multiple offers for \$2.2 million, which is over \$1,100 a square foot.

The impact to California homeowners under the final tax bill is certainly not as bad as the initial GOP proposal that would have further impacted homeowners. The new law caps the limit on deductible mortgage debt at \$750,000 for loans taken out after December 14, 2017, caps the deduction for state and local property taxes at \$10,000 but left the capital gains exclusion on the sale of your primary residence unchanged. Initial versions of the bill attempted to extend the time-period a homeowner must live in their home to be eligible for the exclusion and limited the exclusion for families earning over \$500,000. Leaving this provision unchanged is great news for Sellers as most homeowners will maintain the ability to sell their existing home without having to cut a large tax check to Uncle Sam.

We continue to believe that low inventory, a healthy Bay Area economy and the continued trend of tech companies locating employees in San Francisco, will keep Lamorinda prices strong in 2018. Good news for sellers but a hard pill to swallow for buyers that are hoping to find a deal come the New Year.

Please feel free to contact us with your real estate questions -
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Garden pharmacy

... continued from page D8



Bee balm can help with cold and flu symptoms.



Passionflower made into a tea can alleviate pain.



Moundlily yucca. Yucca root is used for a variety of ailments including reducing the pain and swelling from arthritis.

Lemongrass is not a very pretty plant but it is popular in Asian dishes and is used throughout the world as a tea to soothe many health issues including headaches, indigestion, anxiety, coughs, colds, flu and insomnia. For motion sickness or flu, make a tea of lemon juice, catnip or mint, ginger and basil. Like many herbal teas, lemongrass is best combined with ginger for swifter results.

Passionflower is used in teas to alleviate pain such as headaches, earaches or cramps. It also promotes better sleep. In winter this vibrant vine dies back but will return in the spring, preferring a full sunshine location. It is a short-lived perennial, producing flowers for a few years before dying. The Cherokee Native Americans were known to use passionflowers to decrease inflammation from thorn wounds, although I haven't used passionflower for this purpose ... yet.

Mint is a beautiful and functional botanical herb. Mint leaves will root in a glass of water so when you find a mint that delights you, take a snip and start growing your mint garden. All mints are invasive and will take over your landscape. It's best to keep mint in a container. Spearmint, peppermint, pineapple mint, and catnip all make excellent teas that will help ease the effects of the common cold, comfort a queasy stomach, and promote sounder sleep. As a culinary herb, it is stimulating chopped into a salad, soup, or made into a jelly.

May you benefit with wellness by visiting your garden pharmacy, Wishing you a very healthy and happy 2018.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing,
Cynthia Brian



Lemongrass and basil are two herbs that work well together.





Ginger root comes from the ginger plant.

Not To Be Missed:

Tune in to my live radio broadcast from 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24 when I'll be interviewing renowned rosarian, Michael Marriott of David Austin Roses in England. He'll give us the tips we need to prune as well as how to plant bare root heirlooms. <http://www.voiceamerica.com/show/2206/be-the-star-you-are>



Cynthia Brian wishes you a healthy 2018.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, 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!® S01 c3.

Tune into Cynthia's Radio show and order her books at www.StarStyleRadio.com.

Her new book, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, is available at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store.

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