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Roger Wykle, Mike Metcalf, Seth Freeman, Karen Mendonca, and Phillip Arth Photos Andy Schreck

## LAFAYETTE

## MORAGA

# Meet the Council Candidates

Across Lamorinda there are 13 civic-minded individuals seeking to serve on their City or Town Council. Only eight seats are available. As our communities continue to face the financial challenges of deteriorating roads and infrastructure, and issues surrounding planning, development, and local commerce, these all-volunteer bodies have their work cut out for them. On November 6, voters will make their choices. By way of introduction, if you haven't already met, take a first-look at the candidates on pages A10-A12.



Linda Delehunt



Steven Glazer



Victoria Robinson Smith

Photos Ohlen Alexander

## ORINDA

### Quote of the Week:

"This was a land where I wanted to live and grow old; I did and I am." Read Letters to the Editor, page A13

Advertising

**CELEBRATE SEPTEMBER IN ORINDA**

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TUESDAY - SEP 18 ORINDA RESTAURANT TOUR

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# Moraga Inaugurates Softball League

By Michael Sakoda



Moraga's 35 and over men's softball league began Sunday with a double-header at Camino Pablo.

Photos Kevin Nguyen

Read story on page C1

## LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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### This Week Read About:

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## Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

### From Miramonte to the Military

Sophie Braccini meets Lamorinda's newest Marines. Page B4



## Sports C1-C3

### Gaels Return Home

Simon Tryzna recaps women's soccer. Page C3



## Our Homes D1-D8

### A Tree House Grows in Lamorinda

At home among the branches... Cathy Dausman reports. Page D1





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# Lafayette

## Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Monday, September 24, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

#### Planning Commission

Monday, September 17, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

#### Design Review

Monday, September 24, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center  
in the Arts & Science Discovery  
Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### School Board Meetings

##### Acalanes Union High School District

Wednesday, September 19, 7:30 pm  
Board Room AUHSD Office  
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

##### Lafayette School District

Wednesday, September 12, 7:00 pm  
Regular Board Meeting  
LAFSD Office  
3477 School Street, 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

### Police Report



Lafayette Police Summary,  
week of August 26 to  
September 1, 2012

## Getting WOWed in Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson

Looking to expand the minds of residents, the Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center is kicking off a series of free monthly lectures, Wonders of the World (or WOW), which will cover a range of topics from art to science, history and wildlife. Starting with a bang this Thursday, September 12 at 2 p.m. will be charming docent from the Ruth Bancroft Garden, Fred Strauss, discussing how and why Ms. Bancroft started California's largest dry garden along with information on

a wide variety of succulents from aloë to yucca to echeveria. Although it doesn't look a day over thirty-five, the Ruth Bancroft Garden is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. The garden, located in Walnut Creek, started with humble one gallon pots and blossomed into a showcase of plants that thrive in our Mediterranean climate. Strauss, an Orinda resident and former water ski competitor, is on the Ruth Bancroft Garden Board of Directors where he volunteers his time as a docent; he

also helps with propagation at the U.C. Berkeley Botanical Garden.

One afternoon per month a docent from one of many museums around the Bay Area will give a one-hour presentation on their current exhibit. "Prepare to be WOWed," announces the Friends. On October 16 a docent from the de Young Museum will be talking about the William S. Paley Collection; speakers are still being confirmed for November 15 and December 13.

More free information and enter-

tainment is presented by the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation. On September 18 at 6:30 p.m., the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium is presenting a program by Consortium partner Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, "Find a healthy Beat: Important information for people with heart murmurs," discussing the condition and treatment. Organizers ask that folks call to reserve a seat, (510) 869-6737.

## Low-Income Senior Housing Coming Soon



What's all the commotion across the street from the Gazebo? It's the first stages of the long-awaited low-income senior housing project that's being developed by Eden Housing on Mt. Diablo Boulevard near Brown Avenue. Delays over a number of issues including financing, storm drain lines, and the existing EBMUD aqueduct hindered the ground breaking. Forty-five affordable rental units for seniors are on the way, with 17 of those units designed exclusively for disabled residents. The project features two inner courtyards and a community living room for residents to visit, watch TV, with an adjacent kitchen to host get-togethers. Presumably not all of the elderly residents will drive; there are 30 parking spaces available in an underground level. Good news is, Bo's Barbeque is within walking distance right next door. *C. Tyson*

#### Animal:

3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (cruelty)  
500 block St. Mary's Rd.

#### Battery:

1800 block Del Rey St.

#### Burglary:

3100 block Stanley Blvd.  
900 block Hough Ave. (commercial; 2 calls)  
Moraga Rd. @ St. Mary's Rd. (auto)  
3200 block Old Tunnel Rd.  
1800 block Reliez Valley Rd. (auto)

#### Disturbances:

3600 block Bickerstaff St. (party)  
100 block Lafayette Cr. (fight)  
1200 block Laurel Ln. (music)  
900 block Moraga Rd. (loitering)  
3300 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (verbal)

#### DUI:

3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### Drugs:

1300 block El Curtola Blvd. (possession for sale)  
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (forged Rx)

#### Fraud:

400 block Florence Dr.

#### Hit and Run:

100 block Lafayette Cr.

#### Theft:

3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2 calls)

#### Suspicious:

900 block, Moraga Rd.  
Old Tunnel Rd @ Olde Creek Pl.  
1300 block, Sunset Loop  
3300 block, Springhill Rd.  
1200 block Warner Ct. (vehicle)  
Marsha Pl @ Silverado Dr. (vehicle)  
Deer Hill Rd @ N. Thompson Rd.  
900 block Dewing Ave.  
Oak Hill @ Terrace Way  
100 block White Oak Dr.

Buckeye Ct. @ Windsor Dr.

Brook St. @ Moraga Rd.

3300 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (vehicle)

1000 block Sierra Vista Way (vehicle)

1000 block 2nd St.

3700 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

900 block Buchan Dr. (vehicle)

Reliez Valley Rd @ Vals Ln.

1300 block San Reliez Ct.

3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

2nd @ Mt. Diablo Blvd.

3400 block Solana Ct.

Helen Ave @ Mildred Ln. (vehicle)

Rohrer @ St. Mary's Rd.

3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Driftwood Dr. @ St. Mary's Rd.

3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (vehicle)

3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

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## Parking Solution in the Works for Plaza Way

By Cathy Tyson



One of the few parking spaces available for Plaza Way merchants. If approved by the City, the Plaza Way Overlay would relax parking standards in this small historic block. Photo Cathy Tyson

“This can really be the jewel of the city,” said Gary Patterson from the Park Theater Group; he’s looking forward to making headway after purchasing the property with other investors seven years ago. The issue for the theater and other Plaza Way businesses is their lack of parking. Over the years the Park Theater Group scoured the area, looking into purchasing nearby properties for additional parking, but came up empty.

He’s not the only one looking for relief; the Poy Family, who owns Squirrels Coffee Shop and two closed retail spaces next door, are also anxious to address the parking situation. The City listened, and after roughly a year of meetings with property owners, the Plaza Way Overlay District is in its final stages. It would overlay the nine parcels from the Campana building to Squirrels to the Park Theater and would be optional for property owners. The key challenge has been getting seven landlords to agree on a way to reconfigure the rear parking area to improve circulation and optimize the number of parking spaces available.

Recently the Planning Commission, along with representatives from the Creeks Committee and the Circulation Commission, met to discuss the four “visions” that had been crafted to address parking for that area. Drawing on information gleaned from a year’s worth of Plaza Way Subcommittee meetings and with a clear un-

derstanding of who is opting in, and who is opting out, and who is on the fence, City staff have created a plan that can be phased in, if and when land owners buy into the concept.

Currently there are fences and a shed that delineate property lines, chopping up available real estate behind the shops. Over time, the hope is that all the property owners will opt in to create a public/private parking partnership that will ultimately bring more customers to those businesses and be self sustainable, via parking meter revenue.

The block has character and cultural significance, but with a number of storefronts shuttered it seems to be dying on the vine—while other commercial areas like La Fiesta Square, the Mercantile Building, even the shopping area across the street that runs from Safeway to Whole Foods, flourish.

The Plaza Way subcommittee came to some important conclusions. “If the city wishes to preserve Plaza Way’s historical character and stimulate the right type of development it must treat the area differently...strict application of modern zoning and parking regulations make the properties non-viable, as a result, will eventually destroy its quintessential character,” states the staff report prepared for the joint meeting.

Property owners who opt in to the proposed Overlay District will be required to update buildings, construct parking in the rear of the property and grant an easement over driveways and public parking areas, while in return the City will design and develop a consolidated parking plan and reduce the parking requirement from 1 space for every 45 square feet of dining area to 1 space for every 100 square feet of dining space.

Although the three Creeks Committee members in attendance gave a mixed review to the proposal—there’s a creek that forms the southern border of the area—the Circulation Commission seems generally more in favor, with Bill Loudon commenting, “This is really exciting. This would be a tremendous help, I whole-heartedly support it.” No decision was made, but discussion will continue at the next meeting of the Planning Commission, September 17.

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# Moraga Civic News

## Public Meetings

### Town Council

Wednesday, September 12, 7:00 pm  
 Wednesday, September 26, 7:00 pm  
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
 1010 Camino Pablo

### Planning Commission

Monday, September 17, 7:00 pm  
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

### Design Review

Monday, September 24, 7:00 pm  
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

### School Board Meeting

#### Moraga School District

Tuesday, October 9, 7:30 pm  
 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



## Police Report

**Car burglary, 8/26/12** Sometime during the night the passenger window of a Chevy Silverado was smashed near the corner of Augusta Drive at Merion Terrace and a backpack containing a Dell Laptop computer and a Verizon 4G Wi-Fi card was taken. Estimated loss \$550 for the items and to replace the window.

**D.U.I. 8/25/12** A Volkswagen sedan was pulled over in front of 7-11, the driver smelled suspicious and when he flunked field sobriety tests he was arrested for drunk driving. His blood alcohol level was exactly the legal limit of .08 percent.

**Where's the older homeowner? 8/25/12** An 88-year-old woman who lives alone hadn't been spotted by concerned residents in several days; she's usually out watering in the evening. They were worried because her mail was accumulating and newspapers hadn't budged from the front porch and her car was still in the garage. Police attempted to contact her and they checked with MOFD who hadn't reported that she had been picked up. Cops ended up cutting a window screen and climbed through an open window to gain entry into the home. She wasn't there. They closed up and left a business card requesting a phone call when she arrived.

**Fight over parking spot, 8/24/12** Two owners of businesses at the Rheem Shopping Center had a loud dispute about employees or the owner parking in stalls assigned for customers. This was the third time the pair had gone at it over parking. Cops politely suggested they take the matter up with management of the shopping center.

**Paint sprayer vanishes, 8/10/12** A paint sprayer valued at about \$275 was left in an unlocked shed in the backyard of a Williams Drive home. Because the shed was unlocked for roughly two weeks, hard to know when exactly it disappeared. No leads at this time.

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## Dochterman Appointed to Advisory Council on Aging

By Sophie Braccini



Cliff Dochterman talks with Vice Mayor Howard Harpham after his nomination to the Advisory Council on Aging Photo Sophie Braccini

Moraga resident Cliff Dochterman may never be done serving his community. After years on the Board of the Moraga Country Club,

as the Chair of the San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation Commission, on the Board of the Stockton Chamber of Commerce, and as Worldwide President of Rotary International, the former University of the Pacific executive vice president will be Moraga's representative to the Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA). The exceptionally sharp and witty gentleman, now in his 80s, has views on what aging residents need and he promises to use his fighting spirit to get that population the attention and services it deserves.

"Residents over age 65 represent about 18.3 percent of Lamorinda's population," Dochterman told the Town Council August 28 as it considered his appointment. "I feel, every day of my life, the issues and the concerns that they have."

Dochterman believes that the first concern is economic. "Will I have enough money to last the days that I still have?" Health care is the second concern he cited. "Will I be a burden on someone?" Accessibility, mobility, transportation and quality of life rounded out his list. "Hundreds of people in our community could be lonely; is there someone there to

care?"

The Council asked him a few questions before unanimously appointing him to the ACOA. "What is your view on the role of government in providing senior services?" asked Mayor Mike Metcalf. "Do we have an obligation for our children, for their education?" responded Dochterman. "For some people (government) is their only hope. When people reach a certain age, they may require a little more—maybe a handrail on a city street, the little things that make a difference. We do so much for our children, and that's important, but so many seniors have given their whole lives; we can't turn our backs to them," he said.

ACOA members are appointed to advise the County's Board of Supervisors on all matters associated with the planning, development and administration of programs relating to older adults. Each of the 40 members serves on one or more different committees: health, housing, legislative advocacy, marketing, mental health, and transportation—Dochterman indicated that he is primarily interested in health and transportation, areas in which he is determined to make a difference.

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# Regulating Winemaking

Town seeks different perspectives from the public

By Sophie Braccini



Early morning harvest

About a year ago, Moraga Planning Director Shawna Brekke-Read proposed the development of regulations to address local winery operations. "The Lamorinda Winegrowers Association announced last year that it was interested in expanding vineyards and wineries in the Lamorinda area," she said. "At this time, Moraga allows for home-based occupations, but it does not allow for wineries in general. In addition, the Town has received some complaints about winery operations." Brekke-Read's purpose is to develop a process that will address both neighborhood concerns about wineries and the interests and goals of Lamorinda Winegrowers.

The Planning Director met several times with winery owners/operators, vineyard owners,

and members of the Chamber of Commerce. "The meetings have been productive and useful, as the vintners and growers have explained the history of winegrowing in Lamorinda, the small scale of current operations, the hope to designate an AVA for the Lamorinda area, and the modest long-term objectives of expanding wineries and winegrowing in Lamorinda," she said. "To date, the meetings have been private and limited to those the wineries and winegrowers have invited to attend."

Additionally, Brekke-Read met with neighbors of wineries and two other individuals who volunteered to look at regulating wineries. "Neither group is appointed," she said, "it is simply an opportunity to have a conversation." But she wants to hear from a larger con-

stituency, from more individuals providing additional perspective about wineries in Moraga. Should they be allowed to expand? Are more wineries appropriate in Moraga? Are there concerns that should be addressed? Are wineries compatible with Moraga's semi-rural character?

"We would like to meet the groups that may have different perspectives a few more times before having a meeting with both groups together," said Brekke-Read. "These meetings will help staff put together a package that addresses a variety of concerns to bring to the Planning Commission, then Town Council, for their consideration."

Anyone interested in sharing a perspective may contact Planning Assistant Kelly Clancy at (925) 888-7040 or kclancy@moraga.ca.us.

Photo Andy Scheck

## PEAR & WINE FESTIVAL SAT. 9/29; 10-4PM

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#### 30 Reliez Valley Court, Lafayette

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\$2,650,000 Karen Richardson



#### 12 Kimberly Drive, Moraga

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\$1,950,000 Alan Marks



#### 8 Crest Road, Lafayette

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\$1,275,000 Lisa Brydon & Kristi Ives Team



#### 70 Rheem Boulevard, Orinda

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\$958,000 Lisa Brydon & Kristi Ives Team

Square footage, acreage, and other information herein, has been received from one or more of a variety of different sources. Such information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors. If important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation.

ORINDA | 2 Theatre Square, Suite 215 925.258.1111





# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, September 18, 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, September 25, at 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, September 26 at 6:00 pm  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
City Hall, 22 Orinda Way

### School Board Meeting

**Orinda Union School District**  
Monday, October 8, 6:00 pm  
OUSD Office **NEW LOCATION**  
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200  
www.orindaschools.org  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

### City of Orinda:

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

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



## Police Report

All bottled up, 9/4/12 A 20-year-old male, recently fired from Orinda's CVS Pharmacy, returned to the store to pick up his final paycheck. He was entitled to the paycheck, but figured he'd take a parting gift of a bottle of vodka as well. Said male (incidentally, isn't he still a minor?) left without paying. The store's Loss Prevention Manager asked Orinda Police to prosecute. They complied. The suspect was placed under arrest, transported to Martinez and booked into county jail.

You snooze, you lose (your freedom), 9/3/12 Since when is snoozing considered a crime? Perhaps when the car's occupant, a 43-year-old male, has an outstanding warrant. He was sleeping in his car at the same location he had been working when police received reports of same. Upon finding he had an outstanding warrant, he was arrested, transported to Martinez Detention Facility and booked.

A bad day to carpool, 8/27/12 A driver and his passengers were pulled over in Orinda. It sounds like the opening volley of a joke, but the joke ended up being on those in the car. The driver was found to be on active probation and had a suspended license. His front seat passenger had a warrant out for his arrest, and the rear passenger was in possession of a camera he claimed was his but was actually stolen. The car also contained women's jewelry and a silver pitcher, which were, (wait for it...) suspected to be stolen property. All three were transported and booked into Martinez Detention Facility, giving new meaning to "share the ride."



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## Three Candidates Vie for Two Orinda City Council Seats

By Laurie Snyder

*To see it in our power to make a world happy – to teach mankind the art of being so – to exhibit on the theatre of the universe, a character hitherto unknown – and to have, as it were, a new creation entrusted to our hands, are honors that command reflection, and can neither be too highly estimated, nor too gratefully received. – Thomas Paine, "Common Sense" (1776)*

Here are your three candidates for Orinda City Council. Please see our special election section on page A12 for their thoughts on leadership, fiscal responsibility, and community engagement.

### LINDA DELEHUNT

The only non-incumbent in the race, Linda Delehunt has experience at the state level helping local education agencies consolidate budgets in order to maximize limited funding, and describes her area of expertise as "assisting entities in targeting and allocating their monetary and physical resources in a manner appropriate to their needs and consistent with their legal obligations."

Delehunt earned her undergraduate degree at the University of California, Berkeley, her Master's at California State University, East Bay,

and her doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of the Pacific. She also holds a Professional Administrative Credential.

As principal of Downer Elementary School, she created a partnership between the West Contra Costa Unified School District and Miramonte High School in which Miramonte Advanced Placement Spanish students mentored less affluent learners at Downer Elementary, inspiring all to aim higher while broadening their life experiences and perspectives.

Delehunt has served on the Board of the Orinda Educational Foundation and on the boards of the Glorietta Elementary and Orinda Intermediate School Parents' Clubs. She also founded Orinda's first Girl Scout Daisy Troop and has actively volunteered with the Meadow Swim Team. She and her husband have lived in Orinda for 32 years.

### STEVEN GLAZER

Running for re-election to his third term, Orinda's current Mayor Steve Glazer was first elected to the City Council in 2004. He served as Mayor Pro Tem in 2006, as Mayor in 2007, and as Vice Mayor in 2011. Born in Landmark, California, Glazer and his wife moved to Orinda in

1996. They have two daughters.

Glazer describes his work with the City Council as having included "the organization of public safety activities, city budget reforms, staffing the City of Orinda information table at the Farmer's Market, attending numerous civic events, and encouraging the successful effort to modernize the local Safeway store," as well as supporting "changes to policies affecting Theater Square that have resulted in improved public shopping and dining."

According to Glazer's profile on Ballotpedia.org, he was named "political strategist of the year" in 2010 by the American Association of Political Consultants for managing Jerry Brown's successful return to the California Governor's office. He was appointed by Brown to serve on the Board of Trustees for California State University, and was confirmed for that post last April. He has also been an advisor to the Governor regarding the proposed state sales tax increase to be considered by voters in November.

### VICTORIA ROBINSON SMITH

The second incumbent running, Victoria Smith was first elected to the Orinda City Council in 2004, serving as Vice Mayor in 2007 and 2010, and as Mayor in 2008 and 2011. She was

a member of the City of Orinda's Planning Commission, 2003-2004.

Her current leadership responsibilities include service on the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, (serving as its Board Chair in 2010), the Contra Costa County Mayor's Conference Executive Board, the City of Orinda Library Steering Committee, Audit and Finance Committee, and Senior Housing Sub-Committee. A liaison to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, Smith was also previously involved in allocating funding for child abuse prevention and treatment as an appointee of former Supervisor Gayle Uilkema to the Contra Costa County Family and Children's Trust Committee.

A Silicon Valley native, Smith graduated from U.C. Berkeley and Hastings College of the Law. She and her husband, an Orinda native, returned to the community 24 years ago to raise their sons.

She relocated her law practice to Orinda 17 years ago, and currently advises individual and business clients regarding dispute resolution and real estate transactions. A member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, she has also served as a Parent's Club board member with Orinda's schools.

## City of Orinda Makes Progress Reducing ABAG-MTC Demands

*Residents urge officials to push back even harder*

By Laurie Snyder

Planning by the Association of Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Bay Area Governments (ABAG) continues to rankle residents despite successful efforts by the Orinda City Council and City staff to alter agency goals that could have forced a 260 percent increase in Orinda's housing development.

According to the staff report prepared for Council's September 4 meeting, "State law mandates that every city and county adopt and periodically update the housing element of their general plans ... to assure that cities and counties recognize and fulfill their responsibilities in contributing to the state housing goal and regional housing needs." Additionally, "the housing is now being used as a tool to implement SB375" (California's law to reduce greenhouse gas emissions) "and the housing allocation this cycle is in large part determined by the preferred Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) adopted by ABAG and MTC in May 2012.... Through the SCS process, ABAG and MTC prepared five alternative growth scenarios for a 30-year period starting in 2010."

The Initial Vision scenario presented "allocations significantly higher than the growth envisioned in the City of Orinda General Plan." Following strongly worded letters in June 2011 by then-Mayor Victoria Smith and in February 2012 by current Mayor Steve Glazer, which called ABAG-MTC's development expectations for Orinda unrealistic and suggested the agencies are failing to provide the public with adequate opportunities for feedback, ABAG-MTC "selected a preferred scenario that is consistent with the growth envisioned in the Orinda General Plan. The preferred scenario allocates growth of 590 households to

Orinda over the next 30 years, of which 177 are designated for downtown" – a reduction from initial ABAG-MTC projections of 1,344 households for the

downtown area.

Residents urged the Council to continue demanding change, and also pressed leaders to better educate their fellow Orindans

about ABAG-MTC procedures by spelling out in plain wording the definitions of confusing catch phrases in ABAG-MTC reports.

... continued on next page

## INTRODUCING...

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**Former OUSD Offices Demolished**



Photo Ohlen Alexander

The first physical signs of Orinda's newest housing initiative appeared on Orindans' radar when Pulte Homes recently demolished Orinda Union School District's administrative offices. The site, originally home to Pine Grove Intermediate School before being leased to JFK University in the early 1970s, was declared surplus property by OUSD in 2003, which then contracted with Pulte to develop the area. The City of Orinda granted approval for the project in 2008. When completed, the new development will feature a new OUSD office building, along with 73 homes, new City-owned playfields, a public lot, and public parking. *L.Snyder*

**City of Orinda Makes Progress Reducing ABAG-MTC Demands**

... continued from page A6

Council directed staff to seek clarification with the Housing Methodology Committee (HMC) regarding how many of the City's current and planned projects will meet the latest proposed Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA),

and to provide clearer explanations of ABAG-MTC terminology in future reports.

The ABAG Board will consider the latest round of revisions and appeals to its draft RHNA methodology on September 20. ABAG

personnel anticipate issuing Final Allocations in April 2013 for approval by its Executive Board prior to review in the summer of 2013 of the San Francisco Bay Area RHNA Plan by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

NEW! Living Lean presents Yoga with Beneyoga (Tuesdays 12-1, Thursdays 8:30-9:30 and Fridays 12-1) in Orinda

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**LAFAYETTE \$975,000**  
4/2.5. Fantastic Home! Single lvl completed updated 2353 sq ft home w/gourmet kitchen, level yard.  
Elena Hood 925-253-4600

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**LAFAYETTE \$2,495,000**  
4/4. Tucked behind two gates this majestic Happy Vly Estate set upon 3 acres is truly an entertainer's paradise!  
Chad Morrison 925-253-4600

**ORINDA \$1,599,000**  
4/3. Country Club home: updated living spaces, prvt master, hwdw flrs, chef's kit, gardens & pool.  
Finola Fellner 925-253-4600

**ORINDA \$979,900**  
4/2.5. Updated home w/level yard near swim club & top schools. Hardwd, dual-pane, granite.  
The Holcenberg Team 925-253-4600

**LAFAYETTE \$1,099,000**  
5/3.5. Sprawling contemporary with views. Level lawn area, pool and spa, lighted sports court. Must see.  
Jeanette Bettencourt 925-253-4600

**ORINDA \$3,650,000**  
4+/4.5. Romantic, Contemporary Villa Built in '90 on 1.3 Ac with Amazing Gardens, Vistas & Privacy.  
The Hattersley's 925-253-4600

**ORINDA \$1,100,000**  
3/2. "Huge" flat back yard/fabulous views. Remodeled single level.  
Elena Hood 925-253-4600

**LAFAYETTE \$1,699,000**  
5/3.5. Short Sale. Beautifully updated, yard w/pool, lawns, slate patio & much more! Detached guest house.  
The Beaubelle Group 925-253-4600

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**Laura Abrams, CB Agent**  
"Laura Abrams is the most knowledgeable, hard-working and determined real estate agent with whom we have had the pleasure of working. She understood our needs. She was a wealth of knowledge that helped us make the right decision in our purchase. We will recommend her to any and all friends, family and co-workers looking to move into this are." - Adam and Carmen H.

**Dana Reedy, CB Agent**  
"Dana was a great Realtor to work with and I would highly recommend her to anyone needing to buy or sell a home. She sold my home while I was living out of town and managed everything. She's professional, knowledgeable, honest and friendly. I always felt Dana had my best interests in mind, and I never felt pressure to make decisions or do something I wasn't comfortable with. Thanks to Dana, selling my home was an easy and positive experience!" - Angie C

**ORINDA \$1,785,000**  
4/3. Charming traditional Cape Cod home in the Country Club neighborhood. Many special features!  
Laura Abrams 925-253-4600

**MORAGA \$1,195,000**  
5/3.5. Beautiful Sonsara home. Ideal flr plan, located at end of street. Back yrd w/lawn, patio and deck.  
The Beaubelle Group 925-253-4600

**ORINDA \$6,195,000**  
5/4.5. Truly extraordinary! This majestic, private, park-like 24 acre view estate with gated security entrance.  
The Hattersley's 925-253-4600

**ORINDA \$1,299,000**  
4/3.5. 3972 square feet including Au-pair unit. Close to downtown with views!  
Vlatka Bathgate 925-253-4600

**LAFAYETTE \$1,639,000**  
3/3. Exceptional Single Level Shingled Springhill Home with Park-Like Creek Side Setting.  
Maureen Wilbur 925-253-4600

**ORINDA \$1,250,000**  
3/3. Mid-century, reinvented with eco-friendly materials and period-sensitive styling.  
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**ORINDA \$1,875,000**  
5/3.2. Elegant gated Orinda Estate in Country Club section with view of the water.  
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**LAFAYETTE \$1,775,000**  
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ORINDA MOTORS, INC. Orinda Classic Car Show Enter Your Car Today! ORINDA ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW





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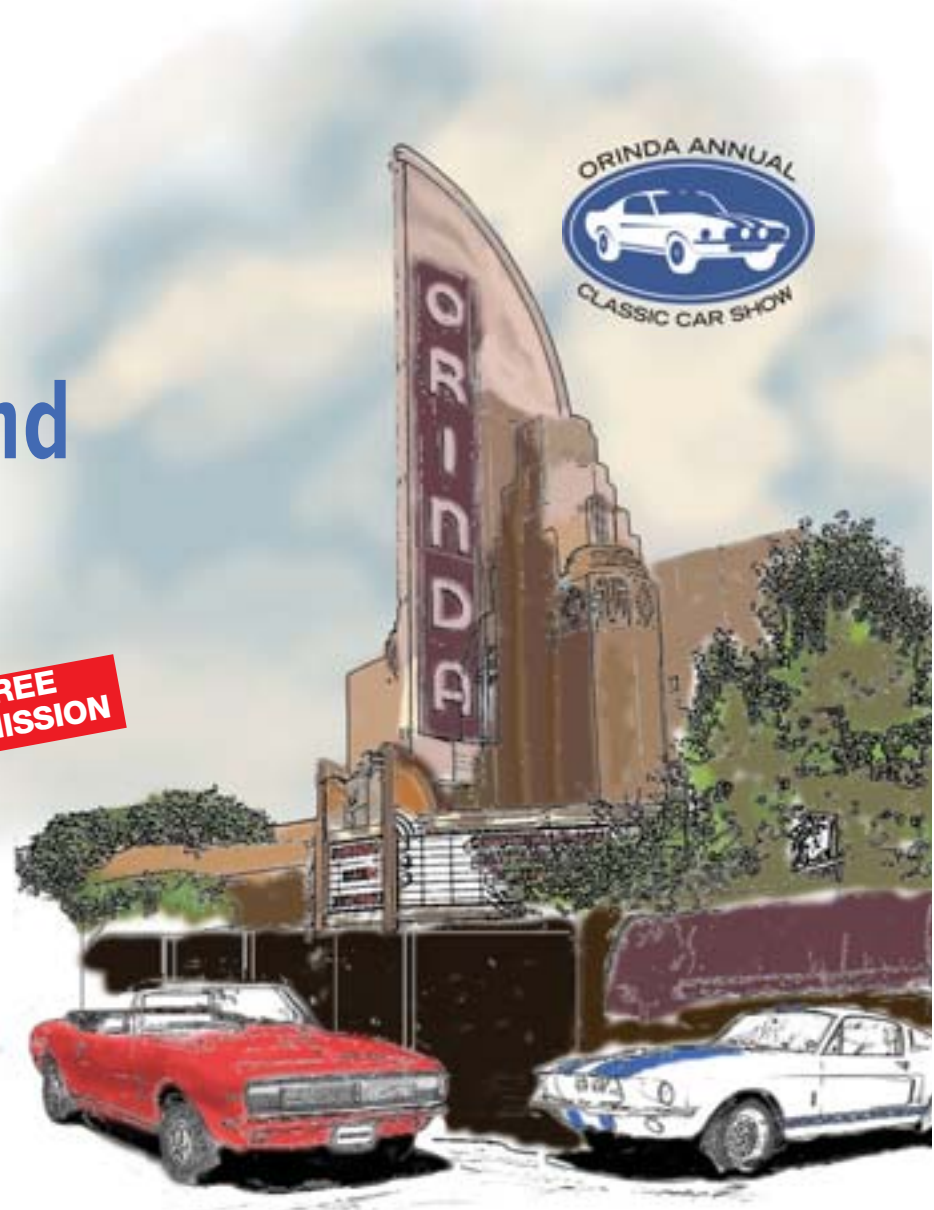


# The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 7pm  
*"Dancing with the Cars"*

Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10am-2pm  
*Orinda Classic Car Show*

**FREE ADMISSION**



### Cruise in a Classic!

Donate \$10 and choose your ride for the parade. Enjoy vintage and modern exotic cars and motorcycles, food, music, and more! The show will be held in Orinda Village on Orinda Way and the 16th fairway of Orinda Country Club.

Join us as a spectator or to show your car or motorcycle! Register online today!

## Enter Your Car and Make Party Reservations Today at [www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com)

These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda, and other local charities. We would like to thank our partners for helping make these events happen: Orinda Association, Orinda Rotary, Orinda Historical Society, Orinda Country Club, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda Arts Council, and Seniors Around Town.

### Event Schedule

Friday, September 21st, 7pm

"DANCING WITH THE CARS" FRIDAY NIGHT PRE-PARTY

The presenting sponsor for this great event is **Mechanics Bank**.

**Come party in the streets of Orinda--James Bond style**

This year's "Dancing with the Cars" party will have a James Bond 007 theme including two shaken not stirred "Cartini" bars as well as a special exhibit of James Bond cars that were the most memorable from those classic 007 films.

Again, we will be tenting Avenida de Orinda for a fun-filled sneak preview of the next day's car show. The evening will feature hosted cocktails, dinner, music and a live auction. Proceeds of this event primarily benefit the Educational Foundation of Orinda.

**Buy your tickets at:**  
[www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com)  
 Space is limited so don't wait.  
**NO WALK-INS WILL BE ALLOWED.**

See a special Carroll Shelby Tribute display of Shelby Mustangs and Cobras



### "DANCING WITH THE CARS" PARTY SPONSORS

Presenting Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors:

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Special thanks to our host, Orinda Motors

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Presenting Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors: Aetna, AON, Bay Cities Paving and Grading, Capture Technologies, Container Trac, EPIC Insurance, Fed Ex Office, f'real foods, Lamorinda Weekly, Mechanics Bank, Merrill Lynch, Muir Healthcare, The Orinda News, Pacific Business Centers, Romak Iron Works, Saags, Safeway, Union Bank

Saturday **Free Admission**  
 September 22nd, 10am - 2pm

**8TH ANNUAL ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

The presenting sponsor for this great event is **Orinda Motors**.

- The show will be held in Orinda Village around Orinda Motors and on Orinda Way.
- This year's car show will expand again to include the 16th fairway at Orinda Country Club with food and beverages served on the fairway!!!
- + 175 Classic and modern exotic cars as well as unique motorcycles
- Orinda Idol Winners Performance at Noon
- **Meet Olympic Gold Medalist Heather Petri at 12:30**
- See a special Carrol Shelby tribute exhibit of Shelby Mustangs and Cobras.
- Shaded seating for over 100 to enjoy lunch and refreshments from the
- Car Show BBQ Booth and the Orinda Country Club Taco Taco Bar.
- Lord's Ice Cream
- Ride in the Parade of Classic Cars at 2pm
- Buy a 2012 Car Show T-Shirt

Proceeds benefit local charities: Seniors Around Town, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society, and other local charities

### CLASSIC CAR SHOW WEEKEND PIT CREW

Dan Akol	Steve Giacomi	Lindsay Lautz	Matt Randelman
Hallie and Henry Alfaro	Karen Derr Gilbert	Mary Maxson	Janet and Ben Riley
Vik Amar	Steve Harwood	Gwen McNeilus	Charlene and Mike
Stretch Andersen	Carolyn and Chip	Jim Mitchell	Robinson
Syd Anderson	Herman	Yosh Neugebauer	Kevin Romak
Bob Bishop	Cara Hoxie	Allen Palmer	Dayna and John
Barbara and Jack Bontemps	Sue and Dave Howard	Sharon and Lou	Sayres
Tom Brzezinski	Glenn Jackson	Parrague	John Vanek
Sheila and Scott Butler	Donna and Doug	Terry Ranahan	Bill Waterman
Rita Chamberlain	Johnson	Lynn and Paul	Kathie Wicker
Betsy & Greg Chovanes	Stu Kahn	Randelman	Kate Wiley
Peggy Dillon	Joan Kiekhaefer	Jon Randelman	

### To enter your car go to: [www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com)



Sunday,  
 September 23rd, 5:30pm & 7:45pm  
**"SPEED ON THE SCREEN"**  
 at the Orinda Theater

**Bullitt starring Steve McQueen**

Admission \$10

Beer and Wine Included

Special introduction to the film

Proceeds benefit the Lamorinda Theaters Foundation

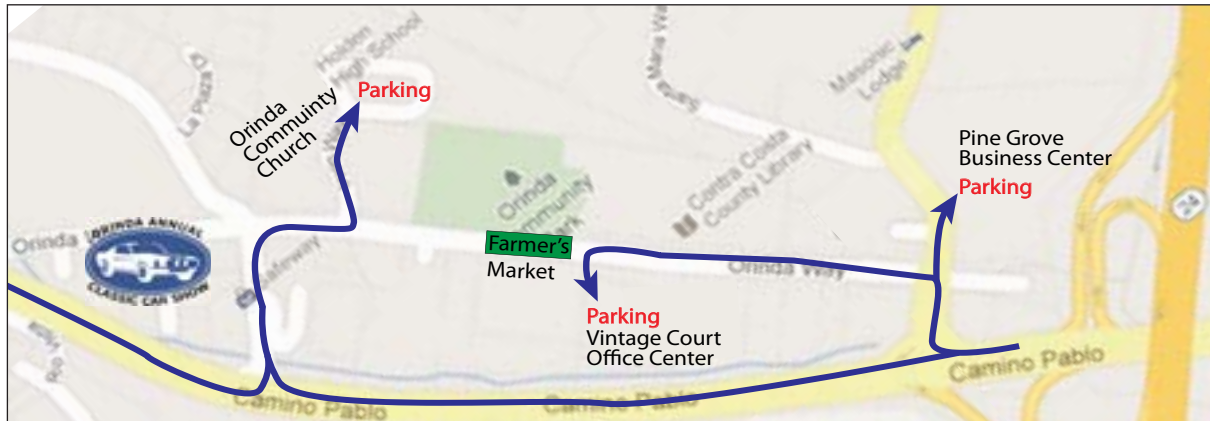
Presented by



Buy your tickets at the Car Show or at the Orinda Theatre box office the day of the showings!

## CLASSIC CAR SHOW PARKING

- Orinda Community Church and Holden High School, Irwin Way
- Vintage Office Building, Orinda Way
- Pine Grove Business Center, Santa Maria Way





# Saving State Parks, Open Spaces Point of Discussion at LLLC

By Lou Fancher



Cyclists enjoy the outdoors at Briones Regional Park in Lafayette.

An August 28th screening of the documentary *The First 70*, co-hosted by Sustainable Lafayette and the Lafayette Open Space Group at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, brought together environmental activists, eco-minded hikers and bikers, grassroots neighborhood organizers and remarkably, even people with differing views on the role of government.

United by their increasing concern for California parks, potential foes dropped political posturing to witness the airport-shuttle-bus-turned-RV adventure that three young people filmed in an effort to preserve

the state's treasured open spaces. *The First 70*, shot in 120 days and funded by a Kickstarter campaign that aimed to raise \$35,500, but ended up with over \$57,000, profiles the 70 parks slated for closure due to state budget cuts.

Opening with time-lapsed views of ocean water, breaking into white foam on towering boulders; gold-tipped evergreens, touched by a setting sun; and families, following trails through fern-filled forests or ogling over antique furniture in a historic home, the filmmakers allow park employees to give voice to their cause.

"If you lose them, you're really

poor," one woman says, referring to the proposed closures of one quarter of the state's 279 parks.

The documentary asks a number of questions: What does it mean to close a park? How is a park closed? What are the dangers, the risks, both to the parks themselves and to taxpaying residents?

Photo Jennifer Wake

Expectedly, the answers are grim. The litany of suggested disasters unfolds against a backdrop of profound beauty, as each park is shown from a down-on-the-ground perspective.

The accumulative message is that the money saved by the closures will be insignificant, in terms of the state's overall budget. Worse, the abandoned parks could fall prey to vandalism, fires and decay. Already, one man says, he is the sole employee in charge of 5,000 acres.

Private businesses and non-profit organizations have stepped in to save some of the parks, the filmmakers announce, offering the first hopeful expression in the approximately 30-minute documentary.

The solution, it seems, is in everyday citizens, like the close to 50 people gathered in LLLC's Community Hall.

Ron Brown, Executive Director of Save Mount Diablo, quickly reviewed the history of the non-profit organization he joined 41 years ago,

before answering audience questions.

"Will [Governor] Jerry Brown's ballot initiative be enough?" one woman asked.

"If Prop 30 fails, the state of California as we have known it will be no more," Brown predicted. "It will be devastating to us and to state parks. This is me talking, but we're all concerned about the economic viability of the state if it fails."

Brown spoke at length about Mt. Diablo and other open spaces, where declining funds, spread over many years, have allowed roads to deteriorate and precious water reserves to be lost.

"And what is that money in the bottom drawer?" he asked, introducing a topic most people recognized from recent headlines.

In early August, Legislators in Sacramento ordered the state auditor to investigate the Department of Parks and Recreation, which reportedly hid \$54 million in two special funds, while seeking donations from the public to keep parks from closing.

... continued on page A14

## Community Service

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

## New Track at Springhill Honors Former Principal

Submitted by Suzy Pak



Retired Springhill principal Bruce Wodhams makes his inaugural run. Photo Shelly Hamalian

Springhill Elementary Principal Heather Duncan unveiled the new Principal Bruce Wodhams Running Track August 29 to honor Wodhams for his 24 years of service to Springhill (he retired in July 2011). This project was made possible through funding from the Springhill Parent Faculty Club and a generous grant from the Lafayette Community Foundation. Wodhams offered his heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all

those who worked tirelessly to make this happen during Springhill's weekly Spirit Wednesday ceremony. He christened the new track with a lap around it at an "impressive" pace, followed by two children from each classroom while Chariots of Fire played in the background. This wonderful addition inspired Springhill to start planning its first Walk-a-Thon next May to promote wellness and community service.

## Dog Brings Smiles to Moraga Royale Residents

Submitted by Jessica McCormick



Piper with owner, Jan Monteyne Photo provided

Piper passed her AKC Canine Good Citizen test on February 5 and became a Therapy Dog for the East Bay SPCA in June. This 1 1/2 year old Miniature Australian Labradoodle visits residents at Moraga Royale nearly every week, and happily sits on the seats of residents' walkers so they

don't have to bend over to pet the dog's soft fleece coat. Piper is a bubbly, energetic little dog that becomes very calm each time she enters the doors of Moraga Royale. She will gently put her paw on a resident's arm and look into their eyes as if to say, "Tell me about your day."

# People are talking...about The Terraces of Lafayette

Mention the proposed Terraces of Lafayette apartment community to people around the city, and you're likely to hear a lot of conflicting information. We thought we'd set the record straight on some of these concerns:

**"New development is going to make traffic in the Pleasant Hill Road/Deer Hill Road area unbearable."**

The Terraces proposes a new southbound lane from Deer Hill Road to the freeway and a protected left turn lane from Pleasant Hill Road into the community that would actually IMPROVE traffic flow. Although the Draft Environmental Impact report (DEIR) agrees that the addition of a southbound lane would "increase traffic capacity," it rejects the proposal. ([www.ci.lafayette.ca.us](http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us))

**"How can we support a project that will block views of the ridgelines and natural hillsides?"**

The entire project has been planned on 23 acres of the lowest, least visible and most degraded (by road construction and quarrying activities) area of the 85-acre Dettmer family property, nearest to the freeway. The proposed project is located south of Deer Hill Road and NONE of it will be built on the natural open hillsides or the ridgelines. An illustrative plan of the site is available in the Draft EIR, online at the City website.

**"The Terraces project is out of character for Lafayette."**

The physical character of Lafayette includes several communities of two and three story apartments. The Terraces is entirely consistent with that character and will include planting of more than 700 trees on a denuded and eroded piece of land. Landscaping plans are included in application for development, online at the City site.

**"I'm worried that the project will attract transients and people who will not put down roots in the community."**

The Terraces could provide much-needed housing for local teachers, City employees, other professionals and long-time Lafayette residents transitioning out of their family homes.

**"How can an apartment community live up to Lafayette's green goals?"**

O'Brien Homes is one of the Bay Area's most respected builders, known for its design and construction of everything from townhomes to estates. The Terraces is committed to a minimum LEED silver rating. The company is not new to green building; its Fusion project in Sunnyvale has received Build it Green's "Green Point Rating." ([www.blogfusionsunnyvale.com](http://www.blogfusionsunnyvale.com))



**TERRACES OF LAFAYETTE**

[terracesoflafayette.com](http://terracesoflafayette.com)



# Meet the Council Candidates

## Five Contenders Vie for Three Seats on the Lafayette City Council

By Cathy Tyson

Three of Lafayette's five City Council seats are up for grabs this November 6. One incumbent and four challengers have their hats in the ring for these four-year volunteer positions. Perks of the job include long hours and occasional snacks, no salary, no bonus, no health insurance. Two would-be incumbents, Carl Anduri and Carol Federighi, have stepped down after serving for many years on the City Council and other civic commissions. Newcomers to the potential position include a real cross-section of Lafayette residents.

With several large housing projects in the pipeline, the Woodbury, Merrill Gardens, Hungry Hunter townhouses, KB Home proposed condominiums and the recent ground breaking of Eden Housing's project for seniors, grappling with growth is the talk of the town. All five contenders were asked to respond to a question about how to deal with growth-related issues and associated challenges like traffic and parking. They came back with a range of responses and are presented here in alphabetical order.



A resident of Lafayette for more than twenty years, Mike Anderson has been serving on the City Council since winning a seat in 2004. He's married and when not working at the East Bay Regional Park District, as Assistant General Manager for Planning/Stewardship and Development, he enjoys making beer and working in the garden. The relaxed, unflappable Anderson has served on numerous subcommittees and has clearly embraced the never ending Monday night meeting schedule. In his spare time, Anderson is a Raiders and A's fan.

"As the popularity of our wonderful City continues to grow, we will need to focus on tempering the impact that proposals for development within both Lafayette and the Town of Moraga have on our traffic. It is essential that we maintain safe ingress/egress through adequate circulation and improve movement within our City by building a network of safe, unobtrusive walkways linking neighborhoods to schools and the downtown, as well as, a system of bike lanes to promote a viable alternative to driving. The creation of strong linkages to our regional trails should also be a high priority. However, no matter what we do to advance the use of these alternative methods of transportation, people are going to drive into the downtown to shop, eat, and socialize.

To address the growing need for parking, it is essential that we find ways to promote the consolidation of existing private parking areas to allow people to park their cars in one lot and to walk from there to the various shops and restaurants that surround it.

Overall, it is my opinion that our best opportunity to manage traffic and provide adequate parking in the City is through better control over the development that occurs in the downtown. With State and regional planning agencies requiring us to provide the opportunity for a specific

number of additional housing units within our City, managing our future development must be achieved through a method that is acceptable to these entities. Our Downtown Specific Plan conforms to these requirements and will assure that development in this part of the City is thoroughly analyzed for traffic impacts, both direct and cumulative, on a case-by-case basis. With the establishment and implementation of the development guidelines required by the plan, I truly believe that we can address these growth related pressures while maintaining the small-town character of our downtown and supporting the desirable businesses which continue to play an essential role in the future economic sustainability of Lafayette."



Robert Lobron has lived in Lafayette with his family for the past seven years. His goals include finding the best ways to help make Lafayette a vibrant and safe community with beautiful parks and trails that serve the needs of all residents. He sees several challenges facing the community during the next four years—especially the state budget presenting risks to schools and the ability to maintain basic infrastructure.

In his free time, he's volunteered for the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission. With twenty years of experience in financial management, Lobron is the Executive Director, Financial Planning for National Facilities Services; he feels his experience is an asset in helping to maintain a stable fiscal environment. He has a Masters in Business Administration from University of San Francisco and a B.A. degree from Temple University. He's responsible for planning and managing billion dollar annual budgets for a large health care company including facilities development and maintenance.

"Dealing with growth is an important part of the future of our city. We need to ensure that all proposed projects meet the requirements of the building codes but also meet the spirit of maintaining the semi-rural environment we seek to maintain. The Planning Commission and the City Council must evaluate projects with not only the incremental impact of one project, but the cumulative effect of all projects approved over a period of time. Perhaps the city should set goals for limiting the total traffic impacts of new facilities for some period of time, perhaps each decade. Parking requirements for new facilities should also be carefully managed.

Lafayette may want to expand the use of public transportation to reduce traffic. There may be opportunities for the establishment of small bus systems, like the successful senior bus program. Perhaps this concept could be expanded. School busing could also be improved to reduce driving kids to school.

Lastly, opportunities to improve biking and walking access will reduce traffic. Small projects to improve pathways and trails will further reduce traffic while providing the opportunity

for people to exercise. It may seem impractical, but making it easier to access BART and shopping will reduce traffic and parking issues.

We need to balance development of new housing and business while ensuring we maintain the environment for the city we love. As a member of the Council, I will never forget that I represent you. I will work tirelessly to ensure that Lafayette is a wonderful place to live." Find him on Twitter at Rlobron or on Facebook at Committee to Elect Robert Lobron.



Mark Mitchell has spent a lifetime in Lafayette. He's served on the Planning Commission for the last decade, reviewing projects in and around the city, and sat through literally years worth of meetings combing through the as yet undecided Downtown Specific Plan. Married, with two teenagers, he's been active in his kids' schools, Scouts' organizations and coached eleven different sports teams from t-ball to basketball to floor hockey and beyond. In his spare time, he's served on the executive board as treasurer and currently as Foundation President for Our Savior Lutheran Church.

"Growing up in Lafayette and living here for 50 years, I share the values of our residents. We savor our small town feel; want responsible growth that is sensitive to our concerns about traffic, parking, and protection of our views. We love our schools and volunteer or donate to help out. We require a prudent fiscal plan for our City government. We love Lafayette's semi-rural beauty and want to protect our ridgelines.

Serving on Lafayette's Planning Commission for the last 10 years (Chair, 2008), I have listened carefully to our residents and have consistently voted to protect neighborhoods, support senior housing, protect our hill-sides and ridgelines and to maintain the small town feel of our downtown."

Mitchell is interested in moving up to the City Council for two reasons: the shift in focus to broader issues like the budget and regional concerns, expanding from the mostly land-use issues that are the responsibility of the Planning Commission, and the people side—he admires City Council members and enjoys hearing public testimony. "In general the public is very well informed and makes interesting and valid points," he said.

Mitchell would bring experience to the City Council via work on several important civic documents. He's assisted in critiquing and revising the General Plan 2002, the Hillside and Ridgeline Ordinance 2003, and the Downtown Specific Plan. He has served on the Wireless Communications Facility Ordinance (cell phone towers) Committee to create new rules to protect public health, safety, and preserve the beauty of Lafayette. He founded the Sweet Drive Homeowners Association and co-founded burtonvalley.com in 2001.

He graduated from UC Berkeley with a BS in Business Administration in Finance and Real Estate. He's been employed as a real estate broker since

1982, specializing in investment properties and property management.

"If elected to the Lafayette City Council I promise to be responsive to the concerns of the people of Lafayette." For more information, visit his website at [www.mitchell4citycouncil2012.com](http://www.mitchell4citycouncil2012.com).



Traci Reilly is the busy mom of three school-age boys and a dedicated volunteer. She and husband Kevin have lived in Lafayette for almost 20 years, initially becoming active with the Lafayette Juniors for a decade, then volunteering for a range of positions in the boys' schools from Lafayette Elementary to Acalanes. She has served on the Crime Prevention Commission since 2006, and has been its chair since 2008. Residents have Reilly to thank for her tireless efforts on the passage of City Ordinance 579, curbing door to door solicitation. She has a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Cal State Sacramento.

"Growth and change are inevitable, and if done right, both will ensure the economic vitality of our City. At the same time, we're challenged with preserving Lafayette's small town charm and appeal.

How do we achieve the former without sacrificing the latter? There has been a passionate debate about this for years. I believe we must find a balanced approach to growth that takes into account traffic, downtown congestion, parking, and protection of our beautiful views.

The Lafayette General Plan, which was adopted in October 2002, has four guiding principles that I believe are still relevant today.

1. Preserve and enhance the character of Lafayette as a semi-rural community.
2. Create and maintain a strong sense of community in Lafayette.
3. Protect the natural and scenic quality of our surrounding hill-sides and ridgelines, creek area, trees and other vegetation.
4. Encourage the involvement and citizen volunteers in land use and policy planning.

We should encourage developers looking to build in, or near, the downtown, to have a plan in place to offset the additional traffic and parking that their project(s) will create. An example of this could be a free transit bus or van that runs along Mt. Diablo Blvd to shuttle residents to and from the downtown. This is one idea that could help alleviate the impact on limited parking and reduce the amount of vehicles in the downtown.

I also believe we should work to ensure that Lafayette isn't required to accommodate more than its fair share of housing allotments from State agencies, and that we are given flexibility on how we can reach our mandated housing goals.

"The Summer 2012 issue of Lafayette Vistas did a good job of summarizing the current situation as it relates to the development of a Downtown Specific Plan and what's at stake." Back issues of Lafayette Vistas can be found online. For more information on the candidate, visit her website at [www.tracireilly.com](http://www.tracireilly.com) or try her facebook page: Traci Reilly for Lafayette City Council.



Yolanda "Jolie" Vega wanted to be involved in politics since she was a little girl in Puerto Rico. She earned a B.A. from City College of New York, and a Masters from the Executive MBA program at St. Mary's College. This Gold Star Mom will be busy this coming weekend volunteering at the annual East Bay Stand Down event that brings together a range of service providers including medical and dental care for veterans and their families at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. She's currently employed as a BART Transit System Development Partnering Facilitator in Oakland and has served in leadership roles for various local organizations for the last 20 years including former Chair, Youth Council; Two-time President, Graduate School of Business Alumni Board, St. Mary's; Co-Chair; City of Lafayette Communications Committee; Chair, Circulation (Transportation) Commission Citizen Advisory Committee. She's raised two boys, both Eagle Scouts who later served in the Air Force; one was killed in Afghanistan in 2008.

"Our community enjoys a wonderful reputation because we care about our schools, our quality of life, and our environment. We are committed to protecting all of it. Because of this, our community continues to attract families that also want to enjoy this environment.

Growth will bring vibrancy to the community. This is exciting; and, it needs to be managed carefully with input from the various stakeholders. It is a balance between growth and absolutely maintaining our sense of place. Several Lafayette businesses have come forward with plans to maintain and expand their property. To match what governs development in the area, we review the Downtown Specific Plan and identify what impact it will have in the overall feel of the city. We must weigh what benefit a construction project has for the overall good of Lafayette. Working with property owners and surrounding areas provides a venue for collaboration. The community has voice. Therefore, different perspectives are heard and rather than one and only way of addressing growth, multiple views and concerns are aired. With any approved growth, the issue of traffic and parking is front and center. What alternative type of transportation can be offered to those who work, shop, and live in the area? Free Shuttle bus service from the Lafayette BART Station similar to what is offered in Walnut Creek? City Parking? Metered Parking? Timed Parking? Encourage people to walk or bike our beautiful city with open areas and park areas in and around town that offers seclusion. Connect downtown through our Parks and Trails.

It doesn't make sense to construct additional businesses or housing if people can't park or walk or bike. And, if the traffic is choking we lose the customer to another area. It doesn't make sense to construct them if our schools can't handle the additional enrollment. It doesn't make sense to construct if we don't have the police to ensure our safety on the roads and for our property.

So, slowly, very slowly, review the requests and take into account how growth affects the entire picture of our community. There is a reason why people move here—the schools, the openness, the family community, and our sense of safety. This cannot be ignored as we move forward. I commit myself to not ignoring any of it."

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Look for the **Lafayette Community Foundation's Election 2012 pamphlet** that will be inserted into the October 10 issue.



# Meet the Council Candidates

## Three Seats, Five Candidates - Here's Your First Look

By Sophie Braccini

Lamorinda Weekly recently caught up with the five candidates who are running for three seats on the Moraga Town Council and asked a few questions (the candidates are presented here in alphabetical order).



**Phillip Arth is a first-time Council candidate.** He is a long-time Moraga resident and business owner. Until two years ago he ran a tax consulting firm, with his wife Gretchen, from his home. He raised three children in Moraga and has had the pleasure to see some of his eight grandchildren grow up in town as well. Arth wants now to give back to his community. "I want to bring my financial expertise to the Town," he said. He is past president of Moraga Movers and a past Big SIR of Sons In Retirement. He was recently appointed to the Town's Audit and Finance Committee.

"The town is well managed and there is not much room for additional savings," said Arth, "but I think that it would be a good idea to have a CPA on the Council." He believes that his accountant approach and critical thinking will be beneficial. He supports Measure K, the Town's one percent sales tax residents will vote on in November. "The sales tax will give us enough to maintain our roads, but we need more to compensate for the delayed maintenance," said Arth. His primary mission, if elected, will be to start to work on a parcel tax for the roads, starting with understanding which residents do not support the idea and reaching out to them.

Land use is Arth's other motivation. "I was a MOSO supporter," he said, "but I'm not an isolationist who would want to stop anyone from coming to Moraga. We need to have some wiggle room in our code." Arth admitted that he has not studied all the issues in detail yet, but he thinks that the decision on the Hetfield property to allow six new homes to be built was a good one.

Another land use issue that Arth wants to have an impact on is winemaking. "We need regulation for that activity," he said. "This is great as a hobby, for personal consumption, but not for commercial use." Arth thinks that the size of the vineyards should be limited, that the creation of an AVA (American Viticultural Area) for Lamorinda is not a good idea, and that the Pear Festival should not have added "Wine" to its name. "People with large vineyards spray their grapes, they wear suits to do so, and it is a nuisance to their neighbors," he added.

Arth has followed Moraga's political stories quite closely, he even went to Rancho Laguna Park to meet the dog owners and forge his own opinion. "I was impressed, they are a very conscientious group," he said, "but I need to research more." Arth says that he would never bring his grandchildren to a park if dog waste was present and he favors the idea of a fenced park, possibly including a specific area for small dogs.



**Seth Freeman is running for Council for the second time.** He was not elected two years ago. Freeman is the CEO of an emerging markets investment management, mutual fund and restructuring company headquartered in Moraga, with staff in Hong Kong, Singapore, India, China and Vietnam. He holds an M.B.A. from Thunderbird School of Global Management; a B.A. in Management from Saint Mary's and is a Certified Insolvency and Restructuring Advisor.

"We need to have the entrepreneurial approach on the Council," said Freeman. Unlike his opponents, Freeman believes that the Town is not well managed and that savings could be made. "The Council recently hired new managers and directors without taking that opportunity to hire qualified people who would work for less, or change the pension plans," said Freeman noting that in Lafayette city employees are part of a 401K plan, not a pension.

Freeman has an extensive list of what he believes is Town waste. "The Council gave the Town Manager a \$50,000 discretionary budget two years ago, this is a typical trick of mismanagement," said Freeman (Town Manager Jill Keimach indicated that about \$20,000 of the fund called Community Contingency has been used this year, and that the balance will go back to the General Fund).

The handling of the Rancho Laguna Park issue also shows, in Freeman's view, how the Council wastes public money. "This was not even an issue listed in the Town's priorities at the beginning of the year," he says, "but over the last 18 months some \$100,000 has been spent in unnecessary legal and consultant fees."

Freeman says that, if elected, he will take an entrepreneurial approach to costs, reassess benefits and salaries, and reevaluate priorities. "I believe we could save about \$200,000 per year," he said. Some of Freeman's priorities are services for seniors and teens. "It is unacceptable that the Town refused \$3,000 to the Spirit Van when it wastes thousands otherwise," he said. Freeman adds that he would like to see a private/public partnership to create a teen center in Moraga.

Freeman believes that the current rules protecting open space are good, and that there is a fine line between diminishing a property owner's rights and protecting the community's values.

Freeman supports Measure K, "because the roads need it," he said. However, he does not have confidence in the incumbents' ability to manage this revenue. "The incumbents who were in power are the ones who failed to act when their engineers warned them in 2007 and 2009," he said. "There should be an independent board of trustees to manage this money."

Another big issue for Freeman is transparent democracy and how technology should be used to provide live video streaming of public meetings.

He added that he'd like to see free Wi-Fi in the parks, coupled with cameras for safety reasons.

"There are many underutilized assets in this town," concludes Freeman. "Students could get valuable skills doing research for the town, the band shell in the Commons and the amphitheater at Rancho Laguna are under-utilized and could offer more music and plays that would raise Moraga's cultural level."



**Karen Mendonca is running for a second term on the Council.** She has lived in Moraga for 17 years. Most of her career was devoted to administration and counseling in higher education. In her last position, she served as vice president of student affairs, and took early retirement at age 51. Mendonca has also served in Parks and Recreation. She is proud of the Council's achievements in the last four years that include fiscal responsibility, economic development, enhancement of the relationship with Saint Mary's College, the improvement of the Camino Pablo School field, and the successful hiring of a very talented town manager. "One of my favorite accomplishments in 2011 was the founding of the monthly 'Ask the Mayor and Town Manager' open, public meetings at Terzetto Cuisine," she noted.

In the next 4 years, Mendonca would like to see the sales tax (Measure K) pass to begin to address the town's infrastructure needs. "If the sales tax measure is approved, we should be able to see dramatic and ongoing improvements in the Town of Moraga," she said.

Mendonca ran a pro-open space campaign and then supported the Rancho Laguna Development project that allows construction on a minor ridge line. "I do not see a contradiction," she said. "I vigorously campaigned for Measure K (MOSO 2008) in the last election. I had hoped that it would have been supported by a majority of Moraga voters, but it was not. I told supporters at that time, if Measure K failed and I was elected, I would use our current General Plan when making land use decisions. It is the ethical and legal approach to making fair decisions." The General Plan will be reviewed in the coming years and Mendonca said she's looking forward to the opportunity to determine whether the current General Plan is adequate in its current guidelines.

She added that it is the responsibility of all members of the Moraga Town Council to make land use decisions that are fair and in the best interest of the Town of Moraga. These principles also guided her in her approach to the issue of off-leash dogs at Rancho Laguna Park.

"Parks are meant to be shared by all," she said. "After more than three years of dedicated work by the Park and Recreation Commission and Town staff, and after more than 40 public hearings, meetings, and opportunities for input, it is very disappoint-

ing that a final agreement respectful of the widely diverse needs of all our citizens was unable to be reached." For the future of the park, Mendonca said she will listen to citizens to see if there is an interest in maximizing access and safety for all users of Rancho Laguna Park.

Winemaking will also be looked at in the coming year. "It can be a very positive part of our community," she said, "and the Town is already in discussions with wine producers and neighbors in order to identify collaborative solutions to concerns such as commercial truck activity, public events, and commercial sales."



**Mike Metcalf is currently serving as Moraga's mayor, and has held a seat on the Council for eight years.** Metcalf is a member of Kiwanis and served on the Planning Commission; the former Chevron engineer derives a pride of achievement from local service.

Metcalf's main focus over the past 4 years has been the infrastructure. He was part of the committees that analyzed the state of the town's roads and is a strong supporter of Measure K. "We need to get things done," he said. "The yield of the measure will be less than what we need, but it will stop the bleed." Metcalf understands that some residents are concerned the money could be spent on other things. "The plan is to bond some of the revenue stream up to \$7.1 million," he said. "That will be used to start the work that needs to be done. About half of the sales tax will serve that debt; the other half will be at the discretion of the Town Council." Metcalf says that surveys have shown that the top 5 priorities of residents are linked to infrastructure. "What Council in its right mind would spend that money on anything other than infrastructure?" he asked. He added that the ordinance requires establishing a volunteer citizens' oversight committee.

Metcalf was involved in the Rancho Laguna Park and off-leash dog issue. "There was no consensus on the Council and some people dug their heels into the sand," he said. "We need to put this question to rest. The town is tearing itself apart over this and there are more important issues to look at." Like the rest of the current Council, he supports the construction of a spatial separation between off-leash dogs and other park users.

Metcalf presents himself as supportive of minimal government and believes that the Town works amazingly well with a very frugal budget. "We budget with a little bit of cushion," explained Metcalf. "Our sales tax revenues have increased, and we've lowered expenditure by delaying some rehiring." He added that pensions and health plans are at a minimum.

Metcalf's position on protecting open space in Moraga is that the General Plan as it stands now is not enough. "The General Plan has served the Town well," said Metcalf. "The text is not ironclad and that would be the wrong approach, you need to have discretion. It's not the text that provides the regulation, it's the process, and that is what public participation is all about."

For the next 4 years Metcalf said he would love to continue to work with the top notch staff Moraga is lucky to have. He expects the rela-

tionship with Saint Mary's College to continue to improve for added synergy and rejoices that staff will soon vacate the Hacienda for 329 Rheem. He will also continue to work with the School District to improve the availability of sports fields.



**Roger Wykle has served on the Planning Commission for the last two years.** Wykle joined the Coast Guard Academy when he was 18 years old. After graduating, he served as an officer in Louisiana, Hawaii, California, and abroad for 21 years. While in service he earned a masters degree in civil engineering. He and his wife chose to move to Moraga in 2008 to raise their children.

After he retired from the Coast Guard in 2009, Wykle went to work for a general contractor before starting his own general contracting company, Sustainable Group. He specializes in green construction and other federal projects.

Community service has been in Wykle's life since he served as a volunteer fireman at 16; he said he always volunteers where he lives. His first big case on the Planning Commission was the Dollar Tree. Wykle tried to find arguments in the code to stop the store. "Some good still came from that decision," he said. "Kimco listened to the community; we now have a nice produce market, Tangelo's, and an Indian restaurant. Moraga deserves better than to be the discount shopping center of the East Bay."

Wykle says he is now running for the Council because of the decision that was made regarding the Hetfield estate (the building of 6 new homes). "The General Plan directs to preserve open space to the maximum extent possible," said Wykle. "Hetfield was in MOSO space, in a high risk area prone to landslides. The implementation of the guidance says that if high risk is mitigated, development can occur, but there is no parameter to define the extent of what that mitigation can be." He added that for Hetfield, the mitigation will require the moving the equivalent of 50,000 truckloads of dirt. Wykle would like to participate in the amendment of the General Plan so that open space will, in his view, be really protected.

As a civil engineer, Wykle does not like deferred maintenance that increases costs exponentially. "Nobody wants to pay more tax," said Wykle, "but I am supportive of the 1 percent sales tax, this is a step in the right direction." Wykle thinks that so far the Town has done well to balance its operational budget. He added that, as a rule, he does not like debt and prefers to control expenses.

As far as Rancho Laguna Park and off-leash activities are concerned, Wykle believes that the park was working fine for years. "What was broken there that we needed to fix?" he asked. He said he is in favor of administrative control, such as tightening up the times and news signs, rather than engineering control, such as a fenced dog park.

"I truly respect public input and comments. We need to meaningfully value and treat the people with a high degree of respect," he concluded, "I also learned to be diplomatic and built consensus during my years in the Coast Guard. I will bring those skills to the Council."

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# Meet the Council Candidates

## A Q & A with Orinda's City Council Candidates

By Laurie Snyder

There are two City Council seats available, and Linda Delehunt, Steven Glazer, and Victoria Robinson Smith want them. All are educated, accomplished professionals with solid community service track records. Asked about leadership, community engagement and fiscal responsibility, they graciously responded with more detail than we could hope to cover in a single article.

**Orinda has roughly a \$10 million annual budget - small when considering the programs it offers and problems it faces. What shape is the City in - and what must our leaders do over the next 10 years to improve our fiscal picture?**

**Delehunt:** I am very concerned about the great needs related to the infrastructure roadwork that has been a necessity in this city for over 20 years. We seem to be making little progress in terms of addressing this looming issue. My concern is our deficient infrastructure is a safety issue and puts the very quality of our lives as well as our property values at risk.

The reality is that six years ago the Infrastructure Committee identified that we will need \$100 million to repair Orinda's roads. The sales tax measure on the November ballot is projected to generate approximately \$600,000 annually. The city has stated that it will cost \$2.2 million annually to simply maintain the roads after the \$100 million infrastructure repair that has not been done. The bottom line is that the sales tax solution is really not a solution since it does not even cover annual road maintenance.

Additionally, a sales tax increase will negatively impact Orinda small businesses.

While the \$100 million repair figure is staggering, we do need to face these figures head on and utilize our best collaborative citizen thinking to come up with a plan that is acceptable to Orinda residents and that truly addresses the problem. The current 2017 and 2021 bond plans as proposed by the City as a solution are really not a solution since those measures will require the onerous 2/3 majority vote that is seldom an electorate choice and has been identified by surveys as being unacceptable to Orinda resi-

dents. We need to address these issues comprehensively now.

**Glazer:** Despite the economic recession, our city budget is balanced and we maintain prudent reserves. This has occurred because we have eliminated non-essential programs, reduced staff, and improved efficiencies.

Orinda is one of the few cities in California that addresses retirement benefits through a defined contribution plan for employees. Therefore, we do not have the financial overhang of pension or post employment health care obligations that are straining the budget of most other cities.

I am particularly proud of our efforts to involve more citizens in the decision-making process of the town. We have established new advisory and oversight committees on finances, infrastructure and traffic safety. This has made our governance more inclusive and transparent.

We have improved the planning and design review process. This has benefited homeowners who want to improve their property as well as residents who want to ensure that remodeling fits into the character of our unique neighborhoods.

We continue to have a serious infrastructure challenge as our aging roads and drains fail. This is an approximately \$50 million problem in a city whose entire annual budget is around \$10 million. Importantly, the Council has worked hard to spend our scarce road repair dollars in a way that maximizes benefit and cost efficiency.

We have worked hard to secure regional, state and federal grants to improve roads; but, without a new funding source, our roads and drains will continue to deteriorate. The City Council has adopted a 10-year road and drain repair plan, which would be funded, in part, by a small sales tax increase. I strongly encourage our residents to support this effort by voting yes on Measure L this November.

**Smith:** In April 2009, when the banking world was in freefall, we revised the City's Investment Policy to require that all investments are kept in very safe AA or AAA securities ... we adopted a Reserve Policy which requires the City to maintain an operat-



Linda Delehunt

ing reserve of 50 percent of the annual General Fund, but no less than five million dollars. We also adopted a Balanced Budget policy. We have met these requirements each year, even though Orinda experienced a three percent decrease in property tax revenue last year.

We have balanced the budget by making tough decisions.... But we must address our greatest unmet need ... right now, the cost to completely rebuild our roads and storm drains, which we inherited from Contra Costa County, is \$52 million.... With the help of the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Committee, we will have fixed all of our major roads, and the roads around the schools by 2015. However, we do not have the millions of dollars needed to fix our residential roads.

Two months ago, the City Council adopted a 10 Year Plan.... The first step ... a 1/2 cent sales tax, which is on the November ballot for voter approval ... will be followed in later years by two bond measures, so that ... over time, we will accumulate the money needed to comprehensively repair our roads. While we all recognize that the 1/2 cent sales tax will result in a relatively small amount of money ... it enjoys wide support among the voters and ... we will use the revenue to attack our road deficit and produce measurable results.

**What can Orindans do right now to help?**

**Delehunt:** Each citizen should attempt to utilize his or her time in such a way as to contribute to the betterment of life in the community. Everyone's life is a little different and even the smallest contribution can have an impact.



Steven Glazer

Orinda residents should become actively involved in learning all sides of the issues facing the city. They should also understand that even though the community is an affluent community, the city does not reflect this affluence. City coffers do not have adequate resources to support all of the current city needs including infrastructure needs.

I served as a Girl Scout Leader and founded the first Girl Scout Daisy Troop in Orinda. I am proud to say that, some 20 years later, almost every girl in my Girl Scout troops has gone on to achieve high professional goals and are currently leaders in many sectors of life. I am also particularly proud of the work I have done with the schools both in the local area as well as throughout the state of California.

**Glazer:** I would encourage our residents to support Measure L. It is an important first step to funding our 10-year road and drain repair plan. I would also encourage our residents to shop and dine in Orinda, thereby helping our local businesses and providing valuable sales tax dollars that fund repairs to Orinda roads.

A great community is a collection of people who are working well together to achieve common goals while respecting their occasional differences. Our founding fathers wrote of each individual's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; but this is possible only when we come together to support each other in reaching these ideals.

I believe deeply in community service and I hope that I have set an example for both my daughters and others in the importance of giving back to the community that has given us so much.

**Smith:** Orinda's residents are our greatest resource in climbing back from the economic downturn! First, we can all "Shop" and "Eat" Orinda! September 18th is the Orinda Chamber of Commerce Restaurant Tour... September 20th is the Orinda Night Out... work with your neighbors, fire and police to make your neighborhood safer. September 21-22 is the Orinda Motors Dancing with the Cars Party and Classic Car Show.

Second ... apply to serve on one of the City's Commissions, volunteer with one of the many groups that provide art, music, theater, library support, preserve our environment or our history, raise money for worthy charities, our schools, churches and Scouts; get involved!

In this country we have the privilege and the responsibility to exercise our right to vote, so if you support the 1/2 cent sales tax measure as I do - or if you don't! - get out and vote and help your elected officials do their best to represent you.

**Theatre Square is thriving again, delighting residents, but other "downtown development" issues roil the waters. What needs to happen with the downtown, and why?**

**Delehunt:** At Cal, I was fortunate to be a student of Allan Temko ... former Orinda resident and Pulitzer Prize-winning architectural critic. I attempt to live by his high architectural standards. As I look at the various websites and talk with people throughout the city, I can't help but be impressed by the thoughtful plans that the various sectors of our community have crafted. I do believe that there ... can be a "meeting of the minds"... I don't believe there has been enough



Victoria Robinson Smith

dialogue ... it is clear to me that many residents feel left out of the conversation.

Small business needs to have particular consideration for the purposes of this discussion. We need to encourage small business development in our city.

Orinda is a relatively new city ... we have to consider that our model of city government may need some revision based on our low revenue and high need status. I would be in favor of examining the operational model of other highly successful small cities with the intent of compiling a list of best practices that we might consider adopting.

I would be in favor of instituting town-hall style meetings that might assist the city in reaching a suitable renovation and operational city model.

**Glazer:** I support efforts to improve our downtown while maintaining its small town charm. The city should be supportive of property owners who want to improve their facilities. This may include upgrading retail and office spaces as well as the addition of residential housing.

I have supported changes to policies affecting Theater Square that have resulted in improved public shopping and dining. And, I have supported improved housing opportunities for seniors in our downtown. Most importantly, I have sought ways to expand opportunities for more citizens to get involved in local government through groups such as the public safety and infrastructure committees.

The current conflict seems to be centered over allowing an increase in building heights. Unless we have a specific plan that makes clear how greater building heights will maintain and enhance Orinda's small town charm, we should resist efforts to arbitrarily increase building heights.

The city doesn't own its downtown, but we have an important role to play in making sure that planning policies protect our city's character while working cooperatively with property owners who want to improve their buildings. The city staff, planning commission, and council should be committed to this shared goal.

**Smith:** Theatre Square is a gem, and I am very proud that the City has assisted the property owner and the business owners to help make the Square the lively local spot that it is now. A couple of years ago, the Council rezoned the back lane of Theatre [Square] to allow some service businesses to open up; that helped to bring foot traffic in, and now we have a number of highly successful restaurants and some new, diverse shops for our residents to patronize ... the Square is now at 98 percent occupancy!

How do we spread that success throughout the downtown? I think we continue to engage the public in workshops and informally, at the Farmer's Market Council table and during the 4th of July festivities ... to discuss what we collectively want to see. We want to find our own identity - not that of any of our neighbors, large or small....I believe that the citizens will support good projects in the downtown which respect the desire that residents do have for additional housing and shops and restaurants in the downtown, while at the same time preserving our small town feel and connection to the outdoor environment.

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# Letters to the Editor



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

Editor:

I recently attended a meeting at St. Mary's College hosted by State Senator Mark DeSaulnier. I expected it to be the typical political meeting where you write questions on white cards and then the staff can remove any that are too critical. It wasn't anything like that. Each attendee was given a full page to ask questions, make suggestions, and even complain. My complaint was that the legislature isn't doing enough to solve the problem of excessive, under funded, public employee pension plans. (A good start would be to adopt the Governors 12 point plan). Each attendee, in the order that they arrived at the meeting, was allowed to talk privately one on one with the Senator. He made me feel at ease and I didn't pull any punches. He gave me all the time I needed and we had a great two way conversation. We even discussed the need for a rainy day fund. Only time will tell whether he is willing and/or able to implement my suggestions but I certainly must give him credit for coming to Moraga and being willing to listen to the concerns of ordinary citizens.

Pete Williams  
Moraga

Editor:

This is a testimony in support of Sustainable Lafayette. I heard the presentation at the Lafayette Library on Aug. 28 and was appalled to hear of the threat to California's state parks, but preferred not to lengthen the event with my personal input. Reaching a larger audience by the printed word seemed preferable.

I came to California from Switzerland at the age of 28. I panned for gold in the Yuba river, rattled my way to Bodie along the washboard road, sat on Devil's Post Pile, climbed Mt. Ritter and walked, yes, walked to the top of Mt Whitney. Having come from a country where one could hardly climb a hill or mountain without reaching a coffeehouse, a bar, a restaurant or hotel, I was taken by the beauty of a land where no shelter more permanent than a tent was permissible. This was a land where I wanted to live and grow old; I did and I am.

I now live on Happy Valley Road across from a hillside of "virgin" oak trees, where foxes and deer roam freely and forage on my roses unless I remember to close the gate. This is a land whose beauty deserves preservation and where unlimited encroachment by civilization needs to be contained.

Jurij Hostynek  
Lafayette

Editor:

Here is how to solve the pension problem with the fire district. First, do not vote for any additional taxes to fund the district. The fire district said that if we do not vote for the tax increase, they will shut down up to half of the fire stations.

Once these stations are closed and half the fire fighters are laid off, wait one week. Then put an advertisement out to hire new fire fighters. Offer \$65,000 per year with a pension at 60 years old that will be equal to what a person in the private sector will get on social security at 66 years old. Offer medical until age 65.

We will thus dramatically reduce the cost of pensions. The police department will probably have to increase crowd control expenses temporarily as the amount of people applying for these jobs will be overwhelming.

John Briggs  
Lafayette

## Election 2012

Lafayette

Editor:

In 2 decades of organized taxpayer advocacy at Lafayette and County levels., it's been a personal point of "campaign activity" to separately treat "candidate and tax measures", sepa-

rately. However, given disastrous states of both political and financial matters, at virtually every level of government (Lafayette, gladly not an example), it's this writer's belief that such "segregation," need no longer be mandatory "taxpayer advocate policy". Thus for the first time, publicly expressed endorsements for candidates City Council and Lafayette School District are being offered.. And, if a respected media outlet like the "Weekly" can accommodate such reasoning, here is the "logic" underlying the endorsements:

Traci Reilly  
Traci's Council candidacy, is another example of how Lafayette's first City Manager, and "architect" of its unique "3 Ps governing structure, has prompted talented volunteers like Traci, to volunteer for services otherwise provided by taxpayer funded personnel.  
Traci's been Chair and member of the Crime Prevention Commission -- plus, serving boards and committees of local public schools, including Acalanes Parent Liason Class of 2016. Her broader qualifications are efforts to implement the "roads problems resolution", including more General Funds expenditures for roads...all, reflecting her focus on City financial efficiency.

Mike Anderson  
Mike, as Council incumbent, has brought great education and executive experiences to the Council. He's strongly reflected citizen voices re "policy requirements" to Staff -- especially beyond "Council 3Ps-basics" of Public Safety, Planning and Public Works -- those, the priorities of Lafayette's volunteer citizenry... growth, safety, property values, etc. Mike brings this strong "citizen functions" priorities, to what may be one of best run government-operated California public park systems. A vote to continue his Council seat is continuing "Lafayette good news".

Mark Mitchell  
Mark is a great rarity -- grew up here, local schools, etc.. And, with his work in property management/ real estate, he brings efficiencies and expertise, that hired staff would otherwise be funded for. As his long part of great "town helpers", Mark's helped make Lafayette such a great place for the rest of us. And, as Lafayette faces inevitable dictates like "Downtown Strategic Planning", it will be a bonus to have a council member who brings insights to all the impacts which such activities produce.

Jean Follmer  
Endorsing Jean for a seat on Lafayette School Board, is as easy as choices re the above elected City office seekers. I endorse her especially for her keen awareness of California's declined education quality. She favors education reform of teacher assessment and retention - and supports thoughtfully, targeted funding. Her business background, extensive school volunteer experience and fiscally conservative approach, bring needed insight to the current board. Jean understands that reform must begin at the local level." Finally, as noted initially, f taxpayer advocacy group members don't typically comment on elected official campaigns. But, it's increasingly clear in today's environment, priorities and positions of elected officials, almost totally dictate quality of social and cultural environments - and, in equal context, efficient and properly focused use of taxpayer-provided funding.  
Just be sure to "vote Yes for Mike Anderson, Traci Reilly, Mark Mitchell, and Jean Follmer."

Don Lively  
Lafayette

Editor,

Jean Follmer, Lafayette School District Board candidate, has our enthusiastic endorsement in the upcoming November 6 election.

Jean comes to this election with no personal agenda. She is focused on what is in the best interest of all stu-

dents. Jean believes that every student should benefit from an exceptional educational experience that best fits their abilities and needs.

Jean understands that our schools are an important consideration when people choose to make Lafayette their home. Like us, Jean moved to Lafayette for its excellent schools. She understands the current financial crisis in Sacramento and how this impacts our schools and tirelessly does her best to be a part of the solution. Jean is a true advocate who can be found attending not only local school board and parent club meetings, but seminars and forums on education related topics all around the Bay Area. What impresses us most about Jean is the way she always leads by example. Jean has served, and continues to serve, the Lafayette community in numerous ways. To highlight a few, both past and present: President, Springhill Parent Faculty Club; Board Member, Lafayette Community Foundation; Board Member, Lafayette Partners in Education; Girl Scout Leader; Board Member, Lafayette Swim Conference (LMYA representative); and Co-Founder, Lafayette for Education, a grassroots group that seeks sustainable funding for California schools.

Jean is a terrific leader who is committed to serving our community and will do so with great integrity and the highest professionalism.

Please join us in casting your vote for Jean Follmer for Lafayette School District Governing Board - a vote for our children, our schools, and our community. You can be confident that you made the right choice.

Sincerely,  
Jenifer and Benjamin Paul  
Lafayette

### Moraga

Editor:

Moraga needs a Town Council that Will Protect Open Space

The recent approval of Hetfield Estates once again shows that Moraga's open space is not adequately protected. Although Moraga's General Plan clearly states its intent to protect steep and unstable hillsides from development, Moraga's officials continue to approve developments that threaten the Town's beautiful natural setting.

Most recently, the Planning Commission approved a new residential development in designated open space: this time it's seven 4,000 square foot homes to be constructed on top of a series of landslides off of Sanders Drive. Building on landslides requires massive remedial grading, which the General Plan and the Moraga Open Space Ordinance (MOSO) clearly says to minimize. Why then did the Planning Commission approve a development with more than twice the number of houses than the applicant was entitled to under MOSO?

And last year, the Town Council, by a 2-1 vote, approved the 27-home Rancho Laguna II development on the beautiful open space on the east side of Rheem Blvd, between St. Mary's Road and Moraga Rd. This development will cut 30 feet off the top of Rheem Ridge! In 2008, Karen Mendonca ran on a clear platform to protect remaining open space and ridgelines, but when given an opportunity to do so, she actually ended up the swing vote and approved this ridgeline development.

The decision to build these homes continues to set precedent for allowing large McMansions on our remaining semi-rural hillsides and ridgelines. We count on our town officials to protect our Town's semi-rural character for future generations to enjoy. Further, it is up to the Town Council to adopt clear hillside and ridgeline policies, and yet the last meeting the Council held on this important topic was in the spring of 2008--more than four years ago!

This is not a matter of stopping all development in Moraga. In fact, more than 1100 new homes are proposed or have already been approved. Many will be built once the economy turns around.

Please look carefully at who is running for the three open Town Council seats this November, and cast your vote wisely. Please select a candidate that we know will represent us on this important issue and has a proven record of voting to protect open space and ridgelines. Once our remaining hillsides and ridgelines are built they are gone forever.

Lynda Deschambault  
Moraga

### Orinda

Editor:

New leadership is needed in Orinda - leadership that will preserve Orinda's unique environment and truly fix the city's miserable roads.

Ms. Linda Delehunt, an Orinda resident, is running for the Orinda City Council and offers a fresh perspective. Ms. Delehunt supports keeping Orinda's unique semi-rural, village-like atmosphere intact.

Sadly, Ms. Delehunt's two opponents for the city council, Mr. Steve Glazer and Ms. Victoria Smith -- both are incumbent city council members running for re-election -- have embraced a plan that will drastically alter Orinda's downtown environment. The plan will permit a massive housing project to be built in the middle of downtown. In December, groundbreaking will occur at 2 Irwin Way (across from the Safeway and Citibank) for a 67-unit housing complex that will tower over existing buildings in the neighborhood and spoil views of the surrounding hills. The housing complex will have room for about 30 vehicles. Beautiful trees will be cut down.

The housing complex will increase downtown's notorious traffic and parking problems.

In February 2008, the typical garbage pick-up rate in Orinda was \$66.00. Today, that rate is \$94.80 -- a staggering 44 percent increase! Both Glazer and Smith are members of the Contra Costa County Solid Waste Authority, the body that set garbage rates for Orinda. Orindans may want to ask themselves if their pay has gone up 44 percent since 2008

Ms. Delehunt wants a comprehensive plan to fix Orinda's roads. Glazer and Smith are supporting a November ballot measure to raise Orinda's sales tax from 8.25 percent to 8.75 percent. The tax increase is expected to generate \$600,000 for road repair. The estimated cost of fixing Orinda's bad roads is \$60 million. Thus, \$600,000 will generate only one percent of the money needed.

Ms. Delehunt believes that the proposed higher sales tax will hurt small businesses, kill jobs, and not generate the funds needed for road repair.

Please vote for Ms. Delehunt on election day, November 6.  
Richard S. Colman  
Orinda

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# MOFD Schedules New Director Workshops, Responds to Grand Jury Report, Delays Collective Bargaining

By Lucy Amaral

Two incoming trustees, Alex Evans and Stephen Anderson, will officially join the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors when they are sworn in this December. At the Board meeting held September 5, the current Board approved scheduling two public workshops before that time to help the new members become acclimated to the legal and governance responsibilities of the Board.

Evans and Anderson each ran for one of the Board seats vacated last February. They ran unopposed and were appointed in lieu of election. Evans will represent Division 5 in Orinda and Anderson will represent Division 3, which encompasses parts of Moraga, Orinda and Canyon. They will join Fred Weil, Frank Sperling and John Wyro to complete the five-member Board of Directors.

Weil's term on MOFD's Board is set to expire this November and he also chose to seek re-election. He ran unopposed and was appointed in lieu of election and will be sworn-in this December alongside Evans and Anderson. Weil will continue to represent Division 2 in Moraga.

The workshops will be held during regularly scheduled Board of Directors' meetings on October 3 and November 7. MOFD's legal counsel will facilitate the first workshop, which will focus on the legal requirements of Board members. The second workshop will discuss governance, protocols, policies and decorum. MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley had suggested that Board President Fred Weil facilitate this workshop, however Weil recommended that an outside facilitator be

retained, allowing him to be a general member along with the others.

During the meeting the Board of Directors also approved comments offered by Chief Bradley in response to the Contra Costa County Grand Jury report: "Contra Costa County Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services, Leveraging Combined Strengths to Address Individual Weaknesses."

In the report, the Grand Jury's findings noted declining revenue, increasing personnel costs, the need to examine alternatives to how fire agencies are structured, and reducing expenses and finding additional revenue for some individual fire agencies. The Grand Jury's recommendations included ensuring a "sunset" clause to any proposed parcel tax while evaluating alternative service delivery models, and that Fire Agencies, Local Agency Formation Commission of Contra Costa County (LAFCO) and the County should cooperate in evaluating these alternative service delivery models.


MOFD was required to respond to each of the findings and recommendations. Bradley's comments agreed or 'agreed in principle' with most of them, but disagreed on one of the recommendations. With regards to Fire Agencies, LAFCO and the County finding ways to evaluate and adopt alternative service delivery models, Bradley did not agree and stated that action should be taken only when in the best interest of the citizens they serve.

Board Member Frank Sperling was more direct. He noted that while there is a good deal of information within the report, there were no specific, actionable findings or recommendations and was unclear about the purpose of the report. "(Responding to this) is an absolute waste of everybody's time," said Sperling. Wyro and Weil agreed.

Coming out of closed session at the beginning of this meeting, Weil stated that because of the recent passage of the pension reform bill, further collective bargaining meetings with Union 1230 would need to be put on hold until MOFD's labor negotiator has the opportunity to review the bill and determine its effects on MOFD and the current negotiations. In July, MOFD and Union leaders had reached an impasse in their labor negotiations, failing to reach an agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding. Weil said their labor negotiator would return in two weeks with recommendations.

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**Moraga Orinda Fire District**  
**Board of Directors Meetings**  
Meetings of the MOFD Board of Directors are open to the public and take place on the third Wednesday of each month at the Orinda City Hall, Sarge Littlehale Room, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda.

**Next meeting:**  
**Regular Board Meetings:**  
September 19, 2012  
7:00 P.M.  
(go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)



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# Saving State Parks, Open Spaces Point of Discussion at LLLC

... continued from page A9

"It's not criminality, it's dysfunction," Brown claimed. "There's 54 million and they only needed 11 million, so what are we going to do to make this work?"

One answer came from Donn Walklet, the Vice Chairman of Lafayette Open Space (LOS), the advisory group created by the Lafayette City Council to evaluate open space preservation efforts.

Speaking after a short, breathtakingly gorgeous film featuring the East Bay's 65 regional parks with 40 miles of accessible shoreline, 1,100 miles of trails and 100,000 acres, he said, simply, "We're doing locally what the state should be doing."

Neighborhood by neighborhood, LOS is helping communities preserve the area's open spaces.

Asked what citizens could do to help, his answer was direct and unadorned. "Find out who owns the land. Then call on us. Nothing happens without citizen involvement. We can't depend on the state or federal government to save us."

The evening ended with the audience clustering in small groups as Walklet and Brown looked on. Having planted the seed, they hope that ordinary citizens may grow into a powerful means by which state parks will be saved.

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# Gold Coast Chamber Players Promise Stimulating Season

By Sophie Braccini



Gold Coast Chamber Players during a 2011 concert.

Photos provided



Juliana Athayde will join the Gold Coast Chamber Players for their September concert.

Gold Coast Chamber Players (GCCP) Artistic Director Pamela Freund-Striplen is very proud of the ensemble's 17th season program. "This year we've been able to invite some remarkable musicians and play pieces we've been wanting to produce for a long time," says the woman who's been called a matchmaker for her ability to pair music and musicians. "This will be a memorable season with each concert more interesting than the next."

The season starts in September with *Quintett*, a program of cello quintets by Schubert and Glazunov. "We have invited Juliana Athayde to participate in this concert," says Freund-Striplen. "She played with us when she was in high school and impressed us with her artistry even at a very young age." Athayde is now the concertmaster of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra; at age 24 in 2005 she was the youngest musician in the history of this ensemble to be appointed to that position. The young violinist is also the daughter of Bob Athayde, the tireless Lafayette advocate for music and musical education.

The first concert will play twice: at 8 p.m. Friday, September 21 in the Orinda Library Auditorium, and at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, September 22 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. "We will experiment this year with pre-concert talks in Lafayette at 7 p.m.," says Freund-Striplen. Saint Mary's College professor Lino

Rivera, Ph.D., will add context to the concert. "We want our audience to feel welcome and we'll go to any extra steps to enrich their experience," says the artistic director.

The second concert of the season is *Masterpiece*. "We wanted to present the work that very well-known composers wrote at pivotal moments of their lives," says Freund-Striplen. "For that we need an excellent pianist, and we have the pleasure to welcome this year for the first time Yana Reznik, who will also be with us for our last concert. We are so fortunate to be able to offer the quality of music you can find in the largest cities of the world," she says. The concert set for Friday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m. will present works of Beethoven, Brahms, and Faure.

On March 1 the third concert will see the return of violinist Gil Sharon and violist Ron Ephrat of the Amati Ensemble from Holland and cellist Jennifer Culp, formerly of the Kronos Quartet. Along with GCCP players they will present *Concertante*, an exploration of the sinfonia concertante, a hybrid of the symphony and the concerto, with three pieces by Mozart. "Two of the three pieces are arrangements from the Amati Ensemble," says the director.

Freund-Striplen speaks of the fourth concert as their most ambitious undertaking. It is called *American Frontiers*. "It has been a desire of mine to pair Aaron Copland's well-known evocative Appalachian Spring with Alan Louis Smith's Vignettes: Covered Wagon Women in a full display of American spirit," she says. "The difficulty for us is that Appalachian Spring requires 13 musicians and that was beyond our reach, until a generous local donor made it possible for us."

The GCCP's season finale will also be a dream-come-true for Freund-Striplen. "For years we've dreamed of presenting the Quartet for the End of Time by Olivier Messiaen," she says. "This hour-long piece is so powerful, and we will have with us clarinetist and writer Rebecca Rischin." Rischin authored the book

*For the End of Time—The Story of the Messiaen Quartet* and she will present Messiaen's work before the concert.

Freund-Striplen says GCCP has already doubled its season ticket sales from last year. "It took a long time to build an audience, but year after year people have seen the quality of what we provide, as well as its diversity."

For more information and tickets, visit [www.geplayers.org](http://www.geplayers.org).

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**DANVILLE:** September 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30 P.M. (Food/Beverage 6:30-7:00), Town Meeting Hall 201 Front Street, Danville, CA 94526



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# Sharing the Moment with Photojournalist Wayne F. Miller

By Laurie Snyder

Many photographers, even amateurs, freeze important moments in time – family birthdays, fun with friends. The incomparable few – like Matthew Brady or Dorothea Lange – enable viewers to truly appreciate time, place, and culture.

Wayne F. Miller is one of those. Following his time as a photographer with the U.S. Navy, he turned his attention to the children of Orinda. Miller

and his wife, Joan, arrived here in 1949. "It was a growing community which had its roots still in the existing culture," Miller reflected recently in a conversation at his Orinda home. Writing about the unincorporated community in his 1958 book, *The World Is Young*, he said: "It is a new community without tradition, grandmothers, and until this year, enough children to make up a senior class in high school."

Published when Miller was

40, the book chronicles the lives of the Millers and their children and the youngsters of Glorietta Elementary School from 1955 to 1958.

"A perceptive man once said that 'to look at the world through the eyes of another would be true knowledge.' This is what I have attempted here. For three years, I have tried to look with children rather than at them, and to see through their eyes," he wrote. "Perhaps it shows that others

often think and feel as we do, that the need to love and be loved is in everyone, that each of us would rather succeed than fail, would rather know than not know."

Preschoolers yearn to join in as elder siblings head to school, moms and little ones struggle with their goodbyes, and friends are made – and lost. Children giggle and laugh with heads back at the Orinda Theatre, growing girls sleep over, boys huddle,

tweens dance – in what Miller calls "sharing the moment."

"Before my eyes were fabrics being woven and courses charted that would be with these children to their dying day," he wrote. "Failure, frustration, and defeat, success, pleasure, and triumph were being carved into their natures."

Miller, in describing his book's viewpoint, wrote that "all pictures were taken from the subject's eye level, so that the people and the things around them would be seen in a proper context. There were few 'little' children in the book. They are all full size, life size, their size. The best proof I had that this was the right approach came on the playground one day during a May-pole program. I was on one knee making photographs when a preschooler came over, threw his arms about me and kissed my cheek. Being on the same level, I decided, creates understanding."

Many of Miller's photographs are available through the U.S. National Archives; others may be enjoyed through his publications available at the Orinda Historical Society and the Orinda Library. His photos may also be purchased through Magnum Photos, the gallery which represents him: [www.magnumphotos.com](http://www.magnumphotos.com).



"Stiffer homework, more demanding classroom work, maturing bodies, and new boy-girl awareness," wrote Miller. "The sixth grade children I photographed were considered an exceptional group. They worked well together." Copyright, Wayne F. Miller, 1958. Used with permission.



(Photo above) Preschooler, Peter Miller (Wayne and Joan Miller's youngest child), longs to join his siblings at school. (Photo on right) Peter, the kindergartner, radiates joy the next year as he gets his wish.

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DEAR JAVIER,

DEAR VANESSA,

*I have recently fallen into poorer health than I am used to and have been prescribed many different medications by my doctor. What are some tips for proper ways to safely manage my medications at home? I am still very capable to do this myself and was hoping to get advice to make sure I am organized and safe in doing so. Thank you for any help or advice you can offer.* JAVIER

Managing medications is about safety. When you take a lot of different medications, errors can easily happen; this can range from missing a dose to overdosing. To reduce or avoid potentially fatal errors, you need to get organized and make sure your medical team and pharmacist know about all of the prescription drugs you're taking. Be sure to include over-the-counter medicines, supplements and herbal preparations, too. Become your own self-advocate for care, and know what questions to ask your pharmacist and physicians about your medications. Don't be afraid to ask any questions. Dr. James Wooten, a proponent of patient education, said, "Asking questions is one of the most important ways to manage treatment. Information is power and you're more likely to use something correctly if you know why you're using it."

Know the risks (side effects and unexpected interactions) and learn how to prevent or lessen them. To help prevent drug dependence, ask your health care provider if any of your medications are habit-forming and ask how much of each medication you can take without becoming addicted. If possible, always use the same pharmacy. With a complete record of all your prescriptions on hand, the pharmacist can catch dangerous drug interactions. Call your health care provider immediately if you experience any unpleasant reactions to a medication.

Here are a few reminder techniques: use a daily pill box; create a dosing schedule chart; and use a pill reminder gadget. By packing a day or a week's worth of medication you will know if you took your medication or not. You may want to have someone double-check your pill box to make sure it is packed correctly. For people who rely on calendars to keep their schedule or who respond well to visual cues, incorporating prescription medication times into a chart or calendar can serve as a reminder. There are several electronic pill reminders on the market of varying prices. You can input the name of the medication, how often you need to take it, and if you need to take it with food. An alarm will sound, much like an alarm clock or cell phone ringer, alerting you to what medication needs to be taken and how much.

When instructions say "take with water", drink 8 oz. of water--not just enough to get the medication down. Always use a standard measuring spoon to be sure you're getting the exact amount. If you have trouble swallowing pills, ask if the medication is available in liquid form; check with your pharmacist before crushing or chewing any drug. Don't take medications unless you understand instructions for using them safely. Don't take medications in the dark to avoid taking the wrong medication. Don't transfer medications to other containers. Don't take someone else's medication or give yours to another person. And don't stop taking medications or change dosage on your own. Avoid mixing medications with certain foods as stated on the prescription label or as advised by your pharmacist. Unless your health care provider says it's okay to mix medications with alcohol, don't! Some prescription and over-the-counter drugs, when mixed with alcohol, cause side effects that may range from drowsiness to liver damage, coma or even death. Read drug labels carefully and ask your pharmacist or health care provider if any of your medications may react with alcohol. Know the dangers and protect yourself. Always keep medications out of reach of children and pets. Do not store medications in your car's glove compartment, bathrooms, gym lockers, and above the stove. Temperature changes and humidity can cause medication to become ineffective or dangerous. Store them in a cool, dry place or as directed. Remove cotton from bottles, too. It can draw in moisture. Throw away old medications. When you travel, always put your medications in your carry-on luggage so you will have them handy. If you might run out, get refills early. Sorting out your medications may seem difficult and can be overwhelming, but a little planning and organization can ensure you take the right medications at the right times. Consult with your health care provider regularly to see whether there are any medications you can cut back on or stop taking. Ask if a generic drug is right for you. Generic drugs are chemically the same as the brand name but they cost less. Update your list when any medications are added or discontinued. Remember to post phone numbers of your emergency medical service, hospital, pharmacy and health care provider in a visible location. Health care is a team effort and you are the most important person on the team. Medications, if managed properly, can do wonders. VANESSA





"In Sixth, you get down to business," wrote Miller of his sixth grade subjects at Glorietta Elementary School. All photos copyright, Wayne F. Miller, 1958. Used with permission.



"Resignation," responded Miller when asked to describe this math test moment experienced at some point by every student, everywhere.



Though "her class was being broken up and she was moving to another school," wrote Miller of this sixth grader, "a much-admired teacher would still be with her."



"Their spirits were always high and they had an extra eagerness to learn. The class had more than its share of leaders in all fields - scholastic, athletic and social. It made me feel good just to be with them," wrote Miller.

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### Correction:

In the August 29 issue of Lamorinda Weekly, the story Electric Ahead of their Time: Campo Alums Remember 1970 Cross Country EV Race included a typo in the last name of the retired Campolindo physics instructor. The proper spelling of his name is Tony de Bellis.



## From Miramonte to the Military

By Sophie Braccini

When Nick Read entered Si Si Cafe in Moraga, wearing his United States Marine Corps (USMC) sweater, one of the customers, a former drill sergeant, immediately addressed him to give him tips and wish him well. Behind the counter, one of the employees, a former schoolmate, hugged the recent Miramonte graduate and wished him good luck.

This is the kind of reaction that Read, and two other Miramonte graduates, Chris Capdevielle and Luke Carrillo, get everywhere – great support and encouragement as they get ready to join the Marines. While it's a life choice that's not for everybody, it makes a lot of sense for the three friends and their families.

Read, Capdevielle and Carrillo went to high school together, Capdevielle and Carrillo knew each other since the second grade. They are healthy, athletic and very bright students who are making a choice that's a family tradition. "I come from a long military line. Both my grandfathers were in the military," says Capdevielle with pride. "In fact, one of my grandfathers told me that our family history of defending this country goes back to the Revolution."

Carrillo's father was also in the

military and Read has an uncle and a cousin following the same path. The three young men are joining the Marines and have enlisted to enter the rank of Private.

Their motivation and objectives are slightly different, but they all express a deep love for their country and their sense of duty to defend it. "I want to serve my country and protect freedom," says Read. "We cannot take what we have for granted; it takes a strong military to protect our way of life."

"I always knew I wanted to join the military," says Capdevielle. "I love the United States and I wanted to repay my debt to this country for giving me all the opportunities that I have."

They also have plans for the future. "My job will be aviation mechanic," says Read. "I want to be productive right away, learn a skill and self discipline." Read sees the first four years as a stepping stone; he thinks he will go back to college, paid by the military, then if he can, become an officer. Read says he will probably make the military a career, and fulfill his dream of becoming an aircraft pilot.

Capdevielle knows that the military will be his career. "I'll try to stay

as long as I can," he says. He plans to become an officer as well. "In the Marines you need to come from the enlisted rank before becoming an officer," he adds.

None of the three young men are afraid of the dangers inherent in joining the military while the war in Afghanistan continues. "The Marines is a brotherhood, what some of my brothers went through has been terrible, what might happen to me cannot be worse," says Capdevielle.

"I'm joining at a time of somewhat peace, and I know that things can change pretty fast, but that does not scare me," adds Read. He also says that while his parents are very concerned about the risks, they are supportive of his choice.

The young men are a bit concerned about boot camp, the 10 weeks of intense training, that, according to Read, no one is allowed to quit. "We have spent a lot of time training at the Marine's facility in Pleasant Hill," says Capdevielle who feels that he is ready.

Miramonte High School College and Career Center Advisor Eloise Schneider indicated that it is a bit unusual for the high school to have three young men enlisting in



Recent Miramonte graduates Chris Capdevielle and Nick Read just before boot camp.  
Photo Sophie Braccini

the same year. "We are a college-bound school, but every year we have a few students enlisting and one or two going to a military academy," she said. At Campolindo, Gwenly Carrel said that, to her

knowledge, in the 2012 graduating class only one student went to a naval academy prep school. (Acalanes High School did not return phone calls in time for this article.)

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## THE APP RAP

By Alex Pawlakos

**Tiny Flashlight + LED, by Nikolay Ananiev**  
**Brightest Flashlight, by GoldenShores Technologies**  
**For: All smart phones**  
**Price: Free**

The ability to turn your smartphone into an incredibly bright flashlight makes either of these free apps indispensable. Tiny Flashlight has been downloaded by over 50 million smartphone users, while Brightest Flashlight has over 10 million downloads. It is not hard to figure out why these apps are so popular. Few people carry flashlights around with them, but it seems that everyone carries a smartphone. With these smart apps, your phone becomes your flashlight whenever and wherever you need it.

For example, in Lamorinda, street lights are not everywhere, especially in the hilly areas of Orinda. Using your smartphone as a flashlight can be very useful to navigate a

pathway, find those keys you dropped under your car seat, or just to shine a little light into the darkness. During a power outage, these apps could be a lifesaver. Tiny Flashlight provides the brightest light, although both apps are excellent.

These apps use the LED flash from your smartphone's camera to give off a remarkably bright light. Don't worry if you don't have a flash feature on your phone. Both apps turn your display into a flashlight at the tap of the screen. Tiny Flashlight has an additional option that allows you to turn on the flashlight by shaking your phone.

You will be amazed at how much light your phone can emit when you need it most. You won't



ever have to be in the dark again.  
 Miramonte graduate Alex Pawlakos enjoys biking, weightlifting, and tutoring in his spare time.

## TEEN SCENE

### Teenagers Learn to Work Double-Time

By Linda Lan Phung

As the summertime fades away into the beginning of a new school year, most Lamorinda teenagers decrease their frequent visits to their favorite movie theatre or ice cream shop. A few teens work here and go to school.

Eighteen-year-old Elizabeth Stein has been working at the Orinda Theatre since August 2011. Stein attained this job with the help of her brother, and, because she needs the money, she has a second job plus college.

To manage her time wisely, Stein said, "I use a calendar to write down all of my important dates, which helps me keep a good schedule." Keeping a schedule is vital for Stein, especially since her shifts vary from six to eight hours.

Other teenagers have learned to balance their life as a student and employee. Recent Miramonte High School graduate Celeste Jett has been working at the Orinda Loard's Ice Cream and Candy shop for two years. Jett wanted to support herself at an early age, and applied during her sophomore year.

Jett took a different approach to juggling work with her studies, making it a priority to complete her homework before working – whether or not her shift starts in the morning or afternoon. Along with learning better time management, Jett hopes to pick up other important life skills from her job.

"I want to learn good people skills, smart money management, and organization," said Jett.

Teenagers have trouble finding work since there

aren't many opportunities offered. Jett and Stein are two of the lucky teenagers who succeeded in securing a job in Lamorinda. There aren't many stores who hire teenagers under the age of 18, especially if the commitment isn't long-term. Susan Marconi, manager of Across the Way in Moraga, commented, "Parents aren't supporting the independently owned stores in Moraga, so it's hard to hire teenagers because we don't have the money or business to pay them."

Nonetheless, finding a job isn't impossible, but working part-time while going to school is no easy feat. It's challenging to squeeze work into a rigorous schedule of school and extracurricular activities. Teenagers who plan on managing these two tasks must realize that it requires patience, maturity, and responsibility. Jett and Stein agree. Wise time management is vital.

Linda Lan Phung is a Miramonte High School junior who volunteers throughout the East Bay and strives for 17-second miracles, inspired by author Jason Wright.



Teen Scene is YOUR voice. If you have something to say or have writing skills and want to be part of our Teen Scene team, email our Teen Coach, Cynthia Brian, Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com.



# 100-mile Trek for Troops: Three Campo alums along with eight fraternity brothers hike to help veterans

By Jennifer Wake



From left, Nick Talken, Jeremy Hauser, and Zach Dashner Photo provided

Three Campolindo grads, Nick Talken, Jeremy Hauser, and Zach Dashner, along with eight of their Sigma Nu fraternity brothers from UC Davis are setting out tomorrow morning on a 100-mile hike with one goal in mind: to raise awareness of the struggling veteran community coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Our friends and families are spiritually and financially invested in our trek and we hope that this investment will translate into similar involvement and support for veterans across the United States," said Hauser, who graduated from Campolindo in 2009. "This is a journey of personal growth, but it is also one of camaraderie and brotherhood."

Beginning September 13, the 11 young men will don backpacks and set out from the Bishop Pass Trail Head at the John Muir Trail and hike for 10 days through wooded terrain until they reach the 14,505-foot peak of Mount Whitney.

To prepare, every backpacker affiliated with the trip was required to sign a contract. "Part of this contract

states that each participant must go on weekly hikes with weighted backpacks, not only to get into shape, but also to break in boots and avoid crippling foot injuries during the trek," said Hauser. "The hike is actually now just over 100 miles and it is the first trip of this magnitude for any of us, although many of us do have plenty of backpacking experience."

Dashner, who got the idea for the Trek from his brother's experience on a similar trip, is leading the hike. He was a Troop 204 Eagle Scout and has been on four "50-milers," which are backpacking trips the troop goes on every August. "I also was inspired by my father who served in the United States Marine Corp in the early '60s and was a local law enforcement agent in Contra Costa County," he said.

Hauser was involved with Troop 246 in Moraga and has similar backpacking experience.

"I feel like the most challenging thing that we will encounter on this trip will be the first few days of adjusting to long days of hiking and elevation change," said Dashner. "If

the group dynamics work well then positive attitudes and adjusting to the challenges later on in the hike shouldn't be a problem."

Hauser agrees, adding, "For college students, one of the hardest things to do is live off of the grid. Without our usual comforts, whether it be iPhones, laptops, or queen mattresses, we will undoubtedly be challenged. I am both excited and anxious for 10 days of simpler living. It could prove to be our biggest obstacle or strongest encouragement."

Dashner hopes they can look back on this experience and say that it had a life-changing impact on them, "not only in completing such a monumental task but also in changing how we individually look at the world and help others throughout our lives."

As of last week, donations came from 47 families from seven states in the U.S. including donations from 14 Lamorinda residents and families, helping the group raise \$4,115 for Pathway Home, a veterans recovery program.

"Our goal is to raise awareness for [post-traumatic stress disorder] PTSD and help increase funding to recovery programs," Dashner said. "One of the biggest issues with fighting PTSD is an unwillingness to accept vulnerability and get help. We hope that we can help combat this fear and use this trip to show veterans that there are people willing to fight for them."

You can follow the Trek on Twitter (@TrekkingfortheT) and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/UCDSigmaNu>. For information on Pathway Home, visit [www.thepathwayhome.org](http://www.thepathwayhome.org).

# Orinda Idol Finals: And the Winners Are...

Submitted by Mary Moore



Malia Akazawa

Photos Ohlen Alexander

Approximately 40 up-and-coming artists belted out everything from musical theater to American classics, from jazz standards to songs from the top of the Billboard charts at the 7th annual Orinda Idol Finals Sunday, September 9 at the Orinda Theatre. Sponsored by the Orinda Arts Council, awareness of the program's quality has grown over the years, and so has interest in auditioning. This year more than 200 performers, ranging in age from 5 to 18, vied for a spot in the Finals.

Chairman of the event, Stephen Harwood, commented on the quality

and purpose of the program, "This is the seventh annual Orinda Idol competition and the talent is through the roof. Every year, we're so impressed with the budding talent in the Lamorinda area. From the littlest kindergartner to the most seasoned high schooler, there are some great singers in our midst. We're just happy to provide a venue in which they can pursue their singing dreams while having a whole lot of fun!"

The following list of group and soloist finalists performed on Sunday by age group:

**Soloists:**



Tosca Maltzman

**Kindergarten - Grade 2:** Callie Barber, Lucy Berkman, Amelia Chen, Bridget Mills, Claire O'Connor

**3rd - 5th Grade:** Malia Akazawa, Elizabeth Becker, Isabel Fine, Malin Glade, Taylor Johnson, Jennifer McFarlane, Grace Mesenbring, Jackie Patton, Nicole Prozan, Lindsey Wallace

**Middle School:** Grace Baer, Poppy Bovoso, Lucy Clearwater, Nathan Correll, Mila Lineweaver, Jocelyn Purcell, Kendall Roberts, Eleanor Roeder, Michaela Sasner, Leah Woodcox

**High School:** Sophie Belinn, Sarah Cain, Mariette Clarisse, Mariette Ebarle, Julia Elliott, Maritza Grillo, Tosca Maltzman, Carolyn Moore, Amrita Newton, Paige Powell, Hannah Witbeck

**Groups:**

**K-2nd Grade:** Monday Blues, Rising Starz, Simply Sisters, Sweet Harmony

**6-12th Grade:** Frank and Annie, Applause Theatre Company, Emma & Sophie, Fine & Sassy, JnJ, Urban Flare

**And the 2012 Orinda Idol winners are:**

**Soloists K-2:** Lucy Berkman

**Soloists 3-5:** Malia Akazawa

**Soloists 6-8:** Eleanor Roeder

**Soloists 9-12:** Maritza Grillo

**Groups K-5:** Sweet Harmony

**Groups 6-12:** Urban Flare

**Audience Award Winner:**

Tosca Maltzman



Sweet Harmony

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# Rheem's Revival

By Sophie Braccini



Over 100 people gathered at Tangelo for last Sunday's ribbon-cutting.

Photo Andy Scheck

Not so long ago, the Rheem Shopping Center in Moraga emitted a bleak atmosphere with many empty store fronts, and no pedestrian traffic. The vibe today has changed. It's not yet Mount Diablo Boulevard, but especially around lunch time and in the afternoon, the still old-looking Center seems to come back to life with kids happily running around, customers eating at tables outside, and talking to each other along the walkways. It's taken only a few new retail establishments for the upbeat mood to

gel, with some hard work on their parts.

Customers from Moraga and beyond responded very well to the transformation of Lamorinda Pizza and to the opening of Shish Kabbab Show, both owned by Moraga residents. They also gave an immediate warm welcome to two new places also owned by residents: New Delhi Bistro and Tangelo Premium Frozen Yogurt.

New Delhi opened at the beginning of July under the ownership of Roos Pal, owner of Terzetto, and a

long-time Moraga resident and native of India. "To me this is comfort food," said Pal. She takes great pleasure experimenting with local ingredients to recreate the food she loves.

The restaurant has been bustling since the day it opened. It took nine months of permit-seeking and work to get the doors to New Delhi open. "I was expecting six months," said Pal who still had to pay rent to the owner, Kimco Properties. Working with the Sanitation District was particularly difficult for her; she says the

Town was easy to deal with.

On the other side of the Center, close to the Pet Shoppe and Capa Dance Studio, May Lo, who just opened the frozen yogurt parlor Tangelo, had a different experience. "I am an architect, so I reviewed my plans with the Sanitation District beforehand and was able to accommodate their modifications quickly," she explained. Her experience with the Town was not as positive. "They were unusually demanding," she says, adding that it contradicts the official discourse of being business-friendly.

It took the young mother of three school-age children 6 months to open her store. But it was an immediate hit. As soon as school is dismissed, waves of young kids with their parents in tow flood the place.

It is brightly decorated by Lo herself who wanted to provide the best frozen yogurt in the area and the best customer experience. She selected a company in Arkansas and one in the Pacific Northwest to provide the frozen yogurt. "I visited the company in Arkansas and was very impressed with their process and the quality of the natural ingredients that they use for flavoring," she said. Her children were her first customers and helped choose the providers, the flavors and toppings. "We will keep eight favorite flavors all the time and will rotate two more flavors," said Lo who listens to her clients and also provides sorbets as a non-dairy op-

tion.

Both women rely on community marketing to develop their businesses. As a veteran of the restaurant business, Pal has already created a reputation for herself by her hard work and service to the community. Lo is well connected with the schools, will support their fundraisers and provides PTAs with meeting space.

They have also started to create productive links with other businesses inside the Rheem Shopping Center. "I buy a lot of my fresh vegetables at the produce market that recently opened here," said Pal who claims to do everything from scratch. She also bought many decorating items for her restaurant at Home Goods. "I've started to talk to John (McGrath - Lamorinda Pizza) and Mikki (Erez - Shish Kabbab Show) about doing entertaining events together," said Lo. The three retail shops overlook a charming patio where Lo can picture a local jazz group performing.

Lo held her ribbon cutting party on Sunday, September 9; it was a great success with free yogurt and T-shirts, music and lots of excitement. Pal's ribbon cutting party will be September 15 starting at 11 a.m. with Bollywood music and dancers, appetizers and drinks.

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

## business briefs

**New Baby and Kids' Store**  
3535 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette  
www.tulip-lafayette.com

Last month in La Fiesta Square, Lafayette resident Jen Frick opened a new retail store, Tulip, for babies and kids (where the Red Wagon - also a children's clothing store - was located). The store carries clothes for newborns to age eight, diaper bags, swaddle blankets, toys, strollers, bedding and more. It is also an education and resource center for expectant and new parents, offering classes, support

groups and advice clinics. Frick says she researched every item in her collection to provide only the best, making sure it also works well and is age appropriate. The store located is open every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**New Casual Dress Store for Men**  
3571 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette  
venturemensgoods.com

Venture Men's Goods opened on September 8 with a clear mission to bring west coast casual elegance to the

doorstep of Lamorinda men. Rosylyn and Tom Stenzel chose a range of California-designed and California-made casual clothes for men. The focus of the shop is well-crafted fashions for men of all ages who have a sense of their own style. Favoring west coast casual, the Stenzels offer tops and bottoms including jeans, as well as jackets, shoes, and belts.

**Matthew Poirier Named Moraga Employee of the Month**

Pennini's popular food service manager, Matthew Poirier, has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for August. Poirier is the sixth recipient of the monthly employee award, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Moraga and the Chamber of Commerce, and has worked at Pennini's for the past six years. He manages a staff of 12 food servers and is well known for his cheerful approach and his ability to relate to the wide variety of customers, from new Saint Mary's students to customers who have been coming to the restaurant for well over a decade. "Matthew has a genuine commitment to make sure our customers receive quality food and service," said Pennini's owner Patrick Vahey. "He is a real team player and has played a major role in our outreach to the Saint Mary's student body. Our customers really think highly of him and I view him as my right hand man." In winning the award, the Rotary and Chamber will award Poirier a \$50 gift card to Safeway as well as a \$50 gift certificate to Ace Hardware in Moraga.



From left, Pennini's owner Patrick Vahey, Employee of the Month Matthew Poirier, Rotary President Frank May and Moraga Chamber of Commerce President Frank Melon.

Photo provided

**East Bay Small Business Symposium**

The East Bay Small Business Initiative will present a symposium September 18 to support small business owners, from start-ups to mature companies, as they grow and move their businesses to the next level. Topics will include Business Growth Tools, B-to-B Networking, and Strategic Resources. Small business resource providers in financing, marketing, planning, employee recruitment and training will be present. Featured speaker Ed Baxter of Baxter Media will talk about "Finding Your Story." Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. with the three-hour program beginning at 8 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 400 Hartz Avenue in Danville. For reservations and more info, visit www.ebsmallbusiness.com. No charge for small business attendees.

**Ribbon Cutting at Itrium** Thursday, September 20 at 5 p.m., 973 Moraga Road.

**Social Media Strategies Workshop Series** by Robin Fox. Learn about Personal Branding in a LinkedIn World Wednesday, September 19 starting at 8 a.m. in the Lafayette Library Art and Science Classroom. Online registration at bit.ly/LafayetteChamber. Free for Moraga and Lafayette Chamber members.

**Moraga**

Chamber regular members meeting Friday, September 28 at the Hacienda de las Flores starting at 7:30 a.m. with coffee and muffins, and followed by a discussion from 8 to 9 a.m. about the issues that will be on the November ballot and might impact business owners.

**Orinda**

The Fifth Annual Orinda Restaurant Tour will be held from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 18, conducted by the Orinda Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) in the Theatre District of downtown Orinda. Each restaurant and winery on the tour will provide a small portion that best represents their establishment at no additional cost to event ticket holders. Advanced tickets: \$40; \$45 for tickets purchased at the door. Attendees will also enjoy art (30 artists will display their work), live music, free massage, valet parking and more. Visit Orindachamber.org for more details and purchase tickets.

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**News from the three Chambers of Commerce**

**Lafayette**  
Ribbon cutting at 5 p.m. September 13 for the new office grand opening of Pacific Union Real Estate, 201 Lafayette Circle #100.

The 17th Annual Lafayette Art and Wine Festival (with music, too) will take over Downtown Lafayette on Saturday and Sunday, September 15 and 16. There is still time to volunteer and have fun with your fellow Chamber members and neighbors. Contact the Chamber.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)



# How to Maintain Town Hall Theatre's Building?

By Sophie Braccini



Clive Smith and Betsy Streeter in front of the plaque that tells the story of the Town Hall building. Photo Sophie Braccini

Going to see a play at Town Hall Theatre, one seldom wonders who the building belongs to – unless something happens... like the time the air conditioning failed, leaving audience members warm and increasingly damp as they tried to enjoy the show. The group that brings the community the very successful plays and educational programs, Town Hall Theatre Company (THT), does not actually own the building. The structure belongs to Lafayette's oldest service organization, the Lafayette Improvement Association (LIA) that rents the building to the theatre company.

LIA began as the Lafayette Improvement Club, established on November 11, 1911, at a time when the Lafayette area had few residents and most lived on outlying ranches and farms. The group came together for community betterment and to solve problems.

In 1914 the land at the corner of Moraga Road and School Street was donated to LIC by the Ghiglione family. The building was paid for by popular subscription. It became the not-yet-a-city's first hall where dances were held, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts met, as well as the Horseman's Association, the Red Cross, the American Legion, the Lion's Club, the Dad's Club, and various church groups. In 1941, the LIC was replaced by the Lafayette Improvement Association. A new constitution and by-laws were adopted and the title to the Town Hall was transferred in 1944, according to the LIA website.

When the City incorporated in 1968, LIA lost much of its function, but continues to be the steward of the building. "We've rented the building to different groups that pre-dated the current tenant, Town Hall Theatre," said Clyde Long, president of LIA's Board of Directors. "We see our mission as preserving this historical building and promoting the arts; that is why we are renting the facility on a very long term lease at below market rate." He added that the rent covers only a portion of the upkeep and that LIA adds what's needed from its own funds. Long acknowledges that there is inherent tension between a tenant

and landlord, and that sometimes it's hard to get things done right away.

From their perspective, THT staff and volunteers believe that maintenance has not been done in a timely manner. "We've had problems with the air conditioning unit since 2009," said THT Artistic Director Clive Worsley. "It's taken a lot of phone calls, emails and complaints for us to get anything done. It should not have taken two years and water falling out of the ceiling on patrons."

The problem culminated in July during the two first performances of the very well received *Pygmalion*. "We'd like our audience to understand that if it was 100 degrees in the Theatre, it is not THT's fault," added Worsley.

"We care what our audience's experience is," says THT Board President Betsy Streeter, "and when something happens we are the ones who are apologizing and reimbursing tickets. We do so much work to bring highest quality performances and something like that happens!" Worsley added, "We worry that we will lose people."

"If the building was an empty shell it's possible they could rent it for more, but everything that makes it a theater belongs to our company: the stage, the seats, the electrical equipment, the bar downstairs (that is named after Ed Stokes, a major donor)," Worsley pointed out. "We know what the taxes, utilities and everything else costs," added Streeter, "but we cannot seek grants to improve the building. Our hands are tied; we do not own it."

LIA on the other hand wants to start fundraising to create an endowment that will sustain the upkeep of the historical building. "We will soon announce the dollar amount we want to raise," said Long. He believes that members of the Theatre understand that the rent is less than the maintenance costs, and that it's in their interest to help raise the money.

"We will seek different types of donors than those who support the Theatre," he said, "people and foundations who support historical buildings. If we support each other it will help everybody."

# Local Chemists Honored by World's Largest Scientific Society

Submitted by Bryan Balazs

Local chemists were honored August 21 for outstanding community outreach by the national office of the American Chemical Society (ACS), the world's largest scientific society. The 14th annual ChemLuminary Awards celebration was held in conjunction with the ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia.

The California local section of the ACS, which has over 3,500 chemists and chemical engineers as its members, received four ChemLuminary Awards, including Best Activity or Program in a Local Section Stimulating Membership Involvement. In a partnership with the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation and funding from a LSAC grant, the California section initiated a monthly series of Science Cafes featuring

acclaimed speakers in many areas of science. The series were highly successful, with at times capacity crowds, and provided new networking opportunities for members and non-members.

The next Science Café lecture, Sun-day Sun Gazing, will feature Saint Mary's professor and astronomer Ron Olowin, Ph.D., who will present "The Sun: Fun, Facts, Fads & Fallacies" Sunday, September 23 at 4 pm in the Community Hall. A free Sun gazing event is scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. prior to lecture in the Ampitheater.

For more information about this year's ChemLuminary awards, visit [www.acs.org/ChemLuminary](http://www.acs.org/ChemLuminary). For a listing of additional Science Café events, visit the LLLC website at [www.lafayettelib.org](http://www.lafayettelib.org).

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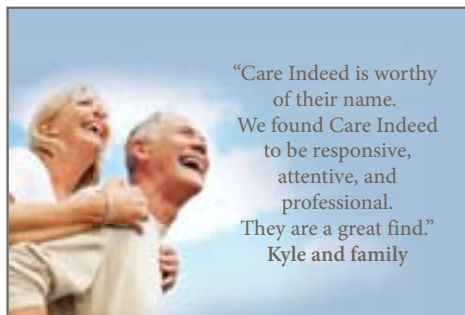


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# Montevideo – Dream of Soccer in the Balkans

By Sophie Braccini

No need to be a Balkans historian to appreciate the movie that opens September 14 at the Orinda Theatre, Montevideo. The story set between World War I and World War II Yugoslavia is more about sports and what passion and dreams can achieve than why Croats would not join the Yugoslav national team.

Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, is where the first soccer World Cup is to be held. In the relatively newly formed kingdom of Yu-

goslavia, will a soccer team emerge and will it find the funding it needs to go there?

Montevideo is a classic story of coming of age and redemption through sports and friendship, saved from 'deja-vu' by its unusual historical and geographical setting. Also, the film's optimism will warm many hearts. As one character says in the movie, "People are all the same, only their shoes are different."

At the beginning of the movie, the



Photo provided

Yugoslav team is opposed to the Belgrade team, an antagonism that's hard to understand without the historical perspective.

It's the late 1920s in Belgrade. The final dismantlement of the Ottoman Empire led to the Balkan Wars of 1912-13 where the relatively new kingdom of Serbia and Bulgaria were enemies. During World War I Serbia was invaded by Austria and Germany and was allied to France. Croatia and Slovenia were joined to Serbia after the war to form the Kingdom of Yugoslavia with a centralized authority in Belgrade that was not always well accepted.

Throughout the movie, tensions with the Bulgarian team and the Croats – who refuse to join the Yugoslav national team, thus removing the King's support – serve as a backdrop to magnify the Serbian nationalism over an illusive Yugoslav identity.

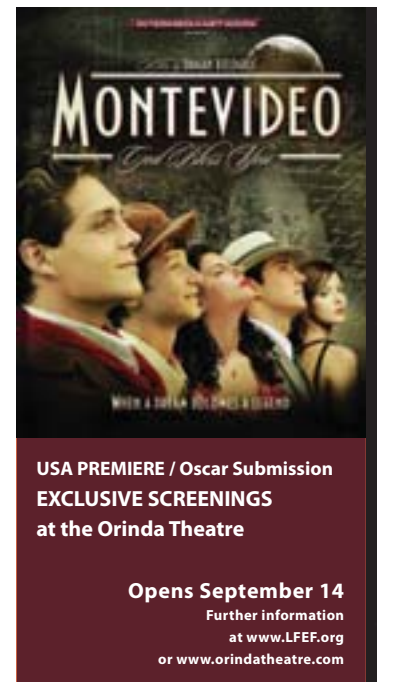
Although Croats and Bulgarians are not presented in the best light in this Serbian movie, this is not a geopolitical lesson and American viewers will feel very familiar with the story of a poor young man who wants to

live his dream as a soccer player, and carries the war metal of his dead father sewn to the inside of his jersey. There is a little bit of Field of Dreams in the movie, even if the game is soccer and not baseball. "Play well and they will come... if they come, you will go to Montevideo."

No need to be a soccer fan to enjoy Montevideo, either. The sports segments of the film are short enough, and dramatic, so even Steven Colbert would not fall asleep. There is also the requisite amount of love affair and mild amorous imbroglio to satisfy all audiences. The love stories are totally predictable, but the actors are young and give a fresh performance that makes it almost believable.

The backdrop of the roaring '20s is just sketched, but it is obviously not the main purpose of the movie to depict that era. Soccer enthusiasts will probably enjoy witnessing the birth of the popularity of their sport of choice. In the movie, the Belgrade national stadium is no bigger than a middle school field, and becoming a soccer player is certainly not viewed as an option for a young man.

It is interesting to note that the film, which is being shown in Orinda for one week as part of the International Film Showcase, is based on a true story; the Yugoslav team finished third place in Montevideo. For more information about the Showcase, visit lamorindatheatres.com.



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## Family Focus

### Handling Your Child's Complaints

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

*I personally believe we developed language because of our deep inner need to complain. ~Jane Wagner*

It is often difficult for parents to listen to a child's complaints. Sometimes it can get overwhelming, especially if you are trying hard to please this very child. If you are on a special family vacation and your child continually grouches about the heat or too much sand in his swimsuit, it can be hard to be sympathetic. You want your child to appreciate all that he has and not focus on life's minor irritants. And, of course, you'd like to have fun together and enjoy each other's company.

If a child complains and finds fault excessively, his parents may worry that he could be depressed or have low self-esteem. It is understandable that parents with a chronically dissatisfied child will become concerned and frustrated.

Here is an example of the scenario I sometimes witness: Two loving parents brought in Nathan, age nine and the oldest of three boys, for counseling. Nathan is bright, energetic, and articulate. Unfortunately, much of his communication centers on his dissatisfactions and resentments toward his parents, siblings, teacher, and some students at his school.

Nathan's parents are hard-working and conscientious. They give their time, resources, and love to their boys. Therefore, it is quite a shock to experience this level of negativity from Nathan. His parents have tried talking to him and showing him positive ways to approach people and situations that trigger him. They have asked him what they can do better in order to please him. They have pointed out how some people have it much worse than he does. They have tried to emphasize how proud they are of him and his talents.

The only thing they haven't given to Nathan is simple listening, understanding, and acceptance. Nathan's parents think that if they let him focus on his frustrations he will become even more negative. They worry that he will reach a level of despair that

will alienate him from others. So they try to boost him up instead of giving attention to his many complaints. Or they tell him he complains too much and has to stop.

I encouraged Nathan's parents to have him evaluated for depression and other conditions that could be responsible for his unhappiness. It is always crucial to rule out serious physical or psychological problems. When Nathan got a clean bill of health, I worked with his parents on ways to help him.

We practiced a sympathetic approach:

Nathan: "I hate doing homework. I never have enough time to play."

Parent: "It's hard having homework and not getting to play as much as you'd like."

Nathan: "It's not fair."

Parent: "I know. I didn't like homework either. If you start now and get it over with, at least you'll have an hour before bed to play."

If he's complaining about you, it may be more difficult to remain calm, but the same approach applies:

Nathan: "You're mean. I always get punished when it's not my fault."

Parent: "I see that you're upset and don't think I'm being fair. And you think your brothers get off while you get blamed too often."

Nathan: "Yeah, how come I always get blamed and they never do?"

Parent: "I'm glad you told me this. I'll try to watch more closely from now on since I love you and I don't want you to have to feel this way."

It's important to delay addressing the inflammatory words Nathan used – "mean," "always," and "never" until after you have acknowledged his message. If a parent first scolds and demands respect, a power struggle can develop, causing a child to become even angrier because his initial message wasn't acknowledged and now, on top of that, he is being disciplined.

You don't have to agree with your child's complaint in order to be com-

passionate and understanding right away. Later on, when he is calm and more receptive, you can help him think through how he used insulting words and a mean tone of voice when he complained to you. Then suggest some ways to re-state his message for next time and have him practice. And you can also encourage him to examine whether or not his complaint and its intensity were justified.

Sometimes a child complains out of habit or to get attention. Or he may derive the payoff of being able to frustrate his parents. You can take control by setting a limit on complaints to one per day. He will become more aware of his tendency to complain, and he will learn to prioritize his complaints and perhaps put things in better perspective.

One huge benefit of showing your child compassion and understanding when he complains is that you allow him to be "real" with you. You will be able to have a more genuine relationship if he feels that he can be himself and still receive acceptance and approval from his parents.



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



# Are You Dippy?

By Susie Iventosch

For "dippy" people like me, (that is to say those who love a nibble of dip on a chip before dinner), this is a fun rendition of the ubiquitous spinach and artichoke dips found at nearly every potluck. This recipe combines both of these vegetables in addition to goat cheese, cream cheese and just a sprinkling of Parmesan. For those who are particularly ambitious, the artichoke hearts can be prepared from scratch by cooking whole artichokes, but I find frozen artichoke hearts to be perfectly delicious and a huge time-saver for a recipe like this ... and, they're available year-round!

Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com.



**These recipe is available on our web site** 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.

# Orinda Educator Named C-SPAN Senior Fellow

By Cathy Dausman



Cheryl Davis consults for Acalanes Union High School District as a Curriculum and Instruction Technology Specialist.

Photo Cathy Dausman

Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) employee Cheryl Davis was recently named as a C-SPAN Senior Teacher Fellow, an appointment Davis finds "thrilling." Davis is one of just two teachers nationwide to earn the fellowship in 2012.

Senior Fellows work eight to 10 hours a month online for the network and are chosen from among those who have earned a C-SPAN fellowship. Davis was named a C-SPAN Fellow in 2004. That appointment came with a month-long stay in Washington, D.C. where she helped create lesson plans and content at C-SPAN headquarters.

Davis says that trip was "the professional development experience of a lifetime," and what a long teaching lifetime it has been.

She began her career 40 years ago, having been with AUHSD for all but the first five. She started in district at Campolindo High School and moved to Miramonte High School, where among other subjects, she taught U.S. and World History and Journalism.

Davis became involved with Mira-

monte's school newspaper, learning to layout its pages on Mac computers. She taught photography in conjunction with the newspaper work, and when photography became digitized, Davis learned that too. Eventually she stopped teaching to become a technology specialist at MHS.

Currently Davis consults part time for the district as a Curriculum and Instruction Technology Specialist. "I'm nobody's boss," Davis says modestly, "I am a teacher." She is also a student of technology, which she says is "moving so fast."

From her post, Davis coordinates the professional development of district teachers throughout the year, working through the schools' on-site technology coordinators. The AUHSD is "really forward thinking," Davis says, and strives to give its students a 21st century education. While parents support the district and teachers are enthusiastic about technology advancements, Davis remains cautious "not to jump on everything [technology related]." She would like to see teaching more integrated with what she calls "one to one" technology, where the focus is on delivering a lesson with content-rich information and a global view. She cautions students and their parents to seek out reliable, unbiased sources of information, such as sites run by museums and universities.

The former history teacher finds her work as a C-SPAN Senior Fellow especially exciting in an election year filled with campaigns and conventions. The network "does a nice job of supporting its fellows," Davis says.

In addition to being a Senior Teacher Fellow, Davis is a Google Certified Teacher, an Apple Distinguished Educator (one of 1,500 internationally) and has presented at state-wide and national conferences for the International Society for Technology in Education. Recently she was selected to be a Teaching with Primary Sources Mentor Adviser for the Library of Congress. The other Senior Teacher Fellow is Tracey Van Dusen of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**Submit stories and story ideas to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)**

## Roasted Artichoke Heart-Spinach Dip

### INGREDIENTS



- 1 package frozen artichoke hearts (about 9 ounces), thawed
- 1 clove garlic, peeled and quartered
- 1 shallot, peeled and quartered
- 1-2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/4 teaspoon white pepper
- 8 ounces Montrachet goat cheese (with or without herbs-your choice), softened to room temperature
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened to room temperature
- 1-2 tablespoons dry Sherry
- 1/4 cup feta cheese, crumbled
- 2 cups chopped fresh spinach
- 1/4 cup finely fresh grated Parmesan

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Toss artichoke hearts, garlic and shallots in olive oil and season with sea salt and white pepper. Roast on a baking sheet for about 10 minutes, or until artichoke hearts and shallots begin to brown on the edges. Remove from oven, cool, and coarsely chop in a mini processor or by hand. Meanwhile, beat goat cheese and cream cheese with a beater or by hand, until creamy and well blended. Stir in sherry. Add all remaining ingredients except Parmesan and mix well. Place in well-greased ramekin and sprinkle Parmesan over top. Bake at 425 until bubbly and cheese on top is beginning to brown, about 10 minutes. Remove and serve at once with sliced, toasted baguette or crackers.

# Business Service Directory

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SEPT 23, 5 PM ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, SACRAMENTO



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## ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

### ART

**Orinda Library August and September Art Exhibits.** The art exhibit for August will include CC14 group, Another World. The September exhibit will include Three-Eight Art Studio, Lucia Tsang. The library is located at 26 Orinda Way in Orinda.

**Anticipation is the New Lafayette Exhibition.** Anticipation – one of life's delights – will run through October 7 at the Lafayette Gallery, 50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Works of art are ready for your home or garden and evoke the anticipation of pleasurable things to come. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11am to 5pm, and Sunday 11am to 2pm. Free. For more info, call (925) 284-2788 or visit [www.lafayette-gallery.net](http://www.lafayette-gallery.net).

**Cool Breeze is the New Paintings Exhibit at Valley Art Gallery.** New paintings in many different styles and mediums are now featured through September 14, Tuesday through Saturday 11am to 5pm at Valley Art Gallery, 1661 Botelho Drive Suite 110, Walnut Creek. For more info, call (925) 935-4311.

**Painting Exhibits at the Moraga Public Library.** The Moraga Public Library will exhibit the art of Denise Lee and Jonathan Shum, both students of famous local Chinese brush painter, Joan Yao – a well-known Chinese brush painter, calligrapher, and teacher. Lee and Shum's exhibits will run through August and September at the library, 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Yao will also have an exhibit in the month of September. For more info, call (925) 376-6852.

**Moraga Art Gallery Reimagined.** Moraga Art Gallery's new show highlights the collective creativity, commitment and energy of the gallery's members. The show runs through Sunday, October 21, Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5pm at the Moraga Art Gallery, The Rheem Valley Shopping Center, 522 Center Street, and will feature the work of the entire gallery artist group, in celebration of this tireless organization that has survived a challenging relocation, coming out stronger, and more creative and successful than ever before. For more info, call (925) 376-5407 or visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com).

### MUSIC

**The Big Band of Rossmoor Show and Dance featuring The Fred Astaire Dance Book.** Put on your dancing shoes and prepare for a night of sheer entertainment with The Big Band of Rossmoor. Fans, dancers and/or big band listeners are invited to join The Big Band of Rossmoor Friday, September 14 from 6:30 to 10pm at the Rheem Theater, 350 Park Street, Moraga. Tickets: \$10. For more info, call (925) 284-7404 or visit [www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org).

**The 2nd Annual Orinda Jazz Festival is Underway.** The Jazz Festival scheduled September 30 from 4 to 7pm at the Orinda Auditorium and Courtyard located at 26 Orinda Way in Orinda benefits the Orinda Arts Council Community Programs. There will be free music workshops, a Gala Reception with live music, wine, and appetizers, concerts on two stages, and a chance to meet the artists. Tickets: \$20 for general admission; \$15 for students and seniors. For more info, call (925) 255-5164 or visit [www.OrindaJazzFestival.org](http://www.OrindaJazzFestival.org).

### THEATER

**DVC Drama 2012 - 2013 Season. The Grapes of Wrath** by Frank Galati will be showing at Diablo Valley College October 19 through November 11, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2:30pm, 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill. Tickets: \$20 general admission; \$15 for students, staff, and seniors; \$10 for students. For more info, call (925) 687-4445.

**Orinda Starlight Village Players' 2012. Sherlock Holmes** in The Speckled Band by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle will be showing through September 29, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30pm. The play will also be showing on Sunday, September 16 and 23 at 4pm, and Thursday, September 27 at 8pm. Regular admission: \$16; \$8 for seniors and children. For tickets or more info, call (925) 528-9225 or visit [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org).

**Sly Fox. Lafayette's Town Hall Theatre begins another season** with Larry Gelbart's Sly Fox, an hilarious adaptation of Ben Jonson's satire Volpone. Sly Fox runs from September 29 through October 20 with previews on September 27 and 28. It is rated PG13 and is approximately two hours long. The show starts at 8pm on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and 2pm on Sundays. Town Hall's Theatre Club will be having free wine and an actor talk back following the performance on Friday, October 5. The show is at Lafayette's Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Tickets: \$29 for adults preview or matinee; \$32 for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings; \$25 preview or matinee for seniors (60 and older) and youth (under 18) and \$29 for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. For more info, call (925) 283-6673 or visit [www.townhalltheatre.com](http://www.townhalltheatre.com).

**Diablo Ballet and The Lafayette Library present classic dance films** this summer. You're invited to see some of the greatest dance films ever made. There will be a showing of West Side Story (1961) on Wednesday, September 12 at 6:30 pm in the Arts & Science Discovery Center at the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. West Side story is a classic musical retelling of "Romeo & Juliet" as rival gang members fall in love and face the consequences. Admission: \$5. For more info, call (925) 283-6513 or visit [www.lilcf.org](http://www.lilcf.org).

### LECTURES, WORKSHOPS & ORGANIZATIONS

**Words of Wisdom discussion group led by Paul Fillingier.** Take part in this free-wheeling exchange of inspiration, information, and humor September 18 from 10:30am to noon in the Lafayette Community Center Elderberry Room, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Cost: \$1 for members; \$3 for non-members. For more info or to sign up, call (925) 284-5050.

**Pet Loss Support Group. Grief Support Group Helps People Cope with the Death of a Pet.** When you lose your pet you often feel like a part of you is lost. This is a support group where participants can share memories and feelings and talk to others who truly understand and care. The group will meet every first Tuesday of the month beginning September 4 from noon to 1:30pm at the Tony La Russa Animal Rescue Foundation, 2890 Mitchell Drive, Walnut Creek. For more info and to pre-register, call (925) 887-5681. Pre-registration is required.

**Common Threads Stitching Group. Whether you are a seasoned cross-stitcher or newbie beginner,** join this ongoing, drop-in group for instruction, guidance, or simply a relaxing afternoon spent with fellow stitchers every Wednesday at the Lafayette Community Center in the Elderberry room from 2 to 3:30pm starting September 12 (except November 21 and December 26), 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. For more info or to register, call (925) 284-5050.

**Lafayette Garden Club. Have you got questions about your garden?** There will be answers with guest speaker Buzz Bertolero, Executive Vice President of Navlet's chain of lawn and garden centers, at 9:30am September 13 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette.

**Montelindo Garden Club Meeting.** Kathy Courtright of Orchard Nursery will speak on spring blooming bulbs, deer and gopher resistant, tried and true as well as less popular but wonderful varieties of bulbs September 21 at 9:30am at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. For more info, call (925) 254-3906.

**Avoiding Falls an Anne Randolph Workshop.** If you are worried about falling or are at risk of falling, you should know about activities that improve balance. Learn how to improve your balance and avoid the risk of falling Friday, September 28 from 11:30am to 12:30pm in the Sequoia Room, Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd., Lafayette. For more info or to register, call (925) 284-5050.

**Lafayette Physical Therapy is having free community lectures.** Nutrition for Healing lecture with guest speaker, Cynthia Allen, Registered Nurse, will be on September 25 from 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm. The lecture will be at 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite B110 in Lafayette. To RSVP please call (925) 284-6150. For more information please visit [www.LafayettePT.com](http://www.LafayettePT.com).

### OTHER

**Moraga Barn Celebration. Celebrate the 100-year anniversary** of the Moraga Barn Saturday, September 15 at 7pm and enjoy an evening of live entertainment, storytelling, drinks and community congregation at Canyon Construction (Moraga Barn) – 925 Country Club Drive, Moraga. Tickets: \$15 per person (\$5 off for participating in the living history project). Proceeds benefit the Moraga Historical Society.

**Annual Lafayette Art & Wine Festival. Enjoy continuous live music** while strolling among the 250 fine arts and crafts booths. Sample foods from top local restaurants and enjoy quality wines and microbrews from 10am to 7pm Saturday, September 15 and 10am to 6pm Sunday, September 16. Free Admission. Drink Tickets: \$6 for individual ticket. Individual wine or beer glass: \$6. Combination packages are available. Kids Zone Tickets: \$1-\$5 for different activities.

**O'Neill's Danville. As part of the Eugene O'Neill Festival** in Danville, celebrating the 75th anniversary of Tao House, Beverly Lane will describe "the way we were" when Eugene and Carlotta arrived in town Saturday, September 15 at 10am in the Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, Danville. She will provide background on the O'Neill's purchase of the Las Trampas property, the building of Tao House, and the couple's relationship with their Danville neighbors. Free.

**5th Annual Orinda Restaurant Tour, Featuring over 20 restaurants,** wine tasting, live music and more from 5 to 9:30pm Tuesday, September 18 at the Theatre District on Moraga Way. Tickets: \$40 purchased in advance; \$45 at the door. Purchase tickets online at [www.orindachamber.org](http://www.orindachamber.org). For more info, call the Orinda Chamber at (925) 254-3909.

**The Orinda Annual Classic Car Show will feature an outstanding exhibit of Ford Model As,** Shelby Mustangs and Cobras as well as more than 180 American and European cars ranging from the 1920s, to the classics of the '50s and '60s to modern exotics Saturday, September 22 from 10 am to 2pm in Orinda Village at Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way. Free. For more event information, visit the website at [www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com). Those interested in entering a vehicle, subscribing to email updates, or attending the Pre-Show Party may do so online. Car entry fee: \$60 for cars; \$35 for motorcycles. Entry fees are a tax-deductible donation.

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

## Lamorinda's Religious Services



### St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

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Active Youth Program, Sunday School, Nursery Childcare, 10AM  
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)

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**Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church**  
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### St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda  
254-3770. [www.ststephensorinda.org](http://www.ststephensorinda.org)  
Sunday 8am & 10am.

### The Orinda Community Church

10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | [www.orindachurch.org](http://www.orindachurch.org)

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Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 – 8:30 pm  
Reading Room/Bookstore M – F 11 – 4; Sat 10 – 1

[www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)

### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422  
[www.holy shepherd.org](http://www.holy shepherd.org)



8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service  
9:40 a.m. Education for all ages  
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LAMORINDA FLOORS

OTHER ...continued

**Walk n' Roll. Join us for a fun one mile or 5K Walk n' Roll** event to support people with developmental disabilities Saturday, September 22 from 9am to noon, starting at Las Trampas, 3460 Lana Lane, Lafayette, continuing towards Olympic Blvd and ending at Las Trampas. The trail is wheelchair-friendly. Registration: \$25 per person and includes: the event, T-shirt, gift, refreshments, prizes, music, and more. For more info, visit [www.active.com/running/lafayette-ca/walk-n-roll-for-las-trampas-2012](http://www.active.com/running/lafayette-ca/walk-n-roll-for-las-trampas-2012). Free memory screening by Caring Solutions September 28 in the Cedar Room at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. An appointment is required. Appointments are at 12:30, 12:50, or 1:10 pm. For more info or to sign up, call (925) 284-5050.

**The 14th Annual Moraga Pear & Wine Festival.** A family-friendly event celebrating Moraga's Pear history from 10am to 4pm Saturday, September 29 at the Moraga Commons Park, 1425 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Entertainment and activities at the bandshell include DJ RyanO, Town Hall Theatre performers, an afternoon concert by littledog2, Arbor Day tree planting, wine tasting with Lamorinda Winegrowers Association, grape stomping, pear pies, jumpies, pie eating contest, food, local artist booths, community and business booths, and the ARF Mobile Adop-

tion Van. For more info, call the Parks and Recreation Department (925) 888-7045 or visit [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us).

**20th Annual Reservoir Run. The Lafayette Reservoir Run** is the city's most popular "family affair," involving kids, parents, grandparents, and hundreds of serious runners from throughout the Bay Area. The event will be on Sunday, October 28 beginning at 6:30am in Downtown Lafayette starting at Mt. Diablo Blvd. between First St. and Moraga Road. The adult registration: \$30; race day fee \$35; elementary school fee \$22. For more info, visit [www.lafayettechamber.org/events/reservoir-run/](http://www.lafayettechamber.org/events/reservoir-run/).

**Hearing Screening by Audiologists from Hearing Science/Diablo Valley Ear, Nose, and Throat** October 3, November 7, and December 5 in the Cedar Room at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road. An appointment is required and a minimum of two sign ups are required in order for screenings to take place. Please call Lafayette Senior Services at (925) 284-5050 to sign up for one of the following appointment times: 1, 1:20, 1:40, or 2pm. Cost: \$1 for members; \$3 for non-members.

**Nature Walk and Bird-Watching led by Ben Pettersson.** Experience nature at its finest along our local trails. Delight in the beauty that unfolds around each bend, all the while learning to identify a variety of birds. Bring a water bottle; binoculars will be helpful if you have them. The walks are every Wednesday from 9 to 11am. Please call (925) 284-5050 to find out the weekly meeting place.

**Celebrating the 75th anniversary of the TAO House.** The Tao House was built by Eugene O'Neill and his wife, Carlotta, in Las Trampas Hills, just outside of the town in 1937 shortly after his reception of the Nobel Prize for Literature. The 13th annual Eugene O'Neill Festival in Danville runs from September 7-30 at the Tao House which is now a National Park site. You must take a shuttle from The Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Avenue, Danville. For more info, contact Dan Cawthon at (925) 946-0108.

**The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Board of Trustees,** which manages Foundation assets, implements major fundraising plans, oversees non-county library budget operations and staff, and coordinates activities of the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium, is seeking new members. Applications, which are available at [LLLCF.org](http://LLLCF.org) or available in the LLLCF office on the mezzanine floor of the library, will be accepted until September 30.

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MOVIE REVIEW

The Words

By Derek Zemrak



Photo Jonathan Wenk

Don't miss this amazing film! *The Words* is the best film I have seen this year. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival this past January where it was purchased by CBS films for a reported \$2 million and a guarantee of \$1.5 million in print and advertising. This independent film is about author Rory Jansen, played by Bradley Cooper (*The Hangover*; *Limitless*), whose latest novel is a literary success. Rory is riding the wave of success. The problem is – Rory did not write it. Now amongst all the accolades he has to deal with his secret.

The cast is amazing and includes Oscar Winner Jeremy Irons (*Reversal of Fortune*), Dennis Quaid (*Far From Heaven*), Zoe Saldana (*Avatar*) and Olivia Wilde (*People Like Us*). All the performances are solid but it is the quality of the screenplay by Brian Klugman and Lee Stemthal that shines on the screen. When Rory, as a struggling writer, once again needs to borrow money from his dad, Rory says, "I need to pay my dues," and his dad responds, "No, I need

to pay your dues." Another memorable line: "We all make choices in life but the hardest part is to live with them." Dialogue from this film stays with you; the words have meaning and impact.

As an independent film, *The Words* was shot on location in Montreal but was used to depict both New York and Paris, which greatly reduced production cost. Often times these little gems of movies do not see enormous box office results because of a lack of marketing funds; they rely on word of mouth. *The Words* is a film that will make you think of your own life. People will be talking about the movie for days after seeing it, as they reflect on their own lives and the paths that were chosen along the way.

*The Words* is a must see – take my "Words" for it!

Derek Zemrak is a Film Critic, Film Producer and Founder of the California Independent Film Festival. You can follow Derek on Twitter @zemrak for the latest Hollywood news.

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	<b>Terzetto Cuisine</b>	1419 Moraga Way	Moraga	376-3832
<b>California Cuisine</b>	<b>Vino Restaurant</b>	3531 Plaza Way	Lafayette	284-1330
<b>Chinese</b>	<b>Chef Chao Restaurant</b>	343 Rheem Blvd	Moraga	376-1740
	<b>Szechwan Chinese Restaurant</b>	79 Orinda Way	Orinda	254-2020
<b>Coffee Shop</b>	<b>Millie's Kitchen</b>	1018 Oak Hill Rd #A	Lafayette	283-2397
<b>Italian</b>	<b>Giardino</b>	3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd	Lafayette	283-3869
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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Moraga Inaugurates Softball League

By Michael Sakoda



Photos Kevin Nguyen

The inaugural season of the Moraga Parks and Recreation Men's 35 and over softball league got under way Sunday. It was only an idea a month and a half ago.

Kim Burrowes and Jay Ingram, the league's organizers, say that for as long as they have been with the Department of Parks and Recreation, about six years, there hasn't been a softball league in Moraga. Orinda's adult softball league used to hold its games in Moraga, but has since moved, leaving some would-be-participants without a venue.

"One of the managers...Brett Lorie, had been talking with me and Kim about starting a league here in Moraga," Ingram says. "He lit the fire under us."

Lorie, a teacher at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School and now the manager of the Seals, notes the benefits of having organized sports in the community. "Aside from the fact that it promotes a healthy lifestyle, it is a great way of meeting other people in

the community." "The more ways you can link citizens to a community, the greater connection one feels to their home town," says Ed Huber, a vice president at Clorox and manager of Scared Hitless. "Having organized ways to connect to your community makes Moraga feel like home."

The league is sanctioned by USSSA, the United States Specialty Sports Association, which also schedules and provides umpires for leagues in the cities of Martinez and Concord. However, Kevin Moore, manager of the Presidential Suspects, says that on field disputes are likely to be a non-issue. "Most 35+ softball players are competitive," he says, "but we...can temper the competitive spirit to ensure that we have fun, our primary goal."

Despite the quick start up, interest in the league has been encouraging, thanks in large part to good promotion. "We stayed in constant contact, letting people know that we had a

league starting up," says Burrowes.

Four teams will compete this season — in addition to the Seals and Scared Hitless the league will include the Moraga Commons and Presidential Suspects, all of whom signed up with full rosters although the league does welcome free agent sign ups.

"We wanted to start small, certainly don't want to compete with other areas, like Orinda and Pleasant Hill. We want to find our niche," says Ingram. "We don't want to duplicate services, but we do plan to expand... become a specialty league, offering things other districts aren't."

One of those uniquely Moragan experiences: the opportunity to play at the refurbished facilities of Camino Pablo Elementary School, the newest natural turf field in the Lamorinda area.

Players and organizers alike hope to see the league expand in time. Lorie says, "The fall league is for men, but the goal...is to have men's and co-ed leagues in the summer."



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# Lending a Hand

## Lafayette resident helps at America's Cup

By Rebecca Eckland



Thomas Maher

Photos Doug Kohen

Thomas Maher has been a sailor as long as he can remember. His father, Chris— also an avid sailor—always had a boat moored in Alameda and introduced him to the sport. Maher began racing at about the age of eight. “I always just wanted to win,” said Maher of his early sailing days. He recently served as a shore hand for Team China in early America’s World Cup events, the newest team addition to one of the oldest existing organized competitions around.

Maher landed on Team China when a friend of Chris’s called months ago with the news that the team needed a shore hand for the AC World Series and the World Series in San Francisco from August 10-26. Maher— whose love of sailing has not diminished in the years— joined the team.

Although Maher’s official title was shore hand, he did much more. He repaired the hulls of damaged boats and was aboard the coaching boat to monitor the crew. “In the

world of sailing, you have to be a jack of all trades,” he said.

He also acted as a “local representative,” offering suggestions for places to eat and where to pick up supplies needed for the boat.

His favorite memory was his experience on the coaching boat. “Being on the coaching boat was amazing,” he said. “You get to see the technology working firsthand.”

A new technology used by the team was the wing sail boat, which is much faster than previous models. “You have to work hard, be a quick learner,” said Maher who hadn’t worked on a wing boat before.

Maher enjoyed his time with the crew. “The guys were surprisingly fun to be around,” he said.

He did admit that there were moments when communication became an issue for the multinational crew. “With people from New Zealand, France and of course, China, there was a few times when things got a little mixed up,” he explained.

He is thankful for the opportunity to participate. “I was just glad I got the experience to be around such a high level of the sport. Since sailing is not a well known sport in China it was really cool to be a part of something that spreads the sport that I love to the

other end of the globe,” he said.

The teams will return to the bay on October 1-7 for the preliminary competitions that lead up to the actual America’s Cup, which will be sailed in San Francisco Bay in the summer of 2013.

“If the team calls and if my teachers let me disappear for a few weeks, I’ll be in San Francisco,” he said. Currently a student at Cal Poly, Maher hopes to use his degree program, he’s majoring in communication and marketing, to keep close to the sailing life he’s always known.

“I want to be able to use my marketing knowledge to help promote the sport,” he said.



# U14 Lamorinda Girls Take Second Place

Submitted by Chris Easter



Front Row, from left: Emma Nushi, Adriana Uyehara, Lindsay Easter; middle row: Mia Lineweaver, Greta Kohls, Rosie Cruz, Caroline Clark, Katherine Larson, Jessica Carlin; top row: Morgan Rogers, Tova Ricardo, Cecilia Gee, Hannah Fishlow, Jadey Sadoff, Olivia Fishlow, Maggie McGuire. Photo provided

The Lamorinda United U14 girls continue to coalesce as a team and the Stanford Summer Classic Tournament results prove it. On August 18th, they had easily their best day as a team as they played near perfect soccer in two impressive victories, defeating the San Luis Obispo Storm 4-1 and the Sunnyvale Alliance Devils 5-1.

Day two was more difficult as the home team, Mountain View/Los Altos Typhoon, gave

Lamorinda all they could handle in 2-2 tie.

Fortunately, due to their dominance on Day 1, the U14s advanced into the finals on Sunday evening to take on Ajax East Bay. Ajax won 2-1. While just missing on their bid for first place, U14s were satisfied with their level of play and they hope it is a foreshadowing of things to come as they look towards the fall league, which commences in September.

# Magic Dominate Weekend Tournament

Submitted by Greg Davis



Back row, from left: Coach Jasko Begovic, Kaitlin DeVries, Holland McDonald, Molly Davis, Vanessa Vaisnor, Jackie Nichols, Kate Minden, Coach Haris Obic; front row: Kierra Krawec, Mia Grillo, Molly Ikeya, Emily Smith, Samantha DeVecchi, Anya Li; not pictured: Keeley Murphy, Annie Midthun, Lauren Van Stralen. Photo provided

California Magic’s U13 girls’ team continued their winning ways on Labor Day weekend at the Sonoma County Classic Soccer Premier Division 1 Tournament in Santa Rosa. Outscoring their opponents 16-1 over the tournament, the girls beat a tough premier-level Sonoma County Alliance team 2-0 in an intense semi-final to advance to the championship on

Sunday. The Magic played stellar team soccer and posted a 2-0 win to take the championship. Five different players scored goals and assists came from almost every teammate in the tournament. “This weekend our players excelled in playing more than one position and they continued learning the many different ways to compete,” said Head Coach Haris Obic.

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# Saint Mary's Women's Soccer Tightens Defense, Records Tie

By Simon Tryzna



Caroline Beaulne

Photos Tod Fierner



Katy Roby



Christina Tognetti

After six tough games away from Moraga, the Saint Mary's women's soccer team finally returned home to host the Oregon Ducks (3-2-1) last weekend. Saint Mary's (3-3-1), chosen to finish sixth in the West Coast Conference by the coaches, features a young team, and Head Coach Kai Edwards put together a strong non-conference schedule in order to prepare them for a grueling WCC season.

Following a season opening 2-0 win at Portland State, Saint Mary's was outscored 9-2 in two games against Seattle and USC. However, the defense came together in a 1-0 win against Sam Houston State and then played well in a 1-0 loss to A&M.

In the final non-conference road game, the Gaels got a golden goal from Christina Tognetti for a 1-0 win on the road against Cal Poly.

Saint Mary's was unable to conjure up some late magic as they settled for a draw against Oregon, 1-1 on Sunday, September 12. The recent string of success is a direct result of better defense.

The Gaels started five fresh-

men, including two in central defense and one in goal.

"[The defense] shored it up and started to get a little more comfortable," said Coach Kai Edwards.

"We gave up only two goals our last four games," said Edwards after the game against Oregon. One of those goals was a deflection in the Oregon game, and the other was an off-sides goal against #17 Texas A&M.

The Gaels and the Ducks played a very physical match from the start on and battled it out in the midfield. Oregon displayed their speed on a counter attack, and forward Kristen Parr scored a goal in the 23rd minute to give the Ducks the lead.

Saint Mary's responded three minutes into the second half. Senior Katy Roby fooled the Ducks goal keeper off a free kick from the right box, about 20 yards out. The equalizer gave the Gaels new life and they played up-tempo for the rest of the match.

With about 17 minutes left, Saint Mary's freshman Caroline Beaulne was fouled two yards

from the box by Oregon keeper Abby Steele, who was ejected from the game with a red card. The Gaels, however, were unable to convert on the free kick and were unable to take advantage of

being a player up on the Ducks. "It's unfortunate (that we tied)," said Edwards. "There's good and bad. It was our first home game so we protected it. We went down early but we bat-

tled back and put ourselves in a position to win the game."

The Gaels return to action on September 14 and 16, hosting the Saint Mary's Tournament. They take on UC Davis on Friday at 4 p.m.

**Lamorinda Weekly**  
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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 06 Issue 14 Wednesday, September 12, 2012



*The Home Designer*

*...read on page D6*

## A Tree House Grows in Lamorinda

By Cathy Dausman



*Tabitha Kenney smiles from the window of her old tree house*

*Photos Cathy Dausman*

Joyce Kilmer wrote, “I think that I shall never see... a poem as lovely as a tree.” Add a house to that tree and it becomes a

little more poetic. It starts as a young child’s daydream in a backyard or an empty lot. Combine a tree, some friends, a bit of wood, and voilà!

Tabitha Kenney’s tree house was built five years ago by her grandfather Richard Kenney, in the family’s side yard near a small creek in

Lafayette. There already was a “tree house” there, the elder Kenney said, amounting to little more than a few boards nailed across two conveniently horizontal limbs on a bay laurel tree.

The family scouted the site and felt it had potential. The new house would have a rectangular design, be approximately 4 x 6 feet, with a waterproof roof built from leftovers donated from a neighbor’s roofing project.

It would be “big enough for four” Kenney said, with benches inside for seating. Richard committed to the project—on the Q.T. This was to be a Christmas present for Tabitha, her sisters and brother.

Richard Kenney lives in Idaho, so the actual tree house project was built as a pre-fab. Tabitha’s father, Chris, took critical measurements and sent them to his dad, and the tree house slowly took shape in Richard’s basement over a three week period. Then it was disassembled, packed in a minivan and driven to Lafayette for installation.

Chris recalled the actual assembly required “lots of trips to the hardware store” and some work took place in the rain.

*... continued on page D4*



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LAFAYETTE	7	\$514,000	\$1,750,000
MORAGA	11	\$190,000	\$1,390,000
ORINDA	5	\$635,000	\$1,962,500

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Previous Sale: \$700,000, 09-03-03
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Previous Sale: \$230,000, 12-07-88
- 4117 Hidden Valley Road, \$590,000, 3 Bdrms, 1378 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 8-14-12;  
Previous Sale: \$755,000, 11-09-06
- 853 Las Trampas Road, \$1,073,000, 4 Bdrms, 3191 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 8-10-12;  
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- 3279 Mt. Diablo Court #32, \$514,000, 3 Bdrms, 1731 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 8-14-12;  
Previous Sale: \$420,000, 08-18-09
- 1025 Timothy Lane, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 3505 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 8-10-12;  
Previous Sale: \$835,000, 06-01-94
- 821 Topper Lane, \$1,625,000, 5 Bdrms, 3021 SqFt, 2010 YrBlt, 8-3-12;  
Previous Sale: \$2,050,000, 08-06-10

### MORAGA

- 716 Augusta Drive, \$560,000, 2 Bdrms, 1262 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 8-3-12;  
Previous Sale: \$475,000, 05-04-01
- 15 Avila Lane, \$1,390,000, 4 Bdrms, 3305 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 8-14-12;  
Previous Sale: \$1,415,000, 07-08-03
- 263 Birchwood Drive, \$1,081,000, 3 Bdrms, 2269 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 8-3-12;  
Previous Sale: \$192,500, 05-26-78
- 24 Broadmoor Street, \$550,000, 3 Bdrms, 1819 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 8-10-12;  
Previous Sale: \$620,000, 08-22-03
- 312 Corte Gabriel, \$585,000, 3 Bdrms, 2018 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 8-14-12;  
Previous Sale: \$310,000, 07-15-98
- 1094 Country Club Drive, \$869,000, 3 Bdrms, 1875 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 8-3-12;  
Previous Sale: \$490,000, 10-15-98
- 18 Harrington Road, \$1,010,000, 3 Bdrms, 2235 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 8-9-12
- 35 Hetfield Place, \$900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2241 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 8-3-12;  
Previous Sale: \$435,000, 10-29-97
- 19 Miramonte Drive, \$435,000, 2 Bdrms, 1762 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 8-8-12;  
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 01-28-04
- 651 Moraga Road #16, \$320,000, 3 Bdrms, 1394 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 8-13-12;  
Previous Sale: \$249,000, 04-28-00
- 651 Moraga Road #27, \$190,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 8-15-12;  
Previous Sale: \$250,000, 08-31-01

### ORINDA

- 20 Altamount Drive, \$635,000, 3 Bdrms, 1407 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 8-15-12
- 3 Charles Hill Lane, \$899,000, 3 Bdrms, 2297 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 8-14-12
- 4 La Plaza Drive, \$1,803,000, 5 Bdrms, 3541 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 8-14-12;  
Previous Sale: \$609,000, 07-20-93
- 136 Manzanita Drive, \$1,962,500, 4 Bdrms, 3922 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 8-15-12;  
Previous Sale: \$300,000, 10-11-01
- 76 Tarry Lane, \$1,062,500, 3 Bdrms, 2565 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 8-10-12

## Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

### LAFAYETTE

Sweet Drive, 94549, Sweet Drive Trust, 08-13-12, \$575,000, 1798 sf, 4 bd

### ORINDA

Las Cascadas Road, 94563, Alvernaz Partners, 04-12-12, \$661,000, 2018 sf, 3 bd



# The RE/MAX Collection

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**Alamo** ~ 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 2556 sf, custom home near Roundhill CC, updated kit & baths, hrdwd flrs, French doors, Lg entertaining lot, fruit trees, spa, gardens, 3 car gar, & RV or boat parking. **\$1,250,000**

**Pam Berce** 925.699.8090  
www.pamberce.com



**Alamo** ~ Fabulous 1 lvl creek side estate in oak studded park-like setting. Almost 1 acre w/1000 sf guest house, pool & Koi pond. Home is approx 2973 sf & exquisitely remodeled throughout. **\$2,300,000**

**Stephanie Stadler** 800.977.8985  
**Todd Carter** 925.914.5844



**Lafayette** ~ Hidden Valley Dream, Stunning remodel w/ultimate creek side privacy on pancake flat, nearly 1/2 acre lot. Features hardwood, granite, slate & stainless finishes. Top ranked Lafayette Schools! **\$749,000**

**Mark Shaw** 925.250.5591  
YouTube video at "markshawrealestate"



**Lafayette** ~ Burton Valley! 4 bdrm, 3bath, 2800 sf single story, desirable street. Travertine & hrdwd flrs, bay windows, coffered ceilings, formal entry, skylights & private yard. **\$1,250,000**

**Mark Shaw** 925.250.5591  
YouTube video at "markshawrealestate"



**Orinda** ~ Gorgeous Single Story on level park like lot. Rebuilt in 1992, 4 bdrms, 3 baths, soaring vaulted ceilings, gourmet kit, lush landscaping, custom sandstone fireplace, & much more! **\$1,325,000**

**Mark Shaw** 925.250.5591  
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**Walnut Creek** ~ Fabulous hm w/Tuscan feel set in oak studded private lot w/VIEWS! 5 bdrms + 6th bdrm or separate Au Pair set up. 5 baths. Mstr Suite w/views, cozy fireplace, spa & steam shower. **\$2,350,000**

**Gretchen Bryce** 925.683.2477  
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# A Tree House Grows in Lamorinda

... continued from page D1

The exterior was primed and painted a woody green to blend with the scenery. Richard Kenney says his grandkids were “pretty excited” about their new lodging. The tree house even served as an outdoor location for 12 friends on Tabitha’s eighth birthday.

The men signed their masterpiece on the foundation 2 x 4’s. Then the family sold their house, and one night during what Chris Kenney called “a Mission Impossible moment” the children and their friends snuck out after dark to their tree house and added colorful signature handprints inside the roof.

After moving away for a time, the Kenneys returned to their early neighborhood and now live just three doors down from the tree house lot. They visit and play at the site often, enjoying tree house views, the tire swing and a nearby rope swing. The family says it has become a de facto neighborhood park, and Tabitha still likes everything about it... except for the spider webs.

Jay and Carole Haggman built a tree house in their Lamorinda back yard for similar reasons...their children



*A two-story tree house built between two redwoods features an open deck*



wanted one. It’s a two-story natural wood affair, supported by redwood trees 60 feet tall that bracket the house on either side. The second story is an open deck with a view to the west. The whole structure is vaguely reminiscent of a Hobbit habitat.

Haggman says it was built about 10 years ago, with help from a Berkeley contractor who installed the platform. He estimates he put at least \$1,000 into the project. Although still sturdy, it has since suffered from benign neglect. As the Haggman children grew up, their interests switched from tree house to trampoline and later to their in-ground swimming pool.

Adults are not immune to the lure of a backyard hideaway either, as evidenced by the Ewok tree forts in Star Wars Episode VI. And author J.K. Rowling recently received permission to construct two luxury tree houses for her children on her Edinburgh property. A story in *The Daily Mail* says Rowling’s Harry Potter inspired dwellings will be 40 feet high, built from sustainable timber and include secret tunnels and bay windows. The contractor is one of the United Kingdom’s leading tree house architects.

A bit closer to home, TreeHouse Workshop operates out of Seattle, Washington and hosts building work-

shops, designs and builds custom tree houses and sells specialized materials. Owner Pete Nelson recently published the coffee table book *Treehouses of the World*.

Michael Cass, Assistant Planner for the City of Lafayette, says although there is no code for building tree houses, ordinary zoning regulations do apply, and decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. The City’s concerns include the building’s structural soundness, the viability of the tree(s) involved, and sight views from adjacent properties. Homeowners might want to consult their town’s or city’s planning department before loaning junior the hammer.



# He's All About Lamorinda



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## The Home Designer Inspired Design

By Brandon Neff

**I**nspiration. I feel it's the genesis of any creative pursuit. Function, you say? Sure, that counts too, but it's inspiration that launches a desire to capture in form what the mind can only imagine. Look around. Inspiration comes in many forms and through many paths. Sometimes it knocks you straight on your tail, or can be as stealth as a cat hunting its prey. I think the question I'm asked most is, "What inspires you when designing a space?" And, to that I always answer, "Everything."

The color and texture of a dog's coat, or the shape of clouds in a late summer's sky – I am always looking, observing and drawing inspiration. I encourage my clients to seize inspiration from their everyday lives – obscure adventures, the rehearsed or merely the familiar. Many people I work with think they don't have a creative gene in their body, but I beg to differ. I believe everyone has the ability to see the world through a curated lens.



For example, one of my clients asked me to design a wall installation based on one of his passions – airplanes. My assignment for him was to create an image in the sky with himself (and his plane) as the subject – conveniently he has a pilot's license! The image above came from his first shoot – very inspiring!

I love the photo's composition and color! That canary yellow of the planes mixed with the contrasting blacks and whites have inspired my next project – stay tuned. This image has an almost Rauschenberg feel to it – something very Pop Art and fun. For me, it's the bold typeset lettering and insignias that get my art director's mind working overtime to begin work on a new room using graphic, pure, saturated color.

By directing my client to create an inspired image, I myself, have been inspired.

Ok. Here's another example. Since getting my new phone I have become obsessed with its camera. I now use the phone more as a photo lens than as a means of communication. Everywhere I go, I take pictures - the good, the bad and the ugly. At the end of each day I sift through my digital camera roll like a kid sorting treats after a Halloween haul. Some days I get black licorice (not a fan), but some days I score a Milky Way! We're talkin' king size!

One such image was of a home I discovered South of Market in San Francisco - a classic Victorian Painted Lady dressed up for a ball. Instantly, I was inspired.

... continued on next page



### 4 El Paraiso Court, Moraga

Located in one of Moraga's most desirable residential areas that offers convenient, walking distance to town and trails. This wonderful custom ranch home offers 5 bedroom & 2 1/2 baths with newer dual pane windows and doors that create a wonderful indoor/outdoor oasis for entertaining. A special home that also offers an outstanding large, private lot with sparkling swimming pool, sprawling front grass yard and view of the hills.

Offered at \$1,150,000

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### 3926 Woodside Ct, Lafayette

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Stylish Contemporary in Lafayette's Hidden Valley. 5 beds, 3.5 baths, 4082 sq. ft. with nearly an acre of land includes flat grassy play area, pool, and so much more. Beautiful views of Lafayette hills and walking distance to reservoir. For more info, call Patrice at 925-639-8646.

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Obviously the color grabbed me immediately, but also the scale, the moldings and the simplicity of its beauty. Fan deck of colors at my side I began to re-imagine the image as a room - walls, crown, woods, scale and playfulness - all being reinterpreted into an interior.

I borrowed the light oak hue of the front door as inspiration for the table and floor, the gold finials of the home's balcony to inspire the gold trim on the chandelier, the salt white frieze for the room's crown molding and the silvery purples and deep plums of the facade for my custom wallpaper.

I believe that art and design are the genesis for evoking emotion and discussion amongst those involved in, and those witnessing the process. Design isn't something esoteric, or obtuse. But, rather, it's finding inspiration in what turns you on and gets your juices flowing.

What inspires you?



Custom dining room designed by Brandon Neff

Brandon Neff is a Bay Area based Interior Designer. He can be reached at [BrandonNeffDesign.com](http://BrandonNeffDesign.com) or at [brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com](mailto:brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com)



## Lamorinda Home Values and Sales are Rising

	August 2011	August 2012	% Increase
Lamorinda:			
Properties Sold*	60	75	25%
Average Sale Price	\$958,000	\$1,072,000	12%

\*includes town houses and condos.

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So don't wait until it's too late, call your local Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to help you find your perfect tree.

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New Listing

## 11 La Fond Lane

Updated 4bd/ 3ba single level home. 2875 sq. ft. on .70 acre lot. Pool, yard, privacy. Great location. Close to 12 yrs of award winning schools.

**Offered at \$1,250,000**

ORINDA



## 65 La Espiral

Updated w/beautiful custom features & amenities. Very well maintained. Majestic setting, lovely gardens, new pool + views/ privacy, fully fenced. Tuscany ambiance, European flair.

**Offered at \$2,350,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

## 75 Lynwood Place

Great trad. 2 story end of cul-de-sac-huge .92 ac. lot. Fab. & timeless remodeled kit. w/Wolf range, Subzero, bronze farmhouse sink+more. Remodeled/expanded mstr on entry lvl. Pool+patio

**Offered at \$1,250,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

## 3767 Happy Valley Road

Fabulous updated H.V. Trad. Dream kit., spacious mstr ste. Hdwd flrs, custom detail Fr. doors open to priv. deck. Lush setting w/lvl lawn. Top neighborhood, walk to town.

**Offered at \$1,349,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

## 43 Canyon View Drive

One of a kind, secluded, Tahoe-like 4bd/3.5+ba hm on 1.25 ac w/views of hills & Mt. Diablo. Sep 1bd cottage, & artist studio/ofc. Fruit trees abound. Stone fireplace. Updated kit/baths.

**Offered at \$1,439,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

## 73 La Espiral

This handsome 4bd/3ba home sits on a lush .64 acre parcel. Many remodeled features throughout. Perched on a wooded knoll in a prime area of the Country Club conveniently located for shopping & commute.

**Price upon request**

LAFAYETTE



Coming Soon

## 3349 Carlyle Terrace

Cute fixer with curb appeal and potential. 3bd/2ba with approx. 1230 sf. Foundation and chimney repairs needed. Contact Linda at 925-698-1452 for more information.

**Offered at \$599,000**

LAFAYETTE



## 3898 Happy Valley Road

Fab orig owner property in Happy Valley's "Golden Mile". Prime 1.5 ac w/lvl lawn, secluded patio, towering redwoods. Gorgeous vus. Restore 1948 farmhouse or build new dream hm.

**Offered at \$1,495,000**

ORINDA



## 159 Lombardy Lane

Paradise found in this desirable Sleepy Hollow nbrhd. 4+bd/4ba updated hm. 1bd/1ba det au pair. Huge media/game rm, kit. w/Wolf cooktop, gorg. 1.1 ac grounds w/patio, bocce ball ct.

**Offered at \$1,695,000**

MORAGA



## 15 Inverleith Terrace

Charming 3bd/2ba single level home w/hdwd flrs, eat-in kitchen, views, lg lot set on a wonderful cul-de-sac. Close to schools, shopping. Pvt backyard w/stone patio.

**Offered at \$830,000**

LAFAYETTE



## 3645 Boyer Circle

Uniquely pvt 4bd/3.5ba 3600 sf custom hm on .76 ac natural setting close to town. Lovely views, lvl play area, fab decks, 3-car garage. Vaulted ceilings, hdwd flrs, French & sliding doors.

**Offered at \$1,299,000**

LAFAYETTE



## 4145 Canyon Road

Remodeled Happy Valley gated estate w/views, utter privacy & serenity, & custom craftsmanship throughout. Beautiful lawns & grounds. One-of-a-kind kitchen!! Lots of light.

**Offered at \$2,950,000**

ORINDA



## 251 Monte Vista Ridge Road

Stunning gated custom estate hm w/pano views of Briones. Outdoor living at its best w/expansive terrace featuring fabulous kitchen. Romantic mstr retreat w/spa bath.

**Offered at \$1,995,000**

MORAGA



## 4 El Paraiso Court

Wonderful large yard w/sweeping lawn. Desirable, convenient location - walking distance to town, trails & parks. Spacious 5bd/2.5ba custom home.

**Offered at \$1,150,000**

LAFAYETTE



## 3388 Rossi Street

Charming 4bd/3ba + 1bd/1ba in-law/guest. Updated kitchen & baths. Beautiful pool & lots of lvl lawns/gardens/entertaining areas. Small court, close-in, excellent schools.

**Offered at \$1,299,000**

ALAMO



## 1420 Arbor Lane

Truly special orig custom spacious trad 3bd/3.5ba hm. Enjoy grand sz entertaining allure inside & out. European touches. Fab setting at end of flat cul-de-sac Westside quiet street. Level lot.

**Offered at \$1,299,000**

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