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1967 Polo Year Book team year book photo

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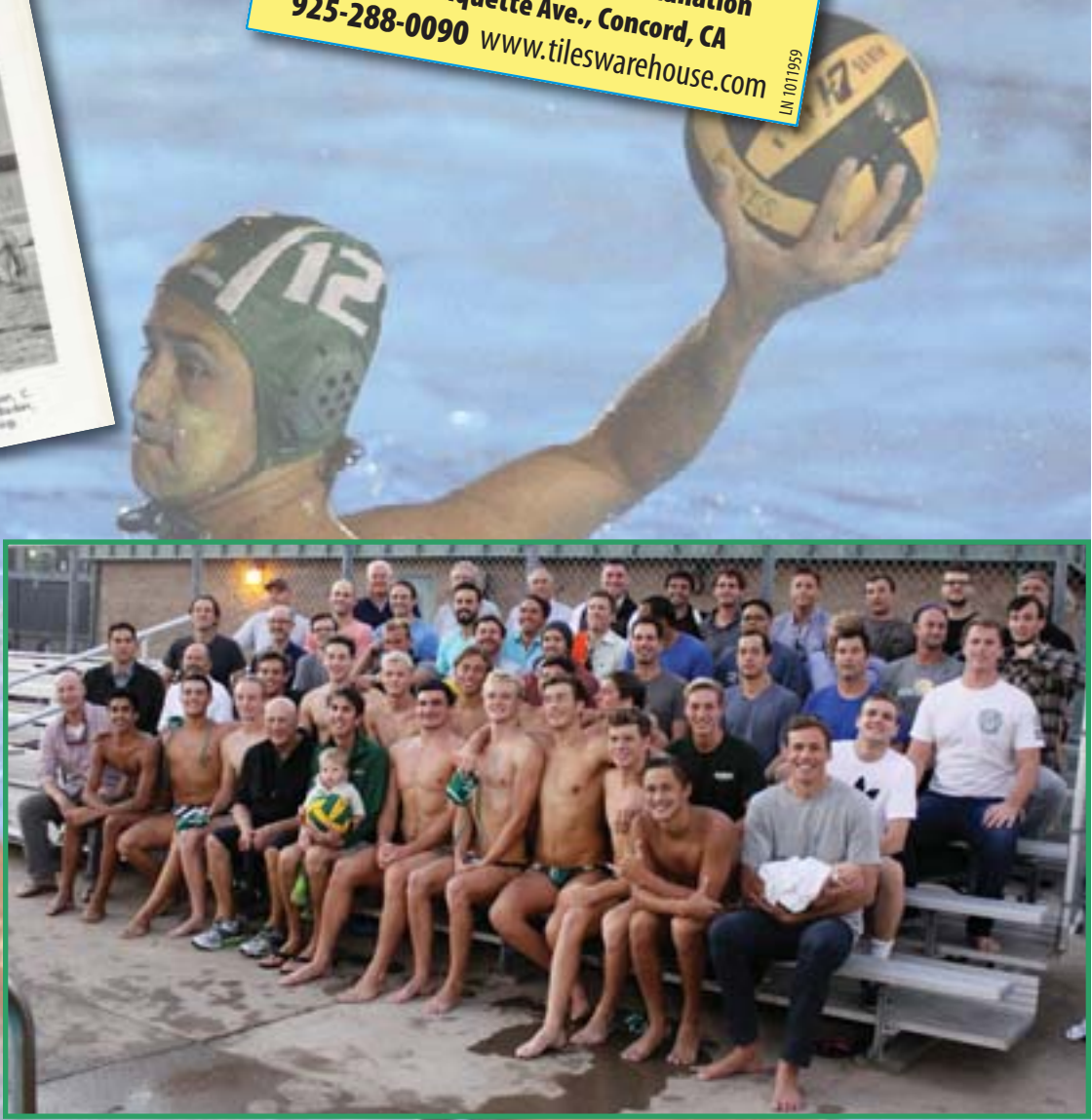
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Mats Polo Alumni game with five decades. Front row, fifth from left, is Bill Brown; sixth from left, James Lathrop. Photo K. Tehaney

Miramonte Water Polo Marks 50 Years in Lamorinda

By John T. Miller

It's no secret that Lamorinda high schools make a splash each year in the Northern California Sectionals water polo championships. It's due largely to a strong history of the sport, especially at Miramonte High School.

The Miramonte boys water polo program recently celebrated its 50th anniversary with an alumni game and dinner at the Bill Brown Aquatic Center in Orinda.

The event also honored the memory of Dave Patching

('74) who died in 2011. He was a first-team high school All-American at Miramonte. According to Jeff Moulton, the honorary sports information director for Miramonte water polo, "Patching was a regular participant and helped organize other alumni. The dinner provided a perfect opportunity to remember his contributions."

Approximately 40 alumni made it to the game or dinner, showcasing the way former players stay involved in

the program. No score was kept for the scrimmage, but current coach James Lathrop characterized it as a competitive game, even with a former Olympian and other highly rated college graduates and players on the alumni side. "The alumni usually wins, but it's definitely more of a fun thing," said Lathrop.

... continued on page A12

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Letters to the Editor	A11
Community Service	B4
Not to be Missed	B6-B7
HOW TO CONTACT US	B7
Classified	C2
Shop Moraga	C6



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Fun and Challenges are Par for the Commons' Disc Golf Course

By Sophie Braccini



The Collins and Chiapetta children of Lamorinda have fun on the disc golf course. Photo Sophie Braccini

On a typical October Saturday afternoon the Moraga Commons Park is filled with people of all ages pursuing all kinds of activities. A young woman lays down her yoga mat and exercises in front of the band shell, while dogs and their owners are strolling the grounds, little kids run giggling on the lawn by the fountain, the two playgrounds are buzzing with attentive parents and their offspring, a group has organized a barbecue under

the oaks by the parking lot, while some of its members are holding a bake sale on the sidewalk.

Twins and teens push their energy into the skatepark, while young adults are playing basketball next to kids who think that the sand volleyball courts, unattended that day, are a giant sand box placed there for their own amusement.

... continued on page A9

Election Results 2016



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Orinda City Council member-elect Inga Miller, the top vote-getter, talks with former Citizen of the Year Mark Roberts of the Orinda Community Foundation on election night.

This issue of the Lamorinda Weekly has all the coverage of the current local election results in Lafayette (A2), Moraga (A4) and Orinda (A6).

We also look at the results for the races for Moraga-Orinda Fire District Division 5 (A8) and BART board (A9).

Look to the Lamorinda Weekly for updates, as well as coverage of swearing-in ceremonies. — P. Spear

Civic News	A1-A12	Life in Lamorinda	B1-B8	Sports	C1-C6	Our Homes	D1-D12
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Moraga: "Over-the-hillers" out of Commons – page A5.

Local woman gives thanks for breathing easier – page B1.



Fire Districts A8

MOFD breaks ground on new fire station – page A8.

Girls Volleyball nets success in NCS playoffs – page C3.



Give thanks for your garden's bounty this month – page D1.





Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Nov. 28, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

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

Design Review

Monday, Nov. 28, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org



- Alarms** 64
- 911 Calls (incl hang-ups)** 13
- Noise complaints** 6
- Traffic stops** 154
- Suspicious Circumstances** 9
- Suspicious Subjects** 24
- Suspicious Vehicles** 28
- Abandoned Vehicle**
- 3200 Block Marlene Dr.
- 3900 Block N Peardale Dr.
- 3900 Block S Peardale Dr.
- 10 Block Topper Ct.
- Oak Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
- Deer Hill Rd./Elizabeth St.
- 3900 Block N Peardale Dr.
- 1300 Block Sunset Lp.
- 100 Block Bacon Ct.
- 3400 Block Moraga Blvd.
- Arson**
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Auto Burglary**
- 4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 20 Block Camino Ct.
- 1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
- Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Disturbing the peace**
- 3200 Block Marlene Dr.
- Stanley Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
- 3700 Block Mosswood Dr.
- 900 Block 4th St.
- 1st St./Golden Gate Wy
- Drunk in public**
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- DUI Misd.**
- Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cir.
- Upper Happy Valley Rd./Canyon Rd.
- Embezzlement**
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Fire/Ems Response**
- 3300 Block Las Huertas Rd.
- Fireworks**
- 500 Block Merriewood
- Found Property**
- 1000 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
- Fraud False Pretenses**
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 800 Block Solana Dr.
- H&S Violation**
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Hailed By Citizen**
- 3400 Block Springhill Rd.
- Harassment**
- 1300 Block El Curtola Blvd.
- 700 Block Old Jonas Hill Rd.
- Hit And Run Misdemeanor**
- Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
- 3100 Block Old Tunnel Rd.
- Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.
- Pleasant Hill Rd./Stanley Blvd.
- 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Identity Theft**
- 3500 Block S. Silver Springs Rd.

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Lafayette Voters Reject Measure C, City's Sales Tax

By Pippa Fisher



Former city council member Brandt Andersson and City Manager Steve Falk await election returns. Photo Pippa Fisher

Lafayette voters made clear last Tuesday by a vote of 57 percent to 43 percent their disapproval of Measure C, a proposed one per-

cent sales tax that was slated for various enhancements of the city. It would have put the sales tax on par with Moraga.

Michael Griffiths, president of Save Lafayette that led the No on C campaign, says that in spite of being outspent five to one, they were able to endure thanks to the donations and support of Lafayette residents.

"As a result, local small businesses and valuable apartments will not be replaced by unnecessary

city buildings ... we can always come back with a better, transparent proposal if that's what the citizens decide."

Griffiths says that if you believe that something is right, you should persist. "We will continue to be the city's watchdog and to work for a better community. We love this city and we want to make sure it gets the loving care it deserves, both now and for future generations." He quotes that it is a "government of the people, by the people for the people."

Incoming Lafayette City Council member Cam Burks says that he respects and values above all else the voice of the voters, and appreciates the sincere enthusiasm, passion and efforts of those who advocated on both sides of the measure.

City Manager Steve Falk expressed sadness that it failed because many of the improvements it promised, such as protected open space, more and better parking and a revitalized Park Theater, "are simply beyond the city's reach. But the voters spoke quite decisively

and the city will, of course, respect and carry out their priorities."

Council member Brandt Andersson, who led Community Conversations to identify the improvements wanted by residents for Measure C, said that, "We sought guidance from our citizens with our Community Conversations, they provided us with their Citizens' Vision, and we asked for the means to put that vision into effect. Win or lose, we did our best, and I am comfortable with their verdict." He points out that the Citizens' Vision remains.

In part the success of the No on C campaign can be attributed to an effective use of social media, which got their word out. Mayor Mark Mitchell acknowledges additionally, a lack of positive endorsement from a regional newspaper and the combination of many other taxes on the ballot contributed to its failure.

But, he says, he is an optimist. "So I tend to look at it as an endorsement of the council's work satisfying the needs of the community within our existing budget."

Traffic Will Flow like Water at Diablo Vista Pumping Plant, Easing Congestion Woes

By Pippa Fisher



The new Diablo Vista pumping plant. There is great news for traffic on Mount Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette: East Bay Municipal Utility District's contractor has almost finished installing a 30-inch diameter pipeline and related service lines at the southwest corner at Mt. Diablo Court, next to the cemetery.

The lane shifts and cones that residents have become used to will soon be a distant memory as the

pipeline has been installed on the freeway side of Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Once the new pumping plant is finished and tested, the existing plant will be demolished and turned into a parking lot.

Already the below-ground base and walls have been erected and electrical and support work are currently taking place onsite. Additional concrete pours will be necessary to form the above-ground walls and to complete the roof. More electrical and mechanical work will take place inside the new pumping plant following structural completion.

Pumping plant construction vehicles and deliveries will continue to access the site via the entrance on Mt. Diablo Court until the project is complete. Work will continue into the summer of 2017 with the majority of heavy construction at the new site to be completed by spring. Once the new structure is complete, systems will be tested and it will be placed online to pump water to the community.

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Kindhouse and Meade to Join the Lafayette School Board

By Pippa Fisher



Mark Kindhouse

The Lafayette School District Board will have two new faces at the table following the election. Mark Kindhouse and Meredith Meade will take their places on the board with 40.9 percent and 34.5 percent of the vote, respectively.

The community had the choice of three highly qualified candidates who were very familiar with Lafayette and the schools' issues. Meade says that she is "honored to be one of two of the candidates elected by our community."

Meade recognizes that the board has much work to do as it continues to shoot for incremental improvements to each child's educational experience and she recognizes that it needs to meet the challenges that all public schools face with funding and growing costs.

Kindhouse says that, although he ran on several tangible issues such as infrastructure, teacher, budget, special education and science technology engineering and mathematics (STEM), his campaign was ultimately about values. He says, "Now I have the honor of living out



Meredith Meade Photos provided those values through service. "

He reflects that following the results of the election at the national level, of all the initial campaign ideas that he had hoped to accomplish, none now seem as important to him as collaborating, listening and working with people in the community.

"We have a rare opportunity to expand the national discourse at our local level. We may have various opinions about where our country is heading, but one fact remains: we share a common experience as Americans and Lafayette residents and that makes us more alike than different."

Both candidates are looking forward to getting started. "I am excited to work with the current board members and administration and can't wait to do my part," says Meade.

Kindhouse says, "If we are open, honest, and put values first, we can accomplish any goal set forth for this district."

Council Member Brandt Andersson Steps Down

By Pippa Fisher



Brandt Andersson Photo Pippa Fisher

In a week filled with surprising turns and political plot twists, the unexpected resignation of city council member Brandt Andersson shocked many residents and civic leaders in Lafayette.

Since first serving on the council in 2002, he says he has managed to balance family, work and public service.

"It has never been easy, but it seems to get harder with time," he said. "Fifteen years later, it is time to leave the city of Lafayette in the capable hands of our remaining council members and our exceptional staff."

All members of the city council are sad to see him go.

Lafayette Mayor Mark Mitchell noted that Brandt's resignation is a huge loss for the council and the city. "I developed an even greater appreciation for Brandt when I came on council," he said. "Brandt is a principled decision maker even when he knows his decision will be unpopular with many in the room. He is also often the first to speak up for the disadvantaged."

Council member Don Tatzin also spoke of Andersson's willingness to take a potentially unpopular position when he thinks it best for Lafayette. Indeed, city council member-elect Cam Burks refers to him as representing the pinnacle of integrity and the importance of public service.

Tatzin and Mitchell both recall how, while defending the city regarding an Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) decision in 2014, Andersson had to explain to them, discretely in an appeal, how their own complex model worked,

in order for ABAG to see how they had made an error, enabling a better outcome for Lafayette. "Few council members in the state can conduct that type of analysis," said Tatzin.

Andersson volunteered for extra assignments on the council, often traveling to distant League of California City events and driving to Marin regularly to represent Lafayette with Marin Clean Energy. Mitchell said that his work on the Environmental Task Force and the Creeks Commission has been outstanding.

City Manager Steve Falk said of the news, "I'm very sad to see Brandt Andersson go. He's been an outstanding council member — one of the best that Lafayette has ever had."

Falk continued, "He brought true expertise to matters of planning and sustainability, and led the Council's discussions about public safety matters for more than a decade. He is brilliant, thoughtful and approachable: a potent combination. He's a friend, a co-worker, a leader, and the very best example of a citizen who works tirelessly and optimistically to improve his community."

He has a wide array of talents including music — he is a gifted singer who even once arranged for his choir to serenade the council at one of his mayoral inaugurations with a song he wrote.

Andersson is keen to stress that his timing in leaving right around the election and Measure C's defeat is not significant. He has worked hard for the past two years to get the The Citizens' Vision in place. Measure C would have provided resources to implement that vision but, even without it, the Citizens' Vision remains. He had already decided that in order to give himself more time for family and work he would bow out having accomplished that goal.

The city council was slated to discuss the process for replacing Andersson soon, as it's required by law to happen within 60 days of his resignation.

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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 23 cancelled
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 21 cancelled
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Nov. 28, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
 Thursday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Moraga Police Report



Oct. 18 to Nov. 1

10/18 Injury accident

Police and MOFD responded to a vegetation fire caused by an auto accident on Canyon Rd. A male subject suffering 95 per cent third degree burns was airlifted out, but subsequently died. Fire crews extinguished the fire. Investigation is ongoing.

10/18 Miscellaneous

Police responding to a domestic disturbance call found the wife had been drinking and the husband arguing about personal property and their pending divorce. Hubby-for-now agreed to leave until cooler heads prevailed.

10/20 City Ordinance

Even if you can hear me now, police determined 10 people talking and yelling on Rheem do not a noise violation make.

10/21 City Ordinance

No good deed goes unpunished. The DJ music from a home hosting a school fundraising party had to be toned down a bit.

10/21 Larceny

He saw chain saw. She saw chain saw. They grabbed two and dashed away, opting out of check-out. A third party (male) may have been involved. Loss to Canyon Road store: \$480. Police are investigating.

10/25 Vandalism

Campolindo High cafeteria windows were smashed overnight with an eight-foot pole but vandals didn't touch anything but empty cash boxes. The case is under investigation.

10/25 Vandalism - Take II

Ninety minutes later the unlawful use of rented construction machinery in the Campolindo High parking lot resulted in \$10,000 to \$15,000 worth of property damage and yielded charges of trespassing, vehicle theft and felony vandalism. This too, is under investigation.

10/28 Civil

Possible Moldy Oldy: Renter says their house has moisture and mold and that when they complained to health inspectors, the landlord refused to make repairs and he retaliated, threatening eviction.

10/29 City Ordinance

Fifty college students at a Donald Drive location plus alcohol equal police call and quashing the celebration.

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Tight Election for Moraga's Third Council Seat

By Sophie Braccini



Richard Severy with his wife and friends.

Photos Sophie Braccini

Incumbent Roger Wykle led the race for Moraga Town Council with 30.7 percent of the vote, followed by Kymberleigh Korpus with 24.7 percent.

For the remaining seat, as of Nov. 10, Jeanette Fritzky was leading by 81 votes over Graig Crossley, who had not yet conceded the race.

At issue are many ballots not yet counted.

"I stopped by and spoke with Marty (McInturf, the town clerk) at the town office," Crossley said the day after the election. "As I was there the elections office picked up a large ballot deposit box half full

of deposited ballots and then there are all the ballots postmarked by Nov. 8 that will also be counted."

Fritzky noted that the results were not final and that a few more weeks might be needed to get the results. She reiterated her desire to serve on the council because of all the important issues now being debated, and noted that she had confidence in the quality of all of the candidates running for office.

McInturf confirmed that a large number of ballots have not been counted yet and said that she was not expecting final results until Dec. 6 or 7. She added that the county will update the numbers weekly.

In his home where friends have gathered, Wykle was of course happy to have been reelected for a second term. He said that it had not been such an easy decision for him to decide to run again. Over the next four years, his two children will complete their education cycle at Campolindo High School and he said that he will want to spend more time with them, "I will manage," he added with a calm smile.

Wykle said that he ran because he wants to participate in the completion of some tasks the council



Council candidate Graig Crossley with friends.



Roger Wykle and his wife celebrate his reelection.

has started, such as the Hillside and Ridgeline Regulation Update and the zoning of the Moraga Center Specific Plan.

Korpus also said that she was looking forward to working with her fellow councilmembers on strengthening the protections for hillsides and ridgelines and on getting the Town's planning processes back on track.

Korpus said she was awed by the trust Moraga residents have placed in her. She wants to get to know many more of her fellow residents as she represents them on the town council. She says that she will work to get them more involved in the town's decision mak-

ing processes.

School Board and Measure V

Richard Severy led all opponents (38.6 percent), followed by Joseph Rosenbaum (34.7 percent), both defeating David Harrison (26.3 percent).

On election night Severy was looking with satisfaction at the figures for Measure V, the school district's parcel tax. With over 70 percent approval the measure passed with flying colors.

Severy said that he was very grateful to Moraga residents for their support. It was the first election for the school board member since he had been appointed to his seat a year ago.

Town Council to Study Use of Roundabouts

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga Public Works Director Medric Kwan convinced the Moraga Town Council to approve a study to build two roundabouts on St. Mary's Road.

One will be at the crossing at Rheem Boulevard and one at the crossing with Bollinger Canyon Road. The study will consider the two intersections together and will determine what the best safety mechanisms would be for those intersections. With Saint Mary's College looking to add a roundabout on the same road at the college entrance, there could be three roundabouts in a row on St. Mary's Road.

The project was first met by some resistance from two of the five council members, Teresa Onoda and David Trotter. Onoda said that the town had other priorities when it comes to traffic calming, such as safe routes to school, and Trotter said he doubted that a roundabout located in a curved sloped area — the Bollinger crossing — could ever be safe.

Kwan responded to Onoda that the town would never have the money to build these traffic calming systems, but that if the study was done and the projects shovel-ready, the chance of getting grants was very high and would not impact other projects.

The representative from Kimley-Horn Engineering Services explained that the study the council was asked to approve would start with an objective analysis rating what he called alternative intersection control mechanisms, such as stop signs, traffic lights and roundabouts, and rate them according to cost and effectiveness in improving safety. He briefly talked about a system called a mini-roundabout for narrow intersections, which large vehicles can get over but still slows down most cars.

The design and preliminary engineering contract was approved by all the councilmembers except Trotter.



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Town Council Decries Out-of-Towners Using Commons Park

By Sophie Braccini



The Commons' Master Plan of Existing Conditions. The red line indicate the disk golf course. Image provided

The approval of the master plan for the Moraga Commons Park was pushed back to the new year, and a new town council.

The issue that stopped the council from adopting the plan that had been long prepared was the disc golf course. Most council members got the feeling from reports they were

given that the course is used by "over the hill" people they do not care to recreate in Moraga. They were also told that these players have infringed on the town integrated pest management (no-pesticide) policy, and some even called them "squatters" of town property, and could entail liabilities for the town.

Metcalf recommended that the next council that will be sworn in in January deal with this issue and make a final decision regarding the park's master plan.

Rarely the topic of out-of-towners using town facility was talked about so directly. Disc golfers were called squatters from over

the hills that had no vested rights in the park. Jeanette Fritzky, chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, said that they had used pesticides on the court, although adding that there was no proof of it. She also indicated that a petition to support the current use of the course was signed by over 60 people with only two from Moraga. The mayor recalled past incidents where disc-golfers had addressed the council in ways that were close to arrogance.

The council also wondered what the liability of the town is if it supports this activity on its grounds and an accident happens. It was clear that the desire was to disassociate from an activity that could be a source of nuisance — includ-

ing foul language as noted by councilmember Onoda, and that is perceived as not used by the residents of Moraga.

The disc golf course was the only issue that stopped the council from approving the park master plan that parks and recreation director Jay Ingram has worked on for months with consultants. Several stakeholders were contacted and community meetings were conducted to shape the plan. Most other items met with the approval of the council, such as the improvements of access and bathrooms, the adding of two new bocce ball courts, or the addition of a community garden in the Back 40.

(See story on disc golf, page A1)

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING
Thursday, December 1
6:30 pm, Moraga Commons Park



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40 Merrill Circle South, Moraga



Elegant and recently updated Sanders Ranch home offers security and privacy on Moraga's top street. New kitchen appliances, counters and remodeled master bath make this home move-in ready. Peaceful views across the valley and spacious decks with spa for entertaining and outdoor living. Offered at \$1,295,000 by Jim Colhoun, 925.200.2795.

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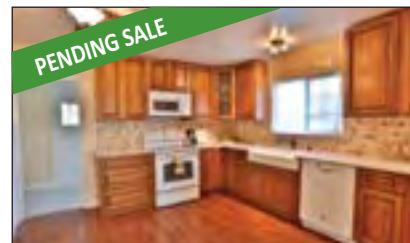
360 Civic Drive #408, Walnut Creek



Celebrate the Keys lifestyle in this freshly painted and carpeted two bedroom condominium. Fourth floor views over beautiful lake and convenient access to pool, spa, clubhouse and gym. Great price for so many amenities including covered parking space, deck for BBQ, and excellent commute location. Offered at \$399,000 by Jim Colhoun, 925.200.2795

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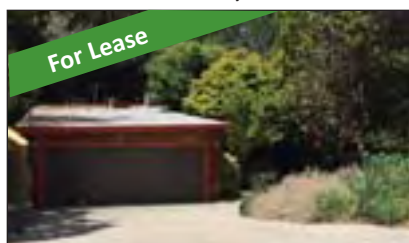
3600 Sanford Street, Concord



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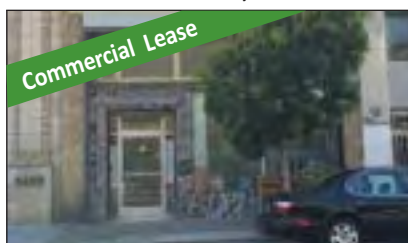
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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Nov. 29, 7 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
Orinda Library

Historical Landmarks

Committee

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016, 3:00pm
Orinda Community Center, Room 7
28 Orinda Way, Orinda

School Board Meetings

Orinda Unified School District

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

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Oct. 16 - Oct. 29

Alarms	44
Noise complaints	1
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	6
Traffic stops	60
Suspicious Circumstances	11
Suspicious Subjects	13
Suspicious Vehicles	9

Battery

20 block Miramonte Dr.

Barking Dog

10 block Virginia Dr.

Burglary, Auto

Orinda Community Center
BevMo
Theatre Square (2)

Burglary, Commercial

10 block Country Club Plaza

Burglary, Residential

10 block Broadview Terrace

DUI

Acalanes Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Hwy. 24/Wilder

Dispute

100 block Crest View Dr.
Hall Dr./Moraga Way
10 block Lost Valley Dr.
20 block El Verano
10 block Theatre Square
10 block Kittiwake Rd.

Disturbing the Peace

St Stephen's Dr./Hwy. 24

Drunk in Public

Starbucks
500 block Moraga Way
Rheem Blvd./Hall

Harassment

20 block Muth Dr.

Hit & Run

Safeway
400 block Moraga Way
Details n/a
Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante

Illegal entry

20 block Orinda Way

ID Theft

100 block Claremont Ave

Juvenile disturbance

Lavenida Dr./Donna Maria Way
70 block Muth Dr.
Lavenida Dr./Estabueno

Loitering

El Toyonal/Canon

Misdemeanor

CVS

Panhandling

Safeway

Police/Fire/ EMS

Pine Grove Business complex
800 block Ironbark Place
20 block Bryant Way
70 block Hillcrest Dr

Public Nuisance

Library
Theatre Square
Hawkridge Terrace/Orinda Way
10 block Ellen Ct.
30 block Miner Rd.
200 block Overhill Rd.

Reckless Driving

Camino Pablo/Hwy. 24 (2)
Moraga Via/Glorietta Blvd.
Rheem Blvd./Zander Dr.
Ardilla Rd./Camino Pablo
10 block Lost Valley Dr.
Camino Pablo/Manzanita
Camino Pablo/Claremont
Orinda Way/Camino Sobrante
Camino Pablo/Brookwood



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Gee, Miller Win Council; Weiner, Hoxie Take OUSD

By Sora O'Doherty



Inga Miller

Candidates Inga Miller and incumbent Darlene Gee topped the ballot boxes, winning seats on the Orinda City Council.

Gee will hold on to the seat to which she was appointed in 2015 to serve out the remainder of Steve Glazer's term after he was elected to the California State Senate. Miller will take the seat vacated by Mayor Victoria Smith, who ran unsuccessfully for a spot on the Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District board.

"I am so happy for this endorsement," Gee said on election night.



Darlene Gee

"This is a great feeling because as much as I loved being appointed, being elected makes me feel even more committed...to finish my work with the roads and downtown."

Miller was just as thrilled. "It makes me feel good that I ran a positive campaign which has produced positive results," she said.

Gee and Miller had run a joint campaign, and both are advocates of progress on the updating of Orinda's downtown. Both candidates were supported by What's Up Downtown Orinda, which advocates for improvements to downtown.



Hillary Weiner

Miller was the top vote-getter at 4,602 votes (33.94 percent) followed by Gee with 4,111 votes (30.32 percent). Bruce London garnered 2,835 votes (20.91 percent) and Linda Delehunt came in with 1,971 votes (14.54 percent). These numbers are from the first update by Contra Costa County Elections and are not the final count.

OUSD

Candidates Hillary Weiner and Cara Rubenstein Hoxie won the two seats on the Orinda Unified School District, defeating incumbent Sarah Butler, who had been



Cara Hoxie

elected in 2012, and replacing Matt Moran, who retired after eight years on the OUSD Board.

Weiner led with 4,602 votes (38.94 percent) and Hoxie was elected with 3,952 votes (32.17 percent). Incumbent Butler had 3,560 votes (28.98 percent) as of the first vote update.

Superintendent Carolyn Seaton extended an invitation to the public to attend the school board meeting on Dec. 12 when the newly elected members of the board will be sworn in and outgoing members Moran and Butler will be thanked for their service over the past years.

Neighbors, PG&E Hash Out Substation Problems

By Sora O'Doherty

Representatives of Pacific Gas and Electric met with 25 members of the Lost Valley Association recently to help clarify the look of the the Moraga Substation located at the entrance to Lost Valley in Orinda.

The meeting was held on site, to facilitate understanding of the neighbors' concerns and PG&E's plans. There appears to have been greater understanding on both sides about what the neighbors want and what PG&E can do, and, although there appeared to be greater consensus, neighbors still expressed doubts about whether PG&E will follow through on their promises and do so in a timely fashion.

The neighbors' primary concern was screening the view of the substation with appropriate vegetation. Lost Valley is an established neighborhood, and many of the residents have lived there for decades. When they arrived, the substation was barely visible behind heavy screening of trees. But as time went on, some trees died and some were removed to comply with tightening standards on vegetation under and around electric facilities. As a result, the substation is now clearly visible to drivers approaching Lost Valley. The Lost Valley Association has been dealing with issues of the substation, which recently underwent changes to improve security, for quite some time now.

It was clear that the neighbors and PG&E were not, from the outset, on the same page, as

PG&E suggested solutions to problems that the neighbors did not agree were problems. PG&E suggested removing some bushes to deal with leaves falling from the large silver oak at the front entrance of the substation. The neighbors were not concerned about the leaves, but worried that the oak would be removed. PG&E suggests installing a block wall to screen a meadow, and the neighbors made it clear that it isn't the meadow they wish screened, but the substation, and that they do not want walls but trees.

... continued on page A9



Residents of Lost Valley neighborhood discuss the look of Moraga Substation with Jack Paulus, chair of the liaison committee and PG&E representatives, from left, Matt McClane, Lindsey Welchoff and Tom Guardino. Photo S. O'Doherty



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Council Members Visit City of Sisterly Love

By Sora O'Doherty



Mayor Smith (second from left) and council member Worth accept a gift from Tabor representatives. Photo provided

When Mayor Victoria Smith and council member Amy Worth arrived for a visit to Tabor in the Czech Republic — Orinda's sister city — they weren't quite sure what to expect. When they stepped off the train at Tabor station, they received the warmest of welcomes from two of the Czech men who had been among the 16 students who have come to Orinda over the years to study as part of the sister city program.

From that moment, they were in good hands, as Michal Vasek and Karel Balogh took over and escorted the group, which included Smith's husband Wick Smith and Worth's friend Cornelia Foster, to all the events during the crowded 25th annual "Tabor Meetings Festival" weekend.

Smith described the festival as being similar to a large Renaissance Faire. Tabor has a historic

old town. The population of Tabor is around 35,000, but when you count two nearby towns it swells to around 60,000. One hundred years before Martin Luther, Jan Hus started a movement to reform the Czech Catholic Church. He is memorialized in Tabor with a monument in Hus Square. Tabor has other sister cities as well, and invited each to send a delegation of four representatives to the festival.

The Orinda delegation traveled to Tabor at their own expense and brought with them gifts, including a decorative plate by artist Gerry Wallace, Orinda pins, a calendar and a framed photo of Orinda city hall. Orindans Slavka and Jan Ruzicka were also in Tabor for the festival, staying with the parents of visiting student, Adam Kraus, who is here for the 2016-2017 year.


... continued on page A11




Wishing all of my clients, friends and neighbors a bountiful Thanksgiving and holidays!

Frank Woodward





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Orinda Officials Drive Home the Need for Personal Responsibility to Combat Crime

By Nick Marnell

Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel told a concerned audience Nov. 9 that the county sheriff's department will soon hold a press conference regarding the investigation of the September mugging of two city residents. "Our detectives have been working nonstop on this, but as it's an active investigation, I can't say much more," Nagel said.

Nerves have been frayed in the area since the assault in which two masked assailants surprised Orinda Union School District trustee Carol Brown and her husband outside of their Claremont Drive home. As the couple unloaded groceries from their car, the suspects robbed and shot Brown and pistol-whipped her husband, took off and remain on the loose.

Nagel spoke at a public safety forum held by the Orinda Association in response to an outcry from city residents. "I feel less safe than I did seven years ago," said a speaker and Nagel stressed that as good and safe a place as Orinda is, crime does exist. In fact, he said, because of recent legislation criminals may

be getting even bolder. He pointed to Proposition 47, which reduced some drug possession felonies to misdemeanors; Assembly Bill 109, signed to reduce prison population; and Proposition 57, passed just this election, increasing the chance of parole for non-violent criminals.

The chief relayed inmate comments that his fellow deputies overheard at the Richmond jail. "Lamorinda has nice things...Lamorinda does not have security...We have a green light as long as we don't hurt anyone."

"Number two we can fix," Nagel said.

For the home, he stressed the importance of motion-detecting outside lighting, a strong front door and a top-notch security system. "And make sure to turn on the alarm," Nagel said. He advised that the public be aware of their surroundings when alone, especially in places like parking lots, stairwells, ATMs and public parks. If residents sense they are being followed, walk toward other people, or to an open business. If citizens are driving and are followed by

another car, head toward a police station, or a hospital. "Do not drive home," warned the chief.

As for weapons, Nagel cautioned that Orindans be aware of where their weapons are and that they be hidden from children in the home. "A lot of responsibility comes with carrying a firearm," Nagel said. "And know the laws."

The chief told the audience of about 50 that he supports using technology in crime fighting, highlighting the Reconyx cameras installed around the city and the license plate scanners that sit atop two police cars.

The program opened with Moraga-Orinda Fire District's Dennis Rein, the Lamorinda Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, promoting home safety. He alerted the audience to how a simple thing, like a leak in a pipe below the ground surface, can lead to a major disruption like the Moraga sinkhole.

Rein and Nagel agreed on the basic premise of both home and personal security: "You are the first responder," they said.

Correction

In the Nov. 2 issue the Lamorinda weekly incorrectly identified the representatives of the Urban Land Institute who attended the Orinda City Council meeting Oct. 18. The ULI representatives who were present were Executive Director Michelle Malanca Frey, Director Natalie Sandoval and volunteer co-chairs of the TAP Committee Dana Van Galder and Alan Talansky.

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Wednesday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m. Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors Tuesday, Dec. 6, 1:30 p.m. Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

MOFD Breaks Ground, Begins Station 43 Construction

Groundbreaking for Moraga-Orinda Fire District fire station 43 took place Nov. 9 as the construction phase of the project begins in earnest. The new \$4.5 million Orinda station will be erected on the Via Las Cruces site of the razed station, which had deteriorated beyond repair.

"The construction has proceeded on time, with no delays, and we are under budget," said Fire Chief Stephen Healy. "We have received cooperation from the city and the county and there have been no problems whatsoever." Completion is expected in October 2017.

The firefighters work out of temporary quarters in the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church parking lot, less than 300 feet away from the station site. — N. Marnell



From left, Fire Chief Stephen Healy; architect Alan Kawasaki; board president Steve Anderson; Battalion Chief Sean Perkins; firefighter-paramedic Jared Costanza; neighborhood resident Ellen Dale; directors Brad Barber, Fred Weil and Kathleen Famulener; and Capt. Dan Dick
Photo courtesy MOFD

Jorgens Edges Smith for MOFD Division 5 Director

By Nick Marnell



Craig Jorgens

In keeping with the 2016 general election trend of a private citizen beating a well-known public

official, retired business executive Craig Jorgens defeated Orinda Mayor Victoria Smith for the Division 5 director seat on the Moraga-Orinda Fire District governing board.

"Voters liked my engineering and financial background," said Jorgens, during a break from taking down his campaign signs the day after the election. "We knocked on a lot of doors and met a lot of new people."

Jorgens structured his campaign around his ability to manage the fire district's \$65 million unfunded pension and health care liability,

mapping hot spots for more efficient fire and medical deployment and using data to improve MOFD response times in the Sleepy Hollow and El Toyonal neighborhoods of north Orinda.

"I learned a lot more about the fire district and I connected with more people. Casual friends became better friends, and I made a lot of new friends," Jorgens said. "I look forward to working with the other board members."

Smith came up 117 votes short despite her strong name recognition thanks to 12 years of public service on the Orinda City Council. "Sure

I'm sad," she said of the results, but she harbors no regrets about leaving her council post. "I've accomplished all I can there and it was time to move on."

For now, Smith will continue to serve on the board of the Strive for Change Foundation, an East Bay nonprofit that helps the working poor achieve economic self-sufficiency.

"I'll keep my eyes open," Smith said of future civic opportunities.

Jorgens replaces Alex Evans, who opted to not run for reelection to his north Orinda board seat.

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With its New Standards Of Cover, Moraga-Orinda Fire District adds to its Roadmap of Services

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District updated its Standards of Cover for the first time in 10 years and though the document showed district performance goals falling within acceptable, recognized standards, it confirmed the frustration of longer Orinda response

times, which continue to nag the district.

The Standards of Cover document analyzes MOFD's deployment of its fixed and mobile resources and their response to fire, medical and special emergencies within the district. Director Fred

Weil described the work as an assessment of "how well we're doing and how we can do better." The 97-page document, loaded with charts, tables, graphs and maps and presented by Fire Chief Stephen Healy at the district's Nov. 2 meeting, focuses mainly on what the district can do to improve its emergency response times.

No governmental or legal requirements exist to regulate response times, but according to the Performance Goals and Objectives on Page 73 of the Standards of Cover, the district goal is to reach all medical emergencies within Moraga and Orinda in seven minutes or less and all fires or rescues in seven minutes and 20 seconds, 90 percent of the time. The Commission of Fire Accreditation International, an industry performance evaluator, considers those goals "Superior Service Levels" for a suburban fire district like MOFD.

Orinda has always posed a response time problem for the district. Despite the fact that three fire stations are located in Orinda and two in Moraga, the district has long reported about a one-minute longer response time in Orinda than in Moraga. The September district incident report lists 56 total responses into Moraga at an average response time of 6.97 minutes 90 percent of the time, and 74 responses into Orinda at 8.23 minutes.

"The conclusion I've come to is that the street routes are oblique and therefore less direct. The roads follow the topography, which is a hilly terrain and not a grid," Healy said.

Outgoing director Alex Evans of north Orinda requested that

the chief insert into the Standards of Cover what the district can do to shorten the Orinda response times. "We know what we know about the roads," Evans said, and he urged Healy to continue to work on improving the call processing time and to keep on the lookout for equipment that might navigate those roads more quickly.

Evans also suggested that the district include in the document how it can improve the substandard water flow out of the fire hydrants, notable the older ones in north Orinda. Healy explained that the general manager of the East Bay Municipal Utility District — which owns the fire hydrants — said EBMUD would pay for 10 percent of the cost to improve water flow, as long as the fire district puts up 90 percent, but the chief said that was not a realistic option for MOFD. Orinda residents voted in 2002 and again in 2006 against measures that would have funded fire hydrant and storm drain repairs.

The chief said that even considering the 2 percent of the 1,430 district hydrants that do not measure up to current water flow standards, MOFD can meet the needs for routine emergencies any place in the district with the use of its 2,500-gallon water tender, deployed at station 44 in Orinda. "I've never been to a fire in my 10 years here where I've said, 'If only we had a good water system,'" Healy said.

The Standards of Cover, the strategic plan, the long-range financial plan and the budget documents present an accountable roadmap for MOFD operations, and each report is published on the district website.

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Lamorinda BART Results: One Incumbent Breezes, One Pummeled

By Nick Marnell



Rebecca Saltzman

Former Moraga Mayor Ken Chew delivered a strong performance in Contra Costa County in the race for Bay Area Rapid Transit District 3 director, but he was ultimately done in by incumbent Rebecca Saltzman's strength

in Alameda County.

"I'm stunned. I am surprised at how well Rebecca did. I hoped that Lamorinda could counter her strength in Berkeley but it did not," said Chew, who finished second out of four District 3 candidates.

"We did run a close race in Contra Costa County," said Saltzman, whom Chew defeated there by 100 votes out of 25,000 cast; however, the incumbent beat Chew by more than 25,000 votes of the 70,000 in Alameda County. Saltzman said that the agency must get to work on the division in Contra Costa County. "Maybe some of the funds from Measure RR that we use there will help repair the damage," she said.

Chew was the only candi-

date of the four who did not support Measure RR, the \$3.5 billion BART funding request that voters overwhelmingly approved, but he did not think it hurt him in his race. "It was more publicized in Contra Costa County, not so much in the other counties," he said.

"We'll regroup, then we'll have to analyze the data," Chew said.

"I'm glad I did it," said Varun Paul, the Berkeley activist who ran a grassroots campaign and pulled in nearly 10,000 votes. "I have one regret, though. I would have raised money from traditional sources, which would have helped me get my message out via more traditional means." He acknowledged that he could have done a better job explaining the deficiencies in the

BART record, especially to new residents.

Paul said he was disillusioned that organizations would endorse a candidate without even contacting or inviting him. "I don't know what I'll do next," he said. "I was turned off by the process, but I am still excited about government and political activity."

Fourth-place finisher Worth Freeman declined to comment on the BART race. "Unfortunately considering the presidential election circumstances I sunk myself into work and solitude," he said.

District 1 Race

In the race for director of BART District 1, which includes the Lafayette BART station, financial analyst Debora Allen defeated

three-term incumbent Gail Murray with more than 64 percent of the vote.

"It was a combination of things," Allen said. "We ran a good campaign, and we spent our money well. The public wants more financial oversight. But the biggest factor was the public sentiment that BART needs to change and to embark on a new path."

"I understand that people have been frustrated by the crowding and equipment problems on BART," Murray said. "Solutions take time and money, and I know that because of my work on behalf of my constituents, I leave BART with a better future to serve the Bay Area."

Moraga

Disc Golf Course



Corey Kohler aims at a distant basket.

Photo Sophie Braccini

A bit behind the skate park, a father is explaining to his two young boys how to play disc golf. From the pad of hole number 1 he points to the distant four-foot tall metal basket one can glimpse past oak trees. Hole 1 is the gateway to a whole new exploration of the park that takes players along a 9-hole well-designed course, up hills and behind trees and bushes, in areas of the park that are seldom used.

On that Saturday, the course was very busy with a mix of Lamorinda families with kids, and some more serious players coming to the Moraga disc golf course for its challenging configuration and beauty.

Disc golf is a fun sport with a very low entry cost, about \$20 for a mid-range starter disc (don't say Frisbee; that's a larger disc for playing at the beach). There are not that many courses around, so Moraga's, a course that was donated to the town by the Women Society in 1982, attracts players from all over the East Bay. Parks and recreation authorities in town say they want to preserve the activity at the Commons, but Moraga does not own much public land and competing uses of the park are putting pressure on the disc golf course. At a recent parks and recreation commission meeting, the commissioners supported director Jay Ingram proposal to move some of the pads and

holes, in opposition of the Moraga disc golf club, represented by Andrew Summers and Corey Kohler.

Kohler says that he comes to the Commons once or twice a week. He lives in Martinez and knows well the six courses that are available in the East Bay. He says that the Moraga club has between 75 and 100 active members. In the little cart he wheels around the course, there are about 20 different discs. Some are used to go fast and far, some turn more easily, some are heavier and steadier and are made for short distances once you get close to the basket. He shows the different ways of throwing the discs, with a wide shoulder movement, or backhanded and more from the elbow. As he plays with a friend who came with him, they stop to let other parties finish the holes.

Up and down, over dirt and along small paths, a first-time player can be surprised to discover the less manicured Commons and be suddenly taken aback by the beauty of the view reaching the top of a hill. Then players reach the pad for basket number 6. This is the longest hole of the course, but it is a par 3 like all the other ones. Kohler explains that in California all the holes are par 3, whatever their length. Basket 6 is set deep inside the part of the park that is called the Back 40, a flattish area to the left of

... continued from page A1

the bridge that connects the park to the Lafayette Moraga trail.

It's back there that some trouble has been brewing for some time. There are talks of benches installed by the disc golfers that were vandalized by unknown entities; accusation from the town that golfers broke some trees; instances when town employees who were planting new trees were verbally abused by golfers and cameras installed by the town to make sure that no damage would ensue.

Hole 7 starts also in the Back 40 and Ingram says that even though he supports a 9-hole course in Moraga, future use of that space could lead to the redesign of the course. The threat led the golf club to circulate a petition asking to leave the course as is. Some parks and recreation commissioners did not like the fact that many of the people who signed it were not from Moraga. Dave Schnurr stated that the park was a Moraga property, while John Tomei added that no one group gets whatever they want, and that if the town has to adjust the course for the benefit for everyone, it has to be considered.

But oblivious to these tensions, families continue to use the course. Jeff Collins from Moraga and his two children and Miriam Chiapetta from Lafayette with her own two had joined forces on that Saturday afternoon to explore the course. The four children, age 7 to 11, were leading the way, with more or less success, but a lot of laughter while getting a good exercise. Behind them Chiapetta was trying her hand for the first time and found it interesting and challenging, while Collins, more experienced, just enjoyed the stimulating course and a pleasant family activity and workout.

"This is one of the great aspects of this sports," says Kohler, "it is for the whole family."

The Moraga disc golf club meets every Tuesday at the Commons and is happy to initiate beginners.

Orinda

PG&E Substation

... continued from page A6



The Lost Valley PG&E substation.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

PG&E managed to allay the fears of the neighbors, stating that the trees at the front of the substation were not slated for removal, and that the trees that will be removed will, according to PG&E, barely be noticed, being at the back of the facility and under the high voltage towers.

Matthew McLane, PG&E Vegetation Program Manager, walked the border of the meadow with Jack Paulus, secretary of the Lost Valley Association. PG&E expressed how important the meadow was to their operations, but agreed that, by moving the existing fence a bit deeper into the meadow, screening vegetation could be planted along the outside of the fence in certain areas. McLane also pointed out existing vegetation that will be encouraged to grow and will, in time, provide more screening, but at the same time PG&E drew the line about where vegetation could not

be planted closer to the electrical lines. PG&E was also represented by Tom Guarino, public affairs representative, Matthew Bateman, substation maintenance supervisor, Jennifer Estridge, electric customer outreach specialist and Lindsey Welchoff, land consultant, natural resource management.

Other topics discussed included malfunctioning strobe lights, which PG&E pledged to shut off, and continuing sound studies for later in the year. Residents would like the signs on the gates to the substation to be less visible, but PG&E demurred, stating that safety mandates that that signs be visible at eye level to arriving employees. In the end, PG&E apologized for the delays in dealing with the issues around the substation, and promised action by next spring. The company listened to the thoughts of the neighbors and agreed to implement them wherever possible.

HopSkipDrive is a Driving Force in Lamorinda for Kids and Youth

By Cathy Dausma



HopSkipDrive driver Amy Morosini. Photo Cathy Dausman

Lamorinda parents of young children have their driving work cut out for them, and Amy Morosini is no exception. But the Moraga mother of three has made local pickups and delivery of other people's children her job, working as one of the first area drivers for

HopSkipDrive, an app-based ride company service designed for children age 6 and up.

To help her family stay within budget, Morosini began to consider what kind of part time work she could get "with my crazy schedule." This job allowed her the flexibility to begin after her sons left for school and decide for herself how late she would accept her last fare.

"I won't drive at night after the sun goes down," Morosini said.

The field of technology-based ride company programs designed for children is growing rapidly. A quick online search revealed companies with names like Ridezum, Kangadoapp, Kidzjet, Zemcar and Pogorides scattered throughout the Bay Area and across the country. HopSkipDrive requires their drivers to be finger printed and pass TrustLine certification, which Morosini did through the Moraga Police Department.

After obtaining additional in-

urance Morosini donned the company's distinctive orange shirt this past summer and began delivering her young clients to summer camps, day care and tutoring sessions. Unlike adult ride companies HopSkipDrive requires parents to book their child's transportation 12 hours in advance and select a code word the driver shares with the child at pickup.

Morosini says school staff and volunteers have begun to recognize her, and the children she picks up "know me now."

"I don't just drop off and zoom away (either)," she adds. Although the driver's children are not al-

lowed to accompany her, Morosini says her sons think her job is "cool," adding that this is a service she would definitely use "for my own kids."

For now her workload is light but regular; she averages one pickup per day about three days per week. Demand for the service lessens on weekends so Morosini switches to adult fares. "My husband watches college football, and I really enjoy driving," she said with a smile.

For details, go to www.hop-skipdrive.com.

Other child-specific ride-sharing service apps and their base of operation. Some of these will be expanding to the East Bay:

www.ridezum.com/	(LA/San Bernardino County)
www.kangadoapp.com/	(San Francisco area)
www.kidzjet.com/	(San Francisco-south bay)
www.zemcar.com/	(Massachusetts)
www.pogorides.com	(Seattle)

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Business Bites

By Paula King

Toffee and Caramels and Chocolates, Oh My!

Just in time for the holiday season, Hofssi Chocolates is setting up a Holiday Store Nov. 25 through Dec. 23 at Lafayette's La Fiesta Square, 3541 Wilkinson Lane. Seasonal shoppers will be able to purchase Hofssi's signature premium confections including chocolates, toffee, caramels and gianduja, a sweet chocolate spread.

The locally made items make an elegant gift and are made with mostly organic, local and sustainable ingredients.

Hofssi founders Linda Hofmeister and Susan Rossi started the Moraga business and they are certified chocolatiers.

The temporary store will be located in the Alicia Klein Studio. Its hours of operation will be weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fitness for All Ages

If you need a new fitness regimen to work off those holiday meals, Karate & Fitness Place USA is open again after a hiatus in operation since February. After closing in Moraga, the long-time karate studio is back in Lafayette at 3413 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Under the direction of Sensei Thomas Westernoff, Karate & Fitness Place practices traditional Shito-Ryu karate and welcomes people of all ages, levels and abilities. For more information about their classes, program and philosophy, call 925-376-3667 or visit www.kfpusa.com.

New Digs and a Birthday Party

Even the littlest of tykes can find a place to break a sweat! For more than 20 years, children under age five have been hitting developmental milestones and having a blast at the same time inside the walls of Gymboree Play & Music-Lafayette and on Nov. 5 a grand re-opening and 40th birthday for Gymboree Play & Music was held.

The free event featured play, music and art activities in addition to raffle prizes and gift bags. Now located at 3450 Mt. Diablo at Second Street, Gymboree is in Merrill Gardens, an assisted living facility location.

"This is a wonderful pairing between our littlest community members and our oldest. It is retail space meets living space," said owner Katie Bidstrup. "Our location in Lafayette has been a mainstay of local families for more than 20 years and we're excited to move in to this new facility for the next 20, interacting with the community and educating our little ones."

For more information about Gymboree, call 925-283-4896 or visit www.facebook.com/GPM.Lafayette.



From left, Wendy Scheck, Pilar Norleen, Brandy Ford, Kevin Reneau. Photo provided

Universal banker Pilar Norleen at Mechanics Bank was named Moraga Employee of the Month for October. Working in the Moraga branch since 2009, Norleen handles typical banker duties and also acts as manager when the branch manager is gone.

"Pilar has an amazing attendance record and is always looking for the best interest of our customers," Mechanics Manager Brandy Ford. "Her customers always get great service from Pilar."

As the 57th recipient of this monthly employee honor from the Rotary Club of Moraga and the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, Norleen will receive gift cards from Safeway and Ristorante Amoroma. She will be honored at a Rotary luncheon.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com.

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Orinda
Council members Visit City of Sisterly Love



A parade helped honor Orinda's delegation.

Photo provided

Vasek and Balogh brought the Orinda delegation to the home of Adam's parents, Martin and Monika Kraus. Their historic home was built 500 years ago and was part of the castle walls. They toured this fascinating and beautiful home, going down deep beneath the castle walls to visit rooms like dungeons. They enjoyed a reception with local wine and cake, and attended a fancy cocktail party at the Hussite Mu-

seum. The mayor of Tabor spoke in Czech, which was translated into German for the benefit of Tabor's German sister cities. Vasek and Balogh translated for the Orindans.

Afterward, everybody went out into the square for a torchlight parade. There was a tremendous fireworks show, and a video was shown on the side of the city hall building. The weather was very hot, in the 90s. The following

morning the delegation donned professional costumes that were provided for them and explored the festival sights. They climbed to the top of the church tower (not easy for Smith in a heavy, floor-length costume gown) and were rewarded with a lovely view.

Then they lined up to take part in the big parade. The Orinda delegation was the last to march, and by that time it was bucketing rain

... continued from page A7

and beneath their heavy costumes they were soaked to the skin. The group in front of them, a Slovenian group, were marching to a song, and the group with the Orinda delegation was dismayed that they did not have a song too. Always ready, Smith sprang into action and taught them a song. And so it was that they marched through Tabor singing, "The Stanford Jonah" — "Up with the blue and gold, down with the red!" A group of former visiting students lined up to watch the parade. As the Orinda delegation passed, they applauded them, then ran forward to get in line to do it again further down the parade route.

That evening they turned in their sodden costumes and the rain stopped. At dinner they were treated to toasts, were given gifts of local chocolates, and heard an address by the Chilean ambassador. The Orinda delegation met the Czech Minister of Culture and Prince William zu Lobkowitz and

invited everyone they met to come to Orinda next year for the King Wencesles Festival the last weekend in September, which will be the culmination of the celebrations of Orinda's Year of the Czech.

When Orinda was incorporated in 1985, the city was looking for a sister city. First Orinda mayor Dick Heggie thought that by choosing one that was just coming out of a long period of communism Orinda might be able to offer a helping hand. Former mayor Bobbie Landers cofounded the Orinda-Tabor Sister City Foundation together with Heggie and still plays an active role.

Smith admitted that she hadn't realized just how important the sister city program was until she visited Tabor and felt the warmth of the people and their tremendous affection for Orinda and the United States, as well as the deep appreciation for the help Orinda has provided to the city, which is only 27 years after the fall of communism.

For more information, see the following links:

Tabor Meetings:

www.taborskasetkani.eu/en/pictures/

Orinda's Year of the Czech:

www.cityoforinda.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC=%7B27459158-D8BC-4FFC-8ADE-50A8A64156BC%7D

Look for coverage of Tabor's Orinda exchange student, next issue.

Letters to the Editor

Repugnant Use of the Word 'Celebrating'
 Dear Editor,

Imagine if your son, daughter, brother, sister, or spouse was one of the names inscribed on Lafayette's white crosses. What a repugnant and crass use of the verb "celebrating". (Lamorinda Weekly, Nov. 2) We honor, remember, and pay tribute to the sacrifice of those American Service Members who have given their lives in the service of our country. That is the ultimate price of freedom. The US Armed Forces never "celebrates" the death of any service member. The use of the verb "celebrating" in this context is not only disrespectful but inflicts mental anguish to the survivors. This monumental disrespect is like describing a superb athlete who has just preformed a remarkable athletic skill as heroic. Nonsense. The quintessential definition of heroic is the young men and women who have sacrificed life or limb in the service of their fellow comrades-in-arms and our country. Please give these men and women the honor and respect for their truly heroic actions.

Stephen Anderson
 Orinda

Congratulations to Gee and Miller
 Dear Editor,

I congratulate Inga Miller and Darlene Gee on their success in the Orinda City Council election. Approximately 64 percent of Orindans cast their votes in support of these two candidates, creating a mandate for the council to complete the road repair program and develop a plan for an improved downtown. I look forward to supporting progress in both of these areas which are the highest priorities for Orinda at this time.

Bob Burt
 Orinda

Crosses are a Tacky Eyesore
 Dear Editor

It's unfortunate that we still have the eyesore that sits on Deer Hill Road. One of the more frustrating things is that the Lamorinda Weekly perpetuates the myth that anyone involved in the crosses ever reached out to the neighbors or residents to "build

support among the community" as the paper states. The Lafayette community worked to stop this visual protest but the Lafayette City Council was handcuffed by signage laws. These laws have subsequently been remedied so that this very visually loud folly cannot be repeated elsewhere in Lafayette — which in itself is telling — but sadly for the community the laws are not retroactive and this annoyance remains.

As to the "memorial" itself, the sheer scale and bluntness of the display should give its viewers a fair idea what message is being delivered. Indeed this is one-way "discourse" and is essentially screaming a political view at neighbors and passersby. We are reminded (ironically) of a certain politician on the national stage who doesn't give a fig for any other view but their own, and is as loud, rude and garish as Heaton's annoying selfish display.

I am a proud supporter of veterans and believe that as a country we should acknowledge them and thank them for their service. I also believe that war can be a horrible thing to be avoided and I appreciate those who voice their concerns and work for peace. I am equally a supporter of people's rights to express their views. Heaton and company are doing something that is lawful even if it is tacky or annoying. It does not raise itself quite to the level of the Westboro Baptist Church, but their fervent expression of their views is similarly grating and distasteful.

I wish that Heaton, et al, would step back and consider how negatively this display might be seen by those living nearby who are perhaps more polite in expressing their views. It is in polite and civil discussion that we find common ground and mutual respect.

Shane Palmer
 Lafayette

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

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Giving Dreams an Address

Miramonte Water Polo Marks 50 Years in Lamorinda

... continued from page A1



Back row. Bill Beckett, Ron Rawson, Pete Schnugg, Jim Block, Earnest Figley, Andy Warner, Steve Patching, Dave Kruse, Middle row Dave Olsen, Dan Dupuis, Jon Svendsen, Steve Banker, Tom Beckett, Front row Dave Dupuis, Randy Williams, Miller, Rick O'Hare, Bob Markstein

1967, the first season of water polo. Out of this group came six Division 1 players: Pete Schnugg, Steve Patching, Dave Olsen, Jon Svendsen, Randy Williams, Rich O'Hare
Photo provided

The Miramonte program, called one of the four or five best in the country over the course of its storied existence, began in 1967 when several members of the swim team asked Bill Brown -- a collegiate football and basketball player at Cal Poly -- to coach the team.

Despite knowing nothing about the sport, Brown was a quick study and became one of the most highly recognized coaches in the country. There has been at least one Brown-coached Miramonte water polo player on every Olympic team since 1980, with the exclusion of 1988.

The original 1967 team featured six players who went on to play Division I college water polo. Four of them, including Peter Schnugg ('69), Randy Williams ('70), Jon Svendsen ('71), and Rick O'Hare ('71), played together at Cal under legendary coach Pete Cutino.

When asked how a small public high school could be so successful over such a long period of time, Brown credited a combination of continuity in coaching, parent support, and the recreational swimming program in the Lamorinda area.

"Since the very beginning, we always had alumni coming back to assist with the program," said Brown. "At first, it was out

of necessity. Since I didn't know much about the sport, I'd talk to former players as they went on to college and get some pointers and techniques. Many of them ended up coming back to help coach the high school team."

Currently, assistant coaches Chris Lathrop ('98) Lincoln Halley ('08) and John Nash ('09) are Miramonte graduates helping in the program.

"The parent support has been there from the very start," added Brown. "Their contributions have been simply amazing!"

Brown was instrumental in establishing the girls water polo program in 1995. The year before, however, he invited Heather Petri ('96) to practice with the boys junior varsity team. Petri, who competed in four Olympic Games, credits Coach Brown for much of her success.

After Brown's retirement in 2005, the coaching position fell to Lathrop ('96), a high school All-American and former captain of the Cal team. He currently teaches history at Miramonte. Brown knew Lathrop since he coached him as a five-year-old on the Orinda Country Club recreational swim team.

Considered to be one of the best high school coaches in the country, Lathrop has won eight North Coast Section champion-

ships, his 2008 team was ranked No. 1 in the country, and he also coached the Junior National teams in 2012 and 2013.

Nearly 100 Miramonte players have been named high school All-Americans, 18 have been named to one or more NCAA All-American teams and 19 have played for one or more NCAA championship teams.

Lathrop also credited the team's success with parental involvement, saying, "Even when we play in Southern California we can count on a full rooting section."

"What's also unique is the special connection with the alumni," added Lathrop. "Just this year we've had five former Olympians address the team. This helps connect the current players with the legacy."

The fact that the team has had only two coaches in 50 years, which is unprecedented for any sports team, has given the program stability and continuity that has contributed to their success.

Brown is still active, running the Lamorinda Water Polo Club, helping to perpetuate interest in the sport with local athletes.

Moulton is currently at work on a book chronicling the program's achievements over the past 50 years.



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Moraga Mom Gives Thanks for Every Breath She Takes

By Cathy Dausman



Laura Zellmer Photo Cathy Dausman

Some moments in life steal your breath away.

Laura Zellmer has had more than her share, and they weren't always good. The Moraga mom has cystic fibrosis, an inherited progressive disease that causes persistent lung infections and limits her ability to breathe. At its worst, CF made Zellmer old before her time. She had a feeding tube for 10 years, was hooked to an oxygen tank and required a wheelchair for mobility. She developed bursitis and a hunched posture. She couldn't even complete a full sentence without endless "scary and tiring" coughing fits.

An inhaler and specialized vest helped clear her lungs but Zellmer still suffered three lung collapses as a result of excessive coughing. By necessity she led a rather sedentary life. Diagnosed with CF as a toddler, she became self-conscious of her condition as a teen. Still, she attended college and began living and working in San Francisco after graduation. It was there she met her future husband. They married 12 years ago. When the couple learned they were expecting, Zellmer decided to finish a series of self-interviews she began in the mid-1990s and formed them "as a letter to my son."

"Breathe in Life" chronicled her struggles and premiered in Moraga in 2014 (<https://vimeo.com/128647213>). By January

2015, Zellmer's lungs were functioning at less than 30 per cent of normal. If there was one bit of good news tucked into that diagnosis it was that Zellmer had become eligible for a double lung transplant.

Preparation for the surgery required extensive testing, registering on the United Network for Organ Sharing list, learning lung transplant protocol and three "emotionally draining" dry runs. During each dry run Zellmer was called into the hospital to prepare for surgery only to learn it wouldn't happen. Each time "I had to say my goodbyes (to family)," she said. Ideally Zellmer's transplant team sought a young, healthy pair of lungs of identical blood type with a proper tissue match and size. Realistically, Zellmer had to decide if she would risk accepting a set of compromised lungs from a donor who had spent time in jail or contracted hepatitis or AIDS.

In March, while Zellmer was again hospitalized for a serious lung infection, she was told of a possible match. Her transplant took place on Easter Sunday, performed by Dr. Jasleen Kukreja, a cardiothoracic surgeon at UCSF.

The life of a new transplant patient is precarious, and, Zellmer says, "regimented." The surgery requires sawing the sternum in half and placing the patient on a ventilator. Although prepared, Zellmer still felt claustrophobic during the six hours post-surgery when she

remained intubated with her arms restrained to prevent pulling out the breathing tube.

She couldn't drive for three months until her sternum healed to avoid the risk of airbag injury. Zellmer still takes anti-rejection drugs (she always will) but no longer struggles to maintain a healthy weight. Her feeding tube is gone. She's off supplemental oxygen and doesn't need her wheelchair.

Zellmer never once coughed during her interview; something her son Everett appreciates. "I like it (life after transplant) a lot more," Everett said, although he admits one thing hasn't changed — his mom is still "super neat."

"My life was on hold for the past two years," Zellmer says. Her transplant "completely changed the life of my entire family."

In spite of some setbacks, Zellmer is excited to move about. She has taken beach walks and hiked a mountain, enjoying the pine-scented air. When her travel curfew is lifted, Zellmer hopes to visit Yellowstone and New York, where she can introduce Everett to fireflies. She wants to revisit Europe and see New Zealand and Australia or take a safari.

Most importantly, she wants to find a purpose for her newfound energy, either with part-time work or a volunteer job. "Breathe in Life" means "don't take life for granted," Zellmer says. "I was truly dying; now I'm completely living."

Cystic Fibrosis Statistics

According to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (www.cff.org):

- More than 30,000 people in the U.S. (70,000 worldwide) live with CF
- Approximately 1,000 new cases per year are diagnosed
- Half the CF population is age 18 or older.
- 202 CF patients received double lung transplants in 2014.
- A CF transplant patient's new lungs are unaffected by CF, but the disease remains in other parts of the body.

For more information, visit:

- www.vimeo.com/128647213
- www.cff.org/Living-with-CF/Lung-Transplantation
- www.unos.org

Lew's Abstract Work Shines at LLLC

Local artist David Lew's work is now on display at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center until Dec. 8. The American painter of Asian origin's work can be described as abstractions with bright colors that tend to bring visual excitement to observers.

Lew sometimes combines the abstraction with realistic themes, such as "Fish." "I painted this painting from the koi fish from the pond of my backyard," says the artist. Lew adds that the abstract nature of this painting is obvious, however, the details of the koi fishes are not ignored, they are depicted in a very realistic way, that conveys to the viewer this very moment that all fish (except one) were swimming toward a single source — probably food — or toward a light at the bottom of the painting. "One fish was going the wrong direction as if it was curious and wanting to find out why everyone was dashing the other way, causing traffic congestion as two of them in the middle collided with each other," he explains.

Lew's work exemplifies the artist's training in his early years in Asian Contemporary Art, with strong stokes or variable shapes of lines in a calligraphic style. The painter was born in Shanghai and studied contemporary Chinese painting under Master Cheng Shifa. He was a staff painter at the International Gallery in Hong Kong while attending Hong Kong's University's Art School. He worked and studied in Germany for seven years before moving to California.

Lew's paintings are also coming to the canvas from his rich imagination and inner visions. He describes the painting called "Sun Power Abstraction" as something of a photo shot from outer space, maybe a satellite, capturing the passing movement of a tremendous energy source, probably the sun. "It gave me the inspiration to paint multiple layers of transparent colors which do not create a confusion but a harmonious environment — like our universe," he says.

Lew's work is on exhibit in the Homework Center of the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt Diablo Blvd. — S. Braccini



Sun Power Abstraction

Photo provided

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Maestro Lawrence Kohl Honored for His Contribution to Lamorinda Arts

By Sophie Braccini



From left, Lamorinda Arts Council members Kal Deutsch and Justin Cole, Lynn Seppala from the Pacific Chamber Orchestra, Lawrence Kohl, Supervisor Candace Andersen, and LAC members Erling Horn and Susan Mautner. Photo provided

Nineteen years ago the Contra Costa County Arts and Culture Commission created an award to recognize those who advance the arts in a way that promotes communication, education, appreciation and collaboration throughout the county. This year, the commission honored Lamorinda's Lawrence Kohl as one of the five winners.

The multi-faceted maestro was selected for his leading role in expanding the Orinda Arts Council to Lamorinda (now LAC or Lamorinda Arts Council) and supporting the addition of several new programs, for the new reach of his chamber orchestra throughout Lamorinda, and for the years of musical education programs that have reached children all over the East Bay and now at Wagner Ranch Elementary School.

Kohl has been the president of the Lamorinda Arts Council for three years. He says that he sees the award as a recognition of what the group is doing for igniting and supporting the arts in Lamorinda.

"The commission is validating with this award the work that we have all done at LAC with the expansion of our reach to the three cities and extending our programs to all the arts," says Kohl. Besides the Lamorinda Idols, the Arts Gallery at the Orinda Library, the visual arts competition for all the Lamorinda schools, LAC initiated this year a very successful short documentary competition for all

ages, conducted the third Art of Mixology, and is now getting approval in the three communities for the creation of a poet laureate position.

"Lafayette and Orinda have already approved it, and Moraga should review the concept in the near future," added Kohl.

Elizabeth Wood, chair of the arts recognition award on the county commission, says that this year they received 11 nominations, all for outstanding groups and individuals. Kohl had been nominated by Lafayette resident Erling Horn. Horn cited on the application all the programs Kohl supported. "He is working diligently to establish a Poet Laureate for our three communities," he adds. Horn, who is on LAC's board, adds that people respond to his cheerful, positive nature, and that Kohl is fun to work with. "He doesn't quit when it comes to the arts," he says.

Kohl is also the founder and Maestro of the Pacific Chamber Orchestra, a 25-year old orchestra that has been playing all over the East Bay and recently expanded to Lamorinda with the creation of a Lamorinda advisory branch of the Livermore board and the presentation of each Livermore concert in Lafayette. The next concert will be on Feb. 25 at the Lafayette Library Community Center. "Global Gems" will present pieces from diverse composers spanning the continents: Shostakovich, Piazzola,

Caliendo and Mozart.

Wood highlights that the criteria listed to select the yearly winners include leadership in the support of the arts in daily life. The last piece of Kohl's multiple contributions to the arts fits this category as he has developed a series of musical awakening and initiation workshops for elementary school-age children.

"It is a program that I developed several years ago and that I constantly update," says Kohl, who loves to share his own enthusiasm for music and to explain its intricacies in simple terms. One of the workshops is called "Postcards From Around the World." It demonstrates the different scales and how they create various atmospheres from diverse traditions. Kohl says that by the end of the workshop the young students are able to recognize the different scales by ear.

The workshop are led by Kohl with two fellow musicians, and teachers get a follow-up activity guide to continue the teaching in the classroom. Thanks to a grant from the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation, Kohl was able to start presenting his workshops at Wagner Ranch. The Moraga resident would enjoy doing more in the three communities.

Those interested in knowing more about Kohl and his activities can contact him at LawrenceKohl@gmail.com.

Volunteers Complete CERT Training

By Cathy Dausman



New CERT graduates practice their training. Photo Cathy Dausman

Thirty Lamorinda area students recently completed emergency preparedness training as Community Emergency Response Team members.

Their final was a hands-on practice at Moraga-Orinda Fire District station 45 in Orinda involving fire suppression, first aid, victim extrication and search and rescue. Lamorinda CERT program manager Duncan Seibert says CERT training expands to nine weeks beginning with the next series starting Jan. 10 at the Lafayette Community Center.

The January class series will be the last series offered at no charge. Beginning Spring 2017 Lamorinda CERT students pay a \$25 registration fee; however students who attend the first four classes will receive a medical supply kit valued at \$25.

"This is not a first aid kit but much more specifically a CERT medical kit," Seibert says. To register for January classes, go to <http://classes.lamorindacert.org>.



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Meals on Wheels Nourishes the Soul

By Diane Claytor



Joan Liever, at right, hands Lamorinda client Mable Betancourt her daily nutritious meal. Photos D. Claytor

Last week, Mable Betancourt enjoyed a dinner of hearty beef stew, steamed spinach, corn niblets, and a freshly made biscuit. Later this week, the long-time Lamorinda resident will dine on roast beef with gravy, baked potato, spinach salad, broccoli and a brownie for dessert.

Betancourt, along with almost 30 other elderly Lamorindans, is a client of Meals on Wheels and Senior Outreach Services (MOWSOS), one of four organizations that deliver nutritious meals to frail, homebound seniors throughout Contra Costa County who have no other viable way of receiving a good, balanced meal.

As a young girl, Betancourt's family spent summers in Lamorinda, leaving their Oakland home for the warmer climate and resort-like environment. In 1948, Betancourt moved to the area permanently.

She still lives in that same house and still "takes advantage of the beautiful view," she said with a twinkle in her eye. Ten years ago, when she was no longer able to drive or cook for herself, Betancourt contacted MOWSOS.

Meals on Wheels (MOW) originated in Britain during the Blitz. The Women's Volunteer Service for Civil Defense began bringing meals to the many people who, injured in the war, were convalescing at home. The U.S. home-delivered meal program began in Philadelphia in 1954 and has been growing ever since. In 1990, the charitable nonprofit Meals on Wheels of Contra Costa (MOWCC) was formed to bring together — and help finance — the various public and nonprofit agencies involved in providing Meals on Wheels services throughout the county. At that time, approximately 600 seniors were receiving daily meals at home. Today, with the coordinating assistance of three MOW nonprofit agencies and MOWCC, there are 90 local Meals on Wheels routes with volunteer drivers delivering meals to 1,650

homebound seniors, rain or shine, five days a week.

The Lamorinda area has two routes and is serviced through MOWSOS based in Walnut Creek.

Clients may also receive two frozen meals so they have delicious healthy meals on the weekends. Additionally, there are 17 cafes, typically located in senior centers around the county, serving another 650 daily meals to older people who come together to dine and socialize.

Bateman Senior Meals in Antioch prepares these meals. "There are, of course, nutritional requirements and alterations for people with dietary restrictions," Paul Kraintz, co-founder and secretary/treasurer of MOWCC, said. "Every month, representatives from the cafes, the MOW organizations and the caterer, meet to discuss last month's meals. We take a look at what was liked and not liked, and then plan future menus, always taking into consideration nutrient needs," he noted.

There are no income requirements for MOW clients and they do not have to pay anything. Basically, Kraintz stated, the only conditions are that the recipient is unable to drive and has no other viable way to receive a nutritious meal. Martha Carlson, MOWCC's community engagement specialist, said, "We encourage our seniors to go to one of the Cafes, because then they get their meal as well as the opportunity to socialize. But if that's not possible, MOW happily delivers and for many seniors, this delivery is the only thing that keeps them from malnutrition."

Volunteers are the backbone of the MOW program and currently "there is a dedicated army of more than 800," Kraintz reported. Some have been delivering for over 20 years.

"Volunteers are the eyes and ears of this program," Jennifer Gomes-Figueira, county field nutrition assistant, said. "In addition to being trained in food safety, our volunteers are taught

to watch for any physical or mental changes in their clients and report them immediately," she said. "We're always looking out for the well-being of our clients."

The average age for MOW clients is 80 years. Lamorinda clients tend to be slightly older, "upper 80's to low 90's," according to Gomes-Figueira. "In fact, we have two clients in Lamorinda turning 100 within the next few months," she said. Betancourt is one of them, although you'd never know it by looking at her. The former school librarian is friendly and alert, happily welcoming visitors into her small, tidy home.

Volunteer Joan Liever has been delivering meals to Betancourt and approximately 15 other Lamorindans every week for 10 years. "When I decided to volunteer," Liever said, "I had no idea how wonderful this would be in my life. These seniors are amazing; they invite you into their homes, tell you their stories." Every Tuesday morning, Liever goes to the MOWSOS office, picks up her list of recipients and loads her meals into her car. Then she drives around Lamorinda, greeting each of "her seniors" with a warm smile and a nutritious meal. "Some only want to be handed their meal while others appreciate a short visit. One woman would ask me in to help her put together a puzzle," Liever remembered. "I'd spend 10 minutes and could tell what a difference it made for her. And then there's Mable, who is one of the kindest, most generous people I've ever met."

Liever typically saves Betancourt for the end of her delivery period so they can spend extra time together. They hug, they laugh and Liever listens as Betancourt regales her with yet another story. "I think of this program as so much more than simply food nourishment," Liever stated. "It's nourishment for the soul."

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Meals on Wheels volunteer Joan Liever picks up the meals she's getting ready to deliver to Lamorinda clients.

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New Local Girl Scout Cadettes Learn 'Gift of Giving Back'

Submitted by Jennifer Strohmeyer



Several of the new Cadette Girl Scouts from Troop 33077 raised money with the help of Kenny Lin, the CC Cafe manager.

As part of the journey to their Bronze Award, local Girl Scouts planned, developed and executed a "take action" project designed to increase the awareness of the impacts of non-biodegradable plastics on the ecosystem.

The girls are Havana Wesley, Jiselle Sicilia, Molly Strohmeyer, Laura Bea, Sofia Vezzali, Skylar Thomas, Katie Fink, Adriana Medina, Mehrunisa Kam, Helen O'Neal.

The girls met to discuss ways to reduce the use of disposable plastic straws and brought further awareness by sponsoring a booth at the Lafayette Earth Day celebration.

In addition the girls learned what it means to be a Girl Scout: "A Girl Scout is ready to help out wherever she is needed."

Through one Cadette's volunteering at the Walnut Creek Senior Center, they discovered a need and wanted to help. They used money they earned through fundraising to purchase and donate a new commercial coffee maker and supplies for the center. One of the most important lessons the girls learned is the "gift of giving back." Through these activities, they feel empowered to make themselves and the world a better place.

Lamorinda Thespians Take a Run 'Into the Woods'

Submitted by Laura Soble



Acalanes students performing in the YMTC production of "Into the Woods" are, from left, Fiona Warburton, Gracie Guichard, Michaela Sasner, and Joel Braunstein.

Four Acalanes High School students are expanding their acting chops from Lamorinda as they are performing in the Berkeley-based Youth Musical Theater Company Performance of "Into the Woods," playing through Nov. 19.

The students are Fiona Warburton, who plays the Witch, Gracie Guichard, who plays Cinderella, Michaela Sasner, who plays the Baker's Wife and Joel Braunstein, who plays

a Wood Sprite/Villager/and understudies Rappunzel's Prince and Jack.

YMTC provides professional level musical theater training for young people seventh-grade through university age from all over the Bay Area.

The show is being performed at the El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater. For tickets and information, visit www.ymtcbayarea.org.

World-class Czech Violinists Perform in Orinda

Submitted by Ludwig Mlynek

The Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation, Sokol SF and Bay Czech presented on Oct. 27 the Concert for 8 Strings in Orinda. The concert was performed by the outstanding Czech violinists Jaroslav Svěcený and his daughter Julie Svěcená. Mr. Svěcený is one of the most notable contemporary Czech violinists. His daughter Julie, born in 1994, has performed on many occasions in the U.S., Great Britain, where she is currently taking advanced studies at the Royal Academy of Music, and in almost all European countries — and now finally in Orinda.

In the Concert for 8 Strings they perfectly executed duets, including pieces from Mozart, Luigi Boccherini, George Telemann

and others. The concert was concluded with the overture from "Le nozze di Figaro," ("The Marriage of Figaro,") where Jaroslav and Julie Svěcenýs sounded like a full orchestra, for which the overture was originally composed.

The audience was captivated by the performance of the father/daughter team, and it won't be the first such activity in the coming year. The Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation announced that 2017 is the "Year of the Czech," in Orinda, and one of the activities will be a celebration of Czech heritage and culture in Orinda Community Park from Sept., 29 through Oct. 1, 2017.

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

Acalanes Student Sells Golden Shoelaces to Fight Cancer

Submitted by Melinda Krigel



Acalanes cheer and football squads wore gold laces to fight cancer. Photo Gint Federas

Gold laces are popping up all around the East Bay area as local athletes Lace Up 4 Pediatric Cancer® to support kids with cancer being treated at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. Acalanes High School Senior Molly Davis took this initiative to heart last year and got many of her school's and other local teams to Lace Up in Go4theGoal's Gold Laces to support the partnership with the hospital.

In 2016, Molly's determination was stronger than ever to get as many local teams going gold as she can, including soccer, football, cheerleaders, and even water polo. On Nov. 4 at Acalanes High School Acalanes and Miramonte High Schools' Varsity Football teams had their last regular football game of the season. Both teams and the Acalanes' cheerleaders were laced Up in Go4theGoal's gold laces.

This initiative is near and dear to Molly's heart because when Molly was 8-years-old,

her 12-year-old brother was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor and was treated at UCSF Benioff Oakland. Molly knows firsthand how important the hospital's therapy and support programs are for not only the patients, but their families as well. The psychology program at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland helped Molly cope while her brother was in treatment and continues to provide support to this day. Funds from the sale of laces will go towards funding psychological intervention at the hospital for patients and families going through the toughest time of their lives.

Proceeds from the sale of the laces and 100 percent of any donations will go towards funding psychological intervention at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland for patients and families. To order laces, visit Go4theGoal.org or donate to Molly's online fundraising page at www.donate.go4thegoal.org/mollydonations.

Orinda Boy Scout Troop 237 Honors Four New Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Carolyn Stewart



Left to right, new Eagle Scouts Sam Sernett, Justin Lammert, Jesse Wilkinson and Connor Stewart. Photo Tracey Millham

Boy Scout Troop 237 of Orinda members Justin Lammert, Sam Sernett, Connor Stewart and Jesse Wilkinson, all seniors at Miramonte High School, achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout and celebrated their Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, Nov. 6, at the Orinda Community Church. Former Scoutmaster Eric Jorgensen presented the awards.

Troop 237, chartered by the Orinda Community Church, has served Orinda for 60 years and has seen over 230 of its young men achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. To become an Eagle, the candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and scout spirit, and successfully complete an Eagle service project that benefits the community.

Justin, as the Consul Officer of the Miramonte High School Latin Club, designed a trophy display case for this nationally award-winning club. Sam, former Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 237, led the creation of customized, age-appropriate Lego kits for the homeless children in transitional housing at Shelter Inc.'s Antioch facility.

An avid outdoor enthusiast, Connor researched, constructed and installed four bat houses on 16-foot cedar posts near the Wagner Ranch Nature Area pond in Orinda. Jesse provided 80 Emergency Lock-Down kits for each classroom at Miramonte High School. Each kit contains first aid supplies, water, food, toilet paper, large plastic bags, and a toilet seat in a five-gallon bucket with a lid.

For more information about Troop 237, visit www.troop237orinda.com.

Local Boy Scout Seeks Used Camping Gear for Libraries

Submitted by Matthew Goldie

Matthew Goldie, a member of Boy Scout Troop 204, is collecting, cleaning and repairing used camping gear for the Bay Area Wilderness Training gear libraries as his Eagle Scout Project.

These libraries offer an efficient system for supplying camping gear and supplies alongside necessary wilderness training to urban youth programs throughout the East Bay.

He is accepting all camping gear donations dropped off to the collection contain-

ers at the following locations before Sunday, Nov. 27: the Troop 204 Cabin at the corner of School Street and First Street in Lafayette, and the sewnow! Fashion Studio, 3534 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette. (2-6 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays.)

Donors can clear their garages of used camping gear in good condition and receive a tax deductible receipt for an amount they specify.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

Let the Children Live! Gala Will Aid Efforts to Help Colombian Youth

By Sophie Braccini



Let the Children Live! founder Father Peter Walters with two of the hundreds of children he and his group serve. Photo provided

There are defining moments in life, when chance meets destiny and forever alters someone's future.

In 1982 Peter Walters was traveling on the cheap like many students. At some point he found himself in Colombia, completely out of money for the two weeks he had to wait until his return flight to his native England. Street children who were begging for bread understood his situation and "adopted" him until he left. The young man, who was to be ordained an Anglican priest, was forever changed by these two weeks, and has since devoted his life to the welfare of Colombian children.

Father Peter, as he is now known, has a family in Lamorinda, a brother, sister-in-law and nieces. With friends, they have organized a gala around the time Father Peter will be with them for Thanksgiving. The community is invited to hear to stories and participate in good deeds.

Margaret Walters from Orinda and her friend Margaret Scheving from Lafayette are the two driving forces of the Let The Children Live! Gala that will take place from 7 to 10 p.m. on Nov. 19 at the Hacienda de las Flores in Moraga. Walters describes the mission of Let the Children Live! (Viven Los Niños) 501C-3 organization as helping to protect and educate the children most at risk in Medellin, Colombia. A house that was purchased there in 1994 is a day center for the children when they are not in school. In Colombia, some kids go to school in the morning, others in the afternoon. In the center they are kept away from the streets, the drug dealing and the gangs, they are fed, they get homework help, English instruction, participation in a very successful choir, and other activities. The foundation's second building is a residential home for children who have no other option.

"The foundation also pro-

vides support to special education children and to teenage moms," adds Walters. She explains that the education provided at the foundation is not religious, but may have Catholic undertones, as Father Peter was ordained a Roman Catholic priest after a few years in the country.

"He is absolutely not dogmatic," adds Walters. "He and his group do what has to be done in a pragmatic way." Over the years many children have been given a better future.

The gala will be a free event to come, listen to the music by the Bentley choir, to enjoy dancing — swing dancing instruction will be offered — to sip Captain's Vineyards wine, to taste the food offered by Lamorinda Catering (Roos Pal), and hopefully to contribute to the cause of the Columbian children.

"There will be many different ways to donate for the cause," says Walters. "People can buy a \$15 card that will feed a child in the day program for a week, they can purchase a \$12 back-to-school kit, or contribute to the uniforms and shoes the children need to go to school." She adds that the list of needs is very long, such as the construction of an elevator for the special-ed children or the acquisition of a piano for the music program.

During the evening of Nov. 19, Father Peter will make a presentation about his program and will respond to questions. More information about the foundation can be found online at <http://letthechildrenlive.us/>. People can R.S.V.P. at mscheving@yahoo.com.

College Bound

What's Your Major? Be Ready to Answer

By Elizabeth LaScala

Thousands of high school seniors cruise through college applications, completing basic contact information, high school coursework and grades, test scores and activities without a hitch. But these same students often cringe when asked "Indicate Your Major."

Although some students know exactly what they want to study in college, many, even most, 17-year-olds are uncertain. For the adults reading this article, I ask you, did you know exactly what you wanted to do in life when you were 17?

For many students, the easiest and often the first choice that appeals to them on the list of college major options is "undeclared." There are at least two major reasons why that is often not the best selection to make.

Limited Availability. Students may not realize that "undeclared" is considered a major, and as such there is a limited number of seats to offer an incoming class. In addition, if a student weighs in as "undecided," some colleges may use one of their most rigorous majors to assess the strength of a student's application.

College Essays. For many students the question of what major to select arises when they are writing essays for colleges. Many colleges ask students questions like "Why did you select the major you did and why do you want to study that subject at our college?" One popular east coast college asks applicants the following questions: "What academic areas seem to fit your interests or goals most comfortably? Why do these areas appeal to you?" You can list up to three subjects and you have 100 words to respond. A cinch, right? Not if you do not have a well-thought-out response.

Many of my clients are uncertain about what major they wish to pursue in college. Since

I know these types of essay questions come up when students apply to colleges, we prepare well before the application cycle begins by exploring areas of interest. But what should the many seniors do who are grappling with the question and have not prepared for it? For them, I recommend two fairly straight-forward strategies:

1.) Take a different approach to thinking about a major. Is there a class you would really like to take as you explore the freshman curriculum at a college? There are many introductory courses to choose from—Romantic Poetry through the Ages (English department); Bringing Out Your Inner Picasso! (art department), Making Important Business Decisions (business department) and The Physics of Sports (physics department). Read the course descriptions and choose one that really appeals to you. Then choose that department as your major. This approach allows you to test an academic direction early enough in your college career to change course, and also gives you some foundation upon which to answer those pesky essay questions. At the overwhelming majority of colleges, changing your major is as easy as completing a simple form and 80 percent of students change their major at least once in their college careers.

2.) Explore the many resources available to think about what major you would like to pursue in college. For example, "The Book of Majors 2017" (www.amazon.com/Book-Majors-2017-College-Board/dp/145730774X edition) can help you answer questions like: What's the major for me? Where can I study it? What can I do with it after graduation?

"The Book of Majors" is revised every year, and is the most comprehensive guide to college

majors that I have found on the market. It offers in-depth descriptions of 200 of the most popular majors, and the 2017 edition covers every college major identified by the U.S. Department of Education — over 1,200 majors in all. This guide also shows what degree levels each college offers in a major: a certificate, associate degree, bachelor's, master's or doctorate. The guide also features insights from the professors themselves on how each major is taught, what preparation students will need for a particular major, and other majors to consider that share some commonalities. There is updated information on career options and employment prospects.

Applying to college includes careful planning, organization, research and lots of self-assessment. The process from start to finish involves many challenges that can and should be viewed as opportunities to mature, thus laying the foundation for success in college and beyond.



Elizabeth LaScala, PhD, brings decades of admissions expertise to personally guide each student through applying to well-matched colleges, making each step more manageable and less stressful. She has placed hundreds of students in the most prestigious colleges and universities in the U.S. Reach her at (925) 385-0562 (office) or (925) 330-8801 (mobile), or online at www.doingcollege.com or Elizabeth@doingcollege.com.

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ART

Images by Thomas Black of Moraga will be on display at the Moraga Library the entire month of November. Those featured fall into the genre known as Rural Americana. It includes exteriors and interiors of old barns, etc. His travels have taken him coast to coast and abroad. Representative examples of his diverse portfolio can be found at www.tfblackphotography.com. The Moraga Library is located at 1500 St Marys Rd, Moraga.

The American Soldier, A Photographic Tribute, an exhibition of 116 photographs, from the Civil War to the War in Iraq, is on display at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art. This is a dramatic exhibition of photographs from the Civil War to the War in Iraq that captures the essence of American soldiering over more than 150 years, ever since the birth of photography when the camera became a notebook to history, starting with the Civil War. It will run through Dec. 18. 1928 St Marys Rd, Moraga, (925) 631-4000.

The City of Lafayette Public Art Committee presents "Art of Lundy Siegriest" featuring oil paintings from the late Lundy Siegriest at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Library Gallery. The exhibit runs through Nov. 20.

The David Lew Art Exhibition runs through Dec. 7 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. (See page B1.)

The Valley Art Gallery 51st Annual Holiday Collection for Artful Giving debuts with an Open House Reception from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19. "Artful Giving" features affordably-priced yet unique, one-of-a-kind gifts hand-crafted by Bay Area artists. www.valleyart-gallery.org

Lamorinda Arts Alliance presents a new show at the Lindsay Dirx Brown Gallery, "Celebrating the Natural World," that opens on Dec. 2. Through various media, porcelain, watercolor, oils, acrylics and photography, members will portray the many things in nature we all enjoy. A reception will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Dec. 10. The show runs through Dec 23. The Lindsay Dirx Brown Gallery is located in the city of San Ramon at 12501 Alcosta Blvd.

MUSIC

Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, directed by Dr. Anne K. Hege, celebrates its 25th anniversary by presenting "Voci Playlist," a selection of favorite repertoire chosen by Voci singers, past directors and accompanists. The concert will be at 4 p.m. on Nov. 20 at St. Perpetua Catholic Church, 3454 Hamlin Road, Lafayette. Tickets: \$25 suggested donation at the door, \$20 advance, \$15 students, FREE for children between 6 and 12. Available at the door or online at www.vocisings.org. Information: (510) 531-8714.

Amici Lyric Opera presents Love Duets concert at 3 p.m. on Nov. 20 in the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Soprano Elena Yakoubovsky and baritone Kiril Havezov star a program of beloved duets and arias, including "La ci darem la mano" from Don Giovanni, the final duet from Eugene Onegin, "Ah, dove sei, crudele" from Trovatore, and the duet from "The Merry Widow." Tickets: \$30 General, \$25 Seniors/Students Box Office; (800) 838-3006 BrownPaperTickets.com. www.AmiciLyricOpera.com.

Walnut Creek Concert Band presents its Holiday Concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Leshher Center for the Arts on Tuesday, Nov. 29. Cost: \$14 - \$17; Free admission for students. Tickets available at box office or online at http://lesherartscenter.showare.com/HolidayConcert. www.walnut-creekconcertband.org.

The Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus (OEBGMC), a nonprofit organization, will be performing Fairy Tales: A Holiday Concert at three Christian churches in the East Bay this holiday season. The first is at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 3 at the Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Dr. Tickets: \$25 general, \$10 senior and students, kids free. http://oebgmc.org.

Handel's "Messiah" remains the most well-known oratorio ever written and will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 3 at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church and 4 p.m. on Dec. 4 at the First Presbyterian Church of Oakland. Cantare's Chorale and Ensemble will join with soloists and a full orchestra to present this masterwork. Tickets: \$40 General and \$35 Senior. For groups of eight or more, tickets are just \$30 per person. Purchase tickets online at www.cantareconvo.org or call (510) 836-0789.

Diablo Choral Artists presents Christmas Pudding, a concert of traditional English songs featuring works by Rutter, Tavener, Vaughan Williams, Byrd, Holst, and more at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda, and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill. Details and ticket purchase on website www.dca-chorus.org Info (925) 680-7089, info@dcachorus.org

THEATER

Undergraduate and graduate students of the Saint Mary's College dance program present "Kaleidoscope," a shared showcase of dance choreographed, performed and produced by students, at 8 p.m. Thursday Nov. 17 and Friday, Nov. 18 as well as 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19 at LeFevre Theatre, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. General Admission tickets are \$5 - available at box office prior to the show or online at www.stmarys-ca.edu/kaleidoscope-dance-performance.

OTHER

Many Faces of Lung Cancer, an educational event focusing on the unique issues of lung cancer patients from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Nov. 17 in the Lafayette Library, Community Room. This educational event focuses on the unique issues of lung cancer patients. Join an engaging panel of medical experts as they cover the most current information regarding screening recommendations, genomic testing, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, radiation therapy and surgical techniques. Q & A session to follow presentation. RSVP by calling (925) 677-5041 x272.

Jazz, Swing, Dance, Sing — the first gala event for Let the Children Live! is from 7 to 10 p.m. on Saturday Nov. 19 at Hacienda de las Flores. There will be wine, appetizers and desserts. Entertainment by Bentley High School Jazz Band and Arthur Murray dancers. Special presentation by Fr. Peter Walters. The proceeds raised from this event go to serve children who are displaced by the drug trade and live in fear and poverty in Medellin, Colombia. Admission is free but

an RSVP to mscheving@yahoo.com is required.

There is a Red Cross Blood Drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 19 at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall, 10 Moraga Valley Lane. Give something that means something. The need for blood is constant. To schedule your appointment or for more information visit: redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: MVPC or call 1-800 RED CROSS.

Community Concern for Cats is building on shoppers' enthusiasm for Black Friday sales by creating Black Saturday/Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. on Nov. 26 and 27 at Lafayette Pet Food Express and Pleasant Hill Pet Food Express as well as Walnut Creek Petco. That weekend, black and black/white cats may be adopted for \$50, less than half the usual fee. The regular adoption fee will apply to cats and kittens of other colors. The fee includes spay/neuter, FVRCP vaccines, deworming, flea meds, and a microchip.

Peyo Love Fest, a celebration and fund raiser will be held 12 to 5 p.m. on Dec. 3 at the Miramonte High School Cafeteria. The celebration will honor Coach Peyovich and his contributions on and off the field for our community. The fundraiser will give the Peyovich family a critical financial boost to help with expenses such as his medical treatments, home costs and help with his children's educations. All the funds raised will go directly to Coach Peyo and his family.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

The 37th Annual Community Thanksgiving Breakfast will be held from 7 to 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 18 at Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Rd. in Lafayette. Dick Callahan, keynote speaker, will present "Are You Enjoying Your Journey?" Catered breakfast provided by Lantern Catering. Music provided by Harpist Wendy Tamis. Reservations can be made by calling the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce at (925) 284-7404 or by online at www.lafayettechamber.org. Cost is \$20 per person.

Orinda Holiday Bazaar 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Orinda Community Center, located at 28 Orinda Way. With many returning favorites and exciting new vendors, here is a sneak-peek of what can be expected from over 50 vendors: gourmet caramels, one-of-a-kind handbags, unique jewelry, handmade knitted items, and delicious jams, handcrafted stationary, homemade soaps, custom clothing, beautiful pottery, original art and more.

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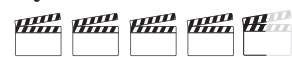
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MOVIE REVIEW

Film Clips

'Loving' is all You Need in a Movie

By Derek Zemrak



Ruth Negga (left) stars as Mildred and Joel Edgerton (right) stars as Richard in Jeff Nichols "Loving," a Focus Feature release. Photo Ben Rothstein / Focus Features

As the Beatles song goes: "There's nothing you can know that isn't known. Nothing you can see that isn't shown. There's nowhere you can be that isn't where you're meant to be. It's easy. All you need is love. Love is all you need." "Loving," the movie, shows the strength of love and the struggles one must overcome to have the right to love in 1958 and, in many cases, is still true today.

"Loving" tells the story of a young interracial couple, Richard (Caucasian) and Mildred (African-American) and their struggle that they take all the way to the Supreme Court in order to have the right to be married in the U.S. When she was 18, Mildred became pregnant and was unable to marry Richard due to the anti-miscegenation laws in their home state of Virginia. Richard made the decision to marry Mildred in Washington D.C. where it was legal. Upon returning to Virginia, both Mildred and Richard were arrested and sentenced to a year in prison. It was their decision to fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court to have to right to marry the one you love.

Director Jeff Nicholas ("Mud," "Take Shelter") delivers on a subject matter that could have been filmed with darkness and violence but instead he directed a soft heart-rending love story. Both lead actors Ruth Negga (Mildred) and Joel Edgerton (Richard) bring excellent performances to the screen that are worthy of Oscar consideration. "Loving" is the best movie so far this year and will receive many award nominations.

"Loving" is rated PG-13 due to sexual references and slurs with a TRT (total running time) of two hours and three minutes. This movie should be seen by all for Love is all you need!

Coming Events at the Lamorinda Theatres:

- 7 p.m. Nov. 17 – Live Comedy Series at Orinda with headliner, Jeff Richards from "Saturday Night Live" and "MadTV."
- 7 p.m. Nov. 26 – Silent Movie Night at the Rheem Theatre – "Nosferatu," the first vampire/Dracula movie ever made with live music score by Patti Liedecker and lecture by Leonard Pirkle.

Not to be missed

HOLIDAY EVENTS
... continued

For the 19th year, Bobbie and Tom Preston will be holding the Cycle Recycle, collecting repairable bikes to be refurbished and given to charitable groups to distribute at Christmas. New and/or used bikes and trikes — in working order or repairable, or useable bike parts, may be delivered to the side driveway of the Preston's home at 1307 Larch Avenue in Moraga throughout the month of November only. No skateboards or plastic bikes please; no need to call beforehand, but for more information contact Bobbie or Tom Preston at (925) 376-8474.

Hospice East Bay's 30th Annual Tree of Lights ceremonies honors the lives of friends and loved ones at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 20 at Moraga Country Club, 1600 St. Andrews Drive, and at 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 3 at Orinda Village by Bank of America. For information about specific events, please visit www.HospiceEastBay.org/TreeOfLights.

See the Christmas story come to life at the 12th annual viewing of the Live Nativity at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church (MVPC). Come by anytime from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3 when the MVPC Courtyard will be transformed into a Bethlehem manger. While the Courtyard will be a reverent scene, there will be additional activities, music and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. The Sanctuary will be open for prayer and reflection. Free.

"It's a Wonderful Life in Lafayette" community holiday celebration is scheduled from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2 in Lafayette's Plaza Park, located in downtown Lafayette. Complimentary admission. Arrive

early and plan to stay! This fun and festive event includes visits from Santa, official holiday tree lighting ceremony, one-of-a-kind photo ops, live entertainment, crafts, holiday treats and a holiday sing-along.

Find all your handcrafted holiday gifts and support local artisans at the annual holiday faire at the historic Hacienda de las Flores. Hand-crafted gifts, décor and specialty foods by over 45 local artisans. All items handmade. This event is sponsored by and is a fundraiser for The Hacienda Foundation. 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2 and 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3. For more information email HaciendaHolidayFaire@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/Hacienda-HolidayFaire/

North Shattuck Association presents Snow? In Berkeley? from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4, at Gourmet Ghetto, 1451-1495 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Bring boots and mittens to play in the snow. There will be a Snow Queen, pony rides, DIY crafts, holiday craft vendors and more. Cost: Free For more info see www.anotherbullwinkelshow.com/holiday-berkeley/holiday-gourmet-ghetto.html or call (510) 334-6523 or email Lisa@AnotherBullwinkelShow.com.

All are welcome to join the Saint Mary's College Guild to attend their annual Christmas luncheon from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 8 at Dryden Hall, St. Mary's College. Social hour and a bake sale featuring holiday treats and a money tree raffle will begin at 11 a.m. with a delicious lunch served at noon. We will be entertained by the Saint Mary's College award winning chorale. Cost is \$45 and all proceeds benefit financial aid scholarships. Please RSVP by Nov. 30. For

questions: phone Pat Mc Enaney at 376 - 3306.

SENIORS

Let's Do Lunch! Discover and explore the various dining experiences in the Lamorinda area. Lunch starts at 11 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. Relax, dine, meet new people, socialize and enjoy lively conversation. Space is limited. Contact Lafayette Senior Services for the schedule of restaurants and to make your reservations: Seniors@LoveLafayette.org or 284-5050. Individuals will pay for their own lunches.

GARDEN

The Moraga Garden Club monthly meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 17, at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Guest speaker will be Holly Forbes, curator of the UC Berkeley Botanical Gardens. The topic of her discussion will be "Plant Conservation Projects at Botanical Gardens." Interested parties are welcome to attend the 9:30 a.m. social hour and 10 a.m. meeting, as well as the presentation by Holly Forbes following the meeting.

The Montelindo Garden Club Meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Friday Nov. 18, at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Everyone welcome. Presentation: Sunset Western Garden Collection.

Please submit events to:
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November 25
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www.rotarylafayette.org
www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366

November 24:
No Meeting
Happy Thanksgiving to All

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Thoughtful Food
Give Thanks for This Spicy, Savory Cornbread

By Susie Iventosch



Sweet Potato-Jalapeno Cornbread with Candied Bacon

Photo Susie Iventosch

Last Thanksgiving we published a recipe for a spicy sweet potato dish and discussed the nomenclature for sweet potatoes versus yams, which always seems cause for confusion. Armed with last year's research, I was prepared this year when

shopping for sweet potatoes for this cornbread.

The produce markets in the United States always label the orange sweet potatoes as "yams," which they really aren't. But, to make it easier when you shop for the ingredients for this cornbread,

keep in mind that you want the orange "yams" they sell in the markets, and not the lighter, yellow or off-white sweet potatoes. The intense orange color gives this cornbread a beautiful color, one that is perfect for a Thanksgiving feast.

For last year's recipe and column on Spicy Sweet Potatoes, please visit:
www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0919/Yam-it-Up-with-this-Spicy-Sweet-Potato-Dish.html

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



Sweet Potato-Jalapeno Cornbread with Candied Bacon

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 large sweet potato (the deep orange one) cooked and mashed (about 1 cup of mashed sweet potato)
- 4 eggs
- 1 ½ cups buttermilk (I used the Darigold brand Bulgarian-style buttermilk, but any buttermilk will do.)
- 1 stick of butter, melted
- 4-5 strips bacon, candied by baking with a small sprinkling of brown sugar on top, and cut into small pieces
- 1 cup grated white cheddar cheese
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and very finely diced
- 1 Ortega (or Anaheim) chili seeded and coarsely diced



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease a 9 x 11 baking dish. (You can also use a 9 x 13, but it will just not be as tall, and will bake for a shorter time.)

In a large mixing bowl, mix cornmeal, flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and brown sugar. In a smaller bowl, mix the mashed sweet potato, bacon pieces, eggs, buttermilk, melted butter, diced peppers and cheese. Mix well. Pour into the dried ingredients and mix thoroughly.

Turn batter out into prepared baking dish. Bake for about 30 minutes, or until done in the center.

Remove from oven and serve hot, or cool and refrigerate until ready to serve. Reheat if serving at another time.

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

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Miramonte Boys Edge Campolindo for NCS Polo Win

By John T. Miller



Photos Gint Federas

cage for Campolindo with doing a super job.

Midway through the season, Miramonte was ranked 12th in the NCS. By tournament time they entered as the No. 1 seed.

"The season came together for us when the team realized that each player could contribute the little things, rather than worrying about getting credit," said Lathrop.

Campolindo coach Miles Price was proud of his team and how much work they put into the season. "Beck Jurasius was very good to us in the final games, as were brothers Tommy and Wayne Hawkins."

Asked why the Lamorinda teams have been so consistently good, Price responded, "Across the board, including Acalanes and Las Lomas, the administration supports our programs and helps make us what we are. They do a great job of producing super student-athletes."

Unlike many other sports in California, water polo does not advance beyond the NCS. Miramonte finished first, Campolindo second and Acalanes was arguably the fifth best team in the NCS. Next year, there's talk of adding regional playoffs to the schedule.

Earlier in the day, the Miramonte girls water polo team (22-6) lost an 8-7 thriller to San Ramon Valley (25-2) to finish second in the NCS.



Tyler Abramson

A pair of goals in the second overtime lifted the Miramonte (20-6) water polo team to a 12-10 victory over Campolindo (22-6) in the North Coast Section finals last Saturday night at the Steve Heaston

Aquatic Center at Acalanes High School. The victory capped a remarkable year for the Mats in their 50th anniversary season (see story, page A1).

The tense battle between two

of Northern California's elite water polo teams did little more than prove that the Lamorinda area is host to some of the top programs in California, if not the nation.

In addition to these two rivals, Acalanes (16-10) also made it to the NCS playoffs, barely losing to San Ramon High 13-12 in the quarterfinals.

Tyler Abramson led Miramonte in scoring with four goals, including two in the final quarter of regulation to help the Mats pull even at 9-9.

In the first overtime, Jackson Painter barely beat the 30-second buzzer for Miramonte, his second goal of the evening, but Michael Wheeler, who led Campolindo with three scores, answered back.

Will Clark notched his second goal to open up the second overtime, giving Miramonte the lead for the first time in the match, and Stephen Schmidt followed with the clincher midway through the period.

Winning coach James Lathrop

credited the longstanding rivalry between the two schools for producing a great, competitive match. "The game brought out the best in both groups," he said. In particular, Lathrop praised Ben Miller in the



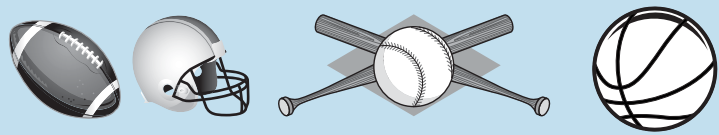
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Acalanes Girls Water Polo Wins NCS D2 Championship

Miramonte falls in D1 title

By Karl Buscheck



Photos Gint Federas

It was a season of growth for the Acalanes girls water polo team, who capped off the fall by beating Drake 7-5 in the Northern California Sectionals Division 2 title game on Nov. 12 in Lafayette.

"We played some of the bigger teams, the top teams, very early in the season in our own

tournament and weren't, to be honest, competitive," admitted head coach Misha Buchel, whose roster was stocked with freshmen and sophomores.

For the youthful Dons (17-10), the key to their rise was finding stability in the middle of the pool. Buchel described junior

goalie Ella Maisano and junior central defender Bella Wentzel as the team's defensive anchors.

"Our defense became better and our transition game became better," Buchel explained. "So, those were the two main areas that allowed us to improve as the season went on."

For Acalanes, who topped Piedmont, Justin-Siena and Livermore on the path to the NCS championship showdown with Drake, sophomore Lexi Rowell and freshman Brooke Westphal were responsible for the majority of the damage on the offensive end.

"Those are kind of our four

most indispensable players," Buchel said of the quartet of Maisano, Wentzel, Rowell and Westphal.

Playing in the NCS D1 bracket, the No. 2 seed Mats lost 8-7 to San Ramon Valley in the championship game hosted at Acalanes on Nov. 12.

"We just lost a barn-burner to the defending champions San Ramon Valley," said head coach Noel Murphy, whose team finished with a 22-6 record. "It was a great game by the Lady Mats, but we win graciously and we lose graciously. Great sportsmanship by my girls this year and (against San Ramon Valley)."

In the defeat to the top-seed San Ramon Valley, the junior Kelly Murphy poured in five goals, while juniors Grace Tehaney and Skylar Savar both chipped in a goal apiece.

"This is another 20-win season that this program has had back-to-back now," said Murphy, who praised co-coach John Felix and the rest of the coaching staff for helping the Mats win a second consecutive league crown. "It's exciting to see. The girls are buying into team unity."

The Mats advanced to the title game by beating Freedom and Amador Valley in the opening rounds and then topping Campolindo 8-2 in the semifinals on Nov. 9 in Orinda.

... continued on page C4



Bella Wentzel



Ella Maisano

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Campolindo Girls Volleyball Captures NCS D2 Crown

By Karl Buscheck



Photos Gint Federas

Way back in August, John Vuong – the head coach of the Campolindo girls’ volleyball team – laid out the blueprint for his squad.

“I told them right at the beginning of the season that the hardest-working team will finish on top,” Vuong recalled. “If you can prove to me and prove to everyone else that you’re the hardest-working team, good things will happen.”

The players were listening to their coach, as the Campo beat Bishop O’Dowd on Nov. 12 to capture the Northern California Sectionals Division 2 title with a 3-0 win at their gym in Moraga.

“I thought our back row did a very good job passing,” said Vuong, whose team was bumped into the D2 bracket for the first time this fall as a result of the program’s postseason success in recent seasons.

“(Senior) Emily VanKoll really controlled the back as far as passing goes,” Vuong added. “Seniors Sabrina Smith, Janelle

Gong and Lauren Pak were also contributors for us and I thought (senior) Josie Cole played well too.”

The Cougars, who landed the No. 1 seed after winning the DAL with a flawless 10-0 record (29-10 overall), carved through NCS action. After a Round 1 bye, Campo hammered all three of the school’s opponents – Carondolet, Windsor and Bishop O’Dowd – by the same score line: 3-0.

“I’m very pleased, but the girls put a lot of work into it,” Vuong said. “We prepared very well for (Bishop) O’Dowd, but O’Dowd is a really good team. They have a lot of good hitters, but we focused and I’m very happy with mindset they had coming into the game.”

While Campo topped the D2 bracket, Miramonte came up just short in D3 play, losing 3-0 to Marin Catholic on the No. 1 seed’s home court in Kentfield on Nov. 12.

... continued on page C4



Sabrina Smith (1)

Are We Having Fun Yet? YOU BET!

A collage of several photographs showing children playing soccer. The photos are arranged in a circular and rectangular pattern. The children are wearing various colored jerseys (blue, green, orange, black). In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for "LMYA" (Lamorinda Middle Youth Association) featuring a basketball, soccer ball, and baseball icon, with the text "Having Fun and Making Memories for 62 Years" below it.

Acalanes Girls Water Polo Wins NCS D2 Title

... continued from page C2



Photos Gint Federas

Against the Cougars, sophomore goalie Savannah Sherwood saved 83 percent of the shots on goal, Murphy, Tehaney, Savar and junior Katrina Drake all got on the score sheet, while junior Carson Broad had three assists and two steals.

"We put together a lot of great water polo to earn a top seed for NCS," said Campolindo head coach Kim Everist.

The Cougars (20-7) grabbed the No. 3 seed in the D1 bracket thanks to a third-place finish at the NorCal Invitational and a strong run at the conclusion of the DAL schedule.

"Playing in the semifinals of NCS was always a goal," Everist said. "This team has a lot of determination and desire and I've been very proud of them."

Before bowing out against the Mats, Campolindo cruised past Liberty in the first round, 22-2, and made quick work of Washington, 20-2, in the quarterfinals.

"All in was our team motto this season," Everist said. "And, every player on this team was just that. From the classroom, to the weight room, to the deck, to the pool, they were all in."

While the Cougars leaned on the entire roster on the road to the NCS semifinals, Everist singled out the contributions of the team's senior contingent.

"I will sign off with my seniors," Everist said. "Becca Buck, Kiera Crandall, Carlie Crumbaugh, Kari Jensen, Olivia Price and Morgan Scanlon. (I) love these amazing leaders (and) they will be dearly missed."



Katrina Drake



Kelly Murphy

Campolindo Volleyball Captures NCS D2 Crown

... continued from page D3



Emily VanKoll

Photo Gint Federas

all (7-3 in DAL), counted on a veteran cast to set the tone for the rest of the group.

"Our three team captains have demonstrated tremendous leadership over the course of the season and have really stepped it up during the postseason," Bachtold said, referring to seniors Caroline Schafer, Blake Sharp, and Layne Estes, "And our setter (junior) Tatiana Luevano, she sacrifices so much of herself for the success of the team."

As the No. 2 seed in D3, the Mats received a bye in the opening round before beating Terra Linda in the quarterfinals (3-0) and Acalanes in the semifinals (3-0).

"These girls work so hard in practice and it shows in matches," Bachtold said. "All season we have had NCS in our minds, so it has been crucial to stay focused on each step that has led us to the NCS finals. We had two huge wins over Acalanes (during the regular season), which were tremendously hard-fought matches from both teams – plus the NCS win we had over Acalanes."

That victory over the Dons put an end to their neighbor's season. Acalanes finished the year with a 27-9 record overall and was tied in the DAL standings with the Mats, as both teams posted identical 7-3 records in league competition.

Thanks, in part to the play of seniors Devin Grobeck, Alex



Caroline Schafer (2)

The Mats missed out on the win against Marin Catholic, but head coach Lisa Bachtold was thrilled her team's NCS push.

"It was a huge accomplishment to be seeded second after

an incredible season," Bachtold said. "It was something that was well-deserved, but something we fought incredibly hard for."

Miramonte, who ended the season with a 22-10 record over-

Matson, Melissa Elliott and Parker Jones – the latter two who were captains – the Dons beat Tennyson and St. Patrick-St. Vincent in the opening rounds of NCS.

While the seniors are set to depart, the future should be bright for the No. 3 seed Dons, as the team had six underclassmen on its 16-player roster.

Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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Stanley Middle School is East Bay Cross Country Champions

Submitted by Diane Batchelor



The 7/8 grade varsity boys champions, from left, Owen Peck, Jay Mills, Derek Kotarba, Marco Chao, Lucas Haase, Owen Myall (missing Dominic Basaldua). Photo Diane Batchelor

For the second year in a row Stanley Middle School 7/8 grade varsity boys won the East Bay Middle Schools Varsity Cross Country League Championships Nov. 3 at Kennedy Grove Park. The varsity 7/8 girls placed a strong third from 17 teams.

On Nov. 1 at Martin Luther King Jr. school in Berkeley, the Stanley 7/8 grade boys and 7/8 grade girls JV teams each won overall at the East Bay Middle Schools JV Cross Country League Championships, with

sixth-grade boys and girls placing second overall in their meet.

In the sixth grade Varsity Championship meet the boys placed second with sixth-grade girls placing seventh overall.

The Stanley team — coached by Diane Batchelor, David Kohls and Katie Blair — trained four times a week after school, utilizing the Lafayette Trail. With cross country season over the Stanley team looks forward to track & field in the spring.

Diablo Alliance Water Polo Girls Win Silver at Cousineau Cup

Submitted by Jeff Holman



Back row, from left: Kelsey Meyers (Martinez), Sarah Peterson (Danville), Ava Donleavy (Berkeley), Caroline Schirmer (Lafayette), Mackenzie Murphy (Orinda), Emma Miller (Lafayette), coach Robby Arroyo (Orinda); front row, from left: Claire Rowell (Lafayette), Angelina Shaw (Lafayette), Sofia Holman (Orinda) and Alex Mould (Lafayette) Photo provided

The Diablo Alliance 14 and under girls water polo team won silver in the Cousineau Cup played in Santa Ana end of October. In 2016 Diablo Alliance, with girls'

teams 6 to 18 years of age, has ranked second in the nation with 26 USA Water Polo Academic All-Americans.

CalMagic Girls Soccer Team Won Impact BOO Fest

Submitted by Lori Patel



Photo provided

Giving the Jack-o'-lanterns on their t-shirts reason to grin, the California Magic '05 Girls soccer team pocketed first-place honors at the fourth annual Impact Boo Fest Sunday, Oct. 30.

In a hard-fought final match, the Lamorinda-based Magic team battled the Mt. Diablo Soccer Fireballs on the rain-soaked

fields of Oakley's Freedom High School. Though the Fireballs broke out with an early goal, the Magic players, coached by Roberto Zambrano, answered confidently with a pair of their own. Holding to iron defense, the mud-splattered Magic players triumphed 2-1 in the final game to clinch the tournament title in the Girls U12 Wizards division.

East Bay Eclipse Soccer U18 Girls Meet at Finals

Submitted by Luis Pinto



Team Lunar and Solar

Photo provided

The East Bay Eclipse Soccer U18 teams finished a successful season. Both teams, Lunar and Solar, reached the final in the Halloween Boo Cup tournament in San Ramon and team Lunar won over their teammates

team Solar. It was a great match between the teams who are one big group of friends. The winning girls will compete in our local high schools the winter season.

St. Perpetua Boys Win Fall Classic

Submitted by Greg Zegarowski



Back row, from left, Austin Bishop, Colin Norstad, Justin Zegarowski, Evren Rose, Jackson Berry; front row, from left, Santiago Sirios, Patrick Sebree, Tommy Gallagher, George Churchill, Britain Ellis Photo provided

The St. Perpetua sixth-grade boys' basketball team won the 2016 MVP Flight Fall Classic in Walnut Creek in a double overtime final on Oct. 22. The tournament took place

over two successive weekends and Team Berry demonstrated focus and determination on their road to victory.

MOL Football Pac 12 Championship

Submitted by Eric Van Olst



MOL Pac -12 Super Bowl champions, third and fourth grades. From left, Trevor Mc Carthy, William Myers, coach Stuart Reichenbach, Gian Maguire, Kai Van Olst, Oliver Fetzko, Mitch Reichenbach, Wyatt Johnson, coach Eric Van Olst, Miles Blackhart, Spencer Clark, Blake Bastani. Teammates not pictured: Grady Smith, Holden Shrader Photo provided

On Sunday, Nov. 6, the Hurricanes defeated the Long Horns 14 to 12 in a hard fought battle for the Pac 12 Cham-

pionship. All players are from Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 10 Issue 19 Wednesday, November 16, 2016



Stylish Solutions

...read on page D4

Digging Deep

Growing Gratitude in the Garden

By Cynthia Brian

"Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul." — Henry Ward Beecher



Tom turkey struts his stuff on the driveway.



Photos Cynthia Brian Hachiya persimmons hanging on the tree. Eat them when they seem over-ripe.

Are you grateful for the simple things in life? This is the perfect time of the year to reflect upon our blessings and gifts. I am so thankful for all of you who read my column. Your interest and questions are always appreciated. Thank you, also, for so many of you who have hired me to help you with your planting needs or garden desires. It's magnificent to grow with you.

Every day I am very grateful to be a gardener to witness the beauty, bounty, and endless diversity of Mother Nature. Our landscapes are ever changing. What's here today may not be here tomorrow, nor, the next year. Seeing the cows grazing in the hills, breathing our clean air, enjoying peace, safety and serenity that only comes from living in this semi-rural environment makes my heart sing with

gratitude.

Wild turkeys have moved into Lamorinda territory, immune to the possibility of becoming a holiday main dish! A big Tom waddled across my driveway as two dozen of his hens toppled and gobbled the berries from the top of my Chinese pistache.

... continued on page D11



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MORAGA	6	\$850,000	\$1,625,000
ORINDA	11	\$950,000	\$2,310,000

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- 3913 Happy Valley Road, \$2,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 2914 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 10-20-16
- 1118 Hilltop Drive, \$1,715,000, 4 Bdrms, 2133 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 10-13-16
- 473 Peacock Boulevard, \$829,000, 3 Bdrms, 1154 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-17-16
- 2596 Pebble Beach Loop, \$858,000, 3 Bdrms, 2052 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-19-16;
Previous Sale: \$505,000, 09-27-11
- 1870 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 1903 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-14-16
- 3340 Victoria Avenue, \$960,000, 1 Bdrms, 1016 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 10-17-16

MORAGA

- 137 Cypress Point Way, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 10-13-16;
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 11-19-15
- 143 Donald Drive, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 1822 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 10-20-16
- 325 Rheem Boulevard, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 1836 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 10-18-16;
Previous Sale: \$717,000, 11-15-05
- 25 Sanders Ranch Road, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 2514 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 10-25-16;
Previous Sale: \$975,000, 09-26-03
- 103 Sanders Ranch Road, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2735 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 10-14-16;
Previous Sale: \$487,500, 05-02-89
- 227 Scofield Drive, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1819 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 10-13-16

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- 15 Acacia Drive, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1581 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 10-14-16
- 73 Bates Boulevard, \$1,323,000, 5 Bdrms, 2606 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 10-19-16;
Previous Sale: \$64,900, 04-20-73
- 19 Bel Air Drive, \$2,310,000, 5 Bdrms, 3178 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-14-16;
Previous Sale: \$465,000, 06-25-96
- 5 Darnby Court, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1942 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 10-24-16;
Previous Sale: \$87,000, 07-15-76
- 99 Donna Maria Way, \$1,330,000, 4 Bdrms, 2146 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 10-25-16
- 42 Ivy Drive, \$1,020,000, 3 Bdrms, 1441 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 10-14-16;
Previous Sale: \$812,500, 09-24-04
- 10 Lost Valley Drive, \$1,030,000, 4 Bdrms, 1689 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 10-13-16
- 516 Miner Road, \$1,675,000, 3 Bdrms, 3529 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 10-17-16;
Previous Sale: \$63,000, 01-10-77
- 245 Orchard Road, \$1,218,000, 3 Bdrms, 2383 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-25-16;
Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 07-12-05
- 4 Overhill Road, \$1,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 2152 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 10-14-16;
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 02-27-07
- 67 Tara Road, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 4125 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 10-18-16;
Previous Sale: \$775,000, 05-20-94

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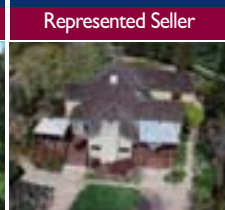
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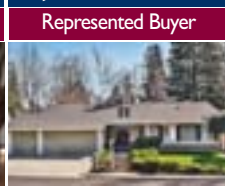
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Stylish Solutions

Embrace the Designs of the Season

By Ann McDonald



Unique Thanksgiving decorations can be made from everyday finds. Don't stress and enjoy the process.

Photo provided

It's that time of year when sanctuary, family, celebration, and yes, a bit of stress starts to settle in. The magazines show us what an idealized November looks like, with perfect pictures, perfect table settings, and not a messy child, unruly relative or stressed-out host in sight.

We look at the photos flooding our social media and grocery store checkout lines, then we go home and see piles of unopened mail, boxes of mismatched china we barely put away from last year's celebrations, our sagging sofas, dog hair filled corners, or worse, our perfectly staged but empty-of-process and empty-of-people homes....and wonder.

What now? How do I navigate this so-called season of joy, when I'm not seeing it in my actual spaces and places? This month, Stylish Suburbanite, I'd like to offer some practical help in the form of a single word:

embrace.

We must stay away from perfectly staged homes void of process and movement. As a luxury designer, one of the most valuable things I do is imbue permission for life to flow, books to be read, and to break the spirit of perfectionism which often lingers in new design commissions where pictures form the idealized look.

Don't get me wrong, I can spot a one-eighth of an inch off in a stack of books a room away; however there is a massive difference between poor design masquerading as process (read: messy and disordered) versus so-called great design masquerading as dead, immovable interiors, where even the presence of humanity ruins a look.

I happen to believe beauty through design process can shift things, from our soul's perspective, and bring

hope into situations and birth new life from celebrations, even when those celebrations don't look like the magazine photos and staged events pushed on us every season. Beauty in process is quite practical!

Here are some tips to "embrace" November:

1) Embrace: your current season of life. If you have young children or pets at home, organic snacks dropped on the floor are an entirely appropriate seasonal décor item. The pets will think they are pennies from heaven, and your real beauty is in not needing the perfectionism mentioned above. Process is lovely. Anyone who renders a design judgment because you have young kids and or pets, with the requisite toys or dog hair, isn't actually a designer. Why? Because they don't understand the beauty of process. Design in its purest form is about process.

2) Embrace: decorating anyway. If you are like we are, with an empty house, where most things actually stay in the place we put them, and that "void-of-life perfectionism thing" can start to creep in...decorate anyway! I can't tell you how often clients let us know "we won't be decorating this season because it's just us."

I happen to think "just us" is a holy and wonderful thing! Did you decorate when you were first married? Then decorate now! Didn't decorate when you were first together because you were broke? Then decorate now! Embrace the beauty together. Find something you both love. Beauty has a place in every space, and the natural shift of season should mirror what goes on inside our sanctuary homes as well. As the earth decorates with color changes, weather change and even the animals move habitations, we need to take our cues and do the same. At the very least change the center hall table arrangement, or the family room shelves.

3) Embrace change with anticipation of good. Change carries a resonance. What you bring in, whether it's live and natural or you prefer the kitsch of seasonal styles (there is a beloved place for both), the resonance of hope you find and the bits of discovery from the "joy of the shop" will fill your home with the same.

... continued on page D6

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The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

By Andi Peterson Brown

It's beginning to look a lot like the most wonderful time of the year. And if your home is still on the market, you might be contemplating pulling it for the winter. Hold that thought. Even though real estate activity tends to decline during November and December, the season can in fact be a great opportunity to showcase your home in its holiday best.

Buyers who are out looking during the holidays are usually more serious about their search. To capture their hearts and secure a sale, here are some quick and easy tips for holiday staging.

Keep it natural, keep it simple. While it might be tempting to display your cardboard cut-out Buddy the Elf or put your Clark Griswold skills to the test, it's best to keep things simple and natural at your front door. Beautiful wreaths, poinsettias, and tasteful, classic twinkle lights will put buyers in the spirit and make a lasting first impression.

Keep it natural, keep it neutral. It's important for buyers to see themselves living in your home, and universals such as winter greenery, decorative candles, pine cones, and glass jars of candy canes and marshmallows all invoke the warmth of the holidays and spread good cheer to the widest pool of buyers.

These tips, coupled with the fact that Lamorinda has a very low housing supply, might just make the difference for that one buyer. And remember: it only takes one.



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Embrace the Designs of the Season

... continued from page D4



I often marvel at the process of designing seasonal décor for our clients. What starts out as a chore to them, or at the very least a "social obligation" becomes this window into childlike hope where at one moment in time, all things are actually possible.

What you design and bring matters and shifts things! The beauty you create in process with design in the private spaces of your homes, and the public front porches for friends and neighbors in Lamorinda to drive by and be encouraged with, changes the atmosphere in our cities and towns as a whole.

Embrace the beauty, embrace the process and embrace the resonance.

If you would like to join us for a free webinar on Design for the Holidays, this completely free event is hosted online. I will be sharing tips and encouragement for you and yours this season so our beloved Lamorinda can arise and shine brightly as a place of refuge, restoration and hope! You may register for free here: <https://annmcdonald.easywebinar.live/holiday-design-free-event-registration>.



Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. For a complete blog post including other design ideas, visit www.couturechateau.com/blog.



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Digging Deep

Growing Gratitude in the Garden

... continued from page D1

As annoying as they can be, I'm happy to co-exist with the wild things. You may want to collect a few of the beautiful turkey feathers as I do to add to your holiday bouquets.

Persimmon trees are bursting with orange tangy fruit, ready for our holiday puddings. Fall is still showing off its brilliant robes of reds, yellows and gold, yet there is a nip in the air reminding us that winter is a little over a month away. Pumpkins and gourds are still a seasonal favorite. Native to North America,

pumpkins are a vegetable, not a fruit, genus Cucurbita, species pepo or maxima. They are a type of winter squash and the really weird, ugly ones are the most delicious. The blue-green pumpkins you are growing or have purchased are derived from New Zealand. Cook them as their golden-yellow flesh boasts a sweet, mild aromatic flavor. Were you repelled by the warty pumpkins you saw in markets this year? Don't be. Those ugly growths are actually sugar secretions. The more warty

the pumpkin, the smoother, creamier, and sweeter the flesh inside. Make a pumpkin puree for dinner, or a scrumptious pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving and you'll be hooked.

As we soon bid farewell to fall, let us all keep gratitude in our hearts as we look for the fertile joys that sprout with simplicity. Believe something wonderful is about to transpire.

Grow and glow in gratefulness.



Although a bit marbled, hydrangeas maintain their fall interest.



Were you wondering what happened to the turkey eggs? They hatched!



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Cynthia Brian's Mid-month Garden Reminders

- **PLANT** Woodland Herbaceous Peonies, a separate species of herbaceous peony that thrive in the shade. Naturalizing in a deciduous woodland area with the early spring sun and summer shade, they will grow to one-and-a-half-feet tall and self-seed as a ground cover. Woodland peonies provide three-season appeal with delicate white flowers in early spring, lush green foliage throughout the growing seasons, and dramatic indigo and scarlet seed pods in the fall. <http://peony-senvy.com>.
- **LOOKING** for a preplanned garden selection? High Country Gardens offers deer and drought resistant plants that have color, texture, and curb appeal. www.highcountrygardens.com,
- **PRUNE** those thorny creepers, bougainvillea, now to remove old flowers. Cover with burlap if exposed in an area that gets frost.
- **COLLECT** turkey feathers to add to bouquets to wreaths for Thanksgiving.
- **PICK** persimmons. Fuyu persimmons can be eaten like apples but the hachiyas must be mushy ripe before eating.
- **PUREE** warty pumpkins for the sweetest, smoothest, most delicious pumpkin dish you'll ever taste. Obviously, don't puree the skins!
- **CUT** branches from liquid amber or Japanese maple trees to use indoors for a punch of end of fall color.
- **PLANT** your spring bulbs now through January to enjoy a meadow of continuous flowers next year.
- **PICK** up pansies to plant for winter. 2017 has been named The Year of the Pansy.
- **ADD** a cover crop to your garden to fix the nitrogen and make green manure for spring. Austrian winter pea has delicious edible pee shoots. Other great mulching cover crops include clover, mustard and vetch.
- **DISCOVER** a tree to climb with your kids. It's that time of year!
- **CULTIVATE** ornamental grasses for low-maintenance and drought tolerate plantings. Maiden hair grass, blonde ambition grass, feather reed grass, and silky thread grass are a few of the lesser known but easily propagated species.
- **TRAIN** rambling and vining plants on a trellis or tall support for a spectacular vertical garden wherever space is lacking.



Pick a few branches from a liquid amber tree to enhance your interiors.

- **SOW** wildflower seeds that will attract pollinators, hummingbirds and beneficial bugs.
- **PRUNE** all perennials when finished blooming. Add the stems and spent flowers to the compost pile.
- **FERTILIZE** lawns.
- **GIVE** thanks every day for something. Keeping a gratitude journal alongside your garden guide is a great tool for remembering to be grateful.



Warty pumpkins have the sweetest and most delicious flesh.

Thank you, thank you for being my special gardening gang. I am humbled to be your guide on the side. There is no such thing as a brown thumb, just one that hasn't turned green yet!

Happy gardening and happy growing! Happy Thanksgiving and Turkey Day!



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Cleaning and thinning your trees may reduce the potential storm hazards without compromising the shade. In some situations the risk of failure cannot be reduced without removal of branches. Remember that healthy structurally sound trees are generally wind fast even when mature.

Storm damage is usually, but not always, related to structural problems that could have been addressed with proper structural training when the tree was young. Co dominant (two trunks with a narrow angle of attachment) trunks account for many trees failures. The hazard of wind damage is higher on the regrowth of trees that have been "topped".

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Cynthia Brian with her Thanksgiving and fall bouquet with a turkey feather.

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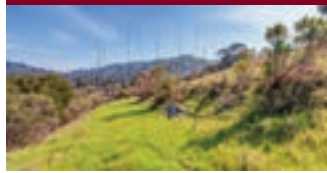
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407 Miner Road Contemporary Estate for lease in OCC with 3 beds, 3 baths, 4213 sq. ft. on amazing 1+ acre lot. High ceilings, spacious rooms, walls of glass. Pool/ spa, tennis court, gardens, redwoods & views! **\$8,500**

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4 Quail Ridge Lane This 2.87 acre lot enjoys spectacular valley views, filled with mature trees. Complete with approved plans to built 3276 sq. ft. home. Great loc. not far from downtown, BART & award winning schools. **\$650,000**

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220 Camino Sobrante Special location on the lake. Classic, wood crafted 4bd/4ba home has great use of space on two levels, ideal for comfortable living & entertaining. Bonus sports court. Alluring setting of beauty & privacy. **\$1,695,000**

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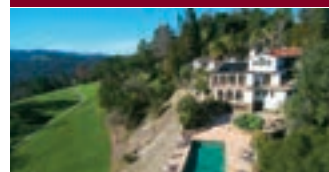
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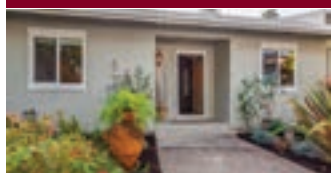
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818 Augusta Drive Bright & spacious! Great location backs to water feature. 3 beds + versatile bonus rm. Updated kitchen, updated 2.5 baths. Hdwd flrs & wall to wall carpeting. Enjoy all MCC amenities. Top-rated schools! **\$875,000**

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New Price

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MORAGA



9 Shannon Court Sanders Ranch estate property over 1.5 acres, 4966 sq. ft., Chef's kitchen, hardwood, new carpet, fresh paint, pool, ideal indoor/ outdoor living spaces. **\$3,125,000**

LAFAYETTE



3 Dollis Park Road Large 4bd/3.5ba, 4090 sq. ft. home w/ideal functional floor plan. Lovely kitchen/ family rm + bonus rec. rm. Luxurious master suite. Great guest bedroom w/bath is ideal for separation of space. **\$1,489,000**

PLEASANT HILL



20 Whitfield Court Great parcel at top of knoll with views of Mount Diablo and ideal privacy. Truly special setting sites for development zoned R-10 & R-15. Wonderful opportunity for investment. **\$1,495,000**

SAN LEANDRO



New Listing

1452 Lark Street Desirable single family home with large yard, refinished hardwood floors, dual pane windows, garage with storage & more. Mature trees, shed with covered workshop area. **\$449,000**



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