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Wednesday, May 11, 2011

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Photo Andy Scheck

Whole Foods Welcomes Shoppers Soon

By Cathy Tyson

Mark your calendars, on May 18 at 10:00 a.m. Lafayette's Whole Foods Market will be officially open for business. Lamorinda Weekly staff got a special sneak preview while the store was still nearing completion. This will be the fifth East Bay location for the Austin, Texas based natural and organic food retailer.

"Whole Foods Market is so excited to be a part of the Lamorinda community," said Gary Ramirez, Store Team Leader for Lafayette. "We look forward to being a trusted neighborhood resource where folks can learn about healthy eating, pick up nutritious and delicious foods for their families, take a break from cycling and enjoy lunch on our gorgeous outdoor patio and really feel at home."

A special celebration is planned for Lamorinda residents on Sunday, May 15 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the parking lot featuring local vendors sampling their delicious products, arts and crafts, even sneak-peek store tours. Hungry carnivores can nosh on a variety of locally sourced barbequed meat at the parking lot party: Field to Family air chilled chicken, Diestel turkey, Panorama 100 percent grass-fed organic beef and Pozzi grass-fed lamb.

... continued on page A8

Quote of the Week:
 "At the end of the day, it is our students who are the true beneficiaries of your commitment to their educational program."
Read Measure B Update, page A3

Advertising

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Village ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE

Why We Love Lamorinda – On Film

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By Sophie Braccini



From left: Jason Alexander, Grant Stubblefield, Derek Zemrak, Police Chief Robert Priebe, Beau Behan, Dorian MacNeil, Fire Chief Darrell Lee, Christian Knox, Edy Schwartz. In front, Orinda winner Will Knox. Not pictured, Lafayette winners Ted Fuller and Norma Lent. Photo Doug Kohen

Once a year, Lamorinda's three Chambers of Commerce meet to share perspectives and mingle. Recently it was Moraga's turn to host the meeting; the location was the New Rheem Theatre – in such a venue, the screening of first-run cinematic masterpieces seemed only

natural. So a contest was launched, with precise parameters: Residents were asked to submit a three-minute video exploring why they love to live, work, and play in their town or city. A diverse set of about a dozen entries was received, from a simple slide show to an elaborate movie with a script and sound track; from a goofy inspiration to a conventional community presentation. There was one winner per community. Ted Fuller and Norma Lent took the prize for Lafayette with a charming interpretation of a song from My Fair Lady, "On the Street Where You Live." The Moraga Police Department's winning entry disproved the notion that cops don't have a sense of humor. Orinda had only one entry but Will Knox, a 6th grader at Orinda Intermediate School, truly deserved the reward that came with first place. Jay Lifson, the Executive Director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, surely had a hard time choosing the winning film for Lafayette. Fuller and Lent, two senior Lafayette residents, created a piece that was attentively produced, matching every word of their remix with images of Lafayette. "I took a class on videotaping at De La Salle," explained Fuller, "The movie was a class project to be taken to the City Council for presentation or for taking action." His wife rewrote the lyrics of the famous show tune, which they sang together. ... continued on page A8

Sports D1-D3

We Knew it All Along
 GreatSchools.org ranks Lamorinda schools among the best

BEST SCHOOLS
 By Sophie Braccini
 Did you hear that Lamorinda has the best schools around? A recent Forbes magazine article has been all the buzz of late, and generated national attention to results compiled by a non-profit organization, GreatSchools.org, ...
 ...read on page B1

Life in Lamorinda B1-C6

NASA Photos from Space Make an Impact on Students

By Cathy Tyson
 "The universe is a big puzzle, we are figuring it out one piece at a time," said Dr. Margaret Race at a special program, "From the Earth to the Universe," for students in grades five through twelve. With a fabulous PowerPoint ...
 ... read on page C5

Our Homes F1-F12

Lafayette Artist Delivers Funky Custom Mailboxes

By Cathy Tyson
 It all started a number of years ago when teenagers came through a quiet Lafayette neighborhood and smashed mailboxes. Structural engineer and homeowner Ken Hughes looked for an artistic solution and voila, the mailbox dog was born.
 ...read on page F8



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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, May 23, 7:00 pm Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Monday, May 16, 7:00 pm Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, May 23, 7:00 pm Lafayette Library & Learning Center in the Arts & Science Discovery Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette: www.ci.lafayette.ca.us

Chamber of Commerce: www.lafayettechamber.org

Lafayette Farmers' Market Open for the Season

By Cathy Tyson



In addition to fresh fruits and veggies, shoppers can find local, prepared foods

Photo Andy Scheck

Produce, get your farm fresh produce. Beautiful tomatoes, asparagus, lovely strawberries and more were ripe and ready to rumble at the Plaza Park last Thursday. Under sunny skies with great music from El Desayuno, a salsa and Latin jazz band celebrating Cinco de Mayo, a steady stream of shoppers came armed with cash and shopping

bags for opening day. The music and fresh produce along with gourmet bread and jam can be found every Thursday from now until September 29 with new hours from 3:30 to 7:00 to be more convenient for families picking up their kids from school. Just like last year, look for the Veggie Valet to assist with your purchases. It's like a coat check

– just drop off your bags, and come back with your car to easily drive to the loading zone for quick pick up. With thirty-one vendors, it's impossible to list all of them, but keep an eye out for Alhambra Valley Pears, J & J Farms, Steve's Bees, Hamada Farms and Free Wheeling Farm along with Metropolis Baking Company and Cottage Kitchen.

Unique vendor My Own Harvest sells Tool Free Raised Bed Kits to make your own organic garden.

Opening day also featured a booth with the Lamorinda Weekly's own favorite chef, Susie Iventosch. She was preparing and handing out delicious samples of Pistachio Pesto Penne with Spring Asparagus and a Strawberry Glaze Pie*. "As a cook, there is nothing more fun than perusing the farmers' markets to see, feel, and sometimes even sample, the weekly harvest," said Iventosch. "The textures, colors, and scents all work in harmony to help us design meal ideas for the week! The Thursday Lafayette Farmers' Market is a wonderful mid-week respite from the hustle and bustle world that our daily lives otherwise inhabit."

Starting May 19, every third Thursday is Market and a Movie night. Kicking off the line-up is a screening of ET. Look for How to Train your Dragon on June 16, Raiders of the Lost Ark on July 21, and finally on August 18 Finding Nemo.

The market is run by Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Markets, a not for profit organization established in 1982. They seek to cultivate local sustainable farming and provide a community gathering place with healthy and organic food.

*Find the recipe for Susie's Strawberry Glaze Pie on page C6

Patio Approved for Clocktower Tenant Patxi's Pizza

By Cathy Tyson

How wide is wide enough? Balancing the needs of pedestrians and accommodating groups of hungry diners anxious to dive into some deep dish pizza is no easy task. Throw in a sidewalk tree and parking meters along with room for wait staff and a fence to corral patrons, all add to the list of factors that weigh in on a making a decision. While the City Council is generally supportive of the concept, and agree that outdoor dining adds vibrancy to the downtown, working out the details is the tricky part.

Pah-cheese, is still under construction in the Clocktower building, in the space that used to house Douglah Designs. They requested an encroachment permit to use some of the sidewalk space for an outdoor patio area fronting Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Because the building is actually set three to four feet back from the property line, only half of the proposed patio would be on the city owned sidewalk.

Architect Sudhish Mohindroo with SZFM Design Studio came up with decorative metal rails and portable planters to delineate the patio from the sidewalk space. The fence is required by the Country in order to serve alcohol. The patio design will hold three tables for four and a community table that can accommodate up to eight and room for wait staff to bring pizza and dishes back and forth to the kitchen. This leaves a public right of way of eight and a half feet of usable sidewalk space.

At a prior meeting the City Council asked the architect to address some design concerns regarding the patio and the amount of available sidewalk space for pedestrians and especially handicapped pedestrians.

Noting outdoor dining at nearby restaurants like Panda Express, Yankee Pier, Pizza Antica and Baja Fresh, Mohindroo explained that he wanted to create an attractive destination, not just a through-fare block on Mt. Diablo. Most council members agreed the width of the sidewalk was adequate, in fact the width of the sidewalk varies throughout the downtown. "Great design" said Mayor Anduri commenting on the patio, "It adds a lot of vitality." ... continued on next page



Police Report

Sticks, stones and bricks...4/27/11 A man threw a brick at a woman, hitting her left arm. He then threw a brick through her front window. Authorities were notified, and the suspect fled. The victim refused medical attention. The suspect hung up on police when they tried contacting him by phone.

And on 5/3/11 Someone smashed the front door and entered a Dewing Avenue apartment, stealing \$5400 worth of goods and causing \$2,000 in damage.

Park n' Rob, 4/29 A bold thief/thieves made off with contents from two SUVs parked along Pleasant Hill Road. Each snatch & grab resulted in over \$800 missing property and \$250 damages.

Lots of glass...little to show 4/25 A residential burglary on Hillcrest Drive left a front window pane and rear sliding door smashed as the perp struggled to gain entry. Cabinet drawers were pulled open but no major electronics went missing.

"Death" of a Salesman 4/27 Police put a stop to someone soliciting (selling books) without a permit near Happy Valley School on April 27. The seller's boss had been informed of his employee's wayward actions. Police collected checks and money from the seller and returned them to the owners.

Ask...and you shan't receive 4/26 Just because you present a check at a bank doesn't mean they'll cash it. One fellow found this out as he attempted to cash a fraudulent check at Chase Bank. When questioned by the teller, the scoundrel left the bank without the check...or the money.

Stealing from children...4/28/11 Someone kicked in and broke the door to a storage unit on Mt. Diablo Blvd, intending to steal the contents. The unit holds donations for children in Zimbabwe; fortunately nothing was taken.



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Lafayette's Measure B Parcel Tax Passes

By Cathy Tyson

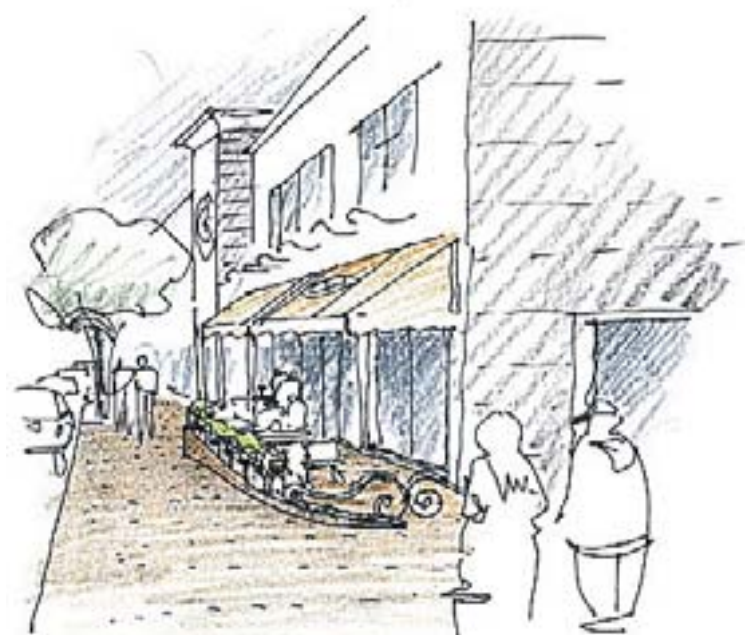
With nine of nine precincts reporting, it's official, the Lafayette School District Parcel Tax measure passed with 74.19% of the vote. Measure B, a \$176 per parcel tax for the next four years, easily met the two-thirds yes votes required to pass. The measure will raise \$1.5 million annually to preserve core academic funding in math, science and technology, along with art and music programs, classroom computers and more.

Opponents complained about the senior citizen exemption and a one size fits all cost to land owners, who pay the same \$176 per year regardless of parcel size.

Calling it a vote of confidence for extraordinary teacher and support staff, Lafayette School District Superintendent Dr. Fred Bill couldn't be happier, "The success of the election is a testament to the community's commitment to maintaining a public education of the highest quality. The citizens of Lafayette have a long history of doing whatever it takes to ensure that we, educators, have the necessary resources and support to provide the richest educational experience for all students." He adds, "At the end of the day, it is our students who are the true beneficiaries of your commitment to their educational program."

Patio Approved for Clocktower Tenant Patxi's Pizza

... continued from page A2



Artist's rendering of recently approved patio for Patxi's Pizza. Image courtesy of SZFM Design Studio.

"We're very excited," said co-founder of Patxi's and General Manager of the Lafayette location Tara Fawcett, explaining that they plan to open later this month, anticipating a soft opening when the construction is complete around May 16.

It's interesting to note that Mohindroo is no stranger to Lafayette. He has worked on the design of La Fiesta Square,

Plaza Park, and the Mercantile project, and headed up a consulting team that designed the development drawings of the approved, \$1.3 million Downtown Streetscape Project, funded primarily with a grant that will improve Mt. Diablo Boulevard from Trader Joe's to the Round Up. The streetscape project is slated to start in the next few months.



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Moraga

Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, May 11, 7:00 pm
Wednesday, May 25, 7:00 pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, May 16, 7:30 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, May 23, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Liaison

Friday, May 13, 8:00 am
Fire Station, 1280 Moraga Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Police Report

Crack leads to meth paraphernalia, 4/11/11 At Moraga Road and Devin Drive, cops stopped a red Kia for a broken windshield. Turns out police were familiar with the 21-year-old driver, from an unspecified prior contact, usually not a good sign. Two glass pipes and one plastic straw that can be used to smoke methamphetamine were found in the car. He was taken to jail.

Hit and run at Safeway, 4/22/11 A witness saw a green Audi A8 impact the driver's side rear bumper of a Honda Pilot in the Safeway parking lot. The driver of the Audi allegedly left the scene without exchanging information.

Stolen car found, 4/22/11 A Toyota was stolen from a Sanders Drive residence sometime during the night, but was found in San Pablo – apparently abandoned. No leads at this time, but cops get points for finding the car so darn promptly.

Second stolen car found, 4/23/11 A stolen car was parked on Sanders Drive near the home location of the Toyota listed above. Looks like the car thief was switching cars. No suspects but physical evidence was collected. The found car was returned to the owner.

Attempted burglary for booze, 4/24/11 On Easter Sunday a juvenile suspect was detained by Birchwood Drive homeowners for illegally entering the garage to steal alcohol. The homeowner and the kid's parents agreed to handle the issue – so no charges were pressed.

Loud party, 4/24/11 In the very early hours of Easter Sunday, at just after 1:00 a.m., cops responded to a Lakefield Drive residence to check on a report of a loud party. Turns out it was indeed loud, and, in fact, a party. Police broke up the fiesta and the tenants were issued a Loud Party Warning notice.



Look Forward to Coming Home to Lamorinda

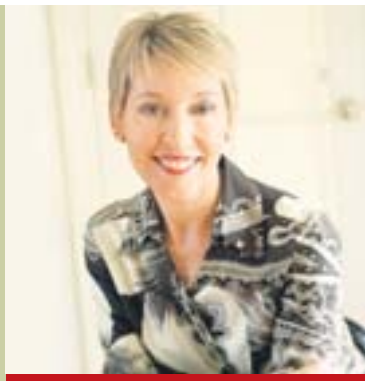
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Keep Them Wild

And off the streets... and out of yards (turkeys, that is)

By Sophie Braccini

Following a resident's complaint that turkeys are becoming a nuisance in the Town of Moraga, Chief of Police Robert Priebe reported on the current situation and possible regulation at a recent Town Council meeting. "A large part of the problem is that people feed turkeys," said the Chief, "They reproduce, congregate in large rafters and lose their fear of men."

Priebe explained that the turkey issue is not one that the Town can regulate; residents who have problems with the animals should contact Nicole Kosicki, the Fish and Games Warden for the Town of Moraga, who will ascertain the degree of depredation. If a nuisance is found, the resident can ask for the removal of the animal(s) by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG).

The real solution is to make sure that the birds keep their natural fear of humans.

According to the DFG, California's wild turkeys now occupy about 18 percent of our state. They were imported from the East Coast about 100 years ago as upland game birds. Many people like to see the turkeys

wandering in the hills and wooded areas, but only from afar. The "Keep Me Wild" campaign material produced by the DFG indicates that adult wild turkeys, which can weigh upwards of 20 pounds, can destroy flowers and vegetable gardens, leave their droppings on patios and decks, and roost on cars, scratching the paint.

In the same document, DFG touches on how to control the turkey population. "Hunting turkeys helps to control their populations and maintain their natural wariness of people. Where safe and legal, hunt wild turkeys on your property, or allow others to hunt them." Please note that the discharging of firearms is not allowed within Town limits (see Title 9, Public Peace and Welfare, on the Town's new website).

During the meeting, Council Member Dave Trotter asked Priebe if hunting turkeys with a bow and arrow would be permitted in season in the Town of Moraga. Priebe confirmed that as long as the arrows remain inside a private yard, there's nothing that specifically prohibits that use. He noted that the Town does have an or-

dinance that prohibits the use of bows and arrows in the public parks. The spring archery season for hunting wild turkeys starts the last Saturday in March and lasts for 51 consecutive days – that's May 21. (Read a related article in our archives at www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0106/pdf/fowlplay.pdf)

The resident who raised the turkey issue, Kiwanis President John Haffner, regretted that the matter was not considered more seriously by the Council. "To snicker at this is not the

right thing to do," he said, "if we need to spend money let's do it, it is a sanitation issue; I press staff to find a solution."

Council Member Mike Metcalf asked Kosicki what to do if a rafter of turkeys blocked car circulation and became a public hazard. "Drivers do not have to stop for turkeys," said Kosicki, "and if there is an immediate danger, the Police Department can go and shoot the turkeys."

No action was taken by the Council.



Action Team Charts Ambitious Course

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Economic Development Action Team has given itself five months to set in motion what others have only attempted to study. By September, the Team plans to meet two goals: write a retail ordinance that will give predictability of outcome to businesses that are applying for a use permit in Moraga, and engage partners in the revitalization of the Rheem Center. Team members will meet the third Wednesday evening of every month, and will be doing a lot of homework between meetings.

"Whatever plan is sketched by the Town or (the Team), it will take the business owners' buy-in to become a reality," commented commercial real estate broker and Team member Dave Schnayer, who also represents Kimco Realty, the company that owns the majority of the Rheem Center. Schnayer brings the property owner's perspective to the table, as well as his past experience as the property manager of the

Rheem Center, "three owners ago," he recalled.

One possible plan to revive the shopping center that sports a plethora of "For Lease" signs was mentioned by Team member Hollie Lucas-Alcalay at a recent meeting. "The Town has overbuilt retail," she said, "are we setting these (new) businesses up for failure if we don't have the population to support them?" She wondered if it might be time to explore other options, such as mix-use for the Center. Planning Director Lori Salamack concurred, but Town Council Member Howard Harpham noted, "The owners may already have a strategy; we are not working with a blank slate."

After the meeting, Schnayer explained that there are at least seven different property owners in the Rheem Center that are bound together by commercial contracts that define the use of the Center, despite any new zoning the Town might approve. However, "the property owners can't do it alone, and com-

mercial real estate can't do it alone either," added Schnayer.

According to Team member Renee Zeimer, the Town needs a vision. "We need to define what we want to see happen," she said, "Since the community does not want to grow, we have to become a destination, give people a reason to take that road."

The first concrete task the Team is taking on is the drafting of a retail ordinance. During previous discussions, Town Manager Jill Keimach indicated that the purpose of such an ordinance would be to define acceptable business uses for the Town, so businesses that fit the definition would be able to get a use permit 'over the counter'; while less obvious businesses would have to go through a more complex process. "The ordinance will remove the uncertainty that presently can make the process frustrating," she said.

The next Team meeting will be on May 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hacienda de las Flores.

New Businesses at Rheem?

News of a produce store coming to the Rheem Center has come and gone over the past few months. The offspring of Walnut Creek Produce, on Olympic Boulevard, is back according to commercial real estate broker Dave Schnayer. "The deal is not done," he said recently, "but it is very close." Schnayer indicated that the property owners will want to work with the local community, from the farmers on the supply side, to restaurants and senior facilities on the consumer side.

Schnayer also confirmed that he is working with a Moraga family interested in opening a frozen yogurt store next to Lamorinda Pizza. "Those would be great additions to the Center," he said.

New and Improved: The Town of Moraga Website

By Sophie Braccini



It's been a long time coming, but the Town of Moraga recently launched its new web site. Now when residents go online at www.moraga.ca.us, they experience the new face of the Town: friendly, helpful, efficient... and good looking. There are still a few glitches, but the main objectives have been reached – residents can find relevant

and current information, the site can be easily updated by staff members so the content will stay fresh and relevant, without increasing their workload. "We have a very dynamic web site that will change constantly," said Town Engineer Jill Mercurio in presenting the new site at the April 27 Town Council meeting, "our objective was to make the

site very user friendly and informative."

Each department will maintain its own page and decide on the content. The Planning Department, to illustrate, added a FAQ for homeowners and uploaded photos. The website provides access to multiple resources, and it's clear that a lot of thought went into how an average

person would go about finding what he or she needs – for example, agendas for upcoming meetings can be found on the left column and can be accessed through the general calendar or at the bottom of each page where committees and commissions are listed with their respective meeting schedules. Minutes of previous meetings are also included, which improves government transparency.

"I felt that I wanted to do this web site since I moved here nine years ago," said Tiraporn Olsen of Happy Pixel Studio in Moraga, which designed the new web site, "I solicited them so many times." When the request for public bids went out last year, Happy Pixel made the most competitive offer. "Everything is easy to update, we created a new process on how to do things and we combine usability and accessibility," said Olsen, "so they can work quicker and smarter."

The new site's web master is Town accountant Yuliya Elbo, but ten staff members have been trained in how to update the site.

New Orinda Listing



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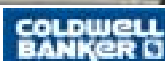


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Repairing Moraga Road

By Sophie Braccini

It was nearly three years ago that the East Bay Municipal Utility District excavated Moraga Road in order to set new pipes. An unpleasant repercussion of this endeavor was the failing of the rubber cape seal that was applied to the roadway between Draeger and Ascot, a problem that went unresolved for a long time. Town Engineer/Public Works Director Jill Mercurio has been in extended negotiations with the contractor. With the added muscle of Town Manager Jill Keimach and Town Attorney Michelle Kenyon, an agreement was finally reached and approved by the Town Council on April 23; that immediately translated into roadwork that affected

traffic the first week of May – work that did not come without cost to the Town. The resurfacing of the road was financed by federal stimulus money in 2009. Many towns rushed to get projects done; International Surfacing Systems (ISS), the contractor that won the Moraga bid, also contracted with other Bay Area cities for the same type of rubber cape seal. Most of their resurfacing failed. “We had used that technology (rubber cape seal) very successfully on Canyon Road,” said Mercurio, “but it has to be done the right way, at the right temperature. We have no reason to believe that ISS will not do a good job this

time.” The long argument between the Town and ISS was due to the fact that the contractor wanted to pay only for patching the affected area, which was its contractual obligation; the Town wanted a total resurfacing of the area and the addition of a Microsurface treatment, something Mercurio described as a “slurry seal on steroids.” The cost of the repairs is being split evenly between the Town and ISS; the hit to Town coffers is \$112,000. Council Member Ken Chew questioned why the Town had to foot half the bill. “This is a failure of performance, why are they getting away with this?” asked Chew. “We would have had to go through



Long lines of cars as the road is repaved Photo Sophie Braccini

a much lengthier process,” responded Kenyon, explaining, “Staff made a decision that will not require the payment of more legal fees and results in preventing further degradation of the road.” Mercurio added that she believes Moraga negotiated a better deal than other municipali-

ties. “Rohnert Park paid the whole cost of the repairs, and in Martinez ISS patched the ruts, but the city paid for the total cost of the Microsurfacing,” she said. ISS has repaired the failed areas and applied the Microsurface to the entire project limits.



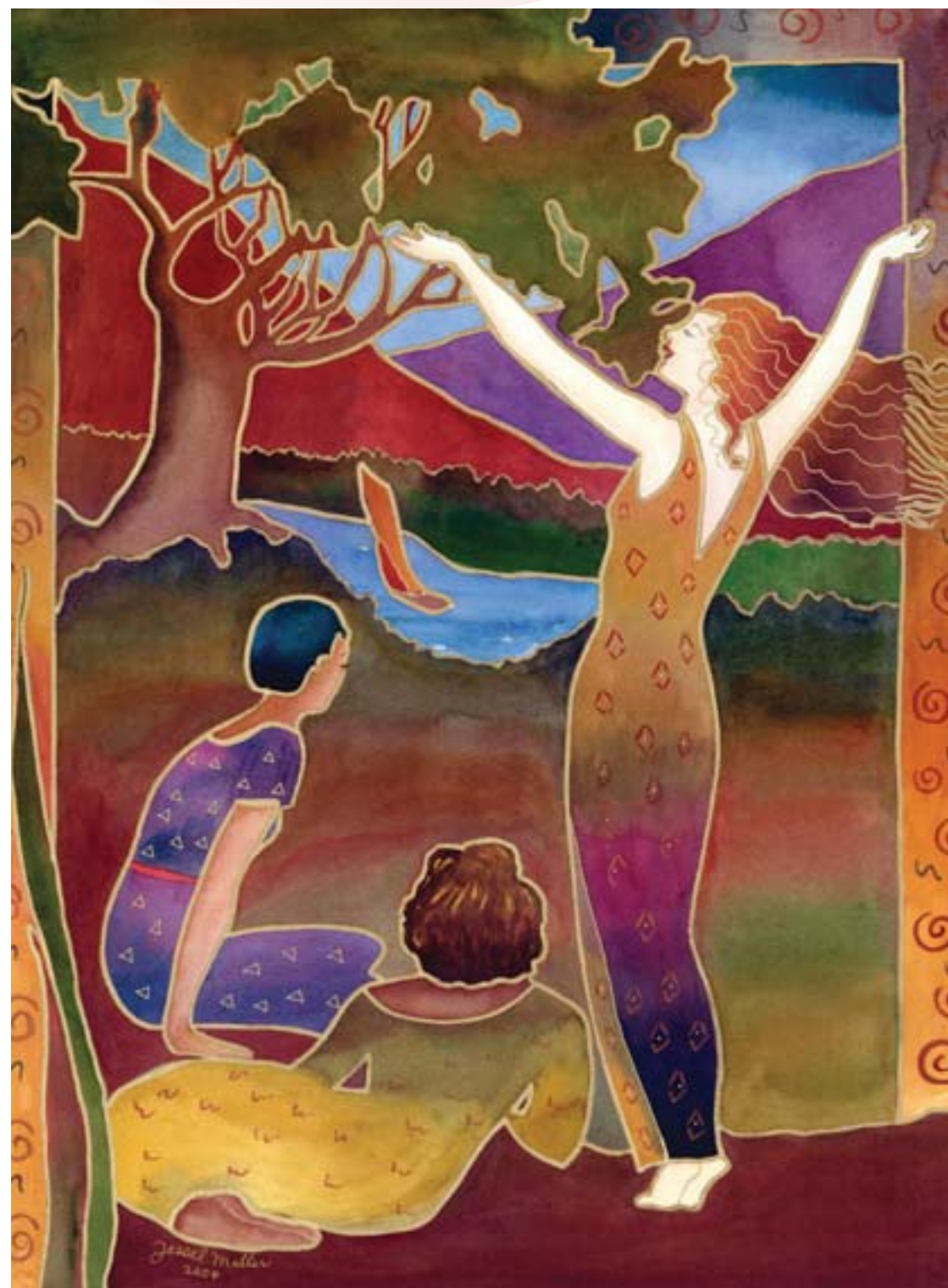
Coming Soon in Moraga

Tonight, May 11: The Moraga Town Council will hear public comments on the proposed closure of the post office on Country Club Drive; 7:00 p.m. in the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium.

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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council
Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)
Monday, May 16, 7:00 pm
Community Room, City Hall,
22 Orinda Way

Planning Commission
Tuesday, May 24, at 7:00 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Orinda:
www.cityoforinda.org

Chamber of Commerce:
www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:
www.orindaassociation.org

Council Deals with Road Repairs and Woes

By Andrea A. Firth

Urgent and emergency road repairs were the main topics of discussion at last Tuesday's Orinda City Council meeting. The Council continued to grapple with how to best apply the City's limited funds for road repairs and what to do about the growing reality that the City's streets will turn to gravel without significant intervention. "We need to engage in communicating with the residents [about the infrastructure problem] in an ambitious way," stated Vice Mayor Steve Glazer. Council Member Amy Worth concurred, "It's a two-part message. We need to communicate the poor condition of Orinda's infrastructure and the financial realities, that is, our capabilities to address this and the limitations we face."

When it came time to authorize expenditures, the Council focused on the repair of major arteries and unsafe road conditions. The Council authorized \$1.16 million for the City's annual pavement rehabilitation program to repair eight of Orinda's main feeder streets. The Council also took the first step to fund the repair of a section of El Toyonal Road that was damaged by a slide during the heavy rains in March. The total cost of this road repair is expected to reach \$220,000. "This project will deplete our slope stabilization fund [monies set aside for urgent slide repairs], and the likelihood that we will be able to replenish that fund in the next couple years doesn't look good," said City Manager Janet Keeter.

Another \$63,750 was set aside for urgent repairs on six Orinda streets. Council members Glazer and Worth questioned how these six street repairs were chosen over the many streets in desperate need of fixing and requested that staff and the Citizen's Infrastructure Oversight Committee (CIOC) formalize the criteria and rationale for urgent repair program. "We strongly support this program," said Richard Nelson, Chair of the CIOC. "It's preventative. We can't let our roads go to gravel. We need a solution to this problem."

To move forward toward solutions to address the roads problem, Glazer advocated the formation of a Council subcommittee. "If we hope to do some-

thing in 2012, we need to start now to review the process and research choices," said Glazer, noting that the deadline for placing a tax measure on the June 2012 ballot is in February. After a lengthy discussion regarding the composition of the subcommittee, the Council voted four to one to have two Council members form the committee and liaison with staff, the CIOC, and the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) to develop a list of options for the full Council to discuss in the fall. Worth dissented, preferring a broader participation on the subcommittee with members of the CIOC and FAC. Subsequently, Glazer and Council Member Sue Severson were appointed the Council Roads Subcommittee.

Orinda Sign Makes a Move

By Andrea A. Firth



The historic Orinda sign has found a new home, at least for now. After residents of the Country Club neighborhood objected to the placement of the sign in the small, triangular garden at the bottom of Camino Sobrante, the sign's fate remained in limbo. Recently the sign appeared in the landscaped hill in front of the Community Center. The location may be temporary however, the sign's stand still has wheels in place. Stay tuned. *A. Firth*

Orinda Council and Planning Commission Review 2010

By Aleksandr Auzers

Orinda's City Council and Planning Commission met recently to review the performance of the Planning Department and the status of pending projects, and to discuss the downtown planning efforts. Planning efficiency and customer satisfaction improved in 2010, and the Council and Commission emphasized the need for comprehensive public outreach regarding the downtown planning process.

According Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu, the Planning Commission examined 50 project proposals in 2010—a net increase from 2009's 37 projects—and approved 46. Wilder, a 245-home luxury home development off Gateway Boulevard, represented over half of the applications submitted. Ursu separately reviewed 55 minor projects, all of which were approved.


The average time from application completion to a decision by the Planning Commission decreased by 58%, to 11.1 days. (A minimum 10-day public notification period is required for development projects.) City staff also highlighted results from the Planning Department's client surveys. 83 responses have been received since the program's inception in 2007, and performance scores have increased steadily year-over-year.

Ursu provided an update for four housing projects that are currently in the planning and development process. Construction at Wilder is underway, though it is likely the developer will be unable to complete two ball fields by June and a maintenance facility by October as originally planned. Ursu said he believes the developer of Pulte Homes, a mixed-use village style development of 73 homes on Altarinda Road, is waiting for the housing market to improve before proceeding further. J & J Ranch, a 13-home development and the site of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe, and the Lamorinda Lane project, which includes 8 residential lots, are expected to go before the Planning Commission for approval in June. And, the Eden senior housing project, a 71-unit affordable housing facility planned for the old Library site on Orinda Way, is expected to undergo design review shortly; overall funding for the project has not yet been fully secured.

City officials noted that younger people and families have been underrepresented at City planning meetings regarding Orinda's Downtown planning process. Planning Commissioner Nick Kosla said only two people under 45 years of age were present at a community meeting that he attended.

Regarding the status of the Planning Process Review Task Force (PPRTF) recommendations, which were developed to simplify the planning approval process, Ursu reported that 30 of the PPRTF's 61 recommendations have been adopted, one rejected, and 30 await evaluation.

Orinda's City Council will meet next on Tuesday, May 17th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library auditorium.



Police Report

That's my wallet, 5/5/11 Police arrested a suspect found in possession of a wallet which had been stolen moments before in a commercial burglary on Altarinda Way. After a short pursuit on foot, the two lookout pals that just happened to be waiting in car, along with the suspected thief who had the wallet, were taken into custody.

Warrant arrest, 5/05/11 The chef at a well known local Asian restaurant was picked up on a \$300,000 arrest warrant for allegedly stalking at the restaurant. No mention of who he was stalking.

Robbery, 5/02/11 An Estates Drive resident left home in the morning and returned later to find the back door and the garage door smashed. The homeowner is not sure if anything was stolen at the time of the police report besides two jars full of coins. Thoughtful thief didn't trash the place. Damage to two doors, approximately \$800, missing coin jars valued at \$150.

Burglary, 4/22/11 Unknown suspects broke into a Charles Hill Road home via a lock garage door and took a laptop, two cell phones, a jewelry box and half an ounce of medically-approved marijuana. No suspects or leads at this time.

Hand grenade at Grampa's house, 4/25/11 The son of an older gentleman who had passed away in the Sleepy Hollow area found a hand grenade at his dad's home. He wisely called the police, who summoned the Walnut Creek Bomb Squad to collect it for disposal. Heck of a souvenir from back in the day.

D.U.I. 4/24/11 On Easter Sunday a driver had a solo accident with a concrete pillar on Rheem Boulevard in Orinda. Air bags deployed and the car rolled over on its side. The police report cuts to the chase and said he was arrested for driving under the influence, no mention of injuries.

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Marty's Back at The Orinda

By Andrea A. Firth



"I am very happy to be back. I love this theater," says projectionist Marty Lipow. For the past two years, Lipow and his colleagues, who are all members of local 169 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, have stood outside the theater with picket signs on Saturday and Sunday evenings. With the recent change of management at the theater, the two parties were able to reach an agreement that put Lipow back in action and the picket signs back into storage. Lipow has worked as a moving picture machine operator for 38 years—13 of which have been at The Orinda—and in a total of 65 theaters throughout the Bay Area. "I went into the theater business to cure my addiction to film," says Lipow with a large smile. *A. Firth*

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Residents Workshop Moraga Way Traffic Fix

By Andrea A. Firth

About fifty residents joined the members of Orinda's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) on April 26th to discuss what to do about the traffic gridlock along Moraga Way on weekday mornings. Despite the frustrations expressed by those who live by or commute on Moraga Way, calm heads prevailed and several ideas for how to better manage the traffic load were generated during the workshop.

"Traffic, like water, finds its own path," said Steve Schneir, the chair of TSAC, referring to the drivers on Moraga Way—mostly those traveling to Miramonte High School—who use Ivy Drive to bypass the congestion on Moraga Way. Many attendees pointed out that the morning no-left turn restrictions at Ivy Drive, Southwaite Court, and Leslee Lane have led to drivers to using Whitehall Drive as a cut through.

Bucci, Director of Business Services for the District. Del Rey is the one school in the District that does not have bus service, because ridership was too low. In contrast, Orinda Intermediate School, which is also in OUSD and accessed from Moraga Way via Ivy drive, has students to fill four buses daily.

After working in small groups for about 30 minutes, residents came up with a list of ideas to ameliorate the morning traffic snarls. Their suggestions included casual carpools, the addition of speed bumps, rumble strips, sidewalks, and crosswalks; along with the repeated request to stagger the school start times. As a next step,

TSAC will summarize the resident recommendations and present options to the City Council.

"This stretch of roadway has received a lot of professional and personal attention," said transportation consultant Rob Rees from Fehr & Peers in Walnut Creek. Rees rattled off a list of traffic studies that had been conducted for Moraga Way over the past 15 years and several interventions that had been instituted to mitigate the traffic problems. Rees acknowledged that it is an ongoing challenge stating, "The traffic problem along this stretch of Moraga Way is multifaceted and will require multiple solutions to resolve."

The idea of staggering the start times of Del Rey Elementary and Miramonte High Schools to ease traffic patterns was raised by more than one resident. "We have been working hard to help and to be good neighbors," responded Chris Learned, Assistant Superintendent of the Acalanes Union High District, but he added that changing the bell schedule at Miramonte presents significant logistical issues as it impacts all four high schools in the District and afterschool sports and extracurricular activities.

Having teachers who work at more than one school in the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) complicates altering the start time at Del Rey, stated Jerry

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Whole Foods Welcomes Shoppers Soon

... continued from page A1

Management brings its green philosophy into the building itself, using reclaimed Douglas Fir from Ukiah and fifty-percent recycled content tile from McIntyre Tile in Healdsburg; they also chose an environmentally friendly glycol refrigeration system.

Marketing Team Leader Jane Shafer has already been busy reaching out to the community. Whole Foods will be catering the dessert portion of the Taste of Lafayette, and in search of local partners and their products, checked out the wares of vendors at last week's Farmers' Market. Orinda beekeeper Steve Gentry of Steve's Bees recently got the okay to put bee hives on the roof.

She estimates that sixty percent of the employees transferred from another store and forty percent are new hires. Norm Winter of Moraga will be shortening his commute. He used to work at the

San Ramon store. Now as Premium Care Product Team Leader, he can be found somewhere between the "Kiss My Face" Cardamom Mint Self Foaming Soap and Badger SPF 30+ Baby Sunscreen. He's happy to explain the uniqueness of Whole Foods product standards. They even carry no-ammonia hair color and a plethora of flax seed products. Jerry Krug, Produce Team Leader, coming from the San Jose store, emphasized a commitment to buying local and is excited about jams and stone fruits coming from Frog Hollow in Brentwood and flowers from Full Belly Farm. He's looking into a partnership with Terra Bella Family Farms of Pleasanton after meeting them at the Farmers' Market.

Jeannette Bloss came all the way from Chicago to open the store. She's an experienced Grocery Team Leader in charge of the

grocery, frozen, dairy and bulk departments. "This is the seventh store I've opened," she said, adding they're expecting a crowd that could wrap around the building.

With a host of new products launching at the almost 25,000 square foot store, management is looking forward to having more than 250 local (Bay Area) vendors. Bloss describes the INNA jams delivered via BART and bicycle from Berkeley as, "really awesome." Other highlights include Lafayette's own Thoughtful Foods - granola; El Viejo Foods of Martinez - salsa and guacamole; Soul Food Farms of Vacaville - eggs; and gelato popsicles from Gelateria Naia of Hercules.

At press time there were still trucks in front with a final delivery of landscaping plants, no shopping carts in sight, and lots of merchandise in boxes, but it wasn't hard to imagine the artisan bakery, or the extensive selection of prepared food ready to roll. This is definitely not the old Lucky's or Albertson's.

Front page photo (from left), front row: Steve Shargots, Gary Ramirez, David Hales, Chris Mc-Clung, Jane Shafer, Greg Severn; back row: Gerard Krug, Marc Rubenstein, Jeanette Bloss, Renee Diskowski, Eryn Smyth, Norm Winters



Why We Love Lamorinda - On Film

... continued from page A1

The result was light, charming and humorous, a good representation of the beauty of Lafayette, including a close look at pot holes - all in good taste, of course. Another notable submission was "The Sound of Lafayette," a crafty short movie that showed a young boy drumming on different surfaces, all over favorite places in Lafayette, ending with an excellent shot where the young musician appears to be drumming on the tower at the center of the Lafayette reservoir.

The Moraga Police Department surprised everyone with its irreverent humor. Officer Pacheco decided to film the fun of working in Moraga. The winning movie staged fake police interventions, including a poisoned cat that turned out to be a stuffed animal dramatically flattened out and sporting a tire track on its back. Pacheco was not afraid to add self-derision to his piece, documenting the 'painful' training Moraga police officers have to endure. Moraga had other entries, including Grant Stubblefield's vision of why residents love their town - "It's the people," was the young businessman's answer. The first production company in Moraga, Dirt Road Studio, submitted a creative and funny clip narrating why the author, Dorian MacNeil, had such a good time in Moraga restaurants. "I graduated from Saint Mary's very recently, wanting to go into early childhood education," said MacNeil. He currently works privately with children and launched the production company to create documentaries that interest him,

such as the current piece he is creating with the intent to give a voice to homelessness in the Bay Area.

The Orinda movie was the creation of a young boy. "My son Will was working on a Boy Scout project for a film and saw the contest announcement in the Lamorinda Weekly. He decided to enter the contest," said Joe Knox. Will is not a beginner where media is concerned. "I contribute stories to Orinda News," says the young reporter, "I started by helping with filing, then proposed an article about the Orinda Baseball Association." Will says that he enjoys writing and expressing feelings, on a blank page or with a movie. His movie was first written in the form of a rap song about Orinda. "It took me two days to write the song," said the 6th grader, who enjoyed it so much that he is continuing to write this type of poetry - telling stories about his young life's experience, such as "life without a cell phone." He shot his movie in all of his favorite places, including the schools and the hills, restaurants, sports fields and in the fog. He partnered with older brother and Acalanes senior Christian for the editing and production of the movie. "My brother is so good with computers," says Will.

"Will and Christian are planning other videos together," said Knox, "it's a good opportunity for brothers to work together, and they can continue as Chris goes to college."

The Chambers of Commerce may post the movies on their websites -- stay tuned.

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Life in LAMORINDA

State Government Reform Group Seeks Input

By Cathy Tyson

Self-described political junky Kristin Connelly, Burton Valley mother of two, attorney, and Partnership Coordinator for California Forward, gave a rousing presentation for the organization recently at the Veterans Hall, titled "Real Reform: restoring the California dream and making the state work again."

With the help of a colorful PowerPoint presentation, she explained how the non-profit, non-partisan organization seeks to bring government closer to the people and move the state forward, hence the name, focusing on accountability and results. Their new model includes more fiscal control to local elected leaders, setting local priorities and measuring progress.

"This is just the beginning of the beginning of the conversation," said Connelly, referring to the long journey toward a possible initiative. Workshop participants were encouraged to comment in round table discussion about concerns and frustrations about the current state of California's governance, includ-

ing finance, education and social justice. Invited panelist Dr. Fred Brill, Superintendent of the Lafayette School District, commented on the complicated and inefficient relationship of the state and local government in his introductory remarks: "I want a divorce. It's just not working."

California Forward has already hammered out draft policy recommendations that work toward improving community services by restructuring the roles of state and local governments. They believe that the state budget should focus on five outcomes: increased employment, improved education, increased health, decreased poverty and decreased crime. Input from the Lafayette dialogue and others held around the state will be used to hone their recommendations.

"It's exciting to be part of government reform," said Connelly, "I want to be part of a solution toward more access and more transparency." With a background in policy and civic participation, she's no stranger to conflict; even as a young teenager

she worked to ban polystyrene in Contra Costa County.

She has turned her inspiration into action -- as Partnership Coordinator she's working to enlist support from influential Californians for the Speak Up California Project, talking about how to get the state back on track, and she's developing key partnerships for their valuable input to help shape proposals to empower local communities.

The special event was hosted by Lafayette for Education -- an organization founded by a core group of Springhill parents that has grown exponentially throughout the community. "Lafayette for Education is working to realize stable funding for our schools at the local level and in Sacramento. It made sense to branch out beyond the educational community to bring stakeholders from all corners of our community together for this discussion," said Jean Follmer, President of the Springhill Parent Faculty Club and member of Lafayette for Education.

Community-Supported Agriculture in Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini

Two Lafayette women have made a big difference in the lives of more than a hundred local families, and a few local farmers. A year ago, Rebecca Calahan Klein and Janna Lipman Weiss started a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) group at Lafayette's Temple Isaiah with 35 families. They just closed their winter/spring season with more than 100 families. The

system not only brings these families local, affordable, organic vegetables and fruits every week, it provides recipes to make the most of what's in season and helps members discover new food. As an added bonus, the CSA provides local farmers with a predictable income that allows them to better plan their investments in a sustainable way.

The summer season of the CSA

will start on May 31 -- now is the time to sign up. There are a few options available. Once a week on Tuesdays, the farmers bring their harvest to Temple Isaiah. One can either get a pre-packaged box that will contain 8-10 servings of whatever's in season, or decide to operate farmers' market style and choose one's servings from the produce brought in that day.

... continued on page B2

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By Cathy Dausman



Google's camera car

Photo Cathy Dausman

Underneath the paint job, it's a simple Subaru, cruising local streets. But there's no mistaking the iconic map design, including faceless yellow person standing atop a green directional arrow. It's a Google Streetview vehicle, complete with "commercial grade digital still and video

cameras and an array of eye safe lasers" coming off the roof.

Lamorinda Weekly caught up with one car recently in Moraga.

Its driver, who did not wish to be identified, has been mapping the Lamorinda area since May 3. He had just completed three weeks mapping Oakland streets. Although he's always had "driving jobs" he has worked for Google only a month. He drives the car eight hours a day, and fills up with gas "at least once daily". Although he drives a Subaru, any gas efficiency is probably negated by the roof-mounted camera. "My [Ford] Explorer gets as good gas mileage as this car with the camera," he says. He's been waved at and flipped off in the Streetview car. Miramonte High School students whooped and hollered as the Streetview car

made its way nearby during school dismissal last Friday.

According to Google, "Drivers are trained to activate the computers...but not remove or delete any information captured by the system." The Google online product that will eventually use this data is still under development, but Google says it will be "built to respect the law and rights of individuals."

An online search for "Google Streetview Project" brings up any number of hits, including Google Art Projects, Google Business Photos, Google Street with a View, and occasional shots capturing a Streetview driver who forget about camera height clearance.

Questions specifically about Streetview vehicles can be emailed to streetview-americas-inquiries@google.com.

Moraga Beautiful Helpers Paint the Town Brown

By Cathy Tyson



Jacqueline and Isabell Artiaga, volunteers who know how to wield a paintbrush. Photo C. Tyson

Or rather paint benches and picnic tables at the Moraga Commons "burnt umber." Under a dazzling blue sky, a modest group of volunteers turned out to make Moraga just a little more attractive. With

gallons of brown paint, gloves and complimentary brushes, Senior Park Maintenance worker Ruben Ochoa kept helpers on task at the Commons to complete the annual paint touch up event.

Community-Supported Agriculture in Lafayette

... continued from page B1

Members sign up for a whole season and choose a type and size of produce basket that meets their needs. It can be a small, all-fruit basket, a large mixed basket (vegetables and fruit), or all vegetables. "My family and I get two large baskets a week, because we eat so much fresh produce," says Klein. Baskets cost \$20-\$30 a week depending on the size.

For Klein and Weiss, organic food is more than food. It is a celebration of the people who grow it with care, the recognition of the quality of what the earth can produce, and the importance of creating a community where people share and grow. "At the beginning people just stayed for a few minutes and picked up their vegetables," says Klein. "Now we all know each other and people stay much longer, talk and exchange thoughts about all sorts of things, from food to religious traditions. I discovered that people were even more hungry for community than they were for food."

Farmers are included in the community, depending on the season and the type of produce, the CSA works with a few organic, small or mid-size farms. Klein first met them at the Walnut Creek farmers' market. "Our first two partners last summer were the Terra Bella Family farm in Pleasanton and Shooting Star in Fairfield," she said, "then for the winter we worked with Javier Ledesma Farms, which operates different locations that have different climates from ocean to inland and is able to provide us with incredible variety, even in the thick of winter." Klein says that at the end of the



Photo provided

season, Ledesma told her that he was thinking about investing in a greenhouse. "The CSA gives him more predictability and it is less tiring than working 30 farmers' markets," she says.

Weiss' recipes are another key component of the CSA's success. An engineer with a passion for food and a long family tradition of cooking, she has a weekly blog containing recipes for the food that comes to the CSA. "It is about changing habits and making it doable for people who have very busy lives," says Weiss, the mother of two young children, "we provide an easily accessible source of great food and ways to eat it that people will discuss the following week."

To sign up for the summer season or request more information, email ti.ccjds.csa@gmail.com.



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Celebrating Royally in Lafayette

By Cathy Dausman



Wedding guests wait for their princes in the carriage

Photo Cathy Dausman



Hats, dresses, flowers and a flag for the occasion Photo Caroline Somary



Royal Cupcakes (citrus cakes with fondant topping) are sweets fit for a princess! Photo Caroline Somary

The carriage and red carpet were in place, and Union Jacks fluttered in the breeze. Honored guests were dressed to the nines. It was time to celebrate the April 29th marriage of Will and Kate. But this was not London—this was Lafayette. This was a Royal Wedding Tea Party hosted for twenty five elementary school children and their parents, all friends of Caroline Somary. On sun-drenched backyard tables piled high with craft supplies, guests drew London double-decker busses, assembled floral bouquets, corsages and made royal figures and miniature castles. The menu featured apple

and black currant punch, apricot and strawberry jam tarts, egg salad and cucumber tea sandwiches, and royal cupcakes.

Somary said one young guest loved the jam tarts so much he returned two days later for a second helping.

A rack of princess dresses stood ready for young guests to use. Somary set the party tone herself in a tea length, white polka dot dress and matching hat, a loan from the owner of Sandy's Unique Boutique. "This is such a beautiful little town," Somary said of his generous gesture.

For Somary the event was less about "princess glitter" and

more about a chance for her guests to learn the "heritage and history" of her native England. The guests came with their own Royal Questions, such as where William and Kate will live, and was it actually a holiday in England on their wedding day.

The importance of the occasion, however, escaped at least one young attendee. "I don't

know," was her short reply when questioned about the bride and groom. She returned her attention to the craft table.

Somary was born in Cheshire County, England, near the town of Manchester. She moved to the U.S. 10 years ago and to Lafayette three years later. She and her husband own SpringLoaf Catering.

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Letters to the Editor

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

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Dear Moraga Community

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the many groups that volunteered to assist with the 5th Annual Moraga Triathlon. The many community groups cheered for and provided a safe course for the 350+ athletes that participated on Saturday, April 30. Thank you to Lamorinda CERT, Miramonte Leo's Club, Saint Mary's College Rotaract, Campolindo Key Club, Andrew Morris and Soda Aquatics Center lifeguards, Acalanes Union High School District maintenance staff, Campolindo Principal Carol Kitchens, Saint Mary's College Women's Tennis and Volleyball Teams, Boy Scout Troop 246, Carroll Ranch Homeowners Association, Denise Duff and the Moraga Junior Women's Club, Beth Cowley and Travis McCord, Moraga Police Department, Moraga Youth Involvement Committee, Campolindo Supertones, Mayor Karen Mendonca, Moraga Movers and the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Explorers. Moraga Parks and Recreation is extremely appreciative for each and every individual and group that took the time to continue the volunteer spirit the Town of Moraga enjoys for so many of its great events. THANK YOU and see you all on Saturday, April 28, 2012 for the 6th Annual Moraga Triathlon!

Jay Ingram
(Moraga Parks and Recreation Director)



Volunteers Ignacio Vega and Bruce Maxon watching the runners Photo Andy Scheck

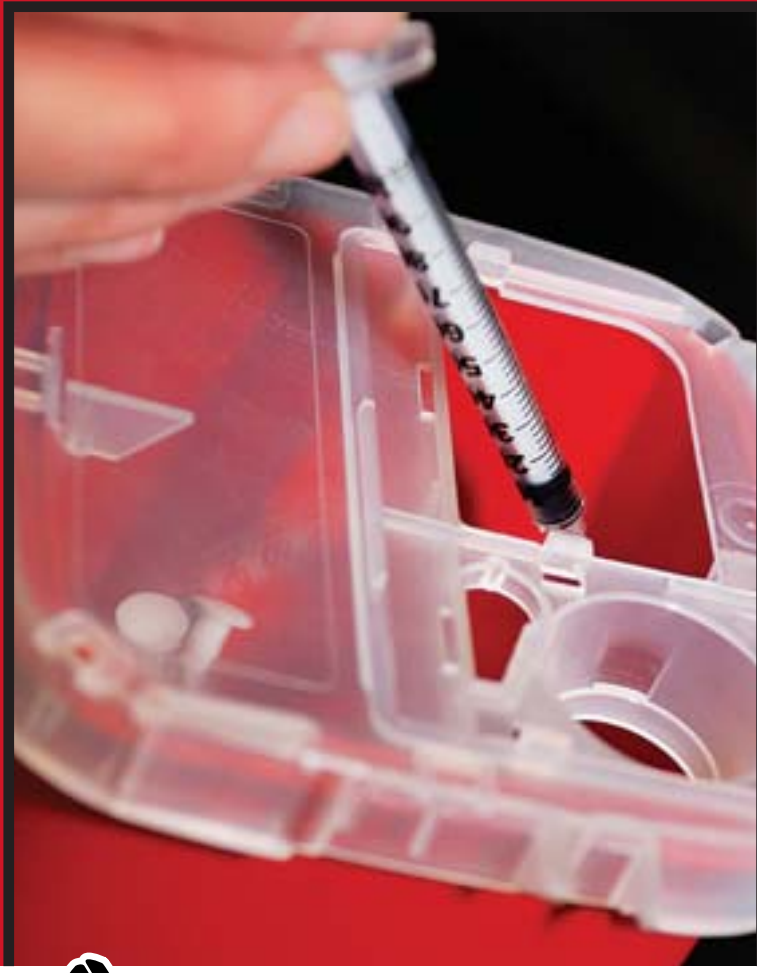
Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda, or one of its communities, that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to letters@lamorindaweekly.com and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum. We will not accept Public Forum submissions regarding a current ballot measure or candidate for public office. Opinions expressed in Public Forum are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

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Friends of Fair Trade

By Rebecca Eckland



From left: Will Watson of Lafayette, Corban Ricketts of Moraga, and Ryan McCormick of Orinda, with Fair Trade chocolate bars at the MVPC reSource Center where chocolate will continue to be available for sale. Photo provided by Siv Ricketts

Sixth-grader Corban Ricketts looks his age: he's spunky and he likes chocolate. Yet his mother, Siv Ricketts, was not surprised when Corban accepted \$100 in seed money from the Moraga Valley Presbyterian church to begin a campaign to better the world. According to Ricketts, Corban and his pastor researched the chocolate industry and found the source of nearly everyone's favorite indulgence is harvested by unpaid child laborers in West Africa.

"At the time, my youngest was selling See's Candies to raise money for the Moraga schools," Ricketts said, "and it was such a contradiction: chocolate products that had exploited children in Africa were going to better the lives of children here?"

To raise awareness, Corban used his \$100 to purchase Divine Chocolate bars; fair trade chocolate bars that do not use cocoa beans from unpaid, underage workers. The wrappers are deco-

rated in lovely gilded script and the "fair trade certified" symbol. He, along with peers from Lamorinda, sold bars. Combined they have sold over 250 bars to date. All proceeds from these sales will be sent to Not For Sale, a nationwide organization started by Bay Area resident David Batstone that is aimed at ending all varieties of child exploitation worldwide.

Corban's literature (included with each purchase) reports that, per annum, Americans spend \$13 billion on chocolate products; 70% of those come from West Africa where the cocoa harvesters are 12-16 years of age.

In addition to selling Divine Chocolate bars, Corban is also circulating a petition encouraging Hershey's to use fair trade beans. He has three pages of signatures so far.

Interested parties can purchase these Divine Chocolate bars from the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church for \$4 on Sundays.

Volunteers Wanted for Trail Construction

By Cathy Tyson



Trailwork Image courtesy of Muir Heritage Land Trust

Acalanes Ridge Open Space needs your help. After coming to life via a unique collaboration of the Muir Heritage Land Trust (MHLT), the cities of Lafayette and Walnut Creek, and the East Bay Regional Park District, now MHLT and Volunteers for Outdoor California are hosting a trail building weekend. From Friday, May 20 through Sunday, May 22, volunteers are welcome to come for a day or spend the weekend providing the man and woman power to construct an environmentally friendly trail with amazing views on Lamorinda's newest gem. Tools, supervision, and gourmet meals provided, bring your own tent and sleeping bag, no experience necessary.

"It's an opportunity to gain a sense of accomplishment and a chance to give back to the community in a real concrete way," said Linus Eukel, Executive Director of MHLT. "We want to cultivate an inspirational experience of the property." He adds that this will be the one and only opportunity to camp at Acalanes Ridge - ever.

MHLT is extremely sensitive to the environment when designing trails, focusing on preserving habitat. In order to make a new trail usable for a wide range of abilities - they are creating a path with a 10% grade that gradually curls around the ridge. Some existing paths at the site are not the best - used perhaps by hikers taking a straight shot to the summit, those will also be addressed by volunteers.

"There will be something for everyone," said Cathy Moyer, Executive Director of Volunteers for Outdoor California. Because of the sharp tools - "everyone" does not include children under fourteen. She described a broad range of tasks from heavy duty to light - for example, moving earth, raking, thistle removal, help in the kitchen, and helping to register volunteers.

Moyer has two key phrases for volunteers: "Being tired is better than bored - there won't be any standing around - we use your time well," and, "Our volunteers never look at a trail the same way again." Helpers will learn about outslope, hydrologic invisibility, pulaskis and more.

"We take the logistical load off a land manager's plate," said Moyer. Volunteers for Outdoor California is responsible for all the food and hands-on leadership

to safely manage the project. Armed with a portable commercial kitchen to provide meals and snacks for everyone and a menu that can accommodate a variety of food issues, no one should go hungry.

Registration with Volunteers for Outdoor California is required, go to www.v-o-cal.org or call (650) 298-9774. Website has complete information on what to bring, what to wear and options for volunteer shifts.

RESCUE ONE FOUNDATION

The Board of Directors of Rescue One Foundation is seeking applicants to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of founding Board member Jerry Meyer.

The Rescue One Foundation functions as the support group for the paramedic program for the Moraga/Orinda Fire District. For over 30 years since Rescue One Foundation was established, over \$340,000 has been received in donations from the community to purchase emergency medical equipment and training materials for the District's paramedic program. The Foundation has been providing this valuable help through gifts of appreciation, memorials and annual donations.

Letters of interest must be received by May 31, 2011, and addressed to:

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True Green in Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini



Mollie Kastner presents Elmwood Stationers' green options

Photo Sophie Braccini

The 2011 Green Awards were presented by Lafayette Mayor Carl Anduri at a City Council meeting in mid-April. In the business category, the two businesses that were recognized are mainstream and successful in the community: Elmwood Stationers and Chow Restaurant. Both locally owned (with one or more other Bay Area locations), these two businesses 'do green' because they believe in it, and because it serves a growing demand.

Andrew Hahn opened the Lafayette Elmwood Stationers store less than two years ago. "Sustain-

ability is something we've practiced from the get-go in our Lafayette store, starting with our remodel," says Hahn, who recycled the carpet, and ensured toxin-free paint and fluorescent light bulbs.

What is relevant to customers today is the wide range of sustainable products that the store carries. "40 percent of our products are recycled," says Hahn. Entering the store, the first display on the left boasts fun and colorful shoulder totes made of 95% recycled material. The store is full of sustainable options for everyday stationery needs. Printing paper comes in sur-

prising options – sugar cane paper is offered along with 100 percent recycled copy paper.

Sugar cane paper is made of bagasse, the fibrous residue left over after the sugar cane has been crushed and the sugar extracted. The paper can be composted and it reduces the stress on our forests. "Sugar cane paper looks like any other paper; it's the same price, great quality; people just don't know about it," says Hahn.

Further exploration of the store reveals other interesting items such as binders, folders and wine bags made of bamboo, and "Plant-me"

greeting cards for mailing, that are made of a paper containing seeds that will sprout into flowers if your addressee plants the card after reading.

"Large companies are also coming with sustainable alternatives," adds Hahn, "Scotch has an eco-friendly tape and Westcott offers clean earth scissors."

Very popular in Lafayette and beyond, Chow Restaurant was nominated three times for the Green Award. "They have such a commitment to sustainable practices," says Sustainable Lafayette's Steve Richards, "but they do not really advertise it. It's only fitting that we recognize them."

Tony Gulisano opened the first Chow in San Francisco in 1997. "Chow promotes sustainability through many different avenues in their restaurants," says Richards, "from the organic local ingredients they select, to the food-scrap recycling program in which they were one of the first to participate in Lafayette."

2011 Green Award winners include:

- John Kiefer
- Rebecca Calahan Klein
- Contra Costa Jewish Day School
- Springhill School
- Chow
- Elmwood Stationers
- The Urban Farmers
- Allied Waste Services (Tim Argenti)

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

business briefs

Patxi's Pre-Opening Fundraising
3577 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette

Its management recently confirmed: Patxi's Chicago Pizza on Mount Diablo Boulevard will open late May. "We extend an invitation to Lamorinda charities to enroll in the '52 Weeks of Giving' fundraising campaign for 2011," said Bill Freeman, Patxi's co-founder and CEO. "Patxi's will host weekly community fundraisers, donating ten percent of all sales for that day (including pick-up, delivery and dine-in) to organizations dedicated to education and children's health and welfare in the Lamorinda area." Local organizations interested in participating can register at: <http://patxispizza.com/52weeks.html>.

New Tutoring Service Coming to Lafayette?

Mathnasium, an afterschool tutoring center for first through twelfth graders, filed a request for a land use permit at 3435 Mt. Diablo Blvd, (near the gazebo on the east end of the city). The center would provide tutoring in a group setting, with lessons of about 1.5 hours in length. Mathnasium is part of a national franchise. There are approximately 13 locations within 100 miles of Lafayette, including centers in Walnut Creek, San Ramon, and Pleasanton.

Flare De Hair Celebrates Its Grand Re-Opening
3420 Mt. Diablo Blvd., #C, Lafayette, 284-3230

In the spring of 2004, Martha Ceron opened her own studio in Lafayette, Flare de Hair on Golden Gate Way. She brought 24 years of styling expertise and training at Vidal Sassoon, Paul Mitchell and Bumble & Bumble. She recently moved closer to Brown Avenue on Mt. Diablo Blvd. (next to Bo's Barbeque) and is celebrating the recent remodeling of her shop with a "Hair and Scalp Treatment" event on Saturday May 14, from 10am-4pm. Call for reservations.

New Sales Associate for Coldwell Banker Orinda
5 Moraga Way, Orinda
(925) 253-4600

In her new position, Melanie Snow will specialize in residential sales in Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette, Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek. Prior to joining Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Snow worked as an agent for Terranomics Commercial Real Estate Company.

New from the three Chambers of Commerce

- Lafayette**
- Monthly Mixer tonight, May 11, 5:30-7pm at Clocks, Etc. at 971 Moraga Rd, celebrating this business' 35th anniversary.
 - 9th Annual "Taste of Lafayette" on Tuesday, May 17, sponsored by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the Lafayette Community Foundation. Taste of Lafayette

is a tour of Lafayette's finest eateries that lets you sample the signature cuisine of each restaurant. Tickets will be available online on the chamber web site at www.lafayettechamber.org.

- "Online Business Profiles Matter: Easy Steps to Leverage Yours" workshop on May 18 from 8- 9:30am, presented by Robin Fox, Social Media & Inbound Marketing Coach at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Classroom.
- Ribbon Cutting at Zahra Boutique Salon, 3578 Mt. Diablo Blvd., on May 26 at 5pm.

Moraga



Winetasting at last year's faire

Photo Andy Scheck

- 5th Moraga Community Faire on Saturday, May 14th, 11:00am-5:00pm at the Rheem Shopping Center, sponsored by the Chamber. There will be great bands, (noise level lower than last year), food, wine, climbing wall, jumpies for the kids, and a classic car show. A total of 80 booths are scheduled to feature many of the Moraga retailers, organizations, sports groups, and artists.
- General Chamber Meeting, May 20th, 7:30-9am at the Hacienda de las Flores. Scott Webber, guest speaker and owner of Ampelus Technology in Orinda, will discuss online community marketing and the different platforms available to small business owners.

Orinda

- After hours mixer on Thursday, May 19, 5:30-7:30pm at Union Bank of California, 140 Brookwood, #101, Orinda.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com or call the office 925-377-0977

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Some Assembly Required for Starlight Village Players

By Cathy Dausman



To see...or not to see? Charlie Guitron hangs spotlights for the Starlight Village Players evening performances Photos Cathy Dausman



left to right: Bill Chessman, David Weiner, Shawn Bonnington, Ken Sollazzo, Jim Fritz and one other sink a support pole on the Starlight Village Players stage.

Shakespeare said "The play's the thing," but first the stage needs assembling. Literally. And so on a sunny Saturday with light winds, various Starlight Village Players assemble at the Orinda Community Park amphitheater to put the pieces together. The stage is constructed each May and taken down in October, as it has been for the past twenty nine years.

David Dierks, Bill Chessman, Shawn Bonnington, Mark Barry, David Weiner, Geotty Chappel, and Ken Sollazzo pull pieces out of nearby storage and lay out the vertical elements on the cement stage. Four or five twelve-foot 4 x 4's outline the supports for backstage walls. Jim Fritz and Charlie Guitron hoist twenty-five pound spotlights up a ladder and affix them to light poles pointed toward the stage. Six twenty-foot steel poles are guided into post holes on stage. Later, a cross beam will be raised and secured in place with metal hooks and duct tape. "It's kind of like Stonehenge, only completely different," jokes Chessman.

Jill Gelster keeps a close watch from the seating area. "The Mousetrap" is Starlight Village Players' opening performance this June and she is directing. She says their goal today is to erect the poles and outer wall, hang the lights and empty the shed, but you can tell, in the back of her mind, she's already seeing elaborate sets, costumed actors and a full house.

In addition to "The Mousetrap," Starlight Village Players summer offerings include "Send Me No Flowers" and "The Imaginary Invalid." Single play admission is \$8-\$16; season tickets are \$21-\$35. Call the box office at (925) 253.1191 for reservations or group discounts, or get information online at <http://www.orsvp.org/>. Orinda Community Park is at 26 Orinda Way.



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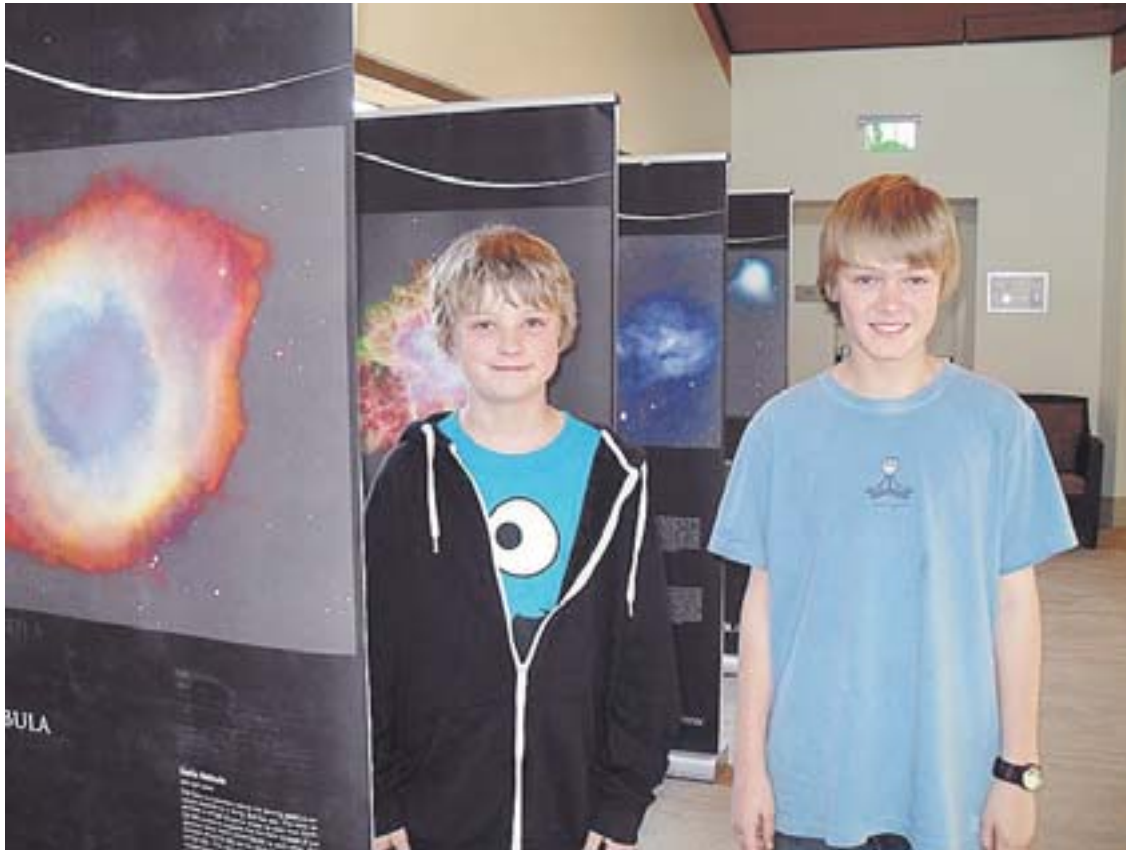
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NASA Photos from Space Make an Impact on Students

By Cathy Tyson



Sebastian Marlow, left, and Will Fry in the Lafayette Library and Learning Center

Photo C. Tyson

“The universe is a big puzzle, we are figuring it out one piece at a time,” said Dr. Margaret Race at a special program, “From the Earth to the Universe,” for students in grades five through twelve. With a fabulous PowerPoint presentation of amazing celestial images from NASA, she illustrated and described in simple terms planets, moons, the solar system and beyond. One of the slides was a chart from a few years ago that demonstrated exactly how much our understanding has changed even recently – in 1997 scientists calculated the number of moons in our solar system at 77 in total; as of 2007, scientists agree there are 169 moons, “and still counting,” said Race.

This award-winning NASA exhibit has been making the rounds; between 2009 – 2010 it has been shown at 1,000 locations in over sixty countries.

As an astrobiologist, Race works on the origin, evolution

and distribution of life in the universe. “Where do we come from? Are we alone? I look for evidence of life,” said Race. She works with NASA on analyzing environmental impact issues of contamination during robotic and human missions to the moon and Mars. She’s also part of the Solar System Ambassadors Program.

Race focused her attention on Stanley Middle School and volunteered her time to develop extensive classroom materials and taught teachers how to teach inspiring lessons that also meet state curriculum requirements. Although the kids just started a solar system unit, teacher Alice Cyr said, “We’re trying to get the students excited,” encouraging learning outside of the classroom.

Seventh grader Nathan Brickman said, “Ms. Winter inspired me to learn.” Oddly enough, science teacher Ms. Winter was standing nearby. Brickman worked on the flyer that was

posted around school announcing the event. In typical teenage style, a group of Stanley eighth graders mentioned ten extra credit points for attending, but they clearly enjoyed the presentation.

Megan Kaye, a tenth grader who had met Race at Career Day at Acalanes High School, said the lecture was easy to understand and helped put the solar system in context. It was hard not to be impressed with spectacular photos of nebula.

It took a village to put this together: help from Senior Library Manager Susan Weaver and Miss Donna – story time related to the images; the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation; and of course Consortium Partner Chabot Space and Science Center, Lafayette and Antioch Schools and generous funding from the S.D. Bechtel Jr. Foundation. The students were quite impressed with the complimentary and so appropriate Luna Bars and

water care of Diablo Foods and Trader Joe’s.

Reaching out, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation is funding a roadtrip for the materials with “Chabot to Go” activities that include astronomy-themed activities based on stars, galaxies, constellations, the solar system and more that will

circulate at several Antioch schools.

Wrapping up the event, Race recommended checking out NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory website, at www.jpl.nasa.gov, for more fantastic images and challenged the students, “Now it’s your turn to figure out the puzzle.”

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The Best Mom in Lamorinda



Shawn and Karina Hou

Photo Andy Scheck

Congratulations to Karina Hou of Moraga! Her son Shawn, reportedly a big fan of the Lamorinda Weekly, sent in the winning entry to our Mother’s Day Contest – telling us why his mom is the “Best Mom in Lamorinda.” Shawn’s mom will

receive a half-day house cleaning courtesy of contest co-sponsor Total Clean. While there could only be one winner, the entries suggest there are lots of Best Moms in Lamorinda!

Here’s what Shawn had to say about his mom:

“She likes good jokes and when we bake a pastry she lets me help. My Mom also never yells at us, and after a day she sings us to sleep. My mom is hard to write about in fifty words, but you could use a thousand-billion words and still have more to write.”

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Fun at the Farmers' Market

By Susie Iventosch



The opening of the Lafayette Farmers' Market on May 5 was a perfectly beautiful, sunny day and area residents were so happy to see the market back in full swing. We were all serenaded by El Desayuno, a local Bay Area band, which offered the perfect accompaniment for Cinco de Mayo!

You can find plenty of juicy red strawberries these days at the markets, and this strawberry pie is a great way to use them.

What could be more fun than kicking off the Mother's Day weekend with mom in the cooking tent at the season opening of the Lafayette Farmers' Market! Susie Iventosch (left) with her mom, Dodie Bartz

Photo Keith Farley

Strawberry Glaze Pie

Ingredients

- 1 recipe Emily Stewart's Pie Crust (on right)
- 5-6 pint baskets fresh strawberries, (1+ for glaze, 3 for pie filling and 1 for decoration on top) rinsed with leaves and stems removed.
- 1 recipe Strawberry Glaze (on right)
- 1 cup heavy cream, whipped and flavored with 1 teaspoon vanilla and 2 tablespoons powdered sugar



Strawberry Glaze Pie Photo Susie Iventosch

Assembly

Rinse three pints of fresh, ripe strawberries. Remove stems and slice. Place half of the berries in bottom of cooled crust. Pour half of the glaze over this layer of berries. Make a second layer with remaining berries and pour remaining glaze over this layer. Chill. Before serving, place whole berries (points up) around perimeter of pie. Serve with a dollop of whipped cream.

*This pie should be eaten the same day, since the glaze can make the crust soggy if left over night. Also note the crust is very crumbly, which is delicious, but can be tricky to serve. Just don't worry so much about looks, and enjoy the wonderful flavor.

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Emily Stewart's Pie Crust

Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 2/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 tablespoons milk

Directions

Sift dries into a medium-sized mixing bowl. In another smaller bowl, mix oil and milk with a fork and add to dries, mixing well. Pat his mixture into a 9-inch pie pan to form crust. With a fork, poke holes in the crust on the sides and bottom. Bake at 400° for 15 minutes, or until golden brown. Cool completely.

Strawberry Glaze

Ingredients

- 2 cups (packed) fresh strawberries, greens removed
- 1 cup water
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- A dash of red food coloring (optional—Whole Foods carries natural food coloring). You won't need this if you are using nice, ripe berries.

Directions

Bring strawberries and water to a boil in a medium sized pot. Cook for about three or four minutes, stirring with spoon to mash the berries. Remove from heat and sieve through strainer. Return mixture to same pot. Mix sugar and cornstarch together in a separate bowl, and stir into the berry mixture with a wire whisk. Bring to boil again, stirring constantly, until mixture is thickened and will coat the back of a spoon. (Can add a few drops of red food coloring to enhance color.) Remove from heat and cool completely to room temperature, before assembling pie.

This recipe is available on our web site.

Go to: www.lamorindaweekly.com

Susie can be reached at suziven@gmail.com

Many of our readers like Susie's recipes. Click the Food tab to read, print or download all of the recipes we have published.

If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at 925-377-0977

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Ranch House, 1012 School St, Mor,	376-5127	French	Baja Fresh Mexican Grill, 3596 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-8740
Terzetto Cuisine, 1419 Moraga Way, Mor,	376-3832	Chevalier Restaurant, 960 Moraga Road, Laf,	385-0793
The Cheese Steak Shop, 3455 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf,	283-1234	Fuz, 3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf,	299-9930
BBQ		Hawaiian Grill	
Bo's Barbecue, 3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf,	283-7133	Lava Pit Hawaiian Grill, 2 Theatre Sq., St. 142, Ori,	253-1338
Burger Joint		Lava Pit Fire Grill, 3647 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf,	385-0658
Flippers, 960 Moraga Rd, Laf,	284-1567	Indian	
Nation's Giant Hamburgers, 400 Park, Mor,	376-8888	Swad Indian Cuisine, 3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf,	962-9575
Nation's Giant Hamburgers, 76 Moraga Way, Ori,	254-8888	Italian	
Café		Giardino, 3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf,	283-3869
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LAMORINDA SPORTS & SCHOOLS

Lamorinda Boys' Volleyball gets Competitive

By Alex Crook

Although volleyball is usually thought of as a girls sport, Lamorinda high schools boast two strong boys' teams, Campolindo and Acalanes. Campolindo has made the post-season the last couple of years.

While the Campolindo boys' team might not live up to the state champion girl's team, the Cougars have an impressive program.

Campolindo is coming off a strong season last year. They went 32-7 overall and a perfect 8-0 in league play. The top-seeded Cougars cruised through the NCS playoffs before losing in the title match in four sets to Sir Francis Drake.

The Cougars returned senior middle blocker Dylan Blackstone. The Cougars lost last year's league

MVP, setter Scott Standing. Campolindo's last NCS title was in 2005. Campolindo sits in first place in division II with a 21-5 overall record.

Acalanes had high hopes for a playoff-appearance last year but did not qualify. Acalanes is looking strong for the post-season, sitting in fourth place in division II with a 10-8 overall record.

The Dons returned senior outside hitter Cole Markley, who made first team all-DFAL last year as a junior. Acalanes lost middle hitter Jeff Armstrong.

On April 27, Campolindo wrapped up the DFAL title with a sweep over rival Acalanes in Lafayette.

Despite Blackstone rolling his

ankle in the first set, the Cougars remained poised throughout the rest of the match. Senior outside hitter Carl King led the Cougars with 14 kills, while Markley led the Dons with 17 kills.

Currently, the Dons are in second place in DFAL and are coming off a 3-0 sweep of Dougherty Valley on May 4, in which Markley had 20 kills for Acalanes. Campolindo is also fresh off a sweep, this one coming at Alhambra on May 6.

As a reward for their great seasons, both teams are expected to make appearances in this year's NCS playoffs, and Campolindo is expected to be a top seed.

NCS seedings will be on May 15.

U.S. Olympic Coach Visits Sun Valley Swim Club

Submitted by Christina Coleridge



Teri McKeever instructs a group of nine and ten year olds.

Photo provided

Teri McKeever, head coach of Cal women's swim team and 2012 US Olympic coach, visited with parents at Sun Valley Swim Club Tuesday, April 26. The visit was part of Sun Valley Swim Team's bi-annual Cal Bears instructional clinic. This year was particularly exciting for participants since the Bears just won the NCAA National Championship— their second win in three years.

At Sun Valley Pool, McKeever spoke of her early years as a USC swimmer and as local swim coach at Meadow Pool in Orinda, experiences that ultimately landed her the Cal job in 1992. McKeever credits the ongoing success of the Cal swim team to the program's focus on personal accountability and excellence, as well as her personal belief that as a coach it's her role to nurture relationships among her swimmers.

McKeever admitted that over the years her priority has shifted from choosing recruits with the fastest training time to those who can reflect and learn from the inevitable setback, and who have a strong sense of self.

McKeever stressed that it's most important that swimming brings joy to a kid's life. "Without that joy", she said "swimming is a hard sport."



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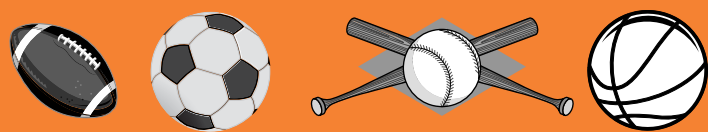
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Sat, May 14 BSB Loyola Marymount (Louis Guisto Field) 1:00 PM

Sun, May 15 BSB Loyola Marymount (Louis Guisto Field) 1:00 PM

Fri, May 20 BSB Seattle Moraga, Calif. (Louis Guisto Field) 11:00 AM

Fri, May 20 BSB Seattle Moraga, Calif. (Louis Guisto Field) 2:30 PM

Sun, May 22 BSB Seattle Moraga, Calif. (Louis Guisto Field) 11:00 AM

Sun, May 22 BSB Seattle Moraga, Calif. (Louis Guisto Field) 2:30 PM

Tue, May 24 BSB UC Davis Moraga, Calif. (Louis Guisto Field) 3:00 PM

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Gaels Pitcher Improves on Season

By Bryant West

Saint Mary's baseball head coach Jedd Soto offered high praise for pitcher Martin Agosta after the sophomore's eight-inning shutout in the 1-0 win over Portland on Saturday.

"That was probably, without question, his best performance of the

year," Soto said. "He's been good, all year long, but today he used every pitch and he did it in every count. I really tip my cap to him."

Agosta has already thrown two complete games earlier in the year and had been named WCC Pitcher of the Week twice for his efforts.

When told of his coach's praise and asked if he thought it was his best performance, Agosta chuckled.

"I don't think so..." he said. "I think I had a walk, and I left some pitches out there... it was pretty good, though, but I don't think my best."

But best-game-questions aside, Agosta threw a strong game and was a big reason the Gaels got the 1-0 win late Saturday afternoon, May 7. They'd already lost twice to the Pilots earlier in the weekend - a 8-3 loss on Friday and a 3-2 loss in the first game on Saturday morning - but those runs would be all they'd get for the series as Agosta (and relief pitcher Patrick Keane, who came in in the ninth) held the Pilots scoreless in the final game.

"I feel pretty good, I executed my pitches when I needed to and threw well," Agosta said. "I just tried to execute on my pitches... if I make a good pitch, they're not going to hit them. I tip my hat to the defense; they made some great plays behind me and came up big."

Agosta started slow in the season. He lost his first three games, including a 10-2 shellacking by UCLA on March 12 in which he gave up six runs on seven hits in just one inning. But he's turned it around, going 5-2 since the UCLA loss. His ERA fell from 6.00 after the losses to 2.21 on the season after the win against Portland. His total ERA currently sits at second in the WCC, just behind Gonzaga's Cody Martin who held a .88 ERA going into this week.

Agosta was named WCC Pitcher



Martin Agosta

of the Week twice in April. The first came the week of April 4th, after a 2-0 win against Southern Utah that went down as both his first complete game and first career shutout as he posted five strikeouts and just four hits in the victory. His second award came just two weeks later, the week of April 25th, after he bested #24 Gonzaga 12-1 in Spokane in his second career complete game. He scattered eight hits, one run and struck out three.

Agosta was confident about his play after Saturday's win and admitted he felt more comfortable this year than he was his freshmen season, when he went 3-6 with a 5.40 ERA. "Last year I was kind of thrown in the

Photo Tod Fierner mix as a freshman, kind of got my stuff pushed in a little, but I learned from my mistakes and definitely better this season... experience has helped so much, it's unreal."

"Early on in the year he struggled in his first couple of outings, but since those first couple, he's really got it going," Soto said. "He's really turned the page and become the guy we thought he was going to be. We're really proud of him."

Martin and the Gaels continue their long home stand this week. They played yesterday against Cal Poly and have a home series against Loyola Marymount this weekend. The Gaels sit at 19-24 on the year and 6-9 in the WCC.

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SMC Breaks Ground on New Stadium

By Caitlin Graveson

Saint Mary's has begun a new development project that will address the needs of students and the baseball team. On Thursday, May 5 there was a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the first phase of the extensive project, the new baseball stadium. In addition to a 1,500-seat baseball park, the project includes a 50,000 square-foot recreation center. The recreation center is named after alumnus and former mayor of San Francisco, Joseph L. Alioto.

The Joseph L. Alioto Recreation Center will include a fitness

center, a multi-purpose swimming pool with lawn and plaza, multi-purpose rooms, locker rooms and three full-sized courts. Currently, more than 75 percent of Saint Mary's students participate in intramural activities and applications for undergraduate admission increased by 32 percent last year.

The school has already raised \$21 million for the \$30 million project.

President Brother Ronald Gallagher noted at the groundbreaking ceremony that this project was an important milestone in the history of

the college and a step toward improving the campus in honor of the upcoming sesquicentennial anniversary. "This will improve the quality of life of students and contribute to good health and successful competitive spirit of Saint Mary's College."

Co-captain for the Saint Mary's baseball team, Dorsey Ek added that the project will not only improve campus life but assist with the success of the baseball team. "The new stadium is the next step in excellence. It will level the playing field and help us compete for a WCC championship."

Moraga Treeline Triathlon Results

Photos Andy Scheck

Five-to-Seven Year Old Girls

Place	Name	Time
1	Mia Castilo	7:36
2	Margot Munson	8:21
3	Angela Devine	9:32

Five-to-Seven Year Old Boys

Place	Name	Time
1	Walter Workman	6:20
2	Cole Ouzounian	6:54
3	Sam Winkles	7:01

Eight-to-Eleven Year Old Girls

Place	Name	Time
1	Lizzie Follmer	11:44
2	Madeline David	12:16
3	Kristy Brown	12:34

Eight-to-Eleven Year Old Boys

Place	Name	Time
1	Chase Giglio	12:04
2	Kenny Workman	12:17
3	Kyle Davis	12:21

Overall Female Winners

Place	Name	Time
1	Daniele Roseman	1:11:40
2	Anne Erickson	1:17:44
3	Kendra Hodder	1:18:42

Overall Male Winners

Place	Name	Time
1	Gary Schellenberg	1:05:51
2	Peter Agnost	1:08:38
3	Payam Saljoughian	1:09:08

Relay Winners

Place	Name	Time
1	Johnson/Gowey/Brown	1:12:39
2	Valenzuela/Ratto/DeSaussure	1:15:37
3	Carrasco/Carrasco	1:23:20

And finally, for those of you who have been on the edge of your seats in anticipation, the results of the Municipal Team competition were very close - the City Council team of Don Tatzin, Brandt Andersson and Ken Chew emerged victorious, edging out the City Managers by four seconds. Team MODD-DDO, a mixed bag of Orinda officials, trailed by less than three minutes.

Place	Name	Time
6	Tatzin / Andersson / Chew	1:27:55
7	Falk / Keeter / Ursu	1:27:59
9	Olsen / Dickson-Dodds /Orr	1:30:18



Winner 5-7 boys, Walter Workman, is followed by Owen Lekki



Lucy Acheson, 5-7 girls, finished in 11th place



Overall winner, Gary Schellenberg, on his bike and at the finish line



Some of the municipal team members, from left: left to right: Janet Keeter, Steve Falk, Ken Chew, Don Tatzin and Brandt Andersson

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

Community Service

Moraga Garden Club Salad Luncheon

Submitted by Billie Cummings



Sporting jaunty hats, Moraga Garden Club Members and their guests Carol Larson, Faye Edwards, Helen Frank, Ginger Thompson, and Joann Reid celebrate "A Day at the Races." The table decorations for this table were designed by Phyllis Reed. Photo provided

How about celebrating Halloween, Christmas, Earth Day, and Chinese New Year all at once?

That's what the Moraga Garden Club did recently at its annual Salad Luncheon fundraiser.

The featured speaker for the event was Katharine Stuart, an El Cerrito floral designer of weddings and events whose style favors simplicity. She works with texture, structure and unique materials. Her creations were raffled off along with plants donated by McDonnell's Nursery, Moraga Garden Center, and Orchard Hardware Stores.

Planning for 167 attendees, luncheon chairmen Kathi Balousek and Nancy Comprelli asked members to decorate 22 tables with centerpieces each depicting a different world celebration.

"I was amazed at the variety of celebrations that were honored, said Balousek. Our member's creativity seemed to be truly outstanding this year."

The salad luncheon has been a tradition of the club since its beginning, 41 years ago. The money raised goes to support club activities, which include horticultural speakers, field trips, workshops, and outreach. "We do a lot for the beautification of Moraga by purchasing and planting daffodil bulbs, maintaining four garden sites in Moraga including the Rheem circle, and planting Arbor Day trees." Comprelli said. The club also purchases garden-related books for the library and supports the elementary, and middle school gardens with funds and daffodils.

"Our club is composed of a large wonderful group of friends who all get together to enjoy a love of gardening and gardens," said new president Mardi Potts. "Everyone who shares this love is welcome to join us." The Moraga Garden Club meets the third Thursday in the month, from September through May.

Motorama Returns for Father's Day

Submitted by Tom Black



At last year's inaugural Motorama event. Photo provided

If you like classic and other interesting cars, motorcycles or bicycles, downtown Lafayette is the place to be on Father's Day, June 19. That's because the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club is presenting the second annual "Motorama - World of Wheels" in the parking lot shared by Postino restaurant and the Clocktower on Mount Diablo Boulevard. Dads (and everyone else) are invited. Gates to the public open at 9:00 a.m. Admission is free.

Unlike some car shows, Motorama strives to be big enough to have plenty to see, small enough to make it easy to see it all, and diverse

enough to have something for a wide range of tastes. "This is a fun, low-key, family-friendly display of many different types of cars, motorcycles and bicycles, ones that bring smiles to the faces of both enthusiasts and the general public," said event chair Krysten Laine.

You can also treat Dad to the VIP Tent, where, for a modest fee, massages, Scotch tastings and special surprises await. Food and beverages will be available for all. "This event is a real hit with all ages," said Laine. Turnout at last year's inaugural was estimated at 2,000.

"Rotary is a 106-year-old serv-

ice organization," said club president Thomas Peeks. "Among the many local community service projects we sponsor is our popular HOME Team, started a year ago. Club members volunteer their time in performing minor but important home repair and maintenance chores for seniors who can no longer do them themselves."

Peeks stressed that all net proceeds help to fund service projects. "Not one cent goes to overhead or administrative costs."

For additional information or to register a vehicle, visit www.motorama.us.

Moraga Woman Wins Blackhawk Women's Scholarship

Submitted by Bev Shumate



Pamela Ross and Pam Harris Photo provided

Moraga's Pamela Ross, age 21, was one of six recent winners of the Blackhawk Women's Scholarship Fund (BWSF) college scholarships awarded at a tea held on Sunday, May 1st.

Chairman Pam Harris told the scholarship winners, as she passed out their individual \$5,000 awards, sometime in the future they should recognize someone else who is in need and help them in some way. "It doesn't have to be monetary help. You might have a loved one or friend that just needs some of your time, or a shoulder to lean on. Just take the time to help someone else who is in need. That's all we ask."

Ross attended Diablo Valley College and is headed to UC Davis in the fall as a junior transfer student to study International Relations/Peace and Conflict Resolution.

"We live in a flattened world with all our current technology. We can see, hear and talk to people like they are physically with us. We are all connected in some way. Policies of France affect us in the US, and vice versa. I see issues, conflicts, etcetera, that need resolution and hopefully I can be a diplomat one day and develop resolutions for those problems. I feel I can make a difference, a positive difference, in the world," said Ross.

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We Knew it All Along

GreatSchools.org ranks Lamorinda schools among the best

By Sophie Braccini

Did you hear that Lamorinda has the best schools around? A recent Forbes magazine article has been all the buzz of late, and generated national attention to results compiled by a non-profit organization, GreatSchools.org, that aims to inform parents about where to find the best schools in relation to where they can afford to buy a house. GreatSchools.org goes a step further and looks beyond the test scores in an attempt to capture the whole school experience. They note that although only quantifiable data can lead to rankings, there is more to a school experience than high test scores.

The Moraga School District gets the bragging rights to being the 6th best district in the nation, according to the Forbes article. The Lafayette and Orinda school districts ranked among the top 10 in California.

These ratings are the result of GreatSchools.org's compilation of two sets of data: Results from Standardized Testing and Reporting (California's STAR tests) or the equivalent in each state, combined with the results from the most recent National Assessment for Educational Progress data, a federal program that tests randomly selected students in fourth, eighth and 12th grades to provide state-level assessments of learning and educational progress. Every year, GreatSchool.org releases national results, ranking schools districts nationally, and per home price range,

allowing Americans to find the best schools for their buck.

All of GreatSchools.org's top 10 best school districts nationwide for 2011 present very consistent demographic profiles. They are small (10,000-37,000 people), the percentage of minority students is very low (with the exception of Moraga and Mercer Island, WA, in which Asians represent over 10% of the student population), and the residents are mostly affluent. Falmouth, Maine, Barrington, Rhode Island and Pella, Iowa (ranked 1st, 4th and 3rd respectively) are a bit more average with about 3% of the families below the poverty level, and average incomes below \$100,000. In the top spot, Falmouth, Maine, the median home value is \$351,550. Falmouth claims a low student-teacher ratio (12:1), a generous dollars-per-pupil spent of \$10,075, and a highly-educated staff (more than 60 percent of teachers have at least a master's degree). In comparison, according to Moraga Superintendent Bruce Burns, his district spends \$8,700 per student.

"The school districts we've highlighted in our line-up of top cities to live and learn have an abundance of key assets: devoted teachers, challenging curricula, and vibrant cultures of achievement," says GreatSchools.org's Connie Matthiessen, "but there's one important quality almost all of these areas lack, and that's racial diversity." She

adds, "Ironically, while our schools are becoming more segregated, our society is becoming ever more diverse. Some 44 percent of American students today are nonwhite, and that number rises every year."

GreatSchools.org strives to provide information beyond the test scores. "There are ways for teachers and principals to enrich their profile; parents and students participate on the site as well," says GreatSchools.org's Kristan Kirsh, "Principals are excited to add content and we moderate it. We have 37 million unique visitors a years, 20% of which are students."

The organization's staff also does its own research – Jessica Kelson, Associate Editor for GreatSchools.org, who researches clusters of excellence (such as Lamorinda), recently interviewed Lafayette School District Superintendent Fred Brill. "I just ask open-ended question," she says, "we want to find out what's unique about the area and the schools, the level of parental engagement, the number of parents in classrooms, the level of support for school parcel taxes. There is more to a school than just the numbers measured by a test, and we try to offer a full picture, so parents can choose the best school for each of their children."

For more information go to: <http://www.greatschools.org/find-a-school/4083-best-cities-2011-clusters-of-excellence.gs?page=1>

OIS Debate Team Comes out on Top

Submitted by Pat Sokalski



Photo provided

The Orinda Intermediate School Debate Team took Second Place at the National Middle School Debate Tournament in Los Angeles. Representing OIS was the team of Sean McFeely, Noah Bostick, and

Andrew Bower (pictured standing in front row). The OIS debaters won all five rounds. They then competed against Chaminade College Preparatory (a private school) in a final public round attended by about 700 people.

The topic was "Hate speech should not be protected by Free Speech." All together, the OIS team brought back ten trophies. The win makes the OIS team the number one public middle school team in the nation.

Wagner Ranch Presents Fiddler on the Roof Jr.

Submitted by Jennifer Wallace



Photo provided

Lights, camera, action! Wagner Ranch Elementary School proudly presents its annual spring musical, Fiddler on the Roof Jr., on Friday, June 3rd and Saturday, June 4th. This heartwarming production is a junior adaptation of the original

1964 Broadway musical. The 4th and 5th grade cast and crew has been working hard for months to make this an experience you won't soon forget. Audiences of all ages will love this play directed by Ron Pickett and produced by Susie Parr and Lynn

Molloy. Tickets for the four shows are available online at: showtix4u.com or through a link on the school website at www.orindaschools.org/wagner-ranch. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

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In Memory

Marietta Dunaway



December 17, 1952 – April 20, 2011
Moraga, California

Marietta Dunaway died peacefully at her home, surrounded by her family on April 20th.

In addition to being a devoted mother and wife, Marietta was a gifted teacher and scientist. She grew up in Borger, Texas and received her PhD from Rice University in Biochemistry. She did postdoctoral work at the Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center on the

control of the transcription of genes into RNA. She was an Adjunct and Assistant Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology at UC Berkeley beginning in 1985. Her best known paper explores the long-range interactions of DNA sequences in the promotion of transcription: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2797192>.

In 2001 Marietta chose to bring her teaching skills and love of science to the high school classroom. She was most recently a teacher at Campolindo High School in Moraga, where she will be long-remembered and respected for her tremendous dedication, intelligence, wit, caring attitude, superb teaching methods, and friendship.

Marietta was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2005 but continued to teach effectively, accommodating chemotherapy regimens so that she could recover during the weekends and teach during the week. She never complained and met each day with a smile. After leaving Campolindo on March 28th, she went home under the care of the Hospice of the East Bay and her family.

Marietta was predeceased by her parents Stewart and Wanda Dunaway, and her brother Robert.

She is survived by her devoted husband, Richard Harland, and her two loving sons, Christopher and Marcus.

The family suggests sending donations in Marietta's memory to the Lymphatic Research Foundation. An underappreciated result of removal of lymph nodes in many cancer patients is the loss of fluid drainage and consequent swelling of the legs or arms. There is currently no way to replace the lymph vessels, and support is needed for public awareness and research.

A memorial service will be held 6:30 – 9:00 PM on Monday, May 16th at Moraga Hacienda, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga.

Submit stories to

schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com

New Eagle Scouts of Troop 249

Submitted by Riki Sorenson



Troop 249's new Eagle Scouts (from left): Christian Thatcher, Zach Sorenson, David Fuhrman, Mitchell Larson. Zach Sorenson and David Fuhrman's fathers (Andy and Mark Fuhrman) received their Eagle awards together in 1980 at this same chapel. Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 249 has recognized four new Eagle Scouts in achieving scouting's highest rank. David Fuhrman, Mitchell Larson, Zach Sorenson, and Christian Thatcher, all Orinda residents, were honored on April 23rd in their Court of Honor. Scoutmaster Jeff Logan presented the awards.

David Austin Fuhrman (Miramonte) designed and built a 650-foot long path to complete a walking/running path (the route of his very first mile run!) around the play fields at Del Rey School in Orinda. For labor, David managed

not only his scout troop, but many Orindans as he lead a work party during the *Orinda in Action* service day.

Mitchell Ryan Larson, who will be attending Brigham Young University in May, designed and built a shed for the garden at Orinda Intermediate School. Larson led scouts in building the structure in the family garage, transported and assembled it at OIS, where it stores supplies for the OIS student garden club.

Zachary William Sorenson (Miramonte) refurbished the Butterfly Garden at Glorietta Elementary

School. With the help of the troop, he installed new raised beds and a drainage system, repaired old beds, and added a "welcome" sign.

Christian Alan Thatcher (Miramonte), along with the help of many scouts, friends, leaders and parents, constructed the new Glorietta Elementary sign and bench in front of the ball field on Glorietta Blvd. The sign is dedicated to his third grade teacher, Ms. Sue Johnson, and his friend, Joe Loudon.

These young men acknowledge the wonderful support from dedicated scout leaders.

Troop 243 Eagle

Submitted by Anne Mitchell



Photo provided

Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 243 is proud to announce that Ryan Mitchell of Lafayette has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He will be honored in a National Eagle Court of Honor on May 14th at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Scoutmaster John Coleman will present the Eagle award.

Ryan's Eagle Project was to build a bus stop in Orinda that serves the parishioners of Holy Shepard Lutheran Church and the surrounding residents. He transformed the area from a patch of dirt to a concrete pad and redwood bench, complete with a Bus Stop sign visible to those wishing to take the bus.

Scouts Explore Caves

Submitted by Christine Kuckuck



On April 30th, Ambassador Scouts from Moraga Girl Scout Troop #30794 participated in an adventure trip at the Moaning Caverns near Angels Camp. The scouts rappelled in and explored the cave by climbing and belly crawling with lighted helmets to show the way. "It was really fun, but quite intense and claustrophobic," said Jennifer Kuckuck. Most areas of the cave are undeveloped, so there are no lights, stairs, or walkways.

Photo provided

Eagles of Troop 212

Submitted by Stacy Giglio



Troop 212, in Moraga, was proud to honor 11 scouts with the Eagle Award on Sunday, April 17, 2011. Back row: Andres Del Valle, Brandon Luecker, Griffin Piatt, Tim Coleman; middle row: Johnny Lomas, Peter Bellingham, Karl Thornton, Matt Patera; front row: Nicholas McDonald, Connor Rosenbaum, Matt Haley

Photo provided

On Sunday, April 17, 2011, at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, Boy Scout Troop 212 conducted a National Eagle Court of Honor to celebrate eleven outstanding young men earning the Eagle Award. Eagle is the highest award that a Scout can earn. Nationally, only about two percent of all boys who enter the Scouting program earn the award.

In reflecting upon this year's large group of Eagle honorees, Scoutmaster Rainer Del

Valle said, "I am constantly amazed at the talent, dedication and honor that each of these scouts possess. They are awesome young men, and I am very proud of each and every one of them."

This year's Troop 212 Eagle Scout honorees are:

Brandon Luecker

Brandon is the fifth Eagle in the Luecker family. For his Eagle project, Brandon built and installed two large, portable utility closets for

The Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) in Concord.

Matthew Haley

Matthew chose his Eagle project to benefit Campolindo High School's Choir. He replaced the music folder cabinet in the high school choir room with a new wooden cabinet.

Andres Del Valle

Andres's Eagle Service Project was carried out for the benefit Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church's nursery school, The Nurtury. Andres designed and installed planter boxes for the pre-school garden where the children can now plant seeds and flowers and watch them grow.

Nicholas McDonald

Nicholas' Eagle service project was carried out for the benefit of Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. Nicholas built a storage facility for the church, in a replica of the homes built during the church's high school mission trips to Mexico.

Johnny Lomas

Johnny's Eagle Service Project was carried out for the benefit of Rancho Laguna Park in Moraga. He designed and installed a large wooden message board at the park where the town now posts important messages and announcements, and he built and installed two doggie bag holders at the park.

Karl Thornton

For his Eagle project, Karl built and installed two wooden benches in Castle Rock Regional Park. The benches sit at a lookout point on the trail and provide an excellent spot for bird watching, and for hikers to rest and enjoy the

view while hiking the trails in the park.

Timothy Coleman

Tim's Eagle service project benefited Camino Pablo School. He built and installed an "office" sign and painted Bobcat paw prints to lead the way to the office from the front of campus. He also designed and installed two different landscape projects to beautify the school.

Griffin Piatt

Griffin is part of generations of Piatt scouting heritage starting with Dr. Tom Piatt, Griffin's grandfather, who was the Scoutmaster of Troop 303 in Orinda. Griffin's Eagle Project consisted of designing and installing five raised garden beds for the vegetable and flower garden at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School.

Connor Rosenbaum

For his Eagle project, Connor replaced the benches and built roofs over the pony baseball field at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School to benefit the Moraga Baseball Association.

Matthew Patera

Matt's Eagle project was for the benefit of The Audubon Society and Town of Moraga. He built and installed bat houses at the Moraga Commons Park, and an owl house at Rancho Laguna Park.

Peter Bellingham

Peter's Eagle Project was for the benefit of Rancho Laguna Park in Moraga. He built two wooden benches for the amphitheater there, completing the amphitheater renovation that was begun by two other local Eagle candidates.

Lamorinda Weekly
is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA

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Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:



- Leaning Toward St. Mary's College Commencement is May 21st
- Top Talent Tackles Triathlon Mild-mannered public servants by day...weekend warriors in Moraga this Saturday
- Moraga Country Club Station Post Office in Danger of Closing
- "The Way of the White Tiger" - East West Kung Fu of Lafayette
- Model Home Needs Permit for Photo Shoots
- BART Expands Plan for Solar Shades
- Lafayette Kitchen Tour Features Kitchens with Distinctive Styles
- Faster than Four Minutes
- Del Rey Team Heads to World Championship
- Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian The Potager Kitchen Garden

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

Springhill Principal Retires

By Cathy Dausman



In his teaching career Bruce Wodhams has served under several school district superintendents, worked with at least two office managers and three different school mascots, and endured two years of whole school remodeling—and that’s just at one school. In June Wodhams will retire after twenty four years as principal at Lafayette’s Springhill Elementary. Not bad for someone who only expected to be in the district for “just a few years.”

Wodhams’ successor is Heather Duncan, the principal at Walnut Creek’s Buena Vista El-

ementary. Duncan’s appointment was announced May 2 during a special meeting of the Lafayette School Board. “We are delighted to welcome Heather to the Lafayette community,” says Lafayette School Superintendent Fred Brill. Duncan says she is “thrilled to be coming” and can’t wait to get started. She has been in education for 18 years – in Walnut Creek for 12 years, five of them at Buena Vista.

Wodhams’ teaching career began in Clover City. A graduate of University of the Redlands, he earned his master’s in teaching from USC and admin-

istrative certificate from Chico State University.

He taught for a while in Stavanger, Norway at a K-12 school with an enrollment of some seven hundred students. He was principal for three years in the Sierra Foothills town of Marysville at its smallest elementary school-- a school with five teachers and 150 students. Wodhams did a brief stint as a high school assistant principal, but found he missed the elementary school environment. In 1987, Wodhams relocated to the East Bay, accepting the job at Springhill. He’s been there ever since.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Acalanes Union High School District
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
Wednesday, May 18, 7:30pm

Lafayette School District
LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
TONIGHT Wednesday, May 11, 7pm

Orinda Union School District
OUSD Office
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda
Monday, June 6, 4pm

Moraga School District
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
Tuesday, June 14, 7:30pm

Wodhams recalls fellow principals at Happy Valley and Burton Valley working over twenty years at their respective jobs, so longevity in the position is “kind of the expectation.” After all these years, the work sometimes makes him “tired, but never bored.”

Wodhams has many admirers. Jean Follmer is Springhill Elementary Parent Faculty Club President. Follmer says Wodhams “has made a significant impact on our community. He’s been incredibly supportive of our special education program and was instrumental in the solar panel installations and All Things Green in our district. He sings and plays the guitar with our children (“that’s my therapy,” says Wodhams), is an avid supporter of Scouts and piloted the Character Counts program for the district.”

David Gerson is a Springhill parent and member of the Governing Board of Lafayette School District. Gerson says Wodhams

has been “as concerned about what happens on the playground as he is about what happens in the classroom. He has focused not only on the district’s academic curriculum but also on teaching lessons about life...tolerance, compassion, respect, fairness and empathy.”

Brill echoes that thought, calling Wodhams “a dedicated educator who has transformed the culture of Springhill School...and models what it means to be a life-long learner.”

Wodhams’ last official day in district is June 30; Duncan expects to get started in July. Wodhams travels to Norway (yes, Stavanger) after school lets out. His advice to Duncan is “Enjoy the kids. That’s what it’s all about.” Eventually Wodhams hopes to return as a Springhill volunteer, “When the new principal is comfortable having me here.” But for now it seems he will be taking David Gerson’s last bit of advice to heart:

“Relax and have some fun!”

TEEN SCENE

Prom, Anyone?

By Courtney Cheng



Prom Promenade: Lauren, Courtney, Faithlina, and Megan Photos courtesy Cheng family

In the land of high school, where chivalry is mostly dead but relationships still bloom, prom probably ranks as the second-most anticipated event of each [female] student’s high school career.

As junior and senior classes prepare for their own prom experience, there are numerous, perhaps too many, challenges encountered. It’s not about the dresses or the limos; it’s about the dates and the asking, as portrayed in Disney’s newest film, *Prom*.

Almost every girl wants to go to prom with a date. This is to be expected, but there is a problem: these girls aren’t always asked. A few years back, a female student at Acalanes had so many date plans fall through she almost completely opted out of going to prom. Her friends finally set her up with one of her best guy friends, and they both ended up having a great time.

So often these days, teenage guys don’t realize that their “perfect date” is right in front of them. From a girl’s perspective, it seems that some boys will refuse to go to prom if they can’t go with their crush. Chances are, though, if the boy asked a friend, things will be less pressured at the actual event and both parties will have more fun.

Miramonte junior Lisa Chang agrees. “I wanted to go with someone I knew I was going to have fun with. Not necessarily a romantic interest, but just someone I know I’m going to be comfortable with the day of prom.”

Other times, guys try their best to “outdo”

everyone else in the way they ask. There’s no need to find the most romantic way to ask someone. Keeping things simple often works best.

For her own prom on March 19th, Lisa took matters into her own hands and asked her date herself. “My date and I are math partners in our Calculus class. Whenever we didn’t get the score we wanted on partner quizzes, he would jokingly blame me and tell me to bake cookies to repay him. I took that idea and baked five cupcakes spelling out ‘Prom?’ in frosting letters accompanied by a poem.”

Prom is perhaps Disney’s most realistic movie to date. The film encompasses all the drama of asking someone to prom. Five different stereotypical couples’ scenarios are played out: the dateless loser, the perfect couple gone wrong, the dateless pretty girl, the perfect “for show” couple, and the beautiful girl caught between two possible dates. There is, of course, a happy ending – one that may actually be achievable in real life. Every high school student should be able to look back on prom with a smile, recalling funny stories and laughing at photos. The only thing that would make the night even better is being able to reminisce on the memories twenty years later with the same friends in those (cheesy) photos.

If all goes well, the senior ball attendees from the Acalanes Union High School District will have just that this May.

Courtney Cheng is a junior in high school. She enjoys playing violin, writing poetry, and reading fictional novels.



Courtney Cheng, 11th grade, getting ready for the big night



Lisa Chang’s Prom Cupcake invitation to Miramonte’s big dance

Ask Dr. Harold –

Summer Time

By Harold Jules Hoyle Ph.D.

Did a parent talk at a local school this week and parents were asking what they should do to have a psychologically healthy summer for their kids. So here are some things to think about when setting up the schedule for your family this summer.

Perspective

Remember how long summer seemed when you were a kid? Here is what is going on. If you are nine you are about to embark on a summer that comprises 2% of your life. My summer this year will account for 1/250th of my life. So when they say they just want to chill or hang for the summer you can say “no.” I am sure that for kids learning how to properly chill and hang is an important skill set to have. Many of my teen clients with anxiety have “learning to chill” as a treatment goal. What is important for us as parents to teach is that even an important activity like hanging with your friends is not the only activity of the day or week or summer. No one gets to take the summer off. Responsibilities continue in the summer. The family still needs to run and they are part of the family.

Vacationers and Travelers

Many of us use time in the summer to go on vacation. The reality is that parents and kids have very different views of what vacation means. When you are a kid you are much more of an adventurer or traveler. Kids find and create new identities, they build things that can be seen from space, and they don’t understand why you want to relax and read a book. For crying out loud there is a waterslide over there! They think you are crazy. Even if you tell them you need to do their favorite homework behavior of chilling and hanging. Make sure you spend some time in travelers’ land and you carve out time for you to relax. If you carve out time for yourself you might be better at helping them carve out time for their important activities.

Dynamics and Activities

I tend to begin summer with a trip to a bookstore where I finance my kids’ picking out summer books. My daughter traditionally loaded up on books and my son would

say, “Dad it is summer, you’re not supposed to read in summer.” To which I say, “not true,” and here is why. If we let kids turn summer into a zone where they return to every bad habit they can think of we have lost the battle. When summer hits there are still bed times, chores, reading, writing, reflecting, and so many others. The areas that kids need to balance can be thought of in many ways but here are the psychological basic dynamics, thinking, emotion, physical, spiritual, and aesthetic. Make a list and encourage you child to do something from each of these areas each day. You can expand your list to social areas like their room, the house, the yard, and something nice for a family member. They will need to fit their preferred activities in and among these activities.

Road Trip

I am not sure about the psychology on this but people in a car for a long time tend to have good conversations. Even if the don’t, they often think they do. The bay area may be one of the best areas on earth for a road trip with the kids. Have a family dinner with the expressed purpose of coming up with some road trips for this summer, sand between the toes, towers of granite, fresh oysters, cousins.....whatever it is, give your kids something to write about when they get back to school in August.



www.drharoldhoyle.com
Harold can be contacted by phone or email: 510-219-8660
hjoyle@mac.com

Harold is licensed clinical psychologist and a lecturer in the School of Counseling Psychology, Education, and Pastoral Ministries Santa Clara University. With his wife and two children he is a 14 year long resident of the Lamorinda area. He is a sought after speaker in the areas of parenting, education, behavior with adolescents and children. He has a local private practice.

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So Much To Do, So Li

Put on your running shoes – Lamorinda offers up a wide variety of exciting events and entertainment over the next several days. The question is, how to do it all?

May 14th is the big day, and you'll be in good shape for it because you're biking to work on May 12, right? It's Mother's Day as we prepare this issue for the presses, so we're taking a mom's perspective for a little planning exercise in advance of a very busy Saturday.

We suggest starting out in Lafayette, at promptly 10:00 a.m., by bringing the tots to the Lafayette Nursery School for Science Discovery Day. At 11:00, drop in on the Concert at the Res for some great music and to check out the model of the new stage, then have your spouse or a friend pick up the kids for lunch and naps while you tour kitchens and gardens for an hour or so before getting educated at the Car Care Clinic for Women in Orinda at 1:00 (while you're there, please ask why the car always stops making that funny noise as soon as you bring it into the shop – let us know the answer).

When the little nappers awake, head to the Moraga Community Faire – you may miss the Chalk Contest but you should be able to get there in time check out the classic cars; then stash the kids in the bounce house, and the car at the Star station for the charity car wash, while you wander around the Faire for a while. When your car is more presentable and the kids are asking for more snacks, it's back to Orinda for the party at Theater Square. Did someone say free cupcakes? Bring the kids home for dinner at 5:00 and have the babysitter come a little early so you have time for a quick shower. Then grab your favorite date and return to Theater Square at 8:00 for the Grand Reopening of the Orinda Theatre – after a day like this, side-splitting laughter courtesy of the one and only Rich Little will be just the ticket.

Add in free outdoor movie nights on May 13th and 19th, and the Taste of Lafayette on the 17th, and you will have enjoyed some of the best of Lamorinda's late spring festivities. Or maybe it would be better to pick just one or two of your favorite things to do on Saturday...



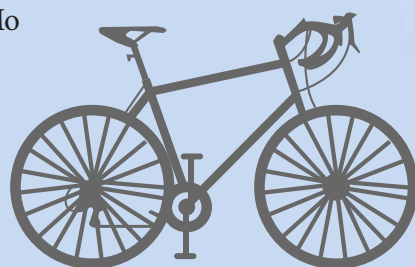
Thursday, May 12 is the 17th annual Bike to Work Day – get ready to roll, Lamorinda!

May 12

The Lafayette community will host two morning and one afternoon Energizer Stations to support and encourage bicyclists pedaling to and/or from work that day. The City of Lafayette's Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) will have a station in Plaza Park (Mt. Diablo Blvd. & Moraga Rd.) from 6-8:30am to catch the riders heading to work. In the afternoon, the Chamber of Commerce's Green Committee will host a station at that same location to support the ride home. Also in the morning, there will be an Energizer Station at Lafayette BART from 7-9am hosted by Hank and Frank Bikes. All stations will offer refreshments, commute information and great giveaways. According to Bart Carr, BPAC member and one of Lafayette's Bike to Work Day organizers, "the progression over the years to three stations indicates Lafayette's growing interest in bicycling."

Orinda is hosting an energizing station in the BevMo parking lot, 6-8am. The station will provide snacks, fruit and juice for those biking to work. The public is encouraged to try biking to work and to stop by for some goodies.

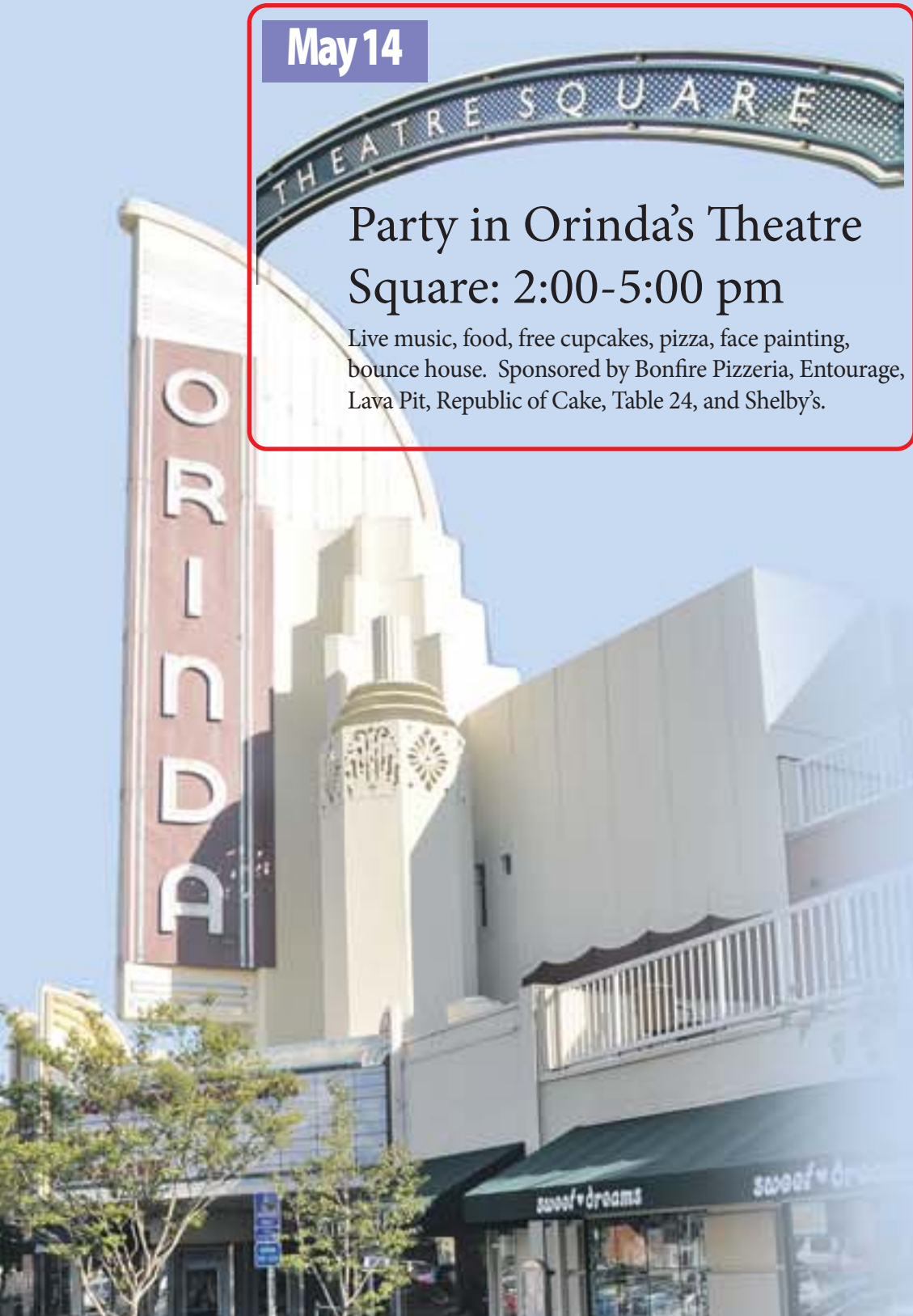
For more Bike to Work Day information go to <http://511contracosta.org/bike-to-work-day-2011>



May 14

Party in Orinda's Theatre Square: 2:00-5:00 pm

Live music, food, free cupcakes, pizza, face painting, bounce house. Sponsored by Bonfire Pizzeria, Entourage, Lava Pit, Republic of Cake, Table 24, and Shelby's.



Science Discovery Day:

10:00 am-1:00 pm

May 14

Play with huge bubbles, visit with animals, and dig for dinosaur bones. Make a volcano explode, blast a rocket into space, or explore the gooey texture of slime. This science fair is designed for children preschool age through third grade and features over 20 exciting hands-on experiments. Lafayette Nursery School, 979 First Street, Lafayette. \$4.00 per child preschool age through Grade 3 (parents and infants are free). For more information contact Nancy Turtle at (925) 253-7985 or visit www.lafayettenurseryschool.com.

5th Annual Moraga Community Faire at the Rheem Shopping Center:

11:00 am- 5:00 pm

May 14



Whether it's classic cars, arts and crafts, children's activities, music or a chance to sample Lamorinda wines and local restaurant cuisine, there is something planned for people of all ages. Highlights include musical performances by local favorites, including the East Bay Banjo Club, the Oak Grove Bluegrass Family, Littledog2, the Campolindo Chorus and JM Ensemble; the opportunity to purchase arts, crafts and jewelry from a wide variety of artists; and wine tasting by Moraga's own Parkmon Vineyards and Captain Family Vineyards. This year's Classic Car Show, which takes place 11am-4pm, will highlight trophy cars owned by area residents and introduce attendees to the owners who have so carefully restored them. Young artists can enter a Chalk Contest, 11am-2pm. In addition there will be a free climbing wall, two bounce houses and plenty of other activities for children. Many local retail and businesspeople, as well as nonprofit organizations, will showcase the wealth of resources in Moraga. The Moraga Community Faire is organized and sponsored by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and supported by the Town of Moraga. For more information, visit www.moragachamber.org/faire.

Charity Car Wash:

9:30 am-4:30 pm

May 14



STAR Service Station, corner of Rheem Blvd. and Moraga Rd. in Moraga. Presented by teen volunteers of Be the Star You Are!®. Tickets \$10 at event, \$8 at their Moraga Faire booth or online.

Questions? See www.bethestaryouare.org or call (925) 376-7126.

Little Time!



Concert at the Res 2010 Photo Andy Scheck

Concert at the Res: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Performing at this year's Concert at the Res, held at the beautiful Lafayette Reservoir, will be the Stanley Symphonic Band led by Bob Athayde, honored as the 2007 Outstanding Music Educator of the Year; the highly acclaimed Acalanes Wind Ensemble led by Norm Dea, the Big Band of Rossmoor led by Mo Levich, honored as Lafayette's 2007 Business Person of the year, and the Bentley School Jazz combo led by Brian Pardo. This special event showcases the Lafayette school music programs and raises money to support them as well as helping to fund many other local charities and organizations that Rotary supports. This year's concert will be held for the last time at the meadow just above the Boat House. Shuttles are available to take you from the main parking lot up to the concert. Next year "Concert at the Res" will be performed on the new permanent stage that is being built just to the left of the dam, across from the children's play structure. A model of the stage and information will be available at this year's concert.

May 14



Life in the Lafayette Garden Tour: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

May 14



Tickets are \$25 each and include an outdoor cooking demonstration, urban farming demonstration, light refreshments, live music, and tours of five Lafayette home gardens. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the AAUW-OML Tech Trek scholarship program. For ticket information, please call Pat Lopker at (925) 376-5155.

Lafayette Kitchen Tour: 10:00 am-3:00 pm

May 14

The Lafayette Juniors' 12th annual tour features six brand new and remodeled kitchens with an interesting variety; ranging from California Arts and Crafts style to East Coast Traditional. Also showcased are two homes with outdoor kitchens, and another spectacular home with a wine cellar built underneath. Tickets are \$35 and are available at www.lafayettejuniors.org.



Free Movie Nights

May 13

Friday, May 13, at the Moraga Commons Park - Despicable Me: 8:30 pm

Enjoy the free movie under the stars-presented by The Moraga Youth Involvement Committee. Bundle up with blankets and friends, enter the raffle, and enjoy delicious concessions sold by the MYIC.



Orinda Theatre Grand Re-Opening: 8:00 pm

May 14



The evening of celebration promises to be full of extravaganza and will highlight a legendary comedian who has been called "the last great impressionist of our time", Rich Little as well as well-known San Francisco Bay Area Film Critic, Jan Wahl as host of the evening. It will also feature past Orinda Idol winners who will perform song renditions live. Come to see, to be seen, and most importantly to enjoy the company of friends and relatives. It will be a night to remember for all. Ticket admissions are \$35, and it will include the comedy show. There is a \$125 dinner package for a limited seating for twenty-five people, first come-first-served basis, with Rich Little. A Reception Ticket, \$45, which includes light refreshments and limited to 100 people, first come-first-served basis, is also available. Tickets may be purchased at the Orinda Theatre's Box Office, or at the theatre's website (www.theorindatheatre.com). For more details, e-mail OrindaTheatre@att.net or call 925.254.9065.

Movies in the Park at Lafayette Plaza - E.T. (G) at dusk

May 19

Invite your friends, family, and neighbors, bring a blanket or two, shop at the farmers market for a fresh and delicious picnic or pick-up a meal to go at the nearby restaurants, and stake out your spot on the Lafayette Plaza greens for the free family entertainment. Sweets and drinks will be available for purchase. There will also be a raffle with prizes awarded that evening, and donations collected at each event. All proceeds will go towards maintaining this event as a recurring summer series next year and beyond. Presented by the City of Lafayette and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.



Free Car Care Clinic for Women: 1:00 pm

May 14

Held at Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way, Orinda, this event offers women a chance to learn about vehicle maintenance and operation from experts in the auto repair industry. The event is free but a donation or a gas gift card to the Senior Helpline Services is requested. Sign up at www.orindamotors.com or call (925) 254-2012.



Tuesday, May 17, 9th Annual "Taste of Lafayette": 5:30 pm

May 17

This is your chance to sample the signature cuisine of as many of Lafayette's finest eateries as you can squeeze into two hours. Taste of Lafayette begins in Lafayette Plaza at 5:30pm where you will check in and enjoy a glass of wine and nosh on appetizers. Next you can stroll down Lafayette's Restaurant Row on Mt Diablo Blvd. or board the shuttle bus that will take you up and down the boulevard. 15-20 local restaurants and catering companies will be participating. At each stop, comes another "taste." Finally, back to the park to enjoy coffee and dessert. Proceeds from the event benefit the Lafayette Community Foundation and the Services and Programs of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. View Taste of Lafayette on You Tube, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r74ISEvn-QsI>. Tickets for the event will be available through the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, located at 100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 103. Visit our website at www.lafayettechamber.org or call 284-7404.



Please submit:

Events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Stories: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Serving Orinda & Moraga
451 Moraga Way Phone: 925 254 5965
Worship Service and Sunday School -- Sundays 10:30 am
"The Church with Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors"
Pastor: Rev. Ron Swisher

St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda
254-3770. www.ststephenorinda.org
Sunday 8am & 10am.
Music at both services. Choir at 10am.
Sunday School & childcare at 10am.
St. Stephen's Preschool
254-3770 x19

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

Active Youth Program, Sunday School, Nursery Childcare, 10 AM
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

Get connected.



Grow in your faith.
Serve others.
Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
Sunday Worship 9 & 11:00 a.m.
Programs for children & youth

49 Knox Drive | Lafayette | www.LOPEC.org | 925-283-8722

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church

WORSHIP THE LORD WITH US

Sundays at 9 & 10:30am



10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga • mvpcctoday.org • 925.376.4800

ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CENTER

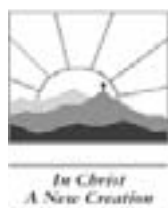
24 Orinda Way (next to the Library) - 254-4212
Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 10 - 1
www.christianscienceorinda.org

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Way Orinda



Regular Worship Schedule
8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
9:40 a.m. Education for all ages
10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship Service
925-254-3422 Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

Our Savior's Lutheran (ELCA)
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
283-3722 www.oslc.net
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
8:30 Classic 10:45 Contemporary
PROGRESSIVE. PROACTIVE. PRESENT. We welcome you.



THE ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH

10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org
"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"
Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.



Sundays at 10:30 am

A NEW, non-denominational Christian church
Veterans Memorial Building 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

www.refugecommunity.org
925-942-1000

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

The Art Room's Teen & Adult Student Art Show; Friday, May 20, 6-8:30pm. Please join The Art Room for our Teen and Adult Student Art Show. We're very proud of the work our students have been doing and would love for you to help us celebrate their accomplishments. You'll enjoy the art of our students as well as the professional art work of our teachers and artists of Lafayette Gallery. Snacks, great art, and the ambience of our beautiful yard and the gallery's Sculpture Garden all provide for a beautiful spring evening. The Art Room is at 50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette.

Gift of the Gods: Exploring Maize, Culture and Indigenous Art in the Americas, is on view through June 19 at the Hearst Art Gallery, the museum of Saint Mary's College. Artifacts include maize belts from Northern Peru that trace back to an ancient Inca tradition, harvest festival masks from Ecuador, Navajo rugs, Hopi katsina figures and a pollen pouch, Hopi, Acoma and Mata Ortiz pottery, Tarahumara grinding stones, corn storage baskets, elaborately embroidered tortilla cloths and clothing from Mexico and Guatemala. A tamale-making lesson and dinner is planned for Monday, May 23, from 4 - 5:30 pm; \$15 per person. Call (925) 631-4379 for details or to make a reservation. The Gallery is open to the public Wednesdays through Sundays, 11am-4:30pm. Adult admission is \$4, students and Gallery members are free. For more information, call (925) 631-4379. Website: www.hearstgallery.org.

Forty paintings have been selected for Valley Art Gallery's juried "Slopes of Diablo 2011" show, opening on Saturday, May 21. A free opening reception will be cosponsored by Save Mount Diablo on Sunday, May 22, from 3-6pm. While the subject is Mt. Diablo, different styles and painting mediums express a wide variety of very personal views of the iconic mountain that dominates this region. Valley Art Gallery is located at 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek. www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311.

Moraga Art Gallery's show, Chiaroscuro: Light and Shadow runs through June 4. The gallery is located at 570 Center St in Moraga. For more information, go to www.moragaart-gallery.com or (925) 376-5407.

"DREAMS," the latest paintings by Sheri Lenz, runs through May at Shelby's restaurant in Orinda Theater Square. For more information call (925) 376-7724.

MUSIC

Voices of Musica Sacra concludes its season-long survey of American choral music by featuring some of the most beautiful and peaceful works by 20th and 21st century composers. Saturday, May 14, 3pm, Piedmont Community Church, 400 Highland Ave., Piedmont and Sunday, May 15, 2011, 3:00 pm, St. Stephen Catholic Church, 1101 Keaveny Ct, Walnut Creek. Tickets at door or in advance at Brown Paper Tickets, 1-800-838-3006. <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/16457>. \$20 adults, \$15 students/seniors, children 5-12 free.

Aspiring vocalists can strut their stuff at the next piano bar open mic on May 18 at Petar's Restaurant & Pub. It may not exactly be American Idol, but the music is upbeat and the crowd appreciative. Pianist Gary Neuman plays an eclectic mix and guests take turns at the mic so all styles are represented. Young and old are invited to participate and celebrate the spirit of restaurant founder, Petar Jakovina.

Campolindo High School Year End Spring Concert, Friday, May 20, 7:30PM at the CPAC. Presenting the year end performances of Campolindo's Jazz Band, Orchestra, Concert Band and Symphonic Band. Featuring CHS Concerto Winner Lindsay Willmore performing Ralph Vaughan Williams' Oboe Concerto. Also on the program are Simple Symphony by Benjamin Britten, Gaelic Rhapsody by Elliot Del Borgo with Emily Spitz as student conductor, and Fervent Is My Longing by J.S. Bach, among other musical highlights. The concert is free and open to the public with an after concert reception in the Campolindo Cafeteria.

Flute and Fiddle Concert Featuring Flutist Carol Alban and Fiddler Mark Shaw. An afternoon performance that ranges from classical to folk to standards. Light refreshment will be served. Friday May 20, 1:30 - 3pm Live Oak

Room, Lafayette Community Center \$1Members/\$3Non-Members. Call ahead to 284-5050 to let us know you'll be joining us.

Contra Costa Performing Arts Society Concert, Sunday, May 22, 2pm, honoring founder Rosamund Davis. Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. COST: Free to the community. Info: www.ccpas.org.

The Cantare Con Vivo Chorale culminate their 24th season by joining with the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir for a stunning concert of African American music. The concert will be performed on Sunday, May 22, at 4pm at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Avenue, Walnut Creek. Ticket prices are \$25 in Advance, \$30 At Door and \$10 Youth. Tickets can be purchased by going on line to www.cantareconvivo.org or by phone at (510) 836-0789.

Free Contra Costa Performing Arts Society Friday morning solo and chamber music concert, May 27 10:30am, Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. www.ccpas.org.

Resident harpist Shannon Polley performs a farewell concert, celebrating music of the dance, with Maestro Duane Carroll and Contra Costa Wind Symphony. Composer Randol Bass conducts his composition "Champagne and Roses." May 28 at 8 pm, Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave., Walnut Creek. Tickets: (\$10) at www.CCWindSymphony.org and at the door.

THEATER

The THK Players presents "The Wizard of Oz" May 12-15. The THK Players is Town Hall Kids' flagship program, featuring young actors from ages 7 to 18 performing full-length, family-friendly productions. At the end of the month, political satirist Will Durst makes his triumphant return as part of the Town Hall Comedy Series, hosted by improv giant Crisis Hopkins. For more details and tickets go to TownHallTheatre.com or call the Town Hall Theatre Box Office at (925) 283-1557.

Berkeley Playhouse Youth and Teens Present PIPPIN on May 14 @ 2pm and 7pm/May 15 at 12pm and 5pm, at Berkeley Playhouse at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Avenue, Berkeley. A young prince goes on a fantastical journey to find the meaning of life only to discover fulfillment is found in simple pleasures of home and family. Cost: \$15 Youth/\$20 Adult/\$10 for group of 20 or more (Use Code YOUTH20). For more info see <http://www.berkeleyplayhouse.org> or call (510) 845-8542 x397.

Green Rheem Movie Night will view "Tapped," an unflinching examination of the big business of bottled water, May 17, 6pm, The New Rheem Theatre, Moraga. For more information and to purchase discounted tickets in advance of the show please visit www.generationgreen.com.

Oakland Ballet Company presents FORWARDS! on Thurs-Sat, May 19-21, 8pm, and Sat, May 21, 3pm, at Laney College Theater, 900 Fallon Street, Oakland. Tickets: www.BrownPaperTickets.com Cost: \$21-\$60. For more info see <http://www.OaklandBallet.org> or call 866-711-6037 or email info@oaklandballet.org.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Join acclaimed area photographer Stephen Joseph and local author Linda Rimac Colberg for a free digital presentation of the recently published book, Mount Diablo: The Extraordinary Life and Landscapes of a California Treasure at the Moraga Library, Tuesday, May 17, at 7pm. Stephen's presentation takes the audience on an up close and personal journey around Mount Diablo, with a surprise at every turn, as he shares exquisite photographs and personal tales of the popular places and hidden faces of this natural wonder. The free presentation includes Q&A, and finishes up with book sales and signing.

The Orinda Library will host a special free program featuring Patricia Bulitt on Wed, May 25 at 6:30pm. The Gift Exchange of Dance: A California Dancer's Exchange with the Yupik Eskimos in Alaska will illustrate Bulitt's work with the native people of the far north in particular Hooper Bay on the coast of the Bering Sea. With a slide show of Eskimo life, Bulitt will also perform a dance which she is very careful to describe as a "non-traditional story-

telling dance." The program will take place in the Gallery Room of the Orinda Library which is at 26 Orinda Way in Orinda. For more information, visit cc-lib.org or call (925) 254-2184.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Stanley Middle School Book Fair Wed May 11 & Thursday, May 12 8am-4pm in Rooms 406 & 407. Special Event Evening of Books: Thursday, May 12th 6pm - 9pm. Remember 20% of all proceeds benefit the Stanley School Library.

Homeopathy Every Day Study Group of Walnut Creek Thursday, May 19, from 6-7pm., 43 Quail Court, Suite 215, Walnut Creek, CA. Masha Rosen, CCH, RSHom(NA) will be talking to us about how to "Strengthen Your Child's Immune System — Holistic Help for Colds, Coughs, and Ear Infections.

Campolindo Grad Night 2011. Join us for a special preview of the theme "Wizard of Oz" on Thursday, June 9th 7-9:00pm "Somewhere over the rainbow, dreams really do come true!" Campolindo High School, 300 Moraga Road, Moraga.

OTHER

Electronic Ewaste Collection/Fundraiser for Citizens For The Lost on Saturday May 14th, from 9am-4pm at Lafayette Christian Church, Glenside Drive, Lafayette. Free to recycle televisions, monitors, laptops, cell phones, flatscreens and wires. \$5.00 per item fee to recycle: stereos, telephones, printers, DVD players, radios, fax machines, small appliances etc. Secured Document Destruction also provided at \$10.00 per Banker Box. Contact: (925)-890-1324. Citizens For The Lost is dedicated to helping victims come together to lead search efforts for missing children.

The Moraga Women's Society and the Hospice Boutique will present "Fancy Us" a fun fashion show, raffle and delicious luncheon on Monday, May 16th, 10am-1pm at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Guests are welcome. Tickets are \$25.00. Proceeds benefit the schools, library, parks and other MWS service donations. For Ticket information, please call Jean Glaser, (925) 376-7961.

On May 20, The Suburban Woman's Club of Lafayette is sponsoring a Day at The Races at Golden Gate Fields. Tickets are \$40 and include admission, parking and a delicious buffet lunch. All proceeds from this event go to charity. For tickets and more information call Jan Emmerich at (925) 283-5775.

Lamorinda Cert 3rd Annual Spring Drill will take place at Stanley Middle School on Saturday, May 14. The drill will start at 10am and is part of our preparations for disasters. All Lamorinda CERT graduates are invited to participate. Be at Stanley School by 9:30am to sign in; bring your CERT backpack.

Walnut Creek Aquanut's Annual, "Night of Champions" event is May 28, 5pm, at Heather Farms, Clarke Memorial Swim Center and will feature the best of our Team and Individual technical routines that are performed in both National and World competitions. Please come out and support our athletes so they can achieve their local, national, international and Olympic dreams! For Tickets Visit: aquanuts.org or email: aquanutpress@yahoo.com.

Make-A-Wish 5K walk on Saturday, June 4, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Music, refreshments, lots of activities for kids and a focus on life-affirming wishes make this an event the whole family will enjoy; moderately easy, wheelchair and stroller-friendly walk. Participants are encouraged to walk in honor or memory of wish children. Saint Mary's College, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. \$25 per person. Contact information: fmonet@SFWish.org or visit www.walkforwishesbayarea.org.

SENIORS

Senior Helpers of Contra Costa presents a Senior Health Faire, to be held at the Hacienda de las Flores at 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga on May 17th from 2pm-4:30 pm. Judge Joyce Cram, a leading authority on legal issues concerning local seniors will headline a group of presenters. Volunteers will be conducting free and confidential Community Memory Screenings, an initiative of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America. Admission is free and refreshments will be provided. Space is limited so please call (925) 376-9900 to reserve your spot.

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 5 Wednesday, May 11, 2011



Funky Custom Mailboxes ...read on page F8

Craftsmen and Their Homes

By Sophie Braccini



Overhanging eaves feature prominently in Jon Eiler's Craftsman home.

Jon Eiler's inspiration for his Lafayette home came from early twentieth-century houses designed by Charles and Henry Greene (Greene & Greene) of Pasadena. The Greenes' large homes, designed in the Craftsman style, are sometimes referred to as the 'Ultimate

Bungalows' and make extensive use of natural material, from the outside structure that is magnified, like an exoskeleton, to the many details of the interior fixtures, panels and furniture – the Craftsman style is said to be the first true American style.

Greene & Greene were early 20th

century architects who studied woodworking, metalworking, and toolmaking before joining the School of Architecture at M.I.T. Their style, which developed in Pasadena where they settled, was influenced by Japanese design in the creation of clear and simple lines, while their

craftsmanship and love for natural elements led them to use exotic hardwoods, outside and inside the homes they designed, as well as stones, metal, and stained glass.

When Lafayette carpenter Eiler bought a 2000-square-foot ranch home in Lafayette, he knew that this was the style that would inspire his remodeling. "The exterior of Jon's home is probably one of the closest to the Greene & Greene style I have seen in the area," comments- museum-curator turned real-estate-agent Tran Turner.

... continued on Page F4



Red windows contrast beautifully with the dark green-grey outside walls on the Hathaway home

KURT PIPER

presents...

The Best of Lafayette

15 Candlelight Lane



Stunning craftsman style 4 bedroom, 3½ bath (plus home office) 3,417 square foot home on professionally landscaped .74 acre lot. Custom built in 2005 this home has an impressive list of high end finishes throughout. Three car garage, huge mud room and more!

Offered at \$1,635,000.

851 Avalon Court



Classic California ranch style home in prime downtown neighborhood. 3 bedrooms 2 baths, vaulted beam ceilings, hardwood floors, and brick fireplace. Two flat yard spaces include patio, lawn area, lemon trees and heritage oak. Walk to "everything".

Offered at \$829,000.

3242 Glenside Drive



Traditional old world charm found in this beautifully remodeled home using "green" materials throughout. This 3,012 square foot 4 bedroom 2½ bath Lafayette Trail neighborhood home offers a flat 1/3 acre lot with stone patios, enchanting gardens, newly remodeled pool, and more!

Offered at \$1,429,000

819 Las Trampas Road



Custom built 4 bedroom 4½ bath Lafayette Trail neighborhood home on park like 1.06 acre lot. Spacious 3,548 square foot floor plan. Stunning grounds with pool. Gorgeous heritage oak trees. Private yet close to town. A mini estate setting in a prime Lafayette location.

Reduced to \$1,399,000.



Kurt Piper
THE PIPER GROUP

(925) 818-8000
kurt@kurtpiper.com
www.kurtpiper.com
DRE#01130308



Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

LAFAYETTE	Last reported: 10
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$364,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,810,000
MORAGA	Last reported: 9
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$215,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,350,000
ORINDA	Last reported: 8
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$650,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,390,000

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

LAFAYETTE

- 1001 Almanor Lane, \$488,500, 3 Bdrms, 1196 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 4-8-11; Previous Sale: \$700,000, 12-14-05
- 3081 Camino Diablo, \$364,500, 2 Bdrms, 1253 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 4-19-11; Previous Sale: \$360,000, 07-02-01
- 957 Foye Drive, \$609,000, 3 Bdrms, 1631 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 4-15-11; Previous Sale: \$467,000, 10-27-99
- 630 Francis Drive, \$510,000, 3 Bdrms, 2180 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 4-8-11; Previous Sale: \$851,000, 07-14-05
- 3733 Highland Road, \$400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2336 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 4-15-11
- 1014 Regio Court, \$960,000, 3 Bdrms, 2255 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 4-19-11; Previous Sale: \$254,000, 03-20-87
- 3380 Reliez Highland Road, \$937,500, 4 Bdrms, 2277 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 4-13-11
- 910 Reliez Station Road, \$1,625,000, 5 Bdrms, 4118 SqFt, 1916 YrBlt, 4-14-11; Previous Sale: \$198,500, 07-26-83
- 642 Sky Highway Circle, \$1,055,000, 4 Bdrms, 3175 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 4-15-11
- 3395 Stage Coach Drive, \$1,810,000, 5 Bdrms, 4627 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 4-19-11; Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 04-16-02

MORAGA

- 2079 Ascot Drive #240, \$225,000, 2 Bdrms, 1193 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 4-7-11; Previous Sale: \$155,000, 10-16-92
- 2091 Ascot Drive #127, \$215,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 4-19-11
- 90 Courter Lane, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 3446 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 4-13-11; Previous Sale: \$1,435,000, 08-18-04
- 153 Danefield Place, \$890,000, 4 Bdrms, 3175 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-15-11
- 469 Fernwood Drive, \$1,020,000, 4 Bdrms, 2366 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 4-12-11; Previous Sale: \$710,000, 05-20-99
- 20 Greenfield Drive, \$820,000, 5 Bdrms, 3175 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-11-11
- 31 Hetfield Place, \$975,000, 5 Bdrms, 2110 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 4-15-11; Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 02-23-06

ORINDA

- 241 Courtney Lane, \$657,000, 4 Bdrms, 2214 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 4-15-11; Previous Sale: \$950,000, 09-08-05
- 44 Estabueno Drive, \$825,000, 4 Bdrms, 1901 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 4-18-11; Previous Sale: \$939,000, 04-30-07
- 2 Katrina Court, \$925,000, 3 Bdrms, 1630 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 4-14-11; Previous Sale: \$650,000, 10-18-02
- 285 La Espiral, \$1,390,000, 3 Bdrms, 1761 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-19-11; Previous Sale: \$619,000, 04-05-10
- 1027 Larch Avenue, \$780,000, 3 Bdrms, 1802 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 4-8-11; Previous Sale: \$450,000, 05-05-99
- 59 Meadow View Road, \$1,260,000, 4 Bdrms, 3768 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-5-11
- 5 Risa Court, \$650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1245 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 4-12-11
- 64 Sullivan Drive, \$895,000, 3 Bdrms, 2618 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 4-8-11; Previous Sale: \$499,000, 04-11-96
- 89 Tarry Lane, \$803,500, 3 Bdrms, 1711 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 4-15-11
- 623 Watchwood Road, \$679,000, 3 Bdrms, 2541 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 4-5-11; Previous Sale: \$500,000, 01-15-92

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

none



Patricia Battersby
925-330-6663
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DRE# 00854469

Ashley Battersby
925-323-9955
ashley@patriciabattersby.com
DRE# 01407784



www.patriciabattersby.com

3724 St. Francis Drive, Lafayette *Price Just Reduced!*



Happy Valley—Rose Lane Neighborhood 4 BR 2 1/2 BA 3,356 Sq Ft Single Level .47 Acre Vineyard and Wine Cellar Kitchen/Informal Eating Area/Family Room— all adjoining and open out to backyard. A real “Cook’s” Kitchen featuring large center isle with generous seating and great appliances incl. Wolf and Sub-Zero. 5 car Garage. **\$1,489,000!**

4 Sycamore Road, Orinda



Extraordinary Gated Estate in Treasured Location!
Sprawling Lawns, Breathtaking Gardens
6 BR 7+ BA 6,641 Sq Ft Totally Private 1.34 Acres
Ideal Guest/Au Pair Quarters, Covered 6 Car Parking
Offered at \$4,250,000

314 Warwick Drive, Walnut Creek



Charming Home in Scottsdale, Fabulous Neighborhood!
Lots of Updates, Near Great Recreation Areas & Trails
Ideal Floor Plan, Beautiful Yard and Gardens
4 BR 2 BA 2,032 Sq Ft .23 Acre
Offered at \$685,000



Craftsmen and Their Homes

...continued from Page F1

The exposed rafter tails and beams that extend past the overhanging eave, the stone base, the craftsman entry door, the cedar shingles that cover the exterior walls, the green Pella windows, are all elements reminiscent of the Pasadena-based Gamble house. In the interior, the details in the wood work show Eiler's love of his art. "Jon (Eiler) is totally hands-on," says Turner, "he knows how to use fine wood and runs with his own design."

Taking cues from the Blacker house, Greene & Greene's masterpiece where the brothers created the custom inside elements with wood inlay, and where the interlocking joinery on the main staircase was left exposed, Eiler has constructed a similar staircase in his house adding a decorative element of three waves along the rail that he carried upstairs in the wood paneling. The house is a work of art in the making, but although its home to Eiler, it is not totally complete yet. If the kitchen already has a beautiful counter made of soapstone, the cabinets need a final touch. The house can nonetheless be an inspiration for those who appreciate that architecture.

A second Craftsman house in Lafayette, up Oak Hill Road, is the home of another wood artist, Steve Kauffman. It took him 14 years to remodel the home where he is raising his family with his wife Susan, and he has not missed any details. For example, he designed the mahogany windows himself, inspired by a Julia Morgan design; he made extensive use of teak, mahogany and redwood for the built-in elements and custom furniture of the home. "The Kauffman home is not only a Greene & Greene - inspired home, it is also a 'green' home," said Turner. "I used reclaimed material as often as possible as I remodeled," agreed Kauffman, "we used also green material such as cork for the floors of the children's bedroom, or sustainably harvested American teak floor, and the house is powered by inconspicuous solar panels that face south on the detached garage roof." ...continued on next page



Steve Kauffman's fireplace, created in a combination of wood, tile, and copper



The Kauffman home boasts charming interior details.



Sabine Hathaway in her living room with tile fireplace



The Hathaways' entryway is brightened by skylights

Interesting inside elements include a beautiful staircase that looks like a Japanese Tansu chest, built by Kauffman. "Greene & Greene were influenced by the Japanese architecture they saw at the World's Columbian Exhibition in Chicago," said Turner, "their work gained an Eastern influence from then on."

Kauffman, who also builds guitars, used spruce, rosewood and ebony to decorate the upstairs master suite. He owns an extensive library on the art of the two brothers and has built numerous commissioned Greene & Greene furniture.

The last home does not belong to a craftsman, but to a Moraga family who fell in love with the style. "I worked in downtown Palo Alto and loved the bungalows there," says home owner Sabine Hathaway, "then I visited the Thorsen house in Berkeley (the only Northern California Greene & Greene) and was inspired by it."

Hathaway's remodel was one year in the making; the homeowners worked with architect Kenny Goodman and completely redesigned the interior and exterior of the house. They extended the entrance and created a porch with a stone base, very characteristic of the bungalow architecture. They chose red windows that contrast beautifully with the dark green-grey outside walls. The entrance opens to a dining room to the left and a sitting room where the chimney has been removed and the windows enlarged to add natural brightness.

The space has been designed to accommodate the antics that Hathaway suggests she got from her German family, and incorporates many metal and alabaster light features that go very well with the chosen style. In the entrance the two deep skylights are covered with exquisite stained glass panels. Slate is used extensively around the house and wall paintings roll out different shades of light grey that add to the luminosity of the house.

"We've been back in the house for four years now," says Hathaway, "the neighbors love it and it is a perfect space for our family."



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Lafayette Artist Delivers Funky Custom Mailboxes

By Cathy Tyson



Ken Hughes

Photo Cathy Tyson

It all started a number of years ago when teenagers came through a quiet Lafayette neighborhood and smashed mailboxes. Structural engineer and homeowner Ken Hughes looked for an artistic solution and voila, the mailbox dog was born.

Fashioned entirely of scrap materials, Hughes thought it was funny – a snarling dog to ward off future vandals or perhaps a menacing mailman; now the rebar pooch is facing a custom-made and equally charming mystery-creature mailbox across the street. “I always try to have a sense of humor working on the mailboxes,” said Hughes.

A mainstay of the neighborhood for twenty-seven years, seems like everybody loves Hughes. He creates these fantastic mailbox designs in his spare time in the garage. “Space is a challenge,” he said, “I have various types of welding equipment and wood working tools. Most of it I pick up second hand or from contractors I deal with.” Because he works with steel fabricators on projects, he’ll ask if he can go through their scrap pile. Reflecting on skills that come in handy at work and with his hobby he says, “My appreciation of good design detail helps me be sensitive to what an architect wants.”

...continued on Page F10





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Lafayette Artist Delivers Funky Custom Mailboxes

...continued from Page F8



About five years ago, Hughes made a lizard mailbox for long-time family friends, the Lenzis, who had re-landscaped their front yard. "We just feel honored. He's amazing; we are so proud of our mailbox," said Marty Lenzi.

Some designs just come to him, others are a team effort with the homeowners – it's not surprising that the surfer-guy mailbox belongs to surf aficionados. "The coyotes and coco-pele, (musicians), are a southwest theme for my friend that loves New Mexico and Indian country. The dragon is for someone who loves dragons," said Hughes.

Throughout the home he shares with wife Joanne there is evidence of the fun and function in his designs. "Buns of Steel" is a clever bookend, with one end looking around the edge to see his counterpart sitting down on the job and reading a book.

A custom-designed fence with laser-cut leaves and dainty frogs graces the front of the ranch-style home. A side gate incorporates wood and metal along with a recurring leaf motif that uses a uniquely positioned golf club shaft as part of the closing mechanism.

Hughes gives credit to the former architect and current art mentor Joe Bologna as the source of his original inspiration. His clever "Bash me Buddy" piece, made out of rebar, motivated Hughes to harness his creative genius. Bologna is now a full time artist and, "the proud owner of a large scrap pile of metal," from which he plucks pieces he turns into sculptures. Although he prefers steel, he also works with clay. Hughes has a large hilarious ceramic head of Bologna by Bologna in his home, with a statueque nose and partial halo of nails for hair.

If you look closely at the sculpture garden gate at the Lafayette Art Gallery – across the street from Chow - you'll see a collaborative piece by the two men. Bologna did the sign portion above the pathway, and Hughes did the gate itself. Look closely and you'll see four 'Buns of Steel' men trying to break in.



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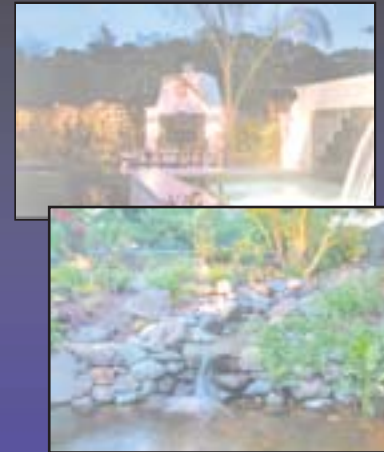


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