

Happy Holidays!
This Holiday edition of Lamorinda Weekly will be delivered between Monday Dec. 24 and Wednesday Dec. 26. Thank you for understanding.

LAMORINDA
Independent, locally owned and operated!

Merry Christmas
From **LAMORINDA HAULING**

Call 925.719.3991
When you're ready to have those boxes (and anything else) hauled away.

www.lamorindaweekly.com 925-377-0977 FREE



The window display at the Lafayette McCaulou's.

Photo Pippa Fisher

Teddy bear window display a Christmas toy tradition

By Pippa Fisher

It's a Lafayette tradition every Christmas season – the McCaulou's shop window. From Thanksgiving onward lights twinkle and music tinkles as the display of cuddly moving teddy bears enchant in a different winter wonderland scene each year.

McCaulou's Founder Dave McCaulou, still working

to keep the empire of 22 stores running every day, started with the Lafayette store in 1963. "We were the first tenants in the shopping center," he says explaining that the store was built to suit their need, including the corner window, which is such a perfect spot for the annual display.

McCaulou remembers seeing the Breuners Furniture

store featuring a Christmas living room scene with mechanized people in downtown Oakland as a small boy with his parents. It made such an impression on him that he decided to do the same in his store and over the years collected antique toys for his display.

... continued on Page A12

LAMORINDA

Letters to the Editor	A9
Community Service	B4
Not to be Missed	B6-B7
HOW TO CONTACT US	B7
Classified	C2
Love Lafayette	C4

Advertising



Local Knowledge | Extraordinary Results

Gary Bernie & Ken Ryerson Team

925 200 2222 or 925 878 9685
gary.bernie@compass.com
ken.ryerson@compass.com
DRE # 00686144 | 01418309

COMPASS



Caltrans throws wrench in work on new Canyon Bridge

By Vera Kochan



Temporary Canyon Bridge

Photo Vera Kochan

Eldric Kwan, Moraga's director of public works, had some bad news to impart to the town council during its Dec. 12 meeting. Construction of the New Canyon Bridge would be delayed an additional year.

Even though Kwan and the town's se-

nior civil engineer, Shawn Knapp, met all of the Caltrans deadlines, making sure to provide a faultless reimbursement package, the stars simply didn't align.

In a last minute meeting on Dec. 10, Caltrans told Kwan that the funding was no longer available. Caltrans did offer to

change the status of the project to "advanced construction," which would provide higher priority for the project when funds do become available.

According to Kwan, the staff had done everything possible to get the funding to begin the construction process in January. "Caltrans headquarters in Sacramento has a Bridge Structural Review division. They are six months behind, and they do not have a timeframe for turnaround like they do with local assistance. Because of that delay, we will miss the construction season for 2019."

Caltrans was able to find funding for the fiscal year 2020-21. However, this means the project won't begin until 2020, when the reviews are completed. Kwan said he always approaches any project with a Plan B. "This gives more time to get the new package prepared and get bids out early." With this delay he hopes to get better bid offers for the construction.

... continued on Page A10

A Note About Our Newspaper Carrier

Blackhawk Enterprise (email – mailblackhawk@gmail.com) has been delivering the Lamorinda Weekly to all homes in Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga since January 2011.

The team of eight drivers works hard to make sure you get your newspaper every other Wednesday. Blackhawk Enterprise and its team members would like to wish our readers a joyous holiday season and a very happy new year.

Please see their Holiday message on page A9.

Thank you,
Lamorinda Weekly

Civic News A1-A12

OUSD joins Sandy Hook Promise – Page A7.

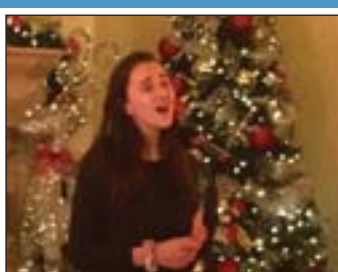
Fire Districts A8

Latest MOFD long-term liability report – Page A8.

Life in Lamorinda B1-B8

Applauding Lamorinda Arts

Council community efforts – Page B1.



Sports C1-C4

Lamorinda boys soccer preview – Page C1.



Our Homes D1-D16

Garden trends for the upcoming new year – Page D1.





Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission

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

Design Review

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

School Board Meetings

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

Lafayette School District

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting
notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

Share your thoughts, insights and
opinions with your community.

Send a letter to the editor:
letters@lamorindaweekly.com



I Love My Hometown!

I am grateful and proud to have sold these Lafayette homes.
Thank you for your trust.

Our 2018 Lafayette Sales Statistics

73 Lafayette Transactions Closed
\$157 Million in Total Lafayette Sales
More than 4x's the Sales Volume in
Lafayette of any other Realtor!

Giving Back

Lafayette Juniors
Make-A-Wish Foundation
Lafayette Partners in Education
Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
Lafayette Library & Learning Center

Wishing You a Beautiful Holiday Season!

LAFAYETTE'S #1 REALTOR FOR 11 STRAIGHT YEARS!
925.339.1918 | DANAGREENTEAM.COM | LICENSE #: 01482454



DANA
GREEN

City appoints interim city manager

By Pippa Fisher



Niroop Srivatsa
Photo Jeff Heyman, City of Lafayette

As the search continues for a new city manager following the resignation of City Manager Steven Falk effective at the end of this year, the city has appointed longtime staff member Niroop Srivatsa as interim manager. The council anticipates its search for a permanent city manager will be completed by spring.

The city council voted for the appointment at the Dec. 10 meeting. Srivatsa has over 30 years of local government experience with 24 of them in Lafayette. She has served as the city's director of planning and building services for the past 17 years during which time she has led city staff and advised the council and planning commission on land use policy, strategic growth initiatives and housing and economic development matters.

Srivatsa has acted as incident commander during emergency operations drills and has held leadership roles during real emergencies such as the 2000 flooding in Lafayette. She has also served as acting city manager from time to time and is one of the most visible staff members, having met with many residents over the years on land-use projects.

Srivatsa serves on the League

of California Cities' Revenue and Taxation Committee, which provides policy direction on pending legislation to the League board and advocates for local control. She was recently appointed as an alternate commissioner to the California Statewide Communities Development Authority, where she will review and approve applications from more than 500 cities, counties and special districts for funding community infrastructure, affordable housing, and environmental projects.

Falk, who has held the position since 1996, said in a statement from the city released Dec. 12, "Ms. Srivatsa's personal work ethic can be summarized in three words – 'whatever it takes' – and her love for and dedication to Lafayette and its mission to preserve and enhance the city's semirural character is pure.

"She has a rich and unmatched understanding of the city's major physical, engineering, and development challenges," added Falk. "Ms. Srivatsa will serve ably as the city's interim city manager."

Srivatsa has a bachelor's degree in architecture and town planning from Madras University in Chennai, India. She and her husband, Sanjay, have two sons who attended Lafayette schools.

"I am honored and excited to be appointed as the interim manager for a city that I truly love," said Srivatsa.

"Our community is profoundly fortunate to have Niroop working for them as interim city manager," said Mayor Cam Burks. "She is an outstanding, deeply qualified leader who will play an integral role in moving our city forward," adding, "I couldn't be more pleased with the council's selection."

New mayor calls for respectful, civil collaboration as city changes guard

By Pippa Fisher



Newly elected Lafayette City Council members Susan Candell (left) and Teresa Gerring (right) join Mayor Cam Burks (center) at the Dec. 10 city council meeting. Vice Mayor Mike Anderson did not attend the meeting.

Photo Jeff Heyman, City of Lafayette

It was all change at the packed Dec. 10 city council meeting – a meeting that recognized and celebrated the many years of service to the city by outgoing

Mayor Don Tatzin and outgoing City Manager Steve Falk, along with Council Member Ivor Samson, and then installed newly elected council members Teresa

Gerring and Susan Candell. Vice Mayor Cam Burks moved to the central chair on the dais to assume the role of mayor and Council Member Mike Anderson,

although absent on the evening, took over as vice mayor.

First up was Tatzin to address Falk's many achievements during his 22-year tenure as city manager. Falk will be retiring at the end of the year. Noting amongst other accomplishments Falk's ability to "hire wisely," Tatzin remarked on the low turnover within city staff and also remarked on the healthy state of the city's finances, the fixed roads, the robust restaurant row, the pedestrian-friendly downtown, new sidewalks, public art, the new library and Veterans' building and described Falk as "visionary."

Samson, in his remarks before stepping away from the dais, paid tribute to Tatzin with whom, he acknowledged, he has had some vehement disagreements and to Falk, with whom he has not always agreed either, and he spent a while addressing the recent election. "Irrespective of how you voted," he said, "there is a common sadness that our city is divided and needs to be brought together again. I agree."

Referring to "absurd and irresponsible comments" on social media and "vile and disgusting personal accusations with no basis or accountability," Samson said that he hopes never to see such hatred and bigotry in the community again and said that he hopes that going forward people can recognize that ideas sometime clash and that it is healthy for democracy.

Tatzin then made his final remarks as mayor and noted that over his 33 years on the council, including seven stints as mayor, he has served with 17 different council members. He credited his wife, Ellen Reintjes, for her continued support. Tatzin talked about a theme that he has frequently referenced – the virtuous circle of Lafayette, saying that people move here for good schools and become involved for good in the community.

Burks paid tribute to Tatzin and noted that Tatzin always stressed the importance of civility, decency, respect and collaboration and expressed his hopes to support that legacy within the council.

As Tatzin and Samson left, Candell was sworn in by City Clerk Joanne Robbins and Gerring was sworn in by state Sen. Steve Glaz-

er. Both made remarks expressing thanks to family and gratitude for being able to serve.

The new mayor's remarks focused heavily on the theme of transparency and collaboration, overcoming the "fracturing and divisiveness" that the community has experienced over the past several months. "The foundation of my vision for 2019 rests on taking action that will unify the city, stimulate respectful and civil collaboration and strengthen the community," Burks said.

"It's imperative that we, as a city council, foster an inclusive and transparent environment; one that prioritizes civility, respect, kindness and openness to everyone's opinion," Burks said. "Debate and alternative views are foundational elements of our democratic system. We need to affirm these elements in ways that do not alienate our fellow neighbor."

Burks reaffirmed that he is eager to focus on protecting local control on land use and development from a state legislature that he says appears eager to strip these fundamental rights.

He stressed the importance of reaffirming community values and committing to a dedicated plan to augment transparency in everything the council does.

Burks spoke too of an expanded emergency preparedness focus, particularly in the area of wildfire preparation.

Additionally he said he wanted to address "development of robust senior community inclusion strategies, material relationship growth and the execution of holistic objectives in support of our exceptional schools, and adoption of innovative solutions to bolster our small business and commerce environment; (these) are all areas that I would like to see us pursue."

Burks expressed confidence in the two new council members and the vice mayor.

"These three individuals bring extraordinary skill and dedication to the city council," said Burks. "Along with a community eager to continue the Lafayette tradition of public engagement around every corner, I believe strongly that we are well positioned to have a positive and successful year ahead."

NEW YEAR. New Investment Advisor.



Resolve to Put Your Investments Back on Track

Come see us for a free portfolio review



Over 35 years of managing wealth in Lamorinda

3470 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Suite A215 • Lafayette, CA 94549
925.299.1500 • www.capitaladvantage.com

Council opts for applications, interviews to fill vacant seat

By Pippa Fisher



All four members of the city council, from left: Council Member Susan Candell, Vice Mayor Mike Anderson, Mayor Cam Burks, and Council Member Teresa Gerringer listen to public comment at the Dec. 19 meeting.

Photo Pippa Fisher

A special meeting, held Dec. 19 to decide how best to fill the vacant fifth seat on the city council, resulted in a unanimous decision to accept applications and hold interviews in early January.

The seat became vacant on the eve of the Nov. 6 election with the untimely passing of Council Member Mark Mitchell. The timing has prompted many in the community to call for simply appointing the third placed candidate, former city council member Ivor Samson. But many others are calling for the city to honor the way in which councils have traditionally acted in such situations, by taking applications and going through an interview process.

Because there are fewer than two years of the term remaining, the council must appoint a new member rather than hold a special election. But that's where the legal guidelines end. With a community divided following a bitterly campaigned election fuelled by negative and sometimes false comments

on social media, the new city council that includes two brand new members faced a tough decision.

Should the timing be taken into account, given that voters had just spoken and that Samson had garnered 4,641 votes, only 590 votes behind the second place candidate? Would he have been elected had voters been asked to elect for three spots? Is it more transparent to hold open interviews with further public input even if the end result is the same? Should the city use the method of interviews that has worked in the past? These considerations were on the minds of the council members as they took public comment.

The council, which had previously heard comments from 30 members of the public at the regular Dec. 10 meeting, once again took comments from close to as many people in addition to the many emails, letters and online comments they had received on the subject. ... continued on Page A10

Terry Ring named Lafayette Business Person of the Year

By Pippa Fisher



From left: Terry Ring and Dana Green

Photo Andy Scheck

This year's Business Person of the Year is Terry Ring of Lafayette's Ring Construction. A dinner and formal presentation will take place at the Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa on Feb. 1.

Last year's winner, Dana Green, made the announcement on behalf of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Dec. 20. The selection was made by current Chamber President Kathy Merchant, incoming President Christina Alba and by Green, from seven nominations.

"Not only did Terry run a successful construction business here in Lamorinda, he is one of those

residents in Lafayette that always gravitates to a place where he can roll up his sleeves and help," says Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson.

Lifson explains, "From the Rotary Stage at the Reservoir, and the Veterans Memorial to being a founding member of the Iron Man Team volunteering at the Art and Wine Festival, he is always the first one there and the last to leave."

Details on the Business Person of the Year dinner and registration will soon be available on the Chamber website: <https://lafayette-chamber.org/>.

City explores options on banning flavored tobacco products

By Pippa Fisher

One of the first agenda items before the new council at the Dec. 10 meeting concerned a proposed ordinance banning the sale of flavored tobacco products in the city. The council voted unanimously, with Vice Mayor Mike Anderson absent, to direct city staff to explore options for instituting a ban on FTPs and imposing a tobacco retailers' license. Staff will bring options back to the council in February.

In the Nov. 26 meeting, then-

Vice Mayor Cam Burks initiated discussion regarding the banning of FTPs.

"I believe we are facing a serious public health crisis in our community. Our school kids, specifically at the Lafayette middle school and high school ages, are using flavored tobacco products at an alarming rate; products that based on clear evidence, cause profound medical harm to our children. The stakes are enormous and our kids depend on us. ... continued on Page A10

'Twas the night before Christmas and all of us here, wish you tidings of joy and a happy New Year

Lafayette | Moraga | Orinda
925 254-3030
www.Orinda.com

ELENA HOOD REAL ESTATE GROUP

Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, conditions, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Cal BRE 1221247

We are thankful to our clients who have entrusted us to buy or sell their homes in 2018. Happy Holidays!

Seller

851 Moraga Road, Lafayette
\$1,308,000

Seller

2 Brent Court, Lafayette
\$2,020,000

Seller

3023 Rohrer Drive, Lafayette
\$1,702,000

Seller

181 Donaleen Court, Martinez
\$869,000

Seller

1133 Palomares Court, Lafayette
\$1,381,000

Seller

20 Beaumont Court, Lafayette
\$1,450,000

Seller

1036 Oak Knoll Road, Lafayette
\$1,150,000

Buyer

1975 Cactus Court, Unit 6, Walnut Creek
\$950,000

Buyer

521 Silverado Drive, Lafayette
\$1,750,000

Buyer

1060 Lizann Drive, Lafayette
\$1,650,000

Buyer

2725 Eccleston Road, Walnut Creek
\$980,000

Buyer

3747 Highland Road, Lafayette
\$1,425,000

Buyer

1000 Dewing Avenue, Unit 102, Lafayette
\$825,000

Buyer

615 Thornhill Drive, Danville
\$1,700,000

Buyer

810 Acalanes Road, Lafayette
\$2,800,000

Buyer

1191 Pleasant Hill Circle, Lafayette
\$1,787,000

Buyer

3186 Lucas Circle, Lafayette
\$1,000,000

Buyer

1315 Alma Avenue, Unit 354, Walnut Creek
\$649,000

Buyer

1315 Alma Avenue, Unit 411, Walnut Creek
\$629,000

Buyer

289 Boyd Road, Pleasant Hill
\$1,125,000

Buyer/Seller

1568 Springbrook Road, Walnut Creek
\$940,000

PRICE GALLEGOS GROUP
pricegallegos.com

Amy S. Price
925.997.6808
amy.price@compass.com
DRE 01433269

Christine Gallegos
415.606.2047
christine.gallegos@compass.com
DRE 01896511

COMPASS



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

TBA
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

TBA
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Wednesday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

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



CALBRE# 00903367

He's All About Lamorinda!

CLARK THOMPSON

REAL ESTATE BROKER
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES



Office: 925-254-8585 | Cell: 925-998-7898

ct@clarkthompson.com | www.clarkthompson.com

Moraga's 2018 Year in Review offered as Trotter and Onoda step down

By Vera Kochan



From left: Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda, Supervisor Candace Andersen and Mayor Dave Trotter
Photo Vera Kochan

During the Dec. 12 town council meeting, exiting Mayor Dave Trotter prepared an impressive slideshow touching on Moraga's successes during the past year.

The end of November 2017 saw the Rheem sinkhole repaired and a temporary Canyon Bridge installed. The town hired Cynthia Battenberg as town manager, who in turn, oversaw the hiring of three new department heads: Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt; Planning Director Derek Farmer; and Administrative Services Director Norman Veloso.

Moraga received a \$2.38 million sinkhole reimbursement and initiated a rescission of emergency funds, while still allowing for storm drain maintenance and repairs as well as continued plans for the new replacement of the Canyon Bridge.

The continued beautification of the town was a major priority. A Moraga Specific Plan Grant introduced the possible creation of a new "main street" in the center

of town. The natural surroundings were upheld with the Urban Creeks Grant and Laguna Creek Restoration. There was an adoption of new hillside and ridge-line regulations, as well as a new all-access playground in Moraga Commons Park. A new Moraga Trails Map has become available and the Bollinger Valley (126-lot) project development application was denied.

The Rheem Theatre reopened, along with several new restaurants, adding an evening entertainment vibe to the town.

Not to be left out, town safety was an important issue with the adoption of a firearm storage and maintenance ordinance. It was noted that crime statistics have gone down and were the lowest in a number of years.

Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda said, "Thank you to the town of Moraga for having faith in me. Thank you to my husband, who's been my biggest cheerleader.

... continued on Page A10

Homeless in Moraga . . . it can happen to anyone

By Vera Kochan

Most likely everyone's heard the phrase, "Living one paycheck away from the street." According to www.Marketwatch.com, millions of Americans are doing just that.

The recent fires throughout the state or other natural disasters often come to mind as possible causes for homelessness, but if the main breadwinner in an affluent town such as Moraga loses their job it could be catastrophic to their financial situation.

Many people live paycheck to paycheck due to rising insur-

ance and healthcare costs, car payments, mortgage and rent and the everyday expenses of raising a family. According to a staff report presented Dec. 12 by Moraga Police Chief Jon King to the town council, "Each year, Contra Costa County conducts a 'point-in-time' count of homeless individuals throughout the county. In 2017, 1,607 persons in Contra Costa County were found to be homeless and living without shelter and reflected an 80 percent increase in the number of homeless seniors. Seven of these people were identi-

fied as Moraga residents who had lost their housing."

King added, "The homeless issue goes far beyond the individuals who are seen on the streets. There are individuals and families who are 'couch surfing,' or staying with friends when possible, because of their inability to find affordable housing in Contra Costa County."

Moraga has authorized the town's participation in the Homeless Emergency Aid Program, which provides state funding to local governments. The town would be able to access the funding and

any services it provides to assist individuals in the community.

There are several organizations within the local area that can help with essential needs, such as food pantries that offer free food to local residents; utility and rental assistance programs, which offer money to help pay rent or utilities; temporary free homeless shelters; outlets offering free and reduced price clothes and household items; child care services, offering free diapers, clothing, formula and free or reduced cost daycare service for children with families in need;

and pay day loan companies that make quick, easy loans to people in financial distress. However Suntopia, which publishes information about these differing services, stresses that loan companies "are not charitable organizations. They can have high interest rates. We do not recommend a loan to solve your financial problems. We offer this list because some people use them for immediate relief in times of financial distress."

For more detailed information visit www.Suntopia.org/Moraga/Ca.



Compass Proudly Welcomes the Gary Bernie & Ken Ryerson Real Estate Team



Gary Bernie
925.200.2222
gary.bernie@compass.com
DRE 00686144



Ken Ryerson
925.878.9685
ken.ryerson@compass.com
DRE 01418309



EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Linda Ehrich
Realtor
93 Moraga Way
Orinda, CA 94563
925.698.1452
Linda@LindaEhrich.com
www.LindaEhrich.com
DRE# 01330298



**Winter Classes
Begin January 7
Register Today!**



MORAGA PARKS & RECREATION
925-888-7045 • moragarec.com

Los Perales Elementary School's Ink Recycling Program

By Vera Kochan



Used cartridges Photo Vera Kochan

Don't throw away your used toner and inkjet printer cartridges. Los Perales Elementary School, 22 Wakefield Dr., Moraga, (925) 631-0105, has found a way to earn extra cash from used cartridges without spending a dime.

Dana Ludwig, the school's site technology coordinator, estimates that Los Perales has earned between \$100-\$150 per year by recycling the cartridges through Funding Factory. Ludwig said, "The nice feature about this program is that the company provides UPS shipping labels for free. I just pack up the cartridges in a box, affix a shipping label, and then it gets picked up along with the other UPS packages at the school."

Funding Factory (www.fund-

ingfactory.com), was founded in 1997. According to its website, the company and its participants "have helped keep over 43.3 million pounds of items out of landfills, simply by collecting used toner and inkjet printer cartridges. Our mission is to recycle and re-manufacture used toner and cartridges, giving items the second life they deserve, while providing a simple way for organizations to earn money."

Ludwig said Los Perales has been partnered with Funding Factory for almost 20 years. The only item they don't accept is copy machine toner tubes. While the amount paid for each cartridge may vary according to the brand, model number and type of cartridge (laser or inkjet), the program itself is 100 percent free.

If you have cartridges piling up around the house or office, bring them to Los Perales Elementary's office, and Ludwig will gratefully accept them. "It is nice to know that we are doing something to help the environment while earning a little money for the school," she said.

Moraga Town Council reorganizes

By Vera Kochan



Marty McInturf administers oath of office to Mike McCluer and Steve Woehleke
Photos Vera Kochan

Marty McInturf, Moraga's town clerk, administered the oath of office to newly elected council members Mike McCluer and Steve Woehleke during the latter part of the Dec. 12 town council meeting, followed by the nomination and election of a new mayor and vice mayor. Moraga's new mayor is Roger Wykle, whose term expires December 2019 and council term expires December 2020. The new vice mayor is Kimberleigh Korpus, whose term expires December 2019 and council term expires December 2020.

Recently appointed council member, Renata Sos, also has her council term expire in December 2020, and she is now joined by McCluer and Woehleke, whose terms both expire December of 2022.

Wykle said, "Thanks for my second time as mayor and the trust and confidence. I think we're going to do great things. And, welcome to Mike and Steve."

"I'm feeling in awe and very privileged to be here," Korpus said. "I'm looking very much forward to getting to know our new town council members better and having us pull together as a team and work for the betterment of the town."

McCluer stated, "It's great to be here. ... continued on Page A10



Vice Mayor Kimberleigh Korpus and Mayor Roger Wykle

The choice is simple.



Village. Of course.



Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

TBA
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

School Board Meetings Orinda Union School District

Monday, Jan. 14, 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

- ◆ HARDWOODS
- ◆ CARPETS
- ◆ RUGS
- ◆ LINOLEUM
- ◆ TILE
- ◆ LAMINATE

FAMILY -OWNED
30 YEARS !

3344 Mt Diablo Blvd
in Lafayette
925-284-4440
lamorindafloors.com



Lana Fitzpatrick

Top 100 Northern California

925.872.4660

Lana@lanafitzpatrick.com

www.lanafitzpatrick.com

Cal DRE#01805218



By your side every step of the way

©2018 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.

OUSD honors Rossiter, welcomes Daoust, elects officers, and hears about fire danger

By Sora O'Doherty



Outgoing Orinda Union School District board member Julie Rossiter was honored for her eight years service. Photo Sora O'Doherty

There was a large turnout on Dec. 10 to honor outgoing Orinda Union School District board member Julie Rossiter. Mayor Amy Worth came to celebrate her and to show her appreciation of her leadership. Representatives from the offices of Rep. Mark Desaulnier and state Sen. Steve Glazer

also sung Rossiter's praises. First elected in 2010, Rossiter served eight years. Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen praised Rossiter's leadership on the school board, adding, "You gave up your life for eight years."

Rossiter spoke of leaving as "overwhelming and bittersweet."

She reflected on how much has happened in the past eight years, major changes such as common core with its new testing and the master facilities plan adopted by the board. "The district is in a good place," she concluded, as she welcomed Liz Daoust. "I'm excited for Liz to come aboard," she said, welcoming her perspective and energy as an educator.

Daoust, newly elected, was sworn in by Andersen, along with

re-elected board members Carol Brown and Jason Kaune, who appeared telephonically because he was out of town. Following the swearing in, the meeting observed a moment of silence for the deaths of Miramonte student Luca Giro and Glorietta parent Alex Rudd.

Hillary Weiner was unanimously elected president of the board, and Cara Hoxie was unanimously elected to serve as vice president.

Fire danger concerns

A group of local residents spoke to the OUSD board about a situation that they consider to be a fire danger. Vic Ryerson and other residents of Ivy Drive described how their homes bordered one side of a creek while Orinda Intermediate School owns the opposite bank of the creek. The school's side of the creek bank from the bridge at the entrance to the school down to the main playing field is heavily overgrown, Ryerson said. George McGregor said that while the Ivy Drive neighbors try to keep their side of the creek maintained, they fear the fire danger posed by the dead trees, oak and Monterey pine, and other combustible fuel. Ryerson said that one Fourth of July a young person started a fire with a firecracker in the creek area, and three years ago a contractor who was clearing weeds for the purpose of fire abatement also started a fire.

Steve Zanke suggest that the board undertake a study of the creek maintenance, and Jill Oberheim told the board of her fears of fire, especially in the wake of the recent Camp Fire. Ryerson agreed that in a wildfire situation with strong winds, a fire would quickly spread from the OIS side of the creek to his and the other neighbors' backyards.

Orinda reorganizes the city council; Mayor grants awards of excellence

By Sora O'Doherty

As expected, Vice Mayor Inga Miller has been elected Orinda's mayor for the next year, and Council Member Darlene Gee steps up to be the vice mayor. On Dec. 11, the city council completed its annual reorganization, welcoming newly elected council members Dennis Fay and

Nick Kosla and honoring outgoing members Eve Phillips and Dean Orr. A reception followed the meeting.

The meeting was well attended, including former mayors Bobbie Landers, Bill Judge, Victoria Smith, Laura Abrams, Bea Peggy, widow of Orinda's first

mayor Dick Peggy, and former City Manager Janet Keeter.

Outgoing Mayor Amy Worth presented her awards of excellence to Maggie Boscoe of the Lamorinda Arts Council, who has been the volunteer curator of the Orinda Library Gallery. Boscoe could not be present on Dec.

11, but did attend the Nov. 18 meeting to accept the award. She noted that in the 17 years she has been arranging monthly artwork displays, she calculates that she has presented 34,000 works of art to gallery visitors.

... continued on Page A12



"Trust the magic of new beginnings..." - Meister Eckhart

Buying or selling a house can be the start of something new or the end of an era, when dreams are realized or you take a leap into the great unknown. Every house and everyone's situation is different. For over 15 years, I've offered a uniquely personal and professional approach to home transactions in our Lamorinda community.

Wishing you the best in 2019.
I'll be here when you need me.

- •
- •

Tara Rochlin, Broker

DRE 01330630
925.586.3442
tararochlin@gmail.com
tararochlin.com

COMPASS

Rodent Proofing

Learn about Honest Rodent Proofing's industry-leading 4-step process to get rid of rats, mice and other rodents.

GUARANTEED

FREE In-Home Inspection,
Mention Lamorinda Weekly for a 10% discount

Call 925-433-3988

www.honestrodentproofing.com
Servicing the Bay Area to Sacramento



Happy New Year!



Wishing our clients, friends and neighbors great health, prosperity and enduring happiness in 2019!



Integrity ♦ *Knowledge* ♦ *Results*

Frank Woodward

Realtor®, Previews Property Specialist
T. 925.788.4963
E. Frank@FrankWoodward.com



©2018 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.

OUSD joins Sandy Hook Promise

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda Intermediate School students will benefit from three new programs under a Memorandum of Understanding with Sandy Hook Promise entered into by the Orinda Union School District in December. Sandy Hook Promise is a national nonprofit organization founded and led by several family members whose loved ones were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School on Dec. 14, 2012. Based in Newtown, Connecticut, the organization's goal is to honor all victims of gun violence by turning their tragedy into a moment of transformation by providing programs and practices that protect children and prevent the senseless, tragic loss of life.

There are three programs that are covered by the MOU: "Say Something," which teaches students how to look for warning signs, signals and threats, especially in social media, from individuals who may want to hurt themselves or others and to say something to a trusted adult to get them help; "Start with Hello," which teaches youth how to be more inclusive and connected to one another. This program works to create connectedness and sustain an inclusive school culture by minimizing social isolation, marginalization and rejection before an individual chooses to hurt themselves or others; and "Signs of Suicide," which trains youth and adults how to identify, intervene and get help

for students who may be depressed or suicidal.

Jen Woodman, dean of student services, says that suicide among students can be contagious, and all school districts were required last year to adopt preventative programs. She said that there have been clusters of student suicides in some districts in the state. "Say Something" will be the first program to be rolled out, intended to align with the federal program in February.

The program will be funded by Sandy Hook Promise and will run for three years, concluding in December 2021.

Behind closed doors, Orinda considers fate of 53 Rheem easement

By Sora O'Doherty

The problem of the easement located at 53 Rheem was considered by the city council in closed session Dec. 18. New Mayor Inga Miller reported that the council remains committed to having the trail reopened and had given directions to staff. She added that the matter would return to the city council, but was unable to give further details of the council's closed door session.

Prior to the council adjourning to the closed session, several residents appealed to the council to take action to reopen the trail across the property, which is said to have for decades allowed local residents to walk their children to Glorietta Elementary School, or just to meet friends. Property owners Kent and Dawnell DeSpain installed a locked gate, closing the trail earlier this year.

Allison and John Banisadr, who used to live on Parkway Court, both attended the meeting to speak and submitted written comments. The Banisadr said that they had attend-

ed the 2016 planning commission meeting to voice concern about the trail remaining open, and did not object to the DeSpains' plans because they relied upon their public promise to keep the trail open. Having built their home, the DeSpains placed a locked gate connecting to their neighbors' fence, effectively preventing any access across their land to Parkway Court. The Banisadr and other commenters said that the current situation is not fair and urged the council to take immediate action.

Before the meeting, Associate Planner Adam Foster had alerted interested residents that the matter would be considered in closed session and invited them to speak before the session began. He has been keeping interested residents apprised of developments regarding the trail, including copies of correspondence from the DeSpains' attorney, Nathan Scheg of the Ironhorse Law Group.

... continued on Page A10

Orinda church promotes stopping gun violence and suicide

By Sora O'Doherty

An unrelated Say Something program is run by the Reverend Michelle Robbins at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Orinda on Moraga Way. They will be holding two Say Something workshops. The first, facilitated by Yvonne Murray, at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13 will focus on stopping gun violence and suicide before it occurs. Murray has over 20 years of leadership working to solve critical social problems and has personal experience of losing a family member to gun suicide. She is the Faith Outreach Lead for the Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense Peninsula Group. Brian Walley, an Orinda police officer, will be there to explain the process of calling in a 5150 and what happens when they respond. California Welfare and Institution Code section 5150 provides a process for taking people into custody when they are a threat to themselves or someone else.



With a global network of more than 92,000 agents in 3,000 offices and an online presence that attracts visitors from 226 countries and territories, Coldwell Banker® brings together more home buyers and sellers worldwide.

The result? Your property will reach more agents and buyers, creating more opportunities for a quick sale.

Get more than you expect from a real estate company. Contact the Orinda office today. A Real Estate Brokerage Lamorinda Can Trust.



Orinda Office 925.253.4600 | 5 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563
ColdwellBankerHomes.com

Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.
 Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.
 Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, Jan. 15, 1:30 p.m.
 Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez. For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.



Latest MOFD financial report shows a \$12 million dent in long-term liabilities

By Nick Marnell

After years of negative financial news, including the errant reporting of \$23 million, a fired auditor, and warnings of bankruptcy and fire station closures, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District presented a rosier economic picture to its board and district residents at its Dec. 5 public meeting. The MOFD Certified Audited Financial Report for 2017-18 detailed a healthy revenue increase, a higher operational surplus and a decrease in district long-term liabilities.

According to the CAFR, general fund revenue grew \$1.8 million over 2017, an 8.6 percent increase, raising the district June 30 general fund balance to \$6.3 million. The reserve improved to 28 percent of budgeted general fund revenue, though still falling short of the district goal of 50 percent.

The report listed MOFD current assets at more than double the current liabilities of \$6.2 million, with the district long-term liabilities decreasing \$12 million, thanks largely to the net pension liability dropping from \$33 million to \$23 million.

An explanation of the net pen-

sion liability calculation was added to the footnotes of the report: The \$23 million net pension liability equals the difference between the district's \$193 million total pension liability and its \$170 million fiduciary net position. Total pension liability is the present value of the benefits already earned by MOFD employees, and the fiduciary net position equals the assets held in trust by the district pension manager, the Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association, to pay those benefits. The calculation of the individual component parts of the formula is done by actuaries hired by CCCERA.

As of the end of 2017, the district pension plan was 88 percent funded. Though a fully funded pension plan is ideal, a typical corporate pension plan was 90.2 percent funded in 2018, according to Northern Trust, a financial management company. Also of note, as of June 30 the MOFD pension rate stabilization trust fund held more than \$700,000.

In addition to the net pension liability, three other main components comprise the district long-

term liabilities. A pension obligation bond, purchased in 2005 for \$28 million, shows a balance of \$14 million, and the district retiree health care liability sits at \$15.3 million. Lease-purchase agreements for district apparatus and the renovation of Fire Station 43 bring the total noncurrent liabilities to \$56 million.

The district capital fund account reports a balance of \$8.3 million, with much of the money committed to capital projects like the renovation of district fire stations.

The good news may be short-lived, however, as in December the 2018 financial markets have headed toward bear territory. That negative performance will likely hurt the return on assets held by the district pension manager, which projects a 7 percent annual return on its investments. According to the district audited report, had CCCERA used a 6 percent discount rate in figuring the long-term expected rate of return on its pension assets, the 2017 MOFD net pension liability would have been \$50 million.

Spirit of Saint Mary's headed to afterlife

By Nick Marnell



Engineer Chris Davies ends an 11-year relationship.

Photo Nick Marnell

One of the most popular, larger-than-life personalities of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District has made its last emergency call and will soon be sold to the highest bidder.

The MOFD board of directors authorized Fire Chief Dave Winnacker to dispose of Truck 41, the Spirit of Saint Mary's, as the truck completed 17 years of service and had reached the end of its useful life.

Truck 41 had in fact exceeded its expected lifespan, as trucks normally provide 15 years of service, according to the chief. "This piece of equipment no longer has a place in our response matrix," Winnacker told the board. "It is not even in reserve status."

When the district purchased a new truck, which is deployed at Fire Station 44 in Orinda, the demise of Truck 41 was inevitable. The death warrant was sealed in November, when Winnacker negotiated with Saint Mary's College officials and they granted the district an early exit from a 20-year fire apparatus agreement with the school.

In 1999, Saint Mary's College contributed \$650,000 to the district toward the purchase of a 2000 Spartan Fire Truck, the Spirit

of Saint Mary's. MOFD agreed to permanently house and maintain the truck and use it on emergency calls from 2001 until 2021. "We don't see an issue that the truck did not last through the length of the contract," said Mike McAlpin, assistant vice provost of the college. "We are proud of our collaboration with the community, and we hope there will be other opportunities for collaboration with the fire district."

Chris Davies was the primary engineer on Truck 41, having become truck certified in 2006 and taking over the controls the following year. He logged 15,000 of the 54,000 miles put on the vehicle.

Davies recalled his most memorable moments on the truck, with the 2017 La Finestra-Lafayette Circle fire atop the list. "It was a very challenging fire for a driver-operator - having access issues, water supply issues, overhead ladder obstructions, exposure issues. This was the kind of call where time in the seat, along with having a very experienced and dedicated crew, came into play," he said.

Some events were maybe less memorable than others. "If you drive a 47-foot, 74,000-pound fire truck long enough, you're bound to have an issue or two along the way," Davies said.

When he was a fairly new engineer, Davies responded to a fire alarm on Crestview Drive in Orinda. Davies was forced to make an even tighter hairpin turn than usual because a car was parked where it should not have been. Sure enough, the right rear of the truck body completely bottomed out and stuck. The crew spent the next 30 minutes working to free the truck. "I didn't make many friends in Orinda that day as traffic was completely blocked from getting through and there were people yelling and screaming at us," Davies said. "Luckily the call ended up being a false alarm."

Davies mused about Truck 41, at times sounding as if he was losing a family member. "T41 was a great piece of apparatus to work on for all those years," he said. "It was a head turner that many children and adults alike enjoyed seeing. Whether it was responding to an emergency, driving in the Fourth of July Parade, or just cruising through town, people always stopped what they were doing to watch T41 drive by. Wherever T41 goes from here, it will be a wonderful addition to its new department and the community it serves."

Police Departments

Lafayette Police Department

Lamorinda Weekly has contacted the Lafayette Police Department and the city several times to publish the incident report. Unfortunately we are unable to provide the report at this time.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Dec. 2 - Dec. 15

Alarms	42
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	95
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subjects	15
Suspicious Vehicles	16
Patrol Request/ Security Check	24
Service to Citizen	41
Supplemental Report	11
Vacation House Check	14
Welfare Check	10

Vehicle violations

Hit and Run Misdemeanor	
10 Block Sleepy Hollow Ln.	
200 Block La Espiral	
Anta Maria Way/Camino Pablo	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	
Orchard Rd./Glorietta Blvd.	
Camino Pablo/Claremont Ave.	
Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Way	
Moraga Way/Brookside Rd.	
Tc - Property Damage	
Library	
Traffic Hazard	
Happy Valley Rd./Sundown Terrace	
Moraga Way/Overhill Rd.	
St. Stephens Cr./El Nido Ranch Rd.	
Vehicle Theft	
10 Block Pueblo Ct.	

Other criminal activity

Assault w/ Deadly Weapon	
10 Block Abbott Ct.	
Battery	
Orinda Convalescent	
Meadow View Rd./Glorietta Blvd.	
10 Block Mira Loma	
Burglary	
Police Department	
Identity Theft	
30 Block Ardiilla Rd.	
Ordinance Violation	
20 Block Ardiilla Rd.	
100 Block Lucille Way	
Stanton Ave./Claremont Ave.	
Panhandling	
Safeway	
Petty Theft	
20 Block Redcoach Ln.	
Prom Shoot	
20 Block Ardor Dr.	
Residential Burglary	
100 Block Van Ripper Ln.	
30 Block Park Lane Dr.	
100 Block Ardith Ct.	
Vandalism	
50 Block Moraga Way	
Rite Aid	
Vandalism Medical	
90 Block Orinda Way	
Violation Restraining Ordinance	
10 Block Richard Ct.,	
Warrant Arrest	
Beverages And More	
Rheem Blvd./Calvin Dr.	
Nuisance to the Community	
Public Assembly Check	
300 Block Camino Pablo	
School Assembly Check	
Miramonte High School (4)	
Other	
Accident Property	
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.	
10 Block Los Dedos Rd.	
400 Block Camino Sobrante	
Moraga Way/Lloyd Ln.	
Estabueno Dr./Moraga Way	
Bomb Threat	
90 Block Moraga Way	
H&S/Tr Sale Marijuana	
Miramonte High School	
Hazmat	
100 Block Overhill Rd.	
Missing Adult	
600 Block Tahos Rd.	
Other Infraction	
Bart Orinda Station	

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Dec. 4 - Dec. 16

Alarms	16
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	4
Traffic	65
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	11
Service to Citizen	25
Patrol Request/ Security Check	32
Supplemental Report	9
Welfare Check	6

Vehicle violations

Excessive Speed	
Moraga Rd./Canyon Rd.	
Moraga Rd./Moraga Via	
Rheem Blvd./Park St.	
Moraga Rd./Corte Santa Clara	
School St./Moraga Way	
Reckless Driving	
St. Andrews Dr./Augusta Dr.	
Rheem Blvd./Harold Dr.	
1000 Block Sanders Dr.	
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.	
1900 Block Ascot Dr.	
Tc - Property Damage	
Ace Hardware	
1400 Block Moraga Way	
Traffic Hazard	
Moraga Rd./Canyon Rd.	
Moraga Country Club	
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.	

Other criminal activity

Commercial Burglary	
1400 Block Moraga Way	
Dependent Adult Abuse	
1900 Block Ascot Dr.	
Grand Theft From Building	
St. Mary's College	
Identity Theft	
1900 Block Ascot Dr.	
200 Block Corliss Dr.	
Vandalism	
Los Perales Elementary School	
Rheem Elementary School	
Violation Custody Order	
Camino Pablo School	
Warrant Arrest	
Top Of Fay Hill	

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-Domestic	
Donald Dr./Donald Pl.	
50 Block Ashbrook Pl.	
Disturbing the Peace	
50 Block Ashbrook Pl.	
Moraga Commons Park	
Police Department	
300 Block Bedford Pl.	
Harassment	
40 Block Laird Dr.	
Loud Music	
1400 Block Camino Peral	
Loud Party	
2000 Block Ascot Dr.	
Public Assembly Check	
Rheem Valley Shopping Center (2)	

Other

Accident Injury	
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.	
Accident Property	
Moraga Rd./Draeger Dr.	
Police Department	
Death Non Criminal	
900 Block Country Club Dr.	
Mentally Ill Commit	
Campolindo High School	
Missing Adult	
600 Block Rheem Blvd.	



Photo Nick Marnell

New Moraga-Orinda Fire District board members are sworn in Dec. 19 at the Hacienda de Las Flores in Moraga by Contra Costa County Superior Court Judge John Kennedy. From left, Greg Baitx, Michael Donner and Steven Danziger. Fire Chief Dave Winnacker looks on.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

Send a letter to the editor:
letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Letters to the Editor

Poor response to smoke conditions

Our region was recently choked by heavy wildfire smoke for nearly two weeks. During this period, the level of fine particulate air pollution ranged from unhealthy to hazardous. At the beginning as the smoke pushed in, there was little alert in the media or through government agencies. Through the ensuing days there was inadequate and sometimes misleading advice about how we should protect ourselves. The most common and sometimes only advice was to stay inside, as if that alone would protect us. As the days past there were some stories in the news about wearing N95 masks and avoiding physical activity but little else.

Conditions this hazardous should have triggered serious public alerts to the eight million people exposed. Each day the media should have emphasized both the short and long term adverse health effects from breathing high levels of fine and ultra-fine particulates. Advice about protecting ourselves should have explained that without adequate filtering, inside air quality will soon become as bad as outside condition. Proper use of HVAC system filtering, air purifiers, and auto cabin filtering should have been prominent topics in the media. Advice about respirators should have emphasized their use wherever harmful air quality existed, including not just outside spaces but also in most inside areas. And because engaging in vigorous physical activity dramatically increases the volume of particulates taken into our lungs and bloodstream, we should have been advised to halt all athletic and other strenuous outside and indoor activities.

According to the EPA the San Francisco Bay Region is one of the worst regions in the US for annual average fine particulate matter (PM2.5) air pollution. Wildfires are making what is already an unhealthy situation even more serious. Not only should the news media be more proactive about informing all of us of how to protect ourselves from fine particulates, we also need local, State, and Federal action to both alert us when hazardous conditions exist and to adopt policies that will reduce our exposure.

James Leach
Lafayette

Bauer-Kahan headline

I'm a mom (among other things), and I was dismayed by the Dec.12th headline announcing Rebecca Bauer-Kahan's Assembly win, which read, "Orinda mom takes over District 16 California Assembly seat."

I will acknowledge that headline writing is tougher than it looks. In this case, the editor had to define Rebecca Bauer Kahan using two (maybe three) words. "Orinda [something]" was an obvious choice, but why, Orinda Mom? Why not, Orinda Attorney? Or, Orinda Environmentalist? Or, Orinda Community Leader? All of these phrases are used by RBK in describing herself on her website. She lists mother... last.

It comes down to this: Is "Mom" the one word that most accurately and fully describes who RBK is, in the context of winning a major (and extremely close) political race at the state level? I don't think so. Being a mom is important and noteworthy, and it probably accounts

for some of RBK's appeal, especially to other moms. But it's not what got her elected. I would venture to say that to most voters, her childbearing status was rather secondary to her experience as an accomplished attorney, respected educator, and inspiring community leader and activist.

It's important to note, also, that I don't think Steve Glazer was ever referred to as an "Orinda Dad" when he won the Senate Race. There's certainly nothing wrong with being a parent, but we have to ask ourselves: Why are women so frequently described by their domestic roles, and not by their other accomplishments?

Miriam Storch
Orinda

Thank you Dave Trotter

I want to thank Dave Trotter for his many years of service to the Town of Moraga. I moved here 10 years ago and needed to work with the Council on an issue and Dave returned my call immediately and most importantly listened to me. In the preceding years when issues came up such as the sink hole and Canyon Bridge Dave worked tirelessly along with the rest of the Council and Town staff to come up with solutions. They found optional funding such as Grants to offset the Town out of pocket expenses. I have observed individuals criticize Dave and the Council but have offered no solutions. Dave has always demonstrated the ability to listen and build consensus to develop the right solution. This has benefited all of us in Moraga. It doesn't matter if you agree with an elected official or not, they should be recognized for their commitment to serve. It should not be forgotten that when they make this commitment it also means they will spend a great deal of time away from their family. Dave and his family have made that commitment to the Town of Moraga for the past eighteen years. Thank You Dave Trotter.

Barry Behr
Moraga

Veterans appreciate support of Lamorinda citizens and businesses

On behalf of all of the members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8063, I would like to express our deep gratitude to the people of Lamorinda for their generosity in supporting our recent Buddy Poppy fundraising effort leading up to Veterans Day. Every penny of the more than four thousand dollars raised will go directly to local veterans in need. It was an outstanding effort by the members of Post 8063 who volunteered to man the poppy distribution sites and collect the donations. In addition, we are grateful to Diablo Foods of Lafayette for allowing us to use their location as a collection point. We mourn the passing of Ed Stokes, their founder and a member of our post. He was an outstanding person and an example to us all. Thanks also to Bank of America of Orinda for providing a very productive site for our efforts. Without the generosity of our local citizens and the support of all participants, we could not have accomplished our mission. We salute you!

Bill Charles
Buddy Poppy Chairperson



Bay Area Greenscapes, Inc.
Synthetic Grass - Installation - Landscaping

1801 Saint Mary's Rd. Moraga, CA 94556
Phone (925) 819-2100

- Design & Consulting
- New Landscape Installation • Re-Landscape & Remodel
- Residential & Commercial • Green Landscape Options
- Maintenance & Clean Ups • Synthetic Lawn Installation

CA Lic# 938445



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Warmest greetings of the season and best wishes for happiness in the new year!

Best wishes,
Your "Lamorinda Weekly" Carrier
Blackhawk Enterprise - Carrier Account
P.O. Box - 31656, Walnut Creek, CA 94598



AAAAA RENTSPACE
Store It Yourself & Save

50% OFF
FOR 2 MONTHS SELECT UNITS
LIMITED QUANTITIES AVAILABLE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

STOP BY OUR SA LOCATION & DONATE A NEW, UNWRAPPED TOY OR CASH DONATION FOR "TOYS FOR TOTS" NOW UNTIL DEC 21ST, 2018

Give us a review, we're happy to hear from you, appreciated!
Check our website & on Facebook to find out about upcoming events

AAAAA RENTSPACE
Store It Yourself & Save
455 Moraga Rd. Ste. F
(925) 643-2026
www.5Aspace.com



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

Your Full Service Lafayette Shop
For Flowers, Plants & Gifts

VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Floral Arts
FLORIST

3584 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
(925) 284-5765 www.floralartsflorist.com

**IT'S APRIL IN LAMORINDA
FOR REAL ESTATE**

Consistently Representing Buyers and
Sellers in Successful Transactions

Exceptional Service • No Exceptions!

925-253-2147
aprilmat@comcast.net

CalBRE#01221153 93 Moraga Way, #103, Orinda

April Matthews

www.villageassociates.com • www.dreamhomelamorinda.com

Village ASSOCIATES
LUXURY

Beauty store owner mobilizes donations for Camp Fire victims

Submitted by Kathy Merchant



Photo provided

As soon as Carrie La Shell, owner of Lafayette Beauty, learned of the devastation of the Camp Fire, she went into action. The first step was her own pledge of \$5,000 worth of shampoo, soap, lotions, cosmetics and more. Later her landlord joined in with a match-

ing \$5,000 donation. La Shell quickly reached out to her beauty store community to collect \$25,000 worth of sundries, gift cards, blankets and pillows, reading glasses, and first aid kits. "The thought of people sleeping in a Walmart parking lot in the cold with nothing was

heartbreaking, and I wanted to do something to help," she explained. The response in donations was so overwhelming that La Shell had to rent a U-Haul truck to deliver the goods. What a beautiful way to wrap up 2018.

Volunteers sought for committee and commission vacancies

By Sora O'Doherty

Perhaps it is your New Year's resolution to volunteer to serve your city or town. If so, the following information will be of interest:

Lafayette

Lafayette needs volunteers. There are currently openings on the following commissions and committees: Capital Projects Assessment Committee, Creeks Committee, Community Center Foundation, Downtown Congestion Study Committee, Downtown Street Improvement Master Plan Implementation Committee, Emergency Preparedness Commission, Environmental Task Force, Senior Services, Transportation & Circulation Commission, Youth Commission. Apply anytime; vacancies remain open until filled. Application forms are available at <https://www.lovelafayette.org/home/showdocument?id=456>.

Moraga

Moraga depends on volunteers to serve on all of its boards, committees, and commissions. In 2018,

there are still openings on the Design Review Board (one opening), Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee (one opening), and the Park and Recreation Commission (one opening). If interested, applicants may go to the town's website and click on the applicable committee or commission to complete the application/questionnaire. A signed copy and a letter of interest and resumé, should be sent to the town clerk or dropped off at the clerk's office, 329 Rheem Blvd.

Orinda

The city of Orinda is seeking applications from resident volunteers to serve the city on its Planning Commission (three terms expiring), Parks and Recreation Commission (two terms expiring), Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission (three terms expiring, one vacancy), Finance Advisory Committee (two terms expiring, one vacancy), Historical Landmarks Committee (two terms expiring), Art in Public Places Committee (one term expiring), and the

Public Works Aesthetic Review Committee (one term expiring).

The city of Orinda is also seeking applications from resident volunteers to serve as the city's liaison to the following local agencies: Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District Trustee (one vacancy), County Library Commission (one term expiring), and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority Citizen Advisory Committee (one vacancy).

Statement of Interest forms are available from the Orinda city clerk's office, 22 Orinda Way, by emailing City Clerk Sheri Smith at ssmith@cityoforinda.org or by calling (925) 253-4221. Application forms may also be downloaded from the city's website.

Completed Statement of Interest forms should be submitted to the city clerk's office by 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4. Qualified applicants will be invited to interview before the City Council on Saturday, Feb. 9.

Moraga's 2018 Year in Review offered as Trotter and Onoda step down

... continued from Page A4

Thank you to the staff, both past and present, for teaching me what I needed to know, so that I could be the best council member that I could be." She felt that it has been the best town council Moraga has ever had.

Trotter welcomed newly elected council members Mike McCluer and Steve Woehleke, offering

them his congratulations and best wishes. He agreed with Onoda that the past 12 months was equal to, if not better than, previous councils. Amidst his thanks to staff and fellow council members, he noted, "It's been a privilege to serve with you these past few months." Trotter then mentioned his wife. "Thank you Debbie for everything."

Trotter concluded, "I've had a very good run on the town council. Twelve years is a long time." He added, "I leave with few, if any, regrets; hundreds, if not thousands, of friends made along the way and a profound appreciation for the faith and trust that the people of Moraga have given me."

Moraga Town Council reorganizes

... continued from Page A5

I'd like to thank all the residents of Moraga, my supporters and my family. I'm going to do my best to represent Moraga. I'm a town council member, but I'm really just a resident like everybody else, and I'm here to serve you, and that's

from the heart."

Woehleke conveyed, "I'm humbled and honored to be elected. I owe many, especially my wife, Peggy. I pledge tonight to listen and take on board what my fellow town council members communicate."

He added, "I understand there's much to accomplish in Moraga. My priority is to craft goals that can also be supported by the resources that we have. I look forward to working with my co-council members on that."

Council opts for applications, interviews to fill vacant seat

... continued from Page A3

Residents expressed their opinions and argued analysis of the votes to demonstrate how Samson should or should not be appointed there and then.

Mayor Cam Burks acknowledged the volume of public input, and noted that both options had significant merit and compelling arguments. In the end, however, all supported the previously used open application/interview process and recognized the need to codify the process to develop policy for the future.

"I would like to thank the members of the public who took the time to attend meetings and provide insightful and sincere public comment on this very important matter," said Burks, noting, "The discourse, on all sides of the de-

bate, was civil and respectful and, again, demonstrates the passion in our community to come together, get involved, speak up, and advocate for what folks truly believe is in the best interest of Lafayette."

The council is accepting applications until 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4. Registered voters residing within Lafayette city limits can apply to fill the term, which ends December 2020.

The council will review applications and hold interviews during the week of Jan. 7 and hopes to make the appointment by Jan. 11, ideally installing the new member on the first council meeting of the year on Jan. 14.

For more information, go to the city website at <https://www.lovelafayette.org>.

City explores options on banning flavored tobacco products

... continued from Page A3

We must act now to stop what is enabling our next generation to become addicted – for life – to nicotine and tobacco," said Burks.

Statistics from the Acalanes Union School District California Healthy Kids Survey suggests there is reason to be concerned, particularly with the use of electronic cigarettes with 41 percent of juniors reporting they have used a vaping device.

And, among high school age smokers, over half use menthol-flavored products, according to the California Department of Public Health.

"It is time to put kids above profit," said speaker Dr. Phillip Gardiner, co-chair of The African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council during public comments, as he explained that the flavors used to entice kids is "putting flavor in the poison."

The council heard from several speakers, including Lafayette resident and member of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Margo Connolly who urged for a citywide ban, and from Amanda Gutzwiller of the American Lung Association, who

stated that four out of five kids who start smoking do so with a flavored product.

In 2009 the FDA banned flavored cigarettes excluding menthol. Although the FDA is currently considering a ban on the sale of FTPs there is no timeline for imposing such a ban. There are moves to impose a ban at the state level too, which is welcomed by Burks.

"I applaud federal and state government action in this space, specifically the leadership of our state Sen. Steve Glazer, and his other legislative colleagues who recently announced plans to ban sales of flavored tobacco products and flavored e-cigarettes. But we cannot wait for these large government institutions to move slowly through the process," said Burks. "As an independent city, we can act more nimbly and more quickly – this is where local government can make the biggest impact and it's exactly why I joined the city council."

Several neighboring towns and cities, such as Alameda, have imposed a ban and require licensing of tobacco retailers.

Behind closed doors, Orinda considers fate of 53 Rheem easement

... continued from Page A7

Scheg told city attorney Osa Wolff that the DeSpains relied upon the findings of a survey that, he said, "conclusively determines that the purported 'trail easement' does not correspond with the previously existing (and now permanently closed) path through the DeSpain's private property."

Further, he continued, "the rejected trail easement crosses unimproved land that would be treacherous for pedestrian access and use." Scheg warned that any attempt by the city to remove the DeSpain's gate would be "unlawful and prosecuted accordingly."

New Canyon Bridge

... continued from Page A1

Moraga Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg added, "The good news is that we're not budgeted to receive the funds in the 2018-19 fiscal year, and we've increased our priority for funding."

Kwan explained that although the emergency relief funds covering the \$11,000 per month rental of the temporary bridge expires

in September, the town will pursue additional grants by asking for an extension toward the permanent repair phase.

Drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians can take comfort in knowing that the temporary bridge has served Moraga well and will continue to do so for as long as is necessary.

MCC Evacuation drill fills Moraga Way

By Cathy Dausman



Emergency crews at Moraga Way at St. Andrews Drive intersection prepare to divert to northbound-only traffic. Photos Cathy Dausman

A steady stream of northbound car traffic filled Moraga Way in the early morning Dec. 15 spilling by design into the southbound lanes. The traffic – quick, quiet and orderly – was part of a simulated 3.2-mile-long wildfire evacuation of the Moraga Country Club neighborhood weeks, perhaps months in the making. Dennis Rein, emergency preparedness coordinator for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District said this first-ever fully functional Lamorinda area wildfire evacuation exercise was a joint venture overseen by MOFD and Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette police departments.

“I’ve never heard of anybody turning contra flow traffic in the Bay Area,” Rein said. “We’re breaking new ground here.”

A contingent of first responder observers from neighboring communities and government organizations were on site, as well as a large volunteer corps from the Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team, MOFD Support 241 and the Lamorinda (amateur) Radio Group. “This is not just the agencies doing the evacuation,” Rein said. “We’re depending on residents to buy in (to the drill).”

And buy in they did. MCC residents Clay Claassen and Susan Karplus approached MCC general manager Ron Haas earlier this year to inquire about training their residents. When those three reached out to CERT and local police “they got a sense of how interested we were,” Karplus said.

Haas then approached MOFD

Chief Dave Winnacker. Haas said initially 370 of 521 Moraga Country Club residents opted into the exercise, but he did not expect a conflict with an early Miramonte High School water polo competition, so was unsure how many would actually commit.

“It takes a village to fight fires in California,” said Cal Fire’s Mike Marcucci, assistant Chief for East Bay operations, who said his organization really relies on local cooperators (MOFD in Moraga and Orinda, for example) until they get their responders on site “from the other side of the county.”

A third-generation firefighter, Marcucci remembers town sirens used as flood alerts in the 1990s. Having today’s technology which includes reverse 911 phone calls made to targeted cellular and landlines and providing detailed instruction is huge, he said. Technology played an important part in the exercise, from customized electronic alerts to data collection, mapping software and even drone videos.

At 7:01 a.m. notifications via text, email and voicemail went out through a customized Contra Costa County Community Warning System list. Within minutes a steady stream of traffic turned left off St. Andrews Drive and northbound onto Moraga Way, occupying both northbound and southbound lanes.

The exercise ended at Glorietta Boulevard, where drivers were allowed to turn right and head home. “We had so many flares on the ground at Glorietta, from the smoke you would

have thought it was a real fire,” observed Orinda Chief of Police Mark Nagel.

In all, more than 100 automobiles made the drive. “It was interesting,” said MCC resident Frank Newborn. Newborn and his wife Amy were part of the exodus. “I’m not sure how well it simulated a real situation, as it obviously was a learning experience,” but the Newborns did identify two elderly neighbors who don’t drive.

A few uninformed drivers were detained at St. Andrews Drive and Moraga Way, and a few MCC late participants were turned back. Normal traffic flow was re-established around 7:30 a.m. “Everybody came back safely,” said MPD Chief of Police Jon King, who called the event “a game changer.”

“People on both sides learned something,” he said, adding “I had officers asking to work the event, even on their day off. God forbid this would really happen, but we know now we can do it.”

“We’re in the crawling stage of a worst-case scenario,” Winnacker said, “but this (drill) will arm us with what we need to do.”

“Armed with what you saw today, educate your neighbors,” he said, and “learn to be resilient, self-reliant, and able to heal.” When this happens “there will be no lift-assist calls (answered),” Winnacker said.

Rein said plans are being made to run similar evacuation drills in Orinda, Lafayette and Canyon.



Moraga police chief Jon King and Orinda police chief Mark Nagel attend an evacuation drill briefing.



"A little bit of myself goes into every job."

Michael VerBrugge, President, Moraga Resident

925.631.1055

www.MVCRemodeling.com

Specializing in kitchens & bathrooms. All forms residential remodel/repair.

Lic# 681593



MICHAEL VERBRUGGE CONSTRUCTION INC. General Contractor



Clean | Courteous | Conscientious On-time | Trustworthy | Local References

Full design team resources available

Storefront window display

... continued from Page A1

McCaulou credits Store Supervisor Sue Borges who, he says, is very artistic. Each year a group of employees work on the window at night. They are helped by talented Lafayette carpenter Ron Gilardi who builds whatever they need to create the scene. "They have fun," says McCaulou.

For several years, McCaulou

explains, they rotated the different displays around as many as eight or 10 of their stores, thus keeping each store's window fresh each year. Borges kept detailed records for the following year. Now, however, the display is only found at the Lafayette store. The collection is kept in storage throughout the rest of the

year.

McCaulou says families sometimes take their Christmas card photos with the display as a backdrop.

"A million fingerprints on the glass and we know we're successful," says McCaulou, noting that all the fingerprints are at child-height.

Orinda reorganizes the city council; Mayor grants awards of excellence

... continued from page A6



Award of excellence presented to Maggie Boscoe of the Lamorinda Arts Council. Photo Sora O'Doherty

Worth's third award went to Steve Harwood, whom Worth hailed as "The Voice of Orinda." Harwood has been the longtime voice of Orinda youth sports, the city's Fourth of July parade and chairman of the Lamorinda Idol competition.

Supervisor Candace Andersen was on hand to honor Phillips, Orr and Worth, as was Teresa Geringer, who appeared on behalf of state Sen. Steve Glazer, who was unable to attend. Andersen praised Worth as the only person to hold the position of mayor of Orinda four times. Phillips and Orr both received proclamations from the city extolling their service to the city for four and eight years on the city council, respectively.

Prior to serving on the city council, Orr had served eight years on the planning commission. Worth praised Orr's wife and daughters, who were present, for their sacrifice of "so many Tuesday nights" so that their father could serve the city. She similarly commended Phillips' family, but Phillips' young daughter had been taken home to bed earlier in the evening.

In the same vein, another award went to the Friends of the Orinda Library. The award was accepted on behalf of the Friends by president Nancy Ross-Madnick and treasurer Linda Landau. Worth recounted how the library began as a box of books for borrowing in the general store in 1915. In 1959 the

Friends incorporated, with the goal of building a library. They achieved that goal, building the new library and the library auditorium. Today they manage the library's finances, raise funds for the continued maintenance of the library, sort books, run the on-site bookstore, and more.

TG HARDWOOD FLOORS
Moraga California
DESIGN • REFINISHING • INSTALLATION
925-376-1118
Lic # 974653

Since 1993!
Tom Gieryng, owner and operator

CALL TOM FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

Building Foundations

- Lifting
- Leveling
- Stabilizing

UNDERPINNING
GENERAL CONTRACTOR LIC. 067128
707 310-0602
www.bayareaunderpinning.org
GENERAL CONTRACTOR LIC. 067128



The Lamorinda Office of Dudum Real Estate Group would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a Happy New Year! We hope the coming year is filled with peace and joy.

If a change of address is on the horizon for 2019, our market is certainly filled with wonderful opportunities for both buyers and sellers. Opening Doors of Opportunity is what we do. We look forward to opening those doors for you!

Wishing all of Lamorinda continued blessings and great happiness throughout the New Year.

 925.708.5630 DRE# 01917597	 925.383.5500 DRE# 01347508	 415.425.3085 DRE# 01964989	 925.998.1914 DRE# 01476506	 925.876.2399 DRE# 01973545	 925.817.9053 DRE# 01938194	 415.377.1884 DRE# 02047712	 925.818.5500 DRE# 01290985	 925.876.4671 DRE#02060294
 925.285.1093 DRE# 01478540	 925.765.9095 DRE# 01426129	 925.464.6500 DRE# 01310057	 415.990.1672 DRE# 01994561	 925.212.7617 DRE# 01320608	 925.284.1400 OFFICE MANAGER	 925.360.8662 DRE# 01907345	 925.915.0851 DRE# 01970768	 415.999.6116 DRE# 01376796

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Arts shine on in Lamorinda

By Lou Fancher



Miramonte High School junior Jenni Coletta sings at Dec. 12 Lamorinda Arts Council's annual holiday luncheon. Photo Lou Fancher

During the Lamorinda Arts Council's annual holiday luncheon, instant proof of the organization's value arrives in the uplifted arms, snapping fingers, assertive singing and vocal proclamations of strength from local youth performers. In a private dining room at the Orinda Country Club on Dec. 12, LAC board members, community arts supporters and invited guests enjoyed French chicken topped with artichokes and capers or lemon-parmesan cod while being entertained by the cast of "The Ad-

dams Family" from Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theatre (produced by Bay Area Children's Theater), a screening of Lamorinda ShortDocs 2018 winner, "The Homeless Project," and select Lamorinda Idol singers.

Both McKenna Rose, a third-grade student at Sleepy Hollow Elementary, and OIS eighth-grader Amelia Chen performed at the luncheon. During 2018 the LAC engine behind these powerful voices also displayed the visual artwork of 60 artists, 250 local high school

students and 320 elementary and middle school students in exhibits held at the Orinda Library art gallery. Enthusiasm for the arts in Lamorinda as expressed through the council's activities this year supported not only the first-ever Arts Affair that showcased LAC partnerships with local arts organizations, but also Stanley Middle School student Neve Abcari's award-winning short documentary and the endeavors of Miramonte students Nejla Ackdoe-Pagey and Jenni Coletta, who delivered to the appreciative audience sincere renditions of emotional, melodic tunes.

In opening statements at the luncheon, LAC Board Chairperson Jenny Staelin highlighted additional accomplishments that included, among others, October's Art of Mixology that raised nearly \$10,000, and a new, outdoor Arts Moves Project supported with \$9,000 from private donors, businesses and local foundations. For the first time, a "Spark the Arts" award was given, with honors in 2018 to Mark Coffey for editing and outreach related to the LAC newsletter. As an advocate for visual, performing and literary art produced and enjoyed by people of all ages, Staelin said LAC hopes always to cultivate activities that "bring us together, uplift our hearts, open our minds, educate our children and provide joy to all who experience them."

Staelin said future plans include expanding Arts Affair into an annual fundraiser. "We have to be careful not to overextend, because we're an entirely volunteer-run organization. (Managing Director Meredith Friedman is the sole paid

staff position.) We had 120 people attend and this event has great potential." As an indicator, Arts Affair portends the type of initiative Staelin and the LAC plan to pursue with local organizations. "We'd love to

partner more with Saint Mary's College, Town Hall Theatre, Cal Shakes. What can we do to bring artists together? We want to be the hub."

... continued on Page B5

LeapFrog Plumbing

To all our Lamorinda customers:



Head Frog Mo Williams

The one-call plumber Gas, Water & Sewer

- Emergency service
- Repairs & installation
- Video sewer inspection
- Copper re-piping
- Preventive checkups
- Water heater specialist Tank, Tankless, Hybrid

Ho Ho Ho! You're the best! We thank you for the privilege of hoppin' to it for you this year! We wish you true peace, love and joy. May you have a safe and Plumb Hoppy Holiday.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

- LeapFrog Loot **\$150 off** tankless/hybrid water heater installation*
- LeapFrog Loot **\$89 off** Any tank-type water heater installation*
- LeapFrog Loot **\$25 off** Any new faucet or fixture installation*

*1 coupon per service Exp 1/15/19

We Hop To It!

Family-owned and serving Lamorinda since 1993

LeapFrog is a vendor for PG&E gas service.



CA Lic 929641

(925) 377-6600

www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com



Thank You to Our LPIE 2018 BUSINESS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

DIAMOND PARTNERS



LUXE HOME by DouglaH Designs*
925-232-1729
luxehomebydouglaH.com



Cobain Orthodontics*
925-283-3355
cobainorthodontics.com



Dana Green Pacific Union International*
925-339-1918
danagreenteam.com



Julie Del Santo Dudum Real Estate Group*
925-818-5500
dudum.com



Tina Frechman Dudum Real Estate Group*
925-915-0851
dudum.com



Keith R. Gronbach Oral Surgery
925-283-4050
eastbayoralsurgery.com



Koopah & Koopah, Inc.*
925-254-4877
drkoopah.com



Lafayette Chamber of Commerce*
925-284-7404
lafayettechamber.org



Erin & Darrick Martin Martin Homes**
925-951-3817, 925-900-8218
martinhomesteam.com



Mechanics Bank
925-962-6900
mechanicsbank.com



Minuteman Press*
925-945-6006
mmpwc.com



Persons Plastic Surgery
925-283-4012
personsplasticsurgery.com



Sports Basement*
925-941-6100
shop.sportsbasement.com



Zephyr Tents
510-559-8694
zephyrtents.com

PLATINUM PARTNERS

C&M Party Props Patxi's Pizza Studio Jule

GOLD PARTNERS

Antigua Doors* Ashley Battersby, Village Associates* Lisa Brydon & Kristi Ives - Real Estate Team, Alain Pinel Realtors* Carrie Dove Catering Climatec California Pizza Kitchen* Cooperage American Grille* Denon & Doyle Honey Bear Christmas Trees* Lily Dong Photography Renee Sweeney Photography Slider Truck - Town Bakery Stat Med*

SILVER PARTNERS

Barranco* Forma Gym Walnut Creek* JJ Buckley Fine Wines Lafayette Car Wash Lamorinda Music Lewis + Llewellyn LLP Locanda Positano* Smitten Ice Cream Style House Staging

SUPPORTERS

Bella Bronze Black Cat Hat Clocks, Etc.* Construction Plus* DTN Nail Care J McLaughlin La Porte Education Advising Manifix nails Pizza Antica* P & L Framing* Hoover Ranch* Vineyard Vines

SUPER PLATINUM PARTNERS



Diablo Foods
925-283-0737
diablofoods.com



Flo Content*
925-385-8610
flocontent.com



The Fourth Bore Tap House & Grill
925-254-1183
thefourthbore.com



Sue Layng, Village Associates*
925-963-7189
suelayng.com



Lewis Asset Management*
925-284-4033
lewisam.com



Kurt Piper Group
925-818-8000
kurtpipergroup.com



Village Associates
925-254-0505
villageassociates.com



Woehrle Development
925-212-8771
woehrledevelopment.com



* 2019 Returning Partners
** 2019 Title Sponsor

Moraga golfer makes the record books

By Diane Claytor

Every golfer dreams of that elusive hole-in-one. Lori Dixon-Boettler hit her first one, right-handed, in 2003. This year, Dixon-Boettler accomplished something that very few ever have; in fact, according to various record keepers, including the U.S. Golf Association, she is likely the only woman to have these bragging rights: this past fall, Dixon-Boettler hit her second hole-in-one, this time playing left-handed. And the vivacious Moraga grandmother claims that golf isn't even her primary passion; swimming is.

Acknowledging that she has natural athletic abilities, Dixon-Boettler was an avid tennis player for many years. Living in Orinda, divorced with one young son, Dixon-Boettler met Fred, an ardent golfer (now her husband of 28 years) and states that she "probably never would have started playing golf if it wasn't for him." In fact, the very energetic 72-year-old says, "as a young person, I thought 'who would play a slow and boring game like that.'" But then she started playing and discovered that not only is golf far more difficult than

she expected ("In tennis, the ball is always moving. In golf, the ball is just sitting there. How hard can it be?" she remembers thinking), "it's such a beautiful way to enjoy the outdoors."

Naturally left-handed, Dixon-Boettler spoke with a golf salesperson who, when hearing about her strong tennis backhand, suggested she play golf right-handed. Since left-handed clubs are harder to come by, she took his advice. After only four years of playing, Dixon-Boettler reached the golfer's pinnacle by hitting that hole-in-one at the Moraga Country Club, her home turf.

In Hawaii several years later, Dixon-Boettler and her husband started talking to a man they frequently saw fishing. As luck would have it, the fisherman was Mark Rolfing, an on-course commentator and analyst for NBC/Golf Channel and host of his own NBC Sports series, "Global Golf Adventure." Dixon-Boettler, who is anything but shy, asked Rolfing if he knew of any woman who's ever gotten a hole-in-one playing both left- and right-handed. When he said he was

unaware of any, Dixon-Boettler was inspired to take on the challenge; the very next day she ordered left-handed clubs and has been playing that way ever since.

Fast forward to September 2018 at Michigan's famed Three-tops Course (considered one of the hardest par three courses in the U.S.). Dixon-Boettler has actually been thinking about switching back to playing right handed, "But," she says, "I keep hearing in my head, 'no woman has ever gotten a hole-in-one playing both right- and left-handed.' And, since life is about making and reaching goals, I decide to stick with the left hand."

She plays the first hole but can't find the second one "and I'm so embarrassed. We're holding up foursomes behind us because we can't find the hole," Dixon-Boettler reports. They finally find it and she swings again. "Now we can't find the ball. Optimistically, when you can't find your ball," Boettler continues, "you look in the hole. And, amazingly, there it is. The ball marked with my signature 'L.'"

Excitedly asking if anyone witnessed this, someone from the group behind them responded and he verified this incredible accomplishment to the course golf pro.

According to the National Hole-In-One Registry, only three people are listed as scoring a hole-in-one from both left and right sides: Dixon-Boettler and two male golfers. Communications with the USGA revealed similar information: there are 21 times listed when someone achieved a hole-in-one playing right- and left-handed, but there are no names or genders associated with this list. "You are the first verified woman that's ever done this,"



Lori Dixon-Boettler shooting her second hole-in-one — this one left handed — this year in Michigan

Photo provided

Dixon-Boettler was advised by Jerry Tarde, Golf Digest editor.

Not one to ever rest on her laurels, Dixon-Boettler is now reaching for new goals which don't include tennis rackets or golf clubs.

Twenty years ago, with a bad back and on her doctor's recommendation, Dixon-Boettler started swimming. She now swims competitively in the Masters Championships and won three first place medals for her age group in the Senior Games earlier this month.

Dixon-Boettler no longer plays tennis. She still plays golf, although

says she'll probably switch back to playing right-handed. And she swims as frequently as possible. "That's what I really love doing," she says.

A spiritual woman who reads psalms and proverbs every day while sitting in her favorite chair taking in the beautiful views from her Moraga Country Club home, Dixon-Boettler, who prides herself on being a motivator, hopes to inspire others to keep moving, no matter how old. And, she proudly states, "You can learn new skills at any age."

STEPS AWAY FROM
WORLD-CLASS SHOPPING,
DINING, AND ENTERTAINMENT.



For Active Seniors
Complimentary ticket to
our next theatre event

Please call or email
jshively@
theheritagedowntown.com

WALNUT CREEK'S PREMIER ACTIVE SENIOR
LIVING COMMUNITY IN THE HEART OF THE CITY



(925) 943-7427 | 1785 Shuey Avenue, Walnut Creek
theheritagedowntown.com

New novel delves into science of CRISPR Cas9 gene editing technique use

By Sophie Braccini

Today's young adult audiences want realistic, challenging, dark and suspenseful storytelling. It is a trend that comes from adult literature, think of "The Reckoning" by John Grisham or "Dark Sacred Night" by Michael Connelly. Books such as "Thunderhead: Arc of a Scythe" by Neal Shusterman are not for timid hearts; and now, Lamorinda Weekly's own editor Jennifer Wake, who writes under the name J. Finn Wake, has published such a young adult novel: dark, mysterious, and thrilling. It is also a story born of the author's love of the sea and its inhabitants. As science fiction borders recent rogue science incidents, "Cry of the Seals" is a modern day fairy tale where the fairies are crossing the boundaries between the human and animal kingdom and the bad witches are picaroon scientists manipulating genes we fear could pop out for real any time.

The story is set on the Pacific coast of Northern California. Two teens, quirky and brilliant 15-year-old Noah and his friend Taylor, a fearless girl, get tangled in a dark mystery that requires them to push both their intellectual and emotional boundaries.

Noah is different, and he is embarrassed by what is a little too "special" about him. He is not badly victimized at school, but bullying is never very far. He has few friends, but for Taylor, and Noah also has newly realized gifts, such the ability to hear and understand marine mammals. When Noah shares his perceptions and ideas with Taylor, it is enough for the adventurous girl to start a spiral of actions that they are unable to stop until complete resolution.

It is a classic story of good versus evil, where rogue scientists will stop at nothing to conquer recognition and fame. The interesting twist here is that just recently, such a scientist in China claimed to have edited a human genome and given twins genetic traits that will reproduce in future generations.

Scientific aspects in the book

involve genetic editing using CRISPR Cas9 (clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats), the RNA-guided gene-editing platform that makes use of a bacterially derived protein (Cas9) and a synthetic guide RNA to introduce a double strand break at a specific location within the genome. Wake's description of this genetic editing technique will satisfy science-minded youth, but it is explained simply enough to make it accessible to all. Bottom-line: what the author uses as the base of her story is real science and the extrapolation she makes is, unfortunately, not impossible.

Besides the scientific backdrop, this is the story of youth overcoming differences, taking risk for a good cause and maturing in the process. Wake does not shy away from difficult ethical questions such as whether the ends justify the means, and parents who get the

book for their child will enjoy reading it for all the good conversation topics that can come from it.

"Cry of the Seals" is Wake's first novel. She has been a writer for years, contributing to regional magazines and newspapers. The characters are well developed and very credible. The ending might leave the reader wondering, as some questions go unanswered and others have found too quick of a denouement.

It is fair to say that about half of the readers for young adult literature are not that young anymore, and those interested in a good adventure, set on the edge of land and sea, and who are intrigued by what is possible with science today might also want to check out "Cry of the Seals."

The book can be found at Orinda Books, ordered through other book stores, and purchased online.

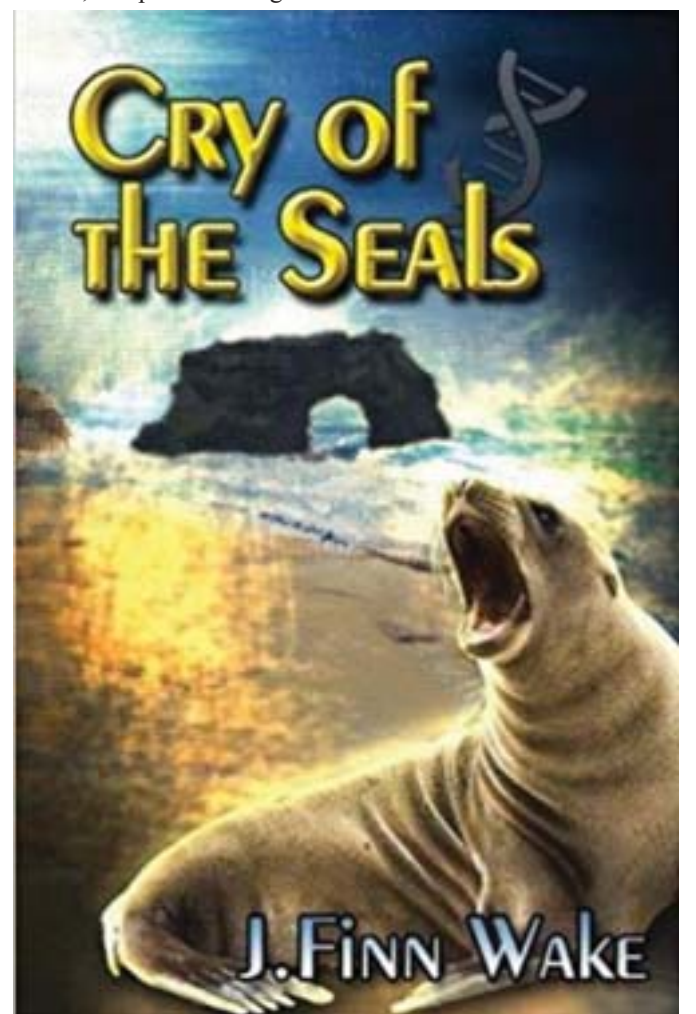


Photo provided

BAD INC. Bay Area
Drainage, Inc.

Have You Checked Your
Crawlspace Lately?

- French Drains
- Underfloor Drains
- Downspout Systems
- Subdrain Systems
- Sump Pumps
- Retaining Walls
- Pavestone Driveway & Walkways

A General Engineering Contractor
Locally owned and Operated
Contractor LIC # 762208

925•377•9209



visit our website
www.bayareadrainage.com

Day Trippin'

Skip over to Santa Cruz

By Fran Miller



Hotel Paradox patio

Photos provided

If the mention of Santa Cruz conjures Beach Boys' tunes and old-school boardwalk roller coasters, it might be time to re-explore our seaside neighbor. Sure, 'Surf City' (just a 1.5-hour drive south, if the traffic gods are smiling) is all about the beach, but a weekend visit can entail so much more. A hip hotel, fine dining, shopping, and basketball, for instance, create the perfect recipe for a rejuvenating getaway.

Stay. Hotel Paradox (a Marriott Autograph Collection Hotel) sits inland on Ocean Avenue and is centrally located to every stop throughout this ideal weekend. Park the car, forget about it, and make sure you've got your walking shoes. This cozy retreat, infused with natural elements that reflect its beach and forest surroundings, once served as UC Santa Cruz's overflow dorms, and students were likely sparring for rights to fifth floor, horizon-facing digs. Comfy rooms feature reclaimed wood paneling, river rock shower floors, and eco-friendly bath products.

Central areas are whimsically adorned with artwork by a rotating cast of local artisans. A giant felled eucalyptus tree serves as the check-in desk. Borrow a beach cruiser from the in-house fleet, or rent an electric Blix bike or an inboard electric skateboard to cruise the downtown corridor. A large, central pool and hot tub area is enhanced with overhead twinkle lights, a fire pit (grab a s'mores package from in-house restaurant Solaire and roast away), and rentable cabanas. In any season, Hotel Paradox is fun, festive, and family friendly.

Dine. Solaire is a winning option for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Make sure to meet resident bartender John Dunleavy, aka 'Rainbow,' a local idol known for his personable demeanor. For something off-property, head to Soif Restaurant and Wine Bar on Walnut, off of Pacific, a favorite destination for fans of great wine

and seasonal fare. An intimate dining room with open kitchen sits adjacent to the small wine retail shop lined with unique and exclusive labels, many of limited production and handmade following organic and biodynamic practices. An emphasis is placed on local producers, as well as Italian and French varietals – many of which are featured on the by-the-glass restaurant menu. Order a half glass of each in order to try several. It's fun to sip and compare. Find one you love, and make a post-dinner purchase. (For those who prefer a martini to a merlot, Soif also serves classic and modern cocktail creations.)

Chef Tom McNary takes pride in presenting a menu that highlights the finest local, seasonal, and organic products. His regularly changing menu features minimally manipulated dishes that allow the fresh ingredients to shine, such as a Fogline Farms roasted chicken with lemon and garlic, served with a farmers' market slaw and roasted potatoes, or a salad of 'caught-that-day' crab and winter citrus. Regulars are rarely presented with the same menu twice.

Do. Downtown Santa Cruz is home to one of retail's greatest shopping and dining streets – Pacific Avenue. From the inspiring, independent Bookshop Santa Cruz, to the requisite surf shops, to at least three comfort shoe specific boutiques (Santa Cruz residents are serious about their shoes), Pacific Avenue has got it all. Don't miss Vibes' Up, just around the corner on Front Street for a true Santa Cruz shopping experience; products here promise to increase good vibes and re-harmonize mind and body.

Can't get your hands on Golden State Warriors tickets? The Santa Cruz Warriors are the next best thing – and in some ways, even better. This Golden State Warriors NBA G League 'developmental' team features NBA-level talent

playing not in a 20,000 seat arena, but in the intimate 2,500 seat Kaiser Permanente Arena, where fans sit within reach of the action and pay a fraction of the price of GSW tickets. (The season runs through March 23.)

And if the siren song of the waves beckons, by all means, head to the Boardwalk. But with so much to see and do in Santa Cruz, the iconic destination is relegated to just another stop along the way.



Santa Cruz Warrior mascot Mav'Riks

Ware Designs

Fine Jewelry since 1977

Expanding our Services with Two Goldsmiths

- Custom Designs
- Appraisals
- Expert Repairs
- Pearl Restringing

All your jewelry is insured with Jeweler's Block Insurance.

\$5 off Watch Battery

Reg \$15, Now \$10

1 watch battery per person. Exp. 2/15/19. Usually installed while you wait. W/coupon. Restrictions apply.

3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette between Trader Joes & the Post Office
283-2988 www.waredesigns.com Tuesday-Saturday 10-6

LIVING TRUST

\$895 COMPLETE

Valid until February 6, 2019

Plan Includes:

- Trust Agreement
- Pour Over Will
- Guardianship of Minor Children
- Power of Attorney for Finance
- Transfer of Real Property
- Advanced Health Care Directive

Notary Services Included!

(925) 257-4277

www.smykowskilaw.com
laurensmy@gmail.com

Office Located in Walnut Creek

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

Law Offices of Lauren Smykowski

Women's health made easy

- Annual check up
- Anxiety management
- Diabetes management
- Mammogram scheduling

To schedule an appointment today in our Lamorinda office, call 925-962-9120.

911 Moraga Road
Lafayette, CA 94549

GET AHEAD IN MATH THIS FALL

GRADES K-12
Pre-Algebra • Algebra 1 & 2 • Geometry
Pre-Calculus & Calculus
SAT/ACT Preparatory
Individualized Instruction

HOMEWORK HELP FOR ALL LEVELS
Flat Monthly Fee
Drop-in any time, no scheduling needed!

1 WEEK FREE TUTORING & HOMEWORK HELP
Must present coupon. New students only.

3435 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette
(Golden Gate Way at Mt. Diablo Blvd.)
(925) 283-4200 www.mathnasium.com

MATHNASIUM
The Math Learning Center

Theater View Veterinary Clinic

Dr. Laurie Langford-owner

- Offering your pets compassionate care
- Modern hospital and equipment
- Long tenured, experienced staff
- Puppy classes for our clients

Dr. Amelia Ausman

1 Bates Blvd., Suite 200
Orinda, CA 94563
P: (925) 317-3187
F: (925) 334-7017
E: theatervieworinda@gmail.com
W: www.theaterviewvetclinic.com

Moraga Rotary named 'Outstanding Club' in Northern California District

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Three recent presidents of Moraga Rotary accept the recognition banner of "The Outstanding Club of the Year," from left: Club presidents Ron Mucovich, Dianne Wilson, and Kevin Reneau. Sitting: Cliff Dochterman, former Rotary International president and current Moraga Rotary member. Photo provided

Rotary Club of Moraga was recognized as "The Outstanding Club of the Year" at the Rotary District 5160 awards dinner held recently in Woodland, Yolo County. This District consists of 72 individual Rotary Clubs ranging from Berkeley and San Ramon in the south to Weed near the Oregon border, with four clubs in Lamorinda. This award has been given annually to the Outstanding Club since 1994, when it was created by Cliff Dochterman when he was serving as worldwide president of Rotary International, and has been passed along each year to the winning club. This award honors the recent achievements of Moraga Rotary under club presidents Kevin Reneau, Dianne Wilson, and Ron Mucovich.

One factor contributing to Moraga Rotary winning this award was the successful fundraising, design, and completion of the All-Access Playground at the Moraga Commons, which achieved wide community support and is regarded as the largest privately funded gift to the town of Moraga. Donations in excess of \$350,000 were received from more than 200 foundations, companies, individuals, and other organizations, including several service clubs and grants from The Rotary Foundation. The project has brought many segments of the local citizenry to work together, and the playground has been overwhelmingly accepted by children and parents.

The creative playground equipment enables special needs youngsters the opportunity to play with other children, and it serves children from many Bay Area communities.

The current major international project of Moraga Rotary is building a critically needed children's home in Sierra Leone, Africa, for children orphaned due to the outbreaks of ebola. Each speaker at Moraga Rotary last year was presented a backpack to be given to an orphaned child in Sierra Leone to enable them to attend school. Moraga Rotary has raised about \$200,000 for the project, much of which came from local community groups and individuals. Already the kitchen to serve the orphanage has been constructed.

Moraga Rotary has served the community for more than 50 years through sponsorship of 14 Odyssey of the Mind teams, scholarships awards to Campolindo High School and Saint Mary's students, exchange students, sponsoring Interact and Rotaract Clubs at Campolindo and Saint Mary's College, donations to Moraga Education Foundation, and the Field Day for third-, fourth- and fifth-graders. The Club also helps or donates to Monument Crisis Center, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, RotaCare Free Clinic, books for the library at Juvenile Hall, assistance to fire and flood disasters, and many other community and international service activities.

Rotary Club of Moraga is a local service club within Rotary International, one of about 33,000 Rotary Clubs in about 200 countries. Regular meetings are held on most Tuesdays at the Moraga Country Club. For further information, call Debbie Koo at (925) 376-9137, or check out moragarotary.org.

Lafayette Garden Club supports Miramonte High School horticulture program with dollars and muscle

Submitted by Marcia Raos



Photo provided

The Lafayette Garden Club has been a strong supporter of the Miramonte Horticulture Program and this summer donated \$2,000 to the horticulture program for the creation of their contemplative garden. The donation came from proceeds of the Garden Club's May garden tour, titled "Artful Gardens." Five gardens in Lafayette and Orinda were open to the public May 12 for viewing, with over 500 residents visiting the gardens that Saturday.

Lafayette Garden Club members again supported the school Oct. 13 and worked with the horticultural program instructor, Chrissy Orangio to build their new 6-foot by 12-foot greenhouse with Miramonte High School property. The greenhouse will be

used by students of the horticulture program to propagate plants for planting this spring and throughout the school year. According to Orangio, the students started right away with their propagation efforts the Monday morning following the installation.

Lafayette Garden Club members Laurie Callaway, Linda Mizes and Linda On along with Greg Ow and Joe Dylewski, and contractor Omar Rodriguez, joined Orangio and Mike Davis from Miramonte to complete the installation in six hours.

Orangio states that "The green house will go a long way in the years to come to support our student's Horticultural efforts. We are very grateful to the Lafayette Garden Club for their support."

Local NCL Holiday Giving event

Submitted by Cheryl Bjornson



Photo provided

Over 100 Ticktockers from the Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League came together on Sunday, Dec. 2 for its annual Holiday Giving event in support of Monument Crisis Center. The young women assembled 85 large boxes of non-perishable

food, 400 toiletry bags for teens and 18 fleece blankets. Members of the Lamorinda NCL chapter graciously donated all of the thousands of items that filled the food box and toiletry bag donations for Monument Crisis Center.

Local students participate in 'Kindness Matters' competition

Submitted by Robert Murtagh



Orinda Intermediate School, from left: Tyndall Beaham, teacher Susan Weiss, Grace Wood, Tanith Brooks-Williams, Amelia Adams-Brace and Lion Bob Murtagh. Photos provided



Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, from left: Lion Bob Murtagh, teacher Moose Wexler, Penelope Gates, Chance Newby, Sophia Ahrens, and Principal Joan Danilson.



Stanley Middle School Principal Betsy Balmat, Paige Carpenter, Molly Breznikar, Michael Balmat, and teacher Robert Anke.

This year, more than 200 students in the Lamorinda area submitted artwork for an international competition conducted by Lions clubs in over 200 countries. Pictured are the winners from Orinda Intermediate School, Stanley Intermediate School and Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. This year's theme, "Kindness Matters," complements the local iKind program. The posters, which are on display at Lamorinda libraries through December, are amazing and graphi-

cally imagine what kindness looks like.

This is the 15th year Lamorinda schools have participated in this contest, which is open to students ages 11-13. The Lions are grateful to the dynamic art teachers in our three intermediate schools who were able to elicit this level of creativity.

For more information about Lions or the Peace Poster Contest contact Bob Murtagh, (925) 283-1841.

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

Local arts contest celebrates its 6th year

By Kristi Conner



The LYAS team, from left: Charlie Keohane, Stella Bobrowsky, Isabel Rurka, and John Kalil. Photo Jenn Keohane

Know any middle school students looking for a fun winter break activity? The Lafayette Youth Arts Society has opened its sixth annual middle school competition, open to middle schoolers living or attending school in Lafayette who can enter photographs or writing pieces to a panel of professional judges. The lucky winners will take home fabulous prizes worth hundreds of dollars.

The goal of LYAS is to help bring enjoyment into the arts, and to let middle schoolers explore their creative side. The contest gives students an incentive and a goal while leaving the path to the contest entirely up to the middle schooler to navigate.

Students can choose from a variety of prompts including Vibrancy and Early Morning for photography to “You discover you have a superpower!” and “You found a

time machine. Where do you go first?” for the writing category.

“The contest gave me the confidence to keep writing and faith in my abilities,” past writing winner and current LYAS President Charlie Keohane said. “LYAS has really inspired me to keep writing!”

The LYAS is completely non-profit and was founded in 2012 by high school students Uma Unni and Linnae Johansson. It is fully run by passionate teens who want to help others embrace their creative juices. They rely solely on donations from generous Lafayette individuals and businesses like The Rotary Club, Realtor Lori Legler, and Diablo Rapid Print.

The contest opened Nov. 12 and will accept entries through Jan. 31. If you know a middle schooler who enjoys creative writing or photography, encourage them to enter at www.lyas.org.

Social visits to the vet for dogs

Fears and anxieties in pets – part 2

By Mona Miller, DVM

For some dogs, a trip to the veterinary hospital can be a scary experience, and this makes it more challenging to accomplish the goals for the veterinary visit, as I discussed in my previous article (<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1218/pdf/Fears-and-anxieties-in-pets.pdf>). All vet staff prefer that all dogs enjoy their trip to the hospital, with lots of petting and treats to provide comfort and trust that we are just trying to help them.

Some dogs are innately wired to be more wary, anxious or fearful, just like some humans. For these dogs, exposing them to a veterinary hospital more, rather than less, is an effective strategy to take the “sting” out of the experience. I consider this to be similar to pediatric dentistry visits – those first few years provide a positive experience to the child, so that he or she learns to trust the dentist and allows more involved procedures at a later age with a minimum of fear.

I recommend “social visits” as a way to expose the dog to the vet hospital without a lot of focused attention on the dog. Basically, this is a trip to the vet during which nothing, and certainly nothing scary, happens to the dog – other than the sensory stimulation and some attention from the vet staff that is quiet and positive. I discuss this with clients as soon as I see signs of anxiety or fear, and sometimes that’s as young as a puppy. Think about it – if you’re anxious in general, and you don’t know what is happening around you – that someone is getting close to you (for an exam), and injecting you (with a vaccine), or drawing blood (which also involves close contact and restraint), and these things happen every time you go to a certain place

(vet hospital), you will be afraid every time. And it escalates. Often, my clients tell me that they don’t want to subject their dog any more often than necessary to a vet trip because the dog is so afraid. However, I believe that’s exactly what should happen – increase the number of visits, and to ensure that the “poking and prodding and close contact” occur only a fraction of the time. If trust has been established that these are friendly people who talk quietly and give out treats, then the sensory overload and fear is diminished. If the close contact and injections happen every 10th time, for instance, then the pet is more likely to tolerate it for that particular visit.

Social visits are meant to take the sting out of the vet experience, and desensitize to the overwhelming sights, sounds and smells that a dog experiences when he goes to the vet. Usually, these don’t need to be scheduled, and ideally are best done during the “quiet period” of the vet workday, which for most hospitals is during the lunch break. If your dog has a favorite food, it’s a great idea to bring this with you, to reward your dog for being brave and confident during the social visit. If a dog is particularly nervous about getting on the scale to get weighed, or walking through the doorway into an exam room or into a back hallway, this is a great time for him to practice. When you get to the vet, you simply tell the receptionist that you’re here for a social visit for Freddy. The vet staff will spend a few minutes and approach Freddy, give him a treat, practice with him getting on the scale, etc. Sometimes, when you approach the vet hospital, you’ll be able to tell that this might not be a good day – perhaps there are

too many dogs in the waiting area. Even so, getting Freddy out of the car and walking him by the hospital is still very beneficial – in that he’s experiencing the sights, smells and sounds without the close contact.

Anxiety and fear can be a lifetime problem, and modifying the body’s reaction to perceived fear can take quite a long time. Repetition and habituation are key components for success. From my perspective, doing social visits once weekly for six months is not too much. Having said that, empathizing with other full-time parents and working professionals, I recommend that you pick a frequency that is reasonable and still makes sense for positive conditioning. Perhaps you can commit to twice monthly for six months, or even once monthly for 10 months. Talk to your veterinarian about social visits, and remember to put on the dog’s Thundershirt before going out on a vet hospital social visit!



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

Art and coffee



Photo J. Wake

Seven of Lafayette artist Dwight Yassany’s original pen and ink drawings of raptors are on display at Papillon Café in La Fiesta Square through December. Yassany’s work, which features a combination of soft and dark strokes to achieve the realistic renderings of birds and other animals using a very fine-tip radiograph pen and making thousands of small marks on cotton paper, was exhibited at the Haggin Museum in Stockton for two months last spring (see story, <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1207/Combining-nature-and-spiritual-messages-to-create-award-winning-art.html>). - J. Wake

Arts shine on in Lamorinda

... continued from Page B1

While an expanded branding effort launched four years ago increased visible connection of the LAC to events like Mixology and Orinda Idol that she says “just took off as if on a life of their own,” Staelin said there’s room—and need—for more awareness. “We want the community to see us as that hub, but also to know we need their financial support to produce or sponsor these popular community events.”

Perhaps community awareness of the LAC would crescendo by allowing people to hear 12-year-old OIS student June Lim belt out a show-stopping phrase from a musi-

cal or speak in quieter tones about the importance of art in her life. After creating a buzz with a compelling performance during dessert at the luncheon, June said, “My day would be a lot less fun without art. I love performing. I like to belt a lot. I feel strong.” Claiming never to be nervous, confident in her capabilities and eager to master the next song, tap step or portrayal of a character, the young artist imagines infinite possibilities. It’s nearly impossible to think of a greater gift to have given a child than this gift provided in part by the LAC and local community support.

Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

Music Lessons

Fun Piano Lessons
Learn your favorite song! I teach Certificate of Merit. BM & MM in Piano. Lessons in your home. 925-984-8322. lynnf253@gmail.com

Firewood for Sale

Almond Firewood- Seasoned \$320/ cord; \$180 / half-cord FREE Delivery; 209-883-0750

House Cleaning

www.totalclean.biz
Serving Lamorinda since 1985. Insured and bonded 376-1004.

\$10 per 1/2" classified ad height Email to: classified@lamorindaweekly.com

Insurance

Totalintegrityinsurance.com
20+yr Lamorinda resident. My independent insurance brokerage is here to serve you. Over 100 top carriers = great pricing and coverage for Biz Gen Liability, W Comp, Homes, Auto, Life. Call **Henry at (925) 247-4356** OE90108

Construction

Concept Builders
Remodeling, Home Repair & New Construction
Bonded & Insured. License no. 842563 (925) 283-8122, Cell: (925) 768-4983

Fencing

Ken’s Quality Fencing
Custom redwood fences & retaining walls installed. **Free estimates** licensed, bonded & insured. CA#667491 925-938-9836 www.kensrototilling.com

Employment

Occupational Therapist in Orinda CA. Testing and evaluating patients’ physical and mental abilities and analyze medical data to determine realistic rehabilitation goals for patients. Req: Masters in OT & 2 Year Exp & CA OT License. Mail resume to: Vatsala Sharma, President, Gateways Rehab Services LLC, 2470 Stearns Street Ste. #173 Simi Valley, CA 93063

Handyman

HANDYMAN SERVICE
Plumbing, Electrical, Carpentry, Etc., Etc. **(925) 934-0877 Jim**

Quetzal Handyman
NO JOB TOO SMALL
Please call **Carlos Toledo**
925-872-0422

Rusty Nails Handyman Service
Repair • Restore • Revamp
Call Rusty- (925) 890-1581

Tile Setting

Baths, Showers, Floors, Walls, Counters
Cliff 510-697-1125

Plumbing

WE HOP TO IT!
(925) 377-6600
LeapFrogPlumbing.com

Rototilling

Ken’s Rototilling
• 4 W/D Tractors
• Hillside Weed Cutting
• Mowing • Discing • Rototilling
Free estimates! 925-938-9836
licensed, bonded & insured. CA#667491 www.kensrototilling.com

Not to be missed

ART

Valley Art Gallery's annual Artful Giving show runs through Dec. 29 and includes a wide variety of beautifully crafted ceramics, wood and glass pieces, original designer jewelry, fiber arts, holiday decorations, small paintings, and many other unique, one-of-a-kind gift items all hand-crafted by talented East Bay artisans.

In the spirit of the season, the Moraga Art Gallery presents "Holiday Magic in Porcelain and Paint," a colorful new show featuring the works by two of Lamorinda's most celebrated artists: Lafayette's Donna Arganbright and Orinda's Maria SantaStefano. The show, which includes paintings, jewelry, ceramics, photographs, and many other gifts of art by the gallery's 14 members and guest artists, runs through Jan. 5. For more information, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

Bedford Gallery, located in the Leshner Center for the Arts, offers enriching, educational volunteer opportunities. Train to become a docent from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, Jan. 16, 23, 30 and Feb. 6, 13. Docent volunteering is fun and provides opportunities to make friends, learn about art, and help foster the arts in our community. No prior art knowledge is required. To

sign up, contact Carmen Kelly at (925) 295-1416 or kelly@bedfordgallery.org. Learn more at: <http://www.bedford-gallery.org/support/volunteer>

MUSIC

Drum, Relax and Learn at the monthly Lamorinda Drum Circle from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7 at Lamorinda Music, 81 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Enjoy learning to drum in a fun small-group environment.

Drums are provided. Meetings on the first Monday of each month. Suggested donation \$10-\$20. www.MusicForTherapy.com

William Feasley, classical guitarist, performs at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Walnut Creek, in Multi-Media Program "Echos of Goya" at 7 p.m. on Jan. 19 at 1924 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek. A Classical Guitar Master, Feasley is world-recognized as the featured guitarist in the CBS special, "Eulogy of Segovia." Feasley has been the featured artist for numerous prestigious guitar and music festivals around the world. Donation at the door: average \$20, Students \$10 (all are welcome regardless of donation).

Living Jazz presents "In The Name of Love," the 17th Annual Musical Tribute Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20 at the Oakland Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakland. Tickets: Adv. \$25- \$60; Door: \$30-\$65 (discounts for Children 12 and under). All proceeds will benefit the Living Jazz Children's Project. Livingjazz.org/mlktribute

LECTURE & LITERATURE

The World Affairs Book Group will meet at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15 at Orinda Books to read and discuss "Tropic of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence," by Christian Parenti. They meet bi-monthly and welcome new members.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Mindful Littles presents Building Blankets and Warming Hearts from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8 at Las Trampas, 3460 Lana Lane, Lafayette. Mindful Littles is excited to team up with our Special Friends at Las Trampas for an important service project this winter. Each year the clients at Las Trampas help prepare around 200 blankets for Trevor's Eagle Project Foundation. These blankets will be finished by local Scouts and donated to Children's Hospitals to help keep their patients warm this winter. Free. Register at https://www.flipcause.com/secure/event_step2/NDYyNjg=/37314

Lafayette Youth Commission seventh and eighth grade Tri-City Dance – seventh- and eighth-graders from all three Lamorinda middle schools are invited to the LYC's first Tri-City Dance of the year from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18 at the Lafayette Community Center. Cost: \$7 per attendee and must be purchased prior to the dance. Dances sell out fast, so reserve your spot today! To reserve your spot or for more info, please visit www.lafayetterec.org or call (925) 284-2232.

OTHER

Lion's Club Crab Feed with silent auction at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Tickets for adults are \$55; children 6-12 years are \$27.50. To purchase call (925) 283-1841.

Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church's annual Crab Feed and Dance, 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 1700 School Street in Moraga. Dinner and Dance tickets are \$50 and must be purchased in advance. Please call or text Thea at (925) 890-0918. The Dessert Silent Auction is back. Chicken dinner choice available by special advance order request.

... continued on next Page

Lamorinda's Religious Services

WILLOWSRING community church

Practical biblical teaching, contemporary worship, come as you are.

www.willowspringchurch.com

1689 School St. Moraga | 925-376-3550

Sunday Service 10:45 am



St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda
254-3770. www.ststephensorinda.org
Sunday 8am, 10am



A positive path
for spiritual living

If you seek a loving, accepting community and are yearning for a deeper connection to Spirit, come and experience Unity of Walnut Creek.

Join us for Sunday Services:

9:30am Contemplative Service

11:30am Celebratory Service * Watch Online

Special New Year's services:

Burning Bowl Ceremony, Monday, 12/31 7:00p

White Stone Ceremony, 1/6/2019, during regular Sunday Services

1871 Geary Rd, Walnut Creek

unityofwalnutcreek.org

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

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
ReadingRoom/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat. 10 - 12

www.christianscienceorinda.org

THE JOYFUL ARRIVAL

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 am & 5 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE 5, 9 & 11 pm



Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church

mvpcc

10 Moraga Valley Lane | mvpctoday.org | 925.376.4800

ST. MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH

1001 CAMINO PABLO, 925-376-6900
WWW.STMONICAMORAGA.COM

Mass times:

Saturday – Confessions 3:30 – 4:30 pm and Vigil Mass 5:00 pm
Sunday – Masses at 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 am
Coffee and donuts following the 9:00 am Mass.

Christmas Eve / Christmas Day Mass Times:

December 24 – 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 pm (8:00 pm with choir)
December 25 – 9:00 & 11:00 am (11:00 am with choir)

Solemnity of Mary January 1 - 10:00 am
This is a Holy Day of Obligation



Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 thelumc.org
Sunday 10am Worship and Faith Formation for all ages

Opportunities to Love God, Love Others,
and Serve the World

ST. PERPETUA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

celebrating our faith • enriching our community • sharing our gifts

Join us

Masses Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.
Sundays at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.
School for TK - 8th grade
Faith Formation for children and adults

3454 Hamlin Road | Lafayette | stperpetua.org
925.283.0272 Parish | 925.284.1640 School



Sunday Sacrament Service at 10AM

Scripture Study &
Youth Programs

Everyone welcome!

3776 Via Granada, Moraga

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



WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE
NOVEMBER 25, 2017 – JANUARY 6, 2019
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
Coffee Fellowship at 10:30 a.m.
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger



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 a.m. | Sunday School 10 a.m.
Christmas Eve Service December 24, 5:00 p.m.

- **Sacred Music**
Presented by our many amazing choirs, featuring soloists and musicians from the greater Bay Area
- **"Come As You Are" Pageant**
Where kids choose their costumes and get to be part of the story (no rehearsal necessary)
- **Carols** Sing your favorite and classic Christmas songs
- **A Christmas Message**
- **Candlelight Closing** ...and more!



**OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
TRANSFORMED BY THE PATH WE WALK TOGETHER

1035 CAROL LANE, LAFAYETTE, CA 94549
(925) 283-3722 WWW.OSLC.NET

JOIN US FOR OUR SUNDAY SERVICE AT 9:30 AM
CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Where all are welcome, nobody is perfect,
and anything is possible with God.



- Sunday Worship 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
- Programs for all ages
- Guest Speakers & Workshops
- So much more! Connect with us today!

49 Knox Drive • Lafayette, CA • (925) 283-8722 • LOPC.org • #LOPC

Squash-Pumpkin Bread recipe redo



Photo Susie Iventosch

Pumpkin-Squash Breakfast Bread

By Susie Iventosch

Sometimes there are mix-ups in communication and we had a few with this recipe in the last issue. If you thought it was a lot of pepitas and nutmeg for one loaf of bread, you were right! But, because this bread is so yummy, I wanted to run it again, but with the correct amount of each ingredient. My apologies to anyone who tried the bread from the last issue. I am including the entire story below, so you will have a proper copy this week. After seeing the mistakes, I needed a good stiff drink and began to think about festive holiday cocktails and decided to make my own hot buttered rum batter. I hadn't had one in years and I forgot how delicious they are. This batter will stay in the refrigerator for several weeks,

and during the cold winter months it's a great go to, when there's a chill in the air.

Squash-Pumpkin Bread updated

Recently, I made pumpkin bread using canned pumpkin, which turned out to be more like pumpkin cake and realized that I wanted more substance to my bread. A quick online search produced the Macrina Bakery Squash Harvest Loaf recipe. Macrina supplies many of the coffee shops and retailers with baked goods in the greater Seattle area. I've had their squash bread and it is delicious! After reading through the recipe and seeing what we had on hand, I made several changes, one of which was to add some canned pumpkin in addition to freshly baked and puréed squash. An-

other was to add raisins to the batter. And, since I am a huge cardamom fan, I included that in the assortment of spices that make this bread so yummy. I also used some white whole wheat flour in place of all white flour, to give a little healthy boost. White whole wheat flour is made from hard white spring or winter wheat berries, and has the nutritional value of whole wheat flour, but milder in color, flavor and texture. It still includes the bran, germ and endosperm of the berries, all ground into the flour. The flour we normally see labeled as Whole Wheat Flour is made from the red spring wheat berry, and has a darker color and more robust flavor than White Whole Wheat flour.

If you plan on having holiday house guests, this bread is delicious and goes a long way, since it is chock full of goodies and quite dense. Double the recipe for two loaves.

For more on the difference between whole wheat flour and white whole wheat flour, please visit: <https://www.thekitchn.com/whats-the-difference-between-whole-wheat-and-white-whole-wheat-flour-236647>, or <https://www.bobsredmill.com/blog/healthy-living/hard-red-wheat-vs-hard-white-wheat/>.

For more information on Macrina Bakery, please visit: <https://www.macrinabakery.com/>.

Pumpkin-Squash Breakfast Bread

(Makes one 9 x 6 loaf of bread)

INGREDIENTS

1 cup cooked and puréed squash (Delicata, Acorn or Butternut*)
 ½ cup canned pumpkin
 2 eggs
 ½ cup canola oil
 3/8 cup (6 tablespoons) milk mixed with 1 teaspoon cider vinegar
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 1 cup raisins, soaked in boiling water and then squeezed dry of any excess water (I use Trader Joe's Jumbo Raisin Medley)
 ½ cup walnut pieces, roasted
 ½ cup pecan pieces, roasted
 ½ cup pepitas, roasted, (green pumpkin seeds), half for bread and half for topping
 1 cup unbleached white flour
 ¾ cup white whole wheat flour
 ¾ cup, packed, light brown sugar
 ¾ cup granulated sugar
 1 teaspoon baking soda
 1 teaspoon baking powder
 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
 1/2 teaspoon cardamom
 1 teaspoon salt
 2 tablespoons raw sugar for topping

DIRECTIONS

For squash: It depends upon the kind of squash you choose in order to know how many to cook, but whatever the case, cut squash in half, and clean out seeds. Place cut side down onto greased baking sheet and cook at 400 F for approximately 35-40 minutes, or until a knife easily inserts and pulp is tender. Remove from oven and cool. Scoop out pulp and smash with a fork, or purée in a food processor. Use 1 cup of this purée for this recipe. Can be made ahead of time and refrigerated until ready to use.

*I used 2 Delicata squash, or 1.5 Acorn squash, but have not yet tried it with Butternut squash.

For nuts: Place nuts and pumpkins seeds on a baking sheet lined with aluminum foil. Bake at 400 F for approximately 10 minutes, or until just beginning to brown. Remove from oven and cool.

For raisins: Place raisins in a small bowl, completely cover with boiling water and allow to sit for about 15 minutes, or until soft. Drain water and squeeze any excess water from raisins. Set aside.

FOR BREAD: In a large bowl, place all dries, including flours, sugars, spices, nuts and half of the pumpkin seeds. In a separate bowl, combine squash purée, canned pumpkin, eggs, soured milk, oil, raisins and vanilla. Mix well. Add to dries and stir until well combined.

Pour batter into a greased 9x6 bread loaf pan. Sprinkle remaining half of the pumpkins seeds and the raw sugar on top. Bake in 350-degree oven for approximately 50-55 minutes, or until a knife inserted in bread comes out clean.

Homemade Hot Buttered Rums

(Makes approximate 6-8 small drinks)

INGREDIENTS

Batter

1 stick (1/2 cup) salted butter, at room temperature
 ½ cup, packed, light brown sugar
 ½ cup powdered sugar
 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 ½ teaspoon cardamom
 Dash nutmeg

Mix all ingredients with a fork or electric beater until well blended. Refrigerate until ready to use. This batter will last several weeks in the refrigerator.

Cocktails-per drink

1 heaping tablespoon hot buttered rum batter
 ¼ cup boiling water
 1 shot (1.5 oz.) of your favorite rum (I used Amret Old Port Deluxe Rum from India)*
 1 cinnamon stick for garnish

Because these are quite sweet and we had them after dinner, I made them in small Belgian beer tasting glasses, which turned out to be very pretty, too. Just keep the spoon in the glass while pouring the water in, to prevent glass from breaking. Or you can always double the recipe and use a regular mug.

Place batter in glass and add boiling water. Stir just to dissolve. Add rum and garnish with cinnamon stick. Reheat if necessary.

*I don't know too much about rum, but this is one that was recommended for hot buttered rums at my local liquor store. It has a golden-amber color, and does not have the molasses profiles of some of the darker or spiced rums, which I think made it a great rum for this drink.



Photo Susie Iventosch

Hot buttered rum



Mike Rosa
Agent
925-376-2244
Insurance Lic. #: OF45583
346 Rheem Blvd., Suite 106
Moraga

Now that's teamwork.
CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7

State Farm[®]

State Farm Home Office, Bloomington, IL

Service Clubs Announcements

Advertise

your club announcements
Call 925-377-0977 or email Wendy
at wendy@lamorindaweekly.com



Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda

Not to be missed

GARDEN

The Walnut Creek Garden Club meeting begins at 9:45 a.m. Monday, Jan. 14 at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek. David Rust, an expert on mushrooms and president of the Mycological Society, with his slide show, "Know Your Mushrooms," will help us identify the good and the bad and we will come away with a new appreciation of fungi's significant benefits to our ecosystems and human health. Times: 9:45 a.m. - Business Meeting; 10:30 a.m. - Social; 11 a.m. Program. We invite you to attend a meeting. Questions: msslittle44@gmail.com

The Moraga Garden Club will hold its next meeting at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The guest speaker will be Gail Emmons, author of "A Beginner's Guide to Working with Leaves in a Contemporary Way." She will speak on "Leaf Manipulation." Emmons started her flower arranging journey more than 30 years ago while living in Hong Kong and taking classes in Sogetsu Ikebana. Emmons' trademark in flower ar-

ranging has been the development of a dynamic sculptural style that mixes the traditions of both East and West in new and daring ways. This event is free and open to all interested parties. Refreshments will be served. For more information, visit moragagardenclub.com.

The Montelindo Garden Club will be holding its January meeting at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 18 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall. Presentation: Pruning Tips with speaker Scott Paris. In South Placer County, Scott Paris started as a Landscape Designer and opened the High Hand Nursery in 2003 to acquire plants for his landscaping business. More recently he became the owner of Maple Rock Gardens, a landscaping gem and year-round farm which is opened to the public a few times a year. Paris will give tips on pruning plants in your landscape. www.montelindogarden.com

Winter Rose Care Workshop at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 26 at McDonnell Nursery, 196 Moraga Way, Orinda. Email info@mcdonnellnursery.com or call (925) 254-3713 to reserve a seat.

Please submit:

Events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Stories: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Letters: letters@lamorindaweekly.com
Opinion: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA
 26,600 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

Contact us:

Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com
 Delivery issues: homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com
 Event listings: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
 Business press releases: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
 General interest stories/Community Service: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
 School stories/events: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
 Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Publishers/Owners: Andy and Wendy Scheck;
andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Editor: Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com
Copy Editor: Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com
Sports Editor: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Advertising: 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck;
wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

Staff Writers:

Vera Kochan; vera@lamorindaweekly.com,
 Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com,
 Cathy Dausman; cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com
 Pippa Fisher; pippa@lamorindaweekly.com,
 Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com
 John T. Miller; john@lamorindaweekly.com,
 Sora O'Doherty; Sora@lamorindaweekly.com
 Jon Kingdon; sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
 Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com
 Thoughtful Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com

Contributing Writers:

Conrad Bassett, Diane Claytor, Michele Duffy, Amanda Eck, Lou Fancher, Fran Miller, Jenn Freedman, Mona Miller, Kara Navolio, Moya Stone
Calendar Editor: Jaya Griggs; calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Photos: Tod Fierner, Gint Federas
Layout/Graphics: Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.
 Mailing address: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133
 Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 925-263-9223; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com
 website: www.lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda Weekly Advertisers in 2018

Please join us in thanking all the local businesses, non-profits, schools and cities for their advertising support this year. They made This FREE Local Newspaper Possible for Lamorinda.

5A Rent-A-Space	Entourage Spa & Salon	Larry Jacobs and Kress Hauri	Radiance Family Wellness
Acalanes Don's Football Camp	Erik M. Breitling, Au.D.	Laura Abrams	Randy Bennett Basketball Camps
Adam Hamalian	Erin & Darrick Martin	Lauren Deal	ReChic Boutique 101
Adler Tutoring	Fastframe of Lafayette	Law Offices of Lauren Smykowski	Recycle Smart
Advance Tree Service	Finola Fellner	Leap Frog Plumbing	Reflexion Skin Care
Adventure Day Camp	Floral Arts Florist	Life Line Screening	Regina Englehart
Aegis of Moraga	Frank Woodward	Linda Ehrich	Republic Services
AG Realty	Fred Steingraf	Linda Friedman-Village	Rheem Valley Auto
Alain Pinel Realtors	Friends of the Moraga Adobe	Lisa Tichenor	Rheem Valley Pet Shoppe
Aloha Aesthetics	Garden Lights	Living Lean	Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Amy Rose Smith	Gaskin Wealth Management	LMYA	Rob and Kathy Olson
Ana Zimmank	Glam Palace	LMYA Swim	Robbie Dunbar
Andrew Pitarre	Sotheby's International Realty	LOPC	Roughing It
Ann Ward	Gutter Guard	Lorne Smith Lacrosse	Round Table Pizza
Antigua Doors	Gwenly Carrel College Advising	Luminance Vision Optometry	Rusty Nails Handyman
Any Time Fitness	Hacienda Real Estate	Lynn Finegan	Saint Mary's College
April Matthews	Hair by Renee	Maria Napoli Eberle	Saint Mary's GAELS Athletic Dept.
Ariston Heating	Hall of Taxes	Marin Clean Energy	Santa's Bag Boutique
Artemis Rowing	Hank and Frank Bicycles	Mark Bellinham Painting	Sereta Churchhill
Ashley & Patricia Battersby	Henry J. Gannett	Mark Zinman	SewNow
Aspen Network	Heritage Downtown	Mary Beth MacLennan	Shannon Conner
Avid4 Adventure summer camp	Hilton House	Mary Piscitelli	Shellie Kirby
Baby Quip	Hofssi Chocolates	Mary Robbins	Sheree Hornsby
Baja Cali Taqueria & Grill	Holcenberg Team	Mathnasium	Sherman Swim School
Bass Medical Group	Holly Sibley	Matthew McLeod	Sherrie Perlstein
Bay Area Drainage	Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church	Maureen Wilber	Sherry Hutchens
Bay Area Festivals, Inc.	Holy Trinity Cultural Center	McCaulou's	Shiva Jafarzadeh
Bay Area Greenscapes	Home Care Assistance	McDonnell Nursery	Sisi Caffe
Bay Area Home Companions	Honest Rodent Proofing	Medicine Shoppe	Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis
Bay Area Underpinning	Humble Yoga	MEF	Lynda Snell & Jeff Snell
Berkeley Rep School of Theatre	Inspire Academic Support	Melanie Peterson-Katz	Soraya Golesorkhi
Better Homes and Gardens Reliance Partners	James Phillip Wright Architects	Melanie Snow	Specialtees
Bistro Burger & Grill	Jane Smith	Men's Hair by Galina	St. Anselm's Church
Blodgett's Abbey Carpet & Flooring	Janet Powell	Mike Rosa State Farm Insurance	St. John's
Blue Ridge Landscape Co.	Jay Williams	Millie's Kitchen	St. Mark's Preschool
BodyZing Health	Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery	Miramonte Swim Club	St. Monica Church
Boy Scout Troop 224 Lafayette	Jim Baca	Moraga Art Gallery	St. Perpetua Church
Bryan Hurlbut	Jim Colhoun	Moraga Asian American Club	St. Perpetua School
Brydon Ives Team	Joan Evans	Moraga Barber Shop	St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
BSA Troop 224 Christmas Tree Lot	John Fondnazio	Moraga Chamber of Commerce	Stat Med
Budget Blinds	John Nash	Moraga Garden Center	Studio E
Camp Doodles	Joy Wiehn	Moraga Hardware and Lumber	Sue Layng
Capital Advantage, Inc.	Joyful Beginnings	Moraga Jewelers	SummerHill Homes
Carondelet High School	Julie Del Santo	Moraga Juniors	Sutter Health
CASA of Contra Costa County	Julie Georgiou	Moraga Motors	Suzi O'Brien
Chad Morrison	K&W Builders, Inc.	Moraga Parks and Recreation	Suzie Tinsley
Children's Hospital & Research Center Oak	Kailey Graziano	Moraga Retreat Care	Tania DeGroot
Chris Swim and Tracey Keaton	Karen Paulsen	Moraga Rotary	Tara Rochlin
Christian Scientist	Karen Richardson Group	Moraga School District	Taverna Pellegrini
Christina Linezo	Kattenburg Architects	Mormon Church of Latter-Day Saints	Taxi Bleu
City of Lafayette	Keith Katzman	MV Construction	Teresa Zocehi
Clark Thompson	Kelley Reed State Farm Agency	MVPC - Moraga Valley Pres. Church	Terri Bates Walker
Cliff Tile	Kelly Hood, M.D.	Nancy Rothman	Terry Wolff Stratton
Climb Real Estate Group	Ken Ryerson & Gary Bernie	New Delhi Bistro	TG Hardwood Floors
Clocks, Etc	Ken Tamplen	Next Level Sports	The Beaubelle Group
Coldwell Banker Orinda	Kiwanis International	Nurtury Preschool - MVPC	The Home Mag
Concept Builders	Kurt Piper Group	Oakland Strokes	The Saklan School
Cougar Football Camp	La Piazza	Holiday Marketplace	The Writing Studio
Crossing Guard Company	Lafayette Auto Body, Inc	Olivia Nail Bar, LLC	Theater View Veterinary Clinic
D & N Home Improvement	Lafayette Beauty Store	Olsen Team	Tina Frechman
Dana Fillinger	Lafayette Care Home	Orinda Academy	Tom Stack
Dana Green Team	Lafayette Chamber of Commerce	Orinda Association	Total Clean
Dana Reedy	Lafayette Community Foundation	Orinda Books	Total Integrity Insurance Services
Diablo Acupuncture	Lafayette Glass	Orinda Classic Car Show	Town Hall Theatre
Diablo Foods	Lafayette Homeowners Council	Orinda Community Church	Tree Sculpture Group
Diablo Valley Oncology/Hematology	Lafayette Pack and Ship	Orinda Union School District	UC School of Optometry
Divine Consign	Lafayette Partners in Education	Orinda Village Antiques	Unity Church
Doing College	Lafayette Physical Therapy Inc.	Orion Academy	Up the Creek Records
Don Garofulo- classified	Lafayette Rotary	Pacific Union	UPS Store
Dr. Brian E. Thomason	Lafayette School District	Paddy & Claudia Kehoe	US Cryotherapy
Dr. Mary Smith, DDS	Lafayette United Methodist Church	Pamela Halloran	Valerie Durantini
Dr. Samadian Family and Advanced Dentistr	Lamorinda Floors	Park Place Wealth Advisors, Inc.	Vern McCalla
Dudum Real Estate Group	Lamorinda Hauling	Patti Camras	Village Associates
East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club	Lamorinda Lacrosse Club	Perfect Services, LLC	Vino Restaurant
East Bay Tree Service	Lamorinda Rugby	Peter Liu	Virginia Varni-Ratto
Edelman Financial	Lamorinda Solar	PG&E	Viva l' Espaniol
EFO	Lamorinda Spirt Van	Piano Studio	Vlatka Bathgate
Elena Hood Real Estate Group	Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club	Premier Kitchens	Walter Nelson
Elizabeth Hall	Lamorinda Village	Price Gallegos Group	Ware Designs
	Lana Fitzpatrick	Professional Eyecare Optometry	White Pony Express
	LARC	Quetzal Handyman	Willow Spring Church
	Larry Duson & Jeanne Jones	Rachel Dreyer	

(partial list based on revenue /frequency)

Serving Lamorinda since 2013



STAT MED
URGENT CARE

No Appointment Needed
Just Walk-in

Open Every Day, including
Evenings, Weekends & Holidays

URGENT CARE SERVICES




Ear Aches, UTIs, Allergies, Bronchitis,
Dehydration, Sprains, Fractures,
Stitches, Concussions & Much More

PHYSICALS



Sports, Camp,
School, DOT
& Work

PLUS...



X-rays, Labs,
TB Tests, STD,
Drug Testing

Downtown Lafayette
970 Dewing Ave, near Diablo Foods
925-297-6396

Pleasant Hill/Concord
925-234-4447

Livermore
925-315-8828
statmed.com

Insurance, including Medicare, accepted. HMO Subscribers: Ask about special low flat rates.

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Submit stories to
sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
(we prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size:
200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide)

Lamorinda boys soccer preview

By Jon Kingdon



Photo Gint Federas

Last season, the Lamorinda boys soccer teams played in the Diablo-Foothill League which had six teams. This year they are in the Diablo League which has 13 teams. The schools that have been added are Ygnacio Valley, Concord, Clayton Valley, Berean Christian, Northgate, Mt. Diablo and Benicia which has created a new dynamic for the teams.

With a six-team league, the teams would play away and home games. With a 13-team league, it's now a one and done schedule. Miramonte will be playing Campolindo twice though only one of the games will count in the league standings. Only playing each other

once will give advantage to the teams that are best able to manage the one game, the schedule not allowing them to adjust to their opponent in a second game.

Acalanes

Coming off a successful season (17-8-1), Acalanes hasn't missed a beat through the early season. With a 5-2-1 record, the Dons have scored 16 goals and only given up 5 goals. It's been the ability of the individual players to work as a team that has led to their success, says head coach Paul Curtis: "It has been their willingness to work together as a unit rather than as a bunch of individuals. They have come together early in the season

and it's been great. With as many as a dozen of our players playing on different club teams, my main challenge has been to get them on the same page and the sooner the better."

Senior midfielders Travis Stevenson and Christian Ramsey and junior Nick Geannacopulos have been the key players on offense. Says Curtis: "Travis is an aggressive and elusive player. He is more of a slasher and is very focused and intense. Nick is technically sound with great vision and is a solid playmaker. He makes the players around him look good. Christian has had a lot of experience. He is a playmaker who handles and dis-

tributes the ball very well."

With both of goalies for Acalanes graduating last season, junior Will Easley and sophomore Owen Myall, two goalies, have stepped up and proven to be very effective in shutting down their opponent's offenses. "We're really glad to have Will starting in goal," says Curtis. "He is extremely athletic. He is a great study and is willing to do anything to be successful. He has played a lot of club soccer and is an exceptional young man. Owen has a lot of experience and just has to develop further."

The overall defense has been a strong unit that is led by co-captain Bernard Adri and has as many as six different players Curtis can call upon depending on the matchups.

Acalanes also has two freshmen that have stepped up and shown the ability to play with the upper classmen, midfielder Rhett Skrvana and defender Matt Walner.

Curtis appreciates how well things have developed: "We are a little light on experience but we are gaining it as we go. There have been no real negative surprises. Our co-captains Eric Voss, Stevenson and Adri have done a great job in leading the team. The boys are a good group that like each other and are willing to work hard and they bring a great attitude about learning."

Campolindo

After coaching Campolindo to a 130-46-32 record in seven seasons (2010-2016), Shane Carney took a year off due to the birth of his child. Last season, the team went off the rails with a 6-13-4 record. So many people prevailed upon Carney to come back that he chose to return as the team's head

coach. There has been an immediate turnaround for the Cougars going 8-2 so far this season.

Carney immediately saw a need for a change and attacked it with a real vigor: "The culture last year was really bad. I had to go in and get everyone to get back to working hard and putting the team first. It helped that I was able to start the process in the summer and let the team know that things were going to change to where it was before. The players came in this year with a better attitude and understood the need for commitment."

Both the offense and defense for Campolindo have proven to be dominating. After seven games, the Cougars have averaged over 3.2 goals a game and are only giving up a half a goal per game. An attitude change has proven to be the difference, says Carney: "We have a good group of guys that are putting in the work with no selfish attitudes. Our seniors want to leave their imprint on the program. How well we play together is going to make or break our season."

Last year's leading scorers Jose Carra-Hernandez (11 goals, 6 assists) and Kellen Clancy (6 goals, 3 assists) continue to lead the offense. Nathan Links and Riley Breul are also key players in the Cougars offense. Carney is constantly stressing unity: "The general theme is team work. There is no individualism. We're working hard on the movement of the ball and we have a lot of quick players that get into the spaces to attack. There is not one player that our opponents can defend. We come in waves instead of relying on one or two scorers."

... continued on Page C4



FROM LMYA TO YOU!

www.lmyasports.com



Best Of 2018

Special thanks to our photographer Gint Federas, who takes so many of Lamorinda Weekly's photos printed in each issue.





SPORTS MEDICINE CENTER FOR YOUNG ATHLETES

OAKLAND
(510) 428-3558

SAN FRANCISCO
(415) 353-2808

SAN RAMON
(925) 979-3450

WALNUT CREEK
(925) 979-3430



Best Of 2018



Lamorinda boys soccer preview

... continued from Page C1



Photo Gint Federas

The smothering defense has been led by goalies Lucas Allen, who was all league last season, and Joe Etheridge. Carney appreciates the value of both of his goalies: "Lucas is extremely athletic and he can make any save. Joe has been

solid in goal when called upon. He is good with his feet and can also play on the field. Overall, we defend very well and it has been a good team effort. Center back Conner Gregg has been our vocal leader on the field and has been

pulling more than his weight." Despite the team's initial success, Carney is keeping things in perspective: "With 13 teams in our league, there are any number of schools that can win the league. Anybody can beat anybody else on any given night. We're taking it a game at a time. As long as we're up near the top of the standings, we'll talk about it at the end of the season."

Miramonte

Coming off an 18-4-2 season and having graduated four of their top five scorers, it is taking Miramonte some time to adjust. The Matadors have started the season off with a 2-3-2 record. Head coach Masood Ahmadi knew that it was going to take time for this season's team to start to gel: "We lost a core of senior players. We are a young team that is getting used to each other and the players are learning their roles. It's putting the pieces

of the puzzle together. The players are working hard and we lost one game, Acalanes (1-0) and tied Los Lomas (2-2) due to a late mistake in each game. The team has shown lots of promise and energy."

The offense has been led by midfielders Kent Barbir and Giovanni Sponzilli. Says Ahmadi: "Kent is very strong with the ball and can be both a playmaker and a finisher. Giovanni has really grown and improved. He leads by example and has been a great leader. He is good coaching up the younger players and is always positive." Conor Roemer has also been a force on the offense along with Luca Argast who is also going to be used on defense.

Junior Ethan Luckenbach has taken over as the team's goalie with the graduation of Cole Kelez said Ahmadi: "Ethan has had big shoes to fill. He is gaining experience but

he is not afraid to make mistakes and learn. He is very coachable without a big ego. He is all about the team."

The defense is led by Eric Heillman who was also a lineman for the football team, Simon Neuwirth-Stein and Cayden Weiszmann. Says Ahmadi: "Eric is doing very well. He is a great decision maker and runs very well for someone so big. We moved Simon to fullback from offense and he has made the transition very well. Cayden has shown a good learning curve as well."

Having played seven games in 14 days, Miramonte does not play another game until Jan. 9. Ahmadi sees this as a way to help the team come together: "The air quality issues set the team back because we were making so many position changes. This big break in our schedule will allow us to focus on training hard and to continue to work on our team chemistry."

Love Lafayette

Love, hope, success, family, security.

We all feel the same commitment to care for our families. Helping you meet your insurance needs is part of my commitment to you.
Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.
CONTACT AN AGENT TODAY.




Kelley Reed, Agent
Insurance Lic#: 0E64198
kelley@agentreed.com
www.agentreed.com
Bus: 925-820-6808 Fax: 925-934-2278



JP Reed, Agent
Insurance Lic#: 0F62235
jp@agentjreed.com
www.agentjreed.com
Bus: 925-934-2277 Fax: 925-934-2278

statefarm.com® 



THE WRITING STUDIO

Where Words Come to Life

- Classroom instruction and individual sessions
- Writing Projects
- Tools to improve fluency and sentence structure
- Grades 3-12

Classes start Feb. 4

Happy Holidays

The Writing Studio

3249 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 101-A, Lafayette
(925) 385-0211 www.lafayettewritingstudio.com



MARK BELLINGHAM PAINTING

QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP
ATTENTION TO DETAIL
PRIDE IN OUR WORK

925-247-0092

MarkBellinghamPainting.com

Winter Exterior Painting
Deck Restoration
Interior Painting
Kitchen & Bathroom Cabinet Painting
Dry Rot Repair & Light Carpentry

Check out our Reviews on NextDoor, Houzz & YELP

Local Business Owner - Since 1985 - Licensed & Insured



Residential

- Custom Homes -
- Remodels -
- Additions -

Lafayette
(925) 283-3128

www.KandWbuilders.com

Owners:
Matt Kunz
Jeff Wendt

CL# 930839

FASTFRAME


EXPERT PICTURE FRAMING

1020 BROWN AVENUE
LAFAYETTE CA 94549
(925) 283-7620

OPEN MONDAY 10-5 and TUESDAY-SATURDAY 10-6

15% OFF CUSTOM FRAMING WITH THIS AD
*exp. May 30, 2018


Making Bay Area Homes Beautiful Since 1946



Blodgett's
FLOOR COVERING

"Quality and Service Since 1946" Abbey Carpet.

3291 Mt. Diablo Ct., Lafayette 925.284.4807



Larry Blodgett
Owner

www.blodgetts.com

LC # 177588



Piano Studio

Keys to success

Piano Lessons in Lafayette with professional instructor MTAC member. Competition, CM exam Preparation.

Rita Yegiazaryan
925-283-7601
Cell: 925-323-8969

1060 Sierra Vista Way, Lafayette



LAFAYETTE PHYSICAL THERAPY

Orthopedics • Sports Rehab • Geriatrics

Mention the Lamorinda Weekly for a
Complimentary Consultation

3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Ste B110, Lafayette, CA
925-284-6150 www.LafayettePT.com

McCaulou's

Save Gas
Save Money
Save Time

Shop your local McCaulou's

Breakfast • Lunch • Breakfast • Lunch • Breakfast

MILLIE'S KITCHEN

5 AM - 2:30 PM
Seven Days a Week

1018 Oak Hill Road
Lafayette
(510) 283-2397

Breakfast • Lunch • Breakfast • Lunch • Breakfast





925-284-7404

251 Lafayette Cir. Ste 150
Lafayette

LAFAYETTE CHAMBER

info@lafayettechamber.org
www.lafayettechamber.org

The UPS Store

Hours:
Mon-Fri 8:00-6:00
Sat 9-5, Sun closed

Our location:
3527 Mt Diablo Blvd
Lafayette, CA 94549

- ✓ Shipping
- ✓ Copying, Finishing
- ✓ Printing Services

- ✓ Notary Services
- ✓ Postal Services
- ✓ Business Services

store0202@theupsstore.com
www.theUpsStoreLocal.com/0202

College Admissions Advising

Helping students find their college fit!



Gwenly Carrel
Advisor

gwenlycarrel@gmail.com
925-368-8860

Watch for Shop Orinda Jan. 9 Call for Advertising

925.377.0977

Lafayette Auto Body, Inc.

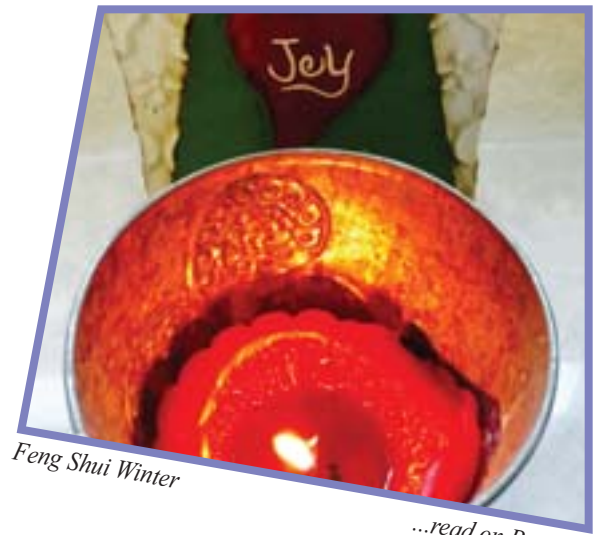
www.lafayetteautobody.com



3291 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette **(925) 283-3421**

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 22 Tuesday, December 25, 2018



Feng Shui Winter

...read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Garden Trends for 2019, PART 1

By Cynthia Brian

"Great things are not accomplished by those who yield to trends, fads, and popular opinion." — Jack Kerouac



Bromeliads are colorful and easy to care for.

Photo Cynthia Brian

I'll never forget how excited my mother was to play "Vanna" alongside Pat Sajak on the TV hit, "Wheel of Fortune." It was the first time in the 30-plus years of the show that anyone stepped into Vanna's beautiful shoes to wave bye-bye, and at 87-years-young, my mom definitely had a reason to gloat. Mom never owned a computer nor even knew what social media was, but a few days after her historic TV appearance, she called me to say that everyone said she was "trending." She didn't have a clue what trending meant, but she knew it must be something fun, fabulous and futuristic.

So what does "trend" actually mean? Every dictionary claims a varied description but in general a trend means an upward drift, a tendency to move in a certain direction. I've never been a person who embraced trends as I believe in being original. I like to connect and having meaning in my surroundings. I prefer style. A style is classic, enduring and lasting. Nevertheless, no matter what your personal design preference is, understanding trends can help you identify what you may be missing or what you need to pay attention to. After you know what is trending, it's up to you to express your true individuality.

Trends are what drive sales and help consumers identify new products and services on the market. For over 20 years, the Garden Media Group has had its fingers on the pulse of a gardening nation. In 2001, outdoor spaces as living rooms were the big hit. The year 2002 was container gardening. By 2006, we had recognized the importance of growing our own food and being sustainable. The birds and bees highlighted our efforts in 2008, and because of the drought, 2011 became the year of succulents. Finally in 2015, millennials were recognized as becoming the next major gardening group, and by 2018 the focus was on wellness.

So what is the chief theme of 2019? No surprise, it is me to she. With the "#Me Too" movement launched, in gardening we are looking to the she, as in Mother Nature, to lead us to the light. Temperatures are rising, major disasters are a regular occurrence, and species are dying. We need to save our planet and being a gardener is one of the first lines of defense. Gardening connects us to nature as we birth the "new environmentalism." Through horticulture, we can assist with solving climate change and biodiversity loss. By finding joy in nature, we have the opportunity to save the environment. When we save our world, we save our species.

... continued on Page D12



Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	20	\$645,000	\$4,825,000
MORAGA	6	\$1,260,000	\$1,545,000
ORINDA	10	\$950,000	\$3,268,000

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

910 Acalanes Road, \$1,190,000, 4 Bdrms, 2133 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 11-16-18, Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 04-17-17
 3349 Betty Lane, \$960,000, 3 Bdrms, 1154 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-05-18, Previous Sale: \$700,000, 04-20-18
 375 Castello Road, \$1,101,000, 3 Bdrms, 1554 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 11-16-18, Previous Sale: \$650,000, 05-10-12
 206 Colt Court, \$1,885,000, 4 Bdrms, 3275 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 11-15-18
 1000 Dewing Avenue, \$1,170,500, 2 Bdrms, 1443 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 11-13-18
 3105 Diablo View Road, \$830,000, 3 Bdrms, 1508 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 11-14-18
 1200 Estates Drive, \$3,860,000, 4 Bdrms, 4401 SqFt, 2002 YrBlt, 11-08-18, Previous Sale: \$3,375,000, 02-18-14
 3739 Highland Road, \$1,323,000, 4 Bdrms, 2281 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 11-13-18, Previous Sale: \$859,000, 06-14-12
 1267 Laurel Lane, \$1,770,000, 4 Bdrms, 2294 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 11-08-18, Previous Sale: \$1,066,000, 03-24-11
 3 Moss Lane, \$715,000, 2 Bdrms, 1442 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 11-16-18, Previous Sale: \$202,000, 12-01-88
 10 Moss Lane, \$940,000, 2 Bdrms, 1442 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 11-05-18, Previous Sale: \$790,000, 03-20-15
 3694 Nordstrom Lane, \$7,800,000, 2 Bdrms, 1035 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 11-16-18
 3921 North Peardale Drive, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1989 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-14-18, Previous Sale: \$1,575,000, 10-08-18
 1036 Oak Knoll Road, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2063 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 11-16-18, Previous Sale: \$700,000, 09-16-10
 3394 Orchard Valley Lane, \$800,000, 5 Bdrms, 1460 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 11-16-18
 942 Raintree Place, \$2,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3248 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 11-13-18, Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 08-17-10
 1244 Rose Lane, \$7,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 11054 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 11-16-18

... continued on Page D10

Happy Holidays from

**PREMIER
KITCHENS**

While we specialize in Kitchens,
our team is able to design custom, quality
cabinets for any room in your home
meeting all your aesthetic and functional needs...
all within your budget.

**Stop by and see our newly
re-designed Showroom Today!**

(925) 283-6500

3373 Mount Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette, CA 94549
Info@premierkitchens.net
www.premierkitchens.net



The Kurt Piper Group Wishes You Continued Inspiration and Success in 2019



Kurt Piper



Barb Brawner



Kim Siegel

Kurt has recently established a team of 12 highly-skilled team members and service providers that can deliver superior assistance to our clients.



Shannon Vicencio
Escrow Officer



Jessica Parisi
Transaction Coordinator



Dasha Sienitsky
Social Media and
Listing Launch



Lori Rembac
Preferred Stager



Lindy Evans
Preferred Stager



Meg Foley
Project Manager



Alex Gutierrez
Landscape Projects



John Haidarian
Interior and Exterior Paint



Oscar Ascencio
Construction Projects



Kurt Piper
925.818.8000
kurt@kurtpipergroup.com
DRE 01130308



Kurt Piper Group



COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.



Feng Shui

Winter's water element

By Michele Duffy



Water flows in this local creek.

Photo provided

Winter's yin and crisp dawn breath invites the dazzling dew left each morning only to retreat with the morning sun and clear blue skies. Water's qualities inform winter days with the gurgling of streams on a brisk hike, and winter blankets our psyches with chilly and dormant seasonal change that invites going deep, getting toasty next to a fireplace, bundling up for long nights of clear starry skies and greater efforts to rest, take a breath, store our energy, and most importantly recharge the kidneys sufficiently before spring arrives.

According to the Feng Shui BAGUA map, the water element rules the Career area which also includes life path, emotions, intuitiveness and spirituality. Water symbolizes the flow of life, freshness and freedom. Water's qualities and water symbolism also include financial well being or being well off, life-force, spirituality, rejuvenation, courage, mystery and depth.

At home, well-placed water elements also include the areas of the Bagua that are first and foremost, ruled by the water (Career) element, but placement in the Bagua areas ruled by the wood element, located at the middle left and the far left area from the main entrance door, is a wise choice as well.

Usually placing an actual water feature, such as a fountain or an aquarium, are the best ways to activate the water element. Water is also activated by correctly placing wavy or flowing art, blues and black colors, or images of waterfalls, calm seas and gentle forest streams. Layering mirrors skillfully will activate the water element in your home office space as well. Placing water literally and symbolically, and the flowing abundance that is associated with the water element, is not recommended in any bedroom, since it's too activating, but placement at the front entrance, backyard, or left area of Wealth &

Abundance is a good choice. I recommend placing an image of water in the master bedroom versus an actual water element so sleep is not disturbed by too much movement or yang energy.

Luckily water allows life to flow and like each of the other five elements contains both yin and yang properties, and reflects the slow growth of winter with quietness and calm (yin) that accompanies a winter season's snowfall (yin) or conversely, the fierce and icy winter storms (yang) that can stop humans in their tracks. It's lively spirited essence must lend enough abundance to pave the way for the new beginnings of a spring that deeply blooms.

The best Feng Shui of all is to choose homes and offices with existing vibrant FengShui, such as those with ample natural light and placement above the road. Avoid homes on sharp angles, dead ends, and roundabouts or cul-de-sacs, unless a fountain or planted garden is in center for all to enjoy. Recognizing at home and in the moment that winter can be left outdoors and with a few small adjustments to our homes' interior can help you spend longer winter days inside, here are nine Feng Shui tips to create your cozy winter retreat:

- 1) Switch all blankets, sheets, decorative pillows textiles to fuzzier, warmer versions.
- 2) Fill baskets with blankets in family or living rooms, near a fireplace.
- 3) Contrast the coolness of the season with a warm glow of red hues.
- 4) Use your kitchen stove often and make tea with local honey.
- 5) Light soy candles, especially in the kitchen.
- 6) Turn up the lights and ignite your fireplace.
- 7) Set a fresh dining table.
- 8) Display fresh flowers in a vase near your front door.
- 9) Spruce up the guest room using Feng Shui for holiday visitors.

Making small changes has a big impact and by adding small, deeper layers, the spaces you redo begin to blend and feel more comfortable as the Feng Shui also improves. Understanding the balance symbolized in the well known, black and white Yin-Yang symbol, water's fluidity plays a unique role in the natural ebb of seasonal flow. Water feeds the thirsty plants, flowers and trees and lays the underlying foundational planning for the re-emergence of spring. At home, it's not as important to remember all of the specifics of the water element as it is so timely to learn how to stay warm this winter, since now the majority of our time is spent indoors with family and friends. Have a wonderful holiday season and happy New Year! See you in 2019, the abundant Year of the Earth Pig!

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2018 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.



I've Joined Compass!



NEW YEAR, NEW COMPANY...

My new home is Compass Real Estate in Orinda!

I'm thrilled to be a part of such an innovative company where I can better assist my clients with finding their place in the world.

I look forward to continued success representing buyers and sellers in the Lafayette, Orinda, and Moraga communities.

Terri Bates Walker

Broker | J.D.

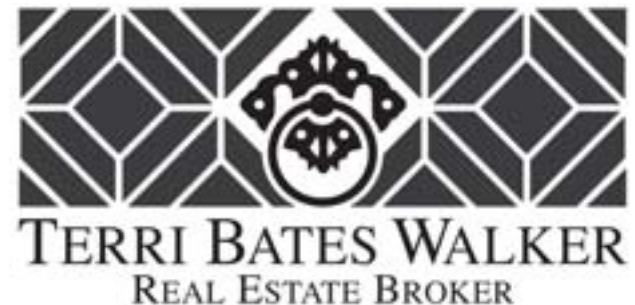
510.282.4420

terri@terribateswalker.com

terribateswalker.com

Follow me on:    

DRE 01330081



COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.



Off Market Listing

COMPASS




30 Dias Dorados, Orinda

Offered at \$2,750,000
30diasdorados.com

5 Bed 4 Bath 3,761± SQ. FT. .57± Acre Lot



Terri Bates Walker
Broker | J.D.

510.282.4420
terri@terribateswalker.com
terribateswalker.com
Follow me on: 
DRE 01330081



Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.



Off Market Listing

COMPASS



19 Moraga Via, Orinda

Offered at \$1,595,000
19moragavia.com

4 Bed 2.5 Bath 2,881± SQ. FT. .34± Acre Lot



Terri Bates Walker
Broker | J.D.

510.282.4420
terri@terribateswalker.com
terribateswalker.com
Follow me on:    
DRE 01330081



Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.





I am so thankful for all my friends and clients for making this another wonderful year! I'm blessed to love what I do and to do it in the community I've called home for the past 37 years.



Cheers & Happy Holidays!

2018 TRANSACTIONS TO DATE



515 Miner Road,
Orinda



14 Valley Court,
Orinda



2 Crown Court,
Orinda



11 Parkway Court,
Orinda



55 Donna Maria,
Orinda



8 Williams Court,
Orinda



112 Sleepy Hollow Lane,
Orinda



112 Crestview Drive, Orinda
(Sold Twice!)



20 Tia Place,
Moraga



28 Sullivan Drive,
Moraga



725 Country Club Drive,
Moraga



14 Diablo Circle,
Lafayette



1806 Cole Ave,
Walnut Creek



1072 W. Holly Drive,
Walnut Creek



41 Cleaveland Road,
Pleasant Hill



473 Camelback Road,
Pleasant Hill



371 Scottsdale Road,
Pleasant Hill



1031 Bending Willow Way,
Pittsburg



630 Encinal Court,
Walnut Creek



MOLLY SMITH

REALTOR®

415.309.1085 | molly@mollyslist.com

License# 01498053 | www.mollyslist.com



93 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA



AND ROLLING INTO 2019...



NOW AVAILABLE IN CLAYTON

Verna Way is comprised of six single-story new construction homes. They feature two well designed floor plans that offer 2,647 and 3,054 square feet of living area.



1 White Diamond Lane

4 Bedrooms | 3.5 Bathrooms | 3,054 SqFt
Den | Breakfast Nook | 2 Car Garage



3 White Diamond Lane

4 Bedrooms | 2.5 Bathrooms | 2,647 SqFt
Den | 2 Car Garage

LA CASA VIA

COMING SOON IN WALNUT CREEK

La Casa Via is comprised of two single-story new construction homes. These two distinct floor plans offer 3,054 or 3,885 square feet of living area.



300 La Casa Via



302 La Casa Via



MOLLY SMITH

REALTOR®

415.309.1085 | molly@mollyslist.com
License# 01498053 | www.mollyslist.com



93 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA





Knowledgeable Professional Reliable Local
Committed to exceeding your expectations!



Happy Holidays!

Paul & Virginia Ratto

925.998.9501
rattoandratto@compass.com
rattoandratto.com
DRE 00900621 | 01361537

COMPASS

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded ... continued from Page D2

LAFAYETTE ... continued

1244 Rose Lane, \$7,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 11054 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 11-16-18
1106 Sierra Vista Way, \$1,030,000, 3 Bdrms, 1656 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 11-07-18
713 Wee Donegal, \$997,000, 3 Bdrms, 2284 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 11-16-18,
Previous Sale: \$879,000, 03-21-08

MORAGA

1984 Ascot Drive #C, \$490,000, 2 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 11-15-18,
Previous Sale: \$305,000, 04-28-03
31 Broadmoor Street, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 11-16-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 07-24-07
1369 Camino Peral #B, \$555,000, 2 Bdrms, 1279 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 11-13-18,
Previous Sale: \$272,000, 02-23-11
11 Corte La Rado, \$1,485,000, 5 Bdrms, 2659 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-07-18,
Previous Sale: \$887,000, 04-24-03
2 Glen Eagle, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 11-05-18,
Previous Sale: \$582,500, 05-01-92
3 Lisa Lane, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2657 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 11-09-18,
Previous Sale: \$515,000, 03-01-89
127 Longfield Place, \$1,755,000, 4 Bdrms, 2436 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-09-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,540,000, 05-07-15
454 Rheem Boulevard, \$643,000, 3 Bdrms, 1322 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 11-05-18,
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 02-19-14
1855 Saint Andrews Drive, \$895,000, 2 Bdrms, 1903 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 11-14-18,
Previous Sale: \$295,000, 03-01-88

ORINDA

51 Camino Encinas, \$1,975,000, 4 Bdrms, 3172 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-05-18
32 Candle Terrace, \$3,140,000, 4 Bdrms, 4856 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 11-15-18,
Previous Sale: \$3,050,000, 06-04-08
5 Darnby Court, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 1942 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-07-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 10-20-16
511 Hawkridge Terrace, \$1,840,000, 4 Bdrms, 2959 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 11-09-18
48 Knickerbocker Lane, \$1,765,000, 5 Bdrms, 3570 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 11-09-18
12 La Cintilla, \$3,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 3423 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 11-09-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,375,000, 07-05-17
11 Moraga Court, \$1,772,000, 5 Bdrms, 2735 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 11-09-18,
Previous Sale: \$912,000, 06-25-04
137 Overhill Road, \$1,575,000, 3 Bdrms, 2214 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 11-16-18
31 Parklane Drive, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2721 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-13-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,566,000, 10-19-12
44 Robert Road, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 1825 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-13-18
9 Saint James Court, \$1,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 2733 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-07-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,075,000, 12-05-02

Pristine Orinda Contemporary Built in 2008



**429 El Toyonal,
Orinda**

**\$1,598,000
5 BD 4.5 Baths**

This newer construction spacious 5 bed, 4.5 bathroom home is incredibly private. Designed for modern living with a thoughtful and versatile floor plan. Eat-in Chef's kitchen/family room combo with gas fireplace. Formal dining and living rooms with pastoral views. Delightful outdoor entertaining areas that take full advantage of the privacy and tranquility yet located just a stone's throw from downtown Orinda, Hwy 24, Tilden Park, & hiking trails.



ERIN & DARRICK MARTIN

Direct: 925-951-3817
Erin@MartinHomesTeam.com
Darrick@MartinHomesTeam.com
www.MartinHomesTeam.com

CalBRE# 019222810, CalBRE# 02006564



**MARTIN
HOMES**

COMPASS





COMPASS



Happy New Year!

Thank you for all of your support in 2018. We wish you and your family the best for 2019.

Thinking of selling your home? Schedule your free sales preparation inspection. Our proven property preparation model has given us unbeaten results in 2018 and we're here to help you in 2019.

The reviews speak for themselves. Paddy Kehoe is the #1 Lamorinda agent on Yelp in 2018.

The Paddy Kehoe Team



Paddy Kehoe
925.878.5869
paddy@paddykehoeteam.com
DRE 01894345



Claudia Gohler
925.765.8081
claudia@paddykehoeteam.com
DRE 01995498



Dave Schurhoff
925.997.9569
dave.schurhoff@compass.com
DRE 01834201



Mary Staten
925.890.6875
mary.staten@compass.com
DRE 01947354



Leslie Lomond
650.799.2110
leslie.lomond@compass.com
DRE 01968517



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Garden Trends for 2019, PART 1

... continued from Page D1



Take a walk through our oak forested trails to de-stress.

Photos Cynthia Brian

How is this a positive upward trend for 2019? Here are a few statistics from 2018:

- \$47.8 billion was spent on gardening, including plants and patio furniture.
- \$503 is the average amount spent per U. S. household on garden supplies. This is \$100 more than last year.
- 29 percent of all gardeners are now in the age range of 18-24 years of age, setting record highs. According to GardenResearch.com, millennials were responsible for 31 percent of houseplant sales!
- More than 2 million jobs have been created through horticulture.

For humans to survive, our earth must thrive. Growing plants both inside and outside are proactive steps anyone and everyone can include into daily life.

An indoor generation has been identified where-

by 90 percent of people worldwide spend 22 hours a day inside without going outside for fresh air. Research indicates that Americans spend 93 percent of their time indoors or in their vehicles and children are outside for less than one hour per day. Earlier generations of children spent 50 percent of their time outdoors. As a species, we have migrated from the farms to the screens. Obesity, mental illness, high cholesterol, depression and anxiety are the results of too much technology where we are plugged in and tuned out to the benefits of fresh air, digging in the dirt, and natural environs.

So what can we do to help ourselves be healthier in 2019 if we have to be indoors fixated on our screens? Install a terrarium, buy a bromeliad or, better yet, take a 15-minute break to walk in a nearby park. Eat lunch on a bench outside. Enjoy a forest bath. Improve your

indoor air quality with a peace lily positioned in a corner of your office, add a pot of herbs to a windowsill, fall in love with tropical plants that will flourish indoors with little care.

By spending too much time in front of televisions, playing video games, texting, being on our phones or tablets, checking social media, or surfing the web, we are disregarding our natural state while increasing our physical and mental challenges. When we take care of ourselves by indulging in nature, we will refresh and reboot our world. Mother Nature is always in charge and we can't ignore her warning signs.

In the next issue, I'll continue this discussion on Garden Trends for 2019. Understand what is trending, then start your own. Until then, consider a digital detox. Get up, get out, dig a little, and breathe our clean air.

Wishing you a fresh start and a new leaf for 2019. Happy, happy New Year!



Holly berries are also plentiful, another sign of a protracted winter.



WHAT'S BEST FOR MY BUYERS AND SELLERS?

Village, of course.

Village
ASSOCIATES

For me, every home transaction is a unique and custom experience. There is no template or shortcutting the way to find the right fit for a buyer or seller (especially in our micro-market of LaMorinda).

I treat every buyer and seller as if they are my only client and I want them to feel that way. I'm not satisfied until they are. Which is why, I choose to partner with Village Associates.



Emily Estrada
Village Associates
925.708.8116
emily@amyrosesmith.com
www.amyrosesmith.com
CalBRE# 01942438

FINDING THE *Right* FIT


AMYROSESMITH

Amy Rose Smith
Village Associates
925.212.3897
amy@amyrosesmith.com
www.amyrosesmith.com
CalBRE: #01855959



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for January

FREE seed catalog and free shipping on over 500 seed varieties at Sow True Seed through Jan. 15. Use Code SHIPFREE19 at <https://sowtrueseed.com/>.

FILL a nature RX, even in the cold weather, and go outside for at least 15 minutes a day. The benefits include relaxation, better sleep, fresh air, physical activity and stress reduction.

START a gratitude habit for the New Year. It's the season to be thankful and if you start now being appreciative for the small things in life, you can turn this feeling into a year-round practice, bringing you more joy.

PICKUP for your holiday tree is available through Jan. 18 on your regular collection day. Remove lights, ornaments, tinsel, and trimmings. Unfortunately, flocked trees are not included in the collection. Schedule a pickup for a fee. Call (925) 685-4711.

BOOST your vitamin C with fresh fruit from citrus trees. Ripening for the next two months you will enjoy sweet navel orange, lime, lemon, grapefruit and Clementine.

HARVEST your Hachiya and Fuyu persimmons that are still hanging.

SHARPEN pruning shears in preparation for the heavy rose pruning you'll do toward the end of January. In the meantime, allow the rosehips to flourish as food for the birds.

PREPARE for winter. A wife's tale from the old country states that when the berries are full, the winter will be long. Cotoneaster, holly, and pyracantha berries are feeding the birds.

IDENTIFY mushrooms before consuming. Many are toxic.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

Cynthia Brian



With the rains, mushrooms have surfaced. Be aware of what ones are edible.



Rosehips can be left for the birds dinner until late January heavy pruning.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Cotoneaster branches are full of berries. Winter is here.



Cynthia Brian's Mom "trending" as Vanna White on Wheel of Fortune with Pat Sajak.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® S01 c3.

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

Buy a copy of her new books, Growing with the Goddess Gardener and Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store.

Hire Cynthia for projects, consults, and lectures.

Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
www.GoddessGardener.com

Donate to Fire Disaster Relief via Be the Star You Are!® S01 c3 at www.BethestarYouAre.org

bellavista
BY SUMMERHILL HOMES

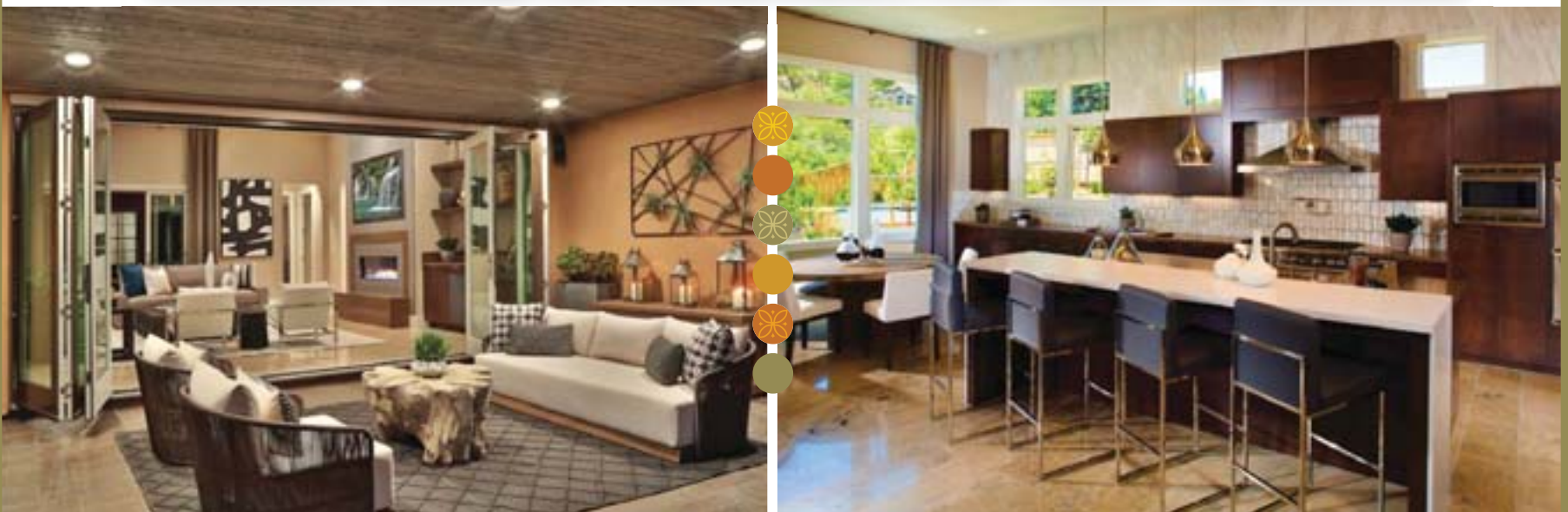
STARTING PRICE
\$2,398,000

NOW SELLING!

LAMORINDA'S NEWEST LUXURY COMMUNITY

27 SINGLE & 2-STORY HOMES 4-5 BEDS | 3.5-4.5 BATHS | APPROX. 3,131 - 4,813 SQ.FT.
5 MILE COMMUTE TO BART STATION • LESS THAN 20 MILES TO SAN FRANCISCO • TOP RATED SCHOOLS
AMAZING VIEWS FROM EVERY DIRECTION WITH INTIMATE VIEWS OF MT. DIABLO

MORAGA: CLOSE TO THE ACTION... FAR FROM THE CROWDS



SUMMERHILL HOMES™

www.shhomes.com

OPEN HOUSE :: SATURDAY & SUNDAY

206 FRONTERAS DR, MORAGA CA 94556 - ON RHEEM BLVD

TEL (888) 858-1367 • EMAIL: BELLAVISTASALES@SHHOMES.COM



BRE# 01301389

LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

ORINDA



17 Valley View Lane

Beautifully renovated traditional 3 Bed/2.5 Bath on a 1.1 acre knoll setting. Indoor/outdoor living.

\$1,579,000

ORINDA



147 Camino Don Miguel

Authentic old Orinda Spanish on special OCC view knoll. 3223 sq.ft. of charming living spaces.

\$1,749,000

ORINDA



64 El Gavilan Road

Great 5 Bed/3 Bath family home with spacious light-filled living in a functional 3364 sq.ft. floor plan.

\$1,750,000

ORINDA



3 Lost Valley Court

Custom contemporary 6 Bed/4 Bath rebuilt masterpiece sits on 2.11 acres in the gorgeous rolling hills of Orinda.

\$2,295,000

MORAGA

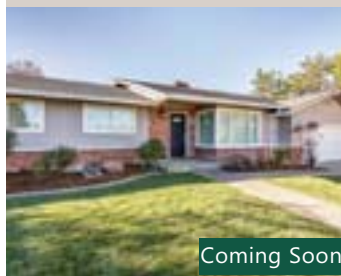


308 Rheem Boulevard

Delightful and renovated 5 Bed/4 Bath with functional floor plan on 1.04 acre beautifully landscaped lot.

\$1,599,000

LAFAYETTE



Coming Soon

2427 Cherry Hills Drive

Updated Lafayette Single Story Home on Quiet Court. 4 Bed/2.5 Bath, 1885sqft on a .32 acre lot.

Call for Price

LAFAYETTE



4030 Happy Valley Road

Available! Elegant country living in Happy Valley. Exceptional detail, indoor/outdoor living, private grounds.

\$2,849,000

WALNUT CREEK



For Lease

1806 Cole Ave #1A

Beautifully updated rental 1 Bed/1 Bath ground level corner unit with a prime location for commute.

\$1,900

WALNUT CREEK



630 Encinal Court

Single Story home checks all boxes! Quiet cul-de-sac with A+ location; perfect fit for a family or downsizer.

\$1,050,000

CLAYTON



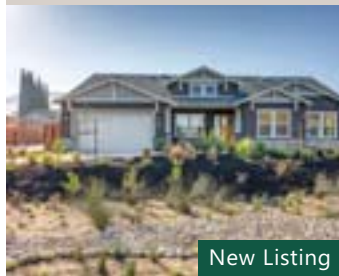
New Listing

3 White Diamond Lane

Beautiful New Construction Single Story Home! 4 Bed/2.5 Bath, den, chef's kitchen w/ a large great room.

\$1,218,000

CLAYTON



New Listing

1 White Diamond Lane

Beautiful New Construction Single Story Home! 4 Bed/3.5 Bath, den, chef's kitchen w/ a large great room.

\$1,285,000

MARTINEZ



Coming Soon

110 Via Cabrera Lane

Beautifully updated 3 Bed/2.5 Bath townhome with the ideal floor plan in the popular Mission Pines. Located off Hwy 4, 680 interchange. Call for Price

The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby
Patricia Battersby
Shannon Conner
Meara Dunsmore

Linda Ehrich

Emily Estrada

Joan Evans

Linda Friedman

Dexter Honens II

Anne Knight

Susan Layng

Charles Levine

April Matthews

Hillary Murphy

Karen Murphy

John Nash

Altie Schmitt

Judy Schoenrock

Ann Sharf

Amy Rose Smith

Molly Smith

Jeff Snell

Lynda Snell

Steve Stahle

Clark Thompson

Angie Evans Traxinger

Ignacio Vega

Ann Ward

Jenny Lyons Wilhite

Margaret Zucker

facebook.com/VillageAssociates
twitter.com/villageassoc
instagram.com/VillageAssociates

93 Moraga Way, Suite 103 • Orinda, CA 94563 • Phone: (925) 254-0505
Visit www.villageassociates.com Click on [Sunday Open Homes](#)

Village
ASSOCIATES

License #01301392