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Residents placed color-coded dots and sticky notes on an aerial photo of Orinda to indicate which areas they believe need improvement and the types of improvements they would like to see.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

Community comments on potential changes to downtown Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Library Auditorium was packed to overflowing on Jan. 29 as residents gathered to participate in the ConnectOrinda workshop. Director of Planning Drummond Buckley and Associate Planner Adam Foster gave a brief introduction, with Buckley saying he felt like a kid on Christmas, and Foster

agreeing that he was equally excited. Also present were Victoria Eisen, partner at Eisen | Letunic, the consultant on the Downtown Streetscape project, known as ConnectOrinda.

The consultants were selected in June and the first formal launch event was held in October, following interviews with stakeholders. At the workshop, the public was invited to comment on 19 potential projects in four categories: the Theatre Dis-

trict, the BART/Connection zone, the Village District and Character & Beautification. The projects include calming traffic on Moraga Way, improving casual carpool waiting area, enhancing walking routes between BART and the Theatre District and the Village, enhancing Orinda Way and improving walkability, and planning for creek access. Also included are potentially moving and/or closing access ramps to Highway 24. ... continued on Page A12



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Advertising

Lafayette on the hook for legal fees that PG&E does not pay



Photo Nick Marnell

Some trees slated for removal along this trail enjoy a stay of execution.

By Nick Marnell

One ramification of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company Jan. 29 bankruptcy filing is that the company will likely no longer be able to reimburse the city of Lafayette for legal bills in its defense of a lawsuit brought against the city and the utility by a local citizens group.

PG&E and Lafayette are financially linked in a 2017 Agreement for Tree

Removal. According to a city staff report, PG&E would pay the city a mitigation fee of \$531,000 – \$475,000 in cash and \$56,000 in future tree plantings – to remove 272 trees on private and public property. The company deemed that the trees had to go as they prevent first responder access and safety inspections, and that the tree roots could damage underground pipes.

A local citizens group, Save Lafayette Trees, sued the city and the utility. “The city failed to conduct any environmental review before entering into the contract with PG&E,” said Stephan Volker, SLT attorney. The litigation is ongoing, and the doomed trees enjoy a stay of execution.

Not only are the city and PG&E joined as co-defendants in the SLT lawsuit, but PG&E agreed to reimburse the city for its legal costs, with the logic that it is the utility’s pipeline safety program that was being challenged. Through January, the company had reimbursed the city for \$114,000 in legal fees.

Because of the Chapter 11 bankruptcy, the days of PG&E reimbursement to Lafayette may be over. Past due city invoices for the utility totaled \$41,500, and since the city’s claim against PG&E for that money would likely be paid at cents on the dollar and not paid for several months, or even years, Lafayette had to dip into the mitigation money to pay its own legal costs.

Jennifer Wakeman, Lafayette financial services manager, said that

there are no outstanding legal charges, but city attorney Mala Subramanian warned that the city would use funds from the the \$433,000 mitigation balance to pay future legal expenses. Depending on how far and how slowly the SLT lawsuit moves through the system, the legal costs could be substantial.

“This presents a huge financial risk for the city,” said a speaker at the Jan. 28 city council meeting. “You are fighting the residents who are trying to ensure their safety. Is this really where the city wants to go?”

In an ironic twist to this story, as the utility is being sued by the Lafayette citizens group for removing trees near gas pipelines, a federal judge on Jan. 30 chastised PG&E for not cutting down trees and removing fallen limbs near its electric power lines, blaming the utility for its role in the wildfires that have ravaged Northern California over the past two years.

PG&E spokesman Jeff Smith declined to comment on the company bankruptcy filing or the reimbursement of Lafayette legal expenses.

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Lafayette officials fire back at regional housing recommendations



Photo Jeff Heyman, City of Lafayette

A speaker attacks the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at the Jan. 28 council meeting.

By Nick Marnell

Lafayette officials largely denounced an action plan developed by a regional committee that would spur housing growth in the Bay Area by raising \$1.5 billion annually through revenue sources like a vacancy tax, parcel tax, increased sales tax, gross receipts and head taxes on employers, and the issuance of general obligation bonds.

The Committee to House the Bay Area, known by the acronym CASA and formed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, also emboldens state leaders to pass legislation to change the Proposition 13 tax allocation formula to give jurisdictions that provide more housing a

higher share of property tax revenue. CASA also urges the state to form a Regional Housing Enterprise to implement and administer the policy recommendations.

The plan, called the CASA Compact, is a 15-year emergency policy package targeted to the Bay Area, and recommends 10 policy changes and five calls for action, including the production of 35,000 housing units a year, of which 21,000 are affordable to lower- and moderate-income households; the preservation of 300,000 affordable housing units; and the protection of 300,000 lower-income households from displacement. The Compact also calls for stiffer tenant protections, minimum transit zoning requirements and the unlocking of public

land for affordable housing.

Implementation of the recommendations will “require bills to be passed in Sacramento ... regional ballot measure campaigns in 2020 and beyond ... and every local government in the Bay Area to do their part,” according to the Compact.

“This is a very scary document, and it includes things we know do not work,” Vice Mayor Mike Anderson said at the Jan. 28 city council meeting. Anderson said that rent control only drives rents higher, and that many of the Compact recommendations would in effect take away local control of zoning and housing.

The vice mayor cited the example of BART zoning requirements. Assembly Bill

2923 allows BART to develop housing on property it owns, but the Compact calls for the zoning to extend to one-quarter mile beyond the BART stations, putting even more pressure on local municipalities – like Lafayette – that are producing housing in compliance with their established development standards.

By suggesting a new quarter-percent sales tax to pay for its recommendations, the Compact may prevent Lafayette from implementing taxes for its own purposes, said Niroop Srivatsa, interim city manager. And she bristled at the extra work the Compact would require of her staff. “We should be spending our time building the housing units instead of on paperwork and bureaucracy,” Srivatsa said.

Anderson later expanded on his Compact concerns. “It’s a regional effort to influence state legislation, but it’s hard to get a grip on where to apply the pressure,” he said. Anderson pointed to the high-tech industry, which promised to allow its employees to work from home. “It didn’t happen,” he said. “You have all of these people driving for miles to their jobs. We need to get these companies to decentralize their operations. They don’t need to build Salesforce buildings. Put the work where the people live, and put the jobs where the housing already is.”

Anderson added that there are plenty of vacant storefronts in Lafayette.

Mayor Cam Burks expressed misgivings about transparency, including how the Compact ideas were generated and how few people were engaged in the process. Burks also noted that many of the suggested bills are already on the fast track to passage in Sacramento. “It’s very troubling,” he said.

“All we did was select the three co-chairs and they filled out the rest of the committee,” said John Goodwin, MTC spokesman. “It may seem like only a few people, but they represent a diversity of interests and a breadth of experience.”

Council members recommended that the Compact become the focus of the April Tri-City meeting, which will be hosted by Lafayette, with MTC representatives available to explain the details of the Compact to Lamorinda residents.

But with his concerns about proposed legislation already on the way to Sacramento, Burks pushed for an even earlier meeting date, possibly in March. He also made clear that the city should feel no guilt over its own efforts to cope with the housing crisis.

“Lafayette has done and continues to do our part, and a cookie-cutter approach is just not right,” Burks said.

Proposed Citizen Gas Safety Task Force moves one step forward

By Nick Marnell

The principals of Save Lafayette Trees formally requested Jan. 28 that the

Lafayette City Council form a Gas Safety Task Force, and though the city has been sued

by the grassroots organization, the council members agreed to agendaize the item for its last meeting in February.

SLT claims that PG&E has ignored public safety by refusing to begin important gas pipeline improvements and instead plans to remove trees that the utility says pose a safety hazard and cause problems around gas pipelines. The group sued the city and the utility for entering into a tree-removal agreement.

Despite the acrimony of an ongoing lawsuit, the group and the city continued pipeline safety discussions throughout 2018. According to SLT co-founder Gina Dawson, at a Nov. 13 meeting that included representatives of both parties, the utility, the California Public Utilities Commission and members of the public, Council Member Mike Anderson supported the formation of a citizen task force “for the optimization of pipeline safety in Lafayette.”

Gina and Michael Dawson presented a draft proposal and a request for the formation of the task force at the January council meeting. The three-page proposal opens with the rationale for the creation of the task force. “Of primary importance is the lack of confidence in the current utility operator, PG&E, in that it has historically been found negligent of pipeline safety law.”

The document outlines the work plan and guiding principles for the task force, concluding with a message likely directed at both the utility and the city: “Regain trust and attain verification of safe pipeline operation in Lafayette.”


“Putting together a task force is just us deciding we want to do it,” said Anderson, now vice mayor, and the positive follow-up comments of the council members indicated that they indeed want to do it.

Anderson and the Dawsons will collaborate on a final task force proposal and the item has been scheduled to head to the full city council on Feb. 25.

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Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council
Monday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings
Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Planning Commission
Tuesday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review
Monday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Lafayette School District
Wednesday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Nominations are open for the 2019 Lafayette Citizen of the Year

Do you have a person in mind for this year's nomination?

Criteria are as follows:

- Must be a current Lafayette resident;
- Must be someone who has given of their time, money or energy to help make Lafayette a healthy community, where people will want to live, work and shop;
- Must be someone who models excellence in everything they do;
- Must be someone who brings this community together and/or makes us proud to be a member of the community.

A celebration dinner will be held on Friday, March 22 at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa to honor the winner! The deadline for submitting nominations is 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8.

Nominations can be sent to nominations@lamorindaweekly.com or jay@lafayettechamber.org.

Lafayette takes steps to become an Age-Friendly Community



By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette is taking proactive steps toward supporting its older residents as it kicks off the AARP/World Health Organization “age-friendly community” initiative with a meeting hosted by the Senior Services Commission Wednesday, Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. All are welcome.

The initiative is a response to Lafayette’s sizable population of older residents – a segment that is rapidly growing.

Senior Services Coordinator Maureen Neumann explains that as the U.S. population ages and people stay healthy and active longer, communities must adapt. “Well-designed, livable communities promote health and sustain economic growth, and they make for happier, healthier residents of all ages,” she says.

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities is an affiliate of the World Health Organization’s Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Program, an international effort launched in 2006 to help cities prepare for rapid population aging and the parallel trend of urbanization. The program has participating communities in more than 20 nations, as well as 10 affiliates representing more than 1,000 communities. Members of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities become part of a global network of communities that are committed to

giving older residents the opportunity to live rewarding, productive and safe lives.

“It’s important because our city has a sizable population of residents aged 50 and older. This segment is growing rapidly. Many want to age in place – remain in their homes as they get older,” says Neumann. “They need the support of their city to meet their needs.”

AARP estimates the process will take five years. The program looks at the Eight Domains of Livability, which form the backbone of the initiative. These are outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information, and health services.

Each of these domains will be addressed at the meeting. Focus groups will be formed at a later date. Speakers will include Mayor Cam Burks, Interim City Manager Niroop Srivatsa as well as members of the Senior Services Commission.

Neumann says that attendees will be asked to contribute by sharing answers to initial questions about what residents love about Lafayette, what they consider to be current age-friendly needs, and what age-friendly needs they foresee for the future.

Refreshments will be served and there will be door prizes. Any residents interested in attending should reserve their spot by registering on the website listed below or by calling (925) 284-5050.

Info: https://apm.activecommunities.com/lafayetterec/Activity_Search/age-friendly-community-kickoff-event/3354

Housing trends exposed at Home Expo

By Lou Fancher

Every current or prospective homeowner has heard or at one time experienced a residential remodeling or home improvement nightmare story. The narratives range from shady contractors to unreliable or uncommunicative construction or design firms to inflated estimates with hidden costs that spring out of nowhere like phantoms—or to the horror of simply existing in the fragile space-time warp of a

project-that-will-not-end.

Which is why Lamorinda Home Expo '19, held this year on Jan. 27 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building, was a welcome event. Presented annually by The HomeMag East Bay, over 30 exhibitors limited to between three and five per category, offered a wide but reasonable array of services.

Joe Gordon, from Orinda, heard about the show on the radio.

... continued on Page A9



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Moraga's town goals and public suggestions for 2019

By Vera Kochan

While Moraga's council members and supporting departments have many goals for 2019, the public also gave voice to a few concerns for the upcoming year during the Jan. 23 town council meeting.

Many of the following goals were once hot button topics during Moraga's recent council member elections: Open communications between town staff, business applicants and landowners or

developers to avoid hold-up of projects; complete the Moraga Center Specific Plan Implementation Project; open up leasing potential for a possible restaurant or other commercial business at Hacienda de las Flores; continue to have the Moraga Police Department work with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District regarding emergency preparedness evacuation plans, routes and temporary refuge areas; and improve fiscal spending by examining all town expenditures and iden-

tify areas for potential savings. Other desires included completing the Surface Seal Project of rubberized cape seal treatment on selected roads; pursuing the Canyon Road Temporary Bridge reimbursement from the Federal Highway Administration; examining increasing traffic congestion in Lamorinda; and maintaining transparency.

During the public comment portion, Bob Fritzky, president of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, stressed the importance of

making the town easier to work with in order to keep old businesses and attract new ones. He also proposed working with Saint Mary's College grad students to create a Small Business Catalyst Program, whereby students would help small businesses for free.

Other suggestions from the public included implementing a Community Emergency Response Team program that would help the town be self-sufficient for at least a week in the event of a

natural disaster; opening town offices from Monday through Friday to make Moraga easier to work with; and using any available funds to preserve open space.

Brent Meyers, on behalf of SMARTMoraga, suggested adding several oversight functions to the town.

With each new year come new year resolutions, and with it the hope that the community will continue to work together to make life better in Moraga.

Chamber honors Moraga Business of the Year and Nonprofit of the Year



Moraga Citizens Network board members standing, from left: Tory Courtney, Larry Beans and Diana Obrand. Ellen Beans seated. Photos Vera Kochan



The Olsen Team's Ben Olsen and Sue Olsen

By Vera Kochan

In a departure from past procedures of naming a Business Person of the Year, the Moraga Chamber of Commerce decided to change things up by honoring a Business of the Year. And, since three of the nominations were nonprof-

its, a separate category, Nonprofit of the Year, was added.


The 2018 business winner is The Olsen Team – the 13th recipient of the Business award – headed by Sue Olsen and Ben Olsen, and the nonprofit winner is Moraga Citizens Network.

The nominations were gathered for five weeks and

voted on by the executive committee of the Chamber board. All of the nominees had to meet six important criteria: be a Chamber member in good standing; demonstrate ethical business practices; have good customer relationships; practice good business strategies; serve as a good business role model and support the Moraga community.

The Olsen Team's founder, Sue Olsen, initially had a career as a triage nurse in the Midwest. In the late 1970s, while looking to purchase a home in the Lamorinda area, she was disappointed in the lack of compassion that real estate agents showed to potential home buyers. Olsen decided to take real estate classes and one thing led to another.

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	Town Council Wednesday, Feb 13, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.	Commission Tuesday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.	Planning Design Review Monday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.	Moraga School District Board Meetings Wednesday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m. Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga www.moraga.k12.ca.us
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Work to begin for safer intersection this summer



Photo Vera Kochan

The intersection at Canyon Road and Camino Pablo during rush hour, with bicyclists and cars driving north, south and east.

ings will be scheduled for February or early March when construction strategies are presented to the town.

Parents of Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School students have long realized the danger this intersection poses when children going to and from school do so at the same time that drivers are going to and from work.

Some of the proposed safety enhancements are to reduce the through-travel lanes from two to one in each direction and assign the remaining area to “bulb-outs,” while adding a pedestrian refuge/island to reduce the crossing distance and narrowing the roadway to calm traffic. Additional improvement possibilities are rapid

flash beacons, improved intersection lighting and a speed feedback sign in the northbound direction.

During the Jan. 23 town council meeting, Public Works Director Edric Kwan requested and received approval for the Moraga Road/Alta Mesa Intersection Improvements Grant. This intersection is the second most dangerous for pedestrians since 2011 with 27 accidents, three of which involved trips to the hospital for pedestrians.

Kwan stated, “Twenty-two other agencies are vying for the OBAG funding. We need to contribute local funds by matching 50 percent of their grant funds to have a more competitive applica-

tion.” He assured the council that the town’s funding of the Moraga Road/Alta Mesa project “has already been included in the budget and will not detract from another project.

“We will make sure that any improvements are safe,” Kwan added, “but within our budget.” He anticipates construction to begin in 2020.

When asked by the town council if Kwan has received negative public feedback about the intersection, he confirmed that he has received quite a few phone calls. Moraga Chief of Police Jon King interjected, “I get a lot of complaints about the crosswalk; a lot of near misses.”

By Vera Kochan

Improvements to pedestrian crossings at the intersection of Canyon Road and Camino Pablo are coming this sum-

mer. Funds from One Bay Area Grant and funds augmented from Measure K have set the wheels in motion on the project first proposed in 2016. Public outreach meet-

Town discusses use of upcoming injection of Palos Colorados funds

By Vera Kochan

The Palos Colorados Funds, also known as Fund 100 – One Time Developer Fees, are on the verge of a cash injection this June. If all stays on track, the town’s bank balance will increase to \$2.5 million.

Norman Veloso, Moraga’s director of administrative services, delivered a status presentation to the town council on Jan. 9, outlining the fund’s history and future expectations.

Veloso noted how the fund is unrestricted. “It is not limited,” he said. “It is not constrained as to how the money is going to be used. It’s just like any general fund revenue money that the council can then decide how to use that money as it fits the priorities and the needs of the council.”

Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg advised the town council to “look at the impacts at that time and what else has happened in the community,

and find out if some of that funding would be appropriately allocated towards some of the impacts and additional recreation or open space.”

One idea proposed was to use the funds to build a multi-purpose gymnasium in town. Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns opened up the public comment portion of the council meeting with his appeal. “As the town considers the allocation of the Palos Colorados funds and negotiating future

developments, I strongly encourage serious consideration to develop athletic fields and to partnering with your school district to explore, along with our foundation, service groups and athletic organizations, a multi-use community facility on the Joaquin Moraga campus,” he said.

Suzanne Jones, on behalf of Preserve Lamorinda Open Space, said, “We would suggest that while some of the funds may be reasonably ex-

pected on other priorities, a portion should continue to be used toward open space and recreation opportunities as they arise.”

Former mayor Dave Trotter spoke in support of Burns’ cause by adding, “This is an opportunity for the council to advance these interests, to understand that the quality of the schools are what make this an attractive place to live, along with our open space and keeping our property values high.”

... continued on Page A10

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Council continues moratorium on accessory structures

By Sora O'Doherty

A moratorium put in place in July will remain in place until the rules governing accessory structures are changed. The rules that allowed accessory structures to be built within five feet of the property line became controversial when the owner of 71 Meadowview built two such structures with the announced intention of renting accommodations through Airbnb. The two accessory structures are five feet from the border fence, 15 feet tall and with windows that overlooked the neighbors' bedroom. According to Orinda Associate Planner Adam Foster, those structures have not yet received final approval from the city and therefore cannot yet be inhabited.

Foster clarified the rules regulating rental properties in Orinda. Short-term rentals are defined as rentals up to 30 days but not longer. Only one short-term rental is allowed at any time on a single parcel. However, the number of long-term rentals, over 30 days, is unlimited. So a property owner could have one short-term rental and unlimited long-term rentals simultaneously.

At its Jan. 22 meeting, the city council was asked by staff to make permanent the provisions of the urgency ordinance adopted last July. After some discussion, the

council decided to continue the moratorium until new rules are drafted. A draft ordinance needs to go to the planning commission for review before coming back before the city council, but the council asked that the matter come before it again prior to going to the planning commission. A new ordinance must be adopted before the moratorium expires in July, therefore the matter must return to the city council by June.

The definitions of accessory structures and accessory dwelling units are different, and they are covered by different rules. However, accessory structures may be habitable and can be converted ministerially to accessory dwelling units, which means that if the structure meets the requirements for an ADU, the city has no discretion in recognizing it as an

ADU. There may be only one accessory dwelling unit on a parcel. Currently there is no limit to the number of accessory structures that are allowed on a parcel. According to Foster, the distinction between an accessory structure and an ADU is subtle and not easy to pin down. One factor often considered is the presence of a source of 220 volt electricity, commonly used for stoves. But an accessory unit may have, for example, a microwave oven that runs on 115 volts.

The previous ordinance, now in abeyance, allowed accessory structures to be built within the required setback and limited the height of such structures to 15 feet. Currently, if an accessory structure is not built within the setback area of a parcel, the maximum height is 27 feet, the same as the main structure. Although there is

no limit to the number of accessory structures that can be built on a parcel, the total amount of structures on a parcel is controlled by floor area ratio requirements.

Council Member Amy Worth asked staff if there was any reason why the council should not limit the number of accessory structures on a parcel. Other communities have limited the size and number of accessory structures. The council directed staff to look into the possibility of imposing limits on the number, size, or height of accessory structures that are not built within the setback. In order to be built within the setback, any accessory structure would require permission from the city, which enables the city to use discretion as to whether or not to approve the planned structure.

Excerpt from Orinda Municipal Code Section 17.2.3:

"Accessory dwelling unit" means an attached or a detached residential dwelling unit that provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons on the same parcel as a single-family dwelling. It shall include permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking (see definition of kitchen), and sanitation. An accessory dwelling unit also includes the following:

1. An efficiency unit, as defined in Health and Safety Code § 17958.1.2. A manufactured home, as defined in Health and Safety Code § 18007.

"Kitchen" means any room or part of a room within a building which is designed, built, used or intended to be used for storage and food preparation and dishwashing in conjunction with the establishment or use of a dwelling unit; but not including a bar, butler's pantry or similar room adjacent to or connected with a kitchen. Food preparation facilities shall include 220 volt electrical or natural or propane gas service, unless otherwise specified by this Code.

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 letters@lamorindaweekly.com

North Orinda fire evacuation drill runs smoothly



Station 45 was filled with volunteers who assisted in the Jan. 26 drill. Photos Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

The early morning hours on Saturday, Jan. 26 saw many Orinda residents being alerted to a practice fire danger and evacuating their north Orinda neighborhoods. Fire Station 45 served as the command center for the drill, where representatives of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, the Orinda Police Department, Cal Fire, the Orinda

City Council and others gathered to monitor the drill. At 6:49 a.m. three fires were lit in buckets to trigger sensors that were located on poles above the flames. When the sensors perceived the fires, they sent out notifications to dispatch at 6:53 a.m. Dispatch then triggered notifications to the residents of the three districts selected for the drill, districts four, five, and nine, which include Sleepy Hollow, Dalewood-Orinda Downs

and the upper Miner Road neighborhoods. The alerts were sent at 6:55 a.m.

Residents had been given the opportunity to register for alerts. According to the debriefing provided after the drill by Community Warning System manager Heather Tiernan, 151 people signed up for the drill, and 130 actually registered for the system. During the evacuation drill, 225 emails were sent, along

with 225 text messages and 275 telephone calls. A success rate of 85 percent was achieved on the telephone calls, and every person who registered for an alert received alerts in multiple ways. Most received the alert within three minutes and the rest upon retries within 8 minutes. Alerts were completed by 7:03 a.m.

After receiving the alerts, evacuees traveled from their homes to the intersection of Miner Road and Lombardy Lane. From there, law enforcement and Community Emergency Response Team volunteers directed traffic along Miner, which was closed to eastbound traffic and all

lanes converted to westbound only as far as the intersection of Camino Pablo. Evacuees then drove southbound on Camino Pablo to the Highway 24 on ramps.

According to Dennis Rein, MOFD emergency preparedness coordinator, 20 County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue volunteers walked the neighborhoods and simulated a door-to-door check. The SAR teams were able to check over 200 homes in about 45 minutes and communicate evacuation status back to the command post via an application being developed by the county Department of Information Technology.

... continued on next Page



Both lanes of Miner Road were used to move vehicles swiftly out of North Orinda.



**Orinda
Public
Meetings**

City Council
 Tuesday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m. Regular Meeting
 Tuesday, Feb. 26, 6 p.m. Special Meeting
 Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way
Planning Commission
 Tuesday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
 Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission
 Wednesday, Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m.
 Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Orinda Union High School District Board Meetings
 Monday, Feb. 11, 6 p.m.
 Regular Board Meeting
 8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda
 www.orindaschools.org
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2



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Orinda Police use GoFundMe to buy a drone



Drone demonstration

Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

Somewhat surprised Orinda city council members were treated to a first-ever indoor flight of a drone in the Library Auditorium as Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel and Contra Costa Sheriff's Officer Joe Ladner gave a demonstration with a drone similar to the one that is proposed for the Orinda Police Department. Nagel explained that in his continuing effort to obtain the best supplies and equipment to police Orinda, his department started a GoFundMe campaign last year to raise money for the purchase of a drone. Within just a couple of months, the community responded favorably and more than enough money was raised to purchase a drone with all of the capabilities that the chief believes the department needs.

The drone, which will cost approximately \$4,000, will be used, for example, at times when the sheriff's helicopter is not available. Unlike a helicopter, the drone flies so high up that it cannot be heard or seen from the ground. However, the chief assured the council that it will not be used for routine surveillance, which would violate the existing sheriff's policy on drone use. As well, it would not even be possible, he said, as the drone battery only lasts about 30 minutes.

Part of the presentation included footage from Lafayette's drone, which responded to an incident at the Orinda BART station when two thieves snatched a laptop and took off into the hills, where they could not be followed in a vehicle. The drone was able to locate the two men, who were then success-

fully arrested by OPD officers.

Drones must be operated by certified pilots. Ladner is one of 20 sheriff's officers currently certified, and it is expected that more officers will become certified as well. In addition, Nagel would like every officer to be trained as a "spotter," an officer who looks out for other aircraft. The drone is small and can be kept in a backpack in a police vehicle, thus readily available when the need arises. The drone will be owned by the city, and will be operated according to sheriff policy. The drone will be a one-time purchase, funded with the money raised from the public. Maintenance costs are low. For example, replacement blades costs about \$10 each. The drone should not require replacement for at least three or four years.

The drone will also have a public address system, so it could be used to alert the public in the event of a dangerous situation. It will be equipped with an HDMI port and will broadcast on a secured network to police computers and perhaps to other devices as well.

The council was enthusiastic. Council Member Nick Kosla described the purchase as "a big bang for your buck," and Council Member Amy Worth was impressed with the technology that can improve safety in the community, including use for search and rescue as well as crime fighting. Council Member Darlene Gee thought it was the best demonstration since she's been on the council.

North Orinda fire evacuation drill runs smoothly

... continued from Page A6

Community volunteers from both Lamorinda CERT and the Lamorinda Radio Interest Group were used in this drill, as they had been in the earlier drill. The volunteers were deployed along with professional first responders to provide traffic safety and help collect data along the evacuation routes.

The first pulse of evacuating cars at 7:09 a.m. was led out by a fire engine. The evacuation was fast and smooth, and those cars reached the freeway at 7:18 a.m. The difference between this drill and the earlier drill along Moraga Way was that this drill covered more ground more quickly. All

evacuees were out of the area well before 8 a.m., when Miner Road was restored to its usual two-way flow.

According to Rein, the Evacuation Decision Support System being developed by MOFD was also tested that morning. This was the first full-cycle, field test of the tool. Beginning with a small fire detection, modeling potential fire spread, recommending evacuation areas and finally maintaining a common operating picture for fire, law enforcement and community warning was an amazing success. MOFD looks forward to future developments and implementation. The drill was recorded by a drone as part of this system and the first pulse of the evacuation

was also recorded from the leading fire engine.

Other observers and participants that Rein identified included the Office of Emergency Services, the Moraga and Lafayette police departments, MOFD's Communications-Support Unit, the Reno Fire Department and the Kensington-El Cerrito CERT. Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel said during the debriefing that there actually was an incident on the evacuation route during the drill: a car stalled and the evacuation team was able to quickly figure out how to continue the drill. The drill, he said, was really important, and so much was learned.

Video of the drill captured by the drone and from the fire engine is available to view on the MOFD website at www.mofd.org/announcements/north-orinda-evacuation-exercise-update.

Orinda Union School District Registration Information

Transitional Kindergarten and kindergarten registration for children entering an Orinda public school in August will open be on the following dates:
Wednesday, Feb. 6 Thursday, Feb. 7

Visit www.orindaschools.org to register online
Kindergarten students must be at least 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, and if a child has their fifth birthday between Sept. 2 and Dec. 2, they are eligible for Transitional Kindergarten.
For additional information regarding registration instructions, please check the OUSD website: www.orindaschools.org

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- Inform the public about expenditures of bond proceeds from recently passed Measures E & I.
- Review expenditures to ensure bond proceeds are spent for authorized purposes.
- Provide an annual report to the Board of Trustees at a public meeting.

CBOC Member Terms and Meeting Information

Terms of service are two years, and no CBOC member may serve more than three consecutive terms. CBOC meetings must occur at least once per year and will not exceed quarterly.

Committee Representation

The CBOC will include seven (7) total members:

- Business organization (1)
- Taxpayers organization (1)
- Senior citizens organization (1)
- Parent/guardian of a student enrolled in OUSD (1)
- Parent/guardian of a student enrolled in OUSD who is active in support of the District (1)
- Community at large (2)

More Information

For more information or to request an application, contact Debbie Jamieson at djamieson@orindaschools.org or by phone at (925) 258-6201. **Deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. on March 4, 2019.**

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Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Feb. 20, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.
Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez. For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Wells elected to California Professional Firefighters executive board



Vince Wells, new CPF vice president

By Nick Marnell

Vince Wells, president of the United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County, Local 1230, has been elected the 4th District vice president

for the California Professional Firefighters organization. Wells took office Jan. 25.

CPF, the largest statewide organization dedicated exclusively to serving the needs of career firefighters, includes more than 175 local affiliates, representing some 30,000 front line firefighters and paramedics. CPF services include legislative work and advocacy on behalf of the fire service and are directed to members through the leadership of these local affiliates. The 4th District, one of eight in California, comprises the nine-county Bay Area.

An Air Force veteran with more than 20 years in the fire service, Wells has served for 11 years as Local 1230 president. In that role, he represents members from five different agencies, including the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. Wells, a ConFire cap-

tain, led firefighters from both Lamorinda fire districts though their recent labor negotiations.

CPF President Brian Rice noted that Wells has been an active and engaged participant in local and state issues on behalf of firefighters and all working people. "You become an advisor to a lot of fire agencies though the 1230 job," Wells said. "With that experience comes a lot of knowledge that I look forward to passing on to other fire agencies."

Wells said that continuing to secure local funding from state cap-and-trade revenue to advance wildfire protection will be a top goal in his new position. The cap-and-trade program, which began in 2012 and targets greenhouse gas reduction, has brought in billions of dollars of revenue to California.

New mileage markers relieve the mystery of driving on Pinehurst Road



Photo Nick Marnell

More readable and highly reflective

By Nick Marnell

In order to allow quicker access to the area for emergency vehicles, and to help drivers navigate a remote and tortuous road, mileposts along the six miles of Pinehurst Road in Contra Costa County have been upgraded thanks to the efforts of the Canyon community, the county and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

According to Canyon resident Jonathan Goodwin, people would wreck their cars or bicycles on Pinehurst and not have any idea where they were. What do they tell the 911 operator? And how would the dispatchers convey accurate location information

to emergency responders? "A call would come in, emergency vehicles would get to the Pinehurst and Redwood Road intersection, and the ambulance would turn left and the engine would go right. A lot of time was wasted," Goodwin said.

Community residents said that it was time to upgrade the Pinehurst markers which, according to MOFD emergency preparedness coordinator Dennis Rein, were useless because no one could understand what they meant. So with the cooperation of county and fire district officials, easily visible and understood mileposts were installed in early January. The markers are spaced one-tenth of a mile apart along Pinehurst for one mile from the Alameda County line to Canyon Road, then for five miles through Canyon to the city of Oakland at Skyline Boulevard.

"Even in this age of technology, it's difficult to navigate through Canyon," said Mike Giles of the Contra Costa County Public Works Department, who agreed that the older posts were hard for motorists to understand as the signs were used mainly to mark drainage inlets and shoulder dropoffs. "We used the highest and most reflective film available. The new signs will stand out in the fog

and the smoke." Giles said that the day the workers were installing the mileposts, a tree fell across Pinehurst Road and the crew used the new markers in giving directions to the East Bay Municipal Utility District to come and remove it.

MOFD responds to emergency calls in Canyon but the calls are dispatched by the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. "The location of each of these new mile markers has recently been shared with the Contra Costa Regional Fire Communications Center so they will be available for quick reference to assist callers," said William Pigeon, ConFire assistant chief, communications division.

The milepost upgrade is not the only project the Canyon community has recently spearheaded to aid first responders. In 2018, residents put up street signs, and many homes now include house numbers. "Meeting folks at the Canyon post office was not the best way to respond to emergencies," Rein said.

Rein applauded the Canyon residents for taking additional steps to protect themselves from wildfires, including organizing community brush-cutting days and hiring a goat herd to graze away hazardous fuels.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



Jan. 15 - Jan. 27

Alarms	21
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	59
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Service to Citizen	43
Patrol Request/ Security Check	24
Supplemental Report	4
Welfare Check	5

Vehicle violations

Abandoned Vehicle	2000 Block Donald Dr.
	2000 Block Donald Dr.
	100 Block Natalie Dr.
Excessive Speed	Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
	Rheem Blvd./Pd Dolores/Moraga Rd.
	Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr.
	Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
	Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.
	Rheem Blvd./Stewart Ct.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	Moraga Way/St Andrews Dr.
Reckless Driving	St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.
	St. Marys College
Traffic Hazard	Old Moraga Trail/Sanders Range
	Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.

Other criminal activity

Fraud Credit Card	Not Available
	10 Block Corte Azul
Fraud False Pretenses	100 Block Natalie Dr.
Grand Theft	400 Block Center St.
Identity Theft	400 Block Tharp Dr.
Petty Theft	10 Block Thorndale Pl.
Rape	St. Marys College
Robbery Strongarm	CVS Moraga Shopping Center

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbing The Peace	600 Block Rheem Blvd.
	2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Loud Party	600 Block Rheem Blvd.
Public Assembly Check	Rheem Valley Shopping Center (3)
Public Nuisance	3800 Block Via Granada
Vandalism	2000 Block Ascot Dr.

Other

Accident Property	Library
	900 Block Country Club Dr.
	Moraga Rd./Center St.
Fish And Game	20 Block Del Rio Ct.
Violation Custody Order	1700 Block St. Andrews Dr.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

Jan. 13 - Jan. 26

Alarms	45
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	68
Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subject	11
Suspicious Vehicle	10
Service to Citizen	49
Patrol Request/ Security Check	18
Vacation House Check	13
Supplemental Report	19
Welfare Check	4

Vehicle violations

DUI Misdemeanor	600 Block Moraga Way
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	10 Block Orinda Way
Reckless Driving	Theatre Square
	Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd
	Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24
	San Pablo Dam Rd./Camino Pablo
Vehicle Theft	20 Block Van Ripper Ln.

Other criminal activity

Assault W/ Deadly Weapon	30 Block Ivy Dr.
Burglary	Safeway
Commercial Burglary	40 Block Robert Rd.
Fraud False Pretenses	Police Department
Misc Burglary	30 Block Charles Hill Cr.
Ordinance Violation	10 Block Orchard Rd.
	10 Block Orchard Rd.
Petty Theft From Vehicle	10 Block Sycamore Rd.

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbing The Peace	100 Block Scenic Dr.
Harassment	CVS
Public Assembly Check	CVS
	300 Block Camino Pablo
Public Nuisance	Meadow Ln./Glorietta Blvd
	60 Block Orchard Rd.
Vandalism	Starbucks

Other

Accident Injury	Moraga Way/Estabueno Dr.
Accident Property	100 Block Rheem Blvd.
	Manzanita Dr./Camino Pablo
Checks Non Suff Funds	20 Block Orinda Way
Failure To Obey	Camino Pablo/Wildcat Canyon Rd.
Failure To Obey	Caldecott
Unauthorized Possession	Safeway

We are still awaiting reports from the Lafayette Police Department.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.
Send a letter to the editor:

letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Letters to the editor

Editor: Having endured yet another frustrating program by someone who didn't know the difference between public speaking and ordinary talking, I urge speakers to recognize the differences between the two forms of communication. Public speaking requires that you speak slower, louder, and with enhanced enunciation.

The continuous form of modern talking is unsuitable for public speaking, but we still hear long sentences that drift away quietly in a listless search for a period. Speak to me and the other old guys with poor hearing.

Dale Walwark
Moraga

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 must be factually accurate and 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

Housing trends exposed at Home Expo

... continued from Page A3

Curious about the services offered and thinking about upgrades to the gutters on his home, he entered with eyes wide open. "Yes, I've had work done on my home," he said. "I like that I can come here and get a connection to a real person. It's important to trust your gut feeling: Is this a company that will answer the phone, or will I go through three voicemails and never reach a live person?"

As visitors walked along the exhibitor booths, it was surprisingly easy for them to gauge the "human factor." Across the board, the selling energy was high, but in an unscientific survey, visitors remained longer and asked more questions at some tables than at others. Sure enough, the "quick hit" locations had salespeople who turned off the charm and patience when speaking to a journalist. Others, perhaps recognizing that anyone is a potential client, spent considerable time explaining their company's services and business ethics.

"We're super niche, but sturdy staircases are vital to a home," said Gina Creamer, owner of All Things Interior. The Concord-based, family-owned company founded in 2001 specializes in staircase construction and remodeling and offers cabinet refacing and wood fabricating. "Even so, what matters most is working closely, working well, with clients. If they're not comfortable and informed, I'm not doing my job," said Creamer.

A few tables away, Jae Chyun said he has represented Napa-based Green Stock Solar for seven years. A Lafayette resident, he takes extra pleasure in spreading to neighbors among his clients that a 30 percent tax credit many assume has expired is still in force through 2019. "It was supposed to end, but it was extended. It goes down to 26 percent in 2020, 22 percent in 2021. After that, you've missed the train."

The company does not lease, but sells and installs solar systems. "You own it, so there's no increasing payments, early termination fees, and it adds value to the property," said Chyun. A cost analysis showed the difference between owning and leasing; other materials outlined equipment and installation costs and the years required before reduced or free energy supplies pay for the original expenditure.

Jules is the cloud-based homeowner app created by tech entrepreneur and Lafayette resident Kent Godfrey who said having a digital record of everything in a

home has unprecedented value. (Lamorinda Weekly writer Sora O'Doherty wrote a feature about the company published in the Jan. 9 issue.) In addition to keeping digital tabs on appliances and home energy systems, the app can be customized to catalogue unique garden sculptures, light fixtures, relationships and histories with contractors and home service people, insurance and tax records and more. "It gives a framework that's a win-win for owners, potential buyers, everyone. If your house burns down, the burden of proof for its contents to the insurance company rests on you. This gives you proof," said Godfrey. Multi-factor authentication and top-level encryption provides robust security. "Of the 350 item types available on the app, only about five, like your social security number if you choose to include it, are hypersensitive." Including a 90-day free trial period, current annual cost for the app launched in 2017 begins at \$99 for 15 months (\$135 after the early bird offer expires).

But many people at the expo came for less tech-centric reasons. "We're about to do a big remodel and want to see what's out there," said Orinda resident Jennifer Pister. After dreaming for 20 years about adding a master bedroom for the home built in 1950 she shares with her husband—and until recently, two children now adults—she said, "I've never gotten to create my own space. Now with the kids gone, we're knocking down their two bedrooms." A bathroom designed with areas for separate shower, tub, sinks and other features she said is "different than the way others do it, but the plan works for us."

Approximately 500 people on average visit the annual expo. Pritchett said trends this year include heightened interest in solar systems that he attributed to uncertainty about the future of PG&E; increased knowledge and interest in hi- and lo-tech solutions like smart appliances and whole house fans that cool a home without air conditioning; and notable demand for home services across the spectrum, supported by an improving economy and fueled by busy lifestyles. "Options to make life easier are big," Pritchett said, as are projects that repurpose materials. "If you can clean deck wood instead of toss it, or reuse in your home a door like one I tore down from the barn on my property—or the wagon wheel we turned into a light fixture—people every year want to make the most of their homes."

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- 9 An abundance of gluten-free options are available for breakfast, lunch and dinner.
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Email ship@lafayettepackandship.com Web lafayettepackandship.com

Luck Women's Boutique opens in Lafayette

By Jenn Freedman

Lafayette gained a new luxury women's (and girls) clothing boutique Jan. 8 when local mom Lorin Platto opened Luck. A recent East Bay transplant from San Francisco, Lorin was inspired to bring some of the city's boutique culture to Lamorinda. "I have loved fashion all my life and have always wanted to open a boutique ... and I am not getting any younger!"

The store is a high-end clothing and lifestyle retailer with a curated collection of unique brands. "Luck is a women's version of a candy store. Lots of bright colors, beautiful fabrics, and surprises ... and when you walk in, you get excited about all of

the fun that awaits you in the store," explains Platto.

Current brands include Sundry, Terez, Velvet, Bella Dahl, IRO, 360 Cashmere and more. Inventory is constantly updated, with additional brands coming in this spring/summer like Current Elliott, LNA, Sea, Warm, Poupette St. Barth and Rachel Comey.

In addition, Luck has a limited collection of girls' casual wear, primarily in sizes 4-10. The store has several mother/daughter brands that share similar fabrics and styles. It will also carry girls' Ancient Greek sandals for the summer and accessories like unicorn rings and hair bows.

The boutique also focuses on customer service: Luck offers ultimate shopping flexi-

bility by allowing Lamorinda customers to pre-shop online, and Luck will deliver the clothing to your doorstep to try on in the comfort of your own home before you commit to buy. Luck will even pick up unpurchased items within

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Currently Luck is open

Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Hours may vary in the future, so be sure to check at lucklafayette.com.

Happy shopping!



Photo Jenn Freedman

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The Peter Pan Foundation moves into new Lafayette Location



Photo provided

Community members gathered Jan. 10 to celebrate the grand opening of the new Peter Pan Foundation location on Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette.

Submitted by Gina Campo

The Peter Pan Foundation – a 12-year-old Lafayette non-profit organization that inspires children of all ages to reach their full potential by encouraging confidence, character, and creativity through music and theater, while instilling the value and benefits of community outreach – celebrated its grand opening and ribbon cutting with the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce at its new location, 3355 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette on Jan. 10. It was a longtime dream come true for founder Leslie Noel.

"Helping young hearts to fly is so much more than just our slogan at the Peter Pan Foundation," explained Noel. "It represents our mission to provide the young – and the young at heart – an enthusiastic environment in which participants are inspired to discover and develop their creative talents, while also teaching them important lessons about their responsibility to take care of themselves and others."

The new location will provide a more nurturing and inspiring environment for the organization to expand their mission to spread love and light to those who

need them most. "We are thrilled to welcome the Peter Pan Foundation to our Lafayette Chamber," said Barbara Gilmore, the Lafayette Chamber member services director. "The ribbon cutting that was held at their new location was filled with excitement and energy beyond belief. What a pleasure to get to know how impactful this foundation is for our community and other communities," she continued. "The kids not only learn to give back but to believe in themselves and to build their confidence. We love Leslie Noel and the kids!"

Town discusses use of upcoming injection of Palos Colorados funds

... continued from Page A5

Trotter concluded, "It's a chance for this council to leave a lasting and visible legacy that will benefit Moraga's children, families and everybody here for generations to come."

Mayor Roger Wykle cited many of the immediate needs of the town by naming storm drain maintenance costs, asset replacement, unfunded pension liability, and as Moraga grows, more legal fund issues. However, he said, "We

also need to do some nice things for Moraga."

Vice Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus and council members Mike McCluer and Steve Woehleke all agreed that infrastructure needs come first and that it is crucial for the town to build up its General Fund reserves in the event of another unforeseen calamity.

Council Member Renata Sos summarized, "Given that the timing and the potential inflow of additional funds is uncertain, I would love to be optimistic, but I believe we

need to be conservative, and I think the conservative view would be to take this a step at a time." She concluded, "In my view, it would be premature for us at this juncture, before we know about the timing and certainty of any additional funds, to make any hard and fast rules or set any hard and fast policies about how we're going to use the money."

With that, Wykle advised Battenberg to "stay the course."

Moraga schools excel in the Greatest Kindness Challenge



Photo Bess Inzeo

MPD's Cpl. Angela Likos at Donald L. Rheem

By Vera Kochan

The 19th century novelist Henry James was quoted as saying, "Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind."

The Moraga School District's grades TK-5 participated in the nationwide Great Kindness Challenge week Jan. 28 through Feb. 1. In 2018, over 10 million students in nearly 20,000 schools committed over 500 million acts of kindness in 103 countries.

The challenge was presented by Kids of Peace, a global 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization co-founded in 2006 by a high school honor student and an elementary school teacher. It started with a group of neighborhood kids wanting to make the world a better place. In 2011, the program was introduced to three Carlsbad, California elementary schools and from there the kindness movement took off.

The Kids of Peace website stated, "At the heart of The Great Kindness Challenge is the simple belief that kindness is strength. We also believe that as an action is repeated, a habit is formed. As kindness becomes a habit, peace becomes possible," adding, "The Great Kindness Challenge is a grassroots movement that is making our schools, communities and world a kinder and more compassionate place for all. Working together we joyfully prove that kindness matters."

Throughout the week, various discussions, activities and challenges were presented to the students, such as encouraging kids to play with someone new at recess; greeting each other with high fives and hugs; reading daily quotes ("Sprinkle kindness like confetti!") or watching a powerful video at www.kindnessboomerang.com called "One Day."

Local "celebrities" made daily appearances to the participating schools in the Moraga School District. Camino Pablo Elementary, Los Perales

Elementary and Donald L. Rheem Elementary schools were treated to short presentations on the importance of kindness by Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns; Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Jennifer Baier; Director of Pupil Services Susan Bishop; Moraga Mayor Roger Wykle; Moraga Council Member Renata Sos; Moraga Police Department Cpl. Angela Likos, officers Randy Pacheco, Craig Walker and Jeff Yanga; the Saint Mary's College women's volleyball team and the Cal men's baseball team.

During one appearance, MOFD Capt. Jon Bensley, engineer Chris Mathews, firefighter Andrew Leach, firefighter Travis Dulli and probationary firefighter Thomas Schwedhelm greeted arriving students at Camino Pablo with high fives and stickers proclaiming each recipient a junior firefighter. "We always try to do something with the community to raise awareness," Bensley said. "It's nice to educate the children, and we love public service."

As the firefighters mingled with the students during recess on a gloomy and overcast morning, the kids' beaming smiles brightened the day. Groups of admirers attached themselves to each firefighter and simultaneously asked questions sounding much like little chirping birds. When questioned, "Does anyone want to be a firefighter?" The response was a resounding and unanimous, "Yes!"

Event organizer, Bess Inzeo, Moraga School District's school counselor was very pleased with the results. "This is the first time all of the schools have participated at the same time." She added, "It's been a great week! I've gotten emails from parents about their children continuing the acts of kindness at home."

The Great Kindness Challenge also has a Family Edition. Visit the website at www.GreatKindnessChallenge.org for more information.



Photo Vera Kochan

Visiting members of MOFD, from left: probationary firefighter Thomas Schwedhelm, firefighter Travis Dulli, engineer Chris Mathews, Capt. Jon Bensley and firefighter Andrew Leach at Camino Pablo Elementary School.

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Community comments on potential changes to downtown Orinda

... continued from Page A1

After the introduction, the crowd was ushered into the Community Center Founders Hall, where very large exhibits were available for the public to view. At the stations, colored sticky dots were available as well as sticky notes. Members of the public were invited to stick the dots to areas on the maps or aerial photographs to indicate areas where they would like to see improvement. They could also write comments and suggestions on the sticky notes and place them on the exhibits as well. At the final station, the culmination station, participants were invited to affix black dots to the projects that they would like the city of Orinda to study further.

As the participants moved around the hall, the consultants, staff and members of the city council were available to answer questions or generally chat about ideas for improving downtown Orinda. Light refreshments were provided. This part of the evening was allotted 90 minutes, after which the city council meeting resumed in the Library Auditorium. Owing to a somewhat late start, few participants returned to the meeting, but Nick Waranoff told the council that in his opinion there was too much emphasis on bicycle riders in the plans, whom he estimated to number about 50, versus the 10,000 licensed drivers who use downtown Orinda. He suggested that an inexpensive option would be to allow bicycle access to the

pedestrian bridge from the BART Station. This would be cost effective, he said, and might qualify for a Transportation Development Act Article 3 grant to rehabilitate the overpass.

Buckley informed the council of the next step in the process, which will take place on March 5. At that council meeting, staff and consultants will return with refined list of projects for the council's consideration. Between the workshop and the March meeting, staff will make available a live online survey for Orindans to continue to comment on the potential downtown improvements. The survey will remain available for two weeks.

Council Member Amy Worth thanked everyone, calling the response "so encouraging." She particularly thanked staff for their tremendous effort. Council Member Nick Kosla was impressed with the event, noting that he had gone to many such events in his career and this one was really well done. He decided to offer his preliminary response to the potential projects that night, rather than introducing them for the first time at the selection meeting in March. One of his overriding concerns is with the power lines that span downtown Orinda. He noted that Wilder had managed to have their power lines relocated, at an approximate cost of \$50,000, he believed.

San Pablo Creek is a huge asset, and Kosla suggested that studies be undertaken to determine how to enhance the

creek, for example, how to have the creek run all year long. He indicated that topography and hydrology studies will be needed, and that they will be expensive. There are now, he said, very good see-through sound barriers that could protect the creek area from the noise of traffic on Camino Pablo, while not impeding the views.

Moving on to the BART area, he said that the experience of walking from the Village to the Theatre District is unpleasant, dirty, and feels unsafe. He said that the Theatre district is "architecture forward," meaning that the buildings are beside the sidewalks, not separated by large parking lots in front, and added that he would like to see the same on the Village side. Kosla cited the successful downtown improvement project undertaken by Truckee. He also suggested that Orinda might adopt a theme, as Auburn has successfully deemed itself "The Endurance Capital of the World," and has attracted many outdoor activities.

Council Member Dennis Fay suggested that the city seek to obtain a grant to look at traffic circulation. This will probably require more money than the streetscape, he suggested.

The ConnectOrinda WebMap survey is now available. Comments will be received until 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15. The WebMap survey can be accessed using the link below:

More information and a link to the survey available at <http://www.cityoforinda.org/connectorinda>.

Chamber honors Moraga Business of the Year and Nonprofit of the Year

... continued from Page A4

Besides helping clients find their perfect home, she has bought and sold her own houses here several times, saying, "Lamorinda is where our heart is."

Sue Olsen's son, Ben, was born in Lafayette, raised in Orinda and now lives with his family in Moraga, but he didn't follow in his mother's footsteps right away. An early career in computer technology allowed his skills to help Sue's growing real estate firm become competitive. His tech job forced him to travel a lot, and he "noticed a lack of warmth toward clients in the tech industry." Appreciating the personal touch his mother provided to her clients, Ben began to work for Sue as an administrative assistant. He eventually earned his Realtor license, and under Sue's mentoring went on to sales. "By then I had a family and had a connection with others in the community who were looking for a family home," he said. "I had a common ground as to their needs."

When asked about the award Sue replied, "I was flabbergasted! It's the first time they did a Business of the Year, so it's a great honor!"

Ben added, "It's nice to have the whole team hon-

ored. It will have a special place in our hearts, because we all live in Moraga." The Olsen Team has eight employees. Their website is www.theolsenteam.com.

The Nonprofit of the Year recipient is Moraga Citizens Network (MCN), founded in 2005 by a group of 25 townspeople who felt it was important to keep its citizens informed and abreast of town council decisions and other pertinent town information.

Ellen Beans, MCN's executive director, states, "Though Moraga Citizens Network is not a 'business' in the usual sense of the word, we do have a business that focuses on communication to instill the desire in Moraga residents to participate in issues and events that are relevant to Moraga." The MCN Link, managed by Beans, has provided e-bulletin news to the town since 2008, when she took over the newsletter duties from Edy Schwartz. MCN can now claim 1,781 subscribers to their email list.

Though the numbers have dwindled from the original 25, the small army that constitutes the current MCN board is just as mighty. Diana Obrand, current president, helps Beans run board meetings, create the agenda and organize events such as last council member election's Candidates Night, a booth at

the Pear and Wine Festival and the upcoming Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Feb. 20 at the Hacienda de las Flores to honor the town staff.

Other board members include Tory Courtney, past president and event volunteer; Larry Beans, treasurer; Leslie Engler, webmaster; Ben Olsen; George Barron and Sharon Flower, secretary.

Beans said the Nonprofit of the Year award, "came as a complete surprise! I was thrilled! It's a great honor to be recognized this way." The board is hoping that this honor will give them more recognition within the community and gain new subscribers. Beans added, "Our donors allow us to pay for the constant contact and services that we sponsor." To subscribe and/or donate visit the MCN website at www.moragacitizensnetwork.org.

To purchase tickets for the awards celebration, held at the Moraga Country Club on Tuesday, Feb. 19 (confirmed attendees are Supervisor Candace Andersen, Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahn and Moraga Mayor Roger Wykle) with a reception starting at 6 p.m., dinner and presentation ceremony to follow, visit www.moragachamber.org or call Kathe Nelson @ (925) 323-6524. Seating is limited.



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The question of cows



Cows on Lamorinda hills

Photo Andy Scheck

By John T. Miller

A recent spat of postings on a Saranap social media site addressing the issue of cows in the open space has brought attention to the risk of injury versus the benefits of grazing cattle. It's safe to say the community is divided on the matter.

Many residents claim that local open space, including Briones Regional Park, is for public enjoyment. They argue that it is unacceptable for grazing cattle – with the inherent risk of injury – to interfere with a hiker's enjoyment. Just as many residents, it seems, cite the benefits of having cows graze in the open spaces.

A 2015 Agricultural and Natural Resources Publication from the University of California identified many benefits of cattle grazing on public lands, including their choice to consume non-native plants, encouraging the growth of native plants. Livestock also benefit grasslands by trampling plants and making trails. Trampling can limit the invasion of shrubs, thus reducing potential fuel for wildfires.

Non-native grassland plants produce high levels of very flammable fuels, and the shrubs that invade ungrazed lands burn hotter and longer than grass in grazed grasslands. According to the report, the removal of grazing has caused “a general increase in fire hazard within the open spaces of the San Francisco Bay Area.”

Grazing livestock helps increase opportunities for native wildflowers; maintains habitat for grassland birds such as the grasshopper sparrow and savannah sparrow; and supports an increase in the populations of four Bay Area federally endangered or threatened butterfly species. Grazing also helps preserve small mammals, such as the endangered San Joaquin kit fox, and native amphibians like the red-legged frog and the California tiger salamander.

Not all environmental effects are beneficial, however. Studies showing that grazing can compact the soil and cause erosion of the hillsides. Other studies show that soil compaction from grazing suppresses oak tree regeneration.

Several residents on the social media site tell of being injured or intimidated by cattle which can sometimes turn aggressive, or of having to find other places to hike due to the proximity of the cows.

According to Denise DeFreese, the Wildland Vegetation Program Manager with the East Bay Regional Park District, most complaints are lodged after wet weather. “Cows, horses, people and bikes tear up the muddy trails,” she says, “but cows seem to get the most blame.”

Some common sense safety measures can help

avoid confrontation with aggressive cows, such as not interfering between a mother and her calf, keeping dogs on a short leash, avoiding waving bright fabric, and steering clear of the cows. One writer says that taking a selfie with a cow is a particularly bad idea.

At a New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health webinar provided by AgriSafe, Libby Eiholzer, a dairy specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension, provided tips for interacting safely with the animals. Eiholzer points out that cows have a sharp sense of hearing, so that noises that aren't that loud to us could be startling to them. They also have poor depth perception, making them nervous in the dark and skittish of foreign objects. When cows are approached from behind, they have a “blind spot” and can get nervous and kick out at the intruder.

“While some animals fight when they are scared, cows are definitely flight animals, which can lead to a dangerous situation if a scared cow is running your direction or slips and falls,” says Eiholzer.

A persistent problem mentioned by many is dogs off leash bothering the cattle. They should be warned that California legislative action allows a person to kill a dog if they see it “persistently pursuing or worrying” livestock (or wounding or killing livestock), or if they have proof the dog has recently done so on land or premises which are not owned or possessed by the dog's owner.

In the most recent Wildland Management Procedures and Guidelines, the EBRPD states, “A well regulated grazing program is a proper means to maintain a parkland vegetation mosaic that includes substantial areas of grassland,” and that cattle grazing is a management tool.

One Springhill resident argues, “The park has a mandate to provide recreation for people. We are the taxpayers that make the park possible. There is no mandate for cows.”

The EBRPD information sheet on grazing points out, however, that “grazing animals were a part of the ecosystem of this region for many tens of thousands of years, with herbivores such as mammoths, ground sloths, horses, and camels and [other] historic grazers.” With woolly mammoths in short supply, cows seem to be a lucrative alternate.

DeFreese, who manages grazing leases for the EBRPD, reports that 43 ranchers are on board, with anywhere from about 15 head of cattle in Port Costa, up to nearly 200 in Sunol. The cost fluctuates, but ranchers currently pay \$20.85 per animal unit month on a 5-year lease (with an option on another 5 years). An animal unit includes a mother and a

calf. The money goes into the district general fund.

In one area above Acalanes, neighbor complaints forced the removal of cattle, but the ungrazed grasses led to extreme fire danger, forcing the use of goats – which are generally paid to graze – to remove the hazard.

Judging by the amount of back-and-forth on social media, it appears that this is an issue where “you can't please all of the people all of the time.”



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'What Will People Say' - a film that resonates close to home

By Sophie Braccini

The second movie by Norwegian director of Iraqi origin, Iram Haq, "What Will People Say" ("Hva vil folk si") is a suspenseful drama, sometimes difficult to digest, that shows how social pressure and traditional thinking of the Pakistani community living in Norway can push people to terrible extremes, such as kidnapping or forced marriage. It is also Haq's autobiography, told through Nisha, the heroine of the film who tells her own story and how she lived the same ordeal when she was 14 years old.

Nisha (Maria Mozhdah) lives a split life with her traditional family on one side – exemplified by the all-powerful figure of her father – and her Norwegian friends on the other side. There is no understanding between both lives, no possible compromise. Haq shows the prejudices of this ordinary Pakistani family that does not accept the "white's" way of life; these degenerate

people who they believe will end up alone and dishonored. Nisha lives by the laws of a country she had never seen, while being well integrated into the Norwegian society yet acutely aware of its conflicts with her family values. More than the mandatory virginity for girls before marriage, what is of primal importance in this microcosm is one's reputation. So when Nisha sneaks a boyfriend into her room, the catastrophe unfolds.

Haq shows with precision the slow downward spiral of a young girl who has done nothing wrong. As Nisha is thrown into situations she cannot evade, Haq draws a portrait of Afghanistan where the rights of women are definitely not the first priority. She nonetheless shows that love and beauty can be found even in the worst situations.

In an interview given during the Toronto International Film Festival where the movie was presented, Haq explained that her main point is that it is important for people

to be allowed to live free of social pressures. She said that she would like families to see the film together so that both teens and parents can have a better understanding of what each are going through.

This is certainly the most thought provoking aspect of the movie: to understand that all the bad treatment inflicted on Nisha by her family, and her own father, are perpetrated for her own good. Everyone is certain that what they are doing is done to give Nisha the best future possible. The love-hate relationship between the father and daughter is filmed beautifully by Haq through Nisha's eyes. How can she love a father who does to her what the story tells? The power of the film resides in the moral ambiguity of the relationship between a father and daughter who love each other, but whose conception of the world differs radically.

Haq, now 42 years old, said that it took her years before she was able to write the film, before the angry teenager had given way to a wiser person who also understood the pressure on her parents. She added that she was able to talk about the movie with her own father before he died, and that he apologized and encouraged her to complete her project.

"Nothing needs to stand still," Haq observed. "Things

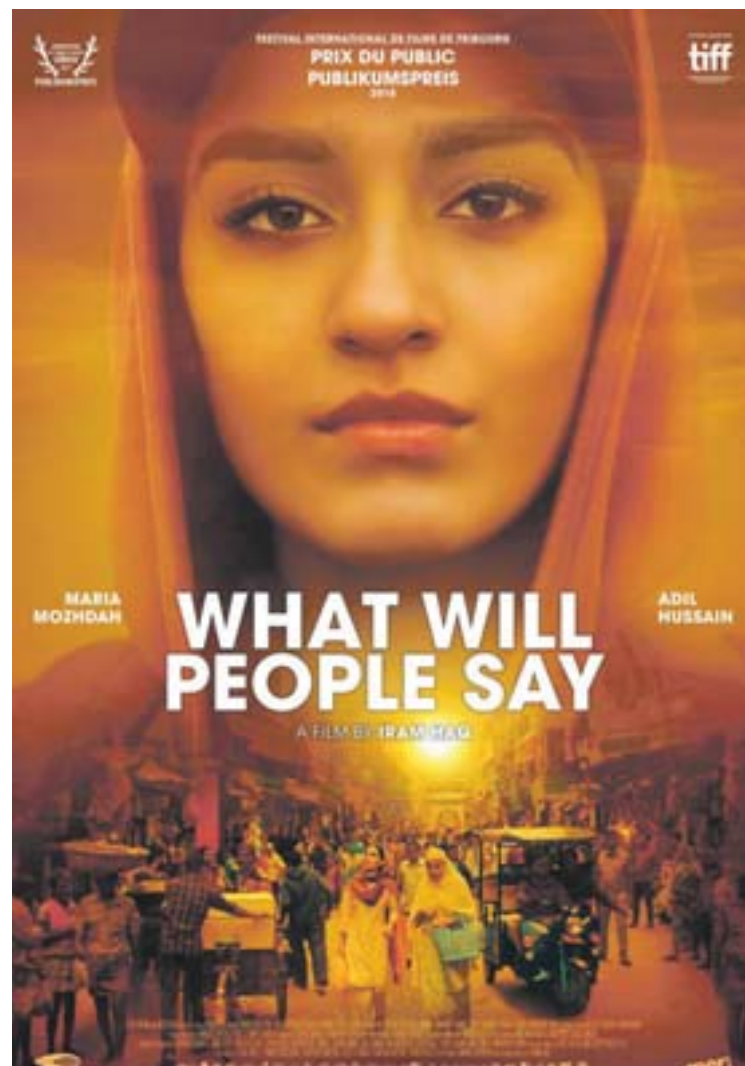


Image provided

can change."

"What Will People Say" will open at the Orinda Theatre on Feb. 8 for one week, followed by a week at the Rheem Theatre as part of the

International Film Showcase, which brings to Lamorinda notable international films recognized in festivals around the world and not yet released in the Bay Area.

Info: <http://internationalshowcase.org/>

Catherine Jolivet's legacy in the service of French culture



Photo provided

Testimony after testimony, a picture emerged of a fair, passionate and very direct woman, who called a spade a spade and that parents and their children could trust. One young woman explained how Jolivet literally saved her life in the metro in Paris when an evil person pushed her out of the metro car onto the platform as doors closed for departure. "Madame forcefully pried the doors open and retrieved me," remembered the grateful young woman.

Many talked about how Jolivet opened the hearts of the children to another country, another way of life and expanded their world vision from a very young age. Many traveled to France, with or without her and shared stories.

Parents and former students, sometimes together, followed one another to the microphone to express a mix of gratitude and sorrow.

But Jolivet was also a woman with tremendous will that confronted many difficulties in her life, from changing legislation that threatened her school, construction issues that forced her to move several times her Lafayette business, a difficult divorce, and finally a terrible battle with cancer that she fought until the end. One mother who visited her in Los Angeles where she moved for her last months to be close to her sons, recalled how she humanely talked about death with her and her daughter, giving a final lesson about the cycle of life.

In Lafayette Jolivet had been a strong supporter of the Chamber of Commerce, and Executive Director Jay Lifson says that "Madame Catherine" had a special spot in his heart, adding that her energy was boundless and her ability to connect people was remarkable. He says that he had the pleasure of working with her on re-establishing the Languedoc Society, Lafayette's sister city program with the village in France where the Marquis de la Fayette grew up. Jolivet spent her summer vacation in the French area of Auvergne where the city is set in 2015 and started to renew the ties between the two entities. Lafayette now needs to find a new "Madame" to pick up where she left off; it will not be easy.

and expression peppered conversations recalling some 35 years of memories.

Jolivet had come to the United States in the 1980s with only her passion for teaching and a child in tow. The beginnings were hard, and her second child told the surprised crowd that the future successful business woman started her life in the United States on food stamps.

The school was established in the 1990s and generations of children were educated by her, starting at just a few months of age. Even before total language immersion for small children became a proven benefit for childhood development, she started programs for very little ones where all they heard was French, in the form of stories, games, songs, acting, etc. As some of her former students recalled, she was about hands-on and multidimensional learning.

One former student explained that she believes that becoming bilingual as a preschooler was the reason why she is now a successful college student who speaks four different languages.

By Sophie Braccini

She was known simply as "Madame" to her students and their parents. Catherine Jolivet, a quintessential French woman who created and ran the French immersion school "French For Fun", recently died of cancer. Her family and friends organized a celebration of her life and legacy on Jan. 27 in Lafayette that highlighted the uncommon impact the woman had on her community.

Over 100 people of all ages came to the Lafayette Community Center where the gathering was held. "She was a life force and an amazing teacher," "she changed my life," "she taught us so much more than language," "she knew how to bend the rules when her students needed it," "she believed in children and their abilities." Those were a few of the comments made by parents and former students during the moving ceremony organized by Jolivet's son Robert Johnson for those who had loved Madame.

The crowd consisted mostly in English, but French words

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Hands-on access to STEM activities at LLLC Hackathon



Photo provided

By Lou Fancher

Free form, digital learning—the kind with no homework!—is on tap Feb. 23 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall. “Hack the Future 23” is a free, all-day extravaganza for youth ages 10-19 that offers demonstrations and hands-on access to STEM

activities led by tech industry professionals.

Presented by learningtech.org and led by volunteers of Tri Valley-based Hack the Future, support from the Friends of Lafayette Library, LLLC Foundation and Contra Costa County library system provides lunch, T-shirts and multiple activity stations. Pro-

gramming in JavaScript, Unity, Scratch, Python, C++, Chatbot; as well as exploration of virtual reality, soldering, micro:bit, raspberry pi and 3D Printing offer opportunity to sample the latest software and hardware technology.

“Digital literacy has become important to libraries as we have seen the dependence on computer and electronics increase in the workplace, schools and in the home,” says Teen Services Library Assistant Orlando Guzman. Understanding and facility with emerging technologies, Guzman emphasizes, has become not only a passion for many people, but an expected skill in the 21st century.

Library programs that allow students to tinker in non-academic settings without the pressure of grades invite them to take new risks or develop deeper understanding of prior interests. Enthusiasm for the

after-school or holiday workshops has grown enough to cause a remodeling of the library’s computer technology lab into a more open, collaborative classroom and maker space.

“The library has become a free place to explore all (digital literacy) with books, DVDs, online resources, guest speakers, and workshops to learn new skills and acquire a basic understanding,” says Guzman. Especially for youth, he says concepts involved with robotics, coding, 3D printing and other tech activities simultaneously encourage team problem solving and individual creativity. Free or low-cost programs open the adventure to youth regardless of economic situation. Mostly if not entirely untethered from fees and the “need to achieve,” youth thrive especially in the game-like atmosphere of events like “Hack the Future.”

Expecting about 70-100 youth to attend, Guzman suggests Hack the Future’s attraction is attributable in part to the lively spirit, but also due to the organization’s high-profile founders. “One of the founders of Hack the Future is Allan Alcorn, a founder of Atari and the creator of Pong, one of the first, if not the first commercially successful coin-op video game. As another fun aside, Al Alcorn also has the distinction of being one of Steve Jobs’ first bosses.”

Youth attending the hackathon are encouraged to bring their own laptops. Guzman estimates the library will have 20 available to lend for the day. For more information about recommended software downloads to install prior to attending the event, visit <https://hackthefuture.org/software/>. To access a required medical information sheet, go to <https://hackthefuture.org/documents/medical.pdf>.

For information and to register for the program, visit <https://ccplib.evanced.info/signup/eventdetails?eventid=176765&lib=11>

Campolindo student musicians help teach the teachers for a day



Photo Kathi Torres

Johnny Johnson conducting the Campolindo Symphonic Band

Submitted by Kathi Torres

Before dawn on a recent Saturday morning, the Campolindo Symphonic Band and their music director Johnny Johnson boarded buses headed for San Jose State University. Their destination was a workshop for the Bay Section of California Music Educators who had gathered to hone their craft and gain new skills.

As the Campo students took their places with instruments in hand, music teachers from throughout the Bay Area sat behind them on stage to watch and learn. Dr. Eric Hammer introduced “The Art of Teaching from the Podium,” designed to impart effective ways of developing musicianship within the structure of large student ensembles. Campolindo Symphonic Band was happy to serve as the test subjects when two young mu-

sic instructors took the podium to learn how (and how not) to teach music.

During two mini-rehearsal sessions, teachers were coached on effective utilization of skills and behaviors. Then Johnny Johnson showed them all how it’s done, concluding the morning by conducting a movement from Ticheli’s “Four Shaker Songs.”

As anyone who has witnessed a fledgling musician learn to play an instrument can attest, it takes a special kind of person to teach music. It requires much more than conveying the right note at the right time. Teachers must encourage, inspire, and promote cooperation and synergy among a diverse group of kids, with the goal of preparing their students for a lifetime of music.

Lamorindans are notably supportive of the arts and our children are often the lucky beneficiaries of that commitment, as Campo’s performance for the Music Educators’ workshop proved. The

public is invited to hear their outstanding musicianship for themselves at two upcoming concerts: Strings Orchestra on Wednesday, Feb. 13, and the

Symphonic Band on Thursday, Feb. 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the Campolindo Performing Arts Center.

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Cantor’s Concert ‘Coming Together: Songs of Unity and Community’ at Temple Isaiah



Photo provided

Cantor Leigh Korn Submitted by Jen Boxerman

Temple Isaiah’s Cantor Leigh Korn presents “Coming Together: Songs of Unity and Community,” featuring a stellar cast of cantors from across the country at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21 in the Temple Isaiah Sanctuary in Lafayette.

Joining Cantor Korn will be: Cantor Sara Hass of Temple Israel, Long Beach, California; Cantor Juval Porat of Beth Chaim Chadashim, Los Angeles, California; Cantor Jen Rother, Temple Shomer Emunim, Sylvania, Ohio; Cantor Rollin Simmons, Congregation Emanu El, Houston, Texas; Cantor Dan Singer, Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, New York, New York; Cantor Dan Sklar, Temple Israel, Westport, Connecticut; and Cantor Shirah Sklar, Temple Shalom, Norwalk, Connecticut; with Daniel Lockert on piano.

“At this year’s Cantor’s Concert, we will be celebrating the strength of music to bring us together,” Korn said. “The concert will feature some of the most exciting vocal and musical talents in the Reform cantorate to celebrate both music about coming together and music that brings us together. Whether at concerts, social events, or services, music can help us connect, cooperate, and care for each other. When we are in sync musically with our neighbors in the pews, we are strengthened in mind and spirit.”

The concert is sponsored by the Cantor’s Music Fund, with a dessert reception sponsored by Women of Isaiah. (Special thanks to co-chairs Karen Goldberg and Lynn Epstein.) Tickets are \$36. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

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Boys Team Charity supports homeless families through Grateful Gatherings



Photos Linda Choi

Submitted by Anouschka Wardy

The Lamorinda chapter of Boys Team Charity – a volunteer service organization dedicated to developing civic service in young men through active participation in their communities – annually participates in Adopt-a-Family. This year, BTC Lamorinda partnered

with Grateful Gatherings to bring joy and hope to six families in need. When a family transitions from homelessness or crisis into a new home in the Bay Area, Grateful Gatherings helps them furnish it. To help these families make Christmas special, BTC's TeamMates went shopping, wrapped and delivered gifts, trees and stockings.



Hard work brings beauty to Moraga hillsides this spring



The December 2018 Volunteer Planting Crew

Photos provided

Submitted by Steve Woehleke

Spring is almost here and daffodils, which this year include flowers from 2,000 additional bulbs, are sprouting along Moraga Road near the Commons Park.

Each fall the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley adds bulbs to the field of Daffodils as part of its efforts to enhance the lives of children, families and seniors – in this case through beautiful spring flowers. The Moraga Garden Center has also planted daffodil bulbs, and this year owner Kenny Murakami instructed the volunteers on the history and characteristics of daffodils, and proper planting techniques.

The volunteers ranged from the very young to the “some-

what mature” with many in-between. Joan Bruzzone donated 1,000 of the bulbs, and joined the group as volunteer. All had fun on the beautiful sunny day (after rains had softened the soil).

For the many who knew Dr. John Heckle, think of him as you enjoy the flowers he helped plant only weeks prior to his unexpected passing.



Supervisors and worker

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.

Girl Scouts earn cooking badge and serve homeless



Photo Mary Markey

From left: Nicole Buchman, Keona Cozzatti, Piper Ward, Mary Markey, Izzy Thies, Christina Rago, Fiona Markey, Ellie Doane, Abby Christensen, and Cami Baxter.

Submitted by Mary Markey

A sixth-grade Girl Scout Troop from Moraga worked toward earning their “New Cuisines” badge and served their dishes to homeless seniors Jan. 5 at the St. Mary’s Center in Oakland.

St. Mary’s Center provides the only winter shelter exclusively for seniors in the Bay Area. Seniors, feeling acutely vulnerable, often avoid shelters that are full of younger people, and opt to sleep out on the street. The shelter is open from the beginning of December through the end of April. The shelter guests receive a home-cooked dinner courtesy of volunteers like the Moraga Girl Scouts.

For this Moraga Troop, it was a

perfect opportunity to combine working toward a new skills badge and giving back to the community. The commercial kitchen at the center is well suited for accommodating 12 aspiring chefs. The girls have started working on a cadette badge called “New Cuisines,” which includes learning to prepare dishes from other countries and other regions of the United States. For this particular cooking class, they made a menu straight out of the south with Louisiana favorites. Homemade gumbo, rice, broccoli and cauliflower casserole, and potato salad, made from scratch, were prepared and enjoyed by all. Three brownie (third grade) scouts competed the meal with a banana bread pudding for dessert.

In Memory

Mary Bailey Litzenberger

Aug 6, 1932 – Dec 31, 2018



Mary Bailey Litzenberger, a resident of Moraga for 28 years, passed away Dec 31, 2018. She was born Aug 6, 1932 in Everetts, North Carolina to Paul and Delia Bailey. She was a history major at Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina and met her husband Earle D. Litzenberger, an NROTC cadet and geology student at nearby UNC Chapel Hill. They married in 1953. As the wife of a career officer in the Marine Corps, she did a lot of traveling and also taught first and second grade. They retired in San Diego in 1983. After Earle passed away, Mary moved to Moraga in 1990. She was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church, participating in Ladies Aid, Altar Guild, and Bible Study. She suffered

from lupus much of her adult life and with the progression of macular degeneration, had to give up driving and required a part-time caregiver. After breaking her foot in Sep and suffering complications, she succumbed from COPD and heart disease on New Year’s Eve. Her husband Earle and sister Lois preceded her in death. She is survived by her children Libby Holbrook (late husband Steve) of Moraga and Lee Litzenberger (wife Marianne) of Maryland; her grandchildren Andrew Litzenberger (wife Tara) of New Jersey, Bryan Holbrook (wife Jamie) of California, and Ashley Litzenberger of Virginia; her great grandchildren Zachary and Eliana Litzenberger; her brother Bill Bailey (wife Rose) of North Carolina; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial services are not confirmed, but the family may be contacted for details.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

As seen in Lamorinda...



Sunrise over Mt. Diablo

Photo Jennifer Spalding

Sweet puffy, and pink melt-in-your-mouth Valentine's Day treats



Valentine's Cookies

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

When I was a young girl, I used to love to cook with my grandmother in her vintage '60s Orinda kitchen. One day when I was visiting her from my home state of Michigan, we made these amazing meringue cookies with mint chocolate chips. She called them "forgotten" cookies, because we put them in the oven and proceeded to

forget about them for several hours, or even overnight. They were delightful little sweet puffs that melted in your mouth. I got to thinking about them the other day, and decided that with a little splash of pink, they'd make pretty Valentine's treats. Instead of mint chips, I used dark chocolate chips and they are so tasty. Gigi would have loved a basket of these as a Valentine's treat!

Forgotten Valentine's Cookies

(Makes approximately 2 dozen)

INGREDIENTS

- 3 egg whites
- ¼ teaspoon cream of tartar
- Pinch of salt
- ¾ cup superfine sugar (ordinary granulated sugar will also work)
- 1-2 drops of red food coloring
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¾ cup dark chocolate chips (I use Ghirardelli 60% cacao chocolate chips)

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

Place egg whites, cream of tartar and salt in a large bowl. Using an electric beater or stand mixer, beat egg whites with cream of tartar and salt until egg whites are frothy and white and hold soft peaks.

Gradually add the sugar in small batches and continue to beat on medium-high until all of the sugar has been added. This will take a couple of minutes. Continue to beat for another minute or two until egg whites are shiny and hold a stiff peak when the beaters are lifted from the bowl. Beat in vanilla extract and a drop or two of red food coloring (just enough to turn the egg whites pink).

Gently fold the chocolate chips into the batter.

Drop by large spoonfuls onto prepared baking sheets.

Place baking sheets in oven, shut the door and TURN OVEN OFF.

Leave meringues in oven for at least 4 hours, or even overnight, until cookies are crisp and dry. Store in an airtight container.



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

Calming cats during vet visits

Fears and anxieties in pets – Part 3



Illustration Jaya Griggs

By Mona Miller, DVM

As a continuation of a four-part series addressing fears and anxieties in pets (especially during veterinary visits), I'd like to pay some attention to our feline friends. Most cats like to do what they do, in their own time and space. If we are lucky, cats will cuddle with us, sit on our laps, allow us to pet and adore them. Cats often don't travel in cars much (there are some exceptions) and generally don't like to be put in carriers (again, some exceptions). So when it's time to take your cat to the vet for its annual wellness exam and vaccines, it can be a bit traumatic for all parties involved to find the cat, put it in the carrier that is used only a couple times a year, travel in the car and endure the howling or plaintive meows. Once you get to the vet, there's still

a car ride back home, and then the "emotional punishment" that you suffer when the cat goes to hide in the closet for hours. There are many times when one of my appointments has to cancel because the owner can't find the cat to get it in the carrier!

When cats get stressed, they can become fearful or aggressive (much like dogs and humans). The ideal vet visit would be with a calm and cooperative cat.

I always recommend a secure carrier, and I really like the top-loading ones. Cats are much easier to lift out, then to pull out, and most seem to be calmer with this technique. As an aside, I believe strongly in one carrier per cat, and secure enough to house a cat in the event of a natural disaster (earthquake, wildfires) for at least 24 hours. Cats traveling uncontained in a car, and then entering the business of a vet-

erinary hospital is a recipe for disaster. They can get spooked by sounds, scents and sights – and go running off into the parking lot. Most vets have their own version of this story from personal experience, and there is nothing sadder than a runaway cat in a situation that was entirely preventable.

You can place calming articles in the carrier to help relieve anxiety. These can be a T-shirt that you have worn (especially helpful for cats who sleep with you on the bed), or a comfort blanket (one that the cat sleeps on regularly), or a bit of fresh catnip, or a catnip toy that the cat plays with. Calming treats, or a plant-derived product such as Rescue Remedy, may help, and most likely have no negative side effects. It's always best to check these things with your veterinarian, to ensure that ingredients are safe. Not all plant-derived extracts are safe for cats.

A particular strategy that I prefer is spray Feliway into the carrier 30 minutes prior to putting your cat in it. This is a synthetic analog of the "happy territory" marking pheromone that cats secrete when they rub their faces on objects. Feliway can be used for situational anxiety, such as travel, as well as for daily or long-term anxiety (for example, the plug-in diffuser form of Feliway is often helpful for cats

who urinate outside the litter box – an article for a different day). There are no negative side effects from using Feliway.

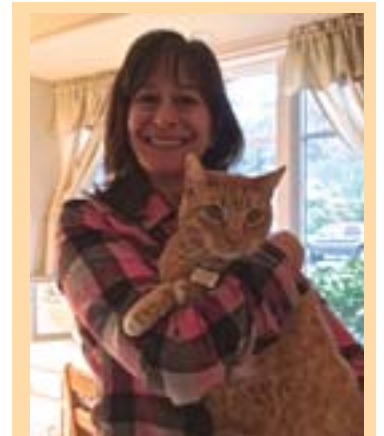
At the vet, different restraint methods can be used by the veterinary staff. Vets, nurses and assistants are often very well-trained in reading an animal, and choose a restraint method on a case-by-case basis. Some cats feel much more comfortable hiding under a towel without a lot of pressure. Some cats respond well to being wrapped snugly in a towel, like a burrito. Others do better when "scruffed" at the loose folds of skin on the back of the neck – this brings them back to kittenhood when mama cat carried them around.

For cats that are stressed by travel to the point of physical danger (panting, high body temperature) or are too aggressive to handle, your vet might recommend anti-anxiety or sedative medications. I will cover this in my next article. Most of these medications are safe and effective. However, in some cases, cats can be so stressed that they are fractious and aggressive, and require a light anesthesia in order to do procedural items such as vaccines and blood draws.

A home-care veterinarian might be an option for cats that might not respond to the options above, including med-

ications. It might be worth a try to see if the cat is more cooperative in its home environment. This can often work fine with fearful submissive cats, but not necessarily with aggressive cats. There are limits to what can be done in the home; for instance, radiographs can't be taken and most often, blood and urine draws cannot be performed.

In my next article, I will address medications – anti-anxiety versus sedatives. Stay tuned!



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.

Info: www.feliway.com/us/Products/FELIWAY-messages

Author of debut memoir discusses decades of struggle following Holocaust

Contra Costa County Library presents Meet the Author
'A Life Rebuilt: The Remarkable Transformation of a War Orphan'

- February 4 | 6:30 p.m.
San Ramon Library
300 Montgomery Street
925-973-2892
- February 5 | 6:30 p.m.
Martinez Library
341 Court Street
925-841-0900
- February 11 | 6 p.m.
Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way
925-354-2184
- February 11 | 6 p.m.
Walnut Creek Library
650 N. Broadway
925-973-2400

Born in 1939 Belgium, Sylvia Ruth Gutmann became an orphan at age three when her parents were sent to their deaths at Auschwitz. In her debut memoir, *A Life Rebuilt: The Remarkable Transformation of a War Orphan*, she chronicles her escape to Switzerland with her two sisters, their arrival in New York to the home of her uncle and his abusive wife, and her struggles to overcome the trauma of her childhood.

For more information, visit sylviaruthgutmann.com

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Submitted by Ian Richards

The Contra Costa County Library will host author Sylvia Ruth Gutmann as she discusses her debut memoir, "A Life Rebuilt: The Remarkable Transformation of a War Orphan." Born in 1939 Belgium, Sylvia Ruth Gutmann became an orphan at age 3 when her parents were sent to their deaths at Auschwitz. Together she and her two older sisters managed to escape to Switzerland and eventually made it to America. Deeply traumatized, Sylvia arrived in New York City at age 7, where a well-meaning uncle and a cruel aunt took her in. "Don't speak of it. Put it behind you. Move on," they told her. The messages she received in America forced her to again keep silent and hide in full view. She spent the next five decades struggling to put the pieces of her life back together and to fully understand the past she was too young to

remember.

"A Life Rebuilt: The Remarkable Transformation of a War Orphan" chronicles an odyssey that spans 60 years, three countries, and thousands of miles. Remarkably, at age 62, Gutmann developed a relationship with a young man, 40 years her junior, and against all odds she moved to Germany to live with him. Here she began to share the story of her family's fate with German students, senior citizens, and even neo-Nazi groups. By doing so, Gutmann reconciled with the people she had feared and loathed, and resurrected the lives of the parents she cannot remember, and cannot forget. Heart-breaking and ultimately inspiring, this memoir of loss, love, resilience, belonging, identity, and authenticity has a surprising resolution, told in an intimate voice with candor, substance, and heart.

"I needed five decades to heal

from the trauma of being brutally separated from my parents when I was a child," she says. "It's horrifyingly ironic that the current zero-tolerance immigration policy of separating young children from their parents, has made my story even more relevant today."

Gutmann will be speaking at 1 p.m. on Feb. 11 at the Orinda Library and at 6 p.m. on that same day at the Walnut Creek Library.

Gutmann is a former spokesperson on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal Federation of New York City. Every year she shares her story at numerous Holocaust remembrance and Wounded Warrior ceremonies organized by the U.S. Military. She has also spoken extensively throughout Europe and was granted honorary German citizenship in 2002 for her peace activism.

For more information, contact Serenity Dean at (925) 646-9900.

Info: <https://sylviaruthgutmann.com/>

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

ART

Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery is proud to present an exhibition featuring 16 glass artists from the Association of Clay and Glass Artists of California. This exhibit features a variety of wall and pedestal art glass – sculptural, conceptual, and decorative. The exhibit opens with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Feb. 7, and runs through March 2. There will also be a discussion with artists and jurors at 4 p.m. on Feb. 9. www.jenniferperlmutter.com

Valley Art Gallery presents “Celebrating 70,” a new exhibition for its 70th Anniversary running through March 15, with a free reception from 3 to 5 p.m. on Feb. 9, 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek. www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311

Clerestory presents Movement of Colors: Music Inspired by Art and Artists from 8 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23 at David

Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. Immerse yourself in the world of art, sculpture, and invention during our winter concert, Movement of Colors. Cost: \$5-30. For more info see <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/movement-of-colors-tickets-49925162505> or email info@clerestory.org.

The Moraga Art Gallery presents its new show, “A Sense of Place,” running through March 16 and featuring Wenda Pyman’s beguiling landscape photographs, which call to mind the camera work of Ansel Adams and Eliot Porter. For more information, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

MUSIC

The Gold Coast Chamber Players present one of the leading quartets of our time, the St. Lawrence String Quartet along with three-time Grammy-nominated clarinetist Todd

Palmer at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. The program offers an unprecedented musical, emotional, and spiritual experience with chamber music spanning four centuries. From Haydn and Beethoven, to Berger and Golijov, this unique program is not to be missed! Tickets \$15 - 45 <https://gcplayers.tix.com/Event.aspx?EventCode=1079081> or call (925) 283-3728. www.gcplayers.org.

Sweetheart Concert by the Piano Composers of the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15 at Grace Presbyterian Church 2100 Tice Valley Blvd in Walnut Creek near Rossmoor. This musical event features original, seductive music with occasional reference to Broadway, Brahms, and New Orleans — all this performed by composer pianists themselves. This free event is sponsored by the not-for-profit CCPAS founded in 1974 (www.ccpas.org) with donations supporting youth programs.

The Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra will present “Let’s Dance” at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16 at El Campanil Theatre in Antioch, and Sunday, Feb. 17 at Leshler Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. The concert features internationally-acclaimed pianist Jeffrey LaDuer, who will perform Franz Liszt’s chilling Totentanz with the orchestra. For tickets and pricing visit www.elcampaniltheatre.com, www.lesherartscenter.org, or www.ContraCostaChamberOrchestra.org.

Temple Isaiah’s Cantor Leigh Korn presents “Coming Together: Songs of Unity and Community” featuring a stellar cast of cantors from across the country at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 21 in the Temple Isaiah Sanctuary. Tickets are \$36. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Purchase tickets at <https://templeisaiah.org> or (925) 283-8575.

St. Mary’s College Music Department presents a solo piano concert by Bobby Mitchell, a

young award winning American international concert pianist, recording artist, composer, author and teacher at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 31 at Saint Mary’s College Chapel. A reception will follow the free concert.

Pacific Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Conductor Lawrence Kohl, performs Schubert’s Octet, Ravel’s Introduction and Allegro, and Francaix’s Dixtuor, at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 23 in the Community Hall at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Tickets may be purchased for “Schubert – The Sublime” online at www.pacificchamberorchestra.org.

THEATER

Town Hall Theatre Company presents Brooklyn Bridge by Melissa James Gibson, directed by M. Graham Smith Feb. 28 through March 23. Tickets and showtimes are available at TownHallTheatre.com or by calling (925) 283-1557. The theatre is located at 3535 School Street in Lafayette.

“Wilder than Wild: Fire, Forests and the Future,” a one-hour documentary, will play at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12 at the Town Hall Theatre on School Street in Lafayette. Sponsored by Sustainable Lafayette, the movie reveals how fuel build-up and climate change have exposed Western wildlands to large, high intensity wildfires, while greenhouse gases released from these fires contribute to global warming. This vicious cycle jeopardizes our forests and affects us all with extreme weather and more wildfires, some of which are now entering highly populated wildland-urban areas. General tickets are \$10 and are available via www.sustainablelafayette.org.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Nexus Women Networking Group (formerly LABWO) invites you to attend its next monthly meeting from 9 to 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 8, at St. Mark’s Orinda, 451 Moraga Way. Dr. Sheila Murray Bethel, globally acclaimed leadership expert and best-selling author, will present an interactive program entitled “Your Personal Leadership Makes a Difference.” Sign-up/Learn more: www.facebook.com/thenexuswomen

Saint Mary’s College MFA Creative Writing presents its Graduate Student Reading from 7:45 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 27 in De La Salle Hall: Hagerty Lounge, 1928 Saint Mary’s Road, Moraga. Curated and hosted by a committee of graduate students, the Graduate Student Reading Series showcases the dynamic and welcoming arts community here at Saint Mary’s College. All readings are free and open to the public.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Hack the Future is coming to Contra Costa County from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 23 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center for a one-day hackathon for youth ages 10-19. Attendees will be able to explore and experiment with different STEM activities while learning from tech industry professionals. Activities / Demos to include: Programming, Electronics, 3D Printing, Robotics, Virtual Reality, and more. Stay tuned for more information about this very special opportunity and head over to <http://hackthefuture.org/> for more information and sign up to be notified when registration opens.

... continued on next Page

Lamorinda’s Religious Services



ORINDA Community Church
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Broadway Star Carolee Carmello – Live at the Orinda



Carolee Carmello

Photo provided

Submitted by Michael Williams

Three-time Tony Award nominee Carolee Carmello will make a rare appearance Feb. 17 in her long-awaited Bay Area concert debut at the

Orinda Theatre. In an illustrious career that has spanned over two decades, Carmello has been honored with three Tony Award nominations and has appeared in 14 Broadway musicals. Her most recent Broadway roles include Mae

Tuck in “Tuck Everlasting” and Mrs. du Maurier in “Finding Neverland” with Matthew Morrison and Kelsey Grammar for which she earned Tony and Drama Desk nominations.

Carmello says she will be singing lots of songs from shows she’s done on Broadway and Off, but will also be singing the song that made her fall in love with theater in her college dorm production of “Oliver!” She will also be telling stories about the experiences she’s had along the way.

Some of Carmello’s other starring roles include “Sister Act,” “The Addams Family” (Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle nominations), Elton John’s “Lestat” (Tony and Drama Desk nominations), Stephen Sondheim’s “Sweeney Todd” and “Mamma Mia!”

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KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS ... continued

Contra Costa Camp and School Fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 24 at Acalanes High School, with free activities and over 100 exhibitors allowing attendees to view a smorgasbord of camps, enrichment programs, schools, S.T.E.M. and S.T.E.A.M. programs, performing arts, preschools, cooking, educational, sports and other programs available this spring and summer. Admission is free and there is ample free parking. Call (925) 408-4014 or visit www.ContraCostaCampFair.com for more information or to register for a free family ticket.

The 2019 Bookmark Contest sponsored by the Friends of the Lafayette Library & Learning Center will be open to all Lafayette students grades K-8th to enter their original artwork. The entry forms will be available beginning February 15 at the Lafayette Library main desk, the Friends Corner Book Shop and at school libraries in the Lafayette School District and St. Perpetua School. The entry deadline is Friday, March 8. For more information please contact Kay Pekrul: kae865@hotmail.com.

In conjunction with Saint Mary’s College and the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of the American Association of University Women, the Expanding Your Horizons STEAM full day conference for middle school girls on March 23 will open registration Jan. 24. This conference fills up quickly and is limited to 200 girls in sixth to eighth grade on a “first come, first served” basis. For details and registration visit www.expandingyourhorizons.org/conferences/AUWSAINTMARYS/.

OTHER

KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents Robert B. Reich: The Common Good from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 6, at First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. Robert Reich will discuss his new book, “The Common Good,” answer questions and sign books. Hosted by Kathryn Horsley. Cost: \$12 advance, \$15 door. For more info see- <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3918567> or call (510) 967-4495.

The seventh Creating A Peaceful School conference will take place 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9 at Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. The year’s conference topic, “Building Bridges Not Walls,” provides a daylong op-

portunity to explore how we can use our school and classroom practices to identify tools and resources for enhancing peace, understanding and communication in our diverse communities and will feature keynote speaker Lauren Markham, a local educator, activist and author. The conference is for everyone who works with children and youth in grades K-12: including parents, teachers, administrators, classroom aides, school personnel, after-school program providers and the students themselves. Cost: \$50 (or \$10 for high school and undergraduate college students). Refreshments and lunch included. Register at <https://creatingpeacefulschools.weebly.com/upcoming-events.html> or find link at <http://ourpeacecenter.org>. For info, call (925) 933-7850 or emailmargli@ourpeacecenter.org.

Join dozens of Jewish women and girls ages 12 and up from Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda for an evening of Jewish pride, unity and inspiration as they learn to bake delicious Challah at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 19 at Chabad of Lamorinda, 3574 Mount Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Cost is \$20 if you register before Feb. 12. Mother and daughter team \$36. Please register at ChabadofLamorinda.com/Challah. Questions or comments? Call (925) 384-7242 or email: Challah@ChabadofLamorinda.com.

“Let’s Talk About the Most Common Female Urologic Conditions” from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 28, at the Lafayette Library’s Community Room, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Join an engaging panel of medical experts as they discuss the most common urologic conditions experienced by women. This special event will explore the latest treatment options and provide insights into female incontinence, overactive bladder, pelvic organ prolapse, menopause and postmenopausal symptoms. Speakers include a urogynecologist, continence specialist, gynecologist and menopause specialist. Register by emailing: sjung@dvothmg.com.

Free Tax preparation for the 2019 tax season is available starting in February from AARP’s Tax-Aide and United Way’s Earn It, Keep It, Save It (EKS) programs. Service is provided by volunteer tax preparers who are IRS trained and certified. EKS service is limited to those with incomes below \$54,000, while Tax-Aide does not have an income limit. For Tax-Aide site information or appointments in Walnut Creek call: (925) 943-5851 for the Walnut Creek Senior Center site; (925)

405-6278 for the Walnut Creek Grace Presbyterian Church site; or (925) 979-5013 for the Walnut Creek St. Paul’s Episcopal Church site. For information on other Tax-Aide sites, call: (925) 726-3199. For information on EKS sites, call 2-1-1 or visit www.earnitkeepsaveit.org.

Lafayette resident, Papa John Kiefer, will, again, offer workshops on “How to Raise Your Own Chickens.” Topics will include raising young chicks, laying hen maintenance, and sustainable coop construction. Workshops are free and will be held in Lafayette from 1 to 3:30 pm on Sundays, March 3 and 17. Reservations are required. Contact: chickenspapa-john@gmail.com. Location provided upon registration.

SENIORS

Elder Abuse Prevention Project from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Feb. 13 in the Toyon Room, Lafayette Community Center. Elder abuse can take many forms including physical, financial and emotional abuse. Do you know someone experiencing elder abuse? Are you interested in learning about available resources in Contra Costa County? The Elder Abuse Prevention Project (EAPP) team will discuss the resources available for seniors and dependent adults who may be experiencing abuse. The presentation will include speakers from the Contra Costa Family Justice Center, Contra Costa Senior Legal Services, Meals on Wheels - Diablo Valley, Employment and Human Services Department and the Contra Costa District Attorney’s Office. Free.

GARDEN

The Moraga Garden Club will hold its next meeting at 9:30 a.m., Feb. 21, at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The guest speaker will be Keith Silva, UC Master Gardener, who will be discussing “Pruning Tools and Techniques.” The event is free and open to all interested parties. Refreshments will be served. For more information, visit moragagardenclub.com.

Walnut Creek Garden Club’s March meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. on March 11, at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road in Walnut Creek. The featured speaker, Liz Emmonds, will demonstrate how easy it is to manipulate plant materials to create interesting forms to take flower arrangements to a new and exciting level. Please email mslitttle44@gmail.com with any questions.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lamorinda freshmen make their mark on varsity teams



Michelle Goll

Photos Gint Federas



Matt Radell

By Jon Kingdon

It was in 1954 that freshmen were ruled ineligible to play varsity sports in college. It was not until 1973 when freshmen became eligible to play all sports on the varsity level again. Still more the exception than the rule for freshmen to be competitive on that level, it's no longer some-

thing that gives one pause to see a freshman competing against upperclassmen on both the high school and collegiate level.

In his fourth year at Campolindo, head coach Steven Dyer has had five freshmen that played for the varsity: "You will see more basketball players than football players because skill becomes more

important than size. The rise of AAU basketball has brought about more freshmen able to play for a varsity team." There are two freshmen that are on the Campolindo roster this year, Aiden Mahaney (15.2 ppg) and Matt Radell (7.9 ppg).

Mahaney, who played with the Flight OE team until eighth grade and for the West Coast Elite team last year, at-

tributes that experience to facilitating his transition to varsity basketball: "I played for the high school division last year and traveled all over the country. I played against so many top players in intense games, it really prepared me for high school."

Still there was an adjustment to a high school team as opposed to a club team, says Mahaney: "AAU can be more

like pickup games. At Campolindo, there is more structure and designed plays with more emphasis on defense and taking charges. Everything matters."

Radell saw a real difference between playing for Campolindo and in the AAU: "The skill levels were similar but at Campolindo the players want it more. Our team plays harder and the games are more physical in general."

It takes more than just ability for a freshman to be effective on the varsity, says Dyer: "It's important for the freshmen to realize that they are not going to be the top dog when they show up. They're playing in more advanced situations and the talent level is much higher. As for maturity, it's my job to teach it to them."

Radell brings good height to the game but concedes that there is a lot for him to work on: "I play center so I have to deal with the bigger guys and often I've not been evenly matched weight wise. My goal is to continue to bulk up and get a stronger so I can bang around a little more."

Mahaney's transition was eased by his brother, Carter, who is a junior and played on the varsity as a freshman as well, says Aiden: "It's nice to play with Carter. His advice to me was to keep working. There was a lot of hype around me and I just had to prove myself and that I was going to play against more physical players so I had to get my body ready for that."

... continued on Page C4



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Two local basketball alum in running for Bevo Francis award



Chris Hansen drives to the basket against Cal State San Marcos in a 92-69 win on his way to 19 points and 10 rebounds for his eighth double-double of the season. Photo Derrick Tuskan, UCSD Athletics

By John T. Miller

Two Lafayette grads are in the running for the Clarence "Bevo" Francis award, given annually to the player considered to have had the best overall season within Small College Basketball.

Chris Hansen (Campolindo, '15) and Joey Hewitt (Acalanes, '15) have been named to the Bevo Award 100 Watch List. Hansen is a red-shirt junior with UC San Diego, while Hewitt is in his senior season at Whitman College.

They have both had outstanding careers so far, but what makes the award announcement even more special is that the two have been friends since Merriewood Preschool. They played together at Colorados Pool, continued as classmates at Burton Valley Elementary and Stanley Middle School, before moving on to different high schools.

Hansen and Hewitt were also members of the St. Perpetua CYO team, along with Matt O'Reilly (Campolindo '15), who is finishing his basketball career at Bucknell and was the subject of an article in the Dec. 23 edition of this paper.

During the offseason and winter break, the two like to call up former teammates and play pickup ball at McKeon Pavilion on the Saint Mary's campus. "Being able to work out with another collegiate player is important during our time away from college," says Hewitt.

Hansen adds, "These games are always filled with laughs and good times as we reminisce about playing together on the same teams."

Both teams dominate

At UC San Diego, Hansen redshirted his junior season following shoulder surgery, but rebounded this year to score 15.3 points per game on 55 percent field goal shooting and 54 percent from the 3-point line while collecting 5.9 rebounds per game. His season highs include 29 points against Cal State San Bernardino and 14 rebounds versus Chico State.

With eight games remaining, the 6-foot-7 center has helped lead his team to first place in the California Collegiate Athletic Association (12-2 conference; 17-4 overall), was twice named CCAA player of the week, garnered All-Tournament honors (D2 Power Invitational and CCAA/GNAC Challenge), and was three times named UCSD-Tritons.com Athlete of the Week. In addition, Hansen is the team's representative on the Triton Athletes' Council.

Hewitt, a 6-foot-2 senior guard at Whitman (11-0 conference; 19-1 overall), leads the team in scoring with 15.8 ppg – 46 percent on field goals and 38 percent on 3-point shots, and averages 3.6 rebounds per game with 2.2 assists. His highest scoring game of 28 points came in The Blues only loss, a 112-109 OT shootout at Pomona Pitzer.

Hewitt was named first team All-Northwest Conference his junior year and hon-

orable mention as a sophomore. For his senior year he was named to the D3 Hoops preseason All-American team. The fast-paced Blues have outscored their opponents by 25 points per game.

Happy to be in the game

Long before Steph Curry brought his exuberant brand of basketball to the Bay Area, the two young men from Lafayette fell in love with the game and have been playing it for fun.

"I have had such an amazing experience in college, it would be hard for me to say this will be the last time I play competitive ball," says Hansen. "It is still such a joy to me, why stop?" He looks forward to exploring options in professional basketball after graduation – perhaps worldwide – but is also secure in his eventual degree, a bachelor's in management science.

Hewitt agrees. "I fell in love with basketball playing CYO with Chris. We both found something we loved and stuck with our passion." Hewitt, who was always one of the smaller players on the court, blossomed late into his 6-foot-2 frame. He, too, would like to pursue professional basketball overseas, and is interested in a future career in sports psychology.

Both coaches raved about their local players. At Whitman, Eric Bridgeland, head coach there for 11 years, credits Hewitt with upgrading the culture of the program ever since his arrival his freshman year, saying "Joey



Joey Hewitt, celebrating a 3-point shot, scored 24 points and added 5 rebounds, 3 steals, and 2 assists in a 110-98 victory over Whitworth. Photo Shane Prudente

has a joy for life and is a very positive person. He has fun and is always focused. We've never had more fun and success, and he's a big part of that."

Eric Olen, in his fifth year as UCSD coach, was equally enthusiastic. "Chris is not only a talented athlete but also a terrific teammate, hard worker and great competitor. He's had a huge impact on our program on the court helping our team to some of the most successful seasons in school history. His positive attitude and work ethic contributes to the culture of our entire program."

Who was Bevo Francis?

While Bevo Francis isn't exactly a household name like John Wooden or Magic Johnson, the little-known phenom played two seasons for Rio Grande College in Ohio and still holds the NCAA record with 48.3 points per game in 1954. At 6-foot-9, he also scored 50 points or more during 14 games of his two-year career. All this without the benefit of the 3-point line or a shot clock.

His 113 points against Hillsdale College stood as the NCAA record until eclipsed in 2012 by Grinnell's Jack Taylor's 138 points against Faith Baptist Bible.

Francis, who died in 2015, signed a \$12,000 contract with the Harlem Globetrotters to play for a barnstorming team called the Boston Whirlwinds, but stopped playing shortly afterward to support his wife and son. He spent most of his life toiling as a truck driver, steel mill worker and a tire factory worker.

Francis was posthumously inducted into the Small College Basketball Hall of Fame in 2016. The Bevo Francis Award, established in the same year, honors the best small college basketball player. Considerations are given to season statistics and individual achievements, awards, personal character and team achievements.

The finalist list will be reduced to 50 in mid-February, to 25 in March, and the award winner will be announced on April 8. Stay tuned.

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Diablo Alliance 12U Frozen Cup Tournament Champions



From left: coach Robby Arroyo; Audrina Kang, Elise Gratton, Kayden Page, Ella Del Rosario, Quinn Arroyo, Elizabeth Hassett, Rosalie Hassett, Zoe Jimenez, Nola Kurtz, Sarah Williams, and coach Jim Hassett. Not shown: Kylie Arroyo.

Submitted by Rhodora Del Rosario

uary. The team went undefeated in the tournament, with games against Lamorinda, Stanford, Royal 559, and San Jose Express.

The 12U Diablo Alliance Water Polo team won the 2019 Frozen Cup in Jan-

Miramonte wins and takes 2nd in League



Photo provided

Submitted by Jason Rosiak

Key wins by Dylan Welch and Andrew Patten fueled a 45-36 dual match victory over Berean Christian. The Mats squad finished league play with a

4-2 record which put them in second place in the division. Great accomplishment for a young squad. With the win Miramonte is an automatic qualifier for NCS Dual Champions.

Magic 06 Boys win Nor Cal Fall League



Photo Shirley DeFrancisci

Standing, from left: coach David Landeros, Kai Lucas, Aiden Rascher, Ace Reeder, Kadin True, Tiko Moodie, Cyrus Rowley, Faisal Shaghasi; middle: Harlem Clemons, Khalil Rashad, Paulo Trento, Ryan Rho-Baity, John Tuggle; front: Drew DeFrancisci, Mack Fisher, Pepukai Allard-Chigamba, James Jenkins, Niko White; not pictured: Andrew Lara Ramirez

Submitted by Angela White

The Cal Magic 06 Boys remained undefeated during the fall season winning nine out of nine games with 63 goals for and only 9 goals against. The boys executed an outstanding offense with quick, precise passing and teamwork while our defense stayed focused and aggressive. Coach David Landeros

stated, "The boys have had an amazing season and without a doubt this year they have grown as human beings, soccer players, and as a team. I am proud of them for all of their hard work and time invested they have put in." The 06 Boys will be playing in the State Cup Semifinals in February.

Stanley Middle School 7th Grade Basketball Champions



Photo provided

Back row, from left: coach Mark Del Rosario, Dulcinea Vail, Lulu Levy, Addition Ames, Julia Oleyar, Adriana Smith, coach Jim Smith, Coach Brian Frechman; front row: Campbell Evans, Mylie Jaquet, Ella Del Rosario, Natalie Lyons, Natalie Frechman, Jenna Steele and not pictured Megan Churchill.

Submitted by Rhodora Del Rosario

The Stanley seventh grade A team beat King Middle School 36-20 to win the post season tournament and finish the season a perfect 16-0. The team was made up of five seventh-graders and seven sixth-graders.

Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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Lamorinda Rugby Goes Undefeated at UCLA



Submitted by Lamorinda Rugby

As a traditional kickoff to the rugby season Lamorinda Rugby (Lamo) played in the 14th Annual Dennis Storer Classic tournament held at UCLA over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. High school and college teams gather for a weekend of fierce competition. Lamo with a strong varsity team this season went undefeated for the first time in club history. The camaraderie among this group is something special and the coaches are excited to see what the season has in store for them.

Photo provided

Submit stories to
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Lamorinda freshmen make their mark on varsity teams



Aidan Mahaney

Photos Gint Federas

... continued from Page C1

Radell welcomed the support he got from the upperclassmen: "They did not care about my being a freshman. It was a matter of playing hard and earning their trust. They just want to play basketball and have fun. They have made me look good on the court."

Mahaney and Radell made the transition well, says Dyer: "They came in and worked hard and they deserve the credit. They had the right mindset and did a good job in fitting in with the team. They both put in a lot of time working in the weight room and on their game."

Mahaney is not resting on his laurels: "I have to keep improving my body strength and there is room to improve in everything. I am always working on my skills. I wanted to show the upperclassmen how much I cared and how hard a worker I was and that all I wanted to do was to win."

Michelle Sasaki, the head coach of the girls basketball team at Acalanes, sees similar issues for freshmen girls to play on the varsity team: "It's not common for a freshman to make the varsity. It's hard to do. A lot of the girls are playing basketball early but there are not enough girls playing the game."

The freshmen have to be complete players for them to make the team, says Sasaki: "They have to be good athletically but if they're only an offensive threat and can't rebound and play defense, we won't move them up. The stakes are higher moving up from the eighth grade to play on the varsity."

Last year there were two freshmen on the Acalanes varsity, Grace Gebhardt and Gabby Schneider. Having another freshman on the team eased the transition to the varsity for Gebhardt: "It was

great having Gabby on the team. I didn't know Gabby at the start of the season but we developed a friendship and helped each other."

It's the club experience that facilitates the transition to the varsity for the freshmen, says Sasaki: "They get to play more and work on their overall game. They compete against the better and more serious players. Gabby and Grace did a tremendous job of coming in and playing solid basketball but they are still the exception to the rule. With freshmen, you have to be patient with the process. It's a huge learning curve and it takes time. You can't push the river - it flows by itself."

Gebhardt, who has been playing basketball since kindergarten and also plays for the Acalanes lacrosse team, welcomed the challenge of club basketball, playing for St. Perpetua in CYO and the Cal Stars club team: "I've always wanted to play at the highest level. It was fun to play against stiffer competition. Still, I had to prove myself to the upperclassman at Acalanes as everyone was fighting for a spot on the team."

This year there is only one freshman playing for the Dons: Michelle Goll. She has received great support from the team, says Sasaki: "It can be harder for a single freshman but we have had great leadership from our captains and that has made it a seamless transition for Michelle."

As sophomores, Gebhardt and Schneider can appreciate how difficult it is for a freshman: "We can empathize with Michelle and we do all we can to try and help her out."

Winning the NCS boys water polo championship is one thing. Winning it with a freshman in goalie is quite another. That is what happened this past fall for the Cougars when West Temkin stepped in for an injured Lo-



Gabby Schneider

gan Estes early in the season, holding the starting position for the rest of the season and being named "Outstanding Goalie" in the Foothill Division.

Campolindo head coach Miles Price appreciates how fortunate he was to have someone like West to step in so effectively when Estes went out with a concussion: "It was unusual for a freshman to be so impactful. West is very mature for his age. As a goalie, he is playing an individual position. It didn't come easy but he did a great job in understanding what his teammates expected of him. He understood the position and it gave him more confidence with the players around him. West was not afraid to voice what he wanted from the defensive players and what his expectations were. Initially, I had to push him towards that and once he knew it was his position, he started to mold the defense the way he wanted it to play."

Temkin has played club water polo with the 680 Drivers and CC United and for the Cadet National team in eighth grade, traveling and competing in Serbia and Montenegro. Despite so much early success in his career, Temkin did not have great expectations entering his freshman year: "I anticipated playing on the JV team and I was surprised when I made the varsity. I expected to be a substitute and then stepped in

players made West more comfortable and prepared to step in as a freshman. West had a great maturation process and I don't see him slowing down at all."

Temkin took nothing for granted: "I just worked super hard to prove myself to them and to earn their trust and once I did that, it was all good from there."

It always helps to have the physical tools to step into a starting position so early, says Miles: "What makes West so special is his size (6'2"), his maturity, his length and is overall movement. He can cover most of the net so he doesn't have to move laterally to get a hand on the ball. It also helped that Logan was a great supporter of West even when he got injured. We had great leadership from the top down and they supported whoever was the starter."

Having the confidence to develop his own style also contributed to Temkin's success: "There are a lot of key factors. Much of it is the mindset, stuff that can't be taught. You have to get over being scared of the ball and learn to anticipate where the ball is going, even knowing where the ball is going before they throw the ball. If you know where your shot blockers are lining up, the ball is generally going to come where the blockers are not." Simple? Hardly.

Like all of the other aforementioned freshmen, Temkin is not one to be satisfied with what he has already accomplished: "I realized that I needed to take this super seriously. In the water, I will hold a chair above my head for 30 minutes straight. This also improves my mental strength. I work on improving my reaction time by taking shot after shot in practice. I've taken a mix of the basic and developed my own style that somehow works."

A philosophy that can work, not just in sports but in all facets of life.



West Temkin

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 25 Wednesday, February 6, 2019



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for February ... read on Page D12

Questions to consider when deciding on design



Living room remodel

Photos provided

By Amanda Eck

During the beginning of the new year I always have a surge of clients reaching out to make changes in their home. Whether it be a single room design, whole house update, kitchen or bath remodel. Many times clients know they want to make changes but do not know where to start. Today I wanted to share some tips and questions to ask yourself to help with that process.

Room Designs

For single room or multi-room designs, ask yourself:

- How do we live in this space?
- Does the layout of the furniture work for us?

- Do we need more storage?
- Does this room have adequate lighting?
- Do you want/need window coverings?
- What do I love about this space?
- What do I wish I could change in this space?
- Are there furniture items or family heirlooms I need/have to keep?
- What colors, patterns, and textures are you drawn to?
- Do you have small children and/or pets and the furnishings need to take this into account?

Next, spend some time on Pinterest or Houzz.com looking for spaces that you are drawn to. Take notes on what it is about that space that appeals to you. Is it the

color? The layout? The feeling of the space – comfortable, sophisticated, clean, casual, etc.

Then decide on a budget. How much are you willing to invest in your space? A good gauge on what to expect to spend on fully furnishing a space is to take the square footage of your room and multiply it by:

\$60 – Low

\$80 – Medium

\$100 – High

\$200 & up – Luxurious

... continued on Page D4



Living room before

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	7	\$760,000	\$3,350,000
MORAGA	3	\$425,000	\$1,365,000
ORINDA	6	\$1,075,000	\$1,495,000

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

- 1003 Almanor Lane, \$760,000, 3 Bdrms, 1196 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 12-24-18
- 18 Beaumont Court, \$990,000, 3 Bdrms, 1308 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 12-28-18
- 3767 Happy Valley Road, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2973 SqFt, 1989 YrBl, 12-28-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,365,000, 05-28-13
- 132 Haslemere Court, \$799,000, 3 Bdrms, 1638 SqFt, 1988 YrBl, 12-18-18,
Previous Sale: \$219,500, 05-01-88
- 3532 Herman Drive, \$2,180,000, 3 Bdrms, 2900 SqFt, 2012 YrBl, 12-26-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,565,000, 07-09-13
- 1700 Reliez Valley Road, \$3,350,000, 6 Bdrms, 5963 SqFt, 2015 YrBl, 12-28-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 01-15-15
- 3174 Teigland Road, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1781 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 12-18-18

MORAGA

- 1969 Ascot Drive #A, \$425,000, 2 Bdrms, 938 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 12-26-18,
Previous Sale: \$405,000, 05-30-17
- 1373 Camino Peral #A, \$1,130,000, 12-20-18,
Previous Sale: \$925,000, 06-07-18
- 1921 Saint Andrews Drive, \$1,365,000, 3 Bdrms, 2430 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 12-28-18,
Previous Sale: \$166,000, 03-01-78

ORINDA

- 9 Easton Court, \$1,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 1482 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 12-17-18,
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 07-02-18
- 7 Ivy Drive, \$1,181,000, 4 Bdrms, 2525 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 12-18-18,
Previous Sale: \$217,000, 12-01-86
- 10 Las Cascadas Road, \$1,075,000, 5 Bdrms, 2902 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 12-17-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,019,000, 10-04-06
- 740 Miner Road, \$1,495,000, 4 Bdrms, 3420 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 12-28-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,675,000, 06-12-06
- 136 Moraga Way, \$1,228,000, 3 Bdrms, 2128 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 12-18-18,
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 09-10-15
- 257 Overhill Road, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2357 SqFt, 1946 YrBl, 12-19-18,
Previous Sale: \$390,000, 01-01-90

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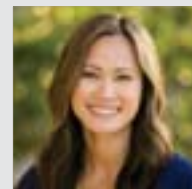
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General House Keeping Items

Over the holiday break a large oak tree fell and hit our garage during a windy night. Fortunately no one was hurt but we were reminded how important it is to stay on top of general property maintenance issues. It is important to check on the overall health of any trees in your yard - even if they look healthy. Keep tree limbs trimmed back that are close to your home to avoid pest issues. It is also essential to have a pest inspector come regularly to identify any issues that could lead to expensive repairs over time. With winter here and critters looking for warm dry places to hide we have received a couple calls requesting vendors who can help with ongoing rodent issues. Unfortunately keeping rats and mice from sneaking into the attic or under the house is an ongoing challenge. If you are struggling with this issue the first step is to call Contra Costa County Vector Control and an inspector will come out at no cost to survey your home and find access points. Once these areas are identified a contractor or handyman can seal problematic areas.

Finally make sure your gutters are clear, drainage is intact and functioning properly, and the crawl space below your home remains dry, and windows and doors are sealed to prevent dry-rot and leaks. Also, if you have not done so already now is a good time check on an aged roof that might have leaked during the last several rains. Keeping up with regular maintenance is the best way to avoid expensive repairs or challenging disclosures when it comes time to sell your home.



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Questions to consider when deciding on design



Kitchen remodel

Photo provided

... continued from Page D1

Kitchen

Here are some general questions to get you started for the kitchen; I have a more exhaustive list that I send to clients.

- Do you want to do a full remodel (i.e. relocate it? Switch up the layout?)
- Do you want just cosmetic updates (new countertops, backsplash, flooring, cabinet color, etc.)?
- Do you like the function of your kitchen?
- Do you like the flow from your kitchen/dining table to the kitchen?
- Do you like the location of the sink? Can you see out a window?
- How is the existing lighting?
- Do you like the color/stain?
- Do you have enough outlets?
- How big is the space? Do you want it bigger? Wider? Smaller?
- Do you like your island/peninsula? Do you want one bigger or smaller?
- How is the countertop? Does it hold up the way you want it to?
- Do you like your backsplash?
- Do you like your sink? Do you like having the single/double bowl?
- Do you have enough storage space?
- Do you like your pantry space? Cabinet space?
- Do you like the height of your cabinets?
- Do you like your faucet? The finish? The style?
- Do you like the size of your existing fridge/freezer/wine storage?

... continued on Page D14

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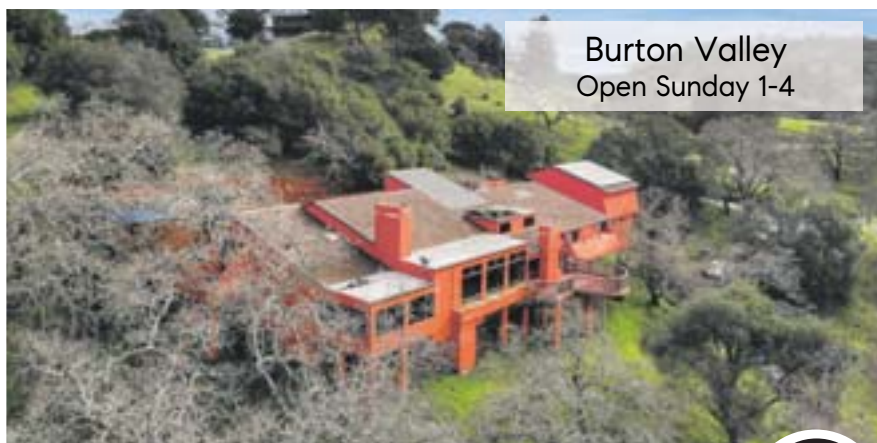
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Exciting New Listing

Exclusively listed by **Chris Swim & Tracy Keaton**

1140 Camino Vallecito, Lafayette

4+ Bed | 4.5 Bath | 3,716± Sq Ft

This exquisite Happy Valley home was custom-built by renowned local builder Jeff Momsen. With excellent architectural design, superior material finishes and unrelenting attention to detail, this extraordinary property will leave you mesmerized. Perfectly backdropped with a meticulously designed and landscaped mostly level lot with lush lawn, beautiful stone patios and splendid dining, lounging, entertaining & play areas, this exceptional home offers an unparalleled lifestyle opportunity. \$3,800,000 | 1140caminovallecito.com



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Orinda Country Club Charmer






New Listing!

22 Las Palomas, Orinda

Wonderful "Carmel Style" home that has not been offered for sale in 36 years! Built in 1941 and located on a desirable quiet street with an easy commute to downtown Orinda, Lafayette, and BART. There are beautiful hardwood floors, updated kitchen and bathrooms, serene views, a useable lot, and mature landscaping. This is a home with incredible appeal.

Call For Price and More Information

3  | 3  | 2,087  | .37 ACRE*
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Questions to consider when deciding on design



Bathroom remodel

... continued from Page D4

Now head to Pinterest or Houzz.com for some kitchen inspiration. Decide on a budget. This can be a harder number to nail down depending on if this is a full gut remodel, remodel using existing floor plan, or cosmetic. This can range from \$20,000 to well over \$200,000.

Bathrooms

(Again, these are some general questions to get you started, I have a more exhaustive list that I send our clients.)

- Do you like the function of your bathroom?
- Do you have a place for everything you want in the space?
- Do you like the flow from your bathroom to the bedroom?
- Do you like the location of the sink?
- Do you prefer to take baths or shower or both?
- Do you have natural light from a window?
- How is the existing lighting? Do you have existing task lighting?
- Do you have enough outlets?
- How big is the space? Do you want it bigger? Wider? Smaller?
- How is the countertop? Does it hold up the way you want it to?
- Do you like your backsplash?
- Do you like your sink? Do you like having the round, oval or square bowl?
- Do you have enough room for your makeup?
- Do you like your mirror/s?
- Do you like your faucet? The finish? The Style?
- Do you have enough cabinets for towels and sheets?

Head to Pinterest or Houzz.com for bathroom inspiration. Decide on a budget. Similar to kitchens, this number can be difficult to nail down.

Hopefully these tips will help jumpstart you on your home project(s). How you use your space and what you want in your space is important and it is worth the time and effort to discover these. Until next time friends!



As the Owner and Principal Designer of Lamorinda-based Amanda Carol Interiors, Amanda Eck believes your home's interior should be both approachable and well-appointed. She often asserts, "Beauty is a necessity."

With a distinct sense of style that mixes contemporary and classic design she fashions spaces that are both elegant and inviting. Her design aesthetic is inspired by anything visual but especially fashion, architecture and art.

Visit
<http://amandacarolinteriors.com> for more design ideas.

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for February

Love is a rose

"Everything is coming up roses!" – Ethel Merman



A beautiful bush of old roses.

Photos Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

When Cupid shoots his arrow of amour on Feb. 14, more than 51 percent of the flowers bestowed upon the lovers will be roses. The allure of roses dates back more than 5,000 years when rose cultivation began in China. Evidence in fossils indicates that the wild rose

is as ancient as 35 million years. No wonder the rose has symbolized beauty, love, politics and war for the past five centuries in our modern world.

Roses possess a classic beauty with an unrivaled diversity of shapes, sizes, colors and fragrances. Blooms may be solitary and delicate, semi-double, open cupped, rosette, pompon, peony-like, buttoned and ruffled.

They may be single stemmed or present a bouquet of several blossoms on a stalk. Newer disease-resistant varieties brag continuous flowering from the first bud in spring to the final pruning in winter.

Best of all, with a little know-how, roses are one of the easiest plants to grow in our gardens, offering perennial joy. Plant them in a formal garden bordered by boxwoods, or add varying heights of roses to a casual mixed backyard bed. Pop them in containers to add elegance to a porch, patio, or balcony. Train climbers and ramblers to grow on arches, gates, trellises, fences and walls, adding vertical appeal.

In our hardiness zone, February is an excellent month to plant bare root roses.

How to plant bare root roses

1. Decide where you want to plant roses. Although some varieties will tolerate a reasonable amount of shade, most roses require at least four hours of daily sunshine.
2. Once you know the "where," you can decide the "which." Peruse rose catalogs and visit your nursery. You want to purchase the right rose for the right purpose. Make sure that the bare-root roses you select are healthy and sturdy. If planting more than one, it is best to purchase the same color and type of rose in uneven numbers. For example, buy three or five of the same rose for preferable impact.
3. Soak your roses overnight in a bucket of water to rehydrate them.
4. Dig a hole large enough to allow the roots to spread.
5. Spade the soil well and add compost.
6. After removing each rose from the bucket, place the bare roots of each rose in a separate hole. The bottom of the stems needs to be two to three inches below the top of the hole.
7. Replace the soil and tap around the rose with your foot until the ground is firm.
8. Water slowly and deeply.
9. Mulch with bark, shredded wood, or pine needles to three inches of thickness. This prevents erosion, controls temperature variations, suppresses weeds, and makes for a prettier presentation.



A favorite coupling for Valentine's Day, red roses and baby's breath.

Maintenance of your rose garden

1. Watering properly is key to healthy roses. Water deeply without flooding and be cognizant of your sprinkler system to assure that your roses are not over or under irrigated.
2. Fertilize in March, then approximately eight weeks apart starting in May through September. For my first feeding, I like to use alfalfa pellets mixed with diatomaceous earth.
3. Although the new varieties of roses are more disease resistant, black spot, rust, and powdery mildew remain the culprits to control. Destroy any diseased, fallen leaves.
4. If you have a plethora of other flowers, your garden will have developed a more natural eco-system, keeping most pests away. Aphids can be sprayed with soapy water, or introduce ladybugs.
5. Deadhead as flowers wilt and prune

stems back one and a half feet after flushes of flowers to shape your plant. 6. Once a year, usually toward the end of January, heavy prune roses removing any dead, diseased or damaged stems. Old wood can be cut from older roses to encourage fresh growth. Shrub roses can be pruned one-third to two-thirds. Hybrid teas and floribundas should be pruned to three-quarters. Leave ramblers alone or shape them according to your wishes. Remove the dead wood on climbers and cut the year's flowering stems back to three-quarters.

Whether you decide to cultivate shrub roses, old roses, rambling roses, climbing roses, hybrid teas, tree roses or floribundas, you will be rewarded with beauty, fragrance, and the ability to create sweet scented arrangements throughout the year.

For Valentine's Day, consider giving your loved one a bouquet of roses and a bare root plant. Double the pleasure. Everything is coming up roses!



A warm apricot colored rose. Brandy.

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for February

- **IDENTIFY:** With the rains, fungi are at their edible best. If you don't know how to identify mushrooms that grow in your garden, do not eat them. Buy from a reputable source and enjoy the impressive nutritional benefits of this humble fungus. Whether you eat shitake white, oyster, hen-of-the-woods, Portobello, or others, mushrooms are brimming with phytochemicals, antioxidants, and fiber, all which are packed with anti-inflammatory properties that can protect you from numerous diseases.
- **APPRECIATE:** Daffodils and narcissi have unfurled their blooms suggesting the promise of printemps.
- **BUY:** "Growing with the Goddess Gardener" is a gift that will give perennially. Order copies with extra freebies at <http://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>.
- **PERUSE** catalogs to create your plan for spring planting.
- **FIND** a rose with the same name of your partner. If you have the dollars, there are companies that will allow you to name a rose.
- **ENJOY** this final month of garden rest before the busy spring season arrives.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Love Day!



Don't eat the mushrooms growing in your garden unless you know they are edible.



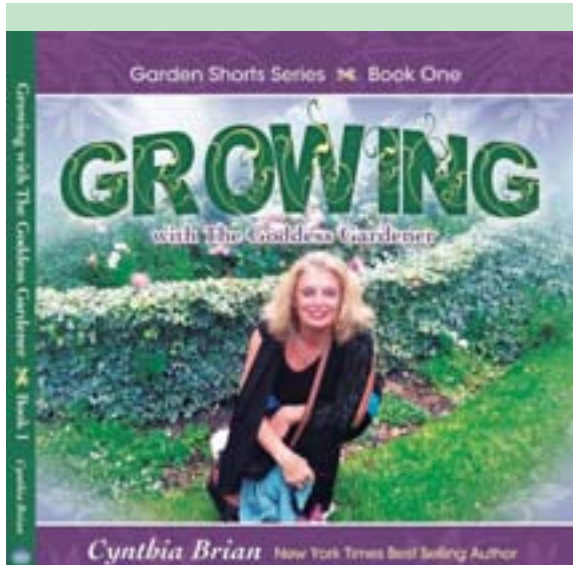
Hills of narcissi and early daffodils light up the winter landscape.



A trellis of rambling white roses.



The fragrant ruffled lilac rose, Angel Face.



"Growing with the Goddess Gardener" makes an enduring gift for any garden lover.



Cynthia Brian with her namesake rose, "Cynthia"

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!® 501 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!® 501 c3 at www.BetheStarYouAre.org

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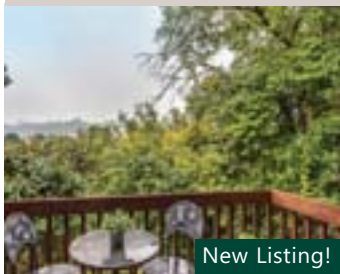
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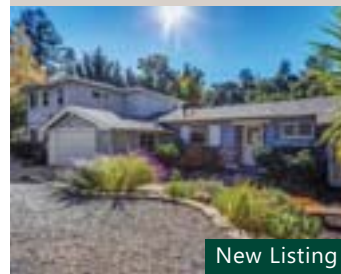
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