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Participants cross the finish line at the April 23 Special Olympics event at Acalanes High School. Photo Tyler Krochmal

# Community gathers to cheer Special Olympics student-athletes

By Jon Kingdon

Even with a small group of people, it's almost impossible to come together with a single opinion about any one issue. On April 23, there was a gathering of athletes, fans, coaches, volunteers and family members that came together with a unanimous opinion on one issue: The Special Olympics Northern California Contra Costa Schools Partnership Area Games was an event that was both entertaining and inspiring.

For the sixth straight year, Acalanes High School was the host for these games. It was an appropriately sunny day for the special education student-athletes who came from elementary schools up to post-high school transition schools.

Keiko Arzouman, the area manager for the Schools Partnership Program, oversees over 100 events for schools in Northern California throughout the year: "The interschool programs provide the special needs students with an opportunity for sports that they normally would not otherwise have during the school day. There are over 35 classes from all over Contra Costa County, bringing in over 600 athletes. Acalanes is one of our bigger events. The school very generously provides everything for free. Besides the use of their facilities and providing snack bags for the athletes, there are over 100 volunteers from the high

school."

The athletes competed in track and field events. There were wheel chair races, 50- and 100-meter runs, relay races and a mile run. The field events entailed throwing the turbo javelin, softball and tennis ball throws and the standing long jump.

Under the tutelage of Acalanes Leadership Teacher Katherine Walton, seniors Nick Bettencourt and Audrey Glosson led the coordination of the event with the over 100 volunteers from Acalanes. Bettencourt explained how it all developed: "In my leadership class, I was on the community outreach committee which entailed the Special Olympics and Audrey and I decided to spearhead and run the whole event."

Bettencourt and Glosson arrived at 6 a.m. and did not leave until the end of the school day though their efforts began long before the event. Working closely with Sheri Roberti, the coordinator of the Special Olympics Schools Partnership Program, Glosson said meetings began a few months ago and they worked on registering the 60 different schools that came in from Northern California. "We had parents who volunteered and also had 110 student volunteers that allowed us to make this event happen. The students signed up for certain time slots and Miss Walton let the teachers know which period the students would be working and missing those classes."

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# Town takes safety measures regarding new Rheem sinkhole

By Vera Kochan

During a special session of the town council, held prior to the regularly scheduled meeting on April 24, the council members voted unanimously to approve a resolution authorizing the appropriation of \$80,000 from the General Fund Reserve to Department 730 Storm Drain Maintenance. This authorization provides the initial technical support necessary to protect improvements to Moraga's storm drain infrastructure and ensure the health and safety of its citizens.

According to the staff report, the town was notified of a depression in a landscape planter near a streetlight pole on March 26 at the Rheem Boulevard and Center Street intersection. Concerns arose about potential problems affecting the town's storm drain system that runs approximately 25-feet below.

The property owners were advised by the town to take precautions to avoid the risk of health and safety hazards, including draining the 500-gallon underground oil tank on the Moraga Star gas station property to prevent possible

seepage into Laguna Creek which flows through the storm drain culvert; removing the nearby streetlight pole to prevent it from potentially falling and injuring someone; and securing the surrounding area to prevent passersby from getting too close to the site.

Almost 10 days later the depression appeared to be a minor concern compared to an approximately 2-foot by 5-foot sinkhole that appeared on the property adjacent to the initial issue. Based on an inspection, it was determined that water, dirt and debris are entering into the corrugated

metal pipe, below the property, that extends roughly 500-feet under the Rheem Shopping Center.

The town has kept regular contact with the property owners by stressing the urgency of the situation and offering technical support toward repairs keeping in line with those made during the 2017 sinkhole restoration process just across the street.

The Rheem Shopping Center property owner's contractor inspected the culvert on April 19, along with their engineering team, only to discover that approximately 20

feet of CMP under the sinkhole had been crushed. Reaching the same conclusion as the town, the contractor agreed that the voids in the pipe should be filled and the pipe should be lined.

Three days later, the property owners shored up the 20-foot section of crushed pipe to prevent a collapse.

Inspectors recommend a prephase to relieve pressure on top of the crushed pipe by excavating the soil above. The shape of the pipe must be restored and reinforced before filling any voids and lining the pipe. ... continued on Page A4

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Bringing classical music to the community with Pop-up Bach events - Page B1



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## Clearing the confusion around teen drug use

By Pippa Fisher

What are the roles, responsibilities, rules and consequences surrounding underage substance use? For many parents of teens there is much confusion about the roles played by police and schools. The Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention Team of Lamorinda is hosting an evening of education from 7 to 8:30 p.m. May 7 in the Don Tatzin Community Center at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center to address these questions and others.

The discussion focusing on how parents, schools and law enforcement can partner together to reduce underage sub-

stance use and keep kids safe, will be facilitated by a panel of experts in the field including those from Lamorinda police and the Acalanes Union High School District.

Additionally the Drug Enforcement Administration will be presenting a real-life teen bedroom scenario – parents will be invited to see what can be “hidden in plain sight,” as they search for the prehidden drug paraphernalia and signs of risky behavior, often overlooked by parents.

ADAPT Lamorinda Program Director Jaime Rich says that this event will provide a unique opportunity for community members to hear from

representatives of the two main local entities – law enforcement and schools – that touch young people when it comes to alcohol and other drugs.

“Local parents have expressed confusion over consequences for our teens when it comes to offenses that involve alcohol and other drugs. We will outline what these consequences are when it comes to schools and the greater Lamorinda community. How do law enforcement and the schools intersect and when don’t they?” says Rich, adding, “We will also

share information on the roles of parents in this realm.”

Rich says DEA representatives will also be sharing what they are seeing locally and beyond.

Quoting from the California Healthy Kids Survey, Rich says that 25 percent of 11th graders report currently using electronic cigarette or vaping devices, which she explains is a two-fold increase from the last CHKS data.

“Most of that use is reportedly for marijuana or THC,” says Rich. “Thirty-four percent

of 11th-graders report having consumed alcohol in the past 30 days (above the state average); 27 percent of 11th-graders report having used marijuana in the past 30 days; 23 percent of 11th-graders think there is no harm in smoking marijuana occasionally; 36 percent of ninth-graders and 48 percent of 11th-graders report that it is very easy to obtain alcohol.” She also noted that 24 percent of ninth-graders and 49 percent of 11th-graders think it is very easy to obtain marijuana.

Those planning on attending the free event should reserve their place by going to [www.eventbrite.com/e/we-are-all-in-this-together-a-lamorinda-town-hall-tickets-60222437933](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/we-are-all-in-this-together-a-lamorinda-town-hall-tickets-60222437933).

## Mike Anderson takes over as mayor



Photo Jeff Heyman/City of Lafayette

Vice Mayor Susan Candell and Mayor Mike Anderson

By Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette City Council voted unanimously to appoint Mike Anderson as mayor and Susan Candell as vice mayor effective immediately at its April 22 meeting.

Former Mayor Cam Burks stepped down from the position on April 20, citing work and family reasons. He has just taken a new career opportunity and said in his announcement April 8 that he would no longer have the time to commit to the position 100-plus percent. He intends to remain on the council for the remainder of his term, which ends in 2020.

Anderson is no stranger to the position of mayor, having served three rounds in that capacity: 2007-08, 2012-13, and 2016-17. He was first elected in 2005. Anderson’s current term ends in 2020.

Vice Mayor Susan Candell is serving her first term on the council. She was elected in 2018. Her term expires in 2022.

## Another group graduates from the Citizens’ Police Academy



Photo Pippa Fisher

Participants of the most recent Citizens' Police Academy presented the chief with a check for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

By Pippa Fisher

The spring session of the Citizens’ Police Academy ended with a graduation during the April 22 Lafayette City Council meeting. And as a surprise gesture of thanks and appreciation, the class presented the police chief with a check for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in his honor.

Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt officiated over the graduation for this group, his second academy since he took over as chief just over a year ago.

The Citizens’ Police Academy is an opportunity for residents to learn how the police department functions. Participants attend six evening sessions, plus a Saturday session on the gun range and cover a wide array of topics, including criminal justice, traffic operations, investigations, use of force, a tour of a crime lab and a jail tour. All get to drive a police car, fire a gun and complete a four-hour ride-a-long with an officer. It does not certify

participants as police officers.

Alldritt explained that this session comprised a broad spectrum of residents including working and retired professionals, and people who have worked in emergency preparedness, as well as one resident who had told Alldritt that he was there because he had recently retired and his wife signed him up.

Alldritt thanked crime prevention commissioners Denise Brown and Judie Peterson who, together with Police Community Services Officer Cathy Surges-Moscato, he said, make the academy happen. He explained that he values the academy as a chance to educate, share and receive feedback.

“For me and for our staff it’s always just a great opportunity for us to engage with folks from our community that have an interest in a variety of topics – law enforcement, emergency preparedness and crime prevention –

... continued on Page A10




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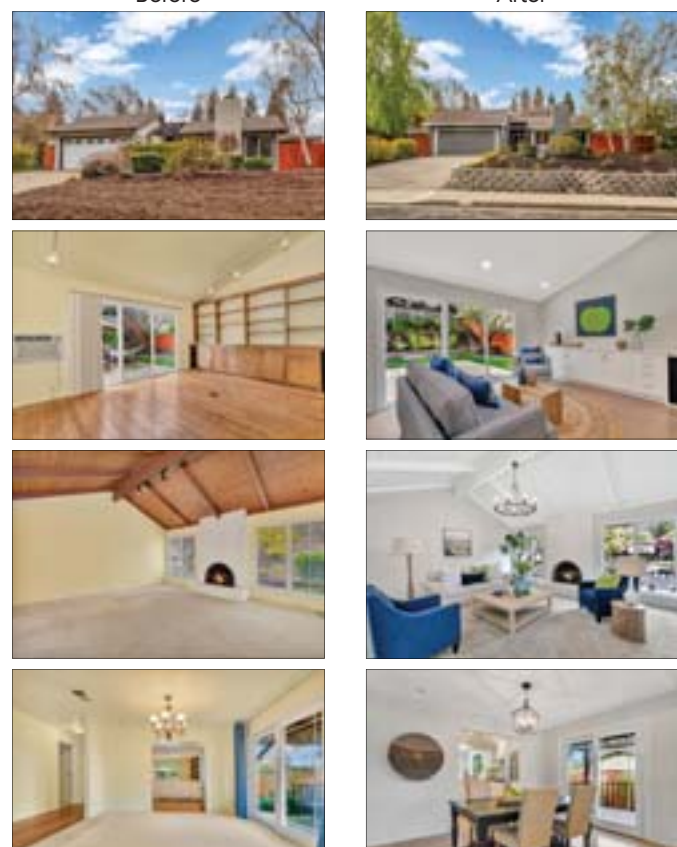
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**Lafayette Public Meetings**

**City Council**  
 Monday, May 13, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**  
 Monday, May 6, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**  
 Monday, May 13, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
 Wednesday, May 1, 7 p.m.  
 AUHSD Board Room  
 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
[www.acalanes.k12.ca.us](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us)

**Lafayette School District**  
 Wednesday, May 22, 7 p.m.  
 Regular Board Meeting  
 District Office Board Room  
 3477 School St., Lafayette  
[www.lafsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lafsd.k12.ca.us)

# Taste of Lafayette – a strolling, community dinner party



Last year's participants

Photo provided

By Pippa Fisher

It is almost time for Lafayette's favorite dinner party – Taste of Lafayette – and all are welcome. This year the event will take place on Tuesday, May 14 starting at 5:30 p.m. as tasters gather for appetizers, a glass of wine and music at popup art gallery JPG@TheBank on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road.

Taste of Lafayette is now in its 17th year and has become one of Lafayette's most popular evenings. Tickets for the events, hosted by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, have sold out early in previous years.

The "party" is more of a stroll, in fact, as residents gather with friends and neighbors to meander, sampling tastes from over two-dozen participating restaurants along "restaurant row."

Restaurant-goers move at their own pace, stopping at any or all of the participating restaurants until 8 p.m. A free shuttle bus will be available if needed.

Coffee and dessert will be served back at the popup gallery from 7 p.m., and at 7:45 p.m. the raffle, benefiting the Lafayette Community

Foundation, will be drawn. Musical entertainment will feature the Gold Coast Chamber Players' latest venture Pop-up Bach – described as "chamber music experience in unexpected places," featuring the Little Stars Trio.

"It's that one spring night where the sidewalks of Lafayette are filled with hundreds of smiling people, everyone enjoying conversation with friends and neighbors, while tasting signature dishes," says Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson.

And there should be plenty of choice for every palate. This year participants include Amarin Thai, Amphora Nueva, Barranco Cocina Peruana, Batch & Brine, BevMo!, Chelini Fresh Pasta Works (at Back to the Table), Chow Lafayette, The Cooperage American Grille, Diablo Foods, izzyA's Frozen Custard, The Hideout Kitchen, Lafayette Bistro at the Park, Locanda Positano, Mangia Ristorante & Pizzeria, Metro Lafayette, Patxi's Pizza, Philz Coffee, Pizza Antica, Postino, Rancho Cantina, RÈVE Bistro, Sideboard Neighborhood Kitchen & Coffee Bar, Solano Jewelry, SusieCakes, Urban Remedy, Uncle Yu's, and Zoonie's.

Tickets while available may be purchased on the Chamber website at <https://lafayettechamber.org/taste/> for \$55 each. Taste of Lafayette "passports" may be picked up from the Chamber offices during office hours between May 9 through May 13, or on the evening of the event at JPG@TheBank.

## Earth Day in Lafayette



Photo Pippa Fisher

The 4H petting zoo is always popular at Lafayette's Earth Day Festival



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- 1411 CAMINO PERAL • 1416 CAMINO PERAL\*\*\* • 1418 CAMINO PERAL\* • 1426 DE LA CRUZ • 1437 CAMINO PERAL • 144 ASCOT DRIVE #2
- 1475 CAMINO PERAL • 149 WALFORD DRIVE • 15 BRECK COURT\*\* • 15 VIA BARCELONA • 1515-A CAMINO PERAL • 1522 RISHELL DRIVE
- 156 MIRAMONTE DRIVE\*\* • 15804 CAMBRIDGE\* • 16 JOSEFA PLACE • 16 SARAH LANE • 160 VIA JOAQUIN • 1602 RANCHO VIEW
- 1613 GEARY ROAD • 1623 CAMINO PABLO • 1645 DEL MONTE • 166 SELBORNE DRIVE • 1715 139TH STREET • 1729 RELIEZ VALLEY ROAD
- 1775 PANDA WAY • 1798 ST ANDREWS DRIVE\*\* • 180 VALLEY GLEN LANE • 182 FERNWOOD DRIVE • 1835 LAMPLIGHT COURT
- 1843 JOSEPH DRIVE • 1891 APOLLO COURT • 19021 SCHUESTER AVENUE • 1919 YGNACIO VALLEY ROAD\*\*\* • 1924 ASCOT DRIVE\*\*
- 1939 ASCOT DRIVE\*\* • 19511 ALANA ROAD\*\*\* • 1958 ASCOT DRIVE • 1976 FOX RIDGE COURT • 1977 ASCOT DRIVE #5
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- 20 ROSS DRIVE\* • 200 RIO GRANDE COURT • 201 MIRAMONTE DRIVE • 201 TUMBLEWEED • 2020 DATE STREET • 2024 ASCOT DRIVE
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- 403 • 433 MORAGA WAY\* • 4416 PAMPAS CIRCLE • 45 VIA FARALLON • 459 FERNWOOD DRIVE • 46 SARAH LANE
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- 63 WARFIELD DRIVE • 6373 ARMS LAKE ROAD • 650 SKY HY COURT • 656 MORAGA ROAD • 6633 ARMOUR DRIVE • 67 LA CRESTA
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## Rheem Theatre sold



Rheem Theatre and surrounding retail shops Photo Vera Kochan

### By Vera Kochan

Moraga's Rheem Theatre located at 350 Park Street, has been on and off of the market since 2008 when prior property owner Mahesh Puri tried to sell it. With a list price of \$4.2 million, on April 12 the property finally found a buyer.

The Rheem Theatre property includes retail shops Glam Palace at 348 Park Street, iRepair Moraga at 354 Park Street, Sushi Fighter at 356 Park Street, and Ristorante Amoroma at 360 Park Street.

The Kase Group's Senior Vice President Michael Cisternino confirmed the April 12 closing date. The 2.1-acre lot with a square footage of 22,828 sold for \$4 million to Cinema West, which has a corporate office in Petaluma and owns theaters with 14 locations in California alone.

The historic Rheem Theatre, built in 1957 by architects Cantin and Cantin, boasted a lobby loaded with movie memorabilia, but theater operator Derek Zemrak confirmed that the movie memorabilia was not part of the sale and will not be staying at the Rheem.

Moraga Community Foundation President Tom Schnurr stated, "We are happy to say that our lease remains intact and it is currently business as usual at the Rheem!" This statement is evidenced by the theatre's marquee listing the April 26 opening of the much anticipated and potential blockbuster "Avengers: Endgame."

Lamorinda Weekly reached out to Cinema West for information about future plans for the Rheem Theatre property and adjacent retail shops but did not receive a reply by press time.

## Sinkhole

... continued from Page A1

While the town has made it clear that the property owners are responsible for repairs to the storm drain pipes on their property, the town continues to offer technical support. Town staff is gathering qualified consultants, many of whom were in-

involved with the 2016 Rheem Sinkhole, to provide that support.

To date, \$19,652.20 has been spent in providing technical support for the property owners. The \$80,000 appropriation will cover that and provide additional funding for the next few weeks until a plan has been developed. The

\$1.65 million reimbursement to the General Fund for the Temporary Canyon Bridge is expected to restore the town's General Fund Reserve level to 50 percent of operating expenditures by June 30 and is enough to cover the initial emergency response.



**Town Council**  
 Wednesday, May 8, 7 p.m.  
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

**Planning Commission**  
 Monday, May 6, 7 p.m.  
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

**Park and Recreation Commission**  
 Tuesday, May 21, 7 p.m.  
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

**Moraga School District Board Meetings**  
 Tuesday, May 14, 7 p.m.  
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2



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## Moraga's small businesses utilize the talents of Saint Mary's College



Photo Vera Kochan

Consulting teams hard at work offering small business solutions.

By Vera Kochan

Saint Mary's College ChangeMakers has partnered with The Moraga Chamber of Commerce to present the first, and hopefully annual, Small Business Catalyst Program.

The event, held April 17 at the SMC campus, utilized members of the Graduate School of Business to help local businesses with 15 or less employees solve various challenging issues that may arise within the course of daily operations.

SMC undergraduates, grad students, faculty and alumni were called upon to provide their input and expertise in a roundtable format with six individual business owners who had, prior to the event, provided the consulting team with pertinent background information and expectations. Through discussions and a diagnosis,

a game plan was formulated to help the business owner address and overcome any success-hindering issues.

Areas of possible troubleshooting were: financial, accounting support and analytics for sound decision making; business development challenges; marketing with media and social media; computer and online support; conversion of online business or home-based businesses to brick and mortar; competitive market research; organizational and structural management and; international growth opportunities.

SMC Director of Marketing and Outreach for Graduate Business Programs Bill Flitter stated, "I was initially worried - it being our first time - but I'm very pleased with how things turned out." Flitter co-organized and acted as Master of Ceremonies.

...continued on Page A12

## Mobile Moraga app making headway



By Vera Kochan

Back in February, Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt first presented the idea of a new work order management system to the Moraga Town Council.

The free app's features would allow a user to click onto whatever issue needs attention by the Public Works Department or the Parks and Recreation Department. Problems such as traffic signal issues, potholes and more would be re-

ported by the touch of a fingertip.

An additional feature lets the user go one step further to target the exact geo-location of the problem and either upload or download photos for a more detailed explanation of the issue.

The final weeks of testing the app and the work order system occurred in April involving the town staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission. "The app has been submitted to Apple and Google for approval," Brandt explained, "and we will go 'live' once the free app is available for download in the app stores."

"The Beta testing," acknowledged Brandt, "has prompted some improvements and resolved some initial glitches so we are prepared for a smooth launch. The work order system, known as 'report an issue,' has specifically been refined to include 10 categories in which residents can report concerns to the town." These categories are: potholes; storm drains and creeks; streets; trash; parks and trails; hazards; graffiti; facility and building issues; public works (general); and animal control (referred to the county).

The new app will provide additional information about the town and the Moraga community. Features such as town news, social media and live stream feeds will also be available to users.

Brandt stated that there will be a general town booth during the May 11 Moraga Community Faire at the Rheem Shopping Center, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., where attendees can get additional information about the new Mobile Moraga, as well as free giveaway items.

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**ORINDA**

See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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# ConnectOrinda Celebration scheduled for May 16 as planning process draws to a close



Photo Sora O'Doherty

ConnectOrinda demonstrates how Vashell Way can be used for city events by hosting their Celebration event at the location, which is also being used by Orinda's Restaurant Tour. The quiet street is located opposite the iconic Orinda Theatre.

**By Sora O'Doherty**

The last step before the unveiling of the final plan for ConnectOrinda will take

place in the Theatre District from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 16. The Celebration, the fifth of six planned steps, will be a time for Orindans to

view and comment on the work staff and the consultant team have done to date. The project launched last October and held a public workshop in January. In March, the city council reviewed progress of the group, and the suggested projects.

The event will be staged at the intersection of Vashell Way and Moraga Way. Participants will be able to view and comment on the eight projects the Orinda City Council directed to further develop, and the draft companion downtown-wide design guidelines. They'll also be able to experience the potential benefits of one of the proposed projects, a part-time pedestrian alley at Vashell Way. According to Victoria Eisen, partner of Eisen | Letunic, the project consultant, it is hoped that some will stroll over after dining in the Theatre District while others will swing by on their way home from the Village's food trucks.

Since last October, staff and the consultant team have been meeting with and listening to the Orinda community's assessment of what is lacking in downtown Orinda. As a result, ConnectOrinda has been focusing on how to help make the Theatre District and the Village feel more connected and make travel between the two safer and easier. The process started with the Oct. 13 launch, with its walking tours, blank maps, community surveys, and stakeholder interviews. The community provided hundreds of comments at this

stage, which were used to develop 19 potential projects, which were presented at a Jan. 29 workshop in conjunction with a city council meeting. The Orinda community submitted over 1,000 project-specific votes/likes and over 1,000 comments about these projects, which were used to distill and reconstitute the projects into eight projects plus the beginnings of a set of design guidelines that can be applied throughout the downtown.

At its March 5 meeting, the council expressed support for most of the projects, asking staff and the consultant team to further assess the feasibility, cost and preliminary design of each. Since then, staff and the consultant team have been working to further develop the other projects and downtown design guidelines, drawing from similar precedents elsewhere and new sketches of what they could look like in downtown Orinda. The analyses that allowed considering various changes to Camino Pablo are also being documented so that, if and when a comprehensive traffic study is pursued, it will be able to benefit from this earlier work.

Community members are invited to provide additional feedback at and following the May 16 event, which will be used to transform the design guidelines and projects into a plan document that the council will consider adopting in the fall.

# Council reviews parking options for downtown Orinda, chooses pilot for employees

**By Sora O'Doherty**

A pilot program for permit parking for Orinda employees on Altarinda Drive was the city council's favorite of the proposed parking remedies presented by Adele Ho, Project Management Consultant on parking solutions projects.

City staff asked the council for further direction on how to proceed with some suggested parking management tools. Another idea that gained traction with the council was the concept of entering into agreements with local churches to use parking spaces that are otherwise un-

derused during the work week. Although the council stated it cannot afford to provide shuttle service from these lots to BART, it was noted that several factors make connecting to the county bus system more attractive now. The frequency of buses on the Moraga Way route has been increased, and riders can track the buses in real time with the County Connection's app, making it easier for commuters to park in a church lot and then take the bus to the BART station.

Another pilot program the consultant suggested was rejected by the council after

hearing from local residents. That pilot would have affected lower Bates Boulevard, which contains a mix of commercial and residential properties. The commercial property at 2 Bates Blvd. has some 40 parking spaces, which it offers for rent to the public at \$115 per month. The council was surprised to learn that eight of these spaces have yet to be taken up.

The council also considered a pilot permit program for BART parkers, but did not move forward with this. The council is only interested in such a program if it can be limited to Orinda residents,

and there is some question about whether the use of public streets can be limited in that manner.

Another major item that was part of this latest parking study was the issue of a "parking in lieu" fee. Commercial buildings are required by Orinda municipal code to provide for a certain number of off-street parking spaces, depending on the size of the building. Currently, according to the staff report submitted by Director of Public Works and Engineering Larry Theis, if a proposed development or change in use is unable to meet the requirements, the

zoning administrator or planning commission must make findings for an exception to the requirements. If an exception is adopted, there is no associated mitigation or fee required. Other cities have an in lieu fee that requires the owner to pay a certain amount for each parking space required but not provided. These fees range from a high of \$57,344 in Danville to a low of \$19,200 in Lafayette. The city council members were very interested in the concept, but believed that it needs more study before being adopted by Orinda.

# Council considers new capital projects

**By Sora O'Doherty**

Orinda City Council members loved the new format staff chose to present them with the Draft Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2019-23. The new format is streamlined to include four lists of potential projects, as well as one to list last year's approved projects. The lists include projects that staff recommends as new capital improvement projects, another list contains projects that staff recommends, but for which there is inadequate funding; while another list contains the projects that staff recommended be added to the unfunded project list.

The final list is other potential capital improvement projects.

The council was impressed with the ease with which they could review the projects. However, one or two projects alarmed one council member or another. Vice Mayor Darlene Gee wondered about a 60-inch culvert in poor condition at Great Oaks Circle and Orchard Road. The replacement and upgrade of the culvert to a 100-year storm capacity is estimated at a cost of \$1 million. Gee said that the idea of a very large culvert in poor condition scared her. City Manager Steve Salomon noted that the replacement of the culvert is in the storm

drain master plan, but not the increase in capacity. Council Member Dennis Fay spoke about expanding the trimming and removal of trees on city-owned property. This emergency preparedness item is included in the strategic plan. Staff recommends bumping up the effort by increasing funding from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

Council Member Amy Worth asked about designing and constructing two to four bocce ball courts in Orinda. Apparently, bocce enthusiasts have offered funding, but the problem appears to be finding a suitable location for the courts. Fay and Miller expressed interest in accelerating the upgrade of all existing curb ramps and Fay said he was concerned about the item that deals with stabilizing city hall in the face of "large transverse cracks in the

parking spaces." While the building itself is not in danger, being constructed on a deep pile foundation, the upper parking lot, sidewalk, and the enclosures for mechanical equipment are being affected. The work is estimated at somewhat over a half million dollars.

Ian and Penny Baird waited through the long meeting to talk to the council about item A7 concerning the Icabod Lane storm drain extension. Penny Baird appealed to the council to undertake the work for safety reasons. She slipped in the wet conditions and broke her leg. Four to five months of the year there is a heavy flow of water down Icabod Lane, according to the Bairds, in addition to mud, branches and rocks. Ian Baird said that sometimes the water is more than an inch deep at the

crown of the road, so obviously much deeper over the rest of the road. The cost is estimated at \$50,000 and staff recommended that the project be added to the list of Capital Improvement Projects as a funded project for construction in the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Other projects ranged from modest, such as the Vashell Way pedestrian activation and the library terrace area pedestrian improvements, each estimated to cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000, to projects expected to cost over a million dollars, such as repairing the slide on the north side of Happy Valley Road or widening El Toyonal to accommodate a school bus. The complete list of projects is available online as part of the agenda packet for the April 23 city council meeting. **Info:** www.cityoforinda.org



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**City Council**

Tuesday, May 7. 7 p.m. Regular Meeting  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

**Orinda  
Public  
Meetings**

**Planning Commission**

Tuesday, May 14, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

**Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission**

Wednesday, May 8, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

**Orinda Union High School District Board Meetings**

Monday, May 13, 6 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda, www.orindaschools.org  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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## Wilder things: sidewalks, parking, and an easement

By Sora O'Doherty

Decades in the planning, the development at Wilder is finally coming to life, but it isn't without glitches, leaving residents frustrated and the Orinda City Council scrambling for fixes. At a well-attended April 23 city council meeting, the council dealt with three of the most pressing issues: access to the Art and Garden Center, parking enforcement and sidewalk completion.

The error that led to the Art and Garden Center being moved from a public street to a private street, with no provision made for public access to the rear of the building, is now being described as "an administrative oversight." The council corrected the situation by accepting the grant by the developer, OGLLC, of an easement over that portion of Bigleaf Road that leads from Wilder Road to Paintbrush Lane, which includes access to two mail kiosks and the rear entrance of the center. In return, the

city will contribute to the maintenance of the road, but the Wilder Homeowners Association will control the actual maintenance work. This led to protests from Wilder residents present, who argued that the city also needs to accept liability for the stretch of road. The easement will give the public access to the rear of the center, where a broad driveway will allow for dropping off supplies for events, as well as for disabled visitors who might have difficulty navigating the long ADA-compliant walkway up from the parking lot beside the play fields.

Currently there is approval for six parking spaces to the rear of the center, but the city also has plans for a larger, 26-space lot. Wilder residents have said that the presence of the six parking spaces will result in hundreds of cars driving up Bigleaf Road to see if they can nab one of the spaces. The city agreed to limit use of the spaces to events at the center and not for use by those using the play fields.

Residents described egregious driving and parking behavior around the play fields, including people parking in the spots allotted for Wilder residents to pick up their mail from the mail kiosk near Paintbrush Lane and sitting atop their vehicles to watch the game on play field four. Sometimes, according to residents, this involves a "tailgate" picnic, with trash being left behind.

Bruce Yamamoto, a representative of OGLLC and a member of the Wilder HOA, wrote to Director of Public Works and Engineering Larry Theis to ask for city help with the parking and traffic problems. His letter states that "the general public continues to create safety and traffic congestion issues by blocking traffic along Wilder Road as well as damaging adjacent landscaped areas." He added, "These issues were observed even when the designated public parking lot at Wilder Park was not full."

... continued on Page A13

## At last, redwood trees removed from Orinda mini park



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Workers remove redwood trees from beneath high voltage lines.

By Sora O'Doherty

A number of redwood trees that have been worrying PG&E owing to their placement directly under the high voltage power lines behind Theatre Square were removed during the week of April 15 by a crew from A Plus Tree. The trees had been slated for removal

for some time, and the city has plans to relandscape the mini park with plants that will present less of a fire danger.

Cesar Hernandez, A Plus Tree crew chief, said that in the past the company has been the subject of negative attention when removing trees,

... continued on Page A9

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# In Lafayette, another iconic restaurant goes up in flames



Photos Gint Federas



## By Nick Marnell

Duncan Seibert sat with his wife at their table on the Postino Restaurant patio April 16. The Lafayette resident said they had just ordered dinner when he saw smoke rise from the building. "That's quite a bit of smoke coming out of the kitchen," Seibert said to his wife, and as the column of smoke rose high

over the building, it quickly became obvious that there was a major problem. "The hostess ushered people out to the patio, many of them carrying food and their drinks. When the fire department came, we had to leave. People just stood on the sidewalk and watched. Someone handed my wife a glass of chardonnay, which was good because we never even got

our drinks," Seibert said. Engine 15 of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District arrived first to the scene, and crews from ConFire and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District extinguished the fire in the kitchen but had to deal with a hidden fire in the attic area. "Roof over roof, ducting and storage over the many years of this historic establishment made it a very labor intensive incident. Crews worked extremely

hard not only to cut and move structural items to reach the seat of a moving fire but also at preserving the rest of the structure," read the ConFire incident report. District spokesman Steve Hill said the crews took every effort to avoid causing unnecessary damage, recognizing the historical value of the building. The fire rekindled memories of a 2017 fire to another iconic Lafayette restaurant. "Oh my God, I got chills when

I heard," said Jeff Asadi, owner of La Finestra Restaurant which burnt to the ground and relocated to Moraga in 2018. "One day your restaurant is there, and then it's not. I know how hard it is. (The Postino owners) are my friends, and I am so sorry that they have to go through what I went through."

Postino co-owner Parry Tong presented an upbeat tone even knowing he faces difficulties with cleanup, insurance claims, permit approvals and construction. "We're working on everything, but it's all up in the air," said Tong, who hopes to reopen sometime in 2019. The fire remains under investigation, but Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt said that criminal activity had been ruled out as a cause. There were no reported injuries, and damage to the kitchen alone was estimated at \$100,000.

"The staff handled things very well, and we were never in danger," Seibert said.

# MOFD ramps up fire prevention efforts to allay rough fire season ahead



Photo MOFD

## District aide Patrick Carrillo with the new MOFD wood chipper

### By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District solidified its commitment to increased fire prevention by upping Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein's

position to full time and adding equipment, programs and personnel to fend off a potentially devastating fire season. The district commitment is in addition to the \$6 million state grant for creation of a shaded

fuel break in north Orinda and along the Lafayette Ridge.

Rein, who retired as fire chief of the East Bay Regional Park District in 2006, has been with MOFD since 2011 on a part-time basis refining emergency operations plans and preparing emergency operations drills, plus working with local groups like the Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team. He will work his increased hours through December organizing and supporting district fire operations, including the North Orinda Fuel Break program.

"The extra hours are going to allow us to go to the next level," Rein said. "We are getting much more involved with the community right now."

The district will continue its pilot Fuels Mitigation Program, which includes a manager and four part-time per-

sonnel whose job is to reduce hazardous fuels in the community. In addition to outreach and education, a major component of the FMP is a community

wood chipping program under which MOFD will chip vegetation that has been cut and stacked on the roadway.

... continued on Page A9

## MOFD open house May 4 offers exhibits on wildfire preparedness

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District hosts an open house May 4 at Fire Station 45 in Orinda, with the theme of community wildfire preparedness weaving through the exhibits, events and presentations. "It's going to be the most informative open house in years," Fire Marshal Kathy Leonard said. "We have received an enormous response from our sponsors. In all the time I've been here, I have not seen the level of interest and concern that I have seen this year."

Based on property owners' reactions at recent MOFD meetings, wildfire prevention is certainly top-of-mind for district residents, and staff from the Diablo Firesafe Council will explain how mini-grants are available for defending the home against wildfires. Representatives from Firewise USA will explain how neighborhoods can become Firewise communities - empowering neighbors to take action to prevent devastating wildfires. "The Firewise model gives neighborhoods an example of what they can do to protect themselves," Leonard said.

Hands-only CPR training and fire safety training will be offered by district personnel, and there will be fun events for families, too, including hanging out with the firefighters and checking out the fire apparatus. Plenty of entertainment is planned for the kids as well, with appearances by Smokey Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog. The firefighters will cook "firehouse hot dogs" for purchase, with proceeds going to the Muscular Dystrophy Association of the Greater Bay Area.

But make no mistake: community involvement for wildfire prevention is the driving force of this open house. "The recent tragedies show us that we must work collaboratively," Leonard said. "We don't want to see another Napa."

The open house runs from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. May 4 at Fire Station 45, 33 Orinda Way in Orinda Village.

<b>Fire District Public Meetings</b> <b>Moraga-Orinda Fire District</b> Board of Directors Wednesday, May 15, 7 p.m. Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit <a href="http://www.mofd.org">www.mofd.org</a>		<b>ConFire</b> Board of Directors Tuesday, May 21, 1:30 p.m. Board Chamber Room 107, Administration Building 651 Pine St., Martinez. For meeting times and agendas, visit <a href="http://www.cccfpd.org">www.cccfpd.org</a>	
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**Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report April 7 - April 20**

Alarms	57
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	167
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	24
Suspicious Vehicle	28
Service to Citizen	44
Patrol Req. Security Check	10
Vacation House Check	29
Supplemental Report	23
Welfare Check	16

**Vehicle violations**

Auto Burglary	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
30 Block Lafayette Cr.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Mountain View Dr.	

**DUI Misd**

3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
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**Hit And Run Misdemeanor**

4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Reliez Station Rd./Glenside Dr.	

**Reckless Driving**

Black Hawk Rd./Springhill Rd.	
Lafayette Cr./Hough Ave.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1St St/Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Glenside Dr./Burton Dr.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dolores Dr.	

**Vehicle Theft**

3900 Block S Peardale Dr.	
---------------------------	--

**Other criminal activity**

Fraud Credit Card	
3300 Block Moraga Blvd.	
Fraud False Pretenses	
1100 Block Via Roble (2)	
Identity Theft	
1000 Block Buchan Dr. (2)	
3300 Block Mildred Ln.	
Panhandling	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Petty Theft	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3400 Block School St. (2)	
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.	
Rx Fraud Deceit	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

**Shoplift**

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

**Warrant Service**

1000 Block Laurel Dr.	
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**Nuisance to the Community**

Disturbance-Domestic	
1000 Block Aileen St.	
4100 Block Hidden Valley Rd.	
1000 Block Via Media	
Disturbing The Peace	
Deer Hill Rd./Brown Ave.	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Drunk In Public	
1000 Block Dewing Ave.	
Loitering	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Loud Noise	
Moraga Blvd./Monroe Ave.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./2Nd St.	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.	
900 Block Janet Ln.	
Loud Party	
1200 Block Quandt Ct. (3)	
10 Block Amanda Ln.	
Public Assembly Check	
900 Block Leland Dr.	
Public Nuisance	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
School Assembly Check	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Vandalism	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
100 Block Secluded Pl.	

**Other**

Animal Cruelty	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Brandishing Weapon	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Ordinance Violation	
Hidden Valley Rd./Acalanes Rd.	
Threats	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Unwanted Guest	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1000 Block Via Media	

**Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report April 9 - April 22**

**Alarms**

911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	66
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	7
Service to Citizen	42
Patrol Request/Security Check	47
Supplemental Report	13
Vacation House Check	5
Welfare Check	1

**Vehicle violations**

Auto Burglary	
Moraga Country Club	
Excessive Speed	
Camino Pablo/Canyon Rd. (2)	
Camino Pablo/School	
Country Club Dr./Canyon Rd.	
Dollar Tree	
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd. (3)	
Larch Ave./Canyon Rd.	
Larch Ave./Wandel Dr.	
Moraga Hardware	
Moraga Rd.	
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Commons (4)	
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. (6)	
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr. (6)	
Moraga Rd./Sky Hy Dr.	
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr., Ori	
Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln.	
Moraga Way/St Andrews Dr.	
Moraga/St. Marys Rd. (3)	
No House Number	
Parking Lot	
Rheem Blvd./Chalda Way	
Rheem Blvd./Park St.	
School St./Country Club Dr.	
St. Andrews Dr./Country Club Dr.	
St. Andrews Dr./Moraga Way	
St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.	
Starbucks	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.	
Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.	
70 Block Donald Dr.	
Traffic Hazard	
Moraga Road	
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. (2)	

**Other criminal activity**

Burglary	
500 Block Moraga Rd.	
Disturbance-Domestic	

**Not Available**

Disturbing The Peace	
St. Marys College	
Identity Theft	
200 Block Sheila Ct.	
In Custody Theft	
500 Block Moraga Rd.	
Petty Theft Safeway	
400 Block Center St.	
Petty Theft From Vehicle	
Rheem Valley Shopping Center	

**Nuisance to the Community**

Loud Noise	
Camino Peral/La Mesa Dr.	
Loud Party	
100 Block Merion	
2000 Block Ascot Dr.	
Lynwood Pucorliss Dr.	
Public Nuisance	
1000 Block Sanders Dr.	
Vandalism	
Rheem Elementary School	

**Other**

Accident Injury	
Campolindo Dr./Calle La Montana	
Accident Property	
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.	
Camino Ricardo/Moraga Way	
Dependent Adult Abuse	
Police Department	
Other Felony	
Campolindo High School	
Other Misdemeanor	
Campolindo High School	

**Security Check**

4	
Vacation House Check	11
Supplemental Report	12
Welfare Check	4

**Vehicle violations**

Auto Burglar	
Bryant Way/Moraga Way	
10 Block Orinda Way	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Camino Sobrante/Camino Pablo	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Sobrante/Camino Pablo	
San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek Rd.	
Traffic Hazard	
Moraga Way/Brookwood Rd.	

**Other criminal activity**

Grand Theft	
Wilder Rd./Big Leaf Rd.	
Identity Theft	
30 Block La Noria	
Shoplift	
Beverages And More	
Warrant Arrest	
Safeway	
Eb Sr 24 At Acalanes Rd.	

**Nuisance to the Community**

Drunk In Public	
Safeway	
Loud Noise	
200 Block Orchard Rd.	
La Espiral/Via Hermosa	
Public Assembly Check	
Sleepy Hollow School	
Wagner Ranch Elementary	
School Assembly Check	
Wagner Ranch Elementary School	
Vandalism	
50 Block Moraga Way	
Mechanics Bank	
50 Block Moraga Way (2)	

**Other**

Accident Injury	
10 Block El Camino Moraga	
Accident Property	
Orinda Way/Camino Sobrante	
Camino Pablo/Bear Creek Rd.	
Moraga Way/Stein Way	
Prom Shoot	
St Stephens Dr./De Soto Ct.	
Unwanted Guest	
10 Block Theatre Sq 106	
Violation Restraining Order	
10 Block Mira Loma	



**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report April 7 - April 13**

Alarms	26
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	36
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	35
Patrol Request/	





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**Governor discusses urgent need for fuel reduction this wildfire season**



Photo Steven Danziger

**Gov. Newsom outlines North Orinda Fuel Break program.**

**By Nick Marnell**

Gov. Gavin Newsom traveled to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District April 23 to outline his major statewide fire prevention plan, encompassing 35 projects he approved for areas in California most vulnerable to a devastating wildfire.

When Newsom took office in January, he asked the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for a list of state areas in urgent need of fuel reductions and other preventive measures to ward off wildfires. Cal Fire submitted a list of 35 statewide projects, including the North Orinda Fuel Break, a 14-mile shaded fuel break from near the top of Eagle's Nest Trail, down Wildcat Canyon Road to Bear Creek Road and along Lafayette Ridge to Pleasant Hill Road.

"This is one of the larger projects of the 35," Newsom said, speaking at a press conference in Tilden Park, about one mile from the site of the 1991 Oakland Hills fire and adjacent to the western terminus of the North Orinda Fuel Break project, and within MOFD jurisdiction. The 1,700-acre north Orinda project, No. 9 on the Cal Fire list, affects more than 500,000 people in 30 East Bay communities. "You are as vulnerable as Butte County," said Newsom, referring to the 2018 Camp Fire, which killed 85 and destroyed more than 13,000 homes.

The governor said that

the 1991 Oakland Hills fire was seared into everyone's memory, and it has presented new standards and expectations. "We've been scatter-shot, but not as deliberate as we are today," Newsom said. "I signed a declaration of emergency in advance of an emergency."

Newsom acknowledged that transferring the money to the jurisdictions that are spearheading the projects has been a complex process. MOFD, which will partner with various public agencies to complete the north Orinda project, had not received a contract with grant terms from Cal Fire by the date of the press conference. But Cal Fire Director Thom Porter said that the agency is committed to having state workers and contractors on the job in north Orinda in early May. "We'll also see some National Guard that we've pulled off the border to do some real work," Newsom said, a dig at President Donald Trump.

Porter also said that the MOFD North Orinda Fuel Break grant has been increased to \$6 million. Once the contracts between Cal Fire and MOFD have been finalized, the grant will go to the fire district board for acceptance.

Newsom echoed what MOFD officials have been stressing now more than ever. "We can't do it alone," the governor said. "We need folks to work on defensible space. Nothing is more important than localism."

**At last, redwood trees removed from Orinda mini park**

... continued from Page A7

but now, with the greater awareness of fire safety, that has stopped. PG&E brought in a bucket vehicle and checked the trees for nesting birds and bees. According to PG&E spokesperson Megan McFarland, here were no bird nests or nesting birds in any of the trees removed. There was an active bee nest. Apiary enthusiast Brandon Drew of B&B Family Farms was called upon

to help relocate the bees.

Drew advised waiting until early morning to remove the nest, which was actually located in an old squirrel's nest – a first for Drew. Early in the morning, all the bees would very likely be in the hive, as they don't fly when the temperature is cool. Using the bucket vehicle, the nest was removed and placed in a bee box in the morning. In the evening, it was transported to another location. It will be re-

located back into the same area in about two to three weeks. By that time, the old worker bees will have died, as their natural lifespan is about three weeks, and so the bees won't try to return to the original location. Drew said that the bees had not been traumatized by the tree removal and were likely out foraging over their two- to three-mile flight pattern. The team responsible for the tree removal included an arborist.

**MOFD ramps up fire prevention efforts to allay rough fire season ahead**

... continued from Page A8

Only vegetation can go through the chipper, trees must be less than 6 feet in diameter and the chipped vegetation will not be hauled away but repurposed on the property. The program is intended for neighborhoods, not individuals, and complete program details can be found on the MOFD website.

The board approved the purchase of two utility pickup trucks, one of which will be used in the chipping program and the other for out-of-county

deployments by personnel who travel to wildland mutual aid incidents. Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said that through these deployments, district personnel gain invaluable experience on large-scale wildland incidents that is transferable to the local area.

MOFD further beefed up its apparatus fleet with the board-approved purchase of a new Type 6 fire engine, a small vehicle used to transport firefighters to the scene of hard-to-reach wildland fires, like those that could occur in district high

fire hazard severity zones.

A major component of any fire prevention plan is the cooperation of district residents. Rein said that everyone needs to comply with the fire code and maintain a defensible space on their property, and observe the district June 15 weed abatement deadline. "We're all in this together and we're all part of the solution," Rein said. "We need the residents to do their part to prepare for a very rough fire season ahead."



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# Concert at the Res one of several fun events planned this month



Photo John T. Miller

The Acalanes High School Jazz Ensemble rehearses for the upcoming Concert at the Res under the direction of Lauren Gibson (right).

By John T. Miller

The 25th annual Concert at the Res, put on by the Lafayette Rotary Club, will take place on Saturday, May

11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the outdoor stage at the Lafayette Reservoir.

Lafayette Rotarian Dick Holt conceived of the event over 25 years ago to provide a

showcase for local school music programs while also raising money to support their efforts.

While admission to the event is free, the annual concert is currently raising about \$20,000 a year, thanks to the efforts of Holt and his other Rotarians. Holt says, "Half of the money raised goes directly to support the local school music programs in the public schools and the other half goes to Rotary-sponsored programs such as Meals on Wheels, Trust in Education, and Rotary Scholarships."

Participants in the program include Stanley Middle School, Acalanes High School, the Rossmoor Big Band and Roosevelt Middle School from Oakland, and, in recent years, it has expanded to include young dancers and singers from the Lafayette Town Hall Education and the Performing Academy.

The Stanley Middle School Jazz Messengers, under the direction of local legend Bob Athayde, were recently named one of the top five middle school bands in the United States. In addition, eighth-grader Walter Serwin won first prize in the nation for an arrangement he composed for a saxophone quintet.

Athayde says, "This [concert] is a fun activity for us

and a chance for students to give back to the community. Playing music to make people happy reminds us that musicians are servants of the people, just like in Mozart's time."

Lauren Gibson, in her first year at Acalanes High School after taking over for longtime director Norm Deas, will bring her Jazz Ensemble – fresh off a performance at the University of Nevada at Reno Jazz Festival.

Lafayette Rotarian Mo Levich has directed the Rossmoor Big Band for the last 20 years. Holt calls him "instrumental in the local music scene."

The event will open with a musical fanfare with brass players from Acalanes, Stanley and Rossmoor, and will feature former mayor Don Tatzin as one of the brass members.

John Coleman, president of the East Bay Municipal Utility District board of directors, and Lafayette Mayor Mike Anderson, will speak at the event. Holt credits Coleman as being "extremely supportive of our efforts."

In addition to donations from Rotary members, major donors include Diablo Foods, Cortese Investments, Lamorinda Weekly, Lafayette Chamber of Concert, and many more. "A lot of people and or-

ganizations step up and write big checks," says Holt. "We've bought a lot of trombones and drum sets and many other items for our local music programs."

Raffle tickets, with prizes such as weekend getaways and other worthwhile winnings, will also be sold by Rotarians and Chamber of Commerce members to raise funds. Prizes have been donated by local corporations and individual donors.

The outdoor stage was built and funded by the Lafayette Rotary Club with help from the Lafayette Community Foundation and individual donors. Shortly after completion, the stage was dedicated and deeded to EBMUD to be operated by them for the use and enjoyment of the entire community.

In addition to the entertainment, food and drinks will be available for purchase, and chairs and shade tenting will be provided in a perfect picnic setting on the lawn.

Golf cart shuttles will be available to and from the parking lot to the stage area for those who desire it, and public restrooms and a children's play area are nearby. Parking is available for \$7 all day or at metered parking.

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## Other community events planned in May:

**Moraga Community Faire, May 11**

The 2019 Moraga Community Faire and Car Show will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 11 at the Town's Rheem Valley Shopping Center – offering a wonderful opportunity for a family fun day! While a free event, there is a \$5 charge for unlimited Kid's Zone activities include pony rides, bounce house and mazes, Bot Bash Party and Bay Area Ball Players. There will be food trucks, live music, wine and beer, and over 70 classic cars and booths to meet local artists, business and organizations. The booths and activities will be in the parking lot in front of CVS. Ride your bike and get free valet parking. The Moraga Community Faire and Car Show is organized and sponsored by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit [www.moragachamber.org/faire](http://www.moragachamber.org/faire).



**Orinda Restaurant Tour, May 7 (see story Page B8)**

**Taste of Lafayette, May 14 (see story Page A3)**

## Another group graduates from the Citizens' Police Academy



Photo Pippa Fisher

Participants of the spring session pose with the police chief, crime prevention commissioners and the city council April 22.

... continued from Page A2

and to let them see behind the scenes what we do at the police department," the chief said.

Alldritt expressed gratitude for the \$250 check in his name to the Leukemia and Lym-

phoma society, explaining that the police department is partnering with the society in honor of LPD Officer Neil Black's wife who almost lost her life to cancer two and a half years ago. The annual Police Motorcycle Competition will

raise funds for the society later this year.

Residents over 21 years of age who wish to take part in the academy should go online for further details on the fall session, which is enrolling currently.

**Info:** Visit [www.lovelafayette.org](http://www.lovelafayette.org), click on City Hall, then City Departments, Police and Citizens' Police Academy.

# Accolades for Citizen of the Year — Fred Weil



Photo Vera Kochan

Fred Weil and wife Joan with grandchildren from left Daniel Brown, Abigail Cunningham and Jessica Brown

By Vera Kochan

Citizen of the Year honors were presented to the 2019 recipient Fred Weil, at the Soda Center on the Saint Mary's College campus April 27.

Weil, a taxation and corporate attorney for more than 45 years, has served Moraga in one capacity or another for nearly as long.

Weil's service to Moraga came in varying forms and capacities. He was two-time president of the Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District; four-time president of the Acalanes Union High School District Board; director of the Soda Aquatic Center; director of the Acalanes District Education Fund; member of the Campolindo High School Parents' Committee on Accreditation; two-time president of the Moraga Elementary School District Board; chairman of LMYA Girls' Softball League; organizer of the Campolindo Choral Music Fund; founding director of the Moraga Educational Foundation; member of the Town of Moraga School Bus Committee; member of the Town of Moraga Park District Study Committee; four-time president of the Campolindo Homeowners Association and; offered pro bono work to help the Moraga Citizens Network and the Moraga Community Foundation obtain tax exemption status.

Born and raised in Chicago, Weil and his wife,

Joan, moved to Moraga in 1972, where they raised their three children Julie, Lisa and Mike. When asked why they chose Moraga Weil replied, "Primarily excellent schools and Moraga's reputation for safety even before it was incorporated. We liked the views of the hills and especially Mount Diablo. We also had good friends who had moved to Moraga a couple of years earlier."

Weil's involvement in community activities and organizations often came at the urging of friends. "This was especially true for the homeowners' association, both school districts and the fire district. In the case of the Town's Park Study Committee, I was recruited by the then mayor." Weil added, "At other times, I just saw a need and volunteered to help."

Serving on varying committees was intellectually stimulating to Weil and a bonus when his efforts provided positive results for the community. "We all have the capacity to do many different things and I just happen to have been truly fortunate to be able to enjoy such variety."

Besides taking pride in his accomplishments for Moraga, Weil and his wife are most proud of their family: daughter Julie Weil Brown and husband David Brown; Lisa Weil Cunningham and her husband David Cunningham; Michael Weil and his wife Dannielle; and his many grandchildren Daniel and Jessica Brown; Abigail Cunningham; Adena and Shoshana Weil.

Receiving the Citizen of the Year honor came as a "complete surprise" to Weil. "It's been incredible and a humbling experience. When asked how she felt about her grandfather receiving an award, 7-year-old Abigail, a student at Los Perales Elementary replied, "Good."

Master of Ceremonies for the evening were last year's recipients Sam and Susan Sperry, who kept the proceedings moving with clockwork precision.

After a delicious dinner, the presentations and honors came pouring in. Saint Mary's College former president Brother Mel Anderson, FSC, stated, "I have known and worked with Fred for many years. He is the personification of trust and confidence, as well as, a trusted friend. Saint Mary's College, with profound warmth, honors Fred as Citizen of the Year."

Moraga's Kiwanis Club President Ian Cook replied, "We can't thank you enough for all the years of service." Moraga Vice-Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus presented the mayor's proclamation and thanked him for his "tireless and selfless work that has made Moraga a better place in which to live and has made us all proud to be Moraga residents."

... continued on Page A13

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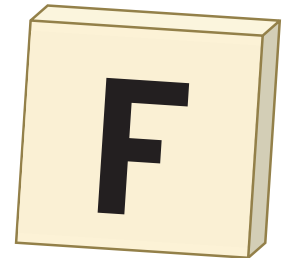
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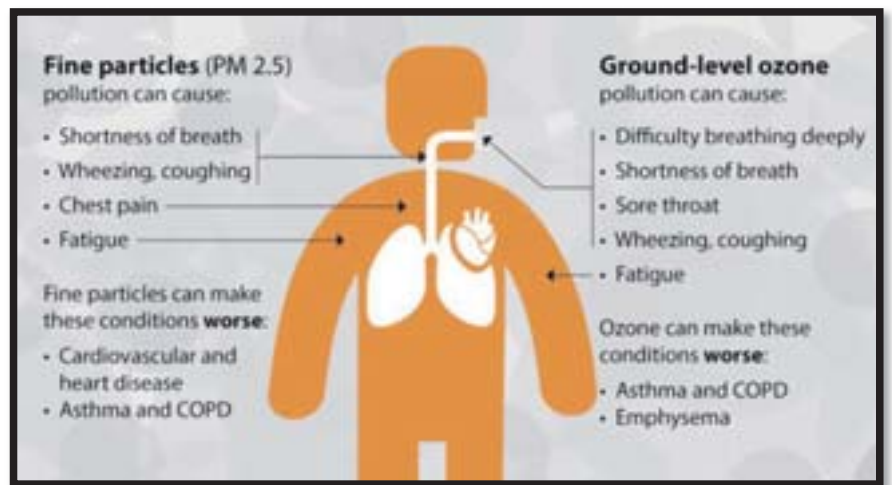
**F is for FAILING levels of service** at key intersections around the proposed Terraces, now and despite future mitigation measures. Is even more traffic congestion around Deer Hill and Pleasant Hill Roads "less than significant" to you?

Attachment 3

Table 18: Peak Hour Intersection Levels of Service—Existing Conditions and Existing Plus Project Conditions

ID	Intersection	Existing Conditions				Existing Plus Project Conditions					
		Delay	LOS	Delay	LOS	Delay	LOS	Delay	LOS		
1	Napa Valley Drive/Pleasant Hill Road	22.0	C	11.0	B	11.0	B	23.0	C	11.0	B
2	Green Valley Drive/Pleasant Hill Road	0.1	A	0.8	A	0.1	A	2.0	A	0.8	A
3	Redwood Valley Road/Pleasant Hill Road	12.0	B	9.0	A	6.5	A	12.0	B	9.0	A
4	Spring Hill Road—Quinn Road/Pleasant Hill Road	40.0	F	0.7	A	0.7	A	42.0	F	0.7	A
5	Deer Hill Road—Starling Boulevard/Pleasant Hill Road	184	F	16.0	D	77.0	E	121	F	16.0	D
6	Mount Diablo Boulevard—SR 24 EB On-ramp/Pleasant Hill Road	26.0	B	21.0	C	31.0	C	25.0	B	21.0	C
7	SR 24 EB On-ramp—Old Tunnel Road/Pleasant Hill Road	0.3	A	0.6	A	0.7	A	0.3	A	0.6	A
8	Deer Hill Road/Stream Avenue	188	F	N/A	N/A	79.0	F	21	F	N/A	N/A
9	Attingham—Ogden Intersection	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.0	A	N/A	N/A
10	Attingham—Roundabout	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	28.0	B	N/A	N/A
11	Deer Hill Road/First Street—Garcia Vista Way	28.0	B	17.0	B	18.0	B	28.0	B	18.0	B
12	Deer Hill Road/SR 24 WB Ramps—Laurel Drive	75.0	E	26.0	D	67.0	E	75.0	E	26.0	D
13	Pleasant Hill Road/Project Driveway	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.0	B	15.0	B
14	Deer Hill Road/East Project Driveway	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.0	B	12.0	B

**F is for FIRST RESPONDERS** stuck in traffic trying to reach the proposed Terraces, Acalanes High School, and the rest of the Pleasant Hill Road corridor. The developer's fix is to partially fund "Opti-Com" equipment that lets first responders turn traffic signals green. Fiddling the signals can't remove lines of queued-up cars, or clear accidents blocking the road, or restore electricity after a disaster. Ordinary motorists will simply have to wait.



**F is for FINE PARTICULATES** – along with hazardous fugitive dust, greenhouse gas emissions, noise and light pollution all inevitably resulting from the Terraces, during construction and after.

**F is for FED UP** with the bitter ongoing saga of the Terraces. Lafayette voters last year soundly rejected the Homes at Deer Hill, a 44-residence alternative to the Terraces. Rather than negotiate a compromise acceptable to the community, O'Brien Homes is trying to force the Terraces on Lafayette by **bullying our City Council and demanding that we accept outdated and shoddy environmental analysis.**

Please join your fellow citizens who **say NO to the Terraces and NO to excessive development anywhere in Lafayette.** Email the City Council at cityhall@lovelafayette.org, or find the original materials online at lovelafayette.org.



**Save Lafayette is a nonprofit group of volunteers** reliant on donated funds. O'Brien Homes can outspend us by orders of magnitude. If you're able to help financially, please send your check payable to Save Lafayette, 3220 Ronino Way, Lafayette CA 94549.

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## Lamorinda teachers compete for County Teacher of the Year



Cindy Fisher Photos Sora O'Doherty



Jennifer Dodd



Jennifer Strohmeyer

### By Sora O'Doherty

Three Teachers of the Year from Lamorinda elementary schools are in the running for Contra Costa County's 2019-20 Teacher of the Year award:

Cindy Fisher of Happy Valley Elementary School (Lafayette School District), Jennifer Strohmeyer of Donald L. Rheem Elementary School (Moraga School District) and Jennifer Dodd of Del Rey Elementary School (Orinda Union School District).

Although Moraga just selects one Teacher of the Year for the entire district, both Lafayette and Orinda select a TOY for each of the schools in their districts. For Lafayette, in addition to Fisher, the following were deemed Teachers of the Year: Katie Pitts, Stanley Middle School; Deborah Hungerford, Springhill Elementary School; Gwen Rikeman, Lafayette Elementary School, and Kim Isaacs of Burton Valley Elementary School. For Orinda, in addition to Dodd, the Teachers of the Year are Terry Schrittwieser, Glorieta Elementary; Beth Hoogerhuis, Sleepy Hollow Elementary; and Liz Headley of Wagner Ranch Elementary. In addition, OUSD also named Ashley Appel as Teacher of the Year at more than one site, and Eric Page as Teacher of the Year at Orinda Intermediate School.

"We are extremely proud of the Teachers of the Year, Class of 2019-2020," reports Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools Lynn Mackey. "When you review their TOY applications, it is quite evident that the latest candidates were thoughtfully selected to represent their schools and districts, while at the same time truly embody what is best about public education."

The county's TOY program uses a three-stage selection process, with a point and percentage system to determine the final candidates. A committee of 13 judges, representing the county's education, business, and public-sector partners carefully reviewed the TOY representative applications submitted by the school districts. This committee independently read and rated each application. After the application screening and scoring are completed, four teachers will be selected to advance to the next two phases as finalists. Then from April 22 to May 17, a small committee of education specialists and business partners will observe the finalists interacting with their students. Immediately following, the committee will interview the candidates, discussing topics such as their teaching philosophy and techniques.

On July 24, the TOY finalists will each give a three- to five-minute speech to another panel of a dozen educators, business, and public-sector representatives who will judge the finalists on their speech and presentation skills.

On the evening of Sept. 26, all 22 Contra Costa County TOYs, accompanied by their families, friends, and co-workers (an audience of close to 500) will be honored at the annual Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year Dinner Celebration, held at the Hilton Concord. The night will conclude with the announcement of the two 2019-20 Contra Costa County Teachers of the Year.

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## Moraga's small businesses

... continued from Page A5

The "speed consulting" event was considered a win-win for everybody involved. Participating businesses received free and invaluable consultations from individuals who are familiar with Moraga, and students gained insight into the workings and day-to-day issues that arise for a small business owner.

Moraga Chamber President Bob Fritzky said, "We feel really excited about this. SMC's provost wants to do more tangible programs with the town."

Another organizer and business participant, Chamber Board Member Mark Hoogs, recently brought his franchise of State Farm Insurance to Moraga. "The Chamber does a lot of this type of thing for its members and folks don't know about it." Hoogs wanted to give additional credit to SMC's Interim Dean in the School of Economics and Business Administration Yung Jae Lee for his help and support of the project.

Mixify Polish Owner and Chief Artisan Amy Schofield stated, "This opportunity is amazing! It's great to see the group so on-the-money with me. They're helping me to re-brand while clearing out my current inventory and maintaining brand integrity." Her company helps clients create their own signature nail polish color.

Bay Area Ballplayers owner Steve Hammond recently opened his facility geared toward providing athletes with professional technique and guidance. His business challenges included advice in expansion within the company's operations, process improvement and resource allocation decisions. Hammond's consultation was awesome, he

said. "It was great to have this experience one-on-one to address my specific problems."

Grateful Gatherings co-founder Chris Flitter, along with co-founder Donna Somerville, whose nonprofit provides furniture and home accessories for people transitioning from homelessness, needed a growth plan business strategy. "This has been amazing! We have a lot of great ideas, and we'll need to implement them. We're walking away with incredible ideas that don't feel overwhelming and a task list that can be broken into quarters."

Keith Katzman, owner of Keith Katzman Real Estate, was instructed to revamp previously inherited information from former owners of the firm he purchased. Said Katzman, "They pointed out a lot of key places where there was incorrect information. I need to start from scratch."

Student undergrad Aly Henry, majoring in business analytics and economics, was thrilled about the experience she received. "I had a lot of fun applying what we learned in accounting classes. I'm excited to work with and help these businesses. That's the field I want to get into."

Carly Turner, besides being a shooting guard on the SMC women's basketball team, is a grad student earning her MBA. "This is one of the first things I've been exposed to from a small business standpoint. This experience has got me thinking about maybe getting into consulting."

All participants were asked to fill out an assessment survey following the four-hour consultation program. There was no requirement to stay in touch, however; if any owner needed follow-up support, team members could continue to remain accessible.



## LAFAYETTE ROTARY'S CONCERT AT THE RES

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This year's event includes Acalanes High School, Stanley Middle School, Roosevelt Middle School from Oakland, and the Rossmoor Big Band; and the program has been expanded in the last few years to include young dancers and singers from the Lafayette Town Hall Education and the Performing Academy.

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# Community gathers to cheer Special Olympics student-athletes

... continued from Page A1

Acalanes senior Alex Feller has been a great supporter of this event and she brought a personal understanding as to what this event means: "I was in leadership and I volunteered for it as a freshman and volunteered for it every year since then. I have a cousin with Down syndrome. She never got to compete in anything like this and it's great to watch kids be able to compete in these events. My favorite part is the opening ceremony when the athletes walk out there with their teammates and the signs for their schools. They are so excited just to compete whether they win or not."

Ethan Slovick, a student at Stanley Middle School, participated in several events and spoke with great joy about the event: "I had a lot of fun. I did some training with running and throwing the softball and javelin and I got to meet new people." His favorite part of the day? "Running to the finish line."

Carter Tuckerman, also from Stanley, enjoyed the day: "The best part was running super-fast. I met new people and threw the softball and javelin. I had five of my friends here and I like the fans rooting for me."

Gio Garrett, another Stanley student, had a lot of fun participating in the events: "I enjoyed running the races and the long jump. I don't like other sports. I did train a lot. I worked on my jumping on the trampoline. I made a lot of friends and it's just been a great day for me."

Tony Ohlson, the life skills teacher and coach for the Miramonte High School team, brought 12 athletes to Acalanes: "The kids really look forward to the event. We also participate in soccer in the fall, basketball in the winter and this event. The kids love it and in participating, they have a connection with the other athletes."

One of his students, Fox Gerungan, spoke of what it meant: "I am excited about the event. I run track and just love any sport and get to meet other athletes."

Ember Bailey whose sons Tobin (Stanley Middle School) and Jonah (Acalanes) have participated in these meets for years said: "They are confidence boosters for them. They are around their typical peers and their classroom peers and have a lot of fun with it. They talk about it for weeks before it happens. It's a family event for us and it's a very grounding event for the parents. It's just awesome to see the support that the community and the

school brings. They cheer each other on and they make friends from the other schools. It's like a family reunion for the parents as well."

Robyn Dobruck, whose son Sam has Down syndrome and is a first-grader at Burton Valley, very much appreciates the support he gets from his school: "I'm thrilled to see Sam's first grade class here along with his fourth-grade buddies who help the first-graders read and helped train Sam. Sam is just running and responding to the energy here."

It's not just the parents and students that volunteered for this event. Members of the police departments from Lafayette, Pinole, Danville and San Ramon were on hand and gave out the ribbons to all of the athletes.

Acalanes trainer Chris Clark put in a yeoman's effort, spending the entire day over a grill, wearing an apron with the title "The Meat Team" at the Acalanes snack shack, preparing sandwiches for sale to the public: "I've been doing the barbecuing for the last 12 years at this and various other events at Acalanes. I have had different volunteers each year - it's like the passing of the spatula. All of our profits go back into the Special Olympics."

Dick Callahan, who has been the Oakland A's public address announcer for the past 16 years, has been voluntarily serving as the announcer at events like this one for the past 20 years. In explaining so eloquently and emotionally why Special Olympics means so much to him and everyone else who was in attendance in person or in spirit should strike home for everyone: "My answer is, What is not special about Special Olympics? I love what the kids do and how they compete and how the parents take care of them and get them out in the community. It's an amazing thing to watch. People may have restrictions in their lives but you can't tell that when they're competing. They have a heart, a will and a desire and wouldn't it be nice if we all had that. It's been a wonderful experience for me and I love being here."

Roberti spoke highly of how well things were run: "Working with Katherine Walton, who was fantastic, everything ran very smoothly. The kids were hot, but happy. The event gets better and better each year. We are looking forward to returning to Acalanes next year. It's a huge undertaking but it always ends up being a great event with lots of kids and we very much appreciate Acalanes hosting this event."

# Wilder things

... continued from Page A7

Extensive signage is being planned to clarify the parking situation, and the city agreed to provide robust parking enforcement, as Wilder residents complained about safety and convenience issues surrounding the play fields. Orinda plans to hire four new parking enforcement officers, who will focus largely on the play fields and Wilder Road, especially during evenings and weekends when parking in downtown Orinda is not restricted and the play fields are actively in use. The officers will have the authority to issue citations. In addition, according to city staff, bad behavior by teams who use the play fields can be addressed by better communication of the rules to the teams. Repeated infractions may lead to loss of privileges, according to Director of Parks and Recreation Todd Trimble.

The city council also finalized the extension of the subdivision improvement agreement for Wilder to Dec. 31, 2020. The main reason for the extension is to allow for

the installation of sidewalks. The developer wishes to install the sidewalks as each home is finished, thereby avoiding damage to sidewalks during construction, and the city found that sufficient security exists to cover the installation of the sidewalks should the developer default.

In addition, there are several Wilder-related items on the new draft capital improvement plan for fiscal years 2019-23. These projects include a fix for the acoustic problem at the Art and Garden Center, estimated at about \$70,000, to be funded by the Wilder community maintenance endowment fund, park dedication fund and/or facility preservation fund. Another project to be funded by the Wilder community maintenance endowment fund is the replacement of the grass turf at Wilder field number three. The current fescue grass will be replaced with harder Bermuda grass. An additional parking lot for the Art and Garden Center is added as an unfunded project. The project is not fully planned at this stage.

# Citizen of the Year — Fred Weil

... continued from Page A11

Cathy Cutler and George Escutiar, representing Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and State Sen. Steve Glazer respectively, likened Weil to "the female lead from 'Oklahoma' - I'm just a girl who can't say no!"

Speeches from friends followed with Dick Olsen commenting, "He is so incredibly and uniquely deserving of this award. Things were not always easy during the times he served on various boards. Doing the

right thing during tough times is a mark of good public service. He was always extremely courteous and treated everyone with respect. He makes us proud to be Moragans." Another longtime friend, Stan Holcenberg, acknowledged, "Fred's greatest accomplishment are his three children. His values and integrity are what makes him special."

Weil's wife said, "I'm very pleased and proud of him. It's great to celebrate good things!" Weil's children and grandchildren prepared a humorously

scripted slideshow spanning over 50 years of his life ending with, "We know we always have your support." Amidst tearful hugs and kisses, Weil approached the podium to say a few words to end the evening.

"I didn't get here on my own. My successes were group successes." Stating that his experiences were priceless, Weil ended with, "Each of us, through volunteering work, can make a difference. Good night and be safe."

## A Stroll Down Restaurant Row

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\* For this event, tastes will be served at JPG@TheBank

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**Info & Tickets: LafayetteChamber.org/Taste**

**Saturday May 11 11am - 3pm**



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## Letters to the editor

### Painted Rock – Does Moraga want it?

Seems as though many residents favor donating \$100,000 of city funds toward its purchase. Why then did the Moraga city council vote against the donation?

The city council, as their elected representatives, did what the community expects them to do. Using their experience and understanding, they voted based upon what they believe to be in the best interest of their Town. In this case, weighing the two alternatives was difficult, because each is extremely important to the community. On the one hand, was 'donating toward the purchase and preservation of a

unique piece of land as open space'. The other alternative was 'fiscal responsibility', an ever present challenge. The Moraga City council voted 3 to 2 in favor of fiscal responsibility.

Okay, let's not lose sight of the 'Forest for the Trees'. Given, the city council cannot accomplish both alternatives at this time, let the solution come from the collective efforts of Moraga residents and their friends throughout Lamorinda and the greater area.

This is a one time opportunity to purchase and preserve land that will provide recreational opportunities for current and future generations. The window will close May 31.

Some folks in Moraga are executing a plan to contact all residents. I will be contacting the chicken families in Lamorinda, feeling assured that they will support this task of raising \$100,000.

Only 200 friends at \$500 each, and the goal of \$100,000 is reached!

Finally, I will donate \$500, being confident that another 199 will join me, in doing likewise. To make a donation, visit <http://jmlt.org>.

Yes, we can! Preserve the land, and exercise fiscal responsibility.

Papa John Kiefer  
 The 'chicken man', Lafayette

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

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)

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# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Pop-Up Bach – be surprised by classical music downtown



Photo Tony Striplen

Friday, May 17 violinist Chili Ekman will play from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Roundup Saloon parking lot.

Freund-Striplen encourages people to get a card at the first miniconcert and get it stamped at each venue, then redeem the cards for goodie bags at the Gold Coast concert on Saturday night, May 18 at the Lafayette Library between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. That night Gold Coast is welcoming the Telegraph Quartet, a group described by the San Francisco Chronicle in 2017 as “... an incredibly valuable addition to the cultural landscape” and “powerfully adept ... with a combination of brilliance and subtlety.” The Telegraph Quartet has received numerous international awards and played all over the world; it was awarded the prestigious Walter W. Naumburg Chamber Music Award in 2016. On May 18 the group of young musicians will play the String Quartet in D major by Felix

Mendelssohn, the String Quartet in E-flat by Antonin Dvorak, and the Quintet in D major, k.593 by W.A. Mozart.

Freund-Striplen said that organizing this free mini-concert series was quite a bit of work, but also really fun. She has always incorporated education with the work of the Gold Coast Chamber Players, working with local middle and

high schools; she is now on a new mission to change people’s minds about classical music. She wants to reach a newer audience and to keep on sharing. Her hope is that there will be more of these pop-up mini concerts, as she wants to make it one of Lamorinda’s on-going cultural attractions.

### Gold Coast Chamber Players’ Pamela Freund-Striplen pops up for Bach!

By Sophie Braccini

According to the National Endowment for the Arts, between 1982 and 2002, the portion of concert goers under 30 fell from 27 percent to 9 percent. Go to a classical music concert today and most of what you see in the audience is a sea of grey. Classic music FM notes that reasons why millennials do not like classical music include that it is long and requires a long attention span, and that concert halls are no place for flat whites or leaf-decorated lattes. But Lafayette resident and director of the Gold Coast Chamber Players, Pamela Freund-Striplen, is about to shift that paradigm, at least on the Lamorinda scale, by offering fun and dynamic performances to residents in locations they would least expect. Her program is called Pop-Up Bach; expect to be delighted in public spaces between May 14 and 18.

The series is envisioned as a surprise to the community and Freund-Striplen expects that most of the spectators will just experience it without

preparation. There is nonetheless a program for those who do not want to miss that opportunity to enjoy or discover classical music in unlikely settings, little chunks at a time. The series will start at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14 during the Taste of Lafayette when the Little Stars Trio will play very appropriately at the Jennifer Perlmutter pop-up gallery in the bank at 3525 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Then on Wednesday, May 15 Freund-Striplen herself will play her viola at the Three-Quarter Century Luncheon from 11:50 a.m. to noon in Orinda with Amy Likar on flute (this concert is for the seniors attending the annual luncheon offered to those 75 years old and better). Likar will continue playing that same day at Diablo Foods from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m., and that evening Freund-Striplen will play for her yoga class at 8:15 p.m. at Moraga 24 Hour Fitness. On Thursday, May 16 Rachel Stokol, viola, will play from 4 to 4:45 p.m. at Orchard Nursery in Lafayette, and will continue accompanied by Freund-Striplen at Clocks Etc. from 5 to 5:30 p.m. Finally, on



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## Orinda Garden Club spring tour raises funds for good causes



Photos provided

safe, private and flower-filled garden. You will find a range of plants in the garden including fruitless olive trees, iceberg tree roses, nepeta, floral carpet roses, boxwood, sweet olive, rose Sally Holmes, Camellias, beauty berry and citrus trees.

**Garden Four** – Shortly after purchasing their home, the owners began remodeling the home and the garden together. They reoriented the driveway to the far side of the house and located a new swimming pool and large entertainment area where the driveway was, making the most of the dramatic slope down the property toward the road. The large olive trees fit the scale of the landscape and create a Mediterranean theme. Roses, rosemary, crepe myrtles and agaves on the slope above the pool provide color and interest. From the fire pit midway up the slope, you can enjoy the views of the rolling hills to the West.

**Garden Five** – Charmed by the gorgeous Black, Valley and Live oak trees and filtered light, the owners fell in love with this property at first sight. A hillside woodland shade garden provides seasonal cut flowers year-round. In the front garden, the owners replaced the standard lawn with a native lawn substitute which uses less water and supports local pollinators. Boxwood globes add structure along with a sense of whimsy. In place of screening and shrub material, the owners brought in a variety of ferns to supplement the existing tree ferns and numerous types of fragrant shrubs which are a feast for the senses.

In addition to visiting the gardens, visitors can enjoy a garden boutique with multiple vendors. Tickets for the tour, which cost \$50, are available at Orinda Books, McDonnell Nursery, and Orchard Nursery, as well as on the tour website (see below). The tour is sponsored by Enchanting Planting and The Beaubelle Group Compass Real Estate.

### By Sora O'Doherty

Five private gardens in Orinda and Lafayette will be open to viewing from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 9 by those who take the Orinda Garden Club's spring tour, "A Spring Garden Stroll," which benefits the Club's Orinda beautification projects, horticultural scholarships, conservation projects, bouquets for patients at the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center in Martinez, and much more.

**Garden One** – In a tiny corner of Orindawoods sits a jewel box garden that delights year-round. Originally, the main garden on the side of the house was at the same grade as the family room and contained a large exposed aggregate patio with a wood retaining wall that extended the length of the house on the opposite side of the garden. The deck on the back of the house was much smaller and did not connect with the main garden. By extending the deck around the corner to meet the main patio, the garden was greatly enlarged and now wraps around the house in an easy flow. Pots with seasonal color and lighting add drama to this beautiful little courtyard.

**Garden Two** – Substantial changes have been made to this garden. The owner loves the contemporary lines of the house and wanted the garden to reflect her taste as well as be a backdrop to a stunning

art collection, especially the word "Always" that is spelled out on the hillside. To transform the new garden into a contemporary space, the owner chose large porcelain tiles and set them off against boulders and small rocks for a complex, bold and dramatic effect. Drought tolerant plants dominate the garden, especially on the slope, and provide texture and color. The restraint used in the composition makes the architecture the focus.

**Garden Three** (Eugene O'Neill House) – Once a huge expanse of weeds ringed with small olive trees, the front garden was a fairly blank slate when the owners purchased this majestic property. After an extensive remodel of the house, the owners took on a landscaping project to reflect their love of roses, simplicity and elegance. With the installation of the two driveway gates and simple fencing, the front was transformed into a

**Info: Purchase tickets online at <http://orindagc.org>.**



Pathways add interest in Orinda gardens

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# Workin' on the (transcontinental) railroad – history comes alive in St. P's new community center



Photos provided



## By Pippa Fisher

The brand new St. Perpetua Community Center is hosting a unique, free presentation to mark the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. Highly accomplished and awarded engineer and public speaker, not to mention former Lafayette resident, Paul Giroux will be giving his presentation at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 5.

In a written description of his presentation Giroux describes the significance of the engineering feat. "The Transcontinental Railway, completed in May 1869 is an important chapter not only in civil engineering but in the history of the United States."

Giroux's presentation will cover the challenges of building the Transcontinental Railroad, means and methods used in building it, the contributions it offered the civil engineering profession and its importance to growth and development in the U.S.

For four decades Giroux

has worked with Kiewit Corporation on a wide variety of notable heavy civil engineering projects including the new Bay Bridge. He has presented more than 200 lectures, both in the U.S. and internationally, and has won many awards. He was inducted into the Iowa State University Construction Engineering Hall of Fame in 2018.

Giroux explains, "Seeking opportunity, adventurous Americans began migrating to the west coast of North America in the first half of the 19th century. With the first wagon trains of settlers leaving Independence, Missouri in 1836 they would embark on an arduous five-month journey." Giroux explains how interest in safe and speedy passage to the Pacific Coast grew, and with the discovery of gold in California at Sutter's Mill east of Sacramento in 1848, California became the 31st state admitted into the Union in 1850.

Giroux continues, "Exploratory surveys would need to be performed to find a feasible route through a terrain

many said was impossible to cross. Even as the United States was embroiled in a Civil War (1861-1865), Abraham Lincoln had the courage to start building a transcontinental railroad that would help unite all of America in 1862. There would be two mighty forces; the Central Pacific Railroad marching east from Sacramento, and the Union Pacific Railroad marching west from Omaha, building a 1,776 mile-long railroad of unprecedented scale through rugged and hostile country, to a meeting point not yet known."

Earlier this year, Giroux was a featured speaker at the Transcontinental Railroad 150th Anniversary Symposium in Sacramento and has spoken at several other milestone celebrations over the years, including as the American Society of Civil Engineering Chairman and featured speaker for the Brooklyn Bridge 125th Celebration in New York and at the 75th anniversary of the Hoover Dam.

# Community "pack-out" party to help homeless students

## By Diane Claytor

Living in a community of million-plus dollar homes, winter ski trips to Tahoe and summer family vacations to Hawaii, Europe or Disneyland, it's often easy to forget that not everyone is so fortunate. In fact, in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District, with schools only a short drive away from Lamorinda's bucolic communities, there are 650 homeless students. That's 650 children without their own bedroom, many without an actual roof over their heads; some are living temporarily with family or friends, some are in shelters, others are sleeping in cars.

When Sharon McGinnis Girdlestone, an Orinda mom and entrepreneur with an amazingly huge heart, learned about this, she found it "shocking and heart-wrenching" and knew she had to do something to help these children. She spoke with Sandra Wohali, administrator of MDUSD's Homeless Outreach Program for Education (HOPE), then talked with local nonprofit agencies and friends, who then contacted their friends and soon a movement was born.

Wohali confirmed what McGinnis Girdlestone assumed: most of these students can't afford hygiene items and often come to school without bathing or brushing their teeth.

"People in this community are so generous," McGinnis Girdlestone noted. "Once you tell them about a need, they're happy to jump in and do something." And so many already have.

With the goal of providing every one of those 650 homeless students a backpack filled with a toothbrush and toothpaste, deodorant, hairbrush, and cleaning

wipes, Lamorinda residents are eagerly contributing to the project. Moraga's Courtney Brockmeyer, CEO of Sydney Paige backpacks, provided the backpacks; 500 toothbrushes were recently received and "one parent donated 1,500 body washes and lotions," McGinnis Girdlestone proudly noted. But there's still a lot more needed.

As of April 26, only 38 percent of the goal had been reached. "We're asking people to sponsor as many items as they can so that we not only provide full hygiene kits to all 650 homeless students, but also help them feel loved, cared for and believed in," McGinnis Girdlestone wrote. The hope is to also have a personally written note of encouragement included in each backpack.

It's so easy to do: simply go to [sydney-paige.roonga.com](http://sydney-paige.roonga.com) and choose the products you'd like to purchase for this very worthwhile endeavor. McGinnis Girdlestone acknowledges that these products are a higher quality than ones you may typically find at the local dollar store because, she said, "These kids deserve to have something a little nicer than a simple plastic toothbrush."

On May 9 from 4 to 7 p.m., there will be a "community pack-out party" to place all the items into the backpacks and write brief caring notes. A very generous Orinda homeowner is offering her Wilder home for this gathering and participants are encouraged to bring their children to help with the assembly. To sign up for the "pack out party," email McGinnis Girdlestone at [sharon.mcgin-nis@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.mcgin-nis@gmail.com). "We'll have a blast giving back together as a community," she promises.

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## Moraga Troop 234's new Eagle Scouts



Photo Jim Babson

From left: Benjamin Hinchliff, Nicholas Faoro, Alex Mangoba, Mason Roesch, Stephen Chilimidos, Jack Saroni, and Andrew Babson.

### Submitted by Nancy Chilimidos

Moraga Boy Scout Troop 234 honored seven new Eagle Scouts at its Eagle Court of Honor April 13 at St. Monica Catholic Church. Eagle is the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America, and one that is reached by fewer than 4 percent of Boy Scouts nationwide. The road to Eagle involves resiliency, responsibility, community service, and leadership. Scouts progress from the initial rank of Scout, to Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life, which entail mastering new skills and successfully completing requirements for each rank; additionally, the scout must participate in service projects and hold positions of responsibility within the troop.

To achieve Eagle, the scout must meet these foundational requirements and earn at least 21 Merit Badges in the areas of Leadership, Outdoor Skills, and Community Service. Additionally, the Eagle candidate must hold a leadership position for at least 180 days after achieving Life rank, as well as develop, direct, and execute a community service Eagle project. Each of these Eagle Scouts, who all attend Campolindo High School, have not only met the national scouting requirements, but have been active leaders in building the camaraderie and unity that exemplify Troop 234, which is led by Scoutmaster Jeff Price.

Andrew Babson, a senior, power-washed, sanded, and finished the benches and planters at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, as well as replaced the planter bedding.

Senior Stephen Chilimidos collab-

orated with Soles4Souls, Inc. and organized a shoe drive, where he collected new and gently-used shoes over a three-week period; he received about 400 pairs of shoes that ultimately were shipped to Haiti.

Nicholas Faoro, a junior, located an old wooden rowboat in Sonoma that he refurbished into a sandbox, which required scraping off the old paint, replacing damaged parts, sanding, priming, painting, and then filling the boat with sand and toys for St. Mark's Preschool in Orinda.

Sophomore Benjamin Hinchliff resurrected and repaired approximately 60 music stands for Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, clearing the unusable stands in the practice rooms, and renovating the aging stands, before assembling a repair kit to enable continued maintenance by the students.

Alex Mangoba, a senior, created 10 full-sized signs for the Lafayette Reservoir, by sanding, cutting, assembling, then digging, planting and cement-mixing them along the Rim Trail.

Senior Mason Roesch removed an old shelving structure in the Oakland hills and built a new shed in its place, which included using gravel as a water drainage system in order to increase the shed's resistance to the elements; this project benefited Friends of Sausal Creek.

Jack Saroni, a senior, built a large drop-box designed to hold three book carts that will be used to receive book donations when the Moraga Library is closed; the project was done through the Moraga Parks and Recreations department for the library.

## Several Lamorinda Odyssey of the Mind teams head to World Championship Competition



Photos provided

Campolindo freshmen team to compete in Odyssey of the Mind World Championships. From left: Coach Cynthia Granicher, Jacqui Huebner, Olivia House, Amrita Malhotra, Madison Lee, Caroline Botsford, Marshall Franklin, Daniel Granicher, Coach Matt Franklin



Glorietta Elementary (Leonardo's Workshop), top, from left: Calla Garrett, Callum Glynn, Reese Akel, Claire Casado; bottom: Taylor Stevens, Kaia Bonham

### Submitted by Rich Render and Andrea Akel

Two Campolindo Odyssey of the Mind teams, both sponsored by Moraga Rotary, and four Orinda teams advanced to the World Finals to be held in Michigan at the end of May. One of the Campo teams, made up of sophomores, is competing at Worlds for the third straight year.

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving program for K-12 kids that engages students in their learning by encouraging them to think outside the box. Teams made up of 5-7 members have to solve problems (anything from building vehicles to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics) and present their solution to the problem to judges in an 8-minute skit. In addition, there is a spontaneous problem that the team has to solve on the day of the competition, which also contributes to the team's score. Coaches and parents are prohibited to help out or suggest ideas to the team members in solving their problem.

The Glorietta Elementary team, solved a problem entitled "Leonardo's Workshop" where they had to recreate three of Leonardo Da Vinci's works. In one case, the team had to use an unconventional material to recreate one of LDV's paintings, so they dyed crushed eggshells.

The other elementary level team (members were from different schools so they competed under Orinda Ro-

tary), had to build an 8-inch structure made entirely of balsa wood and glue, weighing no more than 15 grams, which then had to support as much weight as possible. The team's structure supported 640 pounds.

The other two teams, also competing under Orinda Rotary, were made up of students attending various high schools and middle schools, both competing at the high school level. One of teams had to build a vehicle to be ridden by two of the team members, which had to be disassembled and re-assembled multiple times during the 8 minutes, and fit into a suitcase.

Meanwhile, the fourth Orinda team chose a problem that required them to make a mechanical creature that hid in plain sight. The creature had to change appearance three times, each time in a different way, to avoid being detected by a Searcher Character trying to find it.

This year, 144 teams participated in the SF Bay Regional tournament. Out of 13 participating Moraga Rotary teams, three advanced to the NorCal State tournament, held in Santa Rosa on March 30, and then the two Campolindo teams advanced to the World finals. A total of 22 teams from Orinda competed in the Odyssey of the Mind Regional competition in early March. Of those, seven teams advanced to the State Competition, where four of the seven Orinda teams advanced to the World Finals.

Info: [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com)

## In Memory

### David Reuben Iventosch

May 12, 1929 – April 16, 2019



David Reuben Iventosch passed away on April 16 at his home in Lafayette at the age of 89, just a few weeks before his 90th birthday. Although he ultimately lost his battle with cancer, his final days were filled with well wishes and visits from his close friends and family.

David was born on May 12, 1929 in Berkeley to Dora and Samuel Iventosch. He grew up in Berkeley, and was both a star athlete and class president at Berkeley High School. While he wasn't busy with studies, sports and school politics, he spent his time winning over the affections of his soon-to-be wife, Dolores.

He went on to attend the University of California where he studied business and played on the freshman basketball team.

David left Cal after two years to help run the family business when his father suffered a serious illness. Soon after that he started Freeway Variety, a retail store in Montclair that became a fixture in that community. He was a member of numerous business associations and he and his store became famous for being the spot that had everything you couldn't find at the grocery or hardware store - or anywhere else for that matter.

David and Dolores had four children: Shira, Kirk, Leonard, and Lori. He was a fixture at the kids' and grandkids' sporting events and ventured into the backcountry of the Sierras and Frank Church Wilderness until his mid-70s. And while he was an outstanding athlete, his true passion was music and the arts. He was a master flute player and singer, playing and singing until very recently.

David was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Dolores, and is succeeded by his four children, thirteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Services were held on April 22.

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

## 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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

# Edward 'Slip' Madigan – an innovative figure from Moraga’s football past

By John T. Miller

In his recent book, “The Incredible Slip Madigan,” Oakland writer Dave Newhouse resurrects an almost forgotten figure from Moraga’s past, chronicling the achievements of one of the most innovative football coaches and raconteurs of the game’s early history.

In his 19 years of coaching at Saint Mary’s College from 1921-39, Madigan compiled a record of 117-45-12. More importantly, however, Madigan was primarily responsible for relocating the college from Oakland, where it was known as “The Brickpile,” with a student body of 60 students, to the bucolic fields of Moraga in 1928. His ability to get SMC on the national map helped transform the small time college into a nationally known powerhouse and attracted some of the nation’s top college recruits.

Madigan played for Knute Rockne at Notre Dame and was a teammate of the famous George (“Win one for the Gipper”) Gipp. In the season before Madigan took over at SMC, the team lost to Cal by a score of 127-0. The next year

Madigan’s team lost by only 21-0, shaving 106 points off the deficit. This presaged many years of competitive football against some of the top teams in the country.

Madigan was an innovator, essentially inventing the “chalk talk,” spring ball, and the training table. He was the first coach to travel cross-country by train, playing and defeating national powerhouse Fordham University in their first of many encounters. Later, he was the first to travel to Hawaii – by ship – to play military teams on the island before it was a state. In addition, he was flashy, dressing the team in silk rather than the customary khaki.

Before signing his contract with Saint Mary’s, Madigan astutely stipulated that he would get 10 percent of the gate at the football games. This amounted to far more than his salary, and provided a healthy income for the family – even during the Depression.

In addition to his great success on the gridiron, the indefatigable Madigan also coached basketball, baseball, and – eventually – boxing, while carrying a full-time

teaching load. While he never lived in the Lamorinda area, Newhouse notes that Madigan must have had plenty of sleepovers in Moraga due to his long hours and the difficult ride home to Oakland, since the Caldecott Tunnel hadn’t been built yet.

After he was fired from his coaching job at SMC, Madigan’s joint degree in law and architecture from Notre Dame served him well, as he built a million dollar business building homes in central Contra Costa County.

According to Newhouse, one of the pleasures in writing the book was to discover the many phenomenal athletes of the day. “I had never heard the names of some of these players who were the super stars of their day. They would be truly remarkable in any era.”

Newhouse’s research into the book was aided by access to the family’s exhaustive collection of scrapbooks detailing the team’s records and accomplishments. Slip Madigan’s son, Edward, who lives in the same Oakland house he grew up in, was instrumental in providing the information. While Madigan’s body is

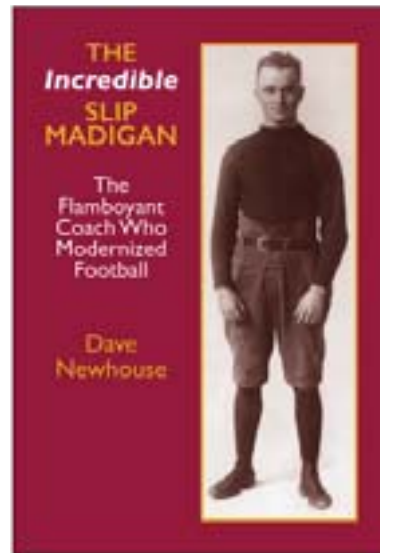
buried at nearby St. Mary’s Cemetery in Oakland, the book provides details that his spirit is still very much felt on campus. One chapter late in the book chronicles many sightings of Madigan’s ghostly presence. Also mentioned is a story of a major remodeling project in the administration offices, where the door to the huge safe had to be removed during construction. When crews returned the following morning, the door was back on and locked, and none of the combinations on record would work until an older Brother suggested they try Madigan’s old combination. It worked.

Newhouse, a retired sports writer who worked primarily for the Oakland Tribune, also spent a couple years at the Contra Costa Times during the Dean Leshner era. He has written about many sports figures from the past.

One of Newhouse’s goals, especially in this one, is to bring back to life great contributors from the past who may be lost to succeeding generations. “While working on this story, hardly anyone I spoke to had any knowledge of Slip Madigan,” he says.

There are plenty of houses that Madigan built in the Central Contra Costa County, but none of them were as enduring or substantial as Saint Mary’s College, which Madigan is credited as helping to create, also architecturally, in Moraga.

Although SMC at times seems to present an identity separated from the town, back in the day when Slip Madigan held sway, the name of Moraga traveled across the country with the fame of the Gaels football team, earning a reputation as fabled as the coach himself.



## Glorietta Elementary brings us ‘Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Jr.’



Thursday cast

Submitted by Hillary Weiner

Glorietta Elementary School presents their Spring Musical, “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Jr.” on May 17 and 18. Based on the award-winning Broadway musical and the beloved film, Glorietta’s “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Jr.” will capture hearts in a whole new way, as a fantasti-

cal musical adventure with an out-of-this-world car that flies through the air and sails the sea. The eccentric inventor, Caractacus Potts, sets about restoring an old race car with the help of his children Jeremy and Jemima. They soon discover the car is magic, and can float and take flight. When the evil Baron Bomburst tries to take the magic car for himself,

the family joins forces with Truly Scrumptious and Grandpa Potts to outwit the Baron and Baroness and the villainous Child Catcher. Glorietta’s “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Jr.” is sure to be an amazing stage spectacle filled with unforgettable songs that the audience will find “Truly Scrumptious.”

This production of “Chitty



Music set and tech crew

Photos provided

Chitty Bang Bang, Jr.” is directed by music teacher Ron Pickett, with the assistance of parent producer Susan Jordan. There are two student casts, comprising approximately 80 students, along with 12 students participating in the student tech crew. The production is funded through parent contributions, Glorietta Parents Club and EFO. “Chitty Chitty

Bang Bang, Jr.” takes place at Glorietta Elementary School, 15 Martha Road, on Friday, May 17, at 4 and 7 p.m., and Saturday, May 18, at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets for the Friday and Saturday performances (all reserved seating) will be available in advance online at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com). Tickets may also be available at the door prior to the show.

## A little bit of the tropics comes to Moraga



Photos Vera Kochan

Valerie Lee Ow with her Bouquets to Art re-creation

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Garden Club held its annual Spring Luncheon April 18 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center in Moraga. True to their name, garden club members provided magnificent table centerpieces adhering to this year’s tropical paradise theme entitled “Orchids Away.”

The entire room was bathed with the scent of multi-colored and varying species of orchids. A virtual

vacation for the olfactory glands. Centerpieces involved displays with boats, leis, Hawaiian statuary, bird cages, ornate pottery and even Easter egg ornaments.

The décor did not outshine the club members who came dressed in outfits bearing flower motifs.

As if all of this wasn’t enough to prove what the Moraga Garden Club is all about, the luncheon’s guest speaker sent the day’s theme over the top. Valerie Lee Ow, proprietor of J. Miller Flowers

and Gifts in Oakland, whipped up beautiful flower arrangements with such speed and precision, the crowd was left begging for more.

Ow, a 15-year member of the Lafayette Garden Club, has taken over the 49-year-old helm of her family-owned florist shop. If any proof was needed to confirm her skills as a master florist, Ow’s creations have been featured in the de Young Museum’s prestigious Bouquets to Art exhibit for 20 years.

This year’s museum exhibition marks the 35th anniversary, and according to the DeYoung it’s “one of the Museum’s most popular events.” It’s a “weeklong display of floral designs inspired by the works of art in the de Young’s galleries.”

Explained Ow, “I didn’t initially want to do the Bouquets to Art, because I’d have to drive into San Francisco every day to replenish the flowers.” This year’s displays feature the arrangements of 150 designers.

Ow’s assignment this year is to florally replicate painter Frederic Edwin Church’s masterpiece “Rainy Season in the Tropics.”

“There are no awards or prizes,” Ow said. “It’s the thrill of being part of the event.”

During the luncheon, Ow recreated several of her previous Bouquets to Art entries which her daughter, Jacqueline Ow, compared with copies of the original works of art.

When asked how a florist is chosen as a designer for the special exhibit, Ow informed the awestruck assemblage, “They go through your portfolio and visit your shop to make sure that you are equipped to handle the assignment and that your creations won’t disappoint

the patrons.”

To see Ow’s upcoming creation, visit the Bouquets to Art exhibit at The de Young Museum, June 4-9. Advance tickets are strongly recommended.



One of several centerpieces created by Moraga Garden Club members.

## Not to be missed

### ART

**Lamorinda Art Alliance featured artist** Zarmine Aghazarian through May 31 at Dr. Samadian's Center for Reconstruction and Implant, 23 Orinda Way suite 301, Orinda. There will be a reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on April 19. Dr. Amin Samadian is proud to have affiliated with the Lamorinda Arts Alliance for the opportunity to showcase the artwork of the organization's artists and to celebrate the integration of art, science and technology.

**Valley Art Gallery Announces** "SPLASH," a new exhibition for spring running through May 11. Nothing refreshes an interior like a splash of original art. With that in mind the Gallery has assembled more than 300 fresh pieces for this 70th annual spring show that are sure to create a Splash! From abstracts to zoomorphics to everything in between, the work represents the best of the best by East Bay artists - with all works available for sale or rent.

**Lamorinda Arts Council** presents "Arts Affair," the second annual fundraiser from 5 to 8 p.m. on May 29. The event takes place at the Orinda Library Auditorium and surrounding rooms at 28 Orinda Way, Orinda. "Arts Affair" is an extravaganza that showcases a variety of art programs that the Lamorinda Arts Council and their Arts Partners bring to the community. Celebrate with board members past, present and future. Standard Tickets: \$25. More Info: <https://lamorindaarts.org/arts-affair>.

**May exhibit at the Art Gallery** at the Orinda Library will be Bill Carmel paintings, Arno Kober paintings, Kate Chenok ceramics, Kim Wolfe wood turning, and Ellis Sjoberg wood working. Exhibit runs from May 1-31, and the artist reception will be from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on May 5. Hours are Monday to Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 23 Orinda Way.

## Not to be missed

### MUSIC

**Clerestory presents** Songbook II: More from the Great American Songbook from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on May 12 at David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. Clerestory returns to its popular series of Americana concerts with African American spirituals, barbershop, folk songs, and jazz styles. Cost: \$5-30. For more info see [www.eventbrite.com/e/songbook-ii-more-from-the-great-american-songbook-tickets-49925539633](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/songbook-ii-more-from-the-great-american-songbook-tickets-49925539633) or email [info@clerestory.org](mailto:info@clerestory.org).

**By and By Cantare Con Vivo** Chamber Ensemble at 4 p.m. on May 5 at the Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Dr., Lafayette. The Cantare Con Vivo Chamber Ensemble presents an intimate concert featuring 10 eclectic selections, including Poulenc's exquisite a cappella Mass in G Major. Also included are Brahms' Three Gypsy Songs, two spirituals: By and By, and Let Us Cheer the Weary Traveler, two popular classics from the 1930s: I Get Along Without

You Very Well and Ain't Misbehavin', and other works by Pearsall, Hawley, Barber, and Whitacre. Tickets: General \$22, Student \$10. Ticket link: [https://cantareconvivo.secure.force.com/ticket#sections\\_a0F0B00000J5pM9UAJ](https://cantareconvivo.secure.force.com/ticket#sections_a0F0B00000J5pM9UAJ). [www.cantareconvivo.org/upcoming-events](http://www.cantareconvivo.org/upcoming-events).

**Drum, Relax and Learn** at the monthly Lamorinda Drum Circle from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Monday, May 6 at Lamorinda Music, 81 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Enjoy learning to drum in a fun small-group environment. Drums are provided. We meet at this time and place on the first Monday of each month. Suggested donation \$10-\$20.

**Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble** presents "Northern Lights," a concert featuring rich and rarely performed works by 20th and 21st century Baltic and Scandinavian composers, including recent works from Sweden, Norway, Finland, Latvia and Estonia. Marked by long, cold winters and short but

highly celebrated summers, these countries' landscapes are reflected in their music and poetry, with themes of darkness and light, winter, night, and stars in the sky. Showtimes at 7 p.m. on May 5 at St. Mary Magdalen Church, 2005 Berryman Street, Berkeley and on May 11 at St. Perpetua Catholic Church, 3454 Hamlin Road, Lafayette. Tickets: \$25 suggested donation at the door, \$20 advance, \$15 students, free for children between 6-12. Available at the door; or online from [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) or [www.vocisings.org](http://www.vocisings.org).

**Lafayette Rotary Club's 25th Annual Concert** at the Res from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 11 at the Lafayette Reservoir. Along with the great live entertainment, there will be food and drinks for purchase. It is also the perfect setting for a picnic on the lawn, and chairs and shade tenting will also be provided. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase for a chance to win great prizes including weekend getaways. All proceeds will directly support the local musical programs featured and Rotary projects.

**Pacific Chamber Orchestra**, under the direction of Conductor Lawrence Kohl, performs Beethoven's Symphony #3 "Eroica" Coriolanus Overture and "Triple" Concerto with Trio Foss as soloists. Concerts are at 7:30 p.m. on May 18 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church 24 Knox, Lafayette and at 3 p.m. on May 19 at Bankhead Theatre, 2400 First Street in Livermore. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.pacificchamberorchestra.org](http://www.pacificchamberorchestra.org) and additionally for the Livermore performance by calling or visiting the Bankhead box office (925) 373-6800 located at 2400 First Street, Livermore or [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org).

**Gold Coast Chamber Players** concert 'Telegraph' at 7:30 p.m. on May 18 at Don Tatzin Community Hall, at the Lafayette Library. Pre-concert talk 30 minutes prior to concert. Tickets: \$45 General, \$40 Senior (65+), \$15 Student. Purchase online: [www.gcplayers.org](http://www.gcplayers.org); by phone: (925) 283-3728.

**Stanley Middle School presents** Jazz Cafe from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, May 31 in the Stanley multi-use room. This is a collaborative performance of jazz student musicians from Stanley, Campolindo and Acalanes. Support the fundraising efforts of the Stanley Middle School jazz program and enjoy a memorable evening of music. Food, raffles and silent auction also available. Single tickets: reserved \$20 (all ages); unreserved (at the door; cash only) up to \$15. Donations encouraged. Info: [stanleymusic.org/jazz-cafe](http://stanleymusic.org/jazz-cafe).

**Cantare Con Vivo closes** the season with adult and children's choirs on stage, commemorating the 20th Anniversary of our Chorale and the Children's choral programs at 7:30 p.m. on June 1 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette. The concert will include a variety of American music, including contemporary, classical, folk, popular, and show tunes, in addition to spirituals and patriotic selections. Titles include Ol' Man River, You'll Never Walk Alone, Not One Sparrow, Angel Band, Water Night, Please Stay, Seasons of Love, and many others. Tickets: General \$27.50, Senior \$22, \$10 Student. Tickets available at the door or online: [https://cantareconvivo.secure.force.com/ticket#sections\\_a0F0B00000J5pLuUAJ](https://cantareconvivo.secure.force.com/ticket#sections_a0F0B00000J5pLuUAJ)

... continued on next Page

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Sundays at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.  
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Faith Formation for children and adults

3454 Hamlin Road | Lafayette | [stperpetua.org](http://stperpetua.org)  
925.283.0272 Parish | 925.284.1640 School



### Sunday Sacrament Service at 10AM

Scripture Study &  
Youth Programs

Everyone welcome!

3776 Via Granada, Moraga

### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 [www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)



9:30 a.m. CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

10:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship  
in the Center for Ministry

visit <http://www.holyshepherd.org> for more details



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

"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

Join us Sundays at 10 a.m. | Sunday School 10 a.m.

### ST. MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH

1001 CAMINO PABLO, 925-376-6900  
[WWW.STMONICAMORAGA.COM](http://WWW.STMONICAMORAGA.COM)

Mass Times: Daily Mass Monday - Friday 9:00 am  
Saturday - Confessions 3:30 - 4:30 pm / Vigil Mass 5:00 PM  
Sunday - Masses at 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 am



### St Stephen's Episcopal Church

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



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1035 CAROL LANE, LAFAYETTE, CA 94549  
(925) 283-3722 [WWW.OSLC.NET](http://WWW.OSLC.NET)

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

### LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



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- Programs for all ages
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49 Knox Drive • Lafayette, CA • (925) 283-8722 • [LOPC.org](http://LOPC.org) • #LOPC

### WILLOWSRING community church

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worship, come as you are.

[www.willowspringchurch.com](http://www.willowspringchurch.com)

1689 School St. Moraga | 925-376-3550

Sunday Service 10:45 am

### St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare  
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)

### ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

24 Orinda Way (next to the Library) - 254-4212

Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am  
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
ReadingRoom/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat. 10 - 12

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

Please submit:

Events:

calendar@

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

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

**THEATER**

**Diablo Ballet closes its landmark** 25th season with Celebrated Masters, at 8 p.m. on May 3 and at 2 p.m. on May 4, at the Del Valle Theatre in Walnut Creek. Diablo Ballet will feature an encore presentation of Swan Lake Suite, the romantic Tryst by Val Caniparoli, and Walk before Talk by KT Nelson. Immediately following each performance, ticket holders are invited to a dessert and coffee reception where you can meet and mingle with the dancers. Single tickets are \$15-\$47. For tickets, call (925) 943-SHOW (7469) or visit [www.lesherartscenter.org](http://www.lesherartscenter.org). For more information, visit [www.diabloballet.org](http://www.diabloballet.org).

**California Shakespeare Theater** opens its 2019 summer season with "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, playing May 22 through June 16 at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda. The season launches with A Pay What You can performance on Wednesday, May 22. Tickets will be available starting at 10 a.m. on the day of each show through TodayTix ([todaytix.com](http://todaytix.com)) and the Cal Shakes Box Office ([calshakes.org](http://calshakes.org) or 510.548.9666).

**LECTURE & LITERATURE**

**Please join Friends of Hospice Orinda** for coffee and refreshments followed by a presentation of the widely popular book "Beneath the Scarlet Sky" from 9:30 a.m. to noon on May 3 at Friends of Hospice, Orinda. The author is Mark Sullivan who gathered authentic material from the son of the protagonist, Pino Lella. His son, Michael Lella, will deliver a fascinating view of his father during WWII in Italy. He will bring slides and comments about his father, Pino, who is still living, at 92 years of age, on Lake Como, Italy. Reservations are available for \$50 per person. Please make a check out to Friends of Hospice, Orinda Mail to Diane Hill, 41 Charles Hill Rd. Orinda, CA 94563.

**A book launch to celebrate** local author Heidi Eliason's "Confessions of a Middle-Aged Runaway: An RV Travel Adventure" will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 4 at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Orinda. Come and enjoy refreshments, book signings, and a prize drawing. Free.

**KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS**

**Lafayette Nursery School's** 43rd Annual Science Day of Discovery from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 4 at Lafayette Nursery School, 979 First street, Lafayette. Make a volcano explode send a rocket into space or explore the GUI texture of flubber. If that's not enough, become an archaeologist for the day and dig for dinosaur bones or create giant bubbles. This hands-on science fair features exhibits and experiments designed for children in preschool age to the third grade. Cost: \$5. More information: (925) 284-2448 or visit [www.lafayettenurseryschool.org](http://www.lafayettenurseryschool.org).

**Open House – Roughing It Day** Camp from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on May 4. Come visit camp to learn more about our summer programs. Take a tour of our site at the Lafayette Reservoir. Meet our directors and staff. Kids can try some camp activities including fishing, crafts, sports, and nature games. Children and family members of all ages are welcome. Visit [www.roughingit.com](http://www.roughingit.com) for more information and to RSVP.

**ADAPT Town Hall** from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on May 7 in the Lafayette Library. An evening to discuss how parents, schools and law enforcement partner to reduce underage substance use and keep kids safe. What are roles, responsibilities, rules and consequences? Members from Lamorinda Police and Acalanes High School District Office will share their expertise in a panel discussion. RSVP: [www.eventbrite.com/e/town-hall-are-all-in-this-together-tickets-60222437933](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/town-hall-are-all-in-this-together-tickets-60222437933)

**Mindful Littles presents "Care for Therapy Horses"** from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on May 19 at

Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center, 60 Don Gabriel Way, Orinda. Feed, groom, and play with horses. Clean stalls and paddocks, and create horse-themed arts and crafts. Bring water and any snacks needed for your kids. Please also wear comfortable clothes. \$10 per person. Register at: [https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause\\_pdetails/NDg2MjE=](https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NDg2MjE=)

**OTHER**

**15th Annual JF Kapnek 5K/Run** at 9 a.m. on May 5 at Miramonte High School. Along with a 5K run and a 1K children's run or walk, event participants will enjoy music, arts and crafts, food and prizes for the top finishers including certificates from Dick's Sporting Goods, and Sports Basement. All participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt. Strollers welcome! The event supports early childhood education, nutrition and AIDS treatment and prevention programs for children and families in Zimbabwe. Visit [www.kapnektrustusa.org](http://www.kapnektrustusa.org) for more information and to register go to <http://jfkapnekusafun-run.eventbrite.com>. Onsite day of registration is also available.

**Bay Area Book Festival** from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 4 and 5, at Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Berkeley. Meet national book award winners, NY Times top 10 authors, international writers, YA and children's book legends, and a diverse literary community. Cost: Free to \$15. For more info see [www.baybookfest.org](http://www.baybookfest.org) or email [info@baybookfest.org](mailto:info@baybookfest.org).

**April showers bring May meowers!** And Community Concern for Cats is bringing our meowers to a location near you this weekend from 1 to 4 p.m. May 4 and 5, at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see [communityconcernforcats.org](http://communityconcernforcats.org) online.

**The 2019 Moraga Community Faire** and Car Show will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 11 at the town's Rheem Valley Shopping Center – offering a wonderful opportunity for a family fun day! Unlimited Kid's Zone activities include pony rides, bounce house and mazes, Bot Bash Party and Bay Area Ball Players (\$5 entry). Food trucks, live music, wine and beer, over 70 classic cars and booths to meet local artists, business and organizations. For more information, visit [www.moraagachamber.org/faire](http://www.moraagachamber.org/faire).

**Remember, Renew and Refill:** A Journey Through Grief, will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 11 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. High school students and adults are invited to this workshop and luncheon to honor our lost loved ones. Marilyn Hunt, MS, LMFT, will be the keynote speaker. There is no cost for this event, however, please RSVP on our website so we can plan for lunch ([mvpctoday.org](http://mvpctoday.org)) or call Colleen Giovanni (925.376.4800 x285; [cgiovanni@mvpctoday.org](mailto:cgiovanni@mvpctoday.org)). MVPC is located at 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga.

**Daughters of Norway, Aase** Lodge #33, Lafayette will be celebrating "Syttende Mai" (May 17) Constitution Day at 10 a.m. on May 11 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. The meeting is free. The program will include a presentation about the 1814 Norwegian Constitution and how Norwegians today celebrate their National Holiday. Some women will be dressed in traditional costumes (bunads), and traditional food, as if in Oslo, will be served. The DoN has openings for new members, so come by eat, enjoy and learn. If you have questions email us at [deborahadah1@aol.com](mailto:deborahadah1@aol.com).

**Taste of Lafayette – Lafayette's Favorite Dinner Party** – from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on May 14 in downtown Lafayette. The Taste of Lafayette stroll begins when ticket holders head out at their own pace to stop at any or all of the participating

restaurants for sampling. Evening includes music throughout the stroll and a raffle supporting the Lafayette Community Foundation. Drawing for the raffle will be held at 7:45 p.m. at [JPG@TheBank](mailto:JPG@TheBank).

**The Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center** is joining with the Veterans Healthcare Policy Institute, Veterans for Peace, the American Federation of Government Employees and American Legion Post 31, to present an event on the current state of healthcare for veterans. This event takes place at 7 p.m., with a reception at 6 p.m. on May 16 at the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Cost: \$10 pre-registered; \$15 at door; \$5 MT. Diablo Peace and Justice Center and Our Savior Lutheran Church members; free for students and veterans. Tickets available at <http://ourpeacecenter.org> or call the office (925) 933-7850.

**John Muir National Historic Site** (John Muir NHS) will launch its second annual series of Stewardship Saturdays. Join the National Park Service for these free, Ranger-led land stewardship programs at the Martinez, California site. The programs begin at 9 a.m. at the Strentzel Creek meadow area of Mt. Wanda. This area recently came under NPS management and is currently only open to visitation with an NPS chaperone. The stewardship project will entail removing invasive plant species from the sensitive creek and surrounding meadow. All training and tools required for this project will be provided. The three 2019 Stewardship Saturday events will be on May 18. Find more information and register at: <https://jomu.eventbrite.com/>.

**Parkinson's Disease and You** at 7 p.m. on May 21 with Brianna Munson, PT, DPT, Physical Therapist at Lafayette Physical Therapy, 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite B110 in Lafayette. This is a free event, but space is limited, so please sign up at [lafayettept.com/events](http://lafayettept.com/events) or call (925) 284-6150.

**Breast Cancer Seminar** from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on May 22 at the Lafayette Library. Join breast cancer specialists from the Women's Cancer Center of the East Bay for an update on cutting-edge breast cancer treatments and surgical techniques. The physicians recently attended national oncology and surgery symposiums and will discuss the latest advances presented from research, clinical trials and new FDA drug approvals. Please register by calling (925) 677-5041 x272 or email [sjung@dvothmg.com](mailto:sjung@dvothmg.com).

**The Art of Leadership:** Creative Ways to Fuel Growth: an evening of talks for entrepreneurs, founders, and organization leaders from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on May 22 at [JPG@TheBank](mailto:JPG@TheBank), a pop-up art gallery/event space at 3525 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Six speakers, each a leader in their respective field, will present unusual, inventive ways to grow your endeavor. Tickets are \$25 and are available at <https://artofleadershipnight.eventbrite.com>.

**The North Orinda Fire Break** is one of the highest priority projects in California. Lamorida Village is sponsoring a presentation at 1 p.m. on May 31 at LOPC. Jerry Kent, longtime EBRPD official, will talk about the history of East Bay Regional Parks and the wildfires that have come through, and Dennis Rein of MOFD will be presenting fire break plans. Local law enforcement will be present to discuss evacuation plans, and our Community Warning System will be represented as well. [www.lamorindavillage.org](http://www.lamorindavillage.org)

**SENIORS**

**Spring Cleaning: What to do** with All That Stuff from 10:30 a.m. to noon on May 14 in the Elderberry Room, Lafayette Community Center – presented by Jennifer Raftis, CEO of Efficiency Matters, who will guide you through a plan to assess the value of your belongings; decide to whom and where your treasures will go; and experience the joy of sharing those

items. You will receive handouts that will include where and how to start, checklists, resources, and helpful tips. Members: free; non-members: \$10.

**Contra Costa Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)** will present "What Everyone Needs to Know About Medicare Regardless of Your Age" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on May 20 at the Lafayette Library. As you get closer to 65 it's important to understand your options for getting Medicare coverage and completing enrollment in a timely manner to avoid costly mistakes. This talk is also useful for those who already have Medicare, or are helping someone who does, to ensure that you have optimal coverage and don't overlook opportunities to save money. HICAP offers free, impartial information about Medicare and related coverage and doesn't sell or endorse any products. For more information about HICAP, visit [www.cchicap.org](http://www.cchicap.org). Contact the Lafayette Library to register for the program.

**GARDEN**

**Registration for the 15th Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour**, which will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 5 is now open. This award-winning, self-drive tour features 37 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, water conserving, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60 percent or more native plants. Two of these gardens are located in Moraga. Pre-registration for the Tour is required. Cost: \$10 to purchase the garden guide; donations requested. [www.BringingBacktheNatives.net](http://www.BringingBacktheNatives.net), (510) 236-9558.

**The Lafayette Garden Club** invites everyone to their general meeting to be held at 10 a.m. on May 9 at the Lafayette Veteran's Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd in Lafayette. This month will be a silent auction and feature speaker Dan Yansura from the SF Fern Society. He will share common to rare ferns, how to grow and propagate them and which varieties will thrive in our climate. Free event, refreshments served.

**Please submit:**  
Events: [calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Service Clubs Announcements**

**Lafayette Rotary Club**  
Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting. Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

<b>May 2:</b> <b>Sharron Tennison</b> US/Russia relations	<b>May 9:</b> <b>Peter deLaveaga</b> CPA-new tax laws
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**25<sup>th</sup> annual Concert at the Res**  
**Sat., May 11, 11 am to 3 pm on the outdoor stage at the Lafayette Reservoir.**

[www.rotarylafayette.org](http://www.rotarylafayette.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA](https://www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA)

**LAMORINDA SUNRISE Rotary**  
Friends, Fun, Service Above Self

**MAY WEEKLY MEETINGS**  
3: Putnam Clubhouse Presentation by Tamara Hunter, Executive Director  
10: Julian Guthrie, NYT Bestselling Author of Alpha Girls  
17: Davide Asnaghi, Superhand: a 21st-Century Electronic Artificial Hand  
24: Peter Friedman, Peruvian Fighter Plane!  
31: Jon Fazel: Member Story

**Breakfast, Friday 7:00 a.m.**  
The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA  
[www.lamorindasunrise.com](http://www.lamorindasunrise.com)

**Lamorinda Weekly**

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# A perfect stack of sumptuous strawberries and cream



Cornmeal Strawberry Shortcake with Crème Fraîche

Photos Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

I found some hydroponic strawberries at the market the other day, which not only piqued my curiosity, but also totally reminded me that we're getting close to strawberry shortcake season! Soon we will have beautiful, local strawberries adorning the produce shelves, but for now, if you can find hydroponic berries, give them a try. Those I bought were very jammy and delicious. Hydroponics is a method of growing plants without soil. The roots are exposed either directly to a mineral nutrient solution in a water solvent or they can be exposed through an inert medium such as perlite, clay pellets, vermiculite or peat moss. This is a more efficient growing method, because in soil, the roots expend time and energy searching the soil for nutrients and water, whereas in hydroponics, the roots are constantly exposed and these things are readily available for the plant's growth. For this reason, the plants grow much faster than in soil. The

nutritional value may or may not be on par with plants grown in soil. I've read both sides of the argument, but not being a nutritionist, I cannot really say for sure. For information, visit [www.simplyhydro.com/strawberries](http://www.simplyhydro.com/strawberries).

This recipe has five layering components: shortcake, strawberry glaze, strawberry crème fraîche strawberries and whipped cream. You can arrange them however you please, but my order is: shortcake, strawberry glaze, strawberry cream fraiche, strawberries, whipped cream and repeat. While I normally use heavy whipping cream for the topping, this time I discovered CocoWhip, which is a coconut milk-based topping. It was delicious, but Cool Whip or home-made whipped cream would also be perfect!



Susie can be reached at [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com).

This recipe can be found on our website:

[www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://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.

## Shortcake

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup cornmeal
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 1 cube butter, (1/2 cup) unsalted, chilled and cut into small pieces
- 1 large egg
- ½ cup milk or cream (or Half & Half — your choice)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 425 F.

Place all dries in a mixing bowl. Cut in butter with fingers or a pastry cutter, until crumbly and fine. Stir in egg, milk and vanilla. Mix until dough comes together. Turn dough out onto a floured board or cloth and roll or press into a circle about 1-inch thick. Using a 3-inch diameter biscuit cutter or a glass, cut out 6 rounds of dough. Place on parchment paper and bake for about 12 minutes, or until tops are golden-brown. Remove from oven and cool. When ready to assemble split shortcakes in half horizontally.

## Strawberry Glaze

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 pint fresh strawberries, stems and leaves removed
- 1 cup water
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

### DIRECTIONS

Place strawberries and water in a medium sized pot. Bring to a boil and cook for about 4-5 minutes, occasionally stirring with a spoon to mash the berries as it cooks. Remove from heat, and strain berries through a sieve, smashing the pulp with the bottom of the spoon to get as much of the pulp through the sieve as possible. Discard any remaining pulp.

Return strawberry purée to the same pot. Mix the cornstarch and sugar together, and whisk into strawberry purée. Bring to a boil and cook over medium heat, stirring frequently with the whisk, until sauce begins to thicken and will coat the back of a spoon. Remove from heat, stir in vanilla and cool to room temperature.

## Strawberry Crème Fraiche

8 ounces crème fraiche

¼ cup of the strawberry glaze

Gently fold together.

### Strawberries

2 pints fresh strawberries, stems removed and sliced or cut into bite-sized pieces

## Whipped Cream or CocoWhip Topping

1 cup whipping cream, or

1 container CoolWhip or CocoWhip

To assemble, cut shortcakes in half horizontally. Spread a spoonful of the strawberry glaze over the bottom half. Next drop a spoonful of the Strawberry Crème Fraiche, followed by sliced strawberries and finally whipped cream. Add top half of shortcake and repeat the process, ending with one or two strawberry slices on the very top.



# A Sunset Stroll restaurant tour May 7 in Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

Locals and visitors can nibble and sip their way through a selection of offerings by restaurants and local vintners from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. May 7 at the annual Orinda Restaurant Tour. This year the theme is "A Sunset Stroll," with more restaurants

represented than last year. The Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the event, has been granted use of a portion of Vashell Way for tables and music. Vashell Way, which runs behind Casa Orinda, will be closed to traffic for about 60 feet.

There will be some new restaurants, and some old, and

some with a twist. Saffron, the Indian restaurant in Theatre Square, was in the tour last year and will participate again. Shelby's is a long-time restaurant in Orinda, but they have a new menu. La Piazza has a new owner and Zamboni's Pizza was recently reopened by its new owner after necessary updates.

Rumor has it that Cine Cuvee may return with lobster sliders this year. Other restaurants returning this year include Casa Orinda, The Fourth Bore, Loards, Rheem Steaks, and Piccolo Napoli, which will be serving meatballs.

The Lamorinda Winegrowers Association will be pouring a free glass with every \$40 ticket.

The wine will be available at check-in at 51 Moraga Way, the Compass Real Estate Parking Lot. Overseeing this portion of the tour will be Holly Hinkle of Compass and Ally Fattore, of Mechanics Bank. Juliette Don of Chevron helped secure the restaurant participants with T.J. D'Amato, Chamber of Commerce president.

# The up and downside of AP courses

By Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D.

Depending on how your particular school treats AP classes, an AP class can be worth a full

grade higher than the regular track class (that's how some students push their GPAs beyond the 'perfect' 4.0). And even if your high school does not inflate AP grades, many college admissions offices do it for you.

Good AP scores may reduce your eventual college course load and this could result in a shorter time in college. Generally, a high score on an Advanced Placement exam will equate to one semester of a college course. A high score is often a four or five out of the five-point scale used to score an Advanced Placement test. While it is theoretically possible for you to bypass an entire semester of college by taking several AP classes (which can save you thousands of dollars), it is not common. Many colleges do not accept AP scores for course credit. Others may require you to take its version of a similar course. The rationale offered is so you learn the material in a way that provides a proper foundation for the university's

particular academic curriculum. Other colleges may offer you the chance to take an assessment exam before accepting an AP score for course credit. The assessment exam is usually quite comprehensive and a passing score can be difficult to achieve, unless you have reviewed and studied the material. Your brain loses a great deal of content over time. Even then, the assessment may be the final for that course, and it is likely to be difficult to pass. For example, one of my daughters scored a solid five on an AP biology exam in her senior year of high school, but MIT would not accept the course for credit until she passed their introduction to biology course for bioengineering majors. The passing grade was a 70 percent and she scored 68 percent, not making the cut for MIT. On a more optimistic note, our University of California system is often quite willing to accept AP courses in high school for college credit. One of my clients graduated in 3.5 years because UC Berkeley accepted all five of her AP classes for course credit.

Admissions often view AP classes as one indicator of your intellectual vitality and willingness to take the initiative to challenge yourself in high school. Since AP coursework is taught at the college level, good grades in these classes and strong scores on the exams can prove you are ready for college success.

As you ponder the question of taking one or more AP classes, it is important to weigh the pros and cons and make a decision that provides reasonable balance. One way to do this is to limit the AP classes you take to those subjects that resonate with your interests and

possible majors or career paths.

It is important to weigh carefully the potential bump in GPA and the beneficial effect on college admission outcomes with the fact that AP classes do take more time. It is not uncommon for one AP class to involve two or more hours of homework each weeknight. That's time you might spend studying for your other classes, preparing for standardized tests and pursuing your extracurricular activities – not to mention getting some much needed sleep. And that, too, would be time well spent!



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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Miramonte outlasts Acalanes 15-14 to win Diablo League



Shaune Lundstrom, Miramonte (at last season)



Lauren Westergren, Acalanes Photos Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

It's said that when there is a rivalry game in any sport, you can throw out the records. Last Friday night, Miramonte and Acalanes girls lacrosse came into their final league game with 7-0 records in league play. Throw in senior night (five for

each team) and there was great anticipation coming into the game.

The term competitive does not do justice in describing the level of play in the game. It was more like a heavyweight fight (without the punches) that went the distance with Miramonte's Shaune Lundstrom scoring the

last of her five goals with 18 seconds left to defeat Acalanes by a score of 15-14.

Both teams came in with winning streaks and a lot of confidence. The coaches felt it was important for their teams to keep their focus. Acalanes head coach Mary Doyle wanted her team to "keep our composure

and take each play at a time and not get flustered or frustrated. If we play our system, we'll be fine."

It's said that familiarity breeds contempt. In this game, familiarity only bred respect. Miramonte head coach Jackie Pelletier appreciated the relationships the players and coaches have off the field as only making the game more special: "I played against Mary when she was at Cal-Davis and I was at California and I'm really close with her. All of our kids have played with the Acalanes kids growing up and most of them know each other's styles."

Miramonte has had a number of games where they started slowly and this game was no exception. Acalanes clearly won the first half, leading by a score of 9-5. The Matadors knew coming into the game that they had to contain Lauren Westergren. However, knowing doesn't always make it so. Westergren scored the first three goals of the game and scored eight goals in total.

Miramonte has been a strong second half team all season and this game was no exception though Acalanes stood

toe to toe with them and did not back down. In the last 15 minutes of the game, there were four ties and four lead changes. Miramonte was led by Lundstrom (5 goals), Boo Dewitt (4 goals) and Emerson Bohlig (3 goals). Freshman Sally Peterson scored two goals and Pelletier called it "a breakout game for Sally and I expect her to keep going up."

Lundstrom said that the team had been pointing to this game for a while: "There was all this pent-up energy because we knew that our teams were evenly matched. It was amazing to come out on top and have all of our hard work pay off. I'm sure we're going to see them again in the playoffs but it sure feels good right now."

Still, Doyle spoke for all in keeping the perspective of the game: "There is a little bit of bragging rights as the girls know each other really well from club teams, but at the end of the game, off the field, we're all good sports and root for each player individually because that's the lacrosse community in general."

## Lamorinda boys tennis teams land on top



By Jon Kingdon

As the boys tennis season has just concluded, once again Miramonte, Campolindo and Acalanes have been key factors in the Foothill League. Miramonte and Campolindo finished tied for first in league play with 8-2 records. Acalanes came in fourth with a 5-5 record, one game behind College Park. It's been a dog eat dog eat dog relationship for the Lamorinda schools. In the six matches between the schools, five of them were decided by 5-4 scores.

**Miramonte**

As the head coach of the Miramonte girls and boys tennis teams, Michael McCollom has been confronted with the whims of Mother Nature. It was the smoke from the fires for the girls and the rain for the boys that forced the team to adjust to the constantly changing conditions. "I can't remember the last normal practice we had," said McCollom. With the weather causing postponements and rescheduling, Miramonte was forced to close the season with six matches in eight days.

Besides the weather, McCollom had to respond to the loss of what he had anticipated being his top two returning players: "Micah Ellis chose to be home schooled which enabled him to play in national tournaments and Liam Dodd was accepted into West Point and has gone into full training and chose not to play tennis."

After seven weeks, Miramonte was confronted with an out of character 3-4

record. McCollom realized that the team was going to need a lot of players to mature quickly and step up and become forces in single play. Mature they did as the Matadors just finished their regular season with eight consecutive victories finishing with an 11-4 record.

Having three freshmen, Clemens Van Dongen, Nishad Elias, Liam Sullivan and sophomores Nicholas Hwang and Peter Reeves playing singles, the hoped for maturity arrived sooner than anyone could have expected as Miramonte went on to win their next seven matches. "It's been a hybrid season," said McCollom. "We are very balanced with the seniors, juniors, sophomores and freshman. It's rare to get this. The freshmen are great kids. They are very mature, well liked and accomplished in the tennis community, commanding a lot of respect."

Two seniors, Dominic Davidson and Alan Zhou, have been very effective doubles players, Davidson teaming with freshman Peter Aroner as the number one doubles team and Zhou playing with sophomore Ethan Arroyo. "Dominic is a pure leader on and off the court and has been my most solid doubles player the last three years," says McCollom. "Zhou in his first year on the varsity is the most fun human being and brings a wonderful esprit de corps to the team."

Doubles has always been important to McCollom and the Matadors: "We pride ourselves on our doubles teams. We emphasize it and other coaches have been following our lead."



Photos Gint Federas

With an 80-38 record in all matches, it's a team that is in great position for the NCS playoffs.

**Campolindo**

Campolindo also began the season getting their sea legs, losing five of their first seven matches. Despite confronting various injuries and illnesses, head coach James Scott never lost his confidence in his team: "I am really impressed how much the team really competes in every match. They just play hard and have come up to the matches. We've really come together as a team."

This would more than explain how the Cougars went on to win nine of their next 11 matches

The singles players have been led by seniors Cal Hunter, Nick Bohm, Eden Yu and junior Benjamin Goldblatt. "These kids are super young men," says Scott. "They have put in a lot of good work and are outstanding people."

The doubles teams for Campolindo have been a real factor in the team's success this season, says Scott: "Our doubles teams are playing well and that was a welcome surprise this season. The players have really bought into playing doubles. I have been really impressed with Josh Fleming who knew it was best for the team to play doubles and he really bought in to it and has really learned how to do it well. We're not relying on our singles or doubles player to win. We just rely on everyone to pull together."

Two sophomores, Noam Ayalon and Cooper Schnurr have not been intimidated by

done a great job for him in their roles: "They been great seeing it as a year-round job. They got the guys to hit in the off-season, scheduling lots of things and bringing the team together as one unit.

**Acalanes**

Like Campolindo and Miramonte, Acalanes was slow out of the gate, losing their first four matches. And like their neighboring schools, the Dons turned the season around winning seven of their last 12 matches. Head coach Curtis Berrien, who was promoted after serving two years as the school's JV coach, spoke of the team's improvement as the season progressed: "The rain set us back but it did so for everyone. The whole team has improved steadily and it's been great. They practice 4-5 days a week and at the end of the season we were playing our best tennis."

... continued on Page C2

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## Orinda resident completes her 33rd consecutive Boston Marathon



Pre Marathon: David, Gavin, Eric, Patty and Mailee

By Jon Kingdon

There are not a lot of things that you can really rely on these days. The sun still rises in the east and sets in the west. The New England Patriots continue to dominate in the NFL, the Oakland Raiders remain a team in flux and Orinda resident Patty Hung has for the 33rd consecutive year run the Boston Marathon.

At the age of 73, Hung completed the race in 5:10:19, averaging 11:51 per mile, finishing 5:43 faster than she did last year. Despite being the women with the longest consecutive streak in running the race, there was no official acknowledgment by the race officials but there was among her fellow racers. There is a group that celebrates the runners that have run the race at least 25 straight times, says Hung: "It's called the Quarter Century Club that is sort of a family. A lot of this group gets together for the pre-race dinner and they highlight the runners with the most consecutive races. However, I usually miss it to spend time with my family that lives back there."

Despite all of the rain these past few months, it did not stop Hung from her usual three-month training period. In fact, she thought it was going to be great preparation for the rain that was predicted for the race. Last year, it was very cold and wet and Hung was well prepared for those conditions, but as it turned out, she was over-prepared this year: "There was a huge rain storm before the race but the sun came out just as the race started and it got really warm. I had to take off my jacket and wrap it around my waist until the 13th mile where I met my children Eric, David and their half-sister Mailee and I was

able to give them the jacket. It began to rain the last three miles and after it being so hot, the rain was glorious. In New England, if you don't know what the weather will be like, just wait a minute and then you'll know."

Under the tutelage of her boyfriend, Don Mixon, Hung does make some adjustments to age: "As I get older, it's more of a challenge psychology and mentally. I always check in with my son David who lives in Minnesota where he is training for the Rochester Marathon in May. When you're older, you're more prone to getting sick or injured, but through the past 33 years, I have been injury free for the most part and that's the amazing part. The challenge to staying healthy is on top of me."

Besides the race, it's family that keeps bringing Hung back to Boston: "I stay with my cousins Jack and Nancy. Their daughter Hannah ran part of the race with me and I met up with her at the end of the race, along with Jack, Nancy, their son Drew and his fiance Annie. They were just a few of the relatives that were there for me."

It's reaching the 13th mile that Hung most anticipates: "At that point, I meet up with all of my family and it's just so exciting. Prior to the bombing, my son Eric would begin to run with me from that point, but since then you can't even walk in the race without being registered."

Hung has already committed to running at least two more marathons: "I still enjoy it. I'm already looking forward to next year and hope to improve my time again. I will be more attentive to my clothing. When I run my 35th marathon (2021), my sons Eric and David will be running with me."



Patty Hung and her cousin Hannah

Photos provided

### Also at Boston Marathon



Photo provided

Charles MacNulty Jr., Campolindo Class of 1992, completed in his fourth running of the Boston Marathon. MacNulty completed the 26.2-mile course in 2 hours, 47 minutes.

## Lamorinda boys tennis teams land on top

... continued from Page C1

This has been a veteran team with four of the six singles players being seniors and only one freshman and two sophomores on the roster. Finishing fourth in the Foothill League with a 5-5 record, one game behind third place College Park, the Acalanes record in league play shows how close victory and defeat can be, losing four of their league matches by a score of 5-4.

The leaders on the team have been seniors Ryan

Everly, Colin Brightbill and Ed Collinson. Each of them has brought their own unique quality to the team, says Berrien: "Ryan always gets there early and leads by example. Ed has been a vocal leader and Cole is the outspoken leader that gets the team going. All our four-year varsity guys have shown great spirit and are always ready to do."

The pleasant surprise for the team has been junior Kaisei Huari-Oyama who is from France and is attending Acalanes this year. He has brought a unique flavor to the squad that Berrien appreciates:

"Kaisei has lived in several countries and brings a European flair to squad like warming up wearing a jeans jacket. He has handled the game pressure well and is not afraid to hit the ball hard. He does not like to lose but is not afraid of it."

Berrien's aim for the team all season has been simple: "We're playing a lot of tennis. The key for the team has been to just keep having fun and playing hard."

Submit stories to [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

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## Water Polo Tournament Winner



Photo Molly Kerr

Coaches, from left: Jim Hassett, Robby Arroyo and Nick Plurkowski; players top row: Adelyn Horciza (10 Lafayette), Yesenia Castro (10 Lafayette), Quinn Arroyo (10 Orinda); bottom row: Annelise Stark (9 Danville), Elizabeth Hassett (7 Orinda) Surya Spitzer (7 Lafayette), Lucy Kerr (8 Lafayette), Kiley Arroyo (8 Orinda), Landon Page (8 Lafayette, Sean Tandler (8 Lafayette) and John Plurkowski (9 Martinez).

Submitted by Molly Kerr

Diablo Alliance's 10 and under water polo team won first place in the Mixed Novice Division at the Spring Sunday Tournament at Soda Center on April 13. Quinn Arroyo propelled the team to

victory with her many goals and assists. Strong performances were also turned in by Sean Tandler, Landon Page and goalie, Adelyn Horciza. Congratulations to all of the Diablo players on an impressive victory.

## Miramonte senior at National Track & Field



Submitted by W. Benjamin Young

David Marcus Young is a Miramonte High School senior who recently competed at a National Track and Field event titled Mt. SAC Relays - "Where the World's Best Athletes Compete!" Marcus began taking up the sport of Pole Vault

late in the spring season last year and did remarkably well during his first season (which was only three months) ending with a 13' 7" personal record (PR).

At Mt. SAC on April 20, Marcus beat Samuel Wright who is currently ranked No. 1 in California where Marcus achieved a new record of 16' feet where he tied for first place with Jacob Rice, who is ranked second in the state, before a final jump off. Marcus is currently ranked No. 4 in California based on individual PR's and tied for No. 22 in the U.S. Both Miramonte Pole Vault Coaches Carey Immesoete and Doug Bockmiller have been very impressed with Marcus' astounding progress in only 13 months citing most pole vaulters take 4-6 years to achieve what Marcus has, and most don't ever reach such a height. Marcus' father finds it humorous that Marcus at 16' feet has already surpassed the Hong Kong Olympic Record of 14' 4", the country of Marcus' ancestry. With such outstanding athletic achievement, Marcus currently qualifies for college recruiting at all the Ivy League schools in the country but has tentatively committed to attend a foreign Medical School in the fall instead. Marcus who is graduating at the age of 17 is also a year younger than his peers and has plenty of opportunities to aspire toward the US Olympic qualifying standard of 18' 6".

## Acalanes High School Sailing team



Photo Stephanie Reilly

From left: Ben Foox, Chase Englehart, Lia Reilly, and Sophia Browne

Submitted by Stephanie Reilly

On March 9 and 10 the Acalanes High School Sailing team, a club sport at Acalanes High School, traveled to the Santa Barbara Yacht Club for the Gaucho Regatta. The Gaucho Regatta is organized by the UC Santa Barbara Sailing Team and sponsored by the Pacific Coast Interscholastic Sailing Association. The Acalanes team competed against 19 other high school teams from Northern and Southern Califor-

nia. After two days of competition, the Acalanes team placed second overall. The team members include: Sophia Browne, a junior at Acalanes High School and co-captain with Lola Rao, a junior at Acalanes High School; Lia Reilly, a sophomore at Acalanes, Chase Englehart, a freshman at Acalanes, and Ben Foox, an eighth-grader at Stanley Middle School. The sailing conditions were good, and the competition was fierce. The Acalanes team was very proud of their accomplishment.

## Lamorinda Water Polo Club celebrates its recruited student athletes



Photo Daniel Ting

From left, back row: Peter Hillen (United States Naval Academy), Max Stryker (UC Davis), Jake Stone (UC Berkeley), Liam Ward (Cal State Long Beach), Shea Grosz (Occidental), Leo Berkman (Brown), Mason Chambliss (UC Santa Barbara); front row: Katherine Hawkins (Indiana University), Abby Fleming (Santa Clara University), Zoe Crouch (Indiana University)

Submitted by Tyler Painter

Lamorinda Water Polo Club hosted a College Commitment Celebration at Miramonte High School on Wednesday, April 17. As Lamorinda Water Polo marks its 20th year, the club recognizes these outstanding student athletes for their excellence and dedication to water polo and academics. The Club thanks its coaches and staff led by Guy Baker (Ex-

ecutive Director), James Lathrop (Boys Director and 18U Boys Coach) and Kim Everist (Girls Director and 18U Girls Coach) for their commitment to helping these graduating athletes achieve their academic and athletic goals.

Lamorinda Water Polo Club offers year-round age-group programs and Splashball for boys and girls, age 5-18, and three-day a week introductory water polo summer camps for kids age 5-12.



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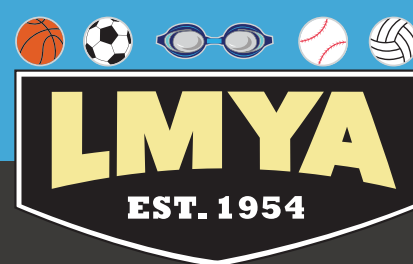
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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

... read on Page D6

## Upscale design and finishes featured in Lafayette Juniors Kitchen Tour



Moss Beach served as inspiration for this Lafayette kitchen remodel.

Photo provided

### By Jennifer Wake

The 20th Annual Lafayette Juniors Kitchen Tour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Saturday, May 4 features six beautiful and distinctive kitchens located in various neighborhoods throughout Lafayette, with proceeds from the event benefiting MISSEY, Family Harvest Farm, An Elderly Wish Foundation, Community Violence Solutions/Children's Interview Center, Family Support Services, and Family Violence Law Center.

One of the kitchens featured on the tour is in the Happy Valley neighborhood, lovingly

and meticulously remodeled by a savvy designer-homeowner over the course of the past two years.

"The home began as a modest and traditional wood paneled rancher, and has been transformed into a spacious, open and peaceful entertaining spot," according to Lafayette Juniors public relations coordinator Karen Evans. "The family wanted a modern, clean aesthetic but one that is functional and practical with kids and dogs, and comfortable for living and entertaining. The homeowner has an eye for details and was adamant that the kitchen reflect a clean and calm atmos-

phere. This is why there is not a single wall outlet in sight. Even their kitchen appliances are hidden ... tucked away nicely in a pull handle cabinet garage." The unique lighting over the vast kitchen island (used extensively for baking projects by their younger daughter) adds a touch of whimsy to offset the modern kitchen and adds warmth so it isn't too stark, said Evans. The kitchen features a Sub-Zero refrigerator, WOLF range, Bosch dishwasher and Bosch microwave drawer.

Another home on the tour got a vibrant, beachy kitchen redesign as part of the homeowners' larger home remodel. "The homeowners have undergone a major expansion, converting an outdoor patio to a family room, updating the interior features throughout the home including adding large, custom barn doors, a beautiful wood tile fireplace and a functional mudroom," said Evans. "Their time living in Moss Beach was an inspiration throughout the redesigned kitchen, which is light filled and bright, with beautiful pops of color and clean, timeless cabinetry and counters."

The space facilitates an indoor-outdoor lifestyle that incorporated their recently renovated yard, including a gorgeous new deck and refinished pool. Upon entry, Evans says you are struck by the wonderful flow between the home and backyard, with large windows and glass doors providing ample natural light.

Tour tickets are \$50 (\$45 of which is tax deductible). Tickets are available online through May 3 (<http://lafayettejuniors.org/fundraisers>) and at Premier Kitchens in Lafayette on the morning of May 4.

...continued on Page D4

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**Lamorinda home sales recorded**

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	16	\$719,000	\$3,225,000
MORAGA	7	\$655,000	\$1,875,000
ORINDA	12	\$570,000	\$2,137,500

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**

- 859 Birdhaven Court, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2233 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 03-22-19  
 141 Castle Court, \$1,478,000, 4 Bdrms, 2056 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 03-15-19,  
 Previous Sale: \$660,000, 08-29-01  
 2 Hartwood Court, \$2,215,000, 4 Bdrms, 2418 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 03-11-19,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 04-04-14  
 1594 Huston Road, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 1996 SqFt, 1944 YrBlt, 03-13-19  
 1776 Ivanhoe Avenue, \$2,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 4596 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 03-18-19  
 3360 Johnson Road, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2156 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 03-22-19,  
 Previous Sale: \$139,000, 08-01-78  
 3954 Los Arabis Drive, \$1,990,000, 4 Bdrms, 4083 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 03-14-19  
 1352 Martino Road, \$1,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 2503 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 03-20-19  
 1085 Martino Road, \$1,994,000, 5 Bdrms, 3464 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 03-21-19  
 3279 Mt Diablo Court #4, \$719,000, 2 Bdrms, 1697 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 03-12-19,  
 Previous Sale: \$625,000, 12-09-16  
 3541 Oconner Drive, \$2,490,000, 4 Bdrms, 3214 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 03-15-19  
 3570 Oconner Drive, \$1,860,000, 4 Bdrms, 2477 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 03-22-19,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,420,000, 05-25-06  
 1493 Rancho View Drive, \$2,285,000, 4 Bdrms, 2413 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 03-14-19,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,755,000, 09-22-15  
 3435 Silver Springs Court, \$3,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 3032 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 03-11-19,  
 Previous Sale: \$2,125,000, 05-26-04  
 1084 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 1964 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 03-22-19  
 3288 Withers Avenue, \$1,775,000, 4 Bdrms, 2509 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 03-18-19,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 04-08-15

**MORAGA**

- 2135 Ascot Drive #16, \$665,000, 3 Bdrms, 1600 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 03-22-19  
 9 Fieldbrook Place, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2063 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 03-12-19  
 32 Kent Court, \$1,840,000, 5 Bdrms, 3152 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 03-19-19  
 1186 Moraga Road, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 1802 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 03-22-19,  
 Previous Sale: \$810,000, 11-04-16  
 271 Paseo Bernal, \$880,000, 3 Bdrms, 2018 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 03-20-19  
 54 Sanders Ranch Road, \$1,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 2998 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 03-18-19,  
 Previous Sale: \$889,000, 04-13-99  
 15 Via Barcelona, \$995,000, 4 Bdrms, 2577 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 03-15-19,  
 Previous Sale: \$615,000, 10-11-11

**ORINDA**

- 2 Austin Court, \$1,395,000, 4 Bdrms, 1870 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 03-11-19  
 60 Citron Knolls, \$1,455,000, 4 Bdrms, 2385 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 03-21-19  
 26 Dias Dorados, \$1,421,000, 3 Bdrms, 2655 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 03-12-19  
 41 Dos Posos, \$2,137,500, 4 Bdrms, 3629 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 03-22-19,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,925,000, 12-11-07  
 8 Evergreen Drive, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2437 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 03-22-19,  
 Previous Sale: \$259,000, 07-01-85  
 21 Ichabod Lane, \$925,000, 4 Bdrms, 2034 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 03-22-19  
 14 Jewel Court, \$1,920,000, 4 Bdrms, 2463 SqFt, 2009 YrBlt, 03-22-19,  
 Previous Sale: \$640,000, 05-16-02  
 54 La Encinal, \$570,000, 2 Bdrms, 1707 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 03-13-19  
 22 Las Palomas, \$1,230,000, 3 Bdrms, 2087 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 03-15-19  
 4 Muth Drive, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1479 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 03-20-19,  
 Previous Sale: \$841,000, 06-01-05  
 12 Spring Road, \$808,000, 3 Bdrms, 1181 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 03-15-19,  
 Previous Sale: \$520,000, 12-07-12  
 17 Valley View Lane, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2435 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 03-13-19,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,595,000, 04-27-04



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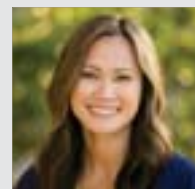
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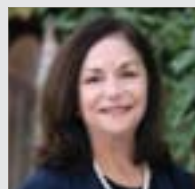
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This Happy Valley home features a modern, clean kitchen perfect for living and entertaining.

Photo provided

## Upscale design and finishes featured in Lafayette Juniors Kitchen Tour

... continued from Page D1

In order to manage the number of guests at each home, tour goers are asked to select one house from which to start the tour. Upon entry at the starter home, visitors will receive a program with a detailed map and driving directions to each home. Tour goers may then tour the remaining homes in any order they choose. When a home reaches capacity it will show as "sold out," but that simply means tour goers need to start the tour at a different home.



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• •  
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## Highlights

- Small farm on the edge of town
- Separate 3 stable barn with a tack room
- Nearly 6 acres
- Close to Briones Regional Park
- Private gated driveway
- Wrap around deck with panoramic views
- View of Briones Reservoir
- In-law unit

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## Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian for May FireScaping

*“Some say the world will end in fire.” – Robert Frost*

### By Cynthia Brian

A running crown fire came rolling down the hillside toward our Lake County mountain cabin, moving faster than any human could run. All exits were blocked. Trees vaporized. Sixteen civilians trapped in the valley were being gathered in the meadow around our house. This acre of lush green grass would be the safety zone, everyone's last hope of survival. Ninety firefighters had been spread out along the roads, trails, and hill-sides in the fire's path. Their orders were to stay put until the fire was upon them, then to light a backfire and escape to our meadow.

The energy released was a hundred times that of a normal forest fire, with an explosive force nearing the intensity of a small atomic bomb. Everyone prayed. My sister and her husband said their goodbyes. Death seemed seconds away. Besides being a farmer, our dad had been captain of our volunteer fire department for 46 years. Dad built the safety zone. “Daddy,” my sister prayed, “please don't let us die like this.”

Then, almost imperceptibly, the roar began to diminish. The fire continued to rage for 14 days in nearby canyons, ultimately burning over 82,000 acres. At the time, it was the second-worst firestorm in United States history, the subject of national training videos for firefighters and showcased on an episode of the TV series, “20/20.”

I chronicled this epic true story in my book, “Be the Star You Are!® 99



Photo Cynthia Brian

### A dry creek riverbed with hosts and appropriates is helpful.

Gifts for Living, Loving, Laughing, and Learning to Make a Difference.” The chapter is appropriately titled The Gift of Survival. (First Editions available from <http://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>).

When a town called Paradise is transformed into burning hell incinerating everything in its path within 24 hours and becoming the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California and United States history, it is prudent for Lamorindans to make fire safety a priority.

A few months ago an Orinda resident reached out to me asking if I would write an article on how to landscape with fire prevention in mind. Melanie and Ken Light had contacted Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker to find out how to become a Firewise neighborhood. Being fire wise is dependent on everyone in a neighborhood being diligent about keeping their property fire safe because fires do not honor property lines. If one home's landscape is pristine and the neighbor next door has overgrown bushes, brush, or low hanging trees, all of the properties become indefensible.

Lamorinda is rural, wooded, and has minimal escape routes. Many of the plants and trees growing throughout our area are highly flammable including pines, cypress, cedar, fir, bamboo, acacia, juniper, Pampas grass, rosemary, ivy, arborvitae, miscanthus and eucalyptus. Heat moves up and many homes are on hills. Fire speed and severity is stronger on slopes where vegetation management is crucial.

Just as there is no such thing as a deer-proof plant, a fire-proof plant is a myth. Under the right conditions, every plant will burn. Referring to a plant as “fire safe” means that it tends not to be a significant fuel source by itself. Some plants chemical compositions resist heat and combustion.

... continued on Page D16

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# Being Neighborly

We hope everyone is enjoying the warm sunshine and much needed break from the rain. We recently listed a home and naturally during the first open house many neighbors come to check it out. They are curious about the floor plan, updates and how their home compares. We love it when neighbors come to visit homes we hold open. Neighbors show potential buyers that this is a neighborhood where people take pride in ownership and care about their real estate investment.

Neighbors are invested in the sale as it provides a data point for how much their home is worth. For some, it is important because it provides a basis to determine the equity they have in their home or if it is a good time to sell. The condition, fixtures, square footage, lot size of recent sold homes helps realtors, appraisers and buyers determine a home's value.

Buyers are investing in a neighborhood and not just a home so there are some important things you can do to help your neighbor in selling their home and ultimately yourself. The most important thing you can do is help ensure your neighborhood shines as bright as possible. Keep your yard tidy and pull garbage bins off the street. If you have animals be conscious of open house times and schedules and keep animals inside. Sellers have an obligation to disclose a loud barking dog or a failing fence. Neighbors just need to seem well, neighborly. It might even provide you with a good excuse to trim back your hedge or tidy your yard up a bit. The bottom line is a successful sale benefits everyone and lifts all neighborhood home values.



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## Top design picks from Kitchen and Bath Industry Show



**By Johanne Poulin**

Described as the place to see the latest designs and products from over 600 leading brands, the Kitchen and Bath Industry Show is North America's largest trade show dedicated to all aspects of kitchen and bath design. It's a must for designers who want to offer their clients the latest in kitchen and bath design, and a great way to get behind the scenes with some of our favorite vendors.

While it's always a challenge to narrow down to a few favorites, here are our top

picks for this year:

**Smart efficiency.** We've seen a huge increase in 'touchless' and 'connected' products in the home, and that trend is continuing. Many of us already have 'smart' thermostats and home monitoring devices, but a growing number of kitchen appliances and bathroom fixtures are also starting to get smarter. We're seeing app-enabled ovens, refrigerators, washers, bathtubs trashcans and even kitchen scales, doing everything from simply turning remotely to monitoring and re-ordering your groceries. Smart sensor integration in faucets, showers, lighting and showers offer not just convenience, but also California building code compliant energy and water efficiency, ease of use for anyone with limited mobility.

**Bold colors and patterns.** Our love affair with the crisp white kitchen shows no signs of fading, but the white subway tile is giving way to a resurgence of bold patterned tile in showers, floors and backsplashes. There were stunning options on display – everything from handcrafted glass and ceramic in bold colors and textures and traditional large scale patterns that draw the eye, to intricate mosaics in every shape, material and combination.

It wasn't just the tile that was bringing out the color – cabinet manufacturers are offering some bold color options that work wonderfully in California kitchens and bathrooms. Navy and gray featured in many displays, often in combination with white or wood, their more dramatic tones drawing the eye and providing a warmth and drama to every space.

Johanne Poulin is a former OB/Gyn who has grown Project Guru Design from its early days offering interior decor and staging services to an award winning full service design firm offering detailed 3D renders and walk through technology. She combines a lifetime's passion for creative work with the precision and attention to detail developed from over 20 years in medicine. She strives to understand the client's unique style and present them with personalized design 'prescription', helping them to achieve thoughtful, livable and functional spaces that will serve them for years to come.

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## Coming Soon in Campolindo

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The living and family rooms have vaulted ceilings. There is a kitchen/dinette and a formal dining room. The yard has a flat area and then, up a small slope, another usable area with no rear neighbors.

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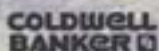
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## Matt Knows MORAGA



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**312 Rheem Blvd., Moraga • \$1,275,000**

3 Bedrooms + Den, 2 Bathrooms, 2,096 sf, .84 acre flat lot

Tucked in the heart of Moraga, in a super convenient location, sits this wonderful single-level ranch home that offers gracious living indoors and out! The neighborhood is desirable not only for its scenic setting, close proximity to commuter routes, and sits just down the street from the Rheem Valley Shopping Center. This charming home offers the perfect blend of formal and casual living space, large bedrooms, and the seamless indoor/outdoor living makes it a true entertainer's delight. This home exudes California Living!

**SOLD! OVER ASKING!**



**795 Camino Ricardo, Moraga • \$1,375,000**

3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, 1,870 sf, .28 acre flat lot

Perfectly positioned on a corner lot in one of Moraga's most loved neighborhoods, this charming single-story home is coveted for its location... just steps away from Los Perales Elementary School. This location desired for its flat streets, large sidewalks, and central Moraga location which offers easy access to commute routes, the Moraga-Lafayette Trail, Moraga Country Club, Moraga Shopping Center, and the Sunday Farmer's market.

**Matt McLeod, REALTOR®**

925.464.6500 • matt@dudum.com

DRE 01310057



DRE#0182902

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## 1893 School Street, Moraga

3065 sqft | 4 Br | 3 Ba | .25+/- Ac Lot

Single level updated home close to everything. Pool.

[www.1893SchoolSt.com](http://www.1893SchoolSt.com)  
\$1,750,000



Coming Soon!

## 107 La Quinta Street, Moraga

3 Br | 2 Ba | 4032 sqft lot | 2 Car garage  
Lovely updated home with chef's kitchen.

[www.107LaQuintaSt.com](http://www.107LaQuintaSt.com)  
\$995,000



New Price!

## 4 Leeward Glen, Lafayette

3945 sqft | 4 Br | 2.5 Ba | 2.22+/- Ac Lot

Unique property on a very private view lot. Great value!

[www.4LeewardGlenRd.com](http://www.4LeewardGlenRd.com)  
\$1,599,000



Sale Pending!

## 4 Shannon Court, Moraga

5155 sqft | 5 Br | 4.5 Ba | 2.22+/- Ac Lot

Spacious custom home on a large wooded lot.

[www.4ShannonCourt.com](http://www.4ShannonCourt.com)  
\$1,895,000



  
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**NEW TO MARKET !!**

**38 IVY DRIVE, ORINDA | 3 BD | 2 BA | 1896 SQFT | \$1,125,000**



**NEW PRICE !!**

**424 CAMINO SOBRANTE , ORINDA | \$1,849,000**



**121 OAK ROAD, ORINDA | \$1,850,000**



**15 EASTON COURT , ORINDA | \$1,495,000**



**11 GARDINER COURT, ORINDA | \$2,450,000**



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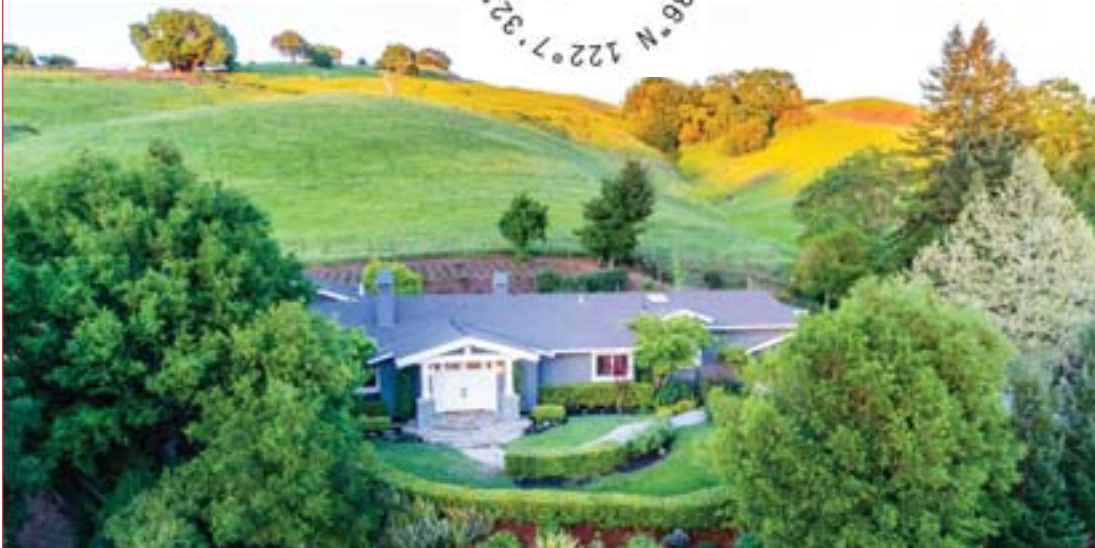
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## 620 Michael Lane, Lafayette

Offered at \$3,150,000 | [620MichaelLane.com](http://620MichaelLane.com)

This beautifully crafted 3,877+/- square foot Burton Valley retreat on .94+/- acre is a splendid combination of classic beauty and sophisticated elegance enhanced by numerous upgrades and luxury appointments. Completely rebuilt in 2006, this extraordinary 4 bedroom plus bonus room, 3.5 bath masterpiece enjoys peaceful, gated privacy, complete with meticulously landscaped grounds, a sparkling pool with automatic cover, flat grass area, outdoor fire pit, 3-car garage, chicken coop, 96 Cabernet vines and an sensationally luxurious outdoor pavilion.



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649SkyRanchCourt.com \$1,845,000  
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556 Arrowhead Drive, Lafayette



556ArrowheadDrive.com \$1,795,000  
4 Beds | 3 Baths | 2584± Sq. Ft. | .24± Acre Lot

207 Paseo Bernal, Moraga



207PaseoBernal.com \$895,000  
3 Beds | 2 Baths | 2044± Sq. Ft.



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1 Sycamore Road \$3,495,000  
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[1sycamore.com](http://1sycamore.com)

Lafayette



1140 Camino Vallecito \$3,495,000  
4+ Bed 4.5 Bath 3,716± Sq Ft 0.50± Acres  
[1140caminovallecito.com](http://1140caminovallecito.com)

Lafayette



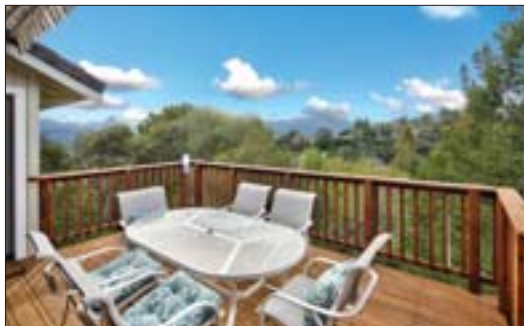
959 Sunnyhill Road \$3,195,000  
5+ Bed 4.5 Bath 5,100± Sq Ft 1.21± Acres  
[959sunnyhill.com](http://959sunnyhill.com)

Lafayette



3651 Boyer Circle \$2,700,000  
5 Bed 4F/3H Bath 4,600± Sq Ft 0.96± Acres  
[3651boyer.com](http://3651boyer.com)

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4 Oak Flat Road \$1,995,000  
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# SLOWING MARKET? *I beg to differ.*

*Sold!*

3 Charles Hill Place  
Orinda \$1,440,000

*Sold!*

10 Lost Valley Drive  
Orinda \$1,355,000

*Sold!*

3875 Quail Ridge Road  
Lafayette \$2,225,000

*Sold!*

5 Williams Court  
Orinda \$1,606,000

*Sold!*

3 Lost Valley Court  
Orinda \$2,250,000

*Sold!*

30 Miramonte Drive  
Orinda \$665,000

*Pending!*

13 Estates Drive  
Orinda

*Pending!*

Off-Market Sleepy Hollow  
Orinda

*Pending!*

1087 Upper Happy Valley  
Lafayette

*Pending!*

45 Tara Road  
Orinda

*Pending!*

22 Oak Ridge Lane  
Orinda

*Pending!*

224 Seclusion Valley Way  
Lafayette

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## Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian for May Firescaping



Mock orange is fragrant in bloom but a recommended fire-resistant species.

... continued from Page D6

It is critical to keep plants around our homes well maintained and pruned as a fire protection tool. The closer plants are to the house, the more care is needed.

Firescaping is simply a landscape design that reduces house and property vulnerability to wildfire. While enhancing the beauty of the property, we surround the house with plants that are less likely to ignite and create a defensible space.

### Characteristics of Highly Flammable Flora

- Dry and dead leaves, twigs, branches
- Abundant, dense foliage
- Needles
- Low moisture foliage
- Peeling, loose bark
- Gummy sap
- Leathery or aromatic leaves
- High resin, terpene, or oil content
- High, uncut or dry grasses

### Characteristics of Fire-Resistant Flora

- Hardy, slow growing plants that don't produce litter or thatch
- Native plants that are drought tolerant with internal high water content.

Generally, California natives are more tolerant of deer and fire.

(see Nature's Natives: April 17, 2019, <https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1304/Digging-Deep-with-Cynthia-Brian-for-April-Natures-Natives.html>)

- Trees with thick bark that restrict the growth of invasive shrub species and hardwood trees such as walnut, cherry, maple, and poplar are less flammable. Deciduous trees and shrubs are generally more fire resistant because they have a higher moisture content when in leaf, lower fuel vol-



Lilacs are beautiful and less flammable than other plants. Photos Cynthia Brian

ume when dormant, and usually do not contain flammable oils.

- Supple, moist leaves with little to no sap or resin residue.
- Low growing ground covers.
- Bulbs.

### How to Create a Fire-Resistant Landscape:

- Include fire-resistant features such as pavers, bricks, pavement, gravel, rocks, mulch, dry creek beds, fountains, ponds, pools, and lawns. Water features including ponds, streams, and pools can be helpful fuel breaks.
- Select high moisture plants that grow close to the ground with a low sap and resin content. (See an included list of plants, shrubs and trees)
- Maintain all plants and lawns. Clover, groundcovers and grasses that are kept low and green through irrigation are excellent alternatives. Mow, prune, water and space appropriately.
- Leave space between plants.
- Minimize the inclusion of evergreen trees within 30 feet of structures. Clear debris and understory. Have clearance of all trees within 20 feet of chimneys.
- Remove invasive species or swaths of flammable plants including ivy, rosemary, broom and juniper.
- Moist mulch, rocks or gravel can be used for firescaping. (Bark and leaf mulch can ignite unless sufficiently wet. Usage not recommended near structures.)
- When planting trees, identify the tree size at maturity.
- Prune trees carefully to remove the possibility of fire laddering.
- Arrange plantings in clusters and islands, with those near structures being smaller.
- Consider the combustibility of decorative features such as gazebos, fences, sheds, porches, and junk areas. Keep appropriate clearance to reduce the threat of burning embers.
- Bare ground is not recommended due to soil erosion.

... continued on Page D17

... continued from Page D16

### General Rules of Fire Safety

Heed the checklist from our local fire departments to create a defensible space around your home. To reiterate fire district recommendations:

- Prevent embers from igniting your home by clearing leaves, needles, and debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks.
- Mow grasses and weeds.
- Keep your garden watered.
- Prune tree limbs to keep the lowest branches 6-10 feet from the ground.
- Reduce “fire fuel laddering” by not allowing bushes or trees to touch one another.
- Keep combustible materials 15-30 feet away from structures.
- Maintain your property and be alert for any fire danger.

For further safety tips visit [www.mofd.org/fire-prevention/abatement](http://www.mofd.org/fire-prevention/abatement).

Through proper plant selection, placement and maintenance, we are able to diminish the possibility of ignition, lower fire intensity, and reduce the spread, helping our homes to survive the blaze. A fire-resistant landscape reduces the risk to our homes while enabling firefighters a place to defend our structures.



An Orinda home BEFORE photos with fire-prone plantings.



The Orinda home AFTER clean-up of branches, shrubs, and debris.

... continued on Page D18



Paul & Virginia Ratto

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## 1173 BROWN AVENUE, LAFAYETTE

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**Offered at \$2,399,000 | [1173brownavenue.com](http://1173brownavenue.com)**

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Photos Cynthia Brian

**A cherry tree in bloom with sedum and bulbs underneath is "fire-safe"**

... continued from Page D16

**Helpful Websites:**

National Fire Protection Association: [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)  
 Moraga-Orinda Fire District: [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)  
 Fire Safe Marin (We are not in Marin, but this is a great resource): [www.firesafemarin.org](http://www.firesafemarin.org)  
 Pacific Northwest Fire Resistant



**Spacing is imperative and Columbine is fire resistant.**

Plants: [www.firefree.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Fire-Resistant-Plants.pdf](http://www.firefree.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Fire-Resistant-Plants.pdf)  
 University of California Cooperative Extension: [https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/Prepare/Landscaping/Plant\\_choice/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/Prepare/Landscaping/Plant_choice/)  
 Las Pilitas Nursery (although this nursery is in Santa Margarita it has the best website that gives burn times for various plants. Plus it also has deer resistant information as well.) [www.laspilitas.com/easy/deerfire.htm](http://www.laspilitas.com/easy/deerfire.htm)

**Sign Up for Alerts:**

Contra Costa County Community Warning System: <https://cwsalerts.com>  
 Alerts for Your Specific Area: [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)

Sample Listing of Plants that are Fire-Resistant

(I reiterate, no plant is fire-proof. Maintenance, pruning, watering, spacing, location are all extremely important elements for fire safety.)

Bulbs (tulips, daffodils, iris, hyacinth, freesia, etc. Cut stalks to the ground when leaves are dry)

California redbud	Sedum	Dogwood
Sage	Succulents	Mock orange
Penstemon	Veronica	Azalea
Heather	Armeria	Current
Fuchsia	Agapanthus	Viburnum
Columbine	Trumpet Vine	Horse chestnut
Thyme	Daylily	Liquid Amber
Poppy	Heuchera	Honey locust
Wild strawberry	Hosta	Crabapple
Common yarrow	Red hot poker	Purple robe locust
French lavender	Lupine	Fruit trees (varieties of cherry, plum, pear, peach, apricot)
Lilac	Delphinium	Black oak
Coreopsis	Echinacea	Hawthorne
Ajuga	Lamb's ear	Birch
California lilac	Yucca	Aspen
Society garlic	Roses	Poplar
Alliums	Salvia	Maple
Dianthus	Evening primrose	Manzanita (prune without dead wood)
Yellow or Purple ice plant	Daphne	Walnut
Creeping phlox	Boxwood	
Lamium	Rhododendron	
	Spirea	



**Alliums, society garlic, onions have high water content.**



**Dogwoods are beautiful in bloom and less flammable.**

Harry Houdini wrote, "Fire has always been and seemingly, will always remain, the most terrible of the elements." Use your common sense. If you need additional help, consult a professional. Contact your fire department for a Fire Wise walk. Invite neighbors to a meeting. Come talk to me at the Be the Star You Are!® charity booth at the Moraga Community Faire from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 11. Buy garden gifts for Mother's Day. ([Http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org/events](http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org/events))

Fires are in our future. Hopefully, we won't require a green meadow safety zone for survival, yet we need to be prepared. Make firescaping an ongoing conversation.

In the meantime, get out to weed, water, prune and maintain. Do what you can to be fire safe.  
Happy Gardening.  
Happy Growing. Happy Mother's Day!



Crabapple trees are a good specimen choice for fire resistance.



Cynthia Brian amidst wisteria wearing her fire garden hat gifted to her from her firefighter son-in-law.

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](http://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](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store).

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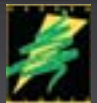
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New Listing

**38 Ivy Drive**  
Super location, delightful 3 bed/ 2 bath home with style and ease of living.  
\$1,125,000

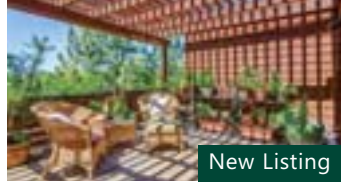
## ORINDA



New Listing

**33 Camino del Diablo**  
Ideal wooded sanctuary in the hills, 3 bed/2 bath with eat in kitchen.  
\$1,165,000

## ORINDA



New Listing

**170 Ravenhill Road**  
Level entry home, master suite on main floor with vaulted ceilings, an updated kitchen.  
\$1,175,000

## ORINDA



**76 La Cuesta Road**  
Ease of one-level living. Abundance of windows, ideal location! Close to BART & shopping.  
\$1,265,000

## ORINDA



New Listing

**15 Easton Court**  
Delightful home of creative design & quality craftsmanship on a beautiful lush lot.  
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## ORINDA



New Listing

**9 Valley View Drive**  
Exquisitely remodeled craftsman home, reflects the charm & elegant details of classic architecture.  
\$1,795,000

## ORINDA



**424 Camino Sobrante**  
Delightful family home of exceptional charm. Formal living & dining with a modern kitchen.  
\$1,849,000

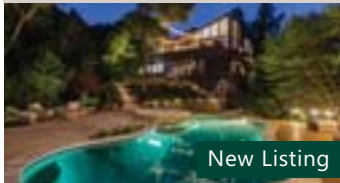
## ORINDA



New Listing

**121 Oak Road**  
Minutes from town, this custom home has dramatic living spaces, & openness that flows throughout.  
\$1,850,000

## ORINDA



New Listing

**22 Oak Ridge Lane**  
Cooler than cool! A contemporary gem in the hills with walls of windows and views of Mt Diablo.  
\$1,295,000

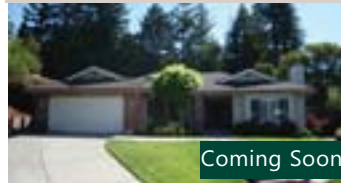
## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**2 Juniper Drive**  
1.25 acre lot. Lovely family home with great character & charm. Conveniently near fwy & shopping.  
\$1,295,000

## MORAGA



Coming Soon

**60 Wandel Drive**  
New listing! Beautifully remodeled 4 bed / 2 bath home at end of cul de sac.  
\$1,495,000

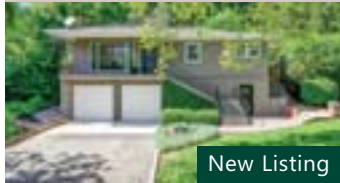
## ROSSMOOR



Pending

**1621 Ptarmigan Drive**  
Level-in Villa Cordova condo with overlooking the Rossmoor Buckeye from balcony.  
\$375,000

## MARTINEZ



New Listing

**42 Millthwait Drive**  
Located in a delightful neighborhood, close to trails.  
\$848,000

## MARTINEZ



New Listing

**914 Morello Hills Drive**  
Lovely home, great location, formal living & dining, a kitchen/ family room combo, backs to open space.  
\$875,000

## MARTINEZ



New Listing

**114 Stonehurst Court**  
Stunning Alhambra Valley home with 360 degree unobstructed views with Mt. Diablo.  
\$2,895,000

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Only 1 Left! Beautiful New Construction Single Story Homes w/ 4 Beds + office on .35-.41 acre lots  
\$1,175,000

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