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Skate stunts by Owen Myall

Photo Vera Kochan

# Local teen sparks improvements to Moraga skate park

By Vera Kochan

Originally constructed in 2003, thanks to a tri-city partnership between Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda involving initial funding as well as ongoing maintenance, the skate park is a popular feature at Moraga Commons Park.

All good things, through time and observation, can always be improved. And who better to make those observations to a skate park than the kids who

use it. Owen Myall, an Acalanes High School student and Lafayette resident, was just 14 years old when he first approached the Moraga Town Council 16 months ago. During the public comments and suggestions portion of the meeting, Myall came prepared with a written proposal of his vision for improvements to the skate park.

Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt recalled, "It was my second day on the job and my first town council meeting. After Owen's presentation the council said it was a perfect project

for me to begin with. Owen and I got together and using his notes, we tightened things up."

Myall based his ideas on feedback and comments that fellow skateboarders had made. Adding a water bottle filling station would help to eliminate the dozens of empty plastic bottles that litter the "bowl" – what skaters call the deep part of the park. More people are using metal water containers and would not leave them as trash.

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**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Symposium**  
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# Construction ramping up in downtown Lafayette



Photo Pippa Fisher

The backhoe lies still, dwarfed by the depth of the hole, awaiting a September start on construction on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

By Pippa Fisher

What's up with that big hole in the west end of downtown Lafayette?

The 2.04-acre lot, prepped and ready on the corner of Dolores Drive and Mt. Diablo Boulevard, is about to see progress start in earnest. Interim City Manager Niroop Srivatsa says that according to the developer's latest schedule construction will begin in early September and is expected to last for two years.

Development company Lennar Homes will be constructing a three-story, mixed-use development with 66 for-sale condominiums of which 10 units are to be affordable to very low to moderate-income households. The 5,400 square feet of commercial use will include a full-service restaurant and 171 on-site parking spaces. The project was approved in March 2016.

Meanwhile, further west, work on the 6.5-acre lot for Woodbury Highlands at 3700 Mt. Diablo Blvd. is also underway.

City Contract Planner Jean Eisberg says the developer Davidon Homes has completed demolition and rough grading and is currently working on retaining walls, utilities, and private and public improvements. Work started in July 2018. It is anticipated to have a four-to-five-year build out for the 17 buildings.

The project required the demolition of seven commercial buildings and will provide 99 new for-sale multi-family dwelling units in two to three story construction plus 5,500 square feet of community gathering spaces with 192 parking spaces as well as more than 20,000 square feet of usable outdoor areas. The two- and three-bedroom condominium homes will range from 1,149 to 2,737 square feet.

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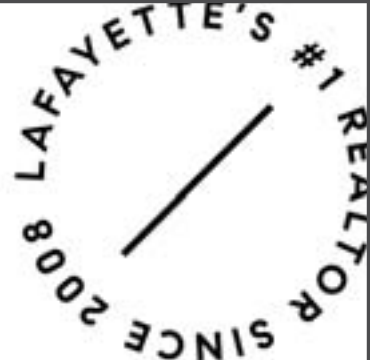


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## Council taps community members for final city manager interview process

By Pippa Fisher

As the time comes to make a decision on selecting one of the finalists among the applicants to fill the city manager vacancy, the Lafayette City Council is looking for five residents to serve on a community panel to assist in the final interview process. Those interested in serving must get their application in to the city by 5

p.m. on July 26.

Avery and Associates, the executive search firm hired by the city and community to identify the best-suited candidates over the past several months, following former city manager Steve Falk's resignation at the end of last year.

Now it is up to the council to make the final decision. And, in the interest of transparency, the council decided

at a special meeting back in early June to include a random drawing of five residents.

The council is inviting Lafayette residents 18 years or older who will be available to serve on Aug. 2 from 9 a.m. until about 1 p.m. at the city offices. Residents will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement to protect the privacy of candi-

dates, and must be able to provide proof of residency.

The city says that applicants will be divided into four geographical sections of the city – Happy Valley, Re-liez Valley, Burton Valley, and downtown/Acalanes Valley. One member of the public will be randomly selected from each location with one further member being selected randomly

from all remaining applicants.

The drawing will be done on July 29 and will be livestreamed on Facebook.

To apply, residents may fill out an online form (see below for link), or complete a form in person at the Lafayette city offices, 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

[www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/resident-panel-for-city-manager-selection#\\_blank](http://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/resident-panel-for-city-manager-selection#_blank)

## Boswell's shuts its doors after 22 years in Lafayette



Boswell's closed its doors July 3.

Photo Pippa Fisher

By Pippa Fisher

July 3 was the last day of business for the party supplies store, Boswell's. The announcement was made just a couple of weeks prior,

surprising employees who said they were sad to hear the news.

The family-owned business had all its remaining stock moved down to the Danville store by the July 15

deadline to vacate the premises. Longtime employees have been offered jobs in the Danville store.

"We have had a 20% increase in rent over the last three years," explains

storeowner Luke Boswell. He says that back in April he sent the long-term leaseholders Stuart Company an email suggesting that Boswell's would like to decrease their space by 20% in order to stay afloat financially.

Initially he says the Stuart Company seemed willing to entertain the idea.

But, says Boswell, when he raised practical questions about the cost involved in splitting the store into two units requiring dividing walls and another entrance, he heard nothing.

Boswell says that all the speculation last year about the location possibly being an ideal site for new city offices might be partially at play here. "That the land-

lord didn't want to negotiate tells me he felt empowered," he suggests. However, Bill Stuart of Stuart Company says merely that they are currently trying to lease the property out.

In an attempt to stay in Lafayette, Boswell says they did explore other possible locations, including Fiesta Square but, says Boswell, his broker told him as they looked into perhaps going into the old health food store, Fiesta Square management did not want a business such as Boswell's there.

Boswell has just renewed the lease on the Danville store.

	<b>Lafayette Public Meetings</b> Monday, Aug. 12, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.	<b>Planning Commission</b> Monday, Aug. 5, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	<b>City Council</b> Monday, Aug. 12, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.	<b>Design Review</b> TBA Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	<b>School Board Meetings</b> <b>Acalanes Union High School District</b> TBA AUHSD Board Room 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette www.acalanes.k12.ca.us	<b>Lafayette School District</b> TBA Regular Board Meeting District Office Board Room 3477 School St., Lafayette www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

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## Lafayette Volunteer Opportunities

There are currently openings on the following Lafayette Commissions/Committees

- Capital Projects Assessment Committee
- CCCTA Advisory Committee-Lafayette Representative
- Creeks Committee
- Community Center Foundation
- Downtown Street Improvement Master Plan Implementation Committee (DSIMPIC)
- Planning Commission
- Public Art Committee

For additional information on these volunteer positions visit the city's website: [www.lovelafayette.org](http://www.lovelafayette.org)

### Hot Topics

Or e-mail City Clerk Joanne Robbins, [jrobbins@lovelafayette.org](mailto:jrobbins@lovelafayette.org).

Application deadline August 30, 2019. Positions open until filled.



# A cut above at RnR Barber and Salon



Photo provided

Robin, Daniel, Lafayette Council Member Cameron Burks, Roya and Samuel at the store's grand opening.

By Jon Kingdon

There are many reasons to come and visit Lafayette – the proliferation of so many restaurants, walking around the reservoir and it is starting to become known as a place for tonsorial excellence. In other words, it's become a great place to get your hair cut or styled.

Since last September, located between Gel Nail Spa and the Lafayette Pack and Ship Print Store on Mt. Diablo Boulevard, the RnR Barber and Salon has been run by Robin Graham and Roya Bayat: "We opened the shop together," says Robin. "We are both business partners and in a relationship." Robin and Roya, whose sons Daniel and Samuel both attend Stanley Middle School, have as divergent backgrounds as one can imagine.

Robin grew up in a difficult environment in Sacramento, got married and had his first child in high school, and then got hurt playing football while attending Sacramento State. "I realized I needed a backup plan to pay my way through college and support my family," Robin said. "That's when I went to barber college and I've been cutting hair for the last 25 years. The barber industry has been very good to me."

Roya was born and grew up in Iran where she graduated from art school, but her work was not appreciated there and the government shut down her exhibition. In 1998 Roya's mother sent

Roya, a feminist, out of the country to avoid being killed. "People like me were simply disappearing," Roya said.

Once out of the country Roya was free to pursue her craft and started the Art Center in Dubai and did exhibitions in San Francisco. As their clients walk into RnR, they are first met with one of Roya's sculptures.

Robin has been at the forefront of the evolution of hair cutting: "For a while, barbering had two go-to styles – short and shorter. Now we have more products and equipment. We take care of their hair and skin. I have my clients tell me what they want and I will consult with them about their individual features like their bone structure and hair type to create the best look for them. That's how we have evolved – we stay one step ahead."

In the back is a salon for women to get their hair done by Roya, who studied under Vidal Sassoon in Santa Monica. "We believe that we have merged the two seamlessly," says Roya. "We're part barbershop, part salon and all you. RnR is not only our names (Robert and Roya) but we also want it to stand for rest and relaxation."

Besides hair cutting and styling, Robin is also accomplished with a razor: "To use the blade efficiently is an art form. There is a certain way to do it. When I shave my customers, I use hot towels and essential oils."

... continued on Page A9

# Fond farewell to Nifty Thrift



Photo Pippa Fisher

Managers Shabboo Navaii, left, and Sheila Renfro at the July 11 Nifty Thrift Farewell Bash, attended by customers, participants and families marking the end of an era in Lafayette. The store closed on July 15. – P. Fisher

**Correction:**

Comments attributed to Susan Callister in the July 10 story, "PG&E work to close St. Mary's Road," were in fact made by Michael Dawson.



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## Lamorinda 30-Day Market Activity - Solds

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1234 Warner Ct	\$895,000	\$1135,000	1791	3	2	LAFAYETTE
1042 Sunnybrook Dr	\$1,075,000	\$1,125,000	1505	4	3.5	LAFAYETTE
1536 Pleasant Hill Road	\$1,100,000	\$1,220,000	2815	4	2	LAFAYETTE
3394 Orchard Valley Ln	\$1,149,000	\$1,260,000	1460	3	2	LAFAYETTE
4 Gilmore Court	\$1,150,000	\$1,155,000	1546	3	2	LAFAYETTE
962 Janet Ln	\$1,150,000	\$1,250,000	1900	3	2	LAFAYETTE
996 Hawthorne Dr	\$1,195,000	\$1,300,000	1500	3	2	LAFAYETTE
3140 Old Tunnel Road	\$1,250,000	\$1,298,000	1510	4	2	LAFAYETTE
3210 Sharon Court	\$1,350,000	\$1,375,000	1640	3	2	LAFAYETTE
4060 Fiera Pl	\$1,350,000	\$1,470,000	1916	3	2	LAFAYETTE
1322 Martino Rd	\$1,385,000	\$1,507,000	1713	4	2	LAFAYETTE
3028 W Lowell Lane	\$1,395,000	\$1,579,428	2974	4	3	LAFAYETTE
412 Corte Rinaldo	\$1,399,000	\$1,370,000	3847	4	3	LAFAYETTE
3620 Cerrito Ct	\$1,489,000	\$1,500,000	2609	4	2.5	LAFAYETTE
1013 Wanda Robie	\$1,495,000	\$1,500,000	2294	4	3	LAFAYETTE
1020 Timothy Lane	\$1,500,000	\$1,480,000	2351	4	2.5	LAFAYETTE
3024 Bradbury Drive	\$1,549,000	\$1,505,000	2570	3	2	LAFAYETTE
881 Solano Drive	\$1,565,000	\$1,655,000	2063	5	3	LAFAYETTE
627 Lucas Drive	\$1,590,000	\$1,755,000	2497	4	3.5	LAFAYETTE
3465 S Silver Springs Rd	\$1,750,000	\$2,285,000	2880	5	2	LAFAYETTE
3469 S Silver Springs Rd	\$1,775,000	\$1,990,000	2504	5	5	LAFAYETTE
26 Withers Court	\$1,799,000	\$1,799,000	4350	5	3.5	LAFAYETTE
952 Stow Ln	\$2,295,000	\$2,200,000	3441	4	3	LAFAYETTE
3320 Johnson Rd	\$2,295,000	\$2,250,000	4463	5	4.5	LAFAYETTE
1611 Shangri La Ct	\$2,383,300	\$2,315,000	3765	5	4.5	LAFAYETTE
216 Seclusion Valley Way	\$2,395,000	\$2,342,271	3604	5	4.5	LAFAYETTE
4 Townsend Pl	\$2,495,000	\$2,350,000	3849	5	3+	LAFAYETTE
191 Camino Vallecito	\$2,795,000	\$2,951,240	3821	3	2	LAFAYETTE
1828 Saint Andrews Drive	\$3,050,000	\$3,040,000	1962	2	2	MORAGA
192 Cypress Point Way	\$3,095,000	\$3,040,000	1644	3	2	MORAGA
1040 Bollinger Cyn	\$3,150,000	\$3,170,000	1515	4	2	MORAGA
100 Oxford Dr	\$3,195,000	\$3,170,000	2073	4	2.5	MORAGA
545 Augusta Dr	\$2,295,000	\$1,295,000	2828	4	2.5	MORAGA
144 Wulford Dr	\$1,325,000	\$1,360,000	2014	4	3	MORAGA
119 Calle La Mesa	\$1,375,000	\$1,400,000	2525	5	3	MORAGA
90 Broadfield Dr	\$1,495,000	\$1,490,000	2492	4	2	MORAGA
3917 Compalinda Dr	\$1,535,000	\$1,535,000	2128	5	2.5	MORAGA
478 Kingsford Dr	\$1,598,000	\$1,645,000	2609	4	2.5	MORAGA
700 Camino Ricardo	\$1,650,000	\$1,725,000	2429	4	2.5	MORAGA
39 Williams Drive	\$1,700,000	\$1,800,000	2826	4	2.5	MORAGA
1 Magee Ct	\$1,875,000	\$1,900,000	3304	4	3.5	MORAGA
75 Jean Court	\$2,289,000	\$1,975,000	4080	2	2	MORAGA
9 Birch Ct	\$2,790,000	\$2,660,000	660	3	2	ORINDA
64 Dolores Way	\$935,000	\$1,189,000	1984	3	2	ORINDA
32 Tarabrook Drive	\$1,095,000	\$1,075,000	1404	4	2	ORINDA
7 Carabrook Dr	\$1,150,000	\$1,260,000	1877	3	2	ORINDA
33 Camino Del Diablo	\$1,165,000	\$1,499,440	1508	3	2	ORINDA
5 Loma Linda Ct	\$1,165,000	\$1,280,000	1728	3	2	ORINDA
37 Undershill Rd	\$1,195,000	\$1,200,000	1826	5	3	ORINDA
3 Lucille Way	\$1,385,000	\$1,350,000	2628	4	3	ORINDA
104 Coral Dr	\$1,395,000	\$1,450,000	2041	4	2	ORINDA
88 Van Ripper Lane	\$1,395,000	\$1,475,000	2031	3	2	ORINDA
3 Norie Rd	\$1,395,000	\$1,600,000	2243	4	3	ORINDA
9 Parklane Dr	\$1,450,000	\$1,350,000	2583	5	2	ORINDA
111 Sleepy Hollow Lane	\$1,495,000	\$1,520,000	1932	5	3.5	ORINDA
23 Oak Rd	\$1,495,000	\$1,725,000	3483	4	3	ORINDA
141 LA CUESTA	\$1,640,000	\$1,625,000	2477	4	3	ORINDA
46 Zander Ct	\$1,649,000	\$1,700,000	2932	4	3	ORINDA
620 Kite Hill Rd	\$1,675,000	\$1,625,000	2782	4	2.5	ORINDA
37 Sleepy Hollow Ln	\$1,695,000	\$1,785,000	2529	4	3.5	ORINDA
12 Cresta Blanca	\$1,750,000	\$1,770,000	2991	4	3.5	ORINDA
424 Camino Sobrante	\$1,849,000	\$1,750,000	3259	4	3	ORINDA
18 Ardor Dr	\$1,850,000	\$1,900,000	3285	6	4.5	ORINDA
9 La Senda	\$1,850,000	\$1,925,000	5744	4	3	ORINDA
17 El Cominito	\$1,850,000	\$1,940,025	3096	5	5	ORINDA
51 Charles Hill Rd	\$1,925,000	\$1,880,000	3430	4	4.5	ORINDA
26 Via Hermosa	\$1,995,000	\$2,075,000	4039	4	3.5	ORINDA
21 Sandy Ct	\$2,195,000	\$2,175,000	3507	4	3	ORINDA
573 Miner Rd	\$2,195,000	\$2,355,000	3007			ORINDA

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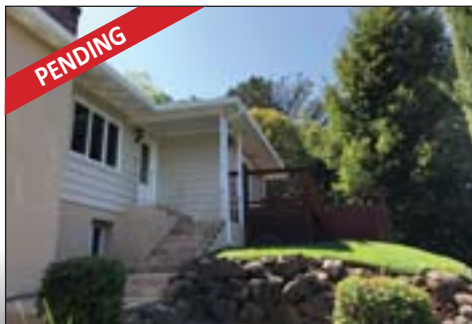
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www.moragachamber.org

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## Moraga Center Specific Plan's first Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting held



Members of Moraga Center Specific Plan Citizens Advisory Committee

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Nearly two decades after the Moraga Center Specific Plan was just a footnote attached to the 2002 adoption of the Moraga General Plan, the first of three Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings was held July 8 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center.

Originally scheduled to take place in La Sala at the Hacienda de las Flores, the meeting was moved in order to provide more elbow room for the 35-member advisory committee and the public.

Taking the helm of the introductory meeting was Moraga Planning Director Derek Farmer serving as

project manager. Also present was Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg along with outside consultants David Early and Carey Stone from Placeworks, a community design firm. Moraga Mayor Roger Wykle and Vice Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus served as committee chair and vice-chair respectively. Making up the rest of the advisory committee were 32 stakeholders from the town – civic leaders, to business owners, to average citizens – who were chosen to represent their fellow residents of Moraga in deciding how best to revitalize the community.

Each committee member was asked what their

hopes were for the town's future. The most common reply was "balance between new commerce and new residences." Other concerns were for traffic congestion that comes with more housing; keeping the small town feel while encouraging growth; and increasing town-gown relations.

The committee's process, stated Early, is to make the rules and present them to the property owner. The committee cannot designate where a building or business will go.

As an attorney, Korpus instructed the members of the importance in adhering to the principles of the

Brown Act. The Brown Act is an act of the California State Legislature, authored by Assemblymember Ralph M. Brown in 1953 that guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies. It was designed to avoid decision-making in secret. For public officials to hold private meetings is against the law and any eventual discussions of more than half of the committee are illegal and could see fines levied and possible jail time.

Many committee members had various questions regarding the Brown Act's regulations and accidentally or unconsciously violating it. Once the meeting was adjourned the Brown Act and its implications were the topics of discussion on the way to the parking lot.

The advisory committee will tackle land use issues regarding commercial and residential development as they pertain to zoning codes. Special opportunities for the MCSP could involve a small hotel or bed and breakfast, a multigenerational community center/gymnasium and a Moraga Ranch with Lafayette-Moraga Trails.

Two additional CAC meetings are scheduled for Sept. 4 and Sept. 19 which the public is also welcome to attend.

## League of California Cities – a brief history lesson

By Vera Kochan

The town council designated Moraga Mayor Roger Wykle as its voting delegate and Vice Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus

as an alternate to the League of California Cities annual Long Beach meeting in October. While the town's sitting mayor and vice mayor have typically been delegated

throughout the years, it was made unanimously official during the June 26 town council meeting.

The LCC was founded in 1898 with the intent to "advocate for the common interests of California's cities."

It all began when the Alameda (population 17,000) town council requested their city clerk, Ben Lamborn, to write a letter to the more than 100 cities in the state inquiring about their experiences with a new mechanical device called a road roller.

When Lamborn's query letter took up only the top half of the page, he decided "to make it look better" by adding additional questions such as: Name of city? Population? When incorporated? Officials?

Haven A. Mason, the city clerk of Santa Clara (population 3,200), was a community activist and newspaper publisher who had recently read about the National Municipal League, founded in 1894 by a citizens group tired of corruption in government. Mason saw unique possibilities through Lamborn's letter and rode the Southern Pacific Railroad to meet with Lamborn about taking multi-city cooperation a step further.

Mason and Lamborn saw the advantages of organizing city officials to consolidate

experiences with more than just road equipment. Their vision was to create a veritable how-to manual of suggestions regarding things like record keeping, tax assessing, coping with the recent phenomenon of electricity and other new scientific inventions.

Santa Clara's mayor, De-los Druffel, liked the idea and sent letters to all of the other California mayors. When the question of where the meetings could be held arose, San Francisco's wealthy mayor, James D. Phelan, advanced \$3,000 of his own money, if the meetings were to take place in his city. Phelan's plans to run for the U.S. Senate helped to open his wallet toward the new venture.

Enthusiastic replies from almost half the cities in the state brought the first League of California Municipalities to a meeting at Pioneer Hall on Fourth Street in San Francisco, on Dec. 14, 1898. Phelan's opening address suggested, "We should come together once each year to formulate our needs and relate our experiences for the benefit of all."



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COMPASS



### Town Council

Wednesday, July 24, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 31, 7 p.m. Special Meeting  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room,  
335 Rheem Blvd.

### Planning Commission

Monday, Aug. 5, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

### Park and Recreation Commission

Tuesday, Aug. 20, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

### Moraga School District Board Meetings

TBD  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2



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# Jeanette Fritzky Foundation recognized by California Senate



Photo provided

From left: State Sen. Steve Glazer, Patrick Fritzky, Bob Fritzky and Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan.

**By Vera Kochan**

The Jeanette Fritzky Foundation was founded in 2018 by her husband, Bob Fritzky, to honor his wife's memory by bringing attention to the disease that claimed her life that

same year. Jeanette Fritzky, elected to the Moraga Town Council in 2016, passed away from non-small cell lung cancer at the age of 63.

Fritzky, a nonsmoker, in one of the great ironies of life, worked as a vice president of

global marketing for a biopharmaceutical company in the field of oncology and later as an independent consultant to various pharmaceutical firms.

State Sen. Steve Glazer, having known Fritzky

through her work on the town council, approached Bob Fritzky about his intent to author a senate resolution proclaiming the week of June 24 to June 30 as Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Awareness Week in the State of California.

Glazer stated, "In honor of Jeanette Fritzky, I was happy to author Senate Resolution 49 to bring awareness to Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer. Robert Fritzky created the Jeanette Fritzky Foundation to honor her life and to educate Asian women, who are particularly vulnerable, about this terrible disease."

Bob Fritzky, who attended the June 27 senate resolution reading and presentation with his son Patrick, was amazed to learn that 17 other senators statewide helped to co-author the resolution. From cities as far south as El Centro, Encinitas and Indio to north of the Bay Area from Chico and Santa Rosa. The central cities of Fresno, Merced, Modesto and Sacramento were represented along with local neighbors San Mateo and San Francisco.

It is the foundation's mission to educate Asian women, their doctors and the medical industry in general, as to the

early warning signs of the disease. Fritzky's persistent cough and shortness of breath were misdiagnosed as allergy issues.

The foundation further plans to create a medical advisory board to guide research, awareness and educational programs; educate via an online platform to encourage early screening; recruit oncology nurses and pharmacists with multi-language capabilities to make presentations at Asian women's organizations and events; and continue to raise funds with the annual Jeanette Fritzky Tribute Walk.

Immediate outreach plans are to focus on getting information to Asian communities Bay Area-wide; explore county and state funding opportunities to accelerate education; create a presence at American Society of Clinical Oncology and Oncology Nursing Society events; and attempt to meet with cancer health care institutions to spread the word.

The Jeanette Fritzky Foundation's website is currently under construction. For additional information email: bfritzky@gmail.com or phone (925) 247-0171.



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ORINDA 19 Brookbank Road ~ 1.5 Acre Resort 6BD, 5.5 BA, Pool w/full BA, New Price \$4,850,000 Country Club



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## ORINDA

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

### City of Orinda:

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

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

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

## PG&E responds to concerns about dead and dying trees, outlines plan for outages



Photo Sora O'Doherty

### By Sora O'Doherty

Having been contacted by Orinda City Council Member Amy Worth, Pacific Gas and Electric Company has found the money to respond to concerns regarding dead and dying trees near local power lines. In the past PG&E would trim such trees, but removal of the trees was the responsibility of the homeowner or the city upon whose property the tree was located. Now, PG&E says that they will remove such trees, and will haul away the debris left behind, such as the large piles of debris left behind McDonnell Nursery in Orinda.

"We'll take care of that too," said Tom Guarino from PG&E Public Affairs to Mayor Inga Miller and Worth, who raised the issue during a presentation by Guarino at the July 16 Orinda City Council meeting. According to Tamar Sarkissian, PG&E spokesperson, the new policies also apply to Lafayette and Moraga as well as other high fire threat areas. Crews of contractors have been actively removing trees and debris, taking care to follow regulations regarding the safety of bees and nesting birds, she noted.

Guarino also said that the company is looking at locating a Community Resource Center inside the Orinda Community Center, which would also provide a place where Orinda residents could cool off or recharge devices during a power outage.

PG&E's territory spans California from Bakersfield to the Oregon border, serving an estimated 15 million people,

based on its five million customer accounts. Within its territory, Guarino said 130 million dead trees have been identified. Not all of these trees are located near power lines, he said, but this shows the effects of climate change and drought. The company has also just completed inspections of all 150,000 towers, using helicopter, drones, fixed wing aircraft, and personnel on foot, and found 10,000 towers in need of immediate follow up. When problems are discovered, Guarino said, the company will drop what it is doing and immediately address the problems.

There is a range of immediate and long-term solutions planned. System hardening will involve coating lines and replacing wood poles with metal poles. The replacement program will span over about 10 years. To further reduce the risk of wildfires, PG&E is disabling automatic reclosing of circuit breakers and reclosers on lines in high fire-risk areas during wildfire season, Guarino said. "Where we have remote control capability, we disable reclosing based on a daily decision-making process during times of elevated risk. The company enabled 450 reclosing devices with remote capabilities in 2018 and is working to enable nearly 300 more in advance of the 2019 wildfire season. The reclosing devices will prevent automatic re-

connection and thus prevent sparks that could start a fire."

Guarino did not sugarcoat the risk of fire in Orinda, noting that much of the area is rated as extremely high risk, being in tier three, although the urban core, or downtown Orinda, is rated only tier one. However, steps are being taken to protect the city. MOFD Chief Dave Winkler received a grant to test sensors around the area (see related story on page A8). Guarino described these sensors as "rather innovative; the only ones around the state." He stressed that the latest technology is being used to provide early warning of wildfires, including real time monitoring and intelligence. PG&E has a Wildfire Safety Center, receiving information from 660 high-definition cameras and 1,300 new weather stations to be installed by 2022. PG&E is also supporting the installation of 24/7 Wildfire Safety Operations Center. On the website, the public can see what PG&E is seeing, he said.

In terms of vegetation management, Guarino noted that PG&E receives lots of calls and emails from Orinda. Historically, clearance from a line to vegetation was 18 inches. Now the actual requirement is 4 feet, but with some species, he said, "we have to clear 12 feet because they grow so fast."

Guarino also addressed the potential timing of any upcoming public safety

power shutoffs. In order for there to be a shutoff, there are a number of conditions that must be present. It must be a red flag warning – last year there were some 60 such warnings, Guarino noted – but there must also be humidity of 20 percent or lower, there must be forecasted sustained winds generally above 25 miles per hour and gusts in excess of approximately 45 miles per hour, there must be dry fuel conditions on the ground with on the ground, real-time observations by PG&E personnel.

Guarino said that current technology can forecast four days out, which should allow ample notice for everyone. At a minimum, customers will receive notification of a shutoff two days in advance, then other notifications at 24 hours, two hours before, then notification that the outage has started. Later, customers will receive notifications regarding the restoration of power, which can take some time to accomplish. There was recently a shutoff in Oroville that lasted 12 hours, and it took an additional 12 hours to restore power. But if it is a severe outage, Guarino warned, restoration of power could take three to four days.

Many if not all of the most vulnerable citizens who are on dialysis or use oxygen are on a medical baseline billing program, Guarino said, which means that PG&E

generally knows who they are. In the event of an emergency, he said, "if we don't reach them after multiple attempts, we'll go and knock on their door" and help to relocate them. So far Guarino stated that 500,000 people have updated their contact information.

The East Bay Municipal Utility District has also issued information about how it is preparing for public safety power shutoffs. According to EBMUD, outages are expected to last two days, but might be longer. A PSPS could force EBMUD to switch to backup generators and pumps to power pumping plants, water treatment plants, and other key facilities to keep water flowing, maintain storage and fire-fighting flow and to keep water distribution lines pressurized. When a red flag warning is issued, EBMUD will fill and maintain water tanks to near capacity. EBMUD is stationing portable generators and pumps at designated critical facilities to keep pumping plants running. They have made arrangements to keep the generators fueled during peak demand times.

EBMUD urges customers to update their contact information, and to keep at least two gallons of water per person per day stored, preparing for a shutoff of from three to seven days. EBMUD serves 1.4 million customers in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

**For questions regarding PG&E's Community Wildfire Safety Program: Telephone: 1-866-743-6589; Email: wildfiredesafety@pge.com; Website: www.pge.com/en\_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/wildfire-safety.page?WT.mc\_id=Vanity\_wildfiredesafety**

**For more information about EBMUD's plans, visit ebmud.com/pssp. For water emergencies call EBMUD Customer Service at 1-866-403-2683.**



### Orinda Public Meetings

#### City Council

Tuesday, Aug. 20, 7 p.m.  
Regular Meeting  
Library Auditorium, Orinda  
Library, 26 Orinda Way

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Aug. 13, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda  
Library, 26 Orinda Way

#### Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Aug. 14, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Orinda Union High School District Board Meetings

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



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## OUSD hires new director of student services



Carrie Nerheim, Ed.D. Photo provided

Carrie Nerheim, who holds a doctorate in education, will replace outgoing Orinda Union School District Director of Student Services Jennifer Woodman, who recently retired after five years of service. Nerheim is a third generation teacher, following in the footsteps of her mother, a teacher of developmentally disabled adults for 40 years, and her father, a continuation high school teacher for 20 years. Her parents' commitment to their students, coupled with her own school experiences, convinced Nerheim to become an educator. Most recently Nerheim served as the director of student services for Albany Unified. Nerheim earned a bachelor's degree in English from UCLA, a master's degree in educational leadership from Saint Mary's College and a doctorate in educational leadership for social justice from California State University, East Bay.

— S. O'Doherty

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

## OUSD re-enrollment is now online only, TK enrollment extended

By Sora O'Doherty

Re-enrollment for all returning Orinda Union School District families will now only be available online through SchoolMint. Switching to the all-digital system will, according to OUSD Superintendent Carolyn Seaton, reduce the amount of duplicative work families with more than one student in the system have had to do in the past. Re-enrollment will be open through July 31. Families should have already accessed SchoolMint to submit their intent to return last month. The same account will be used to complete the re-enrollment process. Families should have received an email with a link to re-enroll children before July 1.

SchoolMint will be available Monday-Friday for technical questions at (855) 957-3535. School site secretaries will begin verifying submitted re-enrollment information starting on July 28. Families will receive an email notification once the process has been

completed.

OUSD has decided to extend enrollment in Transitional Kindergarten to children with birthdays between Dec. 3 and 31. State guidelines provide TK for students who turn 5 from Sept. 2 through Dec. 2 and allocate funding for those students beginning with the first day of school. During the June 3 OUSD Board Meeting, the board adopted a policy revision to provide that when openings exist for TK district-wide, Orinda residents who have children turning 5 between Dec. 3 and 31 will be able to apply.

Students whose TK applications are accepted will attend the school with available space in TK, which may not be the student's home school. Students enrolled under these conditions will begin TK on the first day of school. The District will make every effort to notify families of their child's TK application status as early as possible but no later than July 31.

The website to apply for any available openings in TK in the 2019-20 school year under this new policy is [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQqfDjk5gcn0m2QZK7XVaHoZVdNUjCUZGxfOSA8hFUKYve\\_g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQqfDjk5gcn0m2QZK7XVaHoZVdNUjCUZGxfOSA8hFUKYve_g/viewform)

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# Fuel break kickoff features successful test of MOFD-developed warning system



Photo courtesy Mike Marquart, MOFD

MOFD's Dennis Rein outlines the day's program to fuel break participants July 11

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District and its program partners July 11 kicked off the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break project, a state-funded effort to prevent a catastrophic wildfire by removing dangerous fuels along a 14-mile ridge from Tilden Park to Acalanes High School. The kickoff featured the first major test of MOFD-developed

heat sensing technology, which detects components of fire behavior and forwards the data for preparation of an evacuation plan.

"It was one of the most exciting demonstrations ever put on in the world of wildfire prevention, taking data from the sensors to provide an evacuation model," said Tim Woodbury of Splunk Technology, a San Francisco data analytics company that

parsed the information.

The district tested heat sensing technology on a small scale during evacuation drills in December and January. "The system detected and transmitted data that resulted in both an alert, fire modeling and notifications to public safety," said Dennis Rein, MOFD emergency preparedness coordinator, who supervised the drills.

Shortly afterward, the

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation expressed interest in the sensor program, and through the Rescue One Foundation, which has contributed more than \$500,000 to the fire service over 42 years, authorized a \$100,000 grant to MOFD for the venture. Genny Biggs of the Moore Foundation called the program "a promising and potentially life-saving, near-term tech solution to reducing the threat and impact of severe wildfires. We believe the system MOFD has developed could significantly improve early detection and response."

To produce the prototypes, MOFD teamed up with various partners including Analog Devices, which built the sensors, and ZoneHaven, a newly formed company that developed the software system.

At the fuel break kickoff, the district placed 200 sensors around a 15-acre controlled burn off of Bear Creek Road in north Orinda. The sensors picked up a rise in temperature and triggered a simulation model of where the fire would spread over the next five hours. That information was used to determine and recommend an evacuation plan, to be put in place by the appropriate public safety agencies. "The sensors all worked perfectly," said MOFD

Chief Dave Winnacker Robert Shear of ZoneHaven sees the program as far more than simply detecting fire conditions. "We've built a community collaboration platform for wildfires, evacuations and any type of natural disaster," he said. "We want to help communities understand the real threats and understand more about their evacuation zones. Our real value is bringing this interface to the community."

Other technology exists to detect wildfires, including satellite programs, automated surveillance and other sensor products. But Shear said that only the MOFD sensor program gives an instantaneous readout of fire danger along with an evacuation model. "You don't have hours when a wildfire hits. You have minutes," Shear said.

Though the fire district developed the sensor technology under Winnacker's leadership, MOFD cannot convert the concept into a marketable product, because that is not what a public agency does. That is the challenge for ZoneHaven, which is looking at private-public partnerships and also a subscription model for property owners.

"We want this to become a common platform across all of California," Shear said.

# ConFire experiments with four-person truck crews

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District increased staffing on three of its five truck companies from three to four personnel starting July 13 thanks to a three-year federal staffing grant. The experimental program began after the 16 firefighters who graduated from Academy 53 completed their orientation tours as an extra person with various district engine companies, including the three companies in Lafayette.

"We will use the three years to evaluate the efficiency of having that extra person on a

truck," said Chuck Stark, Assistant Fire Chief, Operations Division.

Stark explained that at a small residential fire, with a four-person truck crew, two firefighters could cut a hole in a roof while the other two could go inside the structure for search and rescue. "You can get two jobs out of one truck as opposed to just one," Stark said. Industry best practices dictate that each of those two jobs requires two suppression personnel.

ConFire provides automatic aid to six neighboring fire agencies, including the Moraga-

Orinda Fire District. "Each of these agencies would also benefit from this enhanced staffing as well. This brings further benefits to these surrounding agencies and the communities they protect," the district said in its Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant application.

Truck companies in Antioch, Concord and Pittsburg, the busiest truck companies in the district, will add the fourth crew member, with truck companies in Martinez and Walnut Creek – the closest truck company to Lamorinda – continuing with three-person crews.

"It is our ultimate goal to

show all stakeholders that these staffing levels are essential to our abilities to protect our community safely and efficiently," the district said. "This project provides the basis for a potential expansion of the fourth firefighter to many more of our engine and truck companies."

## Fire District Public Meetings

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**  
Board of Directors  
Wednesday, Aug. 21, 7 p.m.  
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.  
Visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)



## ConFire

Board of Directors  
Tuesday, Aug. 6, 1:30 p.m.  
Board Chamber Room 107,  
Administration Building  
651 Pine St., Martinez.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.cccfpd.org](http://www.cccfpd.org)



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925-283-3680

Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt  
925-299-3221  
Police Department Tip Line  
94549Tip@gmail.com

Police Department Traffic Issues  
94549Traffic@gmail.com

**Moraga Police Department:**  
329 Rheem Blvd.,  
925-888-7055

Chief of Police, Jon King  
ext. 7049

**Orinda Police Department:**  
22 Orinda Way  
925-254-6820

Chief of Police, Mark Nagel  
925-254-6820  
[Orindatip@cityoforinda.org](mailto:Orindatip@cityoforinda.org)

### Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report June 30 - July 13



Alarms 65  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 11  
Traffic 181  
Suspicious Circumstances 15  
Suspicious Subject 37  
Suspicious Vehicle 15  
Service to Citizen 67  
Patrol Req./Security Check 44  
Vacation House Check 23  
Supplemental Report 32  
Welfare Check 13

### Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary  
Lafayette Cir./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
50 Block Lafayette Cir.  
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.  
1000 Block Carol Ln.  
800 Block Solana Dr.  
800 Block Avalon Ct.  
1000 Block Brown Ave.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
DUI Misd  
St. Marys Rd./Glenside Dr.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.  
1200 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Petty Theft From Veh  
1000 Block Dolores Dr.

1200 Block Barott Rd.  
800 Block Avalon Ct.  
Reckless Driving  
Deer Hill/Pleasant Hill  
500 Block St. Mary'S Rd.  
St. Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.  
Rohrer Dr./Castello Rd.  
Mt. Diablo Bl/Happy Valley Rd.  
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.  
1200 Block Woodborough Rd.  
Moraga Rd./Hamlin Rd.  
Brown Av/Briones To Las  
Trampas Trail  
El Curtola Bl/Lincolnshire Ct.  
Pd Laf Police Department  
3300 Block Moraga Blvd.

Road Rage  
3300 Block Beechwood Dr.  
Vehicle Theft  
3200 Block Marlene Dr.  
900 Block Hough Ave.  
Deer Hill Rd./Happy Valley Rd.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Other criminal activity**  
Commercial Burglary  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
900 Block Mountain View Dr.  
Grand Theft  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.

Identity Theft  
10 Block Dianne Ct.  
1000 Block Carol Ln.  
Panhandling  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Oak Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.

Petty Theft  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.

Petty Theft Bicycle  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
900 Block East St.  
Residential Burglary  
3200 Block Andreasen Dr.

Shoplift  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (5)

Threats  
3700 Block Highland Rd.  
700 Block Grondine Rd.  
10 Block Greenvalley Dr.  
3900 Block N Peardale Dr.

Violation Custody Order  
Happy Valley Rd./Happy Valley Ct. (2)  
700 Block St. Mary'S Rd.

**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-Domestic  
1000 Block 2Nd St.  
Drunk In Public  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Music  
1000 Block Dewing Ave.  
Loud Noise  
1300 Block San Reliez Ct.  
3300 Block Springfield Rd.

Loud Party  
3600 Block Chestnut St.  
900 Block Risa Rd.  
1200 Block Monticello Rd.

Neighbor Dispute  
3300 Block Mildred Ln.  
Public Nuisance

3500 Block Golden Gate Way  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
3100 Block Somerset Dr.  
Lucas Cir./Lucas Dr.  
3300 Block Mildred Ln.

Vandalism  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3100 Block Stanley Blvd.  
700 Block Solana Dr.

**Other**  
Fireworks  
Burton Dr./Murray Ln.  
Broadmoor Ct./St. Marys Rd.  
3200 Block Fairholm Ct.  
Judy Ln./Reliez Station Rd.  
1100 Block Monticello Rd.  
Peaceful Ln./Bacon Ct.

Harassment  
3300 Block Beechwood Dr.  
2300 St./Golden Gate Way

Ordinance Violation  
Via Alta/Via Media  
1000 Block Dewing Ave.  
3900 Block S Peardale Dr.

Prom Shoot  
3100 Block Cordova Way

Trespass  
1200 Block Laurel Ln.  
3300 Block Springhill Rd.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Unwanted Guest  
1200 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd. (2)  
1200 Block Laurel Ln.

Violation Restraining Ordinance  
3600 Block Bickerstaff St.

### Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report July 2- July 15



Alarms 20  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 7  
Traffic 52  
Suspicious Circumstances 11  
Suspicious Subject 5  
Suspicious Vehicle 5  
Service to Citizen 38  
Patrol Req./Security Check 23  
Supplemental Report 12  
Vacation House Check 3  
Welfare Check 2

### Vehicle violations

Accident Injury  
St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.  
CVS  
Accident Property  
80 Block Corliss Dr.  
Excessive Speed  
Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr. (2)  
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.  
No House Number  
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr. (2)  
Lucas Dr./Moraga Rd.  
600 Block Moraga Rd.  
Drager Dr./Moraga Rd.  
Buckingham Dr.  
Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr.  
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.  
Rheem Blvd.

Reckless Driving  
Homegoods  
Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.

**Other criminal activity**  
Battery Domestic Misd  
600 Block Camino Ricardo

Fireworks  
Larch Ave./Shuey Dr.  
Fraud False Pretenses  
1000 Block Wickham Dr.

Grand Theft  
400 Block Center St.  
Residential Burglary  
1700 Block St. Andrews Dr.

**Nuisance to the Community**  
Barking Dog  
10 Block Wandel Dr.  
Disturbance-Domestic  
400 Block Woodminster Dr.

Disturbing The Peace  
Rheem Bumoraga Rd.  
Loud Noise  
200 Block Tharp Dr.  
Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr.  
St. Marys College

Loud Party  
Not Available  
Draeger Dr./Moraga Rd.  
10 Block Moraga Valley Ln.

Public Nuisance  
60 Block Wandel Dr.

**Other**  
Other Misdemeanor  
Draeger Dr./Moraga Rd.  
St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.

Public Assembly Check  
Rheem Valley Shopping Center

Trespass  
Campolindo High School



### Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report June 30 - July 6

Alarms 33  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 6  
Traffic 18  
Suspicious Circumstances 3  
Suspicious Subject 9  
Suspicious Vehicle 4  
Service to Citizen 27  
Patrol Req./Security Check 7  
Vacation House Check 10  
Supplemental Report 6  
Welfare Check 3

### Vehicle violations

Accident Property  
Meadowlands Ct./Moraga Way  
Dui Misd  
Beverages And More  
Exhibition Of Speed  
Bear Creek Rd./Camino Pablo  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
70 Block Moraga Way

Reckless Driving  
Moraga Way/Whitehall Dr.  
100 Block Moraga Way  
Miramonte High School  
Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd.

Traffic Hazard  
Via Floreado/Las Vegas Rd.  
El Toyonal/Camino Pablo  
St Stephens Cr./El Nido Ranch Rd.

Vehicle Theft  
60 Block Brookwood Rd.

**Other criminal activity**  
Burglary  
Rite Aid  
Fireworks  
Orinda Senior Village  
Dalewood Dr./Mossbridge Ln.  
200 Block Overhill Rd.  
50 Block St Stephens Cr.  
10 Block Sally Ann Rd.

Misc Burglary  
10 Block Overhill Rd.

Residential Burglary  
10 Block Richard Ct.

Shoplift  
Cvs

**Nuisance to the Community**  
Loud Music  
Tappan Ln./Bear Ridge Rd.

Vandalism  
10 Block Orinda Way  
10 Block Camino Sobrante  
20 Block Orinda Way  
Library  
20 Block Orinda Way

**Other**  
H&S/Poss of Contr. Sub.  
Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd.

Ordinance Violation  
10 Block Camino Lenada  
100 Block Underhill Rd.  
El Toyonal/Loma Vista Dr.  
100 Block Underhill Rd.

Trespass  
El Ribero/Camino Sobrante

Unauthorized Possession  
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way

Uncontrollable Juvenile  
100 Block Camino Sobrante



# Saranap area provides input for Envision Contra Costa 2040

By John T. Miller

The ambitious undertaking of Envision Contra Costa 2040 – the county's plan to address land use, transportation, housing, climate change, environmental justice, and other important issues over the next 20 years – is underway, with the county completing the last of 17 community meetings earlier this month at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building.

Representatives of the Contra Costa Planning Department, with Supervisor Candace Andersen chairing, met with about 25 residents of the Saranap and Parkmead unincorporated areas for input on putting together a new general plan and zoning code for the county.

Andersen said, "The plan is a road map to where the county is going in the next 20 years. This is the legacy we're leaving behind by creating a better future for the next generation."

Will Nelson, a senior planner with the county who spoke at the meeting, said both the general plan and the zoning code are in need of updating. The current general plan was adopted in 1991, while the zoning code has not been comprehen-

sively overhauled in over 70 years. "The current general plan was mostly written in the '80s," he said. "Much has changed since then."

Barry Miller, an urban planning consultant retained by the county, also addressed the group, saying, "The general plan is a constitution for development and conservation, providing consistent direction for the future." He added that the plan should balance growth, conservation, and quality of life while also documenting baseline environmental conditions.

After the introduction by the speakers, participants discussed their Saranap and Parkmead neighborhoods, brainstorming what they liked about them, and also what they saw as challenges and issues for the future.

Likes included the quiet ambiance and small town neighborhood feel, proximity to BART and trails, good public schools, extended family living close by and many other perks.

Some of the challenges and issues of concern included a fear of too much development, not enough open space and parks, a lack of viable public transportation, and safety issues for pedestrians and bicycles – especially students on their way to

and from schools – due to narrow streets, too many parked cars and a lack of sidewalks.

Residents stressed preserving the community feeling by encouraging small businesses and accommodating an aging population.

From Bethel Island and Discovery Bay in the east to Rodeo and Richmond in the west, the county conducted community meetings of residents from their diverse and wide-ranging unincorporated areas. The county also hosted open houses and gathered a wealth of information about citizens' concerns and needs.

Envision Contra Costa 2040 is a two-year process, with public meetings and documents developed in 2019, a public review process in the first half of 2020, and formal hearings in late 2020. County residents can use the interactive website at [envisioncontracosta2040.org](http://envisioncontracosta2040.org) for dialogue, input and more information.

The next meeting, focusing on implementing the County's Climate Action Plan, will be held by the Committee on Sustainability at 5 p.m. Aug. 26 at the Department of Conservation and Development, 30 Muir Road, Martinez.

# National Night Out coming to local communities Aug. 6

This year National Night Out takes place across the country on Aug. 6. And first responders in Lamorinda hope for a strong participation right here in this community.

The event is an annual community-building campaign that promotes first responder-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out provides an opportunity to bring police officers, fire-

fighters, local officials and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Neighborhoods are encouraged to host block parties of any type – simple or more elaborate – with the goal of getting to know first responders and build community among neighbors. Residents schedule a visit by local police who hope to use the event to share crime prevention tips, emergency preparedness tips and to encourage residents to sign up

for the emergency warning system.

Last year the police visited four such parties.

Residents wishing to schedule a first responder visit should fill out a request by going to <https://tinyurl.com/yxcg22vq>

To sign up for the Contra Costa County community warning system residents should go to [www.cococws.us](http://www.cococws.us) – P. Fisher

# Letters to the editor

## Cameras most helpful when turned on

On Monday evening of July 1st, there were two criminals who were breaking into cars by Stanley Middle School. Our cameras were turned off but another neighbor also was broken into and had their cameras working.

The suspects fled the scene but left the stolen iPad in the "on" position. I followed the iPad into Oakland (by Coliseum) and tracked the suspects to a liquor store. I managed to follow the iPad outside the store to a nearby residence. I immediately went to the Lafayette Police Station and reported the stolen iPad and location to Officer MacDonald and the detectives.

There is actually more to apprehending suspects than I realized. You have to have burden of proof to search and show the car in the area of the crime. As the detective worked on the case, in front of me, they found out the suspects stole the license plate of the same exact car and that the car they were driving

(Blue Highlander) was in fact stolen. As the police approached the location of the iPad, the iPad was turned off and the suspects got away.

Within 24 hours, the suspects totaled the car in an accident and fled the scene. Much of the non-valuable stolen property was recovered in the car by Officer MacDonald. It is a reminder to everyone to stay vigilant and safe. Make sure cars are locked and investing in a camera system really helps the police do their job.

Butch Haze  
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

# A cut above at RnR Barber and Salon

... continued from Page A3

As I do this, I also educate them on how to prep their skin and how to treat it after a shave and how to shave with the grain, across the grain and against the grain to get a baby smooth feel without the irritation."

Orinda resident Eric Menke, who gets his hair cut once a month, discovered RnR pretty much by accident. "I was walking down the street and I stuck my head in and I was grabbed by the atmosphere, the décor and the vibe," Menke said. "There are sculptures, boxing photos and a racing motorcycle in the shop. Some barbershops, you walk in, sit down and walk out. I found Robin to be a very special man with a very special business. He looked at the way my hair has grown out and the pattern of its growth and then dis-

cussed with me about what he thought would be good for me and then asked what I thought would be good. It was all very thoughtful and extremely professional. It's amazing the way that they have operated and grown through word of mouth and people just walking by."

Robin is available for any type of requests: "Once I had a 14-year-old girl who had 12 inch spikes in her hair and she had me shave her head between the spikes with a straight razor to get the punk rock look."

With a belief in paying forward for all the people that have helped him in his career, Robin says they are starting an apprentice barbers program to provide on-the-job training. "They can come in and get the hours they need so that they can take pass the State Licensing exam without going to barber college."

Along with running RnR with Roya, Robin – who was a competitive amateur boxer – is looking to open up a boxing studio for men, women and children of all ages: "People have taken to calling me the Barber Boxer. It's my hope to be able to create the official training center for Northern California Golden Gloves. We're just looking to get the right property here in Lafayette."

Roya speaks for Robin and herself when she sums up their lives in Lafayette: "It's a family community that we love. Everybody looks out for each other and everyone cares. It's a home."

RnR is open seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Appointments can be made on their website [rnrbarbers.com](http://rnrbarbers.com) or by phone at (925) 385-0491.

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James Burkin  
 Sole Proprietor

## Local teen sparks improvements to Moraga skate park



Photo Vera Kochan

From left: Julia Myall, Owen Myall with Parks and Rec Director Breyana Brandt

... continued from page A1

Another recommendation was to put recycle and trash cans in more visible locations, because the kids have had to clean garbage such as watermelon rinds out of the bowl.

A cement seat wall will be added to provide good viewing of the entire area for parents to watch their kids and for tired skate-

boarders to rest at a safe distance from the activities. Myall stated, "This will be especially good for the younger kids so they don't get hurt." One final improvement will be to replace safety signs for skate park users.

Estimates for new plumbing and cement pouring could cost the Parks and Recreation Department nearly \$20,000. After getting over the ini-

tial price tag shock, Myall said he would volunteer to raise the money himself. With the moral support of his parents, Gannon and Julia, along with sisters Madeleine, 23, and Emma, 21, Myall approached and received donations from Moraga Parks Foundation, Orinda Community Foundation, Lafayette Youth Commission, Sustainable Lafayette and Orinda Park Foundation.

Other than helping with some paperwork, Myall's parents left him to his own resources. Julia stated, "I did have to sit in on two meetings for him because he was in school, but he would much rather have gone to the meetings."

Myall's proposal pitch for donations was basically the same one he'd used to entice Moraga council members. "When I'm excited about something it's easy for me to do," he admitted. "I was very excited about this."

All five checks were written payable to the town of Moraga and have been earmarked for Specific Donation Projects that will be plugged into the FY 2019-20 Capital Improvement Program Budget.

Two separate contractors are scheduled to begin the improvements in late August. Completion of the project is expected to take a few weeks when, with any luck, it should be finished just in time for Myall's 16th birthday.

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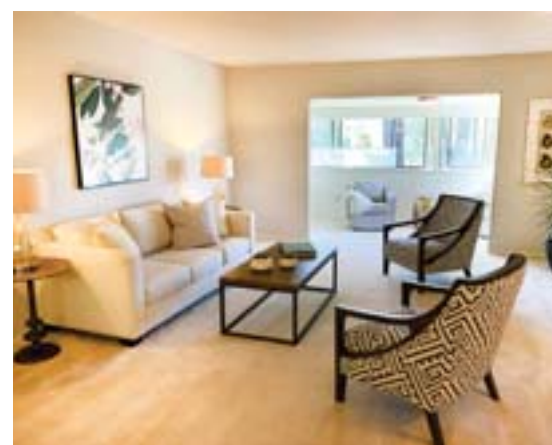
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# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Lafayette '60s Beetle, now powered by sun



Steve Falk with Baby Blue

Photo Pippa Fisher

By Pippa Fisher

Former Lafayette city manager Steve Falk, who won the Sunrise Rotary Club's grand prize last year of a completely renovated 1961 baby blue Volkswagen Beetle, says he is using the car every day. And with the personalized plate, people will recognize and see him coming ... but they won't hear him.

That's because Falk has converted the car. It is completely electrified now.

"I'm trying to live my values," explains Falk who resigned from his long-held city manager position at the end of last year, citing his conflict of conscience around housing policy and climate change. He notes that his car that he calls Baby Blue is charged entirely from the solar he has powering his home. As his license plate holder says, "Electric Beetle powered by the sun."

The car no longer has the distinctive VW Beetle engine noise, but otherwise it is in mint 1961 condition.

The Rotarians had spent a year renovating the car that had been sitting, neglected for decades. After their many volunteer hours Falk says the car looked spectacular.

Falk took delivery of the car and noted the warning from

the project leader to always carry a fire extinguisher because the engine had a history of catching fire.

As Falk says, this didn't sit well with his wife, Nancy, who informed him immediately after the Rotary members left that they could not have a car prone to catching fire in her garage.

Prompted by her logic, Falk decided to look into the options for electrifying the vehicle. After much research he found a company, EV4U, near Mount Shasta, one of only three companies in California that specialize in converting vehicles, and spoke to founder Richard Van Wyhe who has converted dozens of cars, mostly VWs. Falk decided to take the car up there.

Falk explains that with a 34-horsepower engine, the car was woefully underpowered. "It had a top speed of 57 mph," he says, so he and his son Nathan mapped out a route using only back roads, avoiding freeways.

The trip took two days and was almost thwarted by the winter's heavy flooding on some of the smaller roads. Undeterred, man and machine navigated gingerly through the underwater roads, chronicled on video by Nathan and included in the complete story of Baby Blue on a video Falk

posted on YouTube (see link below).

The same car that Van Wyhe delivered back to Falk during much sunnier weather two months later, now has a three-phase AC induction motor in the back and modern lithium ion fuel cells under the hood. A monitor on the dashboard shows how much charge is left on the battery. The car can do 90 miles on a full charge.

Whereas the top speed had been 57 mph, Baby Blue now does 75 mph comfortably and is probably capable of much more, says Falk.

"It drives great," he says. "It's got so much pickup that you have to be careful not to stress the transaxle too much. It just gets up and goes."

With the weight more evenly distributed now between the motor in the back and the battery in the front, Falk agrees with those who say the car actually has improved stability. He says he hasn't noticed a difference in steering.

And the cost? All Falk will say on the subject is that he could have bought a new car for less.

But it's one less combustion engine on the planet.

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To see the complete story of Falk's 1961 Baby Blue electric VW Beetle conversion go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJyI5i7UUNU>

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## Family Focus

# Some Do's and Don'ts for Divorcing Couples

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

*"Your Ex is not your child's Ex ... and they love your ex just as much as they did before."* – DK Simoneau

More often than not, there is hurt and anger, and sometimes rage, when couples are divorcing. Instead of being a peaceful, mutually agreeable decision, divorce is typically alienating. Usually one or both partners experience rejection, and sometimes there is another party involved.

Here are two scenarios from my therapy practice, with names and identifying information changed:

Donna, age 54, married for 29 years with three adult children, is fed up with her very controlling, unaffectionate husband. She has suffered from depression and low self-esteem throughout the marriage. Her husband refused to go to couples counseling. Donna meets someone online who lives several states away, and they engage in an emotional affair. Several months later, they meet up and begin a physical affair. Donna and her lover decide they want to live together, and Donna enters therapy to deal with all the collateral damage after she has told her husband and children. Her husband is enraged, has banned Donna from the house and changed the locks and security system, and has transferred all of their financial accounts. Her children are siding with their father and won't speak to Donna.

Matt, age 44, married for 18 years with two children, ages 10 and 13, has an affair with a co-worker. He's not ready to commit to her, but the affair and how he feels make him realize he wants to move out and live alone for a while. He's confused about how he feels about his wife and his marriage. Matt's wife, Becky, is terribly wounded and they come in for couples therapy. The more Becky rages at Matt, the more withdrawn he becomes, certain he is making the right decision. And Becky is not restrained in letting friends and family, including their children, know, how deceptive and manipulative Matt has been.

Each of these couples is in crisis. And each husband and wife is understandably distraught as their relationship becomes unraveled.

### Do's:

1) If you are the person who is disrupting your family, whether or not your children are grown, and whether or not you have huge justification for leaving the marriage, it is important to apologize to your children. You don't need to take full responsibility, but it is important to let them know that you are sorry you and your spouse couldn't make your relationship work. Let them know you tried hard, without providing details. It is a good idea to show remorse repeatedly over a period of time.

Even though Donna struggled a lot in her marriage and tried very hard to address the issues with her husband that upset her, she was the perpetrator in dissolving the marriage. Her children didn't know the marriage was in trouble because Donna and her husband had always presented a united facade to them and to their community. So the adult children only had the surface situation to consider. They concluded that their father was deeply hurt and was being abandoned, and that their mother was selfishly pursuing her own interests.

After many months with Donna expressing regret and remorse, two of her three children were willing to resume limited contact with her. It was a start, and Donna hoped the relationships would continue to heal over time and that her third child would eventually also allow her to be a part of his life.

2) Listen. Let your children know that it won't upset you to talk about the divorce, and that it actually helps you. Encourage your children to express their feelings, most of which will probably be negative ones. Don't become defensive when they do. Just listen, don't talk much, and show empathy and compassion.

3) Be sure there are other adults your children can confide in since they may be unwilling to talk to you or your ex. See if there is a family member or another close adult they could talk to and trust with their feelings. If not, find a licensed therapist who works with similarly aged children.

4) Try as hard as you can to maintain a civil relationship with your children's other parent. Think of your children first while trying to set aside your own anger, hurt, disappointment, and other difficult feelings. Not only will your children benefit from a harmonious relationship between you and your ex, but they will respect you both for providing this for them. Children become hurt, confused, and often completely turned off by parents' behavior towards each other. If you know you have conducted yourself well, your children will have a much better chance of escaping damaging effects from a parental divorce.

5) Avoid disparaging your ex to your children. Avoid providing them with details about your marriage and divorce. In her rage, Becky was causing harm to her children by disclosing private, negative information about their father to them.

6) Make changes as gradually as possible, and let your children know what to expect. Sudden change without warning heightens anxiety in children. If you need to move out of the family home, try to relocate in the same community to maintain stability for them in this way. Let them know when they will be with each parent and where.

7) If at all possible, consider "nesting," where after a divorce the kids continue to stay in the family home while the parents take turns moving in and out. Some exes share an apartment close by, taking turns being there and being in the family home with the children. If they can afford it, some parents get their own separate housing and then take turns in the family home.

The next Family Focus column will suggest some "don'ts" for the divorce process.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a local marriage and family therapist. Contact her at (925) 376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com. She is the author of "Treat Your Partner Like a Dog: How to Breed a Better Relationship" and "Appetite for Life: Inspiring Stories of Recovery from Anorexia, Bulimia, and Compulsive Overeating."

# The Kyle Athayde Dance Party comes to Lafayette Library – one day only



Photo provided

By Pippa Fisher

World-class musicians from New York City, Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area are coming to the Lafayette Library and Learning Center to perform in Kyle Athayde's 20-piece big band – The Kyle Athayde Dance Party. They will be at the library July 24 for a one-set performance featuring special guest Bijon

Watson sitting in on trumpet.

Athayde, an Orinda native and Juilliard graduate, is a New York-based composer, arranger, performer, teacher and bandleader. He plays vibraphone, piano, trumpet, drums, bongos, congas, timbales, string bass, bass clarinet, sousaphone, and vocal percussion.

Athayde's music draws inspiration from a wide vari-

ety of sources, from video games and internet memes to jazz and classical masterworks. He says, "If you like the big band music of Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton, Woody Herman, or Don Ellis, then you'll love the Dance Party!"

The show begins at 7:30 p.m. July 24 at the library. Entry can be purchased at the door for \$20.

Further information is available on the KADP website: <http://kyleathayedanceparty.com/>

# Summer Movies in the Park continue in Orinda



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Community members gather at Orinda Community Park July 11 to watch "LEGO Movie 2."

The Summer Movies in the Park series, offered by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Department, continues this Thursday, July 25 at approxi-

mately 8:30 p.m. with the free showing of "Incredibles 2" at the Orinda Community Park. The final movie for the summer will be Aug. 1 with "How

to Train Your Dragon: Hidden World." Audience members are encouraged to bring blankets, lawn chairs and snacks. – S. O'Doherty

# Moraga's Hacienda Nights are back



Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Beginning July 19 and running for three additional Fridays, the popular Hacienda Nights is back for another summer of food trucks, lawn games and fun.

The family-friendly event takes place on the lawn at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga, between 5 to 9 p.m. Future nights are scheduled for Aug. 9, Aug. 23 and Sept. 13 when a special treat will include an 8 p.m. movie night at the pavilion.

According to Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt, "Families that attend the first (3) three Hacienda

Nights will be able to vote at the event for which movie they would like to see on Sept. 13. The options are 'Wonder Park,' 'The Lego Movie 2' and 'The Secret Life of Pets 2.' We will have a voting station available at the first three events to make the final decision between the three movies."

July 19's food truck line-up included: Canyon Club Brewery, Rancho Catering, Sliders Truck, Flavors of Cali, Yummi BBQ, Golden Gate Gyro and Izzy A's Frozen Custard.

Food trucks scheduled for Aug. 9 include: Yummi BBQ, Cosa Nostra Pasta Truck, Rancho Catering, Sip & Slide Sliders, Canyon Club Brewery

and The Cupcake Shoppe.

On the menu for Aug. 23 are: Flavors of Cali, The Waffle Roost, Golden Gate Gyro, Canyon Club Brewery, Sip & Slide Sliders and Johnny Doughnuts.

The last scheduled event night of Sept. 13 will feature: Sliders Truck, Izzy A's Frozen Custard, Canyon Club Brewery, Rancho Catering, Lobsta Truck, Cosa Nostra Pasta Truck and Kolobok Russian Soul Food.

Hacienda Nights is sponsored in part by the Moraga Park Foundation and Evtntwrks.



# Summer Travel Hawaiian Island Hopping: Oahu and Lanai



Hulopo'e Bay, Lanai

Photos Fran Miller



Four Seasons Resort O'ahu at Ko Olina

## By Fran Miller

A mere 35-minute plane ride divides them, and each is visible to the other on an ultra clear day, but the islands of Oahu and Lanai offer varying visitor experiences. Both provide alluring and warm Hawaiian hospitality, a bevy of adventure and cultural activities, and of course surf and sand, but the delivery systems differ.

Unless arriving by private or charter jet, one must pass through Oahu's Honolulu airport to get to and from Lanai, making a pre- or post-layover nearly a given. Three nights on each island is about right, and allows for an adequate exploration of both. Start in Oahu and head west to Ko Olina – far from the crowds of Waikiki but close enough to capture Honolulu's urban buzz. Four pristine beach coves dot Ko Olina's sunset view-perfect, fit-for-aking coastline. Not mere hyperbole, the area was long ago the vacation choice of King Ka'mehameha himself.

Accommodations include Four Seasons Resort O'ahu at Ko Olina, Disney's Aulani Resort, Beach Villas at Ko Olina, and Marriott's Ko Olina Beach Club. With its spectacular west-facing infinity pool (the largest on the island) and its destination level restaurants, including Mina's Fish House, featuring the world's first 'fish sommeliers,' the Four Seasons is a winning choice. (If the lure of neighboring Aulani is too hard to resist, simply stroll next door to find Mickey and Moana.) The early 20th century outrigger canoe spanning the length of the spacious Four Seasons lobby is an indication that this is not a typical tropical resort. A quick peak at the 3,200 square foot Penthouse Suite confirms it. With panoramic views of the Pacific from its wraparound lanai, the

suite makes this resort a favored choice of notables who have their pick of worldwide lodging options.

Steeped in Hawaiian culture, the 17-story high rise takes its cues from the innate beauty and history of the area to create a tranquil oasis. Four swimming pools, a calm-watered beach cove perfect for paddle boarding and snorkeling, and a number of activities such as lei making, hula and ukulele lessons, stargazing, and yoga mean that everyone in your group finds something to love. Be sure not to miss the Saturday and Sunday brunch at the resort's La Hiki Kitchen. Word has it it's the island's best and most bountiful.

As opposed to the multitude of resort choices on Oahu, Lanai currently features just two lodging options: the charming 10-room Hotel Lanai located 'up country' in Lanai City, or the elegant Four Seasons Resort Lanai perched above Hulopo'e Bay. (A third Lanai City option nears completion.) The pristine, unspoiled beauty of this island astounds. With just more than 3,000 full-time residents (and nary a stop light to be found), Lanai is the epitome of old Hawaii – free of the crowds and traffic now associated with its sister islands.

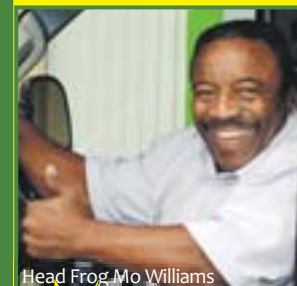
Once the world's largest pineapple plantation, Lanai was purchased by Oracle's Larry Ellison in 2012. He and his team remodeled the existing Four Seasons resort, making it one of the world's most beautiful and luxurious vacation spots. With just 213 guest rooms linked by lush gardens, the resort is intimate and sophisticated – perfect for a romantic getaway (Chris Pratt and Katharine Schwarzenegger honeymooned here) but equally appealing to families who enjoy the numerous activities. Every day from

10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., cultural team members man a lobby table inviting guests to partake in lei making or coconut weaving, yoga, archery, helicopter tours, horseback riding and more are readily available. And if it's not listed on the daily activity list, resort staff can make it happen. Keep an eye out for Resident Uncle Bruno, the resort aviarist who meanders with one or more rescue birds perched upon his arms. It's worthwhile to take the resort's Holoholo tour; a cultural team member likely a Lanai native, provides a guided, four-wheel drive exploration of the 140 square mile island, sharing cultural details along the way. The pineapples are long gone but the island's ranch roots remain, as illustrated by the horse-filled Ranch at Ko'ele, one of the stops along

the tour that ends in Lanai City. Head to Richard's Market for the fresh poke, visit the cultural center, and purchase souvenirs at Local Gentry or the Mike Carroll Gallery before catching a shuttle back to the Four Seasons.

Dining options match the resort's sophistication. Try a venison burger at The Sports Bar & Grill, enjoy steak or seafood at One Forty (the island's square mileage as well as steak's perfect temperature), or indulge in Nobu Lanai's signature Japanese dishes. At Four Seasons Resort Lanai, any choice is the best choice.

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Torch Lighting, Four Seasons Resort Oahu at Ko Olina

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## Popular Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary pancake breakfast helps fund community projects



Photo Thomas Black

Hundreds occupied popup tables set up on the ground-level library concourse.

### Submitted by Thomas Black

The last of the 5K runners had yet to return when the pancake breakfast queue started to form in earnest July 4 at the ticket table on the concourse of the Orinda public library. A couple of hours later some 650 pancakes had been grilled and consumed.

For the bargain price of \$10, adults treated themselves to what the Independence Day event sponsor, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, was serving – two pancakes (plus maple syrup), two sausages, half a banana, a clutch of table grapes, orange juice, coffee and, if desired, a bottle of water.

This marked the sixth year that the Rotary club has put on the foodie festival. To pull it off, two-dozen members got up very early to start prepping. It took two grills to produce enough pancakes – one in the Orinda Community Center and a second in-

side a popup tent on ground level.

During the morning, a band played on the apron of the concourse. Meanwhile, the Orinda library took advantage of having a semi-captive audience by holding a book sale. On display was a motor boat recently restored by LSR worker-bees. It is being raffled as the principal fundraiser for 2019-20, with its next appearance scheduled at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival, Sept. 21-22. Tickets sell for \$20 a piece or six for \$100. A 1963 Volkswagen Beetle rebuilt by the club and raffled last year netted more than \$20,000 (see related story on Page B1).

All proceeds from the breakfast are earmarked to help fund one or more community service projects the club sponsors. Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary meets Fridays over breakfast at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa on Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette. Guests are always welcome.

## New Troop 224 Eagle Scouts



Colin Porciuncula and Peter Kraszulyak

Photo Mika Watanabe

### Submitted by Lori Suppiger

Boy Scout Troop 224 of Lafayette honors two Scouts—Colin Porciuncula and Peter Michael Kraszulyak—for achieving Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout. To become an Eagle Scout, a candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout spirit, and successfully complete a community service project.

Kraszulyak, a rising junior at Acalanes High School, built a movable redwood bench, constructed a flagstone and gravel walkway, and repaired the legs of a broken bench at the Lafayette Community Garden. The project benefits the elderly community and families with small children who enjoy visiting the garden for pleasure and educational purposes. They can sit on the benches to admire the beauty of the garden, and they can use the walkway without any concern of tripping or getting their shoes muddy when it rains. Outside of Scouting, Kraszulyak enjoys playing basketball.

Porciuncula, a rising senior at Acalanes High School, also enhanced the Lafayette Community Garden by building an additional six redwood benches to provide much-needed seating for the many gardening classes held at the site. After determining the budget and the materials necessary, Porciuncula raised \$200 from friends and family members, received a generous donation of \$500 from the Lafayette Community Garden itself, and a discounted price on the redwood from Dolan's Lumber to complete the project. Porciuncula then worked with a large group of volunteers to cut the lumber, assemble the benches, and install them at the site. In addition to Scouting, Porciuncula swims varsity at Acalanes, is interested in studying environmental science, and plans to pursue a career in the fire service after college.

Kraszulyak and Porciuncula will be recognized for their achievement at an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony Aug. 10 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center. Troop 224 is currently accepting boys and girls as new members. For more information visit <http://www.troop224lafayette.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.

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

## Orinda Odyssey of the Mind team places fifth at World Finals



Photo provided

### Submitted by Janine Ogando

Over Memorial Day weekend three local teams competed at the 2019 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals held at Michigan State University, with nearly 900 teams from 54 different countries and five continents competing in four divisions in an attempt to solve one of five different problems.

Orinda Rotary's Fifth Grade team (Division 1) consisting of (back row) Ryan Chan, Lily Harrick, Toby Montalban, (front row) Augie Martinez, Kodie Zundel, Vinny Yu, and Ian Hughes placed fifth in the world. They are coached by Janine Ogando and Jill Hughes and solved Problem 4, the structure problem. This is the second year for five members of this team to make it to the world competition. Last year they were a rookie team, placed seventh, and won an OMER's Award in recognition of exemplary behavior through personal action and exceptional skill.

Other local teams also did well at

the World Competition, which is similar to the Olympics but for OoTM problems. It's a huge feat to make it to and be able to compete at the World Competition; requiring that a team earn first or second at a regional competition and then either first or second at the state competition. Solving the Vehicle Problem, Foothill Middle School (Div.2) placed 13th and Orinda Rotary (Div. 3) placed 23rd. For Problem 2, Foothill Middle School (Div.2) placed 18th and Orinda Rotary (Div.3) placed 25th. Solving the classics problem, Glorietta Elementary School Red (Div. 1) got 26th place, Stanley Middle School in Lafayette (Div. 2) placed 15th, and Walnut Creek Rotary (Div. 3) placed 20th. Orinda Rotary (Div. 1) took 5th place in the structure problem. The California teams solving the dramatic problem at Worlds were Carolyn Clark Elementary (San Jose / Div. 1) placing 10th, Brentwood Elementary (Div. 1) placing 17th, Miller Creek Middle School (Div. 2 /San Rafael) 16th place, and Concord HS (Div. 3) earning 16th.

## MSSL raises over \$3K in Round-Up for Rett Fundraiser

### Submitted by Bianca Tung

The Music Students Service League of Contra Costa collaborated with Macy's Walnut Creek from May 1-15, to hold the Round-Up for Rett fundraiser in support of the Katie Nues Foundation for Rett Syndrome. MSSL is a student-run, nonprofit organization whose mission is not only to promote happiness through music but also to provide support for those in need. The Katie Nues Foundation was founded by Jesse Nues after his daughter, Katie, was diagnosed with Rett syndrome, and the foundation provides funding

for Katie's Clinic of the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland to create an environment that improves the daily lives of those who suffer from Rett syndrome.

Thanks to community support, a total of \$3,046 was raised in addition to the \$5,000 from the MSSL and Macy's 2nd Annual Fashion Show for a grand total of \$8,046 that will go toward covering clinical care, research projects, and community education. Interested in joining or collaborating with MSSL? Visit: [msslmusic.org](http://msslmusic.org) or contact [MichelleChen@msslmusic.org](mailto:MichelleChen@msslmusic.org).

### ~ Celebrations ~

## National Merit Scholarship winners

Paige Martin-Holder of Acalanes High School and Adriana Derksen of Campolindo High School both received a \$2,500 scholarship from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Paige is attending UCLA in the fall as a biochemistry major and Adriana will attend Ohio State University this fall, majoring in neuroscience. Adriana joins the University Honors program and will live in the John Glenn Civic Leadership Community. The Scholarship goes directly to the university to be applied against her first tuition bill.



Paige Martin-Holder



Adriana Derksen



# Campo alum uses Olympic-medal-winning philosophy to champion underserved youths



Kim Vandenberg has undivided attention at recent swim clinic.

Photos courtesy Kim Vandenberg



Vandenberg teaches techniques

By Vera Kochan

Kim Vandenberg, a Campolindo High School alum (2002), has won numerous swimming medals and is lucky enough to continue her love of the sport traveling the world teaching swim clinics. Not stopping there, she has been chosen as ambassador for Room to Read and Up2Us Sports. Both organizations serve underprivileged children.

No stranger to winning ways Vandenberg, a three-time USA Swimming National Champion, who specializes in the butterfly and freestyle, has won silver medals at the 2005

World University Games and at the 2007 World Championships in Melbourne, a bronze medal at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing and two gold medals at the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara.

At an early age, Vandenberg raced against her older brother, John, and younger brother, Michael. Although her sister, Lauren, was too young to race with them, she grew to compete in the sport as well. In addition to sibling support, her father and mother, Rick and Denai, along with all of her grandparents always attended her swim meets. “Even my great-grandmother, who was over 100 years old, came to watch me in her wheelchair,” Vandenberg recalled with pride.

Vandenberg credits her former Campo and Orinda Aquatics coaches Ron and Don Heidary, who coached her between the ages of 12-18, as well as her UCLA coaches, Cyndi Gallagher and Greg Meehan, for giving her a solid foundation and strong mental outlook to pursue her swimming dreams.

“Besides the Olympic bronze medal, I would say one of my favorites is the silver medal from the 2007 World Championships, because I was able to race against the world record holder at the time, Jessica Shipper. I went a personal best (2:06.71), and in that moment, I was second in the

world in the 200m butterfly.” Vandenberg added, “For me, it was a rare moment when everything came together – my mind and body were connected in a way that only happens a few times in an athlete’s career. I was in the zone and able to enjoy racing the best in the world with enough confidence to know I was one of them. It took a long time for me to see myself in that way, and once I did, I was able to push myself harder in the pool and enjoy the process.”

Born and raised in the Bay Area, Vandenberg now lives in Brooklyn, New York. A series of heartbreaking events caused her to pull up stakes and move to the other side of the country in 2012. She placed third in the 200m butterfly at the Olympic Trials, just missing a spot on the London Olympic team. “I had been training full time to qualify for what would have been my second Olympic team, but instead I was signing paperwork to be the first alternate, which was devastating to me at the time.” She was also going through a relationship breakup, and since she was planning on representing the New York Athletic Club during that year’s fall European races, moving there seemed like a logical choice.

As it turned out, the relocation was just what she needed. Vandenberg said, “I fell in love with the energy, the people and the diversity. It was

refreshing to meet people who knew nothing about the sport, especially after living in the swimming world bubble for so long – it’s a small bubble!” The change created “a balance between my athletic life and my search for something more than swimming.” She does return to the Bay Area a few times a year to visit her family.

Vandenberg occasionally still competes for the New York Athletic Club, stating that swimming helps her to stay active, healthy and is a good way to meditate underwater and away from technology.

When not competing, Vandenberg travels around the United States and the world teaching swim clinics and camps to younger competitive swimmers. Last year, she taught in Sri Lanka, and just last week returned from a trip teaching in Slovenia. She appreciates her travels in that it helps her to connect with people from varied walks of life.

Besides her busy teaching schedule, Vandenberg is an ambassador for the nonprofit organization Room to Read. Founded in 2000, Room to Read believes that world change begins with educated children. Their focus is on a deep and systematic transformation within schools of low-income countries by stressing the importance of literacy. Room to Read has benefited 12.4 million children across more than 20,000 communities in 15

countries.

Other ambassadorship duties are devoted to Up2Us Sports, an organization committed to engage, train and support sports coaches to transform kids living in underserved communities within the United States by serving as mentors. Over the past eight years, they have placed over 2,000 coaches that have positively impacted the lives of over 400,000 children.

Vandenberg first became aware of the two organizations through friends in New York. “I was very lucky to grow up in Moraga, a community where I was supported and encouraged to pursue my athletic ambitions. After traveling around the world, my eyes opened up to the many communities that lacked the support systems I took for granted when I was younger.” She added, “As an ambassador, I help fundraise, coach clinics, write, speak and raise awareness for their causes.”

Vandenberg’s current efforts include a fundraising goal for Room to Read. She hopes to support 50 girls in the educational program designed to help them succeed outside of the classroom. At this point, she has raised \$7,725 of her \$15,000 goal, stating, “I believe that investing in education is the key to success and hope to see girls around the world have the same opportunities I was given as a child.”

Throughout much of her swimming career, Vandenberg’s mantra was “Never stop believing.” She explained, “I believe in the power of the mind. Something I was able to do, with the support of my coaches and family, was to persevere through the many disappointments I faced in my swimming career. I have missed the Olympic team four times (2000, 2004, 2012, 2016) and I made it once in 2008. I love the sport and I will always love it. I think having faith in the journey is what it all comes down to.” She summarized, “While it was amazing to compete at the Olympic Games, having the smaller moments like creating life-long friendships and memories with people within the community is much more important at the end of the day.”

For information or to help Vandenberg achieve her \$15,000 goal as ambassador for Room to Read visit:

<https://give.roomtoread.org/team/170245>

For information or to donate to Up2Us Sports visit:

<https://www.up2us.org/blog/2017/10/2/ambassador-kim-vandenberg-hosts-swim-clinic-for-new-orleans-youth>

Vandenberg’s website is: [www.kimswimstudios.com](http://www.kimswimstudios.com)

# LAC celebrates High School Visual Arts Competition winners



Photos provided

"Zebra on Cardboard," Shae Silva, Campolindo High School and "The Book Jacket," Larkin Stephanos, Campolindo High School

Submitted by Diane Athanasiou

The community is invited to join Lamorinda Arts Council during its monthly artist reception from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Aug. 4 at the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, to celebrate two High School Visual Arts Competition winners who qualified to compete in the California Art Education Association’s Youth Art Month Competition.

tion in March.

Art & Creative Materials Institute created Children’s Art Month in 1961 as an event to emphasize the value to children from participating in visual art education. In 1965 the nonprofit California Art Education Association was formed to provide a collaborative network to strengthen visual arts education. CAEA coordinates the Youth Art Month program at the state level.

Larkin Stephanos, a fresh-

man at Campolindo High School in Moraga, won in 2019 overall for all three competitions: the Lamorinda Arts Council’s High School Visual Art Competition, CAEA’s Northern California Level and CAEA’s State Level competitions. Her winning entry is entitled “Book Jacket.”

Shae Silva, a senior at Campolindo, won second place in the Lamorinda Arts Council’s High School Visual Arts Competition and is the winner of the prestigious CAEA Northern Cal-

ifornia 2019 Ruth Jansen Prize, which is awarded to a senior in the visual arts competition. Her winning entry is entitled “Zebra on Cardboard.”

The LAC will also celebrate Jill Langston, who is the art teacher for both students at Campolindo. An inspired and dedicated art educator, she brings out the best in her students as exemplified by Stephanos and Silva’s winning artworks.

In 2020 and beyond, art students participating in the

High School Visual Arts Competition will be encouraged to compete for these additional awards. For further information on the competition and CAEA program go to <https://www.caea-arteducation.org/yam>.

For more information regarding Lamorinda Art Council or to donate towards programs such as the High School Visual Arts Competition go to [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org) or send an email to [info@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:info@lamorindaarts.org).



Larkin Stephanos with her Book Jacket



## Not to be missed

### ART

**The July exhibit at the art gallery** at the Orinda Library will feature illustrations and their books by Elaine and Rob Drew, paintings by Jeanette Baird and Joanne Taeuffer, and paintings and painted wine bottles by Kath Balamuth. The exhibit runs through July 31. 26 Orinda Way.

**Valley Art Gallery presents** "Two for the Show" through Aug. 10 at the Valley Art Gallery, 1660 Botelho Drive, Walnut Creek, featuring the distinctive and beloved ceramics of Gerry Wallace and the colorful abstracts of Phil Simon. Both have ties to the gallery's long history. [www.valleyartgallery.org](http://www.valleyartgallery.org)

**Saint Mary's College Museum of Art (SMC | MoA)** presents two new exhibitions on view July 25 through Dec. 8. "Kal Spelletich: Significance Machines and Purposeful Robots" explores boundaries between humans and machines, integrating spirituality and mysticism through an unlikely form - robots. "New Formalism in Painting and Photography" presents the collaborative work of artists R&D (Diane Rosenblum and Joe Doyle) expanding the boundaries of painting and photography

through digital manipulations. MoA admission is free. For information on programming and hours, visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum).

**The Moraga Art Gallery's** new show running through Aug. 10 will feature the work of Lafayette artist-photographer Lucy Beck, who "paints" floral portraits with light to show the astonishing variety of colors and shapes of small flowers in our gardens, fields and woodlands, and guest artist, Oakland ceramicist Tomoko Jarrell, who specializes in the design and creation of simple, comely, Japanese-inspired functional and decorative vases, cups, bowls, and more. For hours and more information visit [www.moragaart-gallery.com](http://www.moragaart-gallery.com), call (925)376-5407.

### MUSIC

**Cantare Con Vivo's Summer Choir of 125** singers will present African-American spirituals and gospel songs, offering heartfelt passion in reflecting life rooted in American slavery at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 27 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church. We hear the perspective of an oppressed culture, embracing the promises promised in Judeo-Christian traditions

that proclaim freedom, justice, equality and respect. These expressions of faith must now turn toward a spiritual plane where such promises can ultimately be trusted. Ticket price: \$20. [www.cantareconvivo.org](http://www.cantareconvivo.org).

**The Kyle Athayde Dance Party** is coming to Lafayette on Wednesday, July 24 for a one set performance at the Lafayette Library, featuring special guest, Bijon Watson. The 20-piece big band features world class musicians from New York City, Los Angeles, and the San Francisco Bay Area. Kyle's music draws inspiration from a wide variety of sources, from video games and internet memes to jazz and classical masterworks. If you like the big band music of Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton, Woody Herman, or Don Ellis, then you'll love the Dance Party! Show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$20 at the door. [kyleathayedanceparty.com](http://kyleathayedanceparty.com)

**Free and Fabulous Opera** in the Park Concert from 5 to 7 p.m. on July 28 at the Orinda Community Park. The Rotary Club of Orinda and Solo Opera proudly present the 11th Annual Opera in the Park. Bring the entire family, a blanket and a picnic to enjoy an afternoon of best-loved opera arias/duets/en-

sembles and musical theater favorites performed by first-rate professional singers. Free admission - BART and handicapped accessible - free parking. For more info, contact [cmroeder@comcast.net](mailto:cmroeder@comcast.net) and [www.soloopera.org](http://www.soloopera.org).

**Moraga Commons Park Summer Concerts** from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday evenings in the summer. July 25 features Mixed Nuts, a band performing hits from the '40s to the present and Aug. 1 will showcase Moonalice, Bay Area '60s psychedelic rock. Join your neighbors for a relaxing free concert. Bring your picnic blanket or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the band shell. Enjoy the music while your children enjoy the park. The volunteers of Moraga Park Foundation cook food with the Snack Bar opening at 6 p.m.

**S'mores at Sundown Family Concert** with Andy Z and the Andyland Band at 5 p.m. on Aug. 11 at The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. Say "So long!" to summer while enjoying sweet treats and live music at this family-oriented event. Andy engages children (and parents) with songs and stories that range from educational to silly. Venue seating is limited. Food,

blankets and lawn chairs are welcome. Outside alcohol is prohibited. Tickets: \$15 General Admission Adult; \$10 GA Child (ages two and up); children under age two are free. Tickets available online at [gardenshf.org](http://gardenshf.org) or by phone at (925) 947-1678.

**Orinda Concerts in the Park**, with food trucks, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings at the Community Center and Park: July 30, Vintage Jukebox; Aug. 6, Site 6 Bank; and Aug. 13, Floorshakers.

### THEATER

**California Shakespeare Theater** continues its 2019 summer season with the world premiere of "House of Joy" by Madhuri Shekar as part of their New Classics Initiative; playing Aug. 14 through Sept. 1 at the Bruns Amphitheater. A Pay What You Can performance will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 14. House of Joy is an action-adventure romance set in a harem at the beginning of the end of the Mughal Empire. Once upon a time and place, in something like 17th century Delhi, an imperial body-guard risks her life to fight for what's right, turning against everything she's been raised to believe. Additional information and online ticketing are available at [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

**YMTC presents the epic musical**, Les Misérables, featuring a cast of 40 and a live 30-piece orchestra. Now on stage in El Cerrito, this superb production tells Victor Hugo's classic tale as perfectly as it can be told. The show features talented young actors (teen through college age), including Moraga's Alex Kolm playing Marius. Final performances are at 7 p.m. on July 26 and 27 and at 2 p.m. on July 28. Tickets are \$16-\$32. For more information, visit <https://www.ymtcbayarea.org>.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**Cinderella Story Time** from 11 a.m. to noon on Aug. 3 at the Pleasant Hill Library 1750 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Diablo Ballet School faculty members Amanda Farris and Edward Stegge will bring the classic tale to life in this 30-minute interactive reading. Following the reading, Cinderella and her prince will teach the audience a short class demonstration. Admission is free for children of all ages. Children are invited to come dressed as their favorite fairytale character! To RSVP or for more information, visit [diabloballet.org/events](http://diabloballet.org/events).

### OTHER

**Fascia: The Mystery Tissue That Holds You Together** at 7 p.m. on July 30 with Tim Appleford, PT, MPT, OCS, ATC, Clinic Manager at Lafayette Physical Therapy at 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.

**Summer is simply cooler with cats.** Visit with the kitties of Community Concern for Cats at this weekend's adoption event from 1 to 4 p.m., July 27 and 28 at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see [www.communityconcernforcats.org](http://www.communityconcernforcats.org) online.

**National Park Service Hosts Animal Evidence Program** - join John Muir for a workshop about animal evidence. Learn how to identify tracks and scat from local animals. Make a cast of your favorite animal track to take home. This free, two-hour drop-in program begins at noon on July 27. Visitors should meet behind the visitor center. All ages welcome. No reservations are required. Please call the John Muir NHS Visitor Center at (925) 228-8860 x0. For more information, please visit the park website at [www.nps.gov/jomu](http://www.nps.gov/jomu).

**HighlineKites.com presents Berkeley Kite Festival** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on July 27 and 28 at Berkeley Marina's Cesar E. Chavez Park, 11 Spinnaker Way. Arts & Crafts, Bounce Houses, Pony Rides, Petting Zoo, Candy Drop, Free Kitemaking, Team Kite Flying, Giant Kites, Japanese Kites, Kite Shop on site Cost: Free For more info see <http://BerkeleyKiteFestival.com> or call (510) 235-5483 or email [HighlineKites@gmail.com](mailto:HighlineKites@gmail.com).

... continued on next Page

## Lamorinda's Religious Services

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

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Sunday - Masses at 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 am



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### ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

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

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

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### Lafayette United Methodist Church

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### 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)

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# Succulent ribs and light salad perfect for outdoor summer dining



Photo Susie Iventosch

## By Susie Iventosch

Baby back ribs simply say summer. What's better than dining on a batch of succulent ribs with your favorite barbecue sauce and a nice summer salad out on the patio? Ribs are really pretty easy to prepare, too, since they can be cooked ahead of time in the oven and then heated through on the barbecue in less than 10 min-

utes. Some of the main things to remember about cooking ribs are to remove the thick membrane under the ribs, if your butcher has not already done that, and to slow cook them in a tightly covered pan for about two hours. If you have difficulty removing the membrane, you can slice in between each rib in a couple of places in order to allow the fat to drip out and the seasoning to seep in. I do this even once the membrane is removed.

Now, for the big decision of what kind of rub and sauce to use. This depends

upon your own taste. I love both a tangy barbecue sauce and a southern-style sweet sauce made with bourbon. I've included the sweet southern style rub and sauce that my mom normally uses and I really enjoy. Feel free to email me for a tangier sauce that we also love! With the sweeter southern style ribs, this jicama salad made with grapefruit, mango, avocado and cilantro all tossed in lime vinaigrette is the perfect accompaniment!



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.

## Baby Back Ribs

(Serves 6)

### INGREDIENTS

2 racks baby back ribs, approximately 2 1/2 to 3 pounds each, or 12 ribs per rack  
4 tablespoons rub (see recipe below)

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 300 F.

Remove membrane from back of ribs, if it is still there. Cut rack into portions of 3-4 ribs each. Make two small (3/4-inch) slits in between each rib. Spread rub on top and bottom of rib racks.

Place in a baking dish, meaty side down, and cover tightly with foil. Bake for approximately two hours, or until a knife easily inserts into the meat between ribs.

Remove from oven. Cool to room temperature and drain any excess fat from the pan. Seal ribs in foil or in an airtight container and refrigerate until ready to use.

When ready to serve, heat ribs on barbecue over medium heat for a couple of minutes before basting with barbecue sauce. Then, cook ribs for two-three minutes per side. Serve hot!

### Sweet Rib Rub and Barbecue Sauce

For rub, blend together:

2 tablespoons powdered cumin  
1 tablespoon brown sugar  
1 tablespoon chili powder  
2 teaspoons dry mustard  
1 teaspoon cinnamon

Sometimes I add: 1 teaspoon paprika and 1 teaspoon onion or garlic powder and a dash of ginger.

### For Sauce:

#### INGREDIENTS

1 medium yellow onion, chopped  
4 cloves garlic, minced  
2 tablespoons canola oil  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup whole seeded Dijon mustard

1 1/2 cups ketchup  
1 small can (6 ounces) tomato paste  
1/2 cup apple juice  
1/4 cup apple cider vinegar  
1 dried ancho chili, peeled, stem and seeds removed and chopped (can substitute 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes)  
1 cup water  
1/2 cup bourbon

### DIRECTIONS

Heat oil in sauce pan. Add onion and garlic and cook until translucent. Stir in salt, ancho chili, mustard, ketchup, apple juice, apple cider vinegar and water. Bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Add bourbon and continue to cook for another 5 minutes or so. At this point, you can cool the sauce and refrigerate in an air-tight container until ready to use.

## Jicama-Mango-Grapefruit-Avocado Salad with Lime Vinaigrette

### INGREDIENTS

#### Salad

2 cups julienned strips of jicama (1-2 inches in length)  
1 cup mango cut into bite-sized pieces  
1/2 grapefruit cut into pieces (I cut these out with a grapefruit spoon)  
1 firm avocado, cut into bite-sized pieces  
1/2 cup cilantro leaves, snipped into pieces  
1/4 cup red onion, chopped and caramelized  
1/3 cup crumbled blue cheese  
1 recipe vinaigrette (below)

#### Lime Vinaigrette

Place the following in a container with a tight-fitting lid and shake well:  
1/4 cup fresh-squeezed lime juice  
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar  
2/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil  
1 teaspoon Tajin (or other Lime-salt seasoning)

You can find most of the recipes published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website.

Food tab:

[www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html)

## 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.

**July 25:**  
International Towing & Recovery Hall of Fame  
Perry Shusta

**August 1:**  
WWII Veteran- D-Day, Omaha beach invasion 1944  
Jake Larson

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



### AUGUST WEEKLY MEETINGS

**2: Club Assembly**  
**9: Dan Borenstein: Journalist on California Pensions**  
**16: Andy Weir, Author of The Martian** (guests require a ticket)  
**23: Dr. Lawrence H. Kuznetz, Apollo Flight Controller** (guests require a ticket)  
**30: John 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)

## Not to be missed

### OTHER ... continued

**The public is invited to hear** Katherine Parker, water microbiologist and UMC missionary in Nepal, at 6:30 p.m. on July 28 at Lafayette UMC, 955 Moraga Road. Katherine conducts workshops on sanitation, drinking water, women's self-reliance, hygiene and safety issues, serving UMC Global Ministries and the ecumenical United Mission to Nepal.

**Diablo Ballet's Annual Gourmet Gallop** food and wine walk returns to downtown Walnut Creek for the ninth consecutive year from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 8. Diablo Ballet invites guests to sip, sample and stroll their way through 18 downtown Walnut Creek locations as they experience a one-of-a-kind culinary adventure. Tickets are on sale now to the public at only \$39 if purchased on or before July 25. After that date, the price goes up to \$45 per person. Special group pricing is available. Tickets are available online at: [diabloballet.org](http://diabloballet.org) or by calling (925) 943-1775.

**Summer Wine Festival 2- 5 p.m.** on Saturday Aug. 10, Saint Mary's College Soda Center in Moraga. \$50 per person with pre-registration at [stmarys-ca.edu/wine](http://stmarys-ca.edu/wine) or (925) 631-8744.

**Cancer Support Community** is offering free public tours of our open space in Lafayette. Drop in between 10 and 11:30 a.m. Aug. 10

or Oct. 12 to meet CSC staff, walk the site, and hear our plans for building a cancer community center. Location: south side of Mt. Diablo Blvd, across from Lafayette Community Garden. Contact Libby Eppinga at [leppinga@cancersupport.net](mailto:leppinga@cancersupport.net) or (925) 953-1216 for more information.

### SENIORS

**Lafayette Community Foundation's 10th Annual Senior Symposium, "Aging By Design"** will take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 10 at Acalanes High School. Attendees will hear from a variety of experts about the latest findings on aging while maintaining independence. In addition, many vendors and nonprofit agencies will have booths at the Symposium's Resource Fair providing information about their products and services. Attendance is free. Please register in advance by visiting <http://www.lafayettecf.org>, to fill out the attendee registration and to have your name included in the raffle drawing.

### GARDEN

**Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center** presents Home Composting for Busy People from 3 to 4 p.m. on Aug. 10. Presented by Master Gardener Marian Woodard. Registration is required. Call (925) 906-1801 x306 to register. The event is free.

## Lamorinda Weekly

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Orinda Aquatics' swimmers path to college



Orinda Aquatics team with coaches Don and Ron Heidary

Photos provided



Campolindo graduate Steven Stumph, now at USC, holds a national and USC record.

### By Jon Kingdon

If there is a single activity that one is exposed to while growing up in Lamorinda, it would have to be swimming, with some starting in a pool as young as 3 years old.

There are many directions that one can take once the basic skills are mastered. There is competitive swimming, synchronized swimming, water polo, diving and just swimming in general.

Don and Ron Heidary started Orinda Aquatics 25 years ago with a specific goal in mind: "Our environment is for kids that love the sport and want to keep doing it af-

ter high school," says Don. "We have a culture of collegiate pursuit where all of our swimmers, if they want to, will swim in college. There are enough collegiate programs at all levels for anybody that can swim."

The time demands on a swimmer can be exhaustive. Competitive swimmers will get up at 4:45 in the morning, three or four times a week, go to school and then train two hours in the afternoon, doing their homework in the evening. It's when they become high school freshmen that they realize how difficult it can be, says Don: "Most of the kids work through it and find the right balance where

they can do it and maintain and not break down. They push the limit every day, physically, emotionally and academically. It's important that we create an environment with passion that supports kids that want to be better and want to go on and compete in college."

Burnout among swimmers can be a real concern. Often times swimmers come to the conclusion that they are swimming for other people but not themselves, as Dr. Robyn Odegaard, sports psychologist and owner of Champion Performance Development, defines it: "Burnout is anytime someone is held accountable for things that are not within their control, either by themselves, coaches or parents."

For these swimmers it's more peer support than peer pressure, says Jean Follmer, whose daughter will be swimming at Northwestern and whose son will be a junior next season: "They show up at the pool and all their friends are there. Without that, the kids can get burned out and end up quitting. When you show up and you see 40 friends in the pool going through the same program and putting in the same effort, it's encouraging and it really builds a team atmos-

phere. It carries over to group outings away from the pool as well where they all hang out together. They support each other learning how to handle success and disappointment, which translates into other areas in school and life."

Don makes it clear the type of swimmers they want to join Orinda Aquatics: "It has been our ultimate goal that our graduating swimmers not only continue to be athletes at the collegiate level, but that they love the sport of swimming, continue to improve, become leaders on their collegiate teams and are ultimately better people."

From Division I American University (Washington D.C.) to Division III Warren Wilson College (Swannanoa, South Carolina), there are 560 swim teams all over the United States. Not to be overlooked are the over 150 club swimming teams available at the collegiate level.

The Heidarys take pride in the number of swimmers that have gone through their program and continued swimming competitively in college. This past year, Orinda Aquatics graduated 30 swimmers, 25 of which will be swimming for their college or club teams. Of the five not swimming, Daniela Moroz

will be on the sailing team at the University of Hawaii and Andy Kang is going to the U.S. Naval Academy. The other three are going to their chosen school, but the level of competition is above their skill level.

The Heidarys also point to the academic success of their swimmers. Having had swimmers from over 20 different high schools, the overall GPA of the students has always been near 4.0. In an article in Swimming World Magazine, Lindsay Hass looked at the Academic Progress Rate Score used by the NCAA and it showed that "swimmers are among the top performing students when it comes to academic eligibility, retention and graduation."

Don supports those conclusions: "It dispels the myth that you can't train year-round and be a good student. Choosing to make the commitment to be a competitive swimmer is not a casual decision and it tends to deter those without a real commitment in and out of the water," says Don: "We don't get kids that come onto our team that are not academic. We have never had to deal with that. Mature, disciplined and academic kids seem to gravitate to swimming. Between their parents, their personal drive and peer pressure, we just don't have to check their grades. They want to be good student-athletes and go to a good school. They know they can't screw around."

It's the focus and commitment to swimming that carries over to the swimmers' academic work, says Don: "We see kids' grades decline when they're out of the water if they get injured for a few months. Their discipline is not the same as when they're swimming and they have said that school got away from them. They can't do that when they're swimming."

It's Don's belief that there is a college for every swimmer at every level: "It's a support for all of the swimmers - novice, mid-level and elite swimmers - to be collegiate student-athletes and to be leaders in their programs and that is what is unique about our team. As a rule, our graduates don't finish and say that I'm done. They want to swim."

... continued on Page C4

## Super Swimmers Out in Max Force at the Annual Meadow Mini Meet



Sylvie Portet and Hayden Holloway

Photo provided

### Submitted by Amy Campbell

The 49th annual Mini Meet, hosted by Meadow Swim and Tennis Club, took place on Sunday, July 14. Over 550 swimmers ages 8 and under from the nine clubs that make up the Orinda Moraga Pool Association (OMPA) competed in this year's "Super Hero" themed event. Three-year-old Mathias Montana of Meadow was the littlest superhero to make it across the 25-yard pool this year in a time of 1:23.94. Orinda Country Club took first place, just inching out host club Meadow Swim and Tennis Club by one point, and Moraga Valley Pool took home the trophy for third place.

- 1 Orinda Country Club: 613.50 pts.
- 2 Meadow Swim Team: 612.50 pts.
- 3 Moraga Valley Pool Swim Team: 377.50 pts.
- 4 Orinda Park Pool Swim Team: 303.50 pts.
- 5 Sleepy Hollow Legends: 236 pts.
- 6 Moraga Country Club: 168.50 pts.
- 7 Moraga Ranch Swim Club: 164 pts.
- 8 Miramonte Swim Club: 161.50 pts.
- 9 Campolindo Cabana Club Marlins: 44pts.

Total 2,681.00



Coaches, from left: MVP, OCC and Meadow





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# Kaylee Pond: An athlete for all seasons



Photos Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

For many athletes these days, it's all in for one sport. After one season is completed, they just move on to a club team for the same sport. Kaylee Pond, a rising senior at Acalanes High School proved to be the exception to the rule with a year to be remembered. She was named MVP for the Diablo Athlete League in both softball and basketball, listed as the 13th best athlete among boys and girls in the Metro Area by the San Francisco Chronicle along with being named the 26th best athlete in Northern California among both boys and girls.

Having begun playing organized sports at the age of 4, Pond attributes her love for sports from her parents: "My Mom (Kari) was athletic and played sports and my Dad (Wylie) played basketball in college. They were my coaches growing up. Sports are our thing."

When Pond came to Acalanes as a sophomore, her athletic career was set back when she tore her ACL playing basketball and missed the rest of the basketball season and the entire softball season. Still, Pond found a way to stay involved: "I was so used to working out and practicing every day and all I

could do then was leg lifts and lunges. Vic (head softball coach Victor Silva) allowed me to help coach and be a part of the team and Saki (head basketball coach Michelle Sasaki) would ask my input at halftime. I even got to coach a fourth-grade AAU team. Dr. William Workman and his staff were so patient with me and the rehab really went quickly."

Fortunately for Pond, at this point, she does not have to pick a favorite sport: "I love both even though they're two different sports. They're like yin and yang. Basketball is fast paced, competitive, physical and energetic. I love the ability to control what is happening on the court. It's the one-on-one nature in softball I love where the pitcher challenges you with every pitch."

Pond met the challenge this past year having batted .680 with seven home runs, 32 RBIs, 25 stolen bases and scored 47 runs. Silva knew from the start how special Pond would be: "We were 9-14 the season Kaylee was hurt and this year we were 18-6. She is very athletic and will do whatever she can to win. She has great anticipation and awareness. She's not a yeller, but leads by example. I think she could just sit on the bench and coach

ally knows and understands the sport. Her intensity is the same every day. That is a very strong trait for a leader."

Pond may see some of herself in Sasaki: "I'm so blessed to have her as a coach. She is very competitive. She takes up the role of every coach. I just have so much respect for her. Her IQ on the game and how she has taught me and the team so many new things has made a difference with the program."

It's Silva's concern for the team that Pond appreciates most about him: "Vic is so dedicated not only in making us better softball players, but future women. He'll sacrifice anything for his players and focuses on building on the relationships between the players and coaches. He's always looking out for his players."

Pond verbally committed to play softball at Iowa State University her sophomore year though she cannot officially sign with the Cyclones until her senior year: "I have family in the Midwest and I fell in love with the vibe of the team. They're very team oriented which you don't see much anymore. A lot of college coaches would have told me not to play basketball again but they understood that I'm very passionate

about basketball. I did not want to cut my basketball career short. We have a very good team and I believe we can go deep into the playoffs and I want to be a part of that."

Pond's parents have been role models for her and her brother Ibis, a rising sophomore at Acalanes, and she has two athletes that she has looked to for inspiration – one from afar and one locally: "In basketball, I really like Kawaii Leonard with how humble and competitive he is in every play, which I respect a lot. In softball, when I was a freshman at Alhambra, I was able to play alongside Briana Perez, who is such an amazing athlete and plays at UCLA now."

What does Pond do when she wants to get away from school sports? How about bowling and miniature golf: "If I need a break from sports, I just go to another sport. I have minimal free time and I like to keep myself busy."

Despite the prior injury, Pond is not looking back: "I'm only this young once where my body can do this for so long and if I want to play both sports, I'll play both sports. I'm very lucky to be able to do this."



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## Local divers qualified for Zone Diving Championship



Photo provided

Submitted by Michael Soloman

Sherman Diving Club had an exciting start to the summer with three of the team's divers qualified to compete in the prestigious Zone Diving Championship held in Beaverton, Oregon June 13-16. Coach Steve Sherman was excited with the outcome with all three divers qualifying for the final round where top divers from across the country will compete at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Michael

Solomon, 12 years old, did best on his front double flip, 11-year-old Sophie Lehane was very proud of her inward 1 1/2, and 10-year-old Jake Solomon was surprised that his front 1 1/2 went so well.

"Diving at zones was a wonderful experience! I am extremely excited that everyone on our team who went to zones will now be traveling to nationals," said Jake Solomon. The divers Michael, Jake, and Sophie each got within the top seven divers in each of their events.

## 23rd Annual Fun Run kicks off 4th of July in Moraga



Photos Hector Chao & Eric Yabu

Start of the 5-mile race with eventual winner RJ Bloomer (Bib 719) and runner-up Teddy Buckley (Campo '21, Bib 717)



5-mile female winner: Flora Lai, Houston, Texas

Submitted by Eric Yabu

For the 23rd year in a row, Moraga began its Fourth of July festivities with the Annual Fun Run. Starting and finishing at the soon to open Canyon Club Brewery, the event attracted nearly 600 participants for its 400- and 800-meter Kiddie Runs and 2- and 5-mile races. Before the start of the races, Lleyton Allen (Campo '22) treated the crowd to a stirring rendition of the National Anthem. The 5-mile race was won by RJ Bloomer (Kensington) in 25:41 while Flora Lai from Houston, Texas won the women's race in 28:40. In the 2-mile race, the overall winner was Tilden Jackson (Oakland) in a time of 11:41. The top female finisher was Moraga's Eliza Roady in 13:42.

Complete results: moragafunrun.com



2-mile overall winner: Tilden Jackson, Oakland



2-mile female winner: Eliza Roady, Moraga

## OBA Lava Monsters win 10U Mustang Division Championship



Photo provided

Bottom row, from left: Dylan Funk, Adeeb Khan, Julian Arrigotti, Brody Suba, Shawn Kiang, Griffin Waterbury; top row: Wyatt Strand, Claes Bell, coach Jack Bellamy, coach Stan Kiang, Trent Smith, Luke Keevey, Aidan Ma, Tyler Bellamy and coach Louis Suba

After losing their first playoff game, the Orinda 10U Mustang, The Lava Monsters went on to win six straight

elimination games en route to the championship. The last two games both went into extra innings.

## Lafayette Little League All-Star team win District 4 Championship



Photo Jacob Tabibian

Top row, from left: Zack Tabibian, Andrew Upp, Branson Smith, Reid Habas, Gavin Beers, Marek Mastrov, Joey Martin; bottom row: Ryan Ventrelle, Jimmy Cusumano, Kyle Woodson, Nico Roig, Leo McDonough

Submitted by Sarah Cusumano and Catherine Habas

Lafayette Little League's 2019 11-year-old All-Stars baseball team overcame three elimination games to win California's Little League District 4 Championships at the town's Buckeye Fields. The weeklong tournament hosted All-

Star teams from Alameda, Concord and Oakland. Lafayette All-Stars went 5-1, beating Alameda on back to back nights in two tight games. As District 4 champions, the Lafayette All-Stars went on to compete in the Northern California Sectional Tournament held in Vacaville. The team is managed by Dan Ventrelle and coaches are Mark Cusumano, David Habas, and Nick Woodson.

## Lafayette Little League 10U All Stars win the 2nd Annual Alex McLin Courage Classic



From left: Henry Werner, Ty Kniesche (bat boy), Brody McLaverty, Grant Condy, Max Trexler, Drew Asadorian, Brayden Tuiasopu, Max Kniesche, Caleb Roth, Jake Colclasure, Tyler Winkles, Josh Lee, Jackson Boselli; not pictured, AJ Hastings

Submitted by Linda Choi

In 2018, Lafayette Little League (LLL) renamed their summer tournament the Alex McLin Courage Classic in honor of Alex McLin, a member of the 2016 Majors Champion Nationals who lost his battle against bone cancer. Alex's heroic battle against bone can-

cer epitomized the courage and determination that made Alex a champion on the baseball field. His courage made him an inspiration to the entire LLL community. The LLL 10U All Stars battled against teams from Orinda, Moraga, Alameda, and Lafayette in the tournament to win the championship game against Moraga on July 17.



# USA Women take down Greece 14-3 in Moraga



Photos Gint Federas

**Amanda Longan (Moorpark, CA/USC/Santa Barbara 805)**

For the third consecutive game Team USA took down Greece 14-3 July 4 at Campolindo Soda Center. Amanda Longan got the start in goal and made 11 saves in the cage. Maddie Musselman and Jamie Neushul powered Team USA's offense by scoring three goals each.

According to USA Water Polo, Inc., Team USA came out the gate quickly on offense as they went up 1-0 on their first shot of the game through Paige Hauschild. Team USA then took a commanding 5-0 lead at the end of the first quarter after four successive goals.

Similarly, in the second quarter Kiley Neushul got the scoring started and her sister Jamie ended it with Team USA's ninth goal in a row before Greece scored one to make it 9-1 at halftime.

The third quarter was a tighter contest as Greece got

their second goal and then it took until two minutes left in the quarter for Team USA to find the net. Musselman then added another to increase the lead to 11-2 at halftime. Team USA continued to push forward in the final quarter with three more goals, going on to win 14-3.

Team USA went 2/2 on penalties and Greece went 1/2 on penalties.



**Maddie Musselman (Newport Beach, CA/UCLA/CdM Aquatics)**



**Maggie Steffens (Danville, CA/Stanford/NYAC)**

## Orinda Aquatics' swimmers path to college



**Orinda Aquatics team cheering**

... continued from Page C1

The kids that go on to swim either collegiately or at a club level is a very high percentage. It's our culture that supports it."

Kassy Gregory, a recent graduate of Campolindo and Orinda Aquatics, will be swimming for Soka Univer-

sity in Alisa Viejo, California and attributes much of her success to swimming for the Heidarys: "As a student-athlete, I had to learn to develop self-discipline and time management. That discipline has helped me to be become a better student. At Orinda Aquatics, we recognize our responsibilities for behaving

as high-character athletes. Everyone is treated with the deepest respect, whether they are swimmers, officials or coaches. While our passion for the sport propels us to put in our best effort, we understand how our actions relate to others."

There have been three Olympians that have come

out of Orinda Aquatics – Kim Vandenberg (UCLA and Campolindo), Peter Varellas (Stanford and Campolindo) and Heather Petri (California and Miramonte) along with 23 other Olympic qualifiers. As gratifying as that is to the club, "What we're most proud of is how many of our kids have gone on to be leaders of

their collegiate swim team," says Don. "Forty-one of our swimmers have been named captains of their teams in college. We'll put that number up against any club in the country."

The large number of leaders that have come out of Orinda Aquatics can be attributed to their 'Positive Training Environment.' It's a matter of taking the path of most resistance, says Don: "When our swimmers enter a culture of commitment and effort, they either adapt or they are excused as our swimmers and coaches do not want the team's standards jeopardized. They not only grow as athletes through the challenges, but they grow as people. We emphasize character, which is the foundation of our program. If the environment is not positive and conducive to long-term training and development, you will see much more attrition and kids looking to move out of the sport, not continue to a higher, more demanding level. That's what we try to do every day, create that environment that supports kids that want to continue on and they do and we've seen that play out for over two decades."

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

(we prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide)



# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 13 Issue 11 Wednesday, July 24, 2019



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

... read on Page D12

## Creating a living room that sings



Photos provided

### By Amanda Eck

Decorating a space like a living room can feel like an overwhelming task as you try to put all the pieces together to make it feel harmonious. You have to consider paint colors for the walls, what kind of furniture you already have, what pieces you need, furniture layout, colors, accents and accessories. Often times you put everything together and yet the space still feels "off" or "missing something." Here

are a few tips to get you started on the right track.

#### **Declutter**

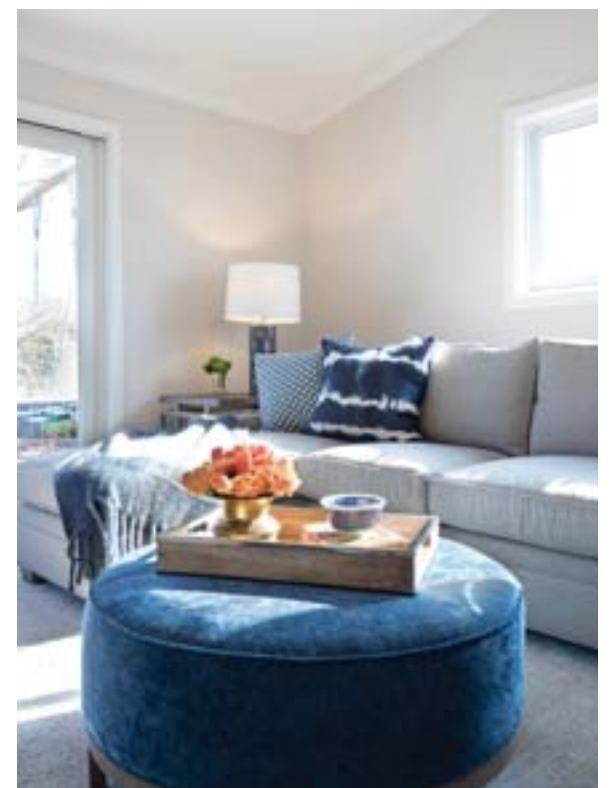
The first step of creating a beautiful inviting space is to declutter. Getting rid of the junk many times frees up extra space in the room that wasn't there before. Remove papers, toys, shoes, or any other miscellaneous items that do not belong in the living room. Create a sorting system of three boxes or bags and label them: keep, toss, and donate. Once

your space is cleared out use baskets, bins and decorative boxes to keep the items that are staying organized.

#### **Invest in quality**

Invest in quality upholstery. Look for pieces that are made in the USA. Frames that are made with kiln-dried hardwood and eight-way hand tied springs (the part where the cushions sit) are the best construction for sofas and chairs. For cushions, look for high-density foam; lesser quality foam can break down quickly. I prefer cushions that have individually wrapped coil springs covered with high density foam and then wrapped with a soft down fiber. It's a triple layer cushion that provides a soft seat yet bounces back when you get up.

... continued on Page D4





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City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	21	\$785,000	\$2,600,000
MORAGA	8	\$530,000	\$1,958,000
ORINDA	14	\$800,000	\$2,250,000

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

**LAFAYETTE**

- 3345 Betty Lane, \$1,390,000, 4 Bdrms, 1824 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 06-04-19,  
Previous Sale: \$995,000, 06-25-15
- 1024 Carol Lane, \$1,165,000, 3 Bdrms, 1390 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 06-10-19,  
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 07-01-14
- 1020 Dyer Drive, \$1,195,000, 3 Bdrms, 1609 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 06-04-19,  
Previous Sale: \$1,214,000, 01-26-18
- 1 Ewart Dlx, \$1,475,000, 3 Bdrms, 1675 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 06-12-19,  
Previous Sale: \$986,500, 05-15-15
- 4060 Fiora Place, \$1,470,000, 3 Bdrms, 1508 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 06-14-19,  
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 04-07-14
- 3184 Lucas Drive, \$2,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 3368 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 06-11-19,  
Previous Sale: \$2,425,000, 11-18-16
- 4018 Mario Way, \$1,620,000, 4 Bdrms, 2401 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 06-12-19
- 6 Moss Lane, \$785,000, 2 Bdrms, 1559 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 06-13-19,  
Previous Sale: \$710,000, 02-01-16
- 33 Olympic Oaks Drive, \$1,810,000, 3 Bdrms, 2329 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 06-12-19
- 1536 Pleasant Hill Road, \$1,220,000, 4 Bdrms, 2815 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 06-14-19,  
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 02-11-15
- 3918 Quail Ridge Road, \$1,285,000, 3 Bdrms, 1728 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 06-07-19
- 649 Sky Ranch Court, \$1,820,000, 5 Bdrms, 2896 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 06-03-19,  
Previous Sale: \$1,235,000, 08-08-13
- 3156 Somerset Place, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 1822 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 06-03-19,  
Previous Sale: \$1,440,000, 05-01-17
- 861 Solana Drive, \$1,565,000, 3 Bdrms, 2063 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 06-14-19
- 629 St Marys Road, \$1,210,000, 4 Bdrms, 1844 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 06-07-19,  
Previous Sale: \$1,210,000, 05-15-19
- 3589 Walnut Street #D, \$853,000, 2 Bdrms, 1506 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 06-04-19,  
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 10-15-03
- 8 Warwick Court, \$2,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 2664 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 06-11-19,  
Previous Sale: \$347,000, 05-01-88
- 1021 Willow Drive, \$1,303,000, 3 Bdrms, 1606 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 06-10-19,  
Previous Sale: \$718,000, 07-18-12
- 3133 Withers Avenue, \$1,398,000, 4 Bdrms, 2644 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 06-06-19,  
Previous Sale: \$742,500, 12-05-11
- 1190 Woodborough Road, \$2,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 3557 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 06-10-19,  
Previous Sale: \$1,975,000, 03-19-15
- 3251 Woodview Drive, \$1,805,000, 3 Bdrms, 2839 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 06-03-19,  
Previous Sale: \$230,000, 06-01-88

**MORAGA**

- 119 Alta Mesa Court, \$975,000, 3 Bdrms, 1954 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 06-06-19,  
Previous Sale: \$355,000, 08-01-91
- 2016 Ascot Drive #1, \$530,000, 2 Bdrms, 1169 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 06-03-19,  
Previous Sale: \$440,000, 04-19-06
- 327 Calle La Mesa, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 1946 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 06-10-19,  
Previous Sale: \$362,500, 02-01-91
- 264 Calle La Mesa, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 1767 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 06-10-19,  
Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 03-26-15
- 208 Corliss Drive, \$1,530,000, 4 Bdrms, 2403 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 06-12-19,  
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 07-14-04
- 1921 Joseph Drive, \$1,985,000, 5 Bdrms, 3330 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 06-07-19
- 39 Miramonte Drive, \$772,000, 3 Bdrms, 1447 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 06-14-19,  
Previous Sale: \$389,000, 01-06-11
- 1850 Saint Andrews Drive, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 2029 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 06-10-19,  
Previous Sale: \$555,000, 12-07-00

... continued on Page D13

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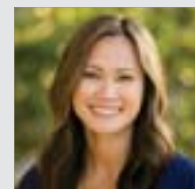
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DRE# 01907345

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DRE# 01970768

VALERIE DURANTINI



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DRE# 01376796



# Lamorinda Q2 Market Update

We want to provide a quick market update as we are all getting much needed pool, barbecue and vacation time in before school starts. In summary, our real estate market remains strong. Lamorinda average sales price is now \$1.72M, up 6%, average sales price per square foot is \$655, up 3%, and average days on market increased 8% to 26 days. Lafayette's average sales price per square foot just topped the \$700 mark. Lafayette's average sales price is now \$1.86M and average sales price per square foot is \$706, up 4%. Average sales price per square foot is \$605, up 6% for Moraga and \$623, down 1% for Orinda.

Orinda's #'s are be bit misleading. While it is true that Orinda's average sales price per square foot turned negative (down 1%), it is primarily the result of a higher proportion of older vintage homes that require extensive remodeling that were recently sold and not an indication that the Orinda market is beginning to struggle. This trend is also evident in Orinda's average days on market that increased by 15% to 33 days, as it generally takes longer to sell homes that require extensive remodeling. Orinda's numbers will turn around quickly as these older vintage homes clear out of current year figures.

Declining Interest Rates & Bay Area tech IPOs could boost the real estate market in the second half of the year. Recent declines in mortgage rates and IPOs (recent and potential filings) from the likes of Lyft, Uber, Pinterest, Stripe and Airbnb that are within commute distance of Lamorinda could boost our real estate market if stock valuations remain strong.



We look forward to hearing from you with your real estate questions.



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## Creating a living room that sings

... continued from Page D1

The spring coils keep the seat from getting that sunk-in look you get over time. There is nothing worse than a cushion with a bum-print.

And last but not least, the fabric. Select fabrics that are stain resistant and easy to clean. For large pieces like sofas and sectionals, stick to a solid color fabric and choose prints for chairs, ottomans, etc.

### Add Texture and Layers

Step back and look at your space. Is there too much wood? Too much metal? Use a variety of different finishes in the space (i.e glass, wood, metal). Having a mix of finishes will keep the room from feeling flat.

Add interest to the space by layering in different textures with different fabrics, throws, pillows, baskets and trays.

### Accent Pieces

Accent furniture is a piece of furniture that stands out because it complements the space. Choose interesting pieces that are different in either shape, color or texture. Try to resist the urge to buy matching sets. Matching side tables are fine, but choose something different for the coffee table. Accent pieces do not necessarily need to be practical or utilitarian, but serve to draw the eye in and create visual excitement.

Utilizing these tips will help take you from drab to fab.



Photos provided



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

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

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





Orinda | 90mossbridge.com  
 90 Mossbridge Lane



**5 Bed | 4 Bath | 4,154 Sq Ft | \$2,350,000**  
 Beautiful 5 bedroom, 4 bathroom home in the highly sought after Orinda Downs neighborhood on the end of a private road. This 4,154 sf home is an entertainer's dream with amazing flow between indoor and outdoor spaces. Store your wine collection in either the temperature controlled wine cellar attached to the main house or the wine refrigerator in the pool house. An oasis of relaxation and privacy with stunning infinity edge pool and fully equipped Tuscan pool house with full bathroom and bar area. A built-in fire pit surrounded by citrus trees completes the resort style living.

Briones | 1290bearcreek.com  
 1290 Bear Creek Road



**4 Bed | 4 Bath | 3,449 Sq Ft | 5.97 Acres | \$1,595,000**  
 This private and spacious 4 bedroom, 4 bath home, with in-law unit sits on nearly 6 acres in Briones on the Orinda border. This stunning gated estate offers the best of both worlds with spectacular views, horse stables, and minutes to Lafayette and Orinda. The ultimate in suburban country living.

• • •  
 • • •  
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19 HILLCREST DRIVE, ORINDA | 3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHS | 2408 SQ. FT. | .52 ACRE | \$1,299,000  
Set in the heart of the family-friendly Glorietta neighborhood & a short walk to the elementary school.



11 LA ESPIRAL, ORINDA | 2 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHS | 1405 SQ. FT. | .55 ACRE | \$1,120,000  
A private, knoll setting surrounded by upper-end homes in The Club only a short walk to Lake Cascade.



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Orinda



**1 Sycamore Road** **\$2,995,000**  
5 Bed 4.5 Bath 3,977± Sq Ft 1.24± Acres  
1sycamore.com

Lafayette



**1140 Camino Vallecito** **\$3,495,000**  
4+ Bed 4.5 Bath 3,716± Sq Ft 0.50± Acres  
1140caminovallecito.com

Orinda



**655 Crossridge Court**  
**\$2,035,000**

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Lafayette



**3651 Boyer Circle** **\$2,495,000**  
5 Bed 4F/3H Bath 4,600± Sq Ft 0.96± Acres  
3651boyer.com

Orinda



**4 Oak Flat Road** **\$1,795,000**  
4 Bed 3.5 Bath 3,007± Sq Ft 0.66± Acres  
4oakflat.com







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with 5 offers

Coveted Trail Neighborhood home close to town with updated kitchen, pool and lush yard.  
Represented buyers.



327 Calle La Mesa, Moraga  
Sold for \$1,250,000

with 3 offers

Campolindo rancher with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, and flat yard. Great area and location.  
Represented sellers.



501 Bavarian Court, Lafayette  
Sold for \$1,550,000

with 7 offers

Burton Valley stunner with remodeled kitchen, beautiful yard and good trail access.  
Represented buyers.



Off-Market in Glorietta, Orinda  
Sold for \$1,800,000

Four-bedroom home set on more than 1/2 acre with lawn, bocce ball and outdoor kitchen in a sought-after neighborhood.  
Represented buyers.

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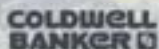
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Impressive Orinda custom craftsman brings the outside in! This fabulous family home has beautiful oversized and well positioned windows showcasing the surrounding oak trees and natural wooded setting. Don't miss the expansive bonus room with wet bar that provides additional & functional living space. Storage galore in this splendid home! You must see this home to appreciate its beauty!

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## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

# Prep a picnic or pool party



Photos Cynthia Brian

**A tray with colorful plastic glasses, cool sunglasses, and the cocktail recipe are ready for the pool party.**

**By Cynthia Brian**

*“There are few things so pleasant as a picnic eaten in perfect comfort.” – W. Somerset Maugham*

Perhaps because I practiced interior design as a professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers for 25 years, or perhaps because my gardener mother always created gorgeous, casual and delicious summer gatherings, my style of summer outdoor entertaining has always included color, surprises and fun. With the lovely warm weather, whether it's throwing a blanket on the deck for an impromptu picnic or setting a stunning table for a themed get-together, dining alfresco is my preferred approach to feeding my guests.

My cues arrive in collaboration between my interior and exterior spaces. Since I designed my garden to be an extension of my home, the out-

door eating areas complement the kitchen creating an inviting flow from my interior décor to the garden rooms. Creating this sense of serenity and continuity is as significant to the outside of the home as it is to the inside. Before I plan my menu or my decorations, I meander around my garden spaces, investigating what flowers will be blooming during the fete and what fruits and vegetables will be ready for harvesting. I want to know what scents, textures, lighting, and colors will be on display on that particular day or evening. Once I've taken a few photos and made notes, the party planning begins.

The goal is to always serve a menu filled with fresh, homegrown ingredients that honor the colors of the rainbow. Whatever is ripe in my garden at the moment will star in the meal. If I didn't grow it, I'll purchase what's in season from a local fruit stand or farmers' market. Tomatoes, beets, arugula, carrots, peppers, eggplant, corn, cucumbers, watermelon, peaches, nectarines, tangerines, apricots, cherries, apples and eggs are a few of my normal staples that will inspire not only the carte du jour, but my tablecloths, floral arrangements, and tableware.

If it's a pool party, sturdy yet pretty shimmering plastic ware is essential as bringing glass near a swimming area is a major no-no. Making sure the lounge chairs have fluffy beach towels, the fountains are spouting or gurgling, and the planters are filled with colorful combinations of annuals are part of designing an inviting setting that encourages the guests to grab a drink, relax, and inhale the fresh air.

For a picnic on the lawn, experiment with an edible arrangement of herbs that can flavor the picnic fare served on paper plates. Basil, thyme, rosemary, mint, sage, lovage, calendula and nasturtium are starters. Setting up a game of croquet offers a sense of play and recreation. For a more formal party, covering chairs with a gauzy material and fashioning a more extravagant centerpiece with roses or peonies adds elegance to the occasion. Besides serving wine, beer or other beverages, consider crafting an original cocktail to get the festivities rolling.

Here's a refreshing summer garden cocktail that I concocted for a girlfriend's birthday that is both luscious and appealing. Measure according to your liking.



**Make your pool resort-like with fountains, urns filled with flowers, and comfy chaises.**

### **Summer Garden Cocktail (or Mocktail)**

- Muddle together watermelon (including the melon juice) and mint leaves.
- Add the juice of Meyer lemons and limes.
- Stir in a spoonful of honey.
- Pour into a pitcher with equal parts sparkling water and ginger ale.
- Add tequila or your favorite alcohol. (Eliminate the alcohol for a mocktail)
- Stir and pour over crushed ice into glasses rimmed with salt.
- Garnish with a spring of mint and piece of melon on a tiny toothpick umbrella.

... continued on Page D15



**Paella cooking on the outdoor grill is a crowd pleaser.**



## Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

### ORINDA

- 75 Barbara Road, \$1,460,000, 2 Bdrms, 1796 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 06-03-19,  
Previous Sale: \$720,000, 03-05-13
- 228 Camino Sobrante, \$1,561,000, 3 Bdrms, 1929 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 06-13-19
- 226 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,260,000, 3 Bdrms, 1686 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 06-12-19
- 46 Hacienda Circle, \$2,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2604 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 06-11-19
- 38 Ivy Drive, \$1,075,000, 3 Bdrms, 1896 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 06-07-19,  
Previous Sale: \$865,000, 08-13-14
- 67 Loma Vista Drive, \$1,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 2266 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 06-07-19,  
Previous Sale: \$855,000, 10-18-12
- 14 Monterey Terrace, \$1,125,000, 5 Bdrms, 6030 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 06-10-19,  
Previous Sale: \$3,461,500, 04-25-14
- 121 Oak Road, \$1,795,000, 4 Bdrms, 3200 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 06-13-19,  
Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 09-27-06
- 9 Oak Arbor Road, \$2,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 4542 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 06-14-19
- 14 Ramona Drive, \$2,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 2872 SqFt, 2005 YrBlt, 06-11-19,  
Previous Sale: \$475,000, 04-20-98
- 91 Scenic Drive, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2445 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 06-05-19,  
Previous Sale: \$925,000, 04-16-18
- 129 Spring Road, \$990,000, 3 Bdrms, 1252 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 06-04-19,  
Previous Sale: \$950,000, 05-03-17
- 98 Underhill Road, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1849 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 06-11-19
- 20 Via Callados, \$1,412,000, 4 Bdrms, 2244 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 06-11-19,  
Previous Sale: \$336,000, 01-01-88

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**3024 Bradbury Drive in Burton Valley Lafayette.  
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**1780 Whitman Road Concord.  
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## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for August

**STAY** hydrated. Drink lots of water, don't do garden chores in the extreme heat, and keep sports drinks on hand.

**BE** fire safe. Read how to landscape your garden to be more fire-resistant.  
<https://blog.voiceamerica.com/2019/05/21/firescaping-for-survival/>

**STAKE** gladiolus as they tend to be top-heavy and fall over.

**DEADHEAD** roses and other perennials to keep the blooms coming.

**CLEAN** pruning shears with alcohol after each use.

**CONTINUE** weeding. Make sure to cut any dry, tall grass.

**HARVEST** fruit and vegetables in the morning for best flavor and nutrition. A few of the fruits and vegetables that are currently ripe are plums, peaches, apples, melons, tomatoes, cucumbers, beets, beans, corn, carrots and zucchini.

**PICK** up any fruit that has fallen on the ground to prevent rodents, raccoons, turkeys, and other critters from invading your garden.

**ENCOURAGE** herb growth by pinching the tips. Use the cuttings in your recipes.

**MULCH** your garden to retain moisture and keep roots cool. Do not use gorilla hair as it is highly flammable. Keep all mulches moist.

**SOW** seeds of brassicas including cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, and kohlrabi for an autumn harvest.

**PLAN** now for autumn planting.

**WATER** plantings in containers daily, if needed. The heat dries out pots quickly.

**ORDER** spring-flowering bulbs from catalogs including tulips, Dutch iris, daffodils, woodland hyacinths, and whatever else grabs your attention.

**PLAN** a picnic party. Re-live your summer camp frolics. Casual or upscale, the fun begins outdoors.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing!



Stake gladiolus when they get top heavy.



Comfortable lounge chairs under umbrellas for shade in the loggia.



Turn outdoor dining into an elegant affair with gauzy fabrics and formal floral displays.



... continued from Page D12

Don't forget the kids!

Make mocktails. When the three or four generations of our extended family gather, the little ones get excited shouting, "picnic party, picnic party." We'll paint faces, run around blowing bubbles, climb through nylon tunnels, splash in the pool, and dance to silly songs. A big mat or cloth is spread on the grass or the deck with platters of finger foods. The kids happily dive in for the feast.

String lights, candles in jars, patio heaters, and your favorite tunes all add to the comfort and contentment. Nothing is ever perfect. There will be spills, breaks, trampled flowers, bug bites, and burnt barbecue. But that's the splendor and unpredictability of partying in the garden. As Erasmus said, "No party is any fun unless seasoned with folly."

Enjoy the dazzling days and easy evenings of summer with a picnic or pool party. Kick off your shoes, slather on the sunscreen, don your sunglasses, and chill out. Summer is a time to slow down to appreciate being outside surrounded by nature.



Kids enjoy a picnic party on the deck with a patio heater for warmth, face painting, and finger foods.



Cynthia Brian preparing the meal including roasted nectarines for a casual picnic pool party.

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).

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## ORINDA



New Listing

### 29 Camino Del Monte

Mid-Century modern, 3 bed/ 2 bath, approx 1782 sq ft on 1.5 acres. First time on market in over 55 years. Great location!

\$750,000

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 11 La Espiral

Mid-Century style and functionality set on a .55 acre knoll; privacy, gorgeous vegetation and a waterfall.

\$1,120,000

## ORINDA



### 76 La Cuesta

Nestled on a private knoll at the edge of Orindawoods. Numerous upgrades, perfect for entertaining.

\$1,159,000

## ORINDA



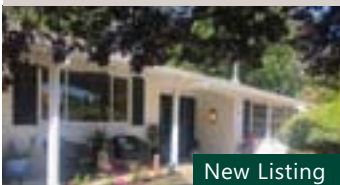
New Listing

### 15 Crescent Drive

One of a kind modern home, with an open floor plan, is full of natural light, and features high ceilings and large windows.

\$1,250,000

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 19 Hillcrest Drive

Desirable Glorietta Neighborhood! Opportunity abounds for one level living on a street of renovated homes.

\$1,299,000

## ORINDA

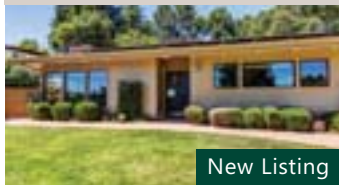


### 54 Hazel Tree Ridge

Turn-key home only a half mile from BART! This upscale home built in 2014 offers community and convenience.

\$1,495,000

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 39 Las Vegas Road

Light filled Mid-Century 3 bed, 2 bath, views, a sparkling pool, high ceilings, hardwoods & updated kitchen.

\$1,495,000

## ORINDA



### 11 Hacienda Circle

Gorgeous home with classic character and stylish open floor plan. Ideal for entertaining.

\$1,595,000

## ORINDA



### 19 Donald Drive

Serene 3297 sq ft garden oasis with panoramic views, luxurious interiors and numerous meditative retreats.

\$1,795,000

## ORINDA



### 11 Crestview Court

Bold modern Mediterranean inspired villa. Ideal for privacy and luxury. Open floor plan, views.

\$1,995,000

## ORINDA



### 48 Oak Drive

Elegant 4 bed/ 3.5 bath two level new construction home with remarkable views from terrace decks.

\$2,765,000

## ORINDA

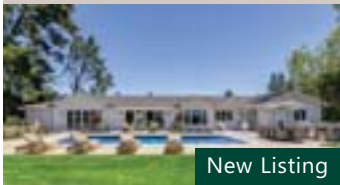


### 3 Honey Hill Court

Gracious gated estate, sweeping lawns, sports court, on a close-in cul-de-sac. Privacy and views.

\$2,795,000

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 57 Charles Hill Road

A SpringHill Homes masterpiece! Open, tranquil & luxurious, 5 bed, 5 bath, + 2 half baths & an open floorplan.

\$4,395,000

## LAFAYETTE



### 110 Camelia Lane

Happy Valley beauty with modern kitchen, remodeled baths and 3088 sq ft of living space.

\$1,575,000

## MORAGA

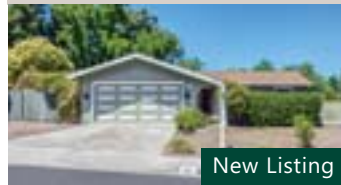


### 218 Willowbrook Lane

Beautifully designed 4 bed/ 4.5 bath. Dramatic entry, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors.

\$2,095,000

## WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

### 30 Aleman Court

Excellent opportunity in Larkey Park neighborhood! 3 Bed, 2 Bath open floorplan, vaulted ceilings.

\$725,000

## The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby  
Patricia Battersby  
Shannon Conner  
Meara Dunsmore

Linda Ehrich  
Emily Estrada

Joan Evans  
Linda Friedman  
Dexter Honens II

Anne Knight  
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April Matthews  
Hillary Murphy

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John Nash

Altie Schmitt  
Judy Schoenrock

Ann Sharf  
Amy Rose Smith

Molly Smith  
Jeff Snell

Lynda Snell  
Steve Stahle

Clark Thompson  
Angie Evans Traxinger

Ignacio Vega  
Ann Ward

Jenny Lyons Wilhite  
Margaret Zucker

**Village**  
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