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Back row, from left: Matthew, Les, Brett, and Executive Director Daniel Hogue; front row: Heather, Cat, Emma and Susan. Photo Pippa Fisher

Las Trampas state-of-the-art facility planned

By Pippa Fisher

There's excitement in the air on the Las Trampas campus, tucked away by the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail. Participants and staff alike are getting ready for big changes as they prepare to tear down the dated structure and build a new, state-of-the-art campus to better serve the most vulnerable in the community, breaking ground by

late fall. If walking into the current, dated building is like taking a step back to the 1960s, that's because, in fact, it is exactly that. The campus evolved and grew out of a 1958 ranch house serving children with severe disabilities. Currently Las Trampas serves the needs of 70 day participants aged 22 years and older with moderate to profound intellectual and developmental disabilities, with 15 in wheelchairs. Some live with caregivers, others in residential

homes with 24-hour supervision, and others under supported and independent living services. The building on the 2.5-acre lot on Lana Lane is inadequate on many levels, even beyond the visibly peeling paint and obvious disrepair. It is not ADA compliant. Doorways are narrow and difficult for wheelchairs. There is barely any space for the many buses that drop off each day. They are limited in the number of individuals they can accept and have a significant waitlist. ... continued on Page A11

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Scandal rocks Moraga Community Foundation

By Vera Kochan

Moraga Community Foundation announced in a Sept. 6 press release a potential embezzlement scheme perpetrated by F. Robert Fritzky while serving as MCF's treasurer. Fritzky, a founding MCF board member, was nominated and elected into the treasurer's position. After an MCF document review, the foundation alleged that Fritzky began diverting funds into his personal checking account in June of 2016, well before his wife, Jeanette Fritzky, was diagnosed with lung cancer in July 2018. The MCF press release noted that Fritzky "also diverted MCF monies to a bank account belonging to MedMaxRx, LLC, his pharmaceutical consulting firm based in Mor-

aga. He also wrote numerous checks to the Jeanette Fritzky Foundation, a purported non-profit charity founded in November 2018 following the untimely death of his wife, former Moraga Town Council Member Jeanette Fritzky, in September 2018." During a recent board meeting, Fritzky reported that the MCF Mechanics Bank account contained over \$140,000 rather than the roughly \$9,000 it currently contains. He did so with a printed monthly financial report, which MCF now knows to have been fabricated. Fritzky was replaced as treasurer by Wendy Schreck, who is also the associate publisher of Lamorinda Weekly, during the July MCF board meeting, in which MCF elected a new set of board members. Schreck, in the following weeks,

requested all bank and financial records from Fritzky in order to perform her duties as newly elected treasurer. Her requests were stalled or ignored by Fritzky. Schreck was finally able to access MCF bank account information on Aug. 29. According to the MCF press release, "A review of the transactions revealed that Mr. Fritzky had written 53 checks from the MCF bank account totaling more than \$220,000 which were deposited in three other bank accounts controlled by him. "We have also reviewed bank records appearing to confirm that Fritzky forged the signature of another MCF director on nine checks in order to get around the \$5,000 cap on his check writing authority. The total loss to MCF on these

checks is in excess of \$61,000." Fritzky is also alleged to have made numerous electronic transactions from the MCF account in order to pay for personal expenses which were not authorized by the MCF board of directors. The Moraga Police Department was contacted on Aug. 29, the same day that the unauthorized transactions were discovered, and search warrants were served at Fritzky's home and business. Due to the nature of the allegations the United States Treasury Department has become involved. Moraga Police Chief Jon King stated, "They are the lead agency. We are continuing to work with them." The MCF also states there is a second MCF account with Union Bank that is currently being examined to determine

the extent of fraudulent activity. At this time, it appears that Fritzky wire transferred MCF funds totaling \$53,282.99 into his MedMaxRx account at First Republic Bank. Included in this activity are ATM cash withdrawals and payments for personal expenses such as credit card bills and travel expenses, which were discovered by a review of bank records. His alleged embezzlement from the Union Bank account at this point exceeds \$100,000 for 2017 alone. In the process of taking steps to recover all of the funds, MCF has learned that Fritzky had filed for bankruptcy twice. The first time was in 2010, and most recently on May 19, one day before his home was scheduled for a foreclosure auction. ... continued on Page A10

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Safety of 40-foot section of exposed pipeline in Briones questioned



The exposed, high-pressure PG&E pipeline near the Springhill neighborhood is unsupported at each end and sags mid-span.

By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette's recently formed Gas Safety Task Force has become aware of an exposed, 40-foot section of high transmission pipeline, which it says poses a "significant and imminent threat" in a populated, high fire risk area; pipeline that the Pacific Gas & Electric Company says is safe.

The task force was formed this year by residents concerned about safety, to work in an alliance with the city, PG&E and the California Public Utilities Commission following work done by grassroots group Save Lafayette Trees, which objected to PG&E's plans to remove hundreds of trees as part of its statewide Community Pipeline Safety Initiative – an initiative SLT calls unnecessary.

The PG&E pipeline in question, serving all of Lafayette, Moraga and parts of Walnut Creek, according to the task force, lies close to the

Buckeye Ranch Trail, near the Girl Scout Camp at the end of Springhill Road in Briones Regional Park. It lies across an eroding creek bank, with trees looming over the pipe in an area where other trees have recently fallen.

"Aside from the potential of falling trees, the span seems unsupported at either end with a slight sag mid-span," say GSTF members Michael and Gina Dawson in an email Sept. 5 to the city council. "The area where the pipeline emerges from the soil is eroding. There is coating damage with bare steel exposed to atmospheric conditions and the span is in a high fire zone."

PG&E says the pipeline is safe. An email statement from PG&E spokesperson Tamar Sarkissian on Sept. 11 reads, "The safety of our customers and the communities that we serve is PG&E's most important responsibility. The pipeline in Briones Regional Park is safe."

However, a letter dated

Sept. 13 from Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Deputy Fire Chief Aaron McAlister to PG&E expresses the fire district's concern following an evaluation of the situation.

McAlister notes the district's specific worries concern the pipeline's location, open to the public and immediately adjacent to a public access area, saying that "I am concerned that a person could use the pipe as a walkway adding weight to the pipe and causing further degradation of its strength and integrity." The district is concerned too with the potential for wild land fire, and the possibility for seismic activity in the area further threaten-

ing the integrity of the pipe. ... continued on Page A11



Photos provided

Appraisal of Boswell's site approved for city offices consideration



Photo Pippa Fisher

The old Boswell's store, currently occupied by the temporary Halloween store until Nov. 5, is an ideal location for new city offices.

By Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette City Council is moving forward cautiously

with an appraisal of the former Boswell's property to look into the feasibility of purchasing the site for city offices.

Administrative Services Director Tracy Robinson reminded the council that in 2017 council members Mark Mitchell and Cam Burks had formed a subcommittee to study a number of potential sites on which permanent city offices could be located and had identified the Boswell's site as being the most appropriate, especially given its size and location between the library and the police station. At the time, however, the owner was not interested in selling.

With the closure of Boswell's earlier this year a new subcommittee consisting of Burks and Vice Mayor Susan Candell was formed. Candell has been talking to the owners who have expressed an interest in selling now "for the right price."

Robinson warned that it would be a lengthy process to completion, even after the purchase of the property, should it go ahead.

Public comment on the item favored the purchase, especially if the city were en-

couraged to "think outside the box" and look for ways to also incorporate some sort of community center as well.

With the item back to the council for discussion, Burks said he is now questioning the wisdom of committing \$5 million or more at this time. "It doesn't seem pertinent to me to even consider it down the road ... if we're in a situation which is tantamount to a crisis because of litigation costs that we're up against," he said, referring to the multiple legal cases in which the city is currently embroiled.

Furthermore, Burks said that he respectfully asks to be removed from the subcommittee.

Although all echoed Burks' concern about spending, and applauded his fiscally conservative thoughts, the other four council members all agreed they could support moving forward at least with the appraisal for now, costing up to \$15,000. The vote passed four to one.

Mayor Mike Anderson pointed out this is a very long-term process and said that the city needs to get the appraisal. "We need that baseline information to have the conversation," he said.

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Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council
Monday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings
Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

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

Design Review
Monday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Lafayette School District
Wednesday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Stanley M.S. Library
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

City council recognizes LPIE past president



Photo Jeff Heyman, City of Lafayette

Lisa Spiegler with Lafayette Mayor Mike Anderson

Mayor Mike Anderson recognized past president of Lafayette Partners in Education Lisa Spiegler with a proclamation at the Sept. 9 city council meeting.

Anderson noted that during the last cycle of fundraising under Spiegler, LPIE managed to raise \$4.4 million, which was \$750,000 more than last year and a quarter of a million more than the goal for the year.

Spiegler thanked the team of LPIE administrators and teachers along with parents, the community and schools, and noted this first year of a

new consolidated giving campaign funding model, which streamlines the process and allows for more transparency, was a huge success. She said that fundraising was at its highest ever, overall participation is up, they have more business partners and visibility has increased.

Spiegler said, "I'm proud to live in a community that values public education and local control, and is willing to step in when state dollars fall short and costs continue to rise."

- P. Fisher

City council meeting gets off to a harmonious start



Photo Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette City Council and members of the public were treated to a performance by talented musician John Kiskaddon before the council meeting Sept. 9 with a half hour of jazz. Kiskaddon and his wife, Terry, own Harper Green, the boutique clothing store in downtown Lafayette. The council invites residents

to perform prior to its meetings several times a year.

Kiskaddon studied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and is a graduate of the Berklee College of Music in Boston.

- P. Fisher



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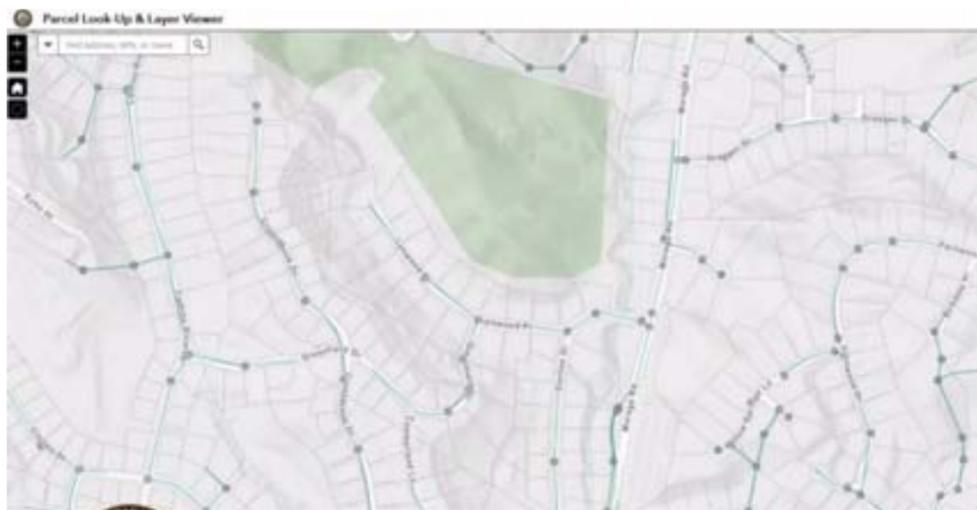
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Geographic Information System halfway to completion



Example of GIS Storm Drain mapping and manhole covers for use by public works

By Vera Kochan

The ease of looking up neighborhood map information via the internet is fast approaching for the town of Moraga in the form of the Geographic Information System.

During a status update of the three-year project at the Sept. 11 town council meeting, Planning Director Derek Farmer was excited to preview for council members some of the GIS capabilities. Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg explained that the

project was funded due to the \$55,000 savings in salary due to the vacancy of an assistant planner position. Placeworks, the same firm that is at the helm of the Moraga Center Specific Plan meetings and design scenarios, is behind setting up Moraga's

GIS. The project's goal is to provide easily accessible property and infrastructure information to town staff and the community while building on layers from public works and the planning departments.

Some of the data layers currently available through the system are: land parcels; zoning; general plan use, emergency routes; roads; traffic collisions, scenic corridors; parks and trails; ADA ramps; earthquake faults; landslides; wildfire threats and more.

The GIS provides for the layering of information, which will help the town make decisions, increasing efficiency and transparency, because much of the information will be easily available to residents. However, for security and privacy reasons, not every aspect will be available to the public.

Advantages to town staff and the public are the web-based tools to access the town's data, such as property information, map printing,

overlay data, ability to place comments and run queries, conduct analysis and export data.

Residents will be able to access the GIS by going to the town's website home page and clicking onto the GIS/Mapping Tool located under Quick Links.

While the project has reached the halfway mark, yet to come is staff training for utilization purposes, the planning projects public application, the public works public application and a development of a maintenance plan to ensure data and applications are kept up to date.

Council Member Steve Woehleke was concerned about cybercrimes and how the system will be protected from either being erased or from unauthorized access. It was explained that the system is housed on Esri, an international supplier of GIS software widely recognized for keeping their sites secure.

Cattle do their part to keep the town safe during fire season



Mulholland Ridge Open Space Preserve

Photo Lamo archives

By Vera Kochan

The 260-acre Mulholland Ridge Open Space Preserve area has seen cattle grazing on it since the late 1970s. John Hoover's cattle have used the property for buffets even after the town acquired the land in 1999, through a right of entry agreement between the town of Moraga and Hoover, which originated in 2006.

The original lease agreement was for three years and was extended, in 2009, for an additional five. In 2014, another five-year agreement was executed.

In this age of rampant wildfire threats, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District has requested residents to voluntarily trim their yards free of any flammable grass, weeds and trees that could ignite during the upcoming fire season. The cattle are doing their part in the abatement effort by reducing fire fuel, thereby increasing hazard mitigation to the town-owned property and nearby residents.

Over the past five years, Moraga has collected \$13,155.28 through the lease agreement. During the Sept.

11 town council meeting, the members voted unanimously to extend the agreement for another five years into 2024, when the town will have collected nearly \$14,000 based on the Annual Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

During the town council meeting, Vice Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus asked Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt if the town was getting a good rate on the lease agreement. Brandt replied, "It's a good situation in that it's a win-win for the tenant and the town. The cattle grazing obviously does a lot of good on the land. We've had recent conversations as we've explored cattle grazing on the Orinda side."

Brandt added, "We've talked to Orinda over the past month or two and they're exploring similar terms on their portion of Mulholland, and similarly John Muir Land Trust has been looking into it. So, we've been talking more about cattle grazing over the last few months than we have probably in years past and the amount seems appropriate."

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Town Council
 Wednesday, Sept. 25, 7 p.m. regular meeting
 Tuesday, Sept 24, 6 p.m. special meeting
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room,
 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission
 Tuesday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Park and Recreation Commission
 Tuesday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Moraga School District Board Meetings
 Thursday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2



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Two scenarios for town development offered at MCSP meeting



Photo Vera Kochan

Moraga Center Specific Plan Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting No. 2

By Vera Kochan

The Citizens Advisory Committee held its second meeting concerning the Moraga Center Specific Plan on Sept. 4 at Saint Mary's College. The Orinda Room at the Soda Center was chosen in order to accommodate an anti-

pated large public crowd, due to the amount of chatter on social media, but the large crowd never materialized.

David Early from Placeworks, a community design firm, took the helm for the evening's presentation of two scenarios. He once again reminded CAC members,

"The job here is to advise only. The property owners are not bound by any scenarios."

The MCSP has a wide variety of developmental potential: retail and entertainment space of 90,000 square feet; focused office space of 50,000 square feet; bed and

breakfast/boutique hotel with 85 rooms; assisted living/congregate care with 150 rooms; active senior with 300 units; single-family dwellings of 65 units; workforce housing with 100 units and compact single-family dwellings of 165 units.

Placeworks made it clear that the two scenarios represent possibilities and are not actual development proposals. Scenario No.1 has a hillside residential focus. Housing would be developed northwest of Laguna Creek. Moraga Center would see a revitalization with new gathering spots. Buildings would see a 2- to 3-foot upper story setback. A pedestrian trail would be located northwest of the creek with the creek bridge being pedestrian-only. Scenic corridor setbacks on Moraga Way and Moraga Road come in at 40 feet and a hotel would be located at Moraga Ranch and along the interior of the site on School Street.

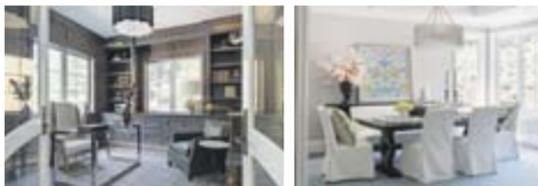
Scenario No. 2 focuses housing in a mixed-use core with new retail shops and gathering spots along School Street. Buildings would see 8-foot upper story setbacks. A pedestrian trail would run

southeast of the creek with a mixed vehicle and pedestrian bridge. The scenic corridor setbacks along Moraga Way and Moraga Road would be 20 feet and a hotel would be located at the intersection of School Street and Moraga Way extending into Moraga Ranch.

There were concerns from CAC members regarding the preservation of old buildings such as Moraga Ranch; and while there is no historic landmark classification attributed to the ranch, many said they would hate to see its demise.

Another suggestion was whether these or comparable scenarios were successful in similar communities and if it would be possible to list the pros and cons of each scenario.

The third CAC meeting, scheduled at 6:30 p.m. at the SMC Rheem Campus, 380 Moraga Rd., will have the members working in groups to explore the discussion topics in greater detail and report back areas of agreement and differences. Additional groups for members of the public will also be formed.



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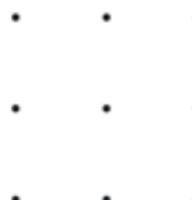
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Garbage rates to rise as recyclables market falls

By Sora O'Doherty

Although the news that garbage rates will rise because China and other countries have stopped taking in U.S. materials for recycling might be regarded as bad by some, Orinda Mayor Inga Miller sees a silver lining. She sees it as an opportunity to ask two questions: how can we do our own recycling in the U.S. using clean methods that are allowed? And how can we stop generating so much waste? She explained that it used to be profitable for China to take recycling materials from the U.S. because there were so many shipping containers that return to China empty. But as China has grown economically, the country no longer wanted to take in "dirty" materials. Miller says that Orinda materials are very clean and of good quality. "Let's recycle here, or reuse," she suggests. Miller also pointed to current legis-

lation in Sacramento to make plastic producers more responsible.

According to RecycleSmart, the first rate adjustment related to changes in the recycling markets will take effect in March. There will be a second rate adjustment in March of 2021. No further adjustments related to changes in the markets are anticipated for the remaining term of the agreement with Mt. Diablo Recycling, which runs until 2025, except for cost-of-living adjustments. Rate adjustments are projected to be modest, likely no more than a total of a few dollars a month per household. These estimates are based on a single-family dwelling using a 32-gallon cart and are in line with adjustments other communities are experiencing.

The rate increases come out of a settlement with Mt. Diablo Recycling. RecycleSmart has a franchise agreement with MDR under which

MDR pays for each ton of recyclables. This agreement was unique in how favorable it has been for the community. More than a year ago, MDR explained that it is not viable for the company to fulfill the existing terms of its agreement with RecycleSmart. RecycleSmart's outside independent consultant validated the adverse effects of changes in the recycling market. RecycleSmart – represented by outside special counsel Tamara Galanter at Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP – and MDR engaged in mediation with an outside third party to help come to the settlement.

RecycleSmart believes the settlement is the best outcome because it caps fee increases related to changes in the recycling market at a modest amount for the next five years and avoids the cost and uncertainty of litigation. "The recycling fees we will be paying are much lower than what most other juris-

dictions are paying and less than we would pay if we tried to contract with a new recycling company right now. And the settlement will allow us to continue to comply with state law and its requirement to keep recyclables out of landfills," according to RecycleSmart.

RecycleSmart says that its customers are already doing a great job at recycling and are among the best recyclers in the state. Over 60% of the waste stream is being recycled, but to be better recyclers, it says, customers need to keep their recyclables clean. The company has asked customers to take a few extra steps to keep their recycling clean – a challenge when all materials are going into the same blue cart. An Empty, Clean and Dry campaign is seeking to assist and remind customers that taking those few extra steps will make a huge difference in helping to ensure a longer life cycle for materials.

Government and private citizens striving for inclusivity in Orinda



By Sora O'Doherty

In recent weeks, in response to a growing number of incidents in the country, as well as in Contra Costa County and the city of Orinda, people are acting to encourage inclusivity and diversity in the community, and to discourage any acts of discrimination or intimidation.

On Sept. 3, the city council

unanimously adopted a proclamation supporting inclusivity and diversity in the city. The proclamation, signed by Mayor Inga Miller, reaffirms that the communities shared values of compassion, inclusion, respect, and dignity, and bolsters its commitment to building an environment, and a community, in which everyone is valued and everyone has the

opportunity to thrive. The proclamation ends with an invitation for citizens to likewise affirm these values of inclusion.

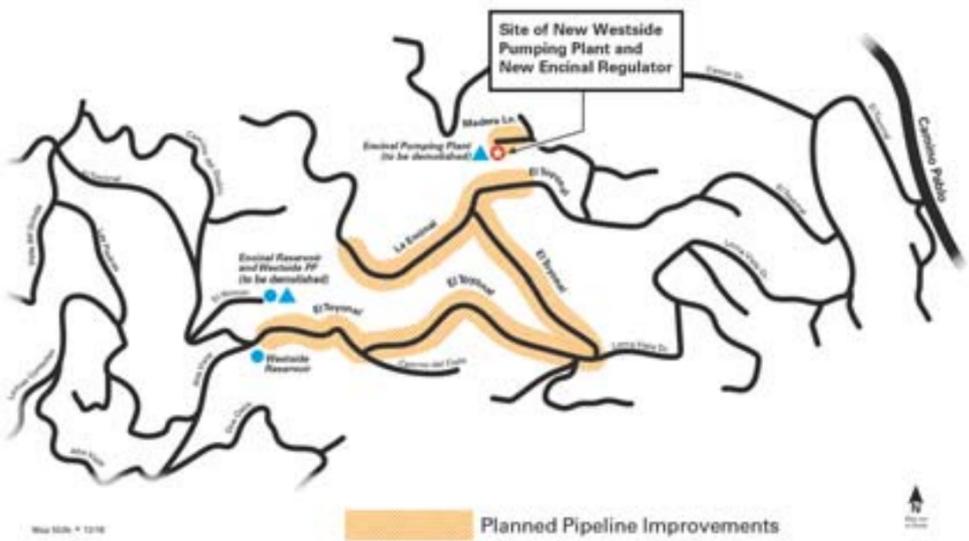
According to Shannon Pedroni, a group of Orinda residents has started a grassroots campaign to promote inclusivity and diversity within the community. The actions taken by the group include asking business owners to display window signs that say "Everyone is welcome here, everyone belongs." Pedroni said that the campaign was set off after a recent incident in which a Muslim Orinda resident and local pediatrician was allegedly pushed and subjected to a hateful exchange by another customer in an Orinda store, in front of her young son. This incident was a culminating event atop other incidents that underrepresented minority groups have experienced, including recent anti-

LGBTQ flyers delivered to local sporting events and schools.

After the Orinda store incident was shared with neighbors and friends, concerned community members pulled together to organize support for making it clear in Orinda that everyone is welcome here and there is no place for hate, Pedroni said. At the same time, Orinda residents Pedroni, Nazia Sheriff, Sharon McGinnis-Girdlestone and Rebecca Verity approached the Orinda City Council to discuss ways in which the city of Orinda could support inclusivity and diversity. Pedroni said that the grassroots group of concerned residents applauds and appreciates the city council for adopting the proclamation and looks forward to collaborating with the city on more ways to promote community, diversity and inclusion.

To read the full proclamation online in the Orinda City Council Sept. 3 agenda packet, visit <http://orindaca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Board/1000-City-Council>

EBMUD work to bring months of disruption to El Toyonal area



By Sora O'Doherty

East Bay Municipal Utility District work in the El Toyonal/La Encinal area of Orinda will require several years to complete, and will cause partial road closures for months at a time. EBMUD Pipeline Engineer Dustin La Valee and Community Affairs officer Kathryn Horn came to the Sept. 3 Orinda City Council meeting to explain the project to the council and the public.

The project is known as the Westside Pumping Plant Replacement Project. It is being undertaken to improve facility reliability and operations efficiency, improve maintenance accessibility, replace pipelines at high risk for failure and to provide im-

proved water flow for community firefighting by upsizing pipelines. EBMUD will replace critical aging water distribution facilities that have reached the end of their useful lives to increase system reliability and operating efficiency, and to improve water quality operations.

According to Horn, construction is scheduled to begin in March, beginning with pipeline construction, which is expected to be completed in March 2021. Construction of the pumping plant replacement is expected to run from 2021 to 2023.

The pipe work will start on La Encinal, which is a private road. Because La Encinal is so narrow, Horn said it makes sense for EBMUD, which is required to pay to

repair a road to its existing condition, to do a full repaving at its expense.

EBMUD will do a 2-inch grind and full repaving of the road, but residents should note that this may occur 30 days after the completion of the pipe work. Once the work begins, La Encinal will be closed between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Residents will have access during the closure. A designated parking area and pedestrian access will be provided, as well as shuttling for residents. Emergency vehicle access must be accommodated during all road closures.

The pipe work on El Toyonal between Alta Vista and Loma Vista will require road closure to through traffic, although residents will be ac-

commodated. That portion of the work is currently scheduled to begin after school ends on May 30, and EBMUD is hoping to complete the work before school begins again in the fall. If it cannot complete the work, EBMUD will adjust the work schedule to accommodate school hours. Projected closure hours for El Toyonal from May 30 through Aug. 12 will be 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Any work done before May 30 or after Aug. 12 will be limited to between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The conditions of access for residents and emergency vehicles will be the same as for La Encinal. El Toyonal will also be fully repaved, but EBMUD will share the cost proportionally with the city of Orinda.

The La Encinal and El Toyonal portion of the project includes the installation of 6,800 feet of 12-inch pipes to replace smaller pipes. Approximately 300 feet of new 2-inch pipeline will be installed in Madera Lane from Vallecito Lane to 6 Madera Lane. EBMUD hopes to complete this portion of the project in 2021.

The project also includes replacing the existing 0.5-million-gallon-per-day Encinal Pumping Plant and 0.3-MGD Westside Pumping Plant with a new 0.6-MGD Westside Pumping Plant. According to the EBMUD website, the new Westside Pumping Plant will be constructed at 4 Madera

Lane, the site of the existing Encinal Pumping Plant. The Encinal Pumping Plant will be demolished. At 20 El Rincon, both the existing Westside Pumping Plant and the existing 0.2-million-gallon redwood Encinal Reservoir will be demolished. The Encinal Reservoir will be replaced with a new Encinal Regulator, to be housed within the new Westside Pumping Plant.

According to Horn, the existing Westside Reservoir holds enough water to meet the water storage needs of both the Westside and Encinal Pressure Zones, making removal of the Encinal Reservoir possible. Removing excess storage will increase water quality by increasing water turnover and reducing water age.

Construction of replacement pipelines will take place with the existing pipelines still in service. Short shutdowns and minimal interruptions in water service will occur when new pipelines are connected to existing pipelines and when service laterals are transferred from the existing to the new pipelines. Crews will notify residents, in person or with a door hanger, regarding any planned water service interruption.

After a service interruption, there may be air in the pipes that may loosen particles in home plumbing, and EBMUD will provide residents with specific steps to clear pipes at that time.

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Orinda Public Works staff honored at regional level

By Sora O'Doherty

Two members of Orinda's staff were honored at the annual meeting of the American Public Works Association, Northern California Chapter.

Reuben Gerck was the winner of the Staff of the Year/Public Rights-of-Way award. It was noted that, in addition to receiving numerous accolades from the residents that resulted in multiple customer service awards, Gerck also received the Mayor's Award of Excellence in recognition of his dedication and sacrifice during the Miner Road sinkhole emergency.

Jason Chen, senior civil engineer, was awarded Manager of the Year/Transportation. Chen was recognized as a "strong supporter of transportation improvements to

reduce greenhouse gas emissions from single occupancy vehicles," as well as being "a leading resource in the field of special districts and transportation funding."

Council Member Amy Worth said it is a huge honor to be recognized by their peers in Northern California, and Vice Mayor Darlene Gee exclaimed that she was thrilled to see the awards, and called them "fantastic!"

Mayor Inga Miller said, "It is with great pride that I read about your accomplishments." She praised the staff members for their customer service emphasis and mentioned, in particular, Chen's efforts at greenhouse gas reduction.



Reuben Gerck



Jason Chen

Photos provided



Orinda Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Oct. 1, 7 p.m. Regular Meeting
Library Auditorium, Orinda
Library, 26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda
Library, 26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Orinda Union High School District Board Meetings

Monday, Oct. 7, 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2



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MOFD Station 41 rebuild will not happen this fiscal year

By Nick Marnell

Though its 62-year-old Fire Station 41 was cited for replacement eight years ago, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District will not begin the station reconstruction until the 2021 fiscal year, despite the work having been scheduled for this fiscal year in the latest district long-range financial forecast. Also part of the postponed capital project is the rebuild of the district administrative offices, which sit adjacent to Station 41 on Moraga Way.

The fire station has been

a target for rebuild since 2011, when the district Facilities Committee said the building suffered “health and safety, gender separation, firefighter housing and other deficiencies.” Its report was issued before the approval of the Moraga Town Center Homes project, a development of 36 townhomes under construction next to the MOFD facility.

Because of the proximity of the townhomes to the MOFD training center, which has long been considered marginal for training activities, Fire Chief Dave Win-

nacker looked into not only the fire station rebuild but also station and administrative center relocation. One possibility was a land swap between MOFD and the Moraga School District for property adjacent to Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School for the fire station. But that concept has gone nowhere.

“I brought this matter to the board over a year ago, not to ask permission, rather to ensure that the public was aware two public entities were going to discuss, not negotiate, the possibility of a land swap,” MSD Superinten-

dent Bruce Burns said. “The MOFD chief and I last spoke in January, as I recall, and have had no conversations since. For MSD, and I suspect MOFD, there are far more pressing matters, such as MSD’s reduction of \$1 million in revenue due to an expiring parcel tax and our work to reduce expenses for 2020-21.”

Winnacker concurred that the district has more critical priorities in 2019. “With our limited resources, we are focused on vegetation mitigation and the completion of the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break,” the chief

said.

Admitting that the fire station is on its last legs, the chief said that in fiscal year 2021, the district may be in a better position to rehab Station 41. “It is a district goal,” Winnacker said.

The district estimates \$7 million dollars to rebuild Station 41, and \$1 million for the reconstruction of the administrative center. The last of the five MOFD fire stations to be rebuilt this century will be Station 45 in Orinda, scheduled for a \$5 million facelift in 2022, per the district long range financial plan.

Western Lafayette finally gets its new fire station



Photo Nick Marnell

Traditional “push-in” ceremony for Engine 16 to its new home

By Nick Marnell

After seven years of false starts, delays and frustration, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District formally unveiled its newest and least traditional fire station, western Lafayette’s Fire Station 16, at a Sept. 9 public ceremony.

“Did we ever actually think we’d see this day?” quipped Fire Chief Lewis Broschard to the group of

about 75 officials, dignitaries and residents who attended the midday ceremony at 4007 Los Arabis Drive. “It’s been a long road, and thank you all for enduring this process.”

It took the patience of Lafayette residents and city officials to endure the process, starting with the county closure of the station in 2012. The temporary trailer was removed, the old station was demolished and the reconstruction of the new

building began four years later, but not before many heated meetings between Lafayette officials and fire district management. “When you do anything big that requires change, there can be

difficult moments and hard decisions,” said Traci Reilly, co-chair of the Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force, which grappled with a city threat to detach from ConFire after the Station 16 closure.

Lafayette residents persevered through an on-again, off-again fire station joint venture with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and also frustration with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, which took its time approving the installation of an electric meter and a transformer for the building, citing safety precautions. Only after Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen met with PG&E legal counsel was the station power situation settled.

But Sept. 9 was a day of celebration, as Broschard repeatedly referred to the new station as a fire house, a building where firefighters not only work but sleep, eat, exercise and study. In fact, many said the new station blends into the Lafayette neighborhood as seamlessly as any home on Los Arabis Drive.

“It fits in beautifully, right down to the basic design. It’s

a fantastic addition to the community,” neighborhood resident John Fara said.

As beautiful as the western Lafayette neighborhoods are, they lie within a Cal Fire very high fire hazard severity zone. “Fire Station 16 will also provide a critical early response capability in this especially vulnerable wildland-urban interface area of our county,” Broschard said.

Due to lot size constraints, Fire Station 16 comprises a single apparatus bay and dormitories and support facilities for a three-person firefighting crew; the ideal ConFire station includes a drive-through apparatus bay and room for two vehicles. However, the nonconforming station does not seem to deter employees desiring to work there. “I bid into this station and I can’t wait to move in,” Capt. Vince Wells, president of firefighters union Local 1230, told the crowd.

According to the district, the final cost of Station 16 was \$4.5 million, slightly higher than the \$3.5 million to \$4 million estimate Broschard gave his board in 2016. Firefighters are scheduled to move into the new building by the end of September.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, Sept. 18, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.
Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, Sept. 24, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber Room 107,
Administration Building
651 Pine St., Martinez.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Public Safety

Emergency response:

Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours
925-284-5010

Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com

Lafayette Police Department:

3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
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

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report

Aug. 25 - Sept. 7

Alarms 80
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 17
Traffic 149
Suspicious Circumstances 12
Suspicious Subject 29
Suspicious Vehicle 21
Service to Citizen 48
Patrol Req./Security Check 21
School Assembly Check 10
Vacation House Check 12
Supplemental Report 18
Welfare Check 14

Vehicle violations

Abandoned Vehicle
4100 Block Hidden Valley Rd.
Leland Dr./Old Tunnel Rd.
Sky Hy Dr./Moraga Rd., Mor
Auto Burglary
3300 Block Vaughn Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3200 Block Sweet Dr.
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.
1000 Block Walnut Dr.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Oak Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
Police Department
700 Block Glenside Dr.
Police Department
Pleasant Hill Rd./Stanley Blvd.
Reckless Driving
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.
Reliez Valley Rd./Mcgraw Ln.
Carol Ln./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd.
Moraga Rd./Nephi Ct.
St. Marys Rd./Glenside Dr.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Vehicle Theft
1100 Block Bacon Way
900 Block Sunnybrook Dr.

Other criminal activity

Commercial Burglary
3500 Block School St.
Identity Theft
4000 Block Canyon Dr./Laf
600 Block Doreen Way
Panhandling
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft

4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3400 Block S Silver Springs Rd.
10 Block Lincolnshire Ct.
900 Block S Thompson Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
1000 Block 2Nd St.
3500 Block Brook St.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft Bicycle

900 Block Dewing Ave.
Petty Theft From Veh
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.

Shoplift

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (5)
Threats
900 Block Dewing Ave.

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic
600 Block Glenside Dr.
Disturbance-fight
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1St St.

Disturbing The Peace

3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Drunk In Public
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Music

Soares Ln./Happy Valley Rd.
Quandt Rd./Summit Rd.
Loud Noise
La Canada Rd./Reliez Station Rd. (2)
70 Block Lafayette Cr.
3300 Block Springhill Rd.
1000 Block Carol Ln.

Loud Party

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Public Nuisance
900 Block 1St St.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Upper Happy Valley Rd./El Nido
Ranch Rd.
1000 Block Via Roble

3300 Block Springhill Rd.
Vandalism
3900 Block Canyon Rd.
3400 Block School St. (2)
3300 Block Victoria Ave.

Other

Animal Control Call
St. Marys Rd./Camino Colorados
Animal Cruelty
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dewing Ave.

H&S Violation

Brook St./Moraga Rd.
900 Block East St.

Harassment

3300 Block S Lucille Ln.
Ordinance Violation
Arroyo Ct/Glenside Dr.
800 Block Moraga Rd.

Public Assembly Check

1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. (2)
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Trespass

3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Unwanted Guest
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Violation Custody Order
900 Block Janet Ln.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report

Aug. 27 - Sept. 8

Alarms 16
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 13
Traffic 59
Shoplift 7
Suspicious Circumstances 4
Suspicious Subject 1
Suspicious Vehicle 42
Service to Citizen 33
Patrol Req./Security Check 6
Supplemental Report 4
Vacation House Check 4
Welfare Check 4

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary
300 Block Deerfield Dr.
Excessive Speed
Canyon Rd./Constance Pl.
Home Goods
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr.
Rheem Blvd./Via Barcelona
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. (2)
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd. (3)
Canyon Rd./Larch Ave.
Draeger Dr./Moraga Rd.
Rheem Blvd. At Zander Dr.
Moraga Rd./Kendall Cr.
Rheem Blvd./St. Marys Rd.
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.
Moraga Rd./Al Ta Mesa Dr.

Hit And Run Misdemeanor
2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Reckless Driving
100 Block Cypress Pl.
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.
Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr.
Taco Bell

Other criminal activity

Embezzlement
Police Department
Forgery
Not Available
100 Block Danvilla Ct., Danville

Panhandling

Safeway
Petty Theft
100 Block Brookline
2100 Block Ascot Dr.
TJMaxx

Theft Access Card

Safeway
Nuisance to the Community
Barking Dog
Larch Ave./Shuey Dr.

Disturbance-domestic

Police Department
Loud Music
1600 Block Canyon Rd.
Canyon Club Brewery

Loud Noise

200 Block Corliss Dr.
Loud Party
1900 Block Ascot Dr.
Unwanted Guest
30 Block Miramonte Dr.

Vandalism

20 Block Buckingham Dr.
Starbucks
Vandalism - Felony
30 Block Miramonte Dr.

Other

Accident Property
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.
H&S Violation
Country Club Dr./Viader Dr.

Mentally Ill Commit

10 Block Kendall Cr.
Not Available
Ordinance Violation
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way

Trespass

Moraga Commons
Verbal Dispute
Canyon Club Brewery



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report
Sept. 2 - Sept. 9
Alarms 29

911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 18
Traffic 27
Suspicious Circumstances 2
Suspicious Subject 15
Suspicious Vehicle 7
Service to Citizen 34
Patrol Req./Security Check 10
Vacation House Check 1
Supplemental Report 6
Welfare Check 1

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary
Orinda Country Club
Gateway Blvd./Wilder Rd.
Post Office

Hit And Run Misdemeanor
10 Block Valley Dr.
Private Property Tow
10 Block Orinda Way

Reckless Driving
Camino Sobrante/Orinda Way
Moraga Way/Stein Way
Moraga Way/Orchard Rd.

Other criminal activity

Grand Theft
Miramonte High School (3)
Identity Theft
10 Block Chelton Ct.

Petty Theft
Rite Aid
Eb Sr 24 At Wilder Rd.

Shoplift
Safeway
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
200 Block Crest View Dr.

Drunk In Public
Safeway
Litter
50 Block La Espiral

Loud Music
Big Leaf Rd./Tom Cat Way
Loud Noise
200 Block Glorietta Blvd.

Loud Party
60 Block Brookwood Rd.
Public Nuisance
80 Block Orinda Way

Los Altos Rd./Bobolink Rd.
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.

Other

Accident Property
Bank Of The West
Camino Pablo/Orinda Way
Hall Dr./Rheem Blvd.

Mentally Ill Commit
30 Block Irving Ln.
Revocation Of Probation
Chevron

School Assembly Check
Orinda Intermediate School
Miramonte High School
20 Block El Camino Moraga

Wagner Ranch Elementary
Sleepy Hollow Elementary School

Letters to the editor

Heartfelt thanks from a Stanley student

My name is Nick Dietsch. I am an eighth-grader who and has been attending Stanley Middle School since sixth grade.

When I came back this year, so many students were talking in halls about the new makeover at Stanley. We went through a whole year of construction and couldn't believe what we came back to. I want to thank the people who voted and passed the bond measure because it did so much for all of our schools. I knew that there would be a new building for the eighth-graders but I never came to the conclusion that they were doing a full tune up of the school.

When I say full tune up, I mean it. I was very glad to return to a school with; get ready for this list – TWO new buildings with classes for eighth grade science and history and sixth grade core, a newly resurfaced and painted black top, new monitors in every classroom, stairs leading into the gym, the eighth-grade eating area back was reopened. I couldn't believe all the improvements – there was new concrete in the hallways, a new layout of the office for better safety and access, there is an outdoor team sports courts for P.E., and we found several brand new water fountains.

Most of all, the biggest surprise was that they re-modeled every single student bathroom on campus, for boys and girls. On the first day, I was surprised to see all the changes that they made in terms of the landscapes but the second I walked into the new bathrooms, I was blown out of my mind. There was no smell, no overflowing urinals, no drawings on the walls, and no roof that was falling apart. Now, it is like a whole new world in there.

The furniture in the classrooms is dramatically nicer, more modern and more comfortable. There are high chairs and low chairs which is really convenient for kids who sit in the back. The new desks are movable which makes it a lot easier for changing the layout depending on how we are learning. Since I am a basketball player, I am really appreciative of the new basketball supply because we were so low last year. And it always helps to have a newly paved blacktop to play on. Yet another thing that I love is that the school district finished the construction of the student park and removed the portable.

All of these improvements make me feel better about my school and thank you again to everyone who had a piece of this.

Nick Dietsch
Lafayette

Steps to make a difference

Every day, more evidence arrives that Climate Change isn't just happening, but becoming a true, undeniable crisis. The Amazon is burning. Glaciers and snow packs are melting. Sea levels are rising. Temperatures are soaring. Animal habitats are shrinking. Droughts

are drier and storm surges are bigger.

Many in Lamorinda know the climate issues, but also want to know what they can do to address the climate emergency now in their own lives. The following are a few tips:

1. Eat like it matters: Eat less meat, especially beef. Livestock accounts for nearly 15 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Start small if you want: Try Meatless Mondays. Eating organic also helps. Organic agriculture uses up to 50% less fossil fuel than conventional agriculture. Too expensive? Start with a few fruits or veggies. You'll find organic produce at Lamorinda grocery stores such as Diablo Foods, Safeway and Whole Foods, as well as at local farmers markets.

2. Choose clean transportation: Transportation is the biggest source of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in the United States. Drive less, carpool, bike or walk. Turn your car off while in line waiting for your kids to exit school. And the next time you buy or lease a car, consider choosing an electric, hybrid or more fuel-efficient model.

3. Save energy at home: For little to no cost, Moraga (and Lafayette) residents and businesses can switch from PG&E to MCE, a renewable, carbon-free energy provider. Call PG&E for details. And while on the phone, ask PG&E about a free home energy audit.

4. Just say no to plastic: If we don't slow plastic production, by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans. Instead of buying water or other beverages in single-use plastic bottles, carry a reusable bottle. Make your own tea or lemonade.

Minimize the number of plastic bags you use at the grocery store: Try bringing your own reusable bags for produce and to take home all your groceries. Other ideas? Divest from fossil fuels, volunteer for climate-focused organizations, and vote, vote, vote.

This could be THE most important step you take to combat climate change. From town and city councils to state and federal governments, vote for candidates who pledge to take decisive actions to confront the climate crisis. If you live in Contra Costa County and need help with when or where to vote, even to confirm if you're registered to vote, visit www.cocovote.us.

Dean Mayer, Moraga
Chris Rauber, Lafayette

Time for Express Commuter Bus Service to SF

Moraga and Orinda should collaborate and arrange for express commuter bus service to SF. I envision parking at the shuttered OSH parking lot, from which the bus depart. It would make one stop at the existing bus stop at the Holy Shepard Lutheran Church at 433 Moraga Way. Perhaps commuter parking could

be arranged at that church as well as at the adjacent St. Mark's United Methodist Church. There would, of course, be a number of details that would need to be worked out. I note that SamTrans recently began providing commuter busses from Foster City to SF. AC Transit of course continues to provide popular trans-bay bus service and also has bus service from Hayward BART to Hillsdale Mall in San Mateo.

This proposal would reduce congestion and greenhouse gasses. Subsidies might be provided by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, whose mission includes "reducing traffic congestion." Moraga and Orinda might also contribute subsidies from the discretionary portions of their general funds. CCTA's most recent express bus study was completed in 2001, long before BART service in Lamorinda became of limited utility due to insufficient parking and overcrowded trains. Our local governments should make this happen.

Nick Waranoff
Orinda

Global Youth Climate Strike on Friday, Sept. 20

It's a call to action by Greta Thunberg, a Swedish teenage climate activist, who started striking from school for the climate about a year ago. As she has said in past speeches, "the Climate Crisis is an emergency and deserves to be treated as such. I don't want your hope. I want you to act. I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is."

Our family joined the Global Youth Climate Strike this past March with 1.6 million students in the streets, demanding world leaders to act and lead on climate.

For more info, <https://globalclimatestrike.net/>, <http://strikewithus.org>, www.sustainablelafayette.org/post/in-the-news-global-youth-climate-strike

There is also a Youth Climate Rally from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21 at Civic Park in Walnut Creek for those wanting to support the movement, without skipping out on school.

It's super important that kids know what they are up against and that this one thing of showing up in support will mean so much, especially since the timing of the event is right before the UN Climate Summit on Sept. 23, where we hope that leaders can agree to take drastic moves to reign in on carbon emissions after seeing the outcry from our world's youth.

Nancy Hu
Vice Chair, Lafayette Environmental Task Force

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

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Outgoing and incoming Orinda Books owners honored by city council



New owner of Orinda Books, Pat Rudebusch, center, at city council meeting.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

As history repeats itself Orinda Books is once again changing hands, and once again the new owner, Pat Rudebusch, has a history of working in the shop, which is an Orinda institution. Maria Roden similarly took over the bookstore after some years of working in it (and a little time working in another bookshop) in 2014. Roden's husband Daniel has retired, and for some time she has been commuting to their property in Carmel Valley.

Mayor Inga Miller, noting that "we are sad that we won't see Maria in the bookstore anymore," welcomed the new owner. Rudebusch said that Roden had invited her to work in the bookstore four or five years ago. Roden said that Rudebusch is friendly and chatty, perfect for the shop.

Council Member Nick Kosla said that for every 10 books he buys on Amazon, he reads one, while in contrast he reads every single book he buys at Orinda Books. Council member Amy Worth noted that Orinda Books is a bookstore that grew out of a book room. "I have loved the cooking program, the cultural programs," she said, and credited Roden with creating a great spirit. "Pat," she said, addressing Rudebusch, "as a former member of the Orinda Union School District, you understand the impor-

ance of books," and Worth offered her a "deep, deep thank you" for taking over the shop. To Vice Mayor Darlene Gee's hope that "we'll see more of the family working there," Rudebusch exclaimed, "Well, you will see Catherine!" Catherine is Rudebusch's daughter.

"It was a hard decision," Rudebusch said, "but my eldest daughter said, 'Mom! You have to - it's my childhood bookstore,'" and that, in addition to some careful analysis and thought, convinced her. "Maria had a professional, objective valuation of the business," Rudebusch said.

"Since I worked here for three years, I know the business and I'm comfortable," she said, but added, "I'm not looking for a great return on investment; I'm primarily motivated to keep a bookstore alive and thriving here in Orinda."

Rudebusch, who grew up and went to college in Chicago and in the past worked for the Public Broadcasting System, describes herself as a habitual volunteer at schools. She has worked at Orinda Books for the past three years, and before that was a frequent customer. She plans to continue what Roden has started. "Maria has built it into a thriving business and community, with author events, and artists of the month," she said. "I want to keep doing what Maria put in place but

also to evolve in response to community values, to keep up with changes, I don't want to be static," she added. She wants to keep the life and excitement that Maria injected into the store. For example, she wants to try to bring in more artists. Currently Gerry Wallace ceramics are featured at the shop.

"Orinda Books has worked, it has thrived in Orinda," Rudebusch notes. She attributes this to loyal customers who value local business, who understand that if you want to have local business downtown you have to support it. "They get it. Plus, I enjoy working here."

The new owner will keep current staff, who are all great at what they do, she says. The store has a staff of about 12, including some high school students who work part time. "Everyone who works here is local to the community," Rudebusch says. "Many have been with the shop for over 30 years. We want to keep that going. Such a wealth of knowledge. They know what customers like to read." She confessed to being "a little bit nervous." But she said, "I'm following in some pretty accomplished footsteps and everybody on staff is excited. I'm excited, customers are excited." Rudebusch officially takes over Oct. 1. She and her husband, Glenn, were welcomed aboard with a party at the shop on Sept. 14.

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Scandal rocks Moraga Community Foundation

... continued from Page A1

Fritzky also served as president of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, but was removed from office shortly after his removal from the MCF board of directors on Sept. 3, at a special meeting in which Fritzky was not present. In a press release from Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathe Nelson, she stated, "I assure the chamber members that the Moraga Chamber of Commerce finances have not been misappropriated in any manner. Mr. Fritzky was not involved in the financial dealings of the chamber and only had a co-check signing access for checks exceeding \$1,500. During his presidency of the Moraga Chamber, he only performed this function twice."

Chamber Vice President Larry Tessler has taken over the duties as president and assures that the chamber will continue business as usual.

In a press release put out by the town of Moraga, Mayor Roger Wykle said, "I am saddened for the losses incurred by the Moraga Community Foundation which impact the entire Moraga community. It is disheartening to hear that a civic leader might have betrayed the community trust in this fashion."

The town has cooperated with the MCF on behalf of the

community three times. In 2017, MCF held a fundraiser to help the MPD purchase and install a video surveillance system. According to the town's press release, "The receipt of those funds were audited and accounted for during the town's annual independent audit." MCF had proposed a donation of ADA-compliant restrooms for the Moraga Commons Park. At this time, the town has not received any of these funds. In March 2018, the town entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the former owner of the Rheem Theatre, in the hopes of a potential future acquisition of the theatre by MCF. The MOU expired in March with no agreement having been reached.

Speculation as to what may have become of any donations made to the American Cancer Society during the 2018 Jeanette Fritzky Tribute Walk was laid to rest by Moraga Vice Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus. Korpus stressed that the town council had no involvement with the Jeanette Fritzky Foundation or the Tribute Walk, and that she herself served as a volunteer only due to her friendship with the former council member and colleague.

Korpus said, "To my knowledge neither Bob Fritzky nor the Jeanette Fritzky Foundation had any connection to the chain of

command for the custody of the donations. Any donations made electronically went directly to the American Cancer Society." She added, "Money that was collected at the walk site was put into select buckets by two trusted volunteers, and delivered to the table where American Cancer Society workers took the funds and transferred them into a locked box. At the end of the day, the locked box was opened in front of two people, myself being one of them, and the money was counted and the information was written down on a list of donors. The information was then reported back to Bobbie Preston, a volunteer organizer. Some donations were collected by a Boy Scout troop, who in turn delivered them directly to the American Cancer Society."

MPD recommends doing a small amount of research when solicited by or giving to charities to help avoid scams and ensure donations are being used as intended.

Bob Fritzky was contacted for comment, and in a Sept. 9 email, he stated, "Unfortunately, I am not allowed to respond under orders from my attorney. I do have a call into him to see how he wants it handled. Will be in touch soon." To date, no further comments have been forthcoming.



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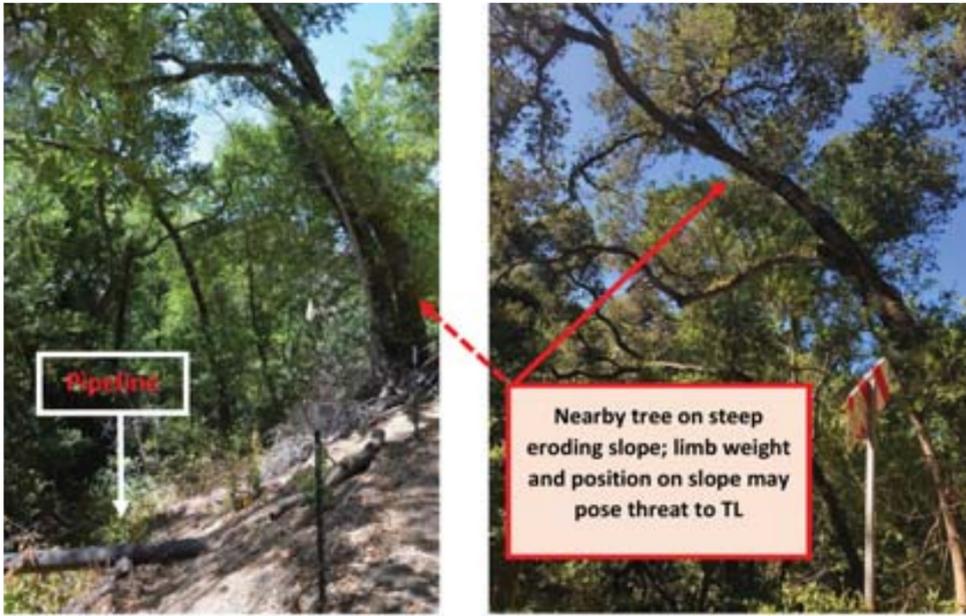
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Safety of 40-foot section of exposed pipeline in Briones questioned



Nearby trees on eroding creek bank and slope may pose hazard to span Photos provided

... continued from Page A2

Michael Dawson thanked the city council for its prompt response to his email at the Sept. 9 city council meeting as he took advantage of time set aside for Public Comment to reinforce how deeply concerned the task force is about the safety of this 70-year-old pipeline. He pointed out that

the utility has cut over 245 trees in Briones as part of the CPSL, including some just steps away from the pipeline, while ignoring “the real threat.”

Vice Mayor Susan Candell expressed her gratitude for the group’s work in identifying the potential risk. She said that she had just got off the phone with a PG&E engineer

who had been out to the site and visually inspected it. According to Candell, the engineer shared her concern and said that it would be fixed.

Sarkissian also expressed PG&E’s gratitude for the resident’s work. “We appreciate these customers asking questions about this pipeline,” and she said that the pipeline has been and continues to be

monitored as part of ongoing maintenance activities.

“We are revisiting the site and gathering more detailed data to ensure continued safe operation,” says Sarkissian. “If any precautionary steps are identified, we will take action right away.”

Following PG&E’s work earlier this year to cover up exposed pipeline along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail, the CPUC requested a report on all exposed pipelines in Lafayette.

Gina Dawson says, “For reasons PG&E has yet to identify, this span was not included in Lafayette exposed pipeline reporting requested by the CPUC,” adding that PG&E reported 14 other exposed pipeline sections on three of the five transmission pipelines running through Lafayette. “This unreported section is in addition to eight other exposed sections identified within a seven-mile stretch of this same ‘high volume, high pressure’ pipeline route, L-191-1,” she says.

“It’s very interesting that the PG&E engineer confirmed to Susan Candell that repairs would need to be made, just on the basis of one visual check,” says Gina Dawson. “If

this span was monitored by regulatory standard, which we may never know if we do not get the records we requested, it seems PG&E should have identified the threats and mitigated the risks well before residents had to point it out.”

Gina Dawson says that whether or not the omission of the 40-foot span was intentional, it undermines trust in PG&E information and the company’s ability to identify safety threats. “If we cannot trust the integrity of the information PG&E provides us, how can we subsequently trust integrity of PG&E’s safety programs and that of the pipeline itself?”

“Why is PG&E focusing on CPSI tree removals that pose no measurable threat, and meanwhile leave dangerous tree hazards like this?” Michael Dawson asks, referring to the tree that is in danger of falling onto the exposed pipeline.

PG&E management informed the GSTF Sept. 11 that they were currently inspecting the section of pipeline and would be providing them with a more detailed response, likely within a week.

Las Trampas state-of-the-art facility planned



Rendering of the new building Image provided

... continued from Page A1

Despite all of this, the feeling in the place is one of joy. The philosophy is that all people with IDD are entitled to develop their optimum state of social, physical and mental well-being. Participants are integrated into the community, going out to work where possible. They work on campus too, at a shredding business, providing janitorial services, and making blankets for Children’s Hospital Oakland. They go out bowling and to the gym. Integration in the community is a focus.

Capital Campaign Committee Member and former Development Director Kathy Merchant says, “I put myself in the shoes of the families we serve and realize not only does Las Trampas offer them respite from 24/7 caregiving Monday-Friday, but they know their family member is encouraged to explore a rich menu of activities on and off campus.”

When the new \$12.5 million phase-one, two-story construction is complete, anticipated in 18-24 months, Las Trampas will be able to offer a campus, unique in all of Northern California, serving 120 individuals, almost double the current capacity. The facility will be able to take 50 participants in wheelchairs.

“To my knowledge, this facility will be the only one of its kind that specifically addresses the environmental needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, particularly those on the autism spectrum,” says Executive Director Daniel Hogue.

Hogue explains that with diagnoses of autism on the rise, the new facility will accommodate special sensory needs of these individuals including acoustics, lighting, transitional spaces, and sensory areas.

Hallways will be wide enough to accommodate two

wheelchair users and one walker, so that no one will be in the position of feeling “in the way” in their own community. There will be multiple garden spaces intentionally designed to calm or stimulate the five senses. There will be a teaching kitchen. Among the many features planned, Hogue is excited for a digital communications system that can accommodate evolving technologies.

“Since approximately 50% of the individuals served by Las Trampas have limited to no verbal communication skills, we are including features that will allow expansion of technology as a tool for learning,” says Hogue. “This includes smart devices, assistive technologies, and augmentative and alternative communication systems.”

The project will require moving everyone off campus. Currently, Hogue says, they are working on finalizing a deal to secure the temporary location space.

Hogue explains that with program closures occurring throughout the state and approximately 15,000 people being added to the California IDD system each year, the pressure is on to build sustainability and capacity to ensure entitlements established through the Lanterman Act – a law stating the rights and responsibilities of persons with developmental disabilities – are secure.

“Fortunately in the Lamorinda area, we have a community that understands the importance of leaving no one behind, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, despite state funding challenges,” says Hogue. “With the support of our community, we are able to raise enough funds to start phase-one of our new campus – a campus designed specifically to meet the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and particularly, those with autism.”

and also incurred approximately \$4 million in financing. “So, the need for additional fundraising is crucial to ensure Las Trampas’ ongoing sustainability by reducing the need for \$4 million worth of debt service.”

Hogue is very grateful to Connie and Michael Collier who have together headed the capital campaign. Michael Collier, a retired architect himself, is also president of the board of directors and has been heavily involved along the way with the project. “Personally, I feel blessed to have been able to ‘find a meaningful place’ at Las Trampas,” he says, “where my professional experience can contribute to the realization of a new, state-of-the-art campus that will serve our fragile, under-served population for the next 50 years.”

Once this phase is complete a second phase will add an approximate 10,000 square

feet of administrative offices and additional classroom space. The public will have plenty of opportunity to see all details of the projects as excitement grows. Architectural renderings will be on display on the fence bordering the Lafayette-Moraga Trail.

Plans will also be available at the 10th Annual Walk n’ Roll fundraiser (see story on page B5) on Sept. 28, and the public is invited to an “Old Facility Farewell” information evening with wine and hors d’oeuvres from 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 8 for speaker presentations and a tour.

“Lafayette is very lucky to be the host city to such an amazing, caring, and well run program for some of the most vulnerable and ignored among us,” says Collier.

To RSVP for the Old Facility Farewell Event, call (925) 284-1462.

Hogue explains that to fund a \$12.5 million phase-one project, Las Trampas has had to utilize approximately \$4 million from the sale of assets coupled with reserve funds



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Photo Nick Marnell

Orinda police officers responded the afternoon of Sept. 8 to a vehicle accident on Hall Drive near Rheem Boulevard, where the officers found an Amazon delivery van lying on its side. According to the Contra Costa

County Sheriff's Office, the driver, a contractor for the company, was not injured. Battalion Chief Steve Gehling of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District confirmed that the driver did not require ambulance transport. The accident

remains under investigation.

Representatives from Amazon did not return calls seeking comment.

– Nick Marnell



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Young Maker's Expo to be featured at 24th Annual Art & Wine Festival



Last year's festival goers

Photo provided

By Pippa Fisher

It's the biggest party in town and, yes, it's almost time for downtown Lafayette to be transformed as neighbors stroll, sip, shop, chat and connect with community at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival scheduled on Sept. 20 and 21.

Hosted by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce to promote the downtown, the event raises money for local education, the Chamber, and many other local nonprofit organizations.

Some come for the shopping, many for the music, but all who come experience Lafayette at its finest. Now in its 24th year, the free festival has something for everyone. And every year there are a few new features.

One such pilot program this year will be found next to Lavash – The Young Maker's Expo, or Y-ME for short. The Chamber is giving two tables to a group of young, mostly local entrepreneurs aged from 9-16 years old to sell their stock of handcrafted items.

There is much more to this project than just the weekend of the festival. Organized and facilitated by Lafayette Troop 204 Boy Scout Jackson Steele for his Eagle Scout project, are workshops covering marketing, promotion, merchandising and business practices.

At these workshops the youngsters have discussed everything from how best to display their wares to how to best accept payment. They have discussed their goals – do they just want to make a profit? They have had to consider cost and what is actually

doable, sometimes learning to rein in ideas in order to be more practical.

"I came up with the Y-ME name because we were brainstorming name ideas and we liked the sound of 'Expo,'" says Jackson. "I then came up with 'Young Maker's Expo', because the initialization of the name was Y-ME, which I thought could be used as a marketing campaign – like 'Why Choose Me?'"

"It has been so cool for these kids to see the whole process," says Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Event Director Sara Regan, who has worked with Jackson. She describes the project as a win-win. "We're supporting the kids and giving back to the community," she explains.

Jackson says he is benefiting too from his experience. "I am really learning about the dedication, planning, and organization that goes into running an event like this," he notes, adding that he is excited that this is establishing a lasting project, living on even after his involvement.

The roughly 20 or so kids involved will be selling their crafts in two shifts on both days of the festival between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. alongside booths offering "Make-it and Take-it" opportunities from Sewnow and The Learning Space. Town Hall Theatre will also be nearby, offering a chance for kids to experience being in a musical.

Also new this year is the Xfinity Pigskin Party, held in the Postino's courtyard – a chance to relax and watch some football on a giant screen for those less interested in shopping.

As usual, there will be great continuous music from

more than 20 bands on four stages, 300 artist/craft booths, and three kid zones including (new this year) a pirate ship. There will also be plenty of food choices including food trucks in addition to all the nearby restaurants. A wide variety of California wines and craft beers are also available.

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson says that connecting attendees to the art, music, food, wine and beer, and fun is the goal.

"But it is the vibe, the spirit and the laughter that makes it so special for me," says Lifson, adding, "I am a product of my childhood. I am a hippie at heart. It brings me great joy and satisfaction to gather the tribes and help our guests escape for a weekend."

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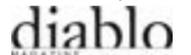
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MEF supports student wellness on school campuses



Campolindo's Wellness Center

Photos DeF-Stop Photography

By Jenn Freedman

Most Moraga residents are aware that grants from the Moraga Education Foundation supplement state funding to ensure that Moraga schools can provide a high-quality, well-rounded education by using these grants to fund areas like art, music, physical education, librarians, and teacher aides. But the community may not be aware of other vital benefits of MEF donations—specifically, that Moraga schools use some of the MEF grants to fund initiatives in wellness and social/emotional learning.

Student wellness has become a larger focus in recent years in both districts (Moraga School District and at Campolindo High School through the Acalanes Union High School District) as research shows its importance on the academic learning of students. Both districts have used Stanford University's Challenge Success research and student surveys to help direct their focus.

MEF granted \$2.425 million to MSD and Campolindo for the 2019-20 school year. The MSD is using some of those funds to pay for an elementary school counselor (in its second year), two intermediate school counselors, student support services, and staff development for student wellness. Staff development is focused on identifying and assisting students who may need additional social and emotional support.

Elementary school counselor Bess Inzeo taught over 375 classroom lessons on empathy, emotion management, and problem solving last school year. She also meets with individual students and small groups that need solution-focused counseling in areas like mindfulness, social skills, and anxiety. "These skills transfer back into the classroom, where they are now able to have better rela-



tionship skills, self-awareness, and social awareness," she explains.

At Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, MEF supports school counselor Gaby Alvarez and student support worker Annette Herbert, who both provide individual social/emotional counseling. JM offers various wellness programs like diversity/inclusion curriculum, social media safety lessons, and social clubs (mental health, kindness, and diversity). Gaby also runs the new Wellness Center, a place for students to take a break and regulate so they can go back to class. Principal Joan Danilson is grateful for the support around wellness: "Social/emotional learning is so at the forefront of what we need to be doing right now in this stressful, emotional world."

Campolindo High School is using some of the MEF funds to pay for staffing and services at the Wellness Center on campus, which opened in April 2018 (AUHSD has phased in wellness centers at all four high schools). This year, in addition to providing immediate support to students in crisis, the center is offering more opportunities for students to connect with their community of peers and relieve stress and anxiety through support groups (focusing on LGBTQ, body image, and stress), mindfulness classes, art activities, college and career counselor classes,

and support to seniors transitioning to college. Campolindo is also working to increase awareness of the center and make it easier for students, staff, and parents to request an appointment for a student.

Last year the Wellness Center served about 30% of the school population and had almost 2,200 check-ins (including repeat visits). This year, their goal is to connect with 50% of the student body.

Principal John Walker highlights, "High school can be a stressful time for teenagers and Campolindo is so fortunate to have the Wellness Center to support the students. The Wellness Center staff helps students manage a wide range of issues, from everyday stressors to situations that require ongoing support."

Kristen O'Meara, Wellness Center coordinator, adds, "By offering a confidential and safe space, and support services like individual and group counseling, not only do we support the students' emotional and social needs, but we connect them back to the classroom to engage in academic learning."

By focusing on the emotional life of students, schools are also trying to reduce the stigma associated with mental health.

MEF's annual Day of Giving is this week, on Wednesday, Sept. 18. To donate, go to www.moragaeducation.org.

Live at the Orinda season opens Sept. 22

Submitted by Michael Williams



Lisa Vroman

Photo provided

The Live at the Orinda 2019-20 concert season opens Sept. 22 with world-renowned classical soprano and Broadway star Lisa Vroman. After making her Broadway debut in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Aspects of Love," Vroman was the first to play both Cosette and Fantine in "Les Miserables." She went on to star as Christine Daaé in "Phantom of the Opera" for several years on Broadway as well as her record breaking run in San Francisco. One of the few artists able to move seamlessly between Broadway and opera, Vroman has headlined in opera houses and concert stages around the world and is a frequent guest of the San Francisco Symphony. Vroman will be making a very rare cabaret appearance exclusively for Live at the Orinda. Expect the unexpected.

The Live at the Orinda concert series brings world-class, award winning Broadway, jazz and cabaret artists to the intimate Orinda Theatre. Subscribers receive substantial ticket discounts, first choice at reserved seating for the season, complimentary drinks and more. This new season also includes Tony Award winners Faith Prince and John Lloyd Young. Previous artists include Rita Moreno, Maureen McGovern, Lorna Luft and Franc D'Ambrosio.

Information and tickets are available at www.OrindaMovies.com or (925) 254-9065.

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Lamorinda well-represented in Sustainable Contra Costa Awards



Photo provided

Rising Star winner Charlie Keohane – one of the Sustainable Contra Costa Award winners.

By Pippa Fisher

When it comes to sustainability, and more exactly to the Sustainability Awards, Lamorinda folks are killing it! Of the seven recently announced

winners, four have close connections to Lamorinda.

The winners were honored Sept. 17 at the 11th Annual Leadership in Sustainability Awards Gala and Fundraiser in Pleasant Hill. It is a highlight for Sustainable

Contra Costa, their version of the Oscars.

This year's winners are:

Michael Cass, an Acalanes High School and Saint Mary's College alumni who worked for the city of Lafayette as a city planner and drafted a plastic bag and Styrofoam ban for the city and implemented the Styrofoam ban in the city of Concord. According to SCOCO, "Michael is the only city planner in the county that successfully brought a community choice energy program to two jurisdictions – Lafayette and Concord – specifically designating MCE as Concord's default electricity provider."

Charlotte "Charlie" Keohane, an Acalanes High School senior, won in the "rising star" category for 18 years and younger for her promotion of a sustainable, plant-based diet to reduce her carbon footprint. A vegan since the age of 10, she maintains an active social media presence sharing vegan recipes. She has a regular feature in the online version of the school newspaper called "Cooking with Charlie."

Springhill Elementary School was recognized for its garden, which is now run by

volunteers Jessica Chandler, Heidi Doggett and Cathy Bornfleth, since in the last year there hasn't been room in the budget for a garden teacher. The garden is used to teach many lessons from how hard field laborers work to science, math and art concepts.

Kathy Kramer was awarded for spreading public understanding of sustainability through her Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour. According to SCOCO, "Founded in 2005, this award-winning event showcases 40 pesticide-free, water-conserving gardens which provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60% or more native plants. More than 3,000 people have attended the tour every year since its inception." Though Kramer is not a Lamorinda resident, many in the area are familiar with the tour that has showcased many local gardens.

Chris Dundon of the Contra Costa Water District was recognized for his work in the field of water conservation over the past 25 years. Described by SCOCO as inspirational, he has developed numerous innovative water con-

servation programs that have saved over 20 billion gallons of water.

Cindy Gershen earned the Lifetime Achievement award for her work educating and promoting healthy eating through her Sustainable Hospitality Program focusing on science of food through culinary, hydroponics and nutrition education. She is a chef and teacher at Mt. Diablo High School in Concord, and founder of Sunrise Bistro and Catering restaurant in Walnut Creek.

Richmond Housing Renovation was recognized for addressing housing problems by acquiring abandoned properties, rehabilitating them and selling them to graduates of the First Time Homebuyers Program.

Awards are given to those who demonstrate outstanding commitment, leadership and contribution to practicing and promoting sustainability in the areas of environmental health, social health and well-being, and economic prosperity.

For more information go to <http://sustainablecoco.org/>

Reducing single-use plastics



Big Stock image

By Garrett Leahy

With school now in full swing, lunches abound with single use plastic bags and containers. While single-use plastic items are convenient, they can take centuries to biodegrade, and or end up in the ocean and break down into small, easily ingested pieces called micro-plastics, which can harm marine life, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

Kimberly Lam, a regional manager at RecycleSmart and a board member of a local environmental nonprofit organization, Sustainable Contra Costa, explained some of the ways that people can lower their plastic footprint. She mentioned the importance of reducing the amount of new plastic that people consume, and finding reusable alternatives. "I always keep a metal reusable straw in my backpack, I make sure to ask for my coffee 'for here in a for here cup', and make sure that I don't get plastic utensils when I get take out," said Lam. "I don't know about you but I bet there are several sets of plastic utensils lying in the back seat of my car."

The reason that reducing plastic consumption and reusing plastics is so important is partly because plastic is difficult and sometimes impossible to recycle, even if they are designated as "recyclable." According to Lam, this is for several reasons. One reason is that plastic can only be recycled if it is free of all organic contamination. That means that any leftover peanut butter in a sandwich bag or any dressing in a plastic salad container cannot be recycled unless it is washed. Otherwise, it goes to a landfill.

In recent years, compostable plastics made from organic materials, such as corn, have been used in businesses and cafeterias, but those plastics are often never composted, even if they are put into green bins. "Often these compostable plastics need to be processed for long periods of time at a high tem-

perature, perhaps something like 120 degrees Fahrenheit for six weeks, or something like that," said Lam. "Many composting facilities can't afford to let them (compostable plastics) sit around for that long, and so they are just thrown away." Even at facilities that can compost those plastics, workers sorting the waste can still confuse those plastic items as standard non-compostable plastic and sort them out into the trash by mistake, according to Lam. Even so, there is some value to using compostable plastics over standard plastics. "Some people value that it's not made from petroleum," said Lam.

Sustainable Contra Costa hosts several "challenges" each year, such as the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge, which is accessed via Sustainable Contra Costa's website. Through the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge web page, people can create an online profile which helps them set goals toward more sustainable living and create action plans to meet them. Each of the goals includes drop-down menus with educational information on how meeting goals will have an impact. Some of these goals include installing solar panels, opting for fans instead of air conditioning, and reducing and reusing plastic. According to the website, you should shop for items with less packaging, and use reusable items, such as straws and bags, rather than disposable ones.

Sustainable Contra Costa also hosts workshops throughout the year about things such as how to capture and use rainwater and greywater, the water leftover from bathing and washing clothes, for gardening. If you want to participate in a workshop, you can sign up for those and other events through Sustainable Contra Costa's online calendar: <http://sustainablecoco.org/calendar/>. If you would like to make a donation to Sustainable Contra Costa, you may also do so through their website: <http://sustainablecoco.org>.

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Moraga Royale celebrates Grandparents Day



Photo Kate Florence

Moraga Royale residents, families and friends compete in the cakewalk.

Submitted by Diane Wilson

Moraga Royale invited friends, family and the community as guests to their 12th annual celebration of Grandparents Day, which highlights seniors and their contribution to our society.

Over 350 children and adults alike enjoyed a fun-filled day of barbecue, snow cones, popcorn, face-painting, balloon art, and a petting zoo filled with miniature goats, pigs, rabbits, ducks and exotic chickens. Games, prizes, a bounce house, and cakewalks were also enjoyed

by everyone.

An upbeat Blues band played throughout the day and the grand finale was an outstanding puppet show enjoyed by everyone of all ages.

The firefighters of Station 41 showed their support and made a spectacular entrance on the very fire engine they use to keep residents safe.

Thanks to the volunteers from Moraga Rotary, the Moraga Junior Woman's Club and MVPC Puppet Ambassadors who gave of their time to help Moraga Royale seniors celebrate with fun and laughter.

Moraga Rotary funds portable two-way radios for Moraga School District



Photo provided

Superintendent Bruce Burns receives the check to fund 105 multi-channel radios for the Moraga School District from Rotary Club of Moraga from the people who made it happen. From left: Rotarians Evie Michon, Stephanie Dickerson, Debbie Koo, and District Governor-Elect Mark Edwards; Superintendent Bruce Burns, Moraga-Orinda Fire District official Dennis Rein, Moraga Police Chief Jon King, Rotary Assistant Governor Joy Alaidarous, and MOFD Board President Steve Danziger.

Submitted by Stephanie Dickerson

Teachers and staff members in the Moraga School District will all be provided with portable two-radios which will allow direct two-way communication with each other and with first responders such as the Moraga Police Department, Moraga-Orinda Fire District, CERT, and others. The Rotary Club of Moraga has funded these 105 devices with a donation of \$12,000. These multichannel portable radios were recommended by both the MPD and MOFD as the most appropriate device for the school district and will improve safety in emergency situations, even when phone systems are inoperable.

Bruce Burns, MSD superintendent, stated, "Portable radios, per emergency preparedness experts, are among the most reliable, rapid, and effective means for school staff to communicate in a crisis event. They have redundant trunk systems to allow staff and emergency responders to communicate directly with one another. They also provide day-to-day benefits that can enhance the efficiency of operations of a school. Portable radios can be used to enhance student supervision, communicate the need to lock a gate, or to report the presence of a suspicious vehicle on or near a campus. They are easy for people under extreme stress to operate reliably. While it is quite common to see schools have radios, it is not common to see many radio systems that have interoperable capabilities, such as the radios purchased by Rotary. The MSD sees the radio capability as a substantive and highly positive achievement."

Local safety partners are pleased with the Rotary donation of portable two-way radios to the schools. Dennis Rein, MOFD emergency preparedness

coordinator stated, "During a disaster the ability for the school staff and first responders to communicate directly will be key to keeping the children safe." Moraga Police Chief Jon King added, "Although we all hope we never have to face a disaster or emergency at our schools, we are excited that our teachers will now have the ability to call for help and communicate directly with police and fire personnel who are responding to assist with an emergency situation or incident."

The MSD was unable to purchase radios because of state funding challenges, so Debbie Koo, co-president of the Rotary Club of Moraga, and Rotarian Stephanie Dickerson, a parent member of the MSD Safety Committee, obtained a grant of \$8,000 from Rotary International. The Rotary Club of Moraga donated the additional \$4,000 to provide the full \$12,000 needed to cover the cost of the radios.

"In today's world, the safety of our children and grandchildren is extremely important," Koo said. "Stephanie's passion for school safety made this a very easy decision for the Rotary Club of Moraga. We are proud to be able to help with the purchase of these two-way radios."

Rotary Club of Moraga is a 52-year-old service club within Rotary International, one of about 33,000 Rotary Clubs in about 200 countries. Regular meetings are held on most Tuesdays at Moraga Country Club. If you are interested in joining Rotary, please contact moragarotary@comcast.net or visit the website at moragarotary.com to get in touch with Brian South, membership chair.

Save the date for the Rotary Club of Moraga's annual fundraiser, Nite at the Races, on March 7. One of the primary beneficiaries will be the Moraga School District.

Jaeger receives conservation award



Toris Jaeger, left, receives Conservation Award.

Photo provided

Submitted by Louise Diracles

Toris Jaeger was recently honored with a National Daughters of the American Revolution, DAR, Conservation Award. The Acalanes chapter of

the DAR nominated Jaeger in honor of her 40 years of teaching at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. Jaeger is pictured receiving her award, medal and flowers at an Acalanes DAR meeting from Acalanes DAR Regent Nancy Boren.

BSA girls Troop 402G blazes new trails



Troop 402G on backcountry hiking trek

Photo provided

Submitted by Heather Tzortzis

"Scout like a girl!" That is the theme for BSA girls Troop 402G out of Lafayette who hit the ground running, blazing new trails. The newly formed independent girls troop in the BSA Scouting program began in February when the BSA organization opened its doors for girls to join.

With the inspiration and tradition of their brother troop 204, the girls embarked on their first five-day, 25-mile backcountry hiking trek in August. They headed out from the Crabtree trailhead, in the Emigrant Wilderness. There were two treks for a total of 26 participants, with 17 Scouts and 9 adults. The older Scouts took charge and lead the treks, teaching them camping, hiking, cooking, and to always have fun with a positive attitude and to enjoy the beauty that surrounds everyone.

With all the girls being new Scouts, they didn't have any expectations except to get wild for a while in the

wilderness and have an amazing time.

Since starting in late February Troop 402 has been an active troop that encourages growth and independence by offering an enriching active outdoor experience. Now that the girls have finished this trek and have the experience and sense of adventure, the girls can't stop talking about next year's adventure. The backcountry hiking trip the Scout program offers really helps to develop the Scouts' sense of confidence like nothing else. For each of these Scouts, boys and girls, to accomplish the mileage, mental fortitude, homesickness and injury – and then come away with the knowledge they can meet any challenge with courage and bravery – creates a sense of confidence like nothing else.

Troop 402G meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursday nights at the historic cabin on School Street in Lafayette. If you are interested in joining the Scouting program and are interested in the Troop, please contact Heather Tzortzis, Troop402lafayette@gmail.com or visit troop402.org.

Community Service:

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

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

Mindful Littles launches Healing Initiative in Paradise



Peace Kits were delivered to Paradise students last spring. Photo provided

Submitted by Lisa Sadikman

On Sept. 9, Mindful Littles, based in Orinda, officially launched its Healing Initiative in the Paradise Ridge community, which was greatly devastated by the Camp Fire 10 months ago. Integrated lessons will teach students critical mindfulness, yoga and social-emotional learning skills to help them build inner resilience, lower their stress and anxiety after trauma, develop compassion and encourage a positive mindset for the future.

Mindful Littles facilitators will bring the unique approach into every classroom across all three elementary schools in the Paradise Unified School District. In addition to student lessons, the program provides self-care guidance for educators and administrators, as well as service learning programs for the community.

The Mindful Littles story in Paradise is one of miracles. Last spring the small nonprofit, in partnership with Orinda Union School District, facilitated an initiative called Peace Kits for Paradise. Over the course of eight school days, Mindful Littles led mindful service learning experiences for more than 1,600 elementary school students in Orinda. The students learned about the Camp Fire and what it means to be resilient, kind and compassionate. In buddy pairs, they assembled 300 Peace Kits containing 11 mindfulness tools including student-created breathing tools, gratitude journals, eye pillows and notes of loving kindness and encouragement.

A few weeks later, 30 volunteers with the Orinda Union School District and Mindful Littles visited Ponderosa Elementary School to deliver the kits. They spent the day teaching students how to use the tools in their kits, including how to take calming breaths, ways to access gratitude and how to relieve physical and emotional stress. During this unforgettable heartfelt day

together, it became evident that the need for Mindful Littles work was critical in Paradise Ridge.

A growing body of research highlights the tangible benefits of mindfulness for communities and individuals who've experienced trauma. Mindful Littles' goal is to bring these benefits to the children in Paradise during the yearlong program. The program is funded by a grant from the North Valley Community Foundation to the Paradise Unified School District.

"We are deeply grateful and honored to have the opportunity to begin our Healing Initiative in Paradise Unified Elementary Schools," said Tanuka Gordon, founder of Mindful Littles. "Compassion has been at the root of our work from our very first mindful service learning project in my backyard to the programs we oversee in many schools and institutions today. As we begin work with each student in Paradise Ridge, this intention of compassion will remain at the core."

"As someone who grew up in Paradise and studied in PUSD schools kindergarten through 12th grade, I have a deep commitment to seeing the Ridge community recover and thrive in the wake of the Camp Fire," said Lauryn Gregorio, lead Mindful Littles facilitator in Paradise. "I hope to offer my passion for mindfulness, community-building, and resilience in a way that supports students, educators, and families to feel nurtured and supported in the challenging process of rebuilding the Paradise community."

"Our hope is that we can bring deep healing to the beautiful community of Paradise Ridge through our mindfulness, social-emotional learning and service learning programs," said Gordon. "As we plant the seeds of compassion, we hope our work can have a small part in rebuilding Paradise Ridge into a vibrant community once again."

Walk, roll or run for a good cause



Photos provided

Submitted by Suzanne Pestal

Las Trampas will hold its 10th Annual Walk n' Roll 1 mile or 5K event starting at 8 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 28 with registration, breakfast and entertainment at Lafayette Plaza Park. Participants can choose between the 5K run route or the 1-mile walk and roll route, which takes folks along the beautiful streets of Lafayette from 9 a.m. to noon, ending with a celebration back at the park. This year the route will take participants along the trail past the Las Trampas campus, which will be undergoing a major renovation this fall

(see story on page A1).

Since 1958, Las Trampas has helped individuals with developmental disabilities to discover their capabilities and to lead fuller lives in their homes, at work and in the community. Every dollar goes directly to client programs and makes a difference in the lives of those with developmental disabilities.

The fee for the event is \$25 advanced, or \$30 on the day of the event, and includes breakfast, live entertainment, raffle prizes, ice cream social and a T-shirt. To register, go to <https://lastrampas.org/event-item/2019-walk-n-roll/> or call (925) 310-2363.

Volunteers needed to fight fire blight in Moraga pear orchard



Photo provided

nately the winter rains promote the growth of fire blight, especially if it is a warm rain when the blossoms are open. The fire blight infection threatened to kill this historic orchard, which is a source of great local pride and the impetus for the annual Moraga Pear Festival. In addition, each year the Moraga Park Foundation glean the pears for the Contra Costa Food Bank, supplying much-needed fresh produce for the hungry. This year more than 14,000 pounds of pears were harvested from the JM Orchard!

This event is sponsored by the Moraga School District, which owns the land, and the town of

Submitted by Bobbie Preston

Volunteers are needed to remove fire blight-damaged branches from the 106-year-old pear orchard adjacent to Joaquin Moraga School in Moraga, at 1000 Camino Pablo at Canyon, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5. The trees are doing better after several years of fire blight removal, treatment with an organic fertilizer last year, and winter rains in 2016. But unfortu-

Moraga, with the assistance of Republic Services. There will be instruction, tools, and a lot of fun. Bring gloves, sunscreen, hats and sturdy shoes. If you have them bring (labeled with your name) loppers, hand pruners and (especially needed) pole pruners and orchard ladders.

Heavy rain cancels this event. For more information, contact Bobbie Preston at (925) 376-8474 or barbaram-preston@comcast.net.

In Memory

Edwin "Ted" Gunn

Sept. 6, 1942 - July 16, 2019



Edwin "Ted" Gunn was born in Cleveland, Ohio and spent 30 years in Orinda before he retired in Rossmoor. He was predeceased by his wife Joyce Gunn (2005) and is survived by his son Morgan Gunn and daughter Megan Gunn.

Ted met Joyce in San Francisco and married in 1969. People knew him as "TaxGunn" as he was a CPA for 45 years. Ted loved his jokes and puns and shared his humor with new friends. He was an avid gardener growing tomatoes, veggies and different flowers. He also loved bowling and bowled a perfect 300 game in 1969. Ted gained a love of wine and traveled to wine regions to taste in Argentina, Australia and Niagara.

When Ted moved to Rossmoor, he learned to play bridge and gained a new bridge community. Bridge afforded him to travel on international cruises and earn "master points" while seeing the world.

Ted was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes as a teen and spent much of his life managing this. He was one of very few people to be awarded a 50-year medal being insulin-dependent continuously for at least 50 years.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14 at the Fairway Room at Creekside Clubhouse in Rossmoor.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The American Diabetes Association (www.diabetes.org).

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ART

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art (SMC | MoA) presents two new exhibitions on view 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. And "New Formalism in Painting and Photography," which 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.

Youth Maker's Expo at the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival. Local young entrepreneurs ages 9-16 are encouraged to display and sell their products and services during the festival, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 21 and 22. Y-ME will be open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. both

days. Entrepreneurs will have the option to attend business and marketing classes before the festival. To apply for free table space visit LafayetteFestival.com/y-me/

24th Annual Lafayette Art & Wine Festival from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21 and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 22 in Downtown Lafayette. Four stages featuring over 20 Bay Area cover bands, 300 artist / craft booths, 3 kid zones with activities for all. New this year - The Young Maker's Expo and the Xfinity Pigskin Party. Free admission. Free bike valet + parking at BART. Supports local education. www.lafayettefestival.com

The Moraga Art Gallery announces its end-of-summer show, "Pattern Parade," an exhibit that features stylized portraits of exquisitely-coiffed, fashionably-clad women by Lafayette's Angelica Samame. The show also features guest artist Irene Needoba of Orinda, whose abstract landscapes take viewers

on unique visual journeys into a fragmented world where rocks may also be waves. Come to meet artists and enjoy live music, light snacks and wine. The exhibit runs through Oct. 19. For more information, visit the gallery's website: www.moragaartgallery.com

The Lamorinda Arts Alliance is delighted to present a juried art exhibition "Under Pressure 2", at the Main Street Arts Gallery at 613 Main Street, Martinez, through Oct. 6. All printmaking mediums were considered for exhibition with an emphasis on varied techniques. Intaglio etchings, monotypes, monoprints, solarplate etchings, Chincoll, relief print woodblocks and linoleum art will be represented.

Lamorinda Arts Alliance presents "Abstractly Speaking" by Artist 7 through Sept. 27 at the aRt Cottage, 2238 Mt. Diablo St., Concord. Artist 7 is a group of artists that regularly meet to discuss upcoming shows, museum events

and to discuss new art techniques and media. "Abstractly Speaking" presents their current abstract work, with each artist exploring different directions in the genre. Moved by the plight of children at our southern border, the artists will donate 30% of all their sales to The Legal Service for Children in San Francisco. The aRt Cottage is open Tuesday to Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 1 to 5 p.m.

Valley Art Gallery presents "Celebrating 70 Years of Fine Art," a new exhibition by gallery artists on its 70th Anniversary Sept. 21 through Nov. 9. There will be a free reception from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sept. 29. The gallery always features selected works by Gallery Artists on our unique sliding walls. Reflecting a wide range of motifs, styles and media, the show continues our mission to represent the best of the best of more than 100 East Bay artists. www.valleyartgallery.org

The Lamorinda Arts Alliance will hold a one-day

show and sale from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 5 at the Lafayette Christian Church, just off St. Mary's Road at 584 Glenside Drive, Lafayette. More than two dozen painters, jewelers, ceramists, photographers, card and print-makers, and one virtuoso chocolatier will display media-spanning collections of recent works. The participants, mostly Lamorinda-based, hail also from Alameda, Benicia, Clayton, Walnut Creek, San Ramon, Pacheco, and other nearby towns. Free.

MUSIC

St. Paul's concert series continues with Greg Dufford and Fernanda Nieto Duet at 7 p.m. on Sept. 28 at 1924 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek. From San Francisco Opera and Chamber Orchestra to Denver stages, Dufford brings alive the magic of his clarinet artistry. Renowned from Argentina and Colorado, pianist Dr. Fernanda Nieto joins the stage in a vibrant musical performance. Donation at the door: average \$20, Students \$10 (all are welcome regardless of donation). www.facebook.com/stpaulsconcertseries/

Count Basie style Jazz performed by Steve Snyder's Big Band from 4 to 6 p.m. on Oct. 6 at 584 Glenside Drive, Lafayette, Back Courtyard patio. Craft Beers and Wine for purchase. Snacks available. The concert is free with a good will donation to help cover expenses.

OSLC Concert Series presents The Black Cedar Trio (Kris Palmer, flute; Steven Lin, guitar; Isaac Pastor-Chermak, cello) in a performance spanning four centuries of music at 4 p.m. on Oct. 6 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. Compositions by J.S. Bach, Paganini, Piazzolla, and a special commission (2018) Tres Colores by Javier Contreras. Free admission/freewill offering.

Devil Mountain Coffee House announces North Country Blue show at 8 p.m. on Oct. 18. at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. North Country Blue (www.northcountryblue.com) emerged in the fall of 2017 and has quickly established itself as one of California's freshest and finest bluegrass bands. The band combines fresh takes on the traditional bluegrass canon, thoughtful covers of challenging modern material, and a number of startlingly mature and well-crafted originals. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 students and \$5 children. Sliding scale is also available at the door. Tickets are available at: www.eventbrite.com/e/north-country-blue-tickets-72433533649?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

THEATER

Orinda Starlight Village Players present Malcolm Cowler's adaptation of Wilkie Collins' "The Woman in White" through Sept. 26 at the Outdoor Amphitheater, Orinda Community Center Park. For tickets and showtimes, visit <https://www.orsvp.org>. Tickets: \$20 regular, \$10 discount.

Town Hall Theatre opens their milestone 75th "Transformations" 2019-20 Season with Matthew Lopez's comedy "The Legend of Georgia McBride," a celebratory piece about a young man discovering his inner drag queen Sept. 26 through Oct. 19. There will be an opening reception at 8 p.m. on Sept. 28. For tickets and showtimes: BOX OFFICE: (925) 283-1557; www.townhalltheatre.com

... continued on next Page

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LECTURE & LITERATURE

SMC Afternoon Craft Conversation with Ingrid Rojas Contreras from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 25 at De La Salle Hall: Hagerty Lounge, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. Often, the image that comes to mind when we think of dramatic structure is Freytag's pyramid, a shape that visually illustrates rising action, climax, and denouement. In this lecture, we will move away from Freytag's European understanding of structure, and we will investigate how other cultures understand story, how different writers have thought of dramatic structure in architectural and visual language, and how these artists arrived at their visions.

Diablo Writers' Workshop is excited to present "Launching" a creative writing reading program from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 17 at Orinda Books. Eight local writers will share debut stories developed with the Diablo Writers' Workshop. The reading is being held in conjunction with San Francisco's an annual literary festival—Litquake—and hosted by DWJ founders and teachers Janine deBoisblanc and Andrea Firth. Come out for refreshments, great storytelling, and a fun evening.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Moraga Library presents Movie and a Craft at 3 p.m. on Sept. 18. You've got a friend in the library! Come watch the first "Toy Story" as you make your own Forky. Craft supplies will be provided by the library. Best for ages 4 and up. Henna program at the Moraga Library at 4 p.m. on Sept. 19. Rachel Palacios will showcase the art of Henna. Patrons will be able to use the materials to draw temporary body art. Teens and adults.

"Love & Logic – Parenting Made Fun." For parents of children of all ages. Learn simple and proven techniques that teach responsibility and character, lower your stress level, and have immediate and positive results. Taught by Connie Kellaher, Director of MVPC Nurtury Preschool, and Love and Logic Independent Facilitator. Join us for any or all of 7 sessions on Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Moraga Valley Pres Church, 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga. Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and Nov. 6 and 13. Each session stands alone, so come when you can! No charge, and no pre-registration needed. Free childcare is available by emailing ckallaher@mvpctoday.org at least one week in advance. For more info, visit www.thenurturypreschool.com/programs/parenteducation/

OTHER

Join Saint Mary's College in celebrating Afro-Latinx/Latinx/Indigenous Heritage month with art-making, food, and music from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sept. 19. The evening will feature the Sanctuary Print Cart, a mobile print shop created by artists Sergio De La Torre and Chris Treggiari. The Sanctuary Print Cart raises awareness about the impact of immigration policies on our communities and support immigrants' rights through community silkscreening. Free. For more information visit: www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum.

Mountain Shadow's 5th Annual Short Film Competition at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 20 and at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 21 at Las Lomas High School Theater, 1460 S. Main St. (across from Kaiser Hospital) in Walnut Creek. Categories include animated, live action/narrative and documentary short films. The 11 finalists will be present to compete for cash prizes and the audience choice awards. General admission tickets will be available for \$12 at the door beginning a half hour before the start of the competition. Capital One Cafe will host a free reception between the two Saturday shows from 5:30 to 7 p.m. to meet the filmmakers. All are welcome.

Middle Eastern Festival 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21 and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22 on the grounds of the St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church at 501 Moraga Way in Orinda. All are welcome to enjoy the food, live entertainment, folk dancing, exhibits, games and more. Admission is \$2.

Join the Contra Costa County Library Accessibility Committee for a screening of "Pick of the Litter" from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sept. 24 at the Moraga Library. This documentary follows five puppies as they are trained to become guide dogs for the blind. Over the course of their first two years of life, each dog's ability to protect a blind human is rigorously honed and tested by professional instructors. If volunteers are available they will bring puppies from Guide Dogs for the Blind. Pain! What is it and what can we do about it? at 7 p.m. on Sept. 24 with Tim Appleford, PT, MSPT, 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 or call (925) 284-6150.

Las Trampas invites you to join them and the Morgan Family for their 10th Annual Walk n' Roll 1 mile or 5K Run fundraiser from 8 a.m. to noon on Sept. 28. Walk, Roll or Run from Lafayette Plaza Park where there will be refreshments, music, face painting and more. Your registration fee of \$25 (\$30 if you register at the Walk) includes a T-shirt, raffle prizes, refreshments. Enjoy entertainment by The Jen Coogan Band, and KKDV music and game wheel. 8 a.m. registration, 9 a.m. start time. Register at www.lastrampas.org or call (925) 310-2363.

Join Moraga's annual Pear and Wine Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Moraga Commons Park. This is a family friendly event with activities for all ages celebrating Moraga's Pear history. Activities include bounce houses, face painting, and a petting zoo as well as musical entertainment, wine tasting, community booths, and more. For more information see www.moraga.ca.us.

Serbian Food Festival from noon to 10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5 at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church 1700 School Street, Moraga. Serbian favorites like sarma, kobasice, cevapci, live Serbian music, delicious homemade pastries and a bounce house for the kids.

Lafayette Juniors 25th Annual Rummage Sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 5. Special Early Bird Entrance fee \$10 per adult from 7 to 8 a.m. Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette. Pre-loved designer clothes, baby and kid clothes, toys, children's gear, furniture, household goods, and much more. Visit www.lafayettejuniors.org.

Volunteers will remove Fire Blight - damaged branches from the 106-year old pear orchard adjacent to Joaquin Moraga School in Moraga from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Oct. 5. The trees are doing better after several years of fire blight removal, treatment with an organic fertilizer last year, and our winter rains in 2016. The Fire Blight infection threatened to kill this historic orchard, which is a source of great local pride and the impetus for the annual Moraga Pear Festival. There will be instruction, tools, and a lot of fun. Bring gloves, sunscreen, hats and sturdy shoes. If you have them bring (labeled with your name), loppers, hand pruners and (especially needed) pole pruners and orchard ladders.

The giant fall book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Moraga Library will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road. Books, CD's and DVDs in all categories will be sold at prices ranging from \$0.25 to \$3 Beginning at 1 p.m. a bag can be purchased for \$5 and filled with all the books it will hold. Proceeds from the sale go to fund library materials and programs in addition to paying for staffing of the library's Sunday hours.

Pivotal Twist Presents - Improv Your Intro: A Fun Way to Craft Your Personal Introduction from 7 to 10 p.m. on Oct. 23 at JPG@The Bank, 3525 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Expect good energy, a fun group, and a non-judgmental playground where you can try new ideas. Led by Sean Perlmutter and Henry Caplan of Pivotal Twist, Improv Your Intro is built on their background as actor/writer/directors, speaker coaches, and brand consultants. Limited to 30 participants. \$45 registration includes light snacks and soft drinks. <https://improvyourintro.ventbrite.com>

GARDEN

The Moraga Garden Club Monthly General Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 19 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street. Alex Friedman from Sloat Garden Center will speak on the topic of Fall Planting and Pruning. General meetings are free and open to the public. New members are welcomed! For more information: www.moragagardenclub.com

The Montelindo Garden Club will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 20 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall. Presentation: Bringing Color to Your Garden With Succulents and Their Friends. Speaker: Cricket Riley. After completing degrees in landscape architecture, history, broadcast journalism and Near Eastern Studies, in April of 2017 Riley joined the Ruth Bancroft Garden staff. She loves to help

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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.

September 19: 2020 Census Explained <i>Benso Zhao</i>	September 26: "The Berlin Airlift, the Candy Bomber and I" <i>Gisela Zebroski</i>
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www.rotarylafayette.org
www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA

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people select appropriate plants to produce lush, beautiful and sustainable gardens. To illustrate her presentation, Riley will be bringing succulents that can be purchased at the meeting's conclusion.

Bringing Back the Natives workshop California native plant propagation for beginners: How to create native plants from seeds, cuttings, and divisions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 28 in Walnut Creek. Join renowned environmental educator Judy Adler in a hands-on workshop at her half-acre garden, where you will learn how to propagate California native plants from seeds, cuttings, and divisions, and take home plants you have propagated yourself! \$40, limited to 15 people. Register: www.bringingbackthenatives.net/fall-2019-workshops

The Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center hosts its eighth annual Harvest Fest from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sep. 29. The garden is located at 3932 Mt. Diablo Blvd., across from the Lafayette Reservoir entrance. There will be tours, talks, music, crafts, scarecrow making, games, food and drink and lots of fun. Free.

The Walnut Creek Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting beginning at 10 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 14 at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, in Walnut Creek. The featured speaker will be Dr. John Fike, who is a master gardener and retired biomedical researcher. His presentation titled "Those Darn Pests" will introduce Integrated Pest Management (IPM), an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term control using biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and resistant varieties.

The Montelindo Garden Club October meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on Oct. 18 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Everyone is welcome. Presentation: Bulbs, Bulbs, and More Bulbs! Speaker: William Welch, a.k.a. Bill the Bulb Baron. Bill has been growing and hybridizing bulbs his entire life and has bred and named several new varieties. He grows all of his bulbs organically, and will be bringing with him a wide selection of bulbs for sale after the talk. www.montelindogarden.com

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A perfect crust for Aunt Clara's Apple Crumb Pie



Apple Crumb Pie

Photos Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

My very favorite fruit pie crust recipe is one handed down from my great Aunt Clara. She was a phenomenal cook and a brilliant baker and whenever she babysat for us, which was often, she put her skills to work in the kitchen. Her crust calls for cider vinegar, which helps to keep the dough tender by slowing the development of gluten. It also helps the dough to maintain a nice bright color and prevents it from turning gray. And, finally, it gives the crust a great flavor.

Just like the biscuits we featured earlier in the summer, the key to making a good, flaky crust is to make sure all of the ingredients are cold. That's why you want to use very cold butter and ice

water. Some people even go so far as to put the flour and bowl along with the pastry cutter in the refrigerator for 30 minutes or so before making the dough. I don't do that, but I do use very cold butter and water. You can even refrigerate the dough for an hour or so, before rolling it out. I am usually in too much of a hurry to do that, and generally roll my dough out right away, and it seems to work just fine for me.

I'll share one other trick I came across by accident last time I made apple pie and this is regarding the pie filling. I peeled, cored and cut the apples, and went so far as to add the sugar and spices, before I was interrupted and had to leave them for a couple of hours. What I discovered when I returned to the project, was that some of the

juice had filtered down into the bottom of the bowl. While I didn't want to toss it, I was able to control how much of the liquid I put back in when filling the pie crust with the fruit. I usually toss some flour in with the apples to prevent the filling from being too soupy, but didn't need as much this time around.

Just yesterday, I bought freshly picked apples at the Farmers' market, so this recipe should be just in time for the fall apple harvest! You can make your pies ahead of time and freeze them for the fall holidays, either baked or unbaked, but be sure to do a little research on the best methods of freezing for each and how long you should keep them frozen before eating them.



How to freeze an unbaked apple pie:
<http://thepieacademy.com/how-to-freeze-an-apple-pie-before-baking/>
 How to freeze a baked apple pie:
<http://thepieacademy.com/how-to-freeze-an-apple-pie-before-baking/>
 Nonstick pie drip catcher:
www.randm.us/shop/bakeware/2737-pie-drip-catcher-non-stick/

Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com.

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

Aunt Clara's Pie Crust

(Makes a single crust for bottom with a little leftover for making cinnamon-butter roll ups! Double if you prefer a full top crust instead of a crumb topping.)

INGREDIENTS

2 cups flour
 ½ teaspoon salt
 1½ cubes unsalted (very cold) butter, cut into small cubes
 2 teaspoons cider vinegar
 ¼-½ cup ice water (use a little at a time until all of the flour is incorporated into the dough.)

DIRECTIONS

Mix flour and salt in a large bowl. With a pastry cutter, crumble butter into flour until well incorporated. Sprinkle cider vinegar over mixture and toss with a fork. Add ice-cold water, a little at a time and blend with fork until dough is moist enough to roll into a ball, but not too wet. Roll into one large ball for the pie crust and a smaller ball to use for patching your crust, or cinnamon roll ups for snacking! At this point, you can flatten the ball into a disc and wrap the dough in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes to an hour, or roll it out right away.

To roll out, use a well-floured board and rolling pin and roll into a large circle, big enough to fill your pie dish (approximately 14-15 inches or so, depending upon the size of your pie dish) including a fluted edge at the top. Brush off any extra flour. Fold the circle in half or quarters and place in the center of the pie dish and open back into a circle and fit snugly into the bottom and sides of the dish, leaving an extra inch or two hanging over the edge. Roll this extra dough back toward the top of the pie dish and into a nice rolled edge. Use extra dough from your second ball if you need it to fill in any gaps. Flute this edge with your fingertips. Refrigerate until ready to fill and bake.

Apple Crumb Pie

INGREDIENTS

1 recipe Aunt Clara's Pie Crust (see recipe nearby)
 8-10 large, firm, tart apples (Granny Smith or Pippin) or a combination of firm tart and sweet (Pink Lady and Jonagold)
 ½ cup brown sugar
 ¼ cup white sugar
 ¼-½ cup all-purpose flour
 1 ½ teaspoons cinnamon
 ½ teaspoon cardamom
 Crumb topping:
 1 cube ice cold butter
 ¾ cup flour
 2/3 cup brown sugar
 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 ¼ teaspoon cardamom
 ¼ teaspoon nutmeg (optional)
 Place all ingredients in bowl and using fingertips or pastry cutter, work dries into butter until crumbly.

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400 F. Peel, core and slice apples into ½-inch slices. Toss with sugar, spices and flour. Dump into prepared, unbaked pie crust and top with crumb topping. If you have a pie drip catcher, use it! (See link in info box.) It will save your oven from baked-on fruit filling. Place pie on drip catcher and bake for 45-50 minutes, or until top is golden brown and apples are al dente, but a knife easily pierces. Serve with ice cream, frozen yogurt or my favorite ... a slice of extra-sharp cheddar cheese!



Family Focus

Some Do's and Don'ts for Divorcing Couples, Part 2

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

We've all seen examples of how ugly and bitter divorces can be in movies and in reality. Vindictive behavior can range from manipulative and destructive to downright absurd. I know of one husband who slashed the tires on his soon-to-be ex-wife's car and smeared dog poop on the windshield, and a wife who sold her estranged husband's prized golf clubs on Craigslist. Needless to say, these couples were not heading for a smooth divorce.

In continuing to look at the difficulties and heartache many go through in a divorce, here are some recommendations for what not to do when divorcing, especially when children are involved. It is important to make your children your highest priority. Many of these "don'ts" may be familiar, but practicing them is a lot harder than reading about them.

1) Never badmouth the other parent to your children, even when they're grown. You will sacrifice their well-being and ability to hold their parents in high regard just for a few moments of your own satisfaction and vindication. If you truly love your children, you will work on exercising complete self-control with them. Find those with whom you can release your hurt and anger in confidence, such as a highly trustworthy friend, a spiritual advisor or a therapist.

2) Don't reveal private in-

formation about your marital relationship and dissolution to your children. Don't discuss your personal feelings about your former partner or your divorce, or for that matter, your personal life in general. These are your children, not your friends. Even when they are adults, there is no positive rationale for revealing details to them about your relationship with their other parent.

3) Even while you refrain from discussing blame or details of the divorce with your children, don't allow them to be exposed to your adult issues by others, such as your friends or relatives. This is why it is important to confide only in those who can be trusted not to reveal what you have told them.

4) Don't disrupt your kids so they have to constantly pack up to go to each parent. Arrange for them to have the whole school week at one location if possible. Splitting their time so they have two days here and three days there is always a hardship and sacrifice for children. Or, as mentioned in the previous column, consider nesting as a way to proceed. Look out for their needs over your own. You may not get to spend as much time with them as you would like or feels fair, but if you are subordinating your own needs to theirs, you will be a true hero.

5) Don't introduce your children to another romantic liaison in your life or move in with someone else right away. Wait as long as possible. When their world suddenly feels pre-

carious, they need to know that they come first to each of their parents. Proceed slowly and discreetly.

6) Do not mention or allude to your children that you received unfair financial treatment as a result of your divorce. Just as money matters are the number one source of friction for married couples, so too are finances high on the list of divorcing couples' struggles with each other. It is especially difficult if prior to your divorce you were in a position of being able to do more for your children financially. You can let your children know you still want to be able to send them to camp or pay for new clothes, and that you will save up for these expenditures.

7) Don't avoid talking to your ex when you encounter each other at your children's school, sports and other events. Try to prevent awkward, strained situations for the sake of your children. Ideally, you and your ex will be able to communicate well with each other and unite for family activities that are important to your children. Therapists work not only with intact couples, but also with divorcing and divorced couples who are trying to sort out their relationships with each other going forward. If you and your ex have a cold war mentality with each other, it is important to seek assistance.

8) Do not turn to large quantities of alcohol, food, or other substances to deal with your distress over your divorce. It is important for you to

take good care of yourself for your own sake, of course, but also for your children's. You are still a role model for them, as well as one of the people they count on most in the world. They have already experienced a major disruption in their lives, and it is important not to compound their lives further with negative issues that can be avoided. Get help quickly if you are heading in a self-destructive direction.

9) Don't let yourself remain in a low state of mind for too long. Initially, you may well feel depressed, anxious, and extremely emotional. You may not feel that you can control your emotions, which can range from sadness to anger to embarrassment to worry. Many people feel that they have failed. Even if you are relieved to be out of an unhappy marriage, there is usually a sense of loss. But eventually you can recover, with or without outside assistance. Remember that you are showing your children not only how to handle loss, but also how to handle adversity. They will take their cues from you and your ex. You want them to be happy, thriving individuals of course, so keep them in the forefront at all times.

10) Try not to worry about the divorce interfering with your children's ability to flourish. After the initial adjustment period, they can certainly have the potential to be happy and successful in all areas of their lives. Even if your ex doesn't cooperate in the ways that are listed above, you can make a

huge difference. If you can set a good example for them, your children will have at least one strong role model.

11) At the same time, don't put all of the responsibility for your children's emotional well-being on yourself. If you see significant changes in a child's behavior, such as withdrawal from people and activities, emotional volatility, nightmares, defiance, turning to substances, or other concerning changes, don't hesitate to get help. School counselors, family therapists, and groups for children of divorce are some available sources of support.



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."

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Continued success expected for Lamorinda Girls Water Polo



Claire Rowell, Acalanes



Lola Ciruli, Campolindo



Chloe Morrison, Miramonte

Photos Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

If there is one group of teams that can claim to be the most successful in Lamorinda, it would have to be the girls water polo teams. In the past two seasons, there have been two undefeated teams: in 2017, Miramonte won the North Coast Section with a 30-0 record and in 2018, Acalanes won the NCS with a 27-0 record, while Campolindo made it to the NCS semifinals in 2017 and to the finals in 2018. During this period, the schools had a composite won-lost record of 131-26 for a winning percentage of 83%. Against non-Lamorinda schools, the teams combined record is 117-12 for a 90% winning percentage.

Acalanes

Despite losing three first team all-league players in Lexi Rowell, Alex Fellner and Kylie Walker, Acalanes head coach Misha Buchel still has an impressive group of returning players and appreciates the quality of his players: "I imagine we have the bulls-eye on our back this year. When we bring back a team like we have, that's the way we go and we'll take it. We're in the midst of a talent glut and I'm fortunate to be a part of it."

First team All-American and League MVP Jewel Roemer is a once-in-a-generation type of player, according to Buchel: "Jewel is a complete player. She processes the game several steps ahead of everyone else in the pool. She is a superstar in every respect. She is an incredible team player, always setting up her teammates at every opportunity. On defense we can use her to match up against our opponent's best player or she can play as a roving defender to disrupt the offense."

Claire Rowell, who was named third team All-American and first team all-league as a sophomore, compares favorably to her older sister: "They are both similar. Claire is probably faster and gets more counterattack opportunities," says Buchel. "She is also a good interior player."

Junior Ava Dunleavy, who will be starting at goalie for the third straight year, was named second team all-league last season and continues to improve, says Buchel: "Ava is older and more confident. She is quarterbacking the defense with her voice a lot more now rather than worrying about where the ball is. She is seeing the whole pool and is directing the traffic."

Leading the defense will be juniors Alex Mould who was second team all-league and Carolina Schurmer. Seniors Zoe Benizek (second team all-league) and Mary Beth Heffelfinger (honorable mention all-league) are also being counted on as leaders in the pool. Senior Brooke Westphall who missed time last season is still on the medical list but should be back soon. "There's a lot of versatility in this group," says

Buchel.

With all of the returning players, the Dons have two talented players that have moved to the area this year: Angie Shaw (Hawaii) and Alana Mc Cartney (San Diego). "Both of these girls should contribute this year. Alana is an all-around player who does a little bit of everything. She has a good perimeter shot and can go inside."

No one is sitting on their laurels, says Buchel: "Everyone is hungry and looking for playing time. I don't see any complacency and overconfidence. We're working just as hard this year. We've scheduled very aggressively so that when we get to the playoffs, we'll be ready."

Campolindo

Having lost three first team all-league players and two second teamers, including goalie Camryn Scott, from last year's 19-7 team, Campolindo head coach Kim Everist needs to find the right combination of players to match last year's team: "We have to make progress right from the start and grow right from the very beginning. Instilling confidence in these young players is important and I have to temper myself, making sure that I'm being very supportive and encouraging so the players can be comfortable in making mistakes and taking risks which I think that is important."

Seniors Lola Ciruli and Nina Munson both were second team all-league last year and are being counted on both in and out of the pool as players and leaders: "We graduated 12 seniors last season," said Everist. "Lola and Nina are our co-captains and Marissa Ennis and Haley Hunter are the seniors that have to take on the leadership role along with the younger players feeling comfortable to stepping up into leadership roles as well."

The Cougars are going to be throwing a number of underclassmen into the deep end of the proverbial pool and counting on them to swim. Sophomores Maggie Hawkins and Paige Chivers are coming off good freshman years, says Everist: "Maggie is going to be a key offensive player for us. She just got back from Barcelona playing with the USA National futures team. Paige is a great counterattack player and is very offensive minded. She is going to be creating a lot of scoring opportunities. Junior attackers Emerson Hogan and Elizabeth McGrath are new to the varsity and should also do a lot of good things."

Everist is going to be counting on three freshmen, Ava Jacuzzi, Kaia Levenfeld and Jane Clancy, to make the big jump to the varsity: "All these girls are tough and are going to play. I think we'll see a tremendous amount of growth for them. They played for the 680 club this summer and played well."

After serving as a backup goalie, Haley Hunter is the starter this year and Everist

is confident in Hunter's ability to control the net: "Haley is hard working, very coachable and competitive. She has the skills to do some really great things. She was outstanding in the summer high school championships. Our job is to keep her confident in herself. She knows she has to play bigger than she is and I'm sure she will do that."

Mark Ennis is the team's assistant coach and his main responsibility is working with the team's goalies: "We're doing lots and lots of training, working on strength, quickness and vision," said Ennis.

The key players that will be protecting Hunter will be Hawkins, Cirulli, Jacuzzi and junior Maddie Summer who is being counted on by Everist to "play a ton this year."

It's going to take a total team effort for the Cougars to be successful, says Everist: "People are saying that we lost a lot of players and are inexperienced. I think we're being overlooked. Some years you can rely on a core group of players. This year everybody is going to have to do their part. We need to be mentally tough and stay the course for four quarters every game. That requires maturity and we should acquire that through the course of the season."

Miramonte

If you're going to imitate a team, it might as well be a top organization. That is Miramonte head coach Lance Morrison's attitude coming into the season: "The key to our season is going to be strength in numbers. We're copycatting the Warriors. We have a lot of talent across all grade levels."

Savannah Sherwood, who was the Outstanding Goalie in the Diablo Athletic League, has graduated and there are two girls competing for the starting position: senior Anna Hillen and sophomore Lindsay Lucas. Both should see a lot of playing time, says Morrison: "Anna and Lindsay are both phenomenal athletes and great players. They will spend a good part of the season sharing the gate."

The key returning players are Sally Fellner, who was first team all league, and Chloe Morrison and Fiona Young, both of whom were second team all-league: "Sally is going to be our go-to player on offense at center and Chloe is rock solid in front of the cage and does a good job preventing the ball from coming in and is as good as Fiona was last year on defense; she has only improved. They can thrive wherever they are playing. They are

going to be our backbones on both side of the ball." Courtney Coleman who was honorable mention all-league should be a force as well as a right-handed attacker.

There is a lot of competition for playing time on the Matador's offense and defense, says Morrison: "We'll see who our attackers will be on the perimeter. We have a lot of girls that can eventually do a lot of great things. We're looking to have all of our players playing both sides of the ball."

Fellner, Morrison and Jane Oliver, all four-year players are the team captains and have been a great help to Morrison: "They know how I operate and they have incredible spirit. They have done a phenomenal job in leading the team so far. They are an extension of the coaches."

Morrison is optimistic about the team's fortunes and is relying on the team's depth: "Our success is to be able to have consistency and fluidity from top to bottom, no matter who we put in the pool. Everybody knows what to do and they know our system. It's a simple game. Just know your role and stick to it and when we put the pieces together, we're going to be a hard team to beat."



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James Marvel – a major leaguer in every way



James Marvel on the mound

Photos Dave Arrigo

By Jon Kingdon

What little leaguer has not considered the possibility of playing professional baseball? With 576 of the 800 major league players born in the United States, the Wall Street Journal estimated that only one out of every 3,376 little leaguers will become a major league player.

On Sept. 8, 26-year-old James Marvel, a Campolindo and Duke University graduate, became one of those 3,376 aspirants to make it to the major leagues. After starting the season in the minors in Double A and then moving up to Triple A, Marvel was called up to the majors by the Pittsburgh Pirates, the team that drafted him in 2015, and named him the starting pitcher against the St. Louis Cardinals.

Even though he came up short in a 2-0 game, Marvel did not forget what brought him to this moment: “When I got the call from the Pirates to join the team, it was a very special feeling, a dream come true. I called both my parents and shared it with my girlfriend in person. I then called my high school pitch-

ing coach, Jeff Pick, and my high school head coach at Campolindo, Max Luckhurst. Those are the moments that are going to stick out to me in getting the call up.”

There were over 40 people in the stands in Pittsburgh that flew in from all over the country to support Marvel in his initial outing. His parents, cousins, aunts, grandmother, teammates from Duke, best friends from his five years in the minor leagues, his girlfriend, her family and assorted other supporters.

Marvel has always made it a point to be all business on the mound, but at this game it wasn't easy for him: “When I take the field, I'm just supremely focused on each individual pitch and I try to be very intentional with that pitch and execute it. All I really see, hear and focus on is my catcher other than being aware of my fielders and situational stuff that is happening. But when I went up against the Cardinals, it was hard not to hear my large section of friends and family when I was on the field warming up and on some big outs. I wouldn't

have been there without them and it was a physical manifestation of the work they put in for me to feel like they were out there on the field with me.”

Marvel's father, John, works for the NFL Network and was able to attend the game, missing the first week of the NFL season because “my boss is very understanding and I have great colleagues. I had tears of joy in my eyes. I'm an incredibly proud father and whatever happens, happens, but to watch your son live his dream is just a great experience as a parent. I'm still walking around in a fog and just so happy for him that all his work has paid off.”

Luckhurst was another one of those people in the stands after catching a red eye flight the night before. The call he got from Marvel was one he'll never forget: “It was an amazing phone call, knowing the joy and excitement on the other end of the call. To hear him say those words was priceless.”

Being named the East Bay Player of the Year as a junior and senior bespoke to Marvel's physical talents but it was the intangibles that Luckhurst felt put Marvel over the top: “He always had the mindset to play professionally. James has an A-plus character. He was an outstanding student and had a work ethic second to none. He had a focus well beyond his years.”

Growing up, it was not just baseball for Marvel. Prior to the NFL Network, Marvel's father worked as an executive for ESPN and as a result, Marvel spent a lot of his childhood in Connecticut, Washington and California playing hockey and tennis. After moving to Moraga at the age of 12 and attending Campolindo High School, he played football for coach Kevin Macy and baseball for Luckhurst. It was no contest for Marvel in deciding which sport was his favorite: “Baseball just became my love and passion and something that I was good at. Jeff Pick has been my pitching coach since I was 12. I still talk to him every couple of days and every day before I'm due to

pitch, and I talk with Max all the time. Those guys are still very influential and impactful in my life and career.”

Marvel was drafted by the Minnesota Twins in 2012 after his senior year at Campolindo, but opted to attend Duke on a baseball scholarship. After being drafted following his junior year, Marvel needed only one more semester to finish his degree and two years ago, he graduated with a history major and an English minor.

The German philosopher Frederick Nietzsche said: “What doesn't kill you makes you stronger.” Marvel took those words to heart: “Things did not go as I had originally planned when I went to Duke. I had a number of injuries that prevented me from playing a lot. I only pitched four weeks my sophomore year and then had the Tommy John (elbow) surgery and never pitched again until I was drafted. My experiences were different than I had wanted them to be, but I wouldn't trade any of that adversity because going through some of those things, such as the long rehab processes, made me both mentally and physically stronger, both as a player and a person and I am where I am today because of them.”

After riding the buses for four years in the minor leagues, staying at less than five-star hotels and dressing in run-of-the-mill locker rooms, Marvel found the promotion to the majors all that he hoped it would be, citing Kevin Costner's quote from the movie Bull Durham about his short stay in the major leagues: “It was the best 21 days of my life.”

There was almost too much going on with meetings and workouts for Marvel to enjoy how special being with the Pirates has been: “The first 24 hours were a blur. It really hit me the first time I got in the shower after the game and the water pressure was incredible and it was immediately hot. It made me take a step back and realize that all this stuff is very nice.”

While doing this interview, Marvel continued to appreciate where he was:



James Marvel

“I'm on the field right now at Oracle Park talking to you. I've been here countless times watching the Giants from the stands, envisioning one day playing here and now I'm calling you standing on the center field grass.”

Marvel understands what got him to the big leagues and what it is going to take to keep him there: “I pride myself on my preparation and on my learning, whether it's high school, college, early pro ball and even to this day, I'm always trying to get better. Obviously, the coaching gets to be really strong as you go up and it's interesting in that it's a bit of an inverse relationship with how much you can learn at one time. The better that the players become, the better the game gets at each level. You're not making huge exponential strides on a day-to-day basis. It's a lot of very little, marginal type things that I'm trying to learn every day. If I can pick up one little thing at the ballpark every day, over the course of a season, the percentages on that all adding up, adds up to a lot.”

Despite losing his first game, Marvel still has not come down from the high yet: “It was hard not to be emotional when I went on the field after the game and shared hugs with my parents and my girlfriend and my extended family and everybody who was there. With each individual hug that I gave and the words they expressed to me, I think it was then that it hit me what a special experience it was. I'm not sure when I'm pitching next or what the plan is, but hopefully I can have an impact in any way that I can.”

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Campolindo leading Acalanes and Miramonte in water polo



Peter Archer, Acalanes

Photos Gint Federas



West Temkin, Campolindo

By Jon Kingdon

With 12 players that were either named first team, second team or honorable mention in the Diablo Athletic League last year, it's a constant and ongoing process for the Lamorinda Boy's Water Polo teams to replace and replenish their rosters. With nine returning all-league players to the Lamorinda teams (though not evenly distributed), there is a feeling of strong optimism pervading through each team's pool.

Campolindo

Despite losing four first team and one second team all-league players, Campolindo head coach Miles Price heads into the season confident about his team's potential for repeating as North Coast Section champion. Despite losing so many top players, the Cougars return the league's most valuable player, Soren Jensen, the goalie of the year, West Temkin, two second team all-leaguers, Ryan Lenahan and Tom McGuire and Brock Samanian who was named honorable mention. Having won their first four games, the team is starting right where they left of last season.

"We graduated a lot of people but we have a lot of returning swimmers," says Price. "It's one of our biggest senior classes we've had in a long time. Still we're younger and have a lot of players that have been in the program for a long time that have had a lot of experience."

In the goal, it's something of an embarrassment of riches for the Cougars. Logan Estes who brings size, athleticism, a good frame and experience, was forced to miss most of last season due to an injury. As a freshman, Temkin stepped in and very much earned the

Goalie of the Year award. We have a goalie dilemma with Logan and West," says Price. "Actually, we're fortunate to be in that situation."

There are also two brother combinations that are going to be key contributors, seniors Jack Larsen and C.J. Rago and their sophomore brothers, Ben Larsen and Luca Rago. As expected, the key players on offense are Soren Jensen and Tom McGuire. Ryan Lenahan and C.J. Rago are being counted on to be the anchors on the defense in front of the goal.

The leaders and senior captains are Luke Vanderberghe, C.J. Rago, McGuire and Jensen. "We have a good sophomore and junior class," said Price. We're looking for the younger guys to lead as well."

With the success of last year's team and the strength of this year's team, it could be easy to be overconfident but that is something that Price is addressing: "They better be hungry. People may be saying that last year was their year and they've lost all these guys so it's a chance to ignite our fire and play in the underdog role. We have a really tough schedule with a number of top teams in competitive tournaments since we only have three home league games. It's going to be challenging but it will make us stronger come NCS. We've never repeated and that is our goal."

Acalanes

Acalanes head coach Eddie Arroyo, beginning his second year with the Dons after a 10-13 season, is feeling a lot better about his team: "We definitely have a starting point that's a lot higher than we had last year because the players are more familiar with what we're expecting them to do." After starting off the sea-



Jackson Painter, Miramonte

son with five straight victories over Leland, Alhambra, Tamalpais, Rocklin and College Park, outscoring their opponents 66-18, there appears to be a lot to support Arroyo's positive expectations.

There are four seniors on the roster who are the co-captains of the team: Mac Darin, (second team all league), Charlie Bettencourt, (honorable mention all league), Mike Winther and Scott Murphy. "We're expecting a lot out of our seniors," says Arroyo. "They are motivated and working hard. They are leaders in and out of the pool."

The senior group will be leading the offense along with junior Jay Morris who is expected to be a key offensive threat.

Parker Tompkins, a junior, is starting in goal and has a strong supporter in Arroyo: "Parker is the man. He's been playing extremely well. He's definitely one of those players that gets pumped up for the games."

Youth will be served for the Dons as well. Sophomore Eli Berkowitz is expected to be the shut down player on defense and freshman Andrew

Sappal should be a factor on offense, says Arroyo: "Andrew is improving really fast and is going to play a key role for us as a counterattack player."

For Arroyo the key for success is the Don's execution: "We have to do things right in key moments, especially in the 6-on-5 opportunities. Last year our percentage in those situations were not as high as we wanted them to be so we have focused on that area."

The Dons are scheduled to play in three tournaments, The Roche Tournament, The Pleasanton Invitational at Amador and in the Southern California Invitational. It's a difficult schedule for Acalanes, says Arroyo: "We have one of the toughest leagues in the state. We all have traditionally strong programs. And we get to play them all twice."

Miramonte

Miramonte made it to the NCS semifinals last year, losing to San Ramon Valley by a score of 14-13. Head coach James Lathrop is going back to fundamentals right from the start: "We're working hard by trying to start off by getting good at the basic things. We've been having good

scrimmages prior to the start of the regular season and I just want to do a good job in building our fundamentals."

The team co-captains are seniors Jackson Painter (first team all league) and Brady (second team all league) and Blake Hoover. Painter has committed to Stanford and the Hoovers will be attending California next year. Lathrop is relying on the senior group, as a whole, to provide direction for the team: "Our seniors are leading the way. We're trying to make it fun and for it to be about the team in and out of the pool. We've put dodge ball teams together and created a fantasy football draft. We're trying to make it fun and make it all about the team."

Stepping in as the starting goalie is Oliver Von Karl, who was not eligible to play last season and has been playing very well. He should get a lot of help from junior William Thomas, who is expected to step up and play a bigger role on defense, but it's a group effort that Lathrop is looking for: "Defense is also a team game. We need multiple players to guard the other team's top players."

It's the same for the offense, says Lathrop: "We're relying on everybody, not just one or two players. The key for us is in having the ability to react to what the defense is doing and have a multitude of guys to step up and score, pass or make the play."

All four classes will be represented on the Matadors' roster, says Lathrop: "We had a very successful JV team last year and we're relying on some of those kids stepping it up and we have a huge group of juniors that are all competing right now and doing a great job of it. We may have a number of role players."

Lathrop has scheduled a number of tournaments for the team such as playing in the Elite Eight in Southern California with the idea of testing themselves against the top teams in the country.

It's the minutia of the game that is going to be the key for Miramonte to be successful, says Lathrop: "We're keeping it simple and doing the little things really well, not complicating the game. I want us to do well with our fundamentals and playing as a team and having fun. It's teaching the young kids how to be young men and learning life lessons along the way."



Owens races down the mountain during the 13 mile Skyrace

Photo Matt Owens

Acalanes senior competes in Skyrunning World Championships

Submitted by Matt Owens

This past August the U.S. Youth Sky racing team selected Andrew Owens, a senior at Acalanes High School, to compete in the Youth Skyrunning World Championships. Skyrunning is growing in popularity in the U.S. and around the world and is a form of trail running that incorporates vertical mountain climbing.

More than 190 athletes from 28 countries participated in the three-day event that took place at Gran Sasso ski resort in the Italian Alps. The event included two races, the V1K which is a

3.5 K race with 1 K (3,200 feet) of vertical climb straight up the mountain, and the 21K (13 mile) Skyrace, which included over 6,900 feet of vertical climb. Owens had the experience of a lifetime and finished 16th out of 40 racers in the men's 18 to 20 age group. Team USA posted a fifth place finish overall. In addition to his success running, Owens especially enjoyed bonding with his U.S. teammates who came from all over the country, as well as meeting and celebrating with fellow racers from Spain, Italy, Brazil, Hungary, South Korea and New Zealand, to name a few.

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Correction

In the Sept. 4 Lamorinda Weekly article, "Rookie coaches and a veteran leading Lamorinda volleyball," the second photo identified the Miramonte player as Julie Martin, but the athlete's name is Audrey French.



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Tournament champions



Pictured: Aakash Agarwal, Ayden Yu, Bryan Lurie, Caleb Nguyen, Chase Nickens, Cole Corey, Derin Sabuncuoglu, Isaac Narido, Karsten Harmeyer, Riley Schnurr, Spencer Tsai, Tanner Schmitt and Zachary Birrell

Submitted by Jon Nickens

The Lamorinda '09 boys soccer team started off their season in fine form by winning the 31st annual Wine Country Classic. Held over Labor Day

weekend in Napa, the boys displayed fine teamwork, passing and tenacity in out scoring their opponents 37-5 over their four games (all wins). They are eager to begin their fall league campaign.

LMSC 07 Navy Boys Champions



Back row, from left: Teo Spiropulo, Berge Goktekin, Elouan Pecson, Zubin Rajesh, Luc Narido, Lleyton Osteen, Guest, Sepehr Etehadieh , coach Christian Garcia; **front row:** Emiliano Anaya, guest, Shiraz Zahoori, Luke Wilson, Jeremy Lara, Simon Appel and Levi Olsen

Submitted by Kimberly Anderson

Lamorinda Soccer Club 07 Boys Navy (under 13 age group) participated in the Napa Wine Country Classic. After a sluggish start to an early 8:30 a.m. game against the host team Napa United, in which the game ended with a 3-3 draw, the team regrouped and found their stride in both scoring and defensively, winning the next three games including the championship game. Coach Christian Garcia was able

to get the team organized and band together to put together an impressive run. Game two of the tournament was versus Rohnert Park SC where the boys scored an impressive 11 points and allowed 0. Game three was against a familiar team in California Magic and resulted in a hard fought 3-0 win for LMSC. The championship game was against Monterey Surf with a final score of 2-0. Congrats to all of the players of the LMSC 07BN team on representing Lamorinda proudly.

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OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 13 Issue 15 Wednesday, September 18, 2019



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

... read on Page D12

Mighty oak comes crashing down



Photos Robert J. Schroeder Photography

By Jennifer Wake

Bob and Sue Miller have had a magnificent Valley oak tree in their Lafayette backyard to enjoy since their house was built in 1954. “It stood close to 100 feet high, was beautifully symmetrical and was estimated by arborists to be from 500-800 years old,” Sue Miller exclaimed.

The tree was affectionately known as Odin, the German god of war.

Over Labor Day weekend half the tree fell, followed less than a week later by the

other half. “Fortunately no one was hurt,” Miller said. “It’s obvious from the exposed roots that it had extensive root rot.”

According to Dan Dauchauer, a certified arborist with Tree Sculpture in Orinda, the tree appeared to fail because of decay and weak trunk attachments that became vulnerable because the decay was weakening their structural strength. “Valley oaks are very drought tolerant and like a dry climate during the dry season. The best advice I can give is have your trees assessed by an arborist on a regular basis. Arborists

are trained to identify trees under stress and many times they will be able to alert a resident to a problem.”

Dauchauer says there are two different types of arborists: consulting arborists and tree care arborists. “Often times tree assessments overlap between the two different types, but generally speaking a consulting arborist can help guide a resident to what their trees need and through their recommendations, a tree care arborist affiliated with a tree care company can do the work,” he said.

The tree in question had decay and a consulting arborist would have been able to perform a risk assessment on the tree and then determine if the tree needed to be pruned, cabled for stability or removed, Dauchauer said.

“Our message to everyone is to please be conscientious about the health of your large trees and see that they get proper care,” Miller said. “Had this tree come down in another direction it might have been catastrophic.”



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City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	17	\$500,000	\$3,500,000
MORAGA	9	\$425,000	\$1,500,000
ORINDA	15	\$600,000	\$2,863,500

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

LAFAYETTE

- 820 Acalanes Road, \$3,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 5883 SqFt, 2004 YrBlt, 08-09-19,
Previous Sale: \$15,000, 03-15-11
- 30 Chapel Drive, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 2225 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 08-06-19
- 6 Chapel Drive, \$1,645,000, 3 Bdrms, 1843 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 08-08-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,145,000, 05-23-07
- 28 Diablo Circle, \$1,285,000, 4 Bdrms, 2128 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-09-19,
Previous Sale: \$830,000, 04-30-08
- 3286 Gloria Terrace, \$500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2848 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 08-07-19,
Previous Sale: \$960,000, 02-11-13
- 217 Happy Hollow Court, \$1,228,000, 4 Bdrms, 2081 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 07-30-19,
Previous Sale: \$805,000, 05-20-10
- 3660 Happy Valley Road, \$3,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 5235 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 07-29-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,292,000, 06-05-02
- 1001 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,200,000, 2 Bdrms, 1764 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 08-09-19
- 1010 Katherine Lane, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 1583 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-01-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 11-14-17
- 1234 Laurel Lane, \$1,140,000, 4 Bdrms, 2536 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 07-29-19,
Previous Sale: \$555,000, 04-19-01
- 3473 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,180,000, 3 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 08-02-19,
Previous Sale: \$425,000, 01-05-00
- 3261 Quandt Road, \$1,480,000, 4 Bdrms, 1698 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 08-05-19,
Previous Sale: \$772,000, 07-27-04
- 3 Scenic Lane, \$1,867,000, 5 Bdrms, 6930 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 08-06-19,
Previous Sale: \$391,500, 12-01-88
- 3977 South Peardale Drive, \$2,617,000, 4 Bdrms, 3580 SqFt, 2012 YrBlt, 08-07-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,925,000, 03-26-13
- 1250 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,299,000, 5 Bdrms, 2972 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 08-05-19,
Previous Sale: \$719,500, 08-24-99
- 3360 Sweet Drive, \$1,330,000, 4 Bdrms, 1979 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 08-09-19,
Previous Sale: \$352,500, 09-28-98
- 914 Webb Lane, \$2,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 3703 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-08-19

MORAGA

- 2083 Ascot Drive #131, \$425,000, 3 Bdrms, 1444 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 07-30-19,
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 01-05-17
- 1988 Ascot Drive #A, \$695,000, 3 Bdrms, 1472 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 07-31-19,
Previous Sale: \$595,000, 04-30-18
- 235 Calle La Montana, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 1775 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 07-30-19
- 244 Corliss Drive, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2294 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 08-09-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 09-28-15
- 381 Donald Drive, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2253 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 07-31-19
- 1012 Sanders Drive, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1488 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 08-09-19,
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 02-08-07
- 140 Sandringham Drive, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2122 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 07-29-19
- 86 Warfield Drive, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2198 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 07-31-19
- 1035 Wickham Drive, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2189 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 08-08-19

... continued on Page D6

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10 DORAL DRIVE, MORAGA \$979,000



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3235 CAMINO COLORADOS, LAFAYETTE \$1,350,000



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1152 FAIRLAWN COURT, #4, W.C. \$485,000



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7 NATIVIDAD LANE, MORAGA \$860,000



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951 JANET LANE, LAFAYETTE \$1,170,000



TINA FRECHMAN 925.915.0851

125 HAZELWOOD PLACE, MORAGA \$1,270,000



MATT MCLEOD 925.464.6500

Heading into Fall

As we head into October, this is the time of year we describe as “now or never” or at least “not until next year.” When talking to clients who are considering selling after school is back in session, we describe September and October as the last window in the year to get a home prepped and sold. Once November hits buyers are distracted by the Holidays and many consider waiting until next year after they pocket their year-end bonus. Buyers and sellers do not want to be unsettled, potentially looking for a rental or looking to buy in late November or December when there are even fewer options available. The weather has been holding which is key to a successful Fall market and there continues to be many buyers looking to purchase a home before settling down for the Holiday season. We continue to see homes that are remodeled and prepped to appeal to younger buyers fly off the market. Compass Concierge, an interest free loan to cover costs for prepping your home for sale, has been extremely successful for our sellers. Under the program, Compass fronts the upfront cost of repairs and gets reimbursed at close when the home sells. We also routinely help clients with repair work as we are also licensed contractors. We look forward to hearing from you with your real estate questions.



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Feng Shui

Location, location, location



Photos Mandala Feng Shui

The front entrance door should ideally always be visible from the street and the door color should pop.

By Michele Duffy

So many of you have asked me specific questions about the location of your homes, and whether they're in an auspicious or favorable position, as well as what specifically to avoid when considering a home purchase, so let's take a deeper dive with this theme.

Healthy Feng Shui includes a lot of common sense characteristics as well as the “Qi” or energy of all structures. Auspicious Feng Shui structure locations include those on wide streets that meander near water, those with ample natural light, homes that are located above the road and that sit squarely in the middle of an even lot, and have a curvy path to a well-appointed home front entrance door. Inauspicious locations include neighborhoods where the surrounding Qi is industrial, draining, dirty, noisy and chaotic. Narrow dead-

end cul de sac roads can choke Qi, and homes that are located below the road, have a steep drop-off in back, or face a steep hill in front can drain energetics as well.

Feng Shui aims to attract and maintain good fortune, health and happiness, and it is why so many Chinese cities are purposely cited adjacent to moving water and mountains to the back, if possible. The strength of the “Landform Feng Shui” has its roots in rural China and even earlier, in the indigenous Tibetan Bon peoples, using the seasons in their nomadic lifestyles and building monasteries and the communities around them in strategic, often lofty and difficult to reach places. Even the Minoans of Crete knew that the sea should be in front and the mountains in the back and the Minoans are also credited with having created some of the earliest bathrooms, with long-lasting slate tiles for floors.

... continued on Page D6



Avoid long hallways like in this Moraga home.

This Swarovski crystal “cure” is placed in the center of the hall at ceiling height and well above eye-level.



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1198pleasanthillcircle.com



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Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

ORINDA

- 100 Acacia Drive, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1829 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 08-01-19,
Previous Sale: \$250,000, 03-08-17
- 73 Bates Boulevard, \$1,955,000, 5 Bdrms, 2606 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 08-01-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,323,000, 10-11-16
- 19 Briones Vwx, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 3173 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 08-01-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,475,000, 03-28-16
- 436 Camino Sobrante, \$668,000, 2 Bdrms, 1282 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 08-06-19
- 114 Goodfellow Drive, \$1,615,000, 5 Bdrms, 2735 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 08-09-19,
Previous Sale: \$195,000, 10-27-06
- 27 Knickerbocker Lane, \$1,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 2949 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 07-30-19,
Previous Sale: \$825,000, 01-04-02
- 11 La Espiral, \$1,085,000, 2 Bdrms, 1405 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-09-19,
Previous Sale: \$890,000, 03-05-08
- 12 Los Arboles, \$1,480,000, 4 Bdrms, 2884 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 08-02-19,
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 01-08-03
- 207 Moraga Way, \$600,000, 2 Bdrms, 772 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 07-30-19
- 428 Moraga Way, \$1,265,000, 3 Bdrms, 2108 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-02-19,
Previous Sale: \$810,000, 10-12-04
- 31 Oak Drive, \$850,000, 4 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-08-19,
Previous Sale: \$725,000, 05-24-13
- 127 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 1548 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-06-19,
Previous Sale: \$680,000, 08-04-03
- 537 The Glade, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 2127 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 07-31-19,
Previous Sale: \$360,000, 12-01-85
- 61 Tomcat Way, \$2,418,000, 4 Bdrms, 3538 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 08-06-19,
Previous Sale: \$24,440,000, 12-23-15
- 65 Tomcat Way, \$2,863,500, 4 Bdrms, 4194 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 08-06-19,
Previous Sale: \$24,440,000, 12-23-15

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Feng Shui

Location, location, location

... continued from Page D4

Please don't worry if you already live in a home with difficult Feng Shui, because the art of Feng Shui alone can "adjust" even the most challenging Qi. Having said that, it is still recommended to begin with beneficial Feng Shui so that fewer Feng Shui "adjustments" or "cures" are required, to immediately correct and then to maintain balance over time.

Any "feelings" or "vibes" we get from a structure should not be overlooked. This should also include the neighborhood and street that leads to the actual property. Is it hard to find the home or are the streets that lead to the structure narrow? There's not much one can do about those concerns after you purchase a home, but you can create a soothing Feng Shui environment by applying effective time-tested remedies. This can be used for interior fixes of things like the front door aligned with the back door, the kitchen stove visible from the front door, or the bathroom located in the center of the home, for example.

As we move from outer (yang) factors influencing the Qi that comes to your door, the Qi that affects us the most is inside the home (yin).

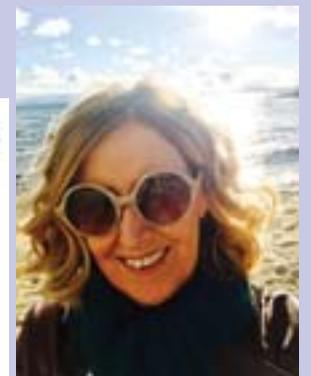
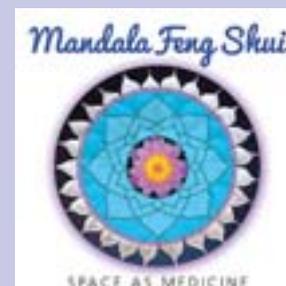
Always start by overlaying the Bagua over your home and land lot. (Stand in the front yard, looking into the yard. The far right Bagua area is always the Relationships/Marriage area). We can overlay the Bagua over a home, a yard, your office desk, even Ford Motor Company overlaid the Bagua on their cars.

To give you an example of focusing on one Bagua area, a few years ago, a Canyon Ranch Tucson colleague was interested in having a partnership after many years of going solo. When I visited her lovely adobe home, I found that she had numerous broken clay pots in the Relationship yard area.

After clearing the broken pots we next placed two new large clay pots (Earth) with healthy red (Fire) geraniums symbolizing fiery, blooming, and grounded partnerships. It was only a matter of months before she met someone special and moved to Phoenix to make it official. We continue to meet annually to assess new goals for the coming year and the couple remains intact.

If you pay attention to your environment you will experience the true restorative properties that home is meant to create and sleeping well at night will be a blessing ... but that topic is for another time!

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2019 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.





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2532 Vernado Camino, Walnut Creek
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2 Altarinda Circle, Orinda
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171 Cypress Point Way, Moraga
SELLER REP. \$1,595,000



140 Walford Drive, Moraga
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9 Valley Court, Orinda
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60 Santa Rita Drive, Walnut Creek
BUYER REP. \$1,650,000



716 Augusta Drive, Moraga
SELLER REP. \$845,000



104 Coral Drive, Orinda
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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Fall forward and waste not



Sliced apples on the dehydrator trays.

By Cynthia Brian

“And all at once, summer collapsed into fall.” – Oscar Wilde

In the fall of my freshman year at UCLA, I began working at one of the very first health food stores ever created in California. It was called Nature’s Health Cove and all the offerings were organic: pesticide, insecticide, and colorant-free. The fruits and vegetables were pathetic looking. Worms bored into apples, the Swiss chard had holes from munching snails, greens boasted fringed tips, a gift from hungry marauding rabbits, tomatoes were cracked, zucchini was malformed. Yet the produce tasted delicious and even though the prices were at least double of anything one could purchase at a grocery store, the crops sold rapidly. One of my tasks was to cull through any severely damaged items, putting them in a bucket for a compost pickup by an urban farmer.

Having worked in the fruit drying yards and big barn dehydrators growing up on our farm, it dawned on me that usually, half or more of any fruit or vegetable is salvageable. I suggested to the owner that perhaps we could cut out the decaying parts and create healthy drinks and dried snacks with the ripe remainders. The initiative became an instant success with both students and the general public clamoring for a revolving menu of inexpensive tasty treats.

As summer collapses into fall, my trees and vines are heavy with fruit. As much as I eat and give away, there is still more for the picking. I detest waste and besides canning and freezing the extras, I wanted to create some of the dried fruits of my youth.

While cleaning out one of our barns this summer, I came upon a vintage portable dehydrator that my grandfather used eons ago to dry his autumn bounty of pears, apples, figs and grapes. I cleaned the appli-



Asian Pears are bountiful.

Photo Cynthia Brian

ance and set to work slicing and dicing.

The results were phenomenal.

If you’ve bought any dried fruit lately, you know how expensive it is. But if you are like me and enjoy DIY projects, I have a simple recipe for you to create your own personal organic fruit leathers. You can use trays and dry your produce in the sun the way it has been done for centuries, but it takes longer and critters may creep in to steal your sweets. My suggestion is to purchase a small dehydrator with four or five drawers. My dehydrator has four drawers and only a single heat setting. My thermometer says it’s dehydrating at 125 degrees, which is perfect. Every three hours I move the drawers from the bottom to the top. From start to finish, it takes 24 hours. If you buy a dehydrator with adjustable temperature settings, you’ll be able to dehydrate more rapidly.

Here’s what to do:

1. Wash and pat dry your desired fruit and vegetables.
2. You can peel if you wish, but I don’t. Cut away any bruised or damaged parts. Cut into slices about ¼ to ½ inch thick.
3. Some vegetables including eggplant, cauliflower, broccoli, carrots, zucchini, potatoes and radishes need to be blanched for a few minutes.
4. Cut the slices in a bowl and toss with lemon juice or apple vinegar to reduce browning. Although this step is optional, it helps in preservation.
5. Spray the trays with a light spritz of canola or olive oil to prevent sticking.
6. Place slices of the same fruit or vegetable on dehydrator racks in a single layer without overlapping. Use different trays for different varieties.

... continued on Page D15

Every home has a story. Let me tell yours.

::



24 Los Amigos Ct, Orinda

Offered at \$1,395,000

Open Sunday 1-4pm

FALL HEAD OVER HEELS! A lively mix of modern & vintage creates a feel-good vibe in North Orinda! Nestled on a quiet cul-de-sac, minutes to Wagner Ranch Elementary & Highway 24, this charming home boasts 4 bedrooms (one used as an office), 4 full baths & 2155 square feet. The setting, the flexible floor plan and the balance between contemporary and traditional elements combine for a home where comfort reigns supreme. Stand-out features include hardwood floors, a remodeled & glamorous master suite and an updated kitchen. Photos at www.LosAmigos.com



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Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Gardening Guide



A tree filled with tangerines kissed by honeybees.



Tomatoes tossed with cilantro for an end of summer salad.

PRUNE “widow makers” – dead branches on trees. You can identify the dead branches before the leaves fall from the rest of the tree.

CHECK the crape myrtles in bloom. If you are considering planting a tree or two later in autumn, this is the perfect time to decide what color will be an advantage to your landscape. Crape myrtles are excellent specimens for year-round attractiveness. The leaves will turn red and golden in late autumn, the bark is bare and beautiful in winter, the leaves are shiny green in spring, and the tree blooms midsummer to late fall.

REFRIGERATE crocus, tulips, and hyacinths for six weeks before planting.

ADD aged chicken manure to your soil if you are noticing that it is less fertile.

MARK your calendar for a visit to the Be the Star You Are!® nonprofit booth at the Moraga Pear and Wine Festival on Saturday, Sept. 28. Thanks to our sponsor, The Lamorinda Weekly. Details at <https://www.BetheStarYouAre.org/events>.

DEADHEAD tuberous begonias to keep them blooming until frost. The flowers are edible with a tangy, citrusy flavor.

ENJOY the final days of freshly picked tomatoes tossed with basil or cilantro.

HARVEST tangerines, Asian pears, and grapes as they ripen.

PHOTOGRAPH your deciduous trees as the changing colors emerge. The contrast of colors will amaze you as you reflect on the timeline.

DEHYDRATE extra fruit and vegetables for tasty snacks. Kids especially love these dried sweets.

CUT and compost the damaged parts from “ugly” produce and cook with the rest.

WASTE NOT! Be a steward of our planet with simple up-cycling.

WELCOME the cool and crisp days of autumn. Fall forward!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



A bowl of bruised, cracked, malformed but tasty “ugly fruit”.

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Fall forward and waste not

... continued from Page D12

7. Check on the process until done. Let the racks cool before removing the fruit.
8. You can enjoy your items immediately, but if you want to store your stash, pack the dried fruit in glass jars or sealable plastic bags. Shake jars or bags once a day to make sure there is no condensation. If there is any moisture, return the product to the dehydrator for a bit more drying.
9. Store in a pantry or a room temperature darkened area.
10. Voila! Your very own dried fruit and leathers.
You can also put the dried fruit in bags and the freezer. I've experimented with over-ripe bananas, apples, pears, Asian pears, and I even made raisins with chardonnay grapes, seeds and all. Crunchy!

Everything turns out delicious and I know these dried trials are nutritious because except for the bananas, they originate in my organic orchard. My next testing will be to make sweet potato chips from the sweet potatoes I'm growing. I plan to go exotic by drying mangoes, strawberries, pineapple and papayas.

Recently we witnessed a rise of what I call the "ugly fruit." Stores, farmers' markets, and online sites are popularizing the value of imperfect produce. This is a giant step forward in eliminating waste and re-educating our families to value all products provided by nature. Farmers using organic methods know that crops are not always pretty, but the nutritional value and health benefits outweigh perfection of form.

As summer slowly fades into fall, I wish you abundance and a garden of eating!



The dried apples cool down after dehydration.



Cynthia Brian by the pink bower vine in bloom.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3.

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

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

Hire Cynthia for projects, consults, and lectures.

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15 Easton Court

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\$1,495,000

ORINDA



New Listing

41 Diablo View Drive

3 bed/3.5 bath, 2764 sqft pristinely maintained home. Set into the landscape & surrounded by nature.

\$1,595,000

ORINDA



New Listing

271 Orchard Road

Updated & expanded rancher in the heart of Orinda. Large lawn, patio, sport court & rooftop deck.

\$1,695,000

ORINDA



New Listing

8 Santa Lucia

Lovely 5 bed/5 bath 3917 sqft restored Spanish style home with quality features & craftsmanship.

\$1,795,000

ORINDA



New Listing

2 El Caminito

4 bed/ 3 baths, 2861 sqft home in a coveted Orinda Country Club neighborhood with views of Lake Cascade.

\$1,840,000

ORINDA



New Price

48 Oak Drive

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

\$2,599,000

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145 Meadow Lane

New construction to come! Plans approved by city, existing fixer home to be torn down.

\$2,600,000

ORINDA



New Listing

13 Gardiner Court

Custom craftsman home. 6 Bed/4.5 bath with spectacular views, flat play areas, & stunning infinity pool.

\$3,595,000

ORINDA

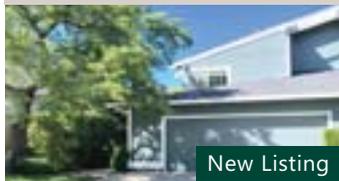


57 Charles Hill Road

A new SpringHill Homes masterpiece! 5 bed/5 baths +2 half baths with an open floor plan on a .75 acre lot.

\$4,395,000

MORAGA



New Listing

12 Josefa Place

Spacious, updated Carroll Ranch Town home w/ hardwood floors & tile throughout. 2 beds / 3 full baths in 1845 sq. ft.

\$885,000

LAFAYETTE



3259 Camino Colorados

3 bed/1 bath Burton Valley fixer-upper on a great lot. Much loved family home.

\$902,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

1410 Reliez Valley Road

Incredible, updated home with hardwood floors & open floorplan. Outdoor living, gardens & pool.

\$1,980,000

BERKELEY



New Listing

1132 Amador Ave

3 bed/1.5 bath fixer-upper in North Berkeley. Panoramic views of San Francisco & Bay Bridge.

\$779,000

WALNUT CREEK



1670 San Miguel Drive

Spacious 2 bed/ 2.5 bath condo with remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors, & oversized master bedroom!

\$735,000

DANVILLE



New Listing

807 Waingarth Way

Traditional 4 bed/ 3 bath remodeled 3,439 sqft home featuring private .23 acre yard located near top K-12 Danville schools.

\$1,549,000

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