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Wendy Scheck harvests grapes Oct. 12 at Captain Vineyards in Moraga. Photo Andy Scheck

# Lamorinda growers begin grape harvest

By Jennifer Wake

Surrounded by the rolling Lamorinda hills in the morning glow above the vineyard, the leaves on the vines planted in 2005 beginning to change color, wine club members from Captain Vineyards in Moraga met early on Oct. 12 to participate in the annual harvest and crush of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot grapes. "Stepping out into the Captain Vineyards' back-

yard on a beautiful October morning takes your breath away," said Lamorinda Weekly publisher Andy Scheck, who was one of the 10 members invited to the sun-dappled hillside that morning. Participants ranged in age from 22 to over 70. "On a second look you discover the ripe grapes – and a lot of them." For the past 10 years, regardless of the weather, Sal and Susan Captain have invited club members to experience and celebrate the harvest at their vineyard as well as to observe the crush. They have al-

ways had enough members to complete the harvest. "Most of our visitors on that date were harvesting for the first time, except one couple who had been at harvest before," Susan Captain said. "All of our club members have visited Captain Vineyards for wine tasting, as well as purchased wines, plus expressed their interest in participating in a more hands-on experience as an educational endeavor." ... continued on Page A11

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# Orinda park gets \$4M in state funds for largest creek daylighting project in Bay Area

By Sora O'Doherty

Working with the East Bay Regional Park District, Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan has secured \$4 million in state funding to daylight and restore an over 2,000-foot culverted section of creek in the upper San Leandro watershed. On Oct 21, Bauer-Kahan held a press conference at the park and handed over an oversized check to park district officials.

The perennial creek, known as McCosker Creek, is located in Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve in Orinda. The park, established in 1936, is one of the first three of the East Bay Regional Park District. According to district director Beverly Lane, the park has almost doubled in size in the last couple of years. The area where McCosker Creek is located was donated in 2010 by the McCosker family.

Lane said that the project has two main goals: to restore natural habitat and to provide public access to nature. The site has an existing residence from its days as a quarry and a ranch, which will have a resident in time. A total of 3,035 linear feet of creek are being restored, 2,850 of which are being daylighted (culverting removed). ... continued on Page A7



Photo Sora O'Doherty  
 Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and Dave Mason, EBRPD

## Lamorinda Weekly production during recent power shut down

To produce this week's paper, the Lamorinda Weekly team members made arrangements around the recent power shutdown by PG&E. The team made every effort to relocate to areas with power to produce stories and edit all the content early. Thank you to our advertisers for being on time with artwork and understanding about the harder deadlines.

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 Andy and Wendy Scheck  
 Lamorinda Weekly



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**City leaders weigh in on controversial car wash plans**



Image provided

**By Pippa Fisher**

The Don Tatzin Community Hall remained packed until after midnight Oct. 15 as residents had their say and, for the most part, vented their outrage at a proposed car wash planned for the gas station next to Acalanes High School, citing concerns regarding noise levels, safety and air quality. The council unanimously voted to bring the matter back to a special meeting on Nov. 18, giving the applicant and city staff time to address questions that arose.

The city council was considering the

matter afresh on appeal by Lisa and Jon Williams, whose property is one of three sharing a boundary line with the gas station, following the August approval of the project (with some conditions, including silencers and a sound wall added for noise mitigation) by the planning commission. Initially, city staff had recommended approval, however following public notification, public comment and environmental review, staff reevaluated the project against the required findings, and changed its recommendation to denial.

The proposal is a request for a land use permit to demolish an existing 566-

square-foot office/retail space and install a new self-service car wash and a 763-square foot office/retail space, replacing the current, smaller retail area on a commercially developed property at 3255 Stanley Blvd.

The car wash tunnel would wind around the rear of the half-acre site,

alongside neighbors' borders. With two entrances off Stanley Boulevard, the most western one would be made a right turn-in and right turn-out only, giving some concerns over additional cars having to travel east into a residential area to make a U-turn.

... continued on Page A10

**Lafayette Police Department recruits four-legged help**



Photo Jeff Heyman, City of Lafayette

**Police Chief Ben Alldritt presents his case to the council for starting a K-9 program at the Oct. 15 meeting.**

**By Pippa Fisher**

The Lafayette City Council voted unanimously in favor of setting up a police canine program at their Oct. 15 meeting.

Although some canines are trained for a single purpose, law enforcement most commonly uses dual-purpose dogs trained in tracking (missing persons as well as criminals), and in firearms/explosives detection.

Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt told the council that he became aware of the advantages of the newer dual-purpose canines during the Art and Wine Festival when

the Pittsburg Police Department assisted the Lafayette police with the morning "sweep" for explosives before opening the event to the public.

Alldritt explained that these canines can detect approximately 25-27 different explosive material scents including gunpowder, gun oils, and gun residue, dynamite, nitrate-based explosives, fuses/fuse caps, and detonating cords. Pittsburg PD has used its dogs for public events and to detect guns in vehicles.

In previous years Lafayette had two dual-purpose canines (tracking and narcotics) over two separate periods, but the program was discontinued. According to the staff report, "The program was discontinued based on a cost/benefit ratio. Narcotics are an issue in all communities, but in Lafayette, it is not as significant. The prior canines tended to be requested by outside agencies for suspected narcotics cases. Outside agency requests can be a drain on resources on a small agency, and the previous chief decided to discontinue the program."

Given the number of active shooter events affecting California and the country, Alldritt said that school safety, public event safety and religious institution safety continues to be a priority. He noted that with the increased focus on these areas, coupled with the decriminalization/reduction of crime severity for controlled substances, he thinks that within the next few years local law enforcement K-9 programs will transition from dual-purpose narcotics dogs to

dual-purpose explosive detection canines.

"I am excited for us to have the opportunity to be on the cutting edge for this," said Alldritt as he explained how the demand for these canines has grown.

The cost of getting the program up and running is roughly \$70,000, with \$33,000 coming from a recently-established nonprofit, Lafayette Police Foundation, formed as a result of residents offering financial support for the program, and the rest coming from the city's budget.

City Council Member Cam Burks says that this is one of the most important votes the city has taken in a long time.

"Throughout my previous career in law enforcement all over the world, I've personally witnessed K-9s save hundreds of people, from kids to seniors, and protect police officers during search warrants, traffic stops, workplace violence events, earthquakes, school shootings and other crises."

Burks says that you can't put a price tag on this program. "Lafayette will be substantively safer and I commend Chief Alldritt for his innovative, forward thinking around how to sustainably fund the initiative through the creation of our first Lafayette Police Foundation, and the generosity of multiple Lafayette donors."

The canine will be assigned to an existing officer, selected from within the police department. Alldritt says several officers are interested. The dog and officer will work a daytime shift to maximize availability to schools. and public events.



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**Lafayette Public Meetings**

**City Council**  
Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

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

**Planning Commission**  
Monday, Nov. 4, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**  
Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Lafayette School District**  
Wednesday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
Stanley M.S. Library  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
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# Lamorinda Pétanque, 30 years strong



Photo Pippa Fisher

**Mayor Mike Anderson throws out the first ball, marking the Lamorinda Petanque Club's 30th anniversary.**

In the shady spot near the creek on St. Mary's Road, home to Lamorinda's Pétanque Club, Mayor Mike Anderson threw out the first cochonnet (small, target ball) and first boule to kick off the Oct. 20 tournament as players watched with professional eyes. He described the club as an "oasis of calm and civility."

The club is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Founder Pascal Gravier recalled the last time a mayor tossed out the first ball, 24 years ago.

"Mayor Gayle Uilkema threw out the first ball at our old location down the road which is now the roller rink."

The club is indeed an oasis, but alongside its calm and civility it features some world-class players. Sixteen-year-old Noah Sonet will be playing on the U.S. junior team in Cambodia next month, one of only three juniors in the country.

The club welcomes new members. "But be warned," says Gravier. "It is addicting."  
- P. Fisher

Further information can be found on their website <http://lamorindapetanque.com/index.html>

# Lynn Hiden – 40 years as heart and soul of the community



Photo Pippa Fisher

**The city council pose for a photo with Lynn Hiden (in green) after the presentation of a proclamation marking her 40 years of community service in Lafayette.**

**By Pippa Fisher**

Few people exemplify "Love Lafayette" like Lynn Hiden, who has been serving the community for over 40 years. Mayor Mike Anderson recognized her four decades of service with a proclamation at the Oct. 15 city council meeting.

Currently a member of the Transportation and Circulation Commission, Hiden started her civic involvement on what was known as the Traffic Commission back in 1979. She is clearly a beloved figure in the city, evident from the number of people who came to the meeting in support of her, and by the number of people who spoke of her gifts, and talent for working tirelessly to find solutions, and her tenacity in keeping residents informed on the issues of the day.

Many know and appreciate her as a prolific email-writer who raises awareness on local and statewide concerns facing the city.

"You are an important part of the Circulation Commission," noted Anderson,

adding, "But I think more importantly you've been an important part of circulating information throughout the community." Anderson even recalled a time before email was available when Hiden would instead be making phone calls to spread awareness.

Lafayette School District trustee Rob Sturm referred to her, as many others also did, as a dear friend. He said that the community was fortunate to have someone with Lynn's wealth of community knowledge, care and pragmatism, doggedly leaning in each day to improve the city.

"Lynn is our Paul Revere," said Sturm, "with the writing style of Charles Dickens who, I will note legend has it, was paid by the word."

Perhaps Vice Mayor Susan Candell summed it up most simply: "She is the heart and soul of Lafayette."

Hiden said that her 40 years of adventures in Lafayette have meant so much to her. "Thousands of challenges, wonderful friends, an unsurpassed honor," she said, as the packed room gave her a standing ovation.

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



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**Local authorities continue to stress importance of evacuation planning**

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Police Department and Moraga-Orinda Fire District have banded together to ensure that residents are prepared in the event of an evacuation, with police and fire officials conducting coordinated drills in Moraga, Lafayette and Orinda. The early morning fire on Oct. 10, christened the Merrill Fire, was the wake-up call authorities have been warning residents about for nearly a year.

While evacuation routes are mapped out in great detail, they can change due to shifting winds and weather conditions, according to the MPD, so alerts from the Contra Costa County Community Warning System become a vital tool. Residents are advised to follow directions from first responders and to heed alerts during any emergency.

The town of Moraga has been divided into 23 separate evacuation zones, according to the MPD website. This allows emergency responders to notify a specific geographical area of the need to evacuate, using the Community Warning System. Names such as Campolindo, Rheem West, Moraga Shopping, Camino Pablo and Sanders Ranch have been attached to the zones as their area designations. The Merrill Fire was located in Zone 23 Sanders Ranch.

During the Oct. 10 town council meeting Police Chief Jon King praised the evacuees for an orderly and calm exodus

during the Merrill Fire. In the true spirit of neighbor helping neighbor, the residents of Zone 23 went above and beyond the call of duty to alert their fellow zone residents of the fire. Most if not all were fast asleep, most likely having gone to bed early due to Pacific Gas and Electric Company's imposed power shutoff. During the evacuation King said residents went door-to-door waking up their neighbors or honking their car horns for optimum noise.

Last spring, Lamorinda residents were mailed the yellow Lamorinda Resident's Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation (MPD has extra copies available at 329 Rheem Blvd.) and emergency information is also posted on the MPD and MOFD websites. Residents are encouraged to sign up for the Contra Costa County Community Warning System for evacuation alerts at <http://cococws.com/>. The Nixle site transmits messages to area residents from Lamorinda's police departments. To register, visit [www.Nixle.com](http://www.Nixle.com).

Evacuation planning can save a lot of stress and uncertainty when an emergency strikes. Within a matter of days Moraga experienced a fire and an earthquake. Pre-designate an out-of-area contact and pre-program their number in all family cell phones.

Prepare a Go-Bag for each member of the family (see related article on Page A9). It should contain clothing, sturdy shoes, toiletries, flashlight, jacket, hat, cell phone charger

and cable, spare eyeglasses and medications.

Store copies of important documents such as insurance, mortgage papers and title. Personal ID including drivers license, social security card and passport along with health insurance cards and prescription info are important. Remember if power is out, getting cash at ATMs will be difficult, so include a small amount of cash in your Go-Bag.

Predetermine anyone on your street who may need assistance in the event of an evacuation and make sure they have a Go-Bag ready. When evacuating make sure neighbors are aware of the situation and alert everyone that you can.

Have a Go-Bag for your pets containing food, leash, water dish and medications. Have all of your animals micro-chipped for easy identification and return.

When evacuating, take a single vehicle to prevent road congestion and keep at least a half tank of fuel in your car. Remember that power might be out during an evacuation, due to potential PG&E power shutoffs, so make sure car keys are always in the same location, keep clothes next to your bed, and keep drinking water in your vehicle along with an emergency kit. Know how to manually open automatic garage doors and gates, and consider installing an analog landline phone that will work during any power outage.

... continued on Page A9

**Continuing saga of Rheem sinkhole**



Rheem sinkhole gets larger

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

For a while, any obvious repairs to the current Rheem sinkhole had come to a screeching halt. The last apparent bit of progress occurred in May when Moraga Star Gas Station property owners had set up two sediment basins to remove debris from the damaged corrugated metal pipe below street level.

Former town of Moraga Compliance Officer Kelly Clancy had issued a Notice And Order To Abate on Sept. 13 and also posted that notice on the chain link fence of the property located at 398 Rheem Blvd. This move comes on the heels of litigation proceedings begun in August against the property owner.

To the naked eye, the sinkhole area appears to have increased in size to even more dangerous proportions than its initial appearance in late March.

The abatement notice states, "The conditions on your Property that constitute nuisances include the follow-

ing: 1) the cavity in the ground situated near the landscaped median in the driveway and walkway near Center Street ("Sinkhole"); 2) a cavern underneath the surface of the Sinkhole that is larger than the Sinkhole itself ("Unstable Ground"); and 3) the failing stormwater pipe near and below the Sinkhole ("Stormwater Pipe").

The town also notes that after meeting with the property owner on three separate occasions (March 28, April 15 and July 9) to discuss matters relating to repairs, the property owners have not progressed with satisfactory repairs, thereby allowing the situation to worsen.

The notice also mentions that the "Sinkhole is an attractive nuisance which is dangerous to children and others. There are schools within walking distance of the Property and it is near a pedestrian friendly shopping center which causes the Sinkhole to be publicly visible and accessible to children and other persons in the area."

... continued on Page A12

**Tracking power outages**

The San Francisco Chronicle has an interactive map that offers visitors the ability to enter their addresses, and see if their location is within a potential outage area, how many customers are affected in that area, and the fire risks for that location. Real time outage data is collected from PG&E and is updated every 15 minutes or as it becomes available. <https://projects.sfchronicle.com/trackers/power-outages/>

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# A shifting tide in the use of potentially dangerous herbicides



Photo Vera Kochan

Students play on the field at Camino Pablo Elementary School in Moraga

By Vera Kochan

As of July 11, there were 18,400 U.S. plaintiffs who had filed suit against the makers of Roundup and other weed killers alleging a link to their cancer diagnoses. Many of these weed killers contain a common ingredient – glyphosate.

According to the Environmental

Protection Agency website, glyphosate has been in use since 1974 and targets a broad range of weeds and grasses. The website claims “No risk to human health from current uses of glyphosate; no indication that children are more sensitive to glyphosate and; no evidence that glyphosate causes cancer.”

However, in somewhat of a contradiction to its insistence that the

product is safe the “EPA’s draft ecological risk assessment found: potential risks to plants (aquatic and terrestrial); potential risks to birds from acute or short-term exposure and to mammals from chronic or long-term exposure; glyphosate is not expected to adversely impact aquatic animals but does have an effect on aquatic plants; and glyphosate is of low toxicity to honeybees.”

In an attempt to acknowledge “the potential risks to birds, mammals, and non-target terrestrial and aquatic plants from exposure to spray drift,” the EPA is “proposing to require spray drift management labeling to reduce off-target spray drift and protect non-target plants and wildlife.”

Contra Costa County Climate Leaders co-director Sheila Hill credits Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns for championing the fight to keep toxic chemicals out of Moraga’s campuses.


Burns stated, “An Integrated Pest Management board policy was in place before 2010 when I became superintendent.”

The IPM governing board “recognizes that maintenance of a safe, clean, and healthy environment for students and staff is essential to learning. The board acknowledges

that the use of toxic chemicals to control pests, including weeds, can pose significant risk to the environment and people, especially children. It is the goal of the Board to provide for the safest and lowest risk approach to control pest problems, including weeds, while protecting students, staff, and the environment, as well as district property.” Included in the ban of toxic chemicals were those known to the state of California to cause cancer and birth defects.

According to Parents for a Safer Environment, the state of California listed glyphosate as a known human cancer-causing chemical in July 2017. The theory of “Dose makes the Poison,” due to the insistence of the EPA, was called into question when court documents revealed that “pesticide industry affiliated members sat in the U.S. EPA committee that addressed the toxicity of glyphosate.”

In July, the East Bay Regional Park District board of directors voted unanimously to ban the use of glyphosates from all picnic areas and developed areas (lawns, sports fields, campgrounds, paved trails, parking lots and concession areas) by the end of 2020.

 <p><b>Town Council</b> Wednesday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p><b>Planning Commission</b> Monday, Nov. 4, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p><b>Park and Recreation Commission</b> Tuesday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p><b>Moraga School District Board Meetings</b> Thursday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m. Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga www.moraga.k12.ca.us See also AUHSD meeting page A2</p>
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# Now is the time for testing the appetite in Orinda for new taxes



**By Sora O'Doherty**

The city of Orinda joined with the other municipalities in Contra Costa County by adopting a resolution agreeing that the Contra Costa Transportation Agency may put a measure on the March ballot to raise a one-half cent sales tax county-wide to support transportation projects. The proposed tax would continue for 35 years. The city is also testing the waters for a renewal of its local one-half cent sales tax and a possible increase to one cent.

Although the city council made it clear that the vote on the CCTA measure was not an expression of support for the ballot item, it also made clear at the Oct. 22 meeting that transportation issues have great impact on Orinda residents. Vice Mayor Darlene Gee recused herself from the vote because, while her engineering firm, HNTB, has never worked for CCTA at all and has nothing pending in regards to working with them, it is possible that they could work for them in the future. In addition, Gee noted that the firm had contributed to the Measure X campaign in 2016.

The vote was 4-0, with one recusal. Council Member Dennis Fay has extensive transportation background from his earlier career with Alameda County and Council Member Amy Worth sits as an ex officio commissioner of the CCTA.

The combined total sales tax rate for Orinda is currently 8.75%, including state, county and city sales taxes. The city of Orinda is now considering what to do about its own sales tax. The existing one-half cent sales tax adopted in November 2012 will expire in 2023. Those funds have been used to pay for the repair of public roads. Without an extension, the city will not be able to maintain the improvements. The city also acknowledges that additional funding is required to deal with the city's sewer and drain systems. Additionally, work remains to be done on the city's arterial and collector roads, although the funding for those roads comes from different revenue sources.

The city council's revenue and tax measure subcommittee held its second public meeting on Oct. 23 to work with polling company FM3

Research to try to craft a questionnaire to test the appetite of Orinda residents for extending the half cent sales tax and maybe increasing it from one-half cent to one cent to provide some measure of service for private roads and drains. The meeting was attended by subcommittee members Gee and Worth, Finance Director Paul Rankin, Director of Public Works Larry Theis, City Manager Steve Salomon, Dave Metz from FM3, and four proponents of private roads: Steve Cohn, Melissa Roeder, Charles Porges, and Cathy Finch. The group reviewed a draft questionnaire that will be circulated to a representative sample of Orinda residents. A number of changes were suggested to clarify the issues, and Metz agreed to return at a later date with a further draft.

During the presentation by Deputy Executive Director of CCTA Tim Haile to the city council on the proposed CCTA tax, one thing that was emphasized was that the matching funds that come back to the city from such taxes also enable the city to qualify for other grants; at least one such grant opportunity was missed

by the city in the past. In addition, CCTA funding allows them to leverage local funding at a 3:1 ratio. The CCTA raised \$1.4 billion from Measure C and based on that CCTA was able to obtain state, regional and federal funds of \$4.1 billion, bringing the total investment in Contra Costa's transportation system up to \$5.5 billion.

Proposed projects that could be funded by the sales tax that would specifically benefit Orinda include: \$450,000 per year to Orinda to modernize local roads and improve access to jobs and housing; reducing congestion on Highway 24 by improvements to old bores of Caldecott Tunnel and auxiliary lanes; improved transit reliability such as shared mobility hubs, shuttles to employment centers, and incentives for alternative modes; improved traffic flow on major roads such as Camino Pablo and Moraga Road; improved access to BART; bicycle and pedestrian improvements to streets and trails; accessible transportation for seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities; additional funding for Lamorinda's School Bus Program to reduce congestion around schools; investments to reduce emissions and improve air quality such as electric vehicle charging stations, rideshare/bikeshare services, and zero emissions programs; and funding to attract jobs to Contra Costa County (reduce and reverse commute).

CCTA placed a similar tax measure on the ballot in 2016. The yes vote of over 63% fell short of the two-thirds majority required to pass a tax measure. The current CCTA sales tax will expire in 2034, the first 10 years focused on capital projects and second 20 years paying off capital projects, such as Caldecott Tunnel or the 680 interchange.

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## Orinda trials employee parking permits



Image provided

**By Sora O'Doherty**

With no negative comments, and only support from the public, the Orinda City Council adopted a resolution establishing a pilot program for employee permit parking on

the east side of Santa Maria Way from Orinda Way to Altarinda Road and on the east side of Altarinda. The district will be known as "Altarinda." Permits will last for six months, and will cost \$82, which works out to slightly

below \$14 per month. There will be no limit on the number of permits issued, and permit holders will not be entitled to a guaranteed space. It is anticipated that not all permit holders will require parking at the same times. There will be 46 spaces available under the pilot program. Currently, without the permit program, parking is limited to four hours and there are only 10 cars parked there on average, according to the staff report. Staff requested that the permit pilot program begin in early January, but in response to positive public comments, Council Member Nick Kosla urged that it be put in place as soon as possible, perhaps in time for the holiday season.

Rochelle Latimer served on the Parking Task Force in 2016. She told the council that parking in private lots isn't the best alternative for employees, and applauded the fact that the permit fee is below market rates, as compared to Theatre Square or #2 Bates Blvd. Juliet Dawn also praised the resolution, which would make better use of space currently underutilized by the Orinda Union School District. She pointed out the advantages of the Altarinda district: the location is not residential, but has sidewalks and lighting, and it is convenient to both the theater district and the village.

	<b>City Council</b> Tuesday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m. Regular Meeting Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way	<b>Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission</b> Wednesday, Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m. Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563 <b>Orinda Union High School District Board Meetings</b> Monday, Nov. 4, 6 p.m. Regular Board Meeting 8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda <a href="http://www.orindaschools.org">www.orindaschools.org</a> See also AUHSD meeting page A2
	<b>Orinda Public Meetings</b>	<b>Planning Commission</b> Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m. Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

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## Orinda park gets \$4M in state funds for largest creek daylighting project in Bay Area



Photo Sora O'Doherty

... continued from Page A1

Overall, four acres of riparian creek habitat (creek and habitat areas around it) are being restored. This will increase the safety of the area, Lane stated, by removing large sink-holes that have developed as the culverts enclosing the creek have failed.

The park will offer a campground, picnic areas, and some eight miles of hiking trails. This "big vision" Lane said, is being financed by contributions from Cal Trans Proposition 1 funds, development fees, and a river parkway federal grant of \$500,000, in addition to the state grant.

Bauer-Kahan said she was proud

to be a part of the effort. As a mom of three, she said, climate change is a big issue, and if she is going camping with her three children under age 9, she prefers to stay close to home. After presenting the oversized check for \$4 million, Bauer-Kahan toured the site. "Preserving our open spaces, protecting wildlife and our environment is crucial. It is imperative the failing culvert and creek are cleaned up, stabilized, and converted to habitat as soon as possible," said Bauer-Kahan. "I am proud to partner with East Bay Regional Park District to secure funding to complete this project."

"The McCosker Creek Restoration project is the largest creek restoration project in the district's history," said EBRPD Chief of Stewardship Matt Graul. "The project restores 3,000 linear feet of natural stream channel where it's been covered up and culverted for the last 60 years." The stream restoration design will closely model the predicted pattern, profile, and dimension of a natural stream for this specific valley in order to create a low-maintenance, sustainable riparian and in-stream habitat in the long term, taking into account a changing climate, according to EBRPD.

The project will benefit the

ecosystem for fish and wildlife, and native and rare plants. Riparian habitat will be created in an area that can support up to 10 special status wildlife species, including, for example, the California red-legged frog, golden eagle, Cooper's hawk, California foothill yellow-legged frog, Alameda whip-snake, and San Francisco Dusky-footed Wood Rat.

The project builds upon a multi-year community land use planning process and strong partnerships including Civicorps, a certified local conservation corps, as well as San Francisco Estuary Institute. The project is anticipated to be constructed over two construction seasons, in 2019 and 2020. EBRPD staff will monitor and maintain the habitat once restoration is completed.

Dave Mason of EBRPD explained that the park is home to many species of wildlife and the creek is perfect for rainbow trout, which have been spotted coming up into the property. The trout are native to the region, and the park is among the first places where rainbow trout have been studied. He added that the park district is working with professors at UC Berkeley studying terrestrial insects in the area.

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# How repositioning of fire resources saved homes in Moraga's Sanders Ranch

By Nick Marnell

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chef Dave Winnacker did not mince words as he discussed the successful containment of the Oct. 10 Merrill Fire, which threatened 140 residences in southern Moraga in the middle of the night.

"The availability of repositioned resources was critical to protecting homes and stopping the spread of this fire," Winnacker said.

Repositioned resources are fire agency assets, including equipment, suppression personnel and dispatchers, placed on standby during heightened fire risks, such as after the forecast of an extreme weather event. The repositioning allows instant response to an incident, since the strike teams are already assembled and ready to roll.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has long used repositioning. The state allocated \$25 million annually for the repositioning of local resources after a 2018 presentation to a senate committee by former Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Chief Jeff Carman, who illustrated that, with wildfires becoming larger and more ferocious every year, the state's mutual aid system was not able to cope.

Carman said that at the start of the 2017 Napa and Southern California wildfires, ConFire had resources ready to go, but the district was unable to send crews or engines for hours because it had not received an official order. "That was as frustrating as you can imagine," Carman told the committee. "The system became overwhelmed."

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services funds and coordinates local repositioning efforts. Once the National Weather Service issued an Oct. 8 warning for high temperatures, strong winds and low humidity, and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company followed up with a threat of a power shutoff for many Northern Californians, ConFire Deputy Chief Aaron McAlister, the operational area coordinator, sent a request to OES for the repositioning of five engine companies, two water tenders, three chief officers, an extra dispatcher and a bulldozer. He quickly received an approval, which included the redeployment of several Cal Fire hand crews.



Photo courtesy MOFD

The repositioning was set for 8 p.m. Oct. 9. MOFD repositioned an engine company, a water tender and a chief officer, and the personnel moved into "wherever we could find the space," said Battalion Chief Matt Nichols, the Merrill Fire incident commander. The water tender crew slept on mattresses on the floor at Fire Station 44.

No one had long to wait. About five hours after the start of repositioning came a dispatch for a vegetation fire in southern Moraga, threatening homes in the Sanders Ranch neighborhood. "When that fire took off, I was on the phone, the radio, the computer, pushing resources to the incident," McAlister said.

Repositioned resources fought the Merrill Fire for six hours, as did the five MOFD on-duty engine companies, as well as mutual aid respondents from neighboring agencies, including strike teams from Alameda and Solano counties. Numerous officials confirmed that upwards of 150 suppression personnel fought the wildfire at the height of the incident.

By late morning the fire was contained and though threatened, no structures were damaged, nor was anyone injured. "We had things in place. We had the right formula and we were able to over-

whelm the incident," McAlister said.

The deputy chief acknowledged the fire service personnel who challenged themselves and bought into the idea of doing things differently. He echoed the words of Winnacker on the effect the repositioned resources had in the containment of the Moraga fire. "Those assets made a major difference," McAlister said.



Photo courtesy ConFire

## New ConFire assistant chief jumpstarts Fire Prevention Bureau



Photo provided

Fire Marshal Chris Bachman

By Nick Marnell

The job of the fire marshal with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District has become so complex that new Fire Marshal Chris Bachman also carries the title of assistant fire chief.

Bachman manages the district Fire Prevention Bureau, which includes five main units: Code Enforcement, En-

gineering, Public Education, Fire Investigation and Exterior Hazard Control. But the fire marshal sees his No. 1 goal with the district as the exploration and implementation of community risk reduction.

"We evaluate the hazards, identify the problems and create a plan to prevent catastrophes from occurring," Bachman said. "Educating people on compliance is crucial to achieving that goal."

Bachman cited Lafayette as an example. Logic tells him, he said, that most Lafayette residents, considering their enormous property values, have working smoke detectors. "But when was the last time they cleaned out their gutters?" said Bachman, citing the possibility of flying embers from pine needles causing a major vegetation fire. "We need to provide the community this kind of information, and to focus on implementation."

The assistant chief moved to ConFire this year from a fire department in western Indi-

ana, as he sought a larger agency to utilize his recently earned master's degree in emergency and disaster management from Georgetown University. Bachman spent five residencies overseas, including stints in London, NATO and Paris, where he studied how to combat "not just natural hazards but man-made hazards as well," such as terrorism.

"I am fortunate to have stepped into the position I have," Bachman said. "The staff has done a fantastic job and has made my job easy."

Unlike former fire marshals, Bachman will not double as ConFire public information officer, with that job now handled by Steve Hill.

## Distracted driver causes geyser on Canyon Road



Photo courtesy Moraga Police Department

By Vera Kochan

Moraga Police Chief Jon King confirmed a single-car incident, which occurred around 8:56 a.m. on Oct. 24 and involved a "distracted driver" who crashed into a fire hydrant adjacent to the parking lot of St. Monica's Catholic Church on Canyon Road between Camino Pablo and De La Cruz Way in Moraga. Authorities had to reduce traffic to one lane while the East Bay Municipal Utility District began a cleanup that is estimated to cost the driver's insurance company \$1,000. The only damage to the vehicle was a flat tire.

The driver, the sole occupant of the car, was uninjured.

### Fire District Public Meetings

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**  
Board of Directors  
Wednesday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.  
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.  
Visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)



### ConFire

Board of Directors  
Tuesday, Nov. 12, 1:30 p.m.  
Board Chamber Room 107,  
Administration Building  
651 Pine St., Martinez.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.cccfpd.org](http://www.cccfpd.org)



## 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](http://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, David M. Cook  
925-254-6820

Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

**Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report**

**Oct. 6 - Oct. 19**

Alarms	101
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	20
Traffic	121
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subject	26
Suspicious Vehicle	28
Service to Citizen	50
Patrol Req./Security Check	30
Pubic/School Assembly Check	8
Supplemental Report	23
Welfare Check	19



### Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary  
3700 Block Meadow Ln.  
3800 Block Palo Alto Dr.  
900 Block Dewing Ave.

DUI Misdemeanor  
Martino Rd./Springhill Rd.

Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
Moraga Rd./Plaza Way  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)  
Moraga Rd./Plaza Way  
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd. (3)  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1000 Block Dyer Dr.

Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.  
Petty Theft From Vehicle  
Police Department (2)  
3200 Block Alta Ln.  
1200 Block Cambridge Dr.  
3700 Block Meadow Ln.

Reckless Driving  
St. Marys Rd./Glenside Dr.  
1000 Block Woodbury Rd.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24  
Deer Hill Rd./Brown Ave.  
Oak Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24

Throw Moving Vehicle  
Glenside Dr./Reliez Station Rd.

Vehicle Theft  
3700 Block St Francis Dr.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
10 Block Greenvalley Dr.  
1400 Block Tichenor Ct  
3300 Block Kincheloe Ct

**Other criminal activity**  
Attempt Shoplift  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Fraud Credit Card  
900 Block Dolores Dr.  
800 Block Mountain View Dr.

Fraud False Pretenses  
3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
3400 Block Black Hawk Rd.

Grand Theft  
3100 Block Lucas Dr.

Identity Theft  
3100 Block Sweetbrier Cir.  
700 Block Solana Dr.  
20 Block Ruth Ct.

Panhandling  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft  
900 Block Kelley Ct  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1000 Block Carol Ln.  
900 Block Moraga Rd.  
50 Block Lafayette Cir.

Residential Burglary  
3300 Block Rowland Dr.

Shoplift  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Threats  
10 Block Westminster Pl.

Warrant Arrest  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1st St

**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
900 Block Diablo Dr.  
10 Block Arbor Way (2)

Disturbing The Peace  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.

Drunk In Public  
Old Tunnel Rd./Windsor Dr.

Loud Music  
600 Block Sky Hy Cir.  
Reliez Valley Rd./Hermosa Way

Loud Noise  
Reliez Valley Rd./Lombard Ln.  
1200 Block Rose Ln. (2)  
3300 Block Springhill Rd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Party  
1700 Block Reliez Valley Rd. (2)  
Crest Rd./Diablo Cir.  
Moraga Rd./Madrone Dr.

Public Nuisance  
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1000 Block Dewing Ave.  
900 Block Oak Hill Rd.

Vandalism  
Post Office  
1100 Block Cambridge Dr.

**Other**  
Accident Property  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Ordinance Violation  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1000 Block Dewing Ave.

Trespass  
3600 Block Echo Springs Rd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Unwanted Guest  
1000 Block 2Nd St.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Violation Custody Order  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1000 Block Miller Dr.

Violation Restraining Order  
1200 Block Warner Ct. (2)  
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.

**Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report**

**Oct. 8 - Oct. 21**

Alarms 17  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 15  
Traffic 48

Suspicious Circumstances 3  
Suspicious Subject 5  
Suspicious Vehicle 9  
Service to Citizen 68

Patrol Req./Security Check 38  
Supplemental Report 6  
Vacation House Check 2  
Welfare Check 3

**Vehicle violations**  
Accident Injury  
100 Block Eileen Ct.  
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.

Auto Burglary  
Not Available  
20 Block Hour Fitness

Excessive Speed  
Corliss Dr./Lynwood Pl.  
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.  
Campolindo Dr./Paseo Del Rio

Reckless Driving  
Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr.  
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.  
Camino Pablo Rd./School St.



Canyon Rd./Moraga Way  
Canyon Rd./Larch Ave.

Tc - Property Damage  
Camino Pablo/Canyon Rd.

**Other criminal activity**  
Battery Domestic Misd  
20 Block Lance Ct.  
Grand Theft  
Not Available  
Wells Fargo

Petty Theft  
Nations

**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbing The Peace  
100 Block Miramonte Dr.

Loud Music  
1500 Block Canyon Rd.  
Canyon Club Brewery (3)

Loud Noise  
Bollinger Canyon Rd./St. Marys Rd.

Loud Party  
2000 Block Ascot Dr.

Public Nuisance  
Safeway  
Vandalism  
St. Marys College

**Other**  
Ordinance Violation  
800 Block Country Club Dr.

Public Assembly Check  
Rheem Valley Shopping Center  
Revoked License  
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.

**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report**

will be back next time

**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report**

will be back next time

**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report**

will be back next time





# Safety First: Emergency Preparation and the ‘Go-Bag’



Photo Cynthia Brian

The coyote brush burned along with the hills in the Merrill Fire.

## By Cynthia Brian

Natural disasters know no boundaries. One never knows if a fire, earthquake, flood, mudslide, or other calamity is on the horizon. It's imperative to be prepared for all emergencies.

Residents of Moraga have had first-hand experience of being awoken in the middle of the night, without any power, and evacuated because of the fast-moving Mer-

rill Fire (see related story on Page A4). One hundred and fifty firefighters from numerous districts battled the blaze while local police kept the community safe. Fortunately, all property and people were spared.

Whatever the calamity, it will behoove you to have an emergency supply kit (AKA "Go Bag") in every vehicle and a larger one in your home in a closet or area near the front door that will offer you supplies for a few days.

You want duplicate Go Bags in your vehicles because when disaster strikes you may be in your vehicle and unable to return home.

In an emergency at your dwelling, you may only have time to grab your keys, phone, wallet, pets, Go Bag, and what you can carry. There will not be time to "load your car" or to be searching or running from room to room to find what you need. Keep everything that is essential together in one place. Remember, you may be evacuated for hours, days, or weeks. Sometimes, as has been the case with our California wildfires and earthquakes, a matter of minutes means the difference between life and death.

Have a sign already made with your name and phone number and the words "All Evacuated" sitting on top of your Go Bag along with a roll of blue painter's tape. Only if time permits, tape your sign to your door when you leave so that firefighters know the house is clear.

Most of all, remember that saving your life and that of your family is the most important. Everything else can

be replaced.

Fill a backpack or small case with the following and keep one of these in all of your vehicles and one in your home. Pack a small bag for each family member, or pack a larger bag to include everyone's items. Remember you may only take one vehicle upon an evacuation.

### Go Bag Necessities

- First Aid kit
- Duplicate chargers for phones, tablets, and computers
- Work gloves
- Warm gloves
- Towelettes
- Small towel
- Bottled water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Blanket
- Walking shoes
- Socks
- Warm jacket
- Peanut butter
- Honey
- Protein bars
- Personal hygiene kit with a toothbrush, soap, medications
- Matches
- Candle
- Flashlight and headlamp with extra batteries
- Eating utensils and plates

- Breathing masks (Niosh-N95)
- Clothing change
- Extra undergarments
- Extra set of keys to home, office, etc.
- Cash
- Toilet Paper

Hopefully, you will never have to use these emergency kits, but it's best to be prepared. The week after the Merrill Fire, several earthquakes with the largest being 4.6 on the Richter scale shook our area. It is natural to assume that a catastrophe will happen to someone else, but the reality is no one is immune. Across the country, natural disasters are becoming more prevalent and frequent. October and November are historically prime fire and earthquake months in California. Think safety first. The life you save could be your own.

*Cynthia Brian is the columnist for Digging Deep in the Lamorinda Weekly. www.CynthiaBrian.com*

Sign up for important evacuation and emergency alerts at <https://cwsalerts.com> and <https://www.nixle.com>

## Local authorities continue to stress importance of evacuation planning

... continued from Page A4

Plan to evacuate before the mandatory evacuation order from authorities by placing your Go-Bags in each of your cars (you may not know which car you can take). Communicate via text with your out-of-area contact to let them know you are

evacuating. Do not attempt to evacuate on foot.

When leaving your home make sure to leave the outside lights on for first responders. Also, leave gates open for easy access to your property. Drive safely and cautiously. Authorities will be on hand to direct traffic flow to a collection point.

Check in at the collection point to obtain sheltering information.

Being prepared can keep a bad situation from becoming worse.

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

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# SAVE LAFAYETTE

## Working to Secure a Cleaner and Safer Environment for Residents

### Fire Evacuation Planning

- California's 10 worst wildfires occurred in the last 5 years
- 95% of wildfires are caused by humans
- 90% of wildfire fuel comes from buildings

The City Council adopted an ordinance in 2013, identifying Lafayette as a **Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone**.

### Save Lafayette members...

- Worked with residents to comply with recommendations in the Lamorinda Resident's Guide to Wildfire Preparedness & Evacuation
- Participated in live Evacuation Drills with 100+ First Responders
- Support the City Council's 2019 Strategic Plan to augment community emergency preparedness

### Child Health and Safety

- Gridlock on Pleasant Hill Road and Moraga Road threatens the **health & safety of students to and from school, with 3-mile commutes taking up to 45 minutes**
- **Micro particulate matter** (1/50 the width of a human hair) from these congested roads and Highway 24 can cause severe health problems for the young and the old; those exercising outside are four times as much at risk
- **First Responders (Fire/EMS) give major Lafayette streets and arterials an F-grade** because they will be unable to respond to emergencies in a timely and effective manner

### Save Lafayette members...

- are collaborating with the City on mitigating traffic and related pollution problems

## Local Jobs - Businesses/Housing Imbalance

- Approved housing in Lafayette will cause **300 job losses**
- Current proposals - **another 300+ local job losses**
- Elimination of downtown local businesses will force residents to go to other cities for their services.

**Without local jobs and businesses, Lafayette will become a housing corridor for the Bay Area job market, making commutes even worse!**

**Save Lafayette** supports the right housing in the right locations to **maintain proper local jobs and businesses/housing balance**

## Recent State Housing Bills Create More Problems for Lafayette

- These unwanted bills **remove local housing controls** and associated health/safety regulations
- Resulting revenues from such bills are 100% guaranteed to San Francisco, San Jose, Oakland and Berkeley, **but not to Lafayette**
- **The unelected Metropolitan Transportation Commission will have the final say on what housing gets approved and will be given unlimited public/private land-grab powers**
- **Save Lafayette** is working with the City, other East Bay cities and State representatives **to prepare alternative legislation**



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## Beyond Aero bike shop opens in Orinda



Photo Sora O'Doherty

### By Sora O'Doherty

A new bicycle shop has opened in Orinda at 85 Orinda Way, formerly the home of Tally Home, which closed. Andres Douzoglou had been operating his shop,

Beyond Aero, in Berkeley for a little over five years. The shop, located off San Pablo Avenue near Gilman, had a loyal clientele who came not only from Berkeley but from all over the Bay Area, particularly from Oakland.

Douzoglou, who lives in Orinda with his wife and 6-month-old daughter, decided that his business would easily transfer to Orinda, eliminating his commute. When he was bicycling past and noticed the closing sign on Tally Home, he knew he'd found his spot.

He's been open a little under a month and, while the shop may not be quite as fully set up as he would like, his business is running smoothly. Douzoglou sells quite a different type of bicycle from the two existing bicycle shops in Lamorinda, Hank & Frank and Sharp Bicycles in Lafayette. While those shops cater to a more general type of audience, Douzoglou sells bicycles with a very narrow focus, intended largely for triathletes. He also sells road bikes for racing and gravel bikes for on- and off-road experiences. The bike brands he sells are: Pinarello, OPEN, 3T, Factor, Scott, and Parlee. Although he sells bikes for racing, he notes that you don't have to race to have fun on a road bike.

Douzoglou grew up in Venezuela, attended high school in Washington DC, and moved to the Bay Area after

graduating from Arizona State with double degrees in communication and political science. "Two degrees for the price of one," he jokes, but claims he doesn't use either. In Arizona he approached a local bike store owner and asked if he could manage the store, to learn the business. It turned out that a bike store was just what he wanted.

A cyclist and a triathlete, Douzoglou believes that in the Bay Area no other bike shop can cater to triathletes as well as his shop. But the sport has declined a little, so he is building more gravel bikes. "I like building nice bikes," he says, and he's big into bike fitting. At Beyond Aero, they want to find the right bike for each customer, taking into account what the person wants the bike for, as well as their size and body morphology. All that knowledge is what Beyond Aero excels at. "I'm a bad salesperson," Douzoglou admits. If he believes that a customer will be happier with the bike they have than the one they are looking at, he'll tell them so. "I don't want to put people on bikes that are clearly the wrong bikes for them," he says. "I care about people

getting the right bikes and I care about my image, my reputation. The last thing I want is for people to look at a bike and say, 'Whoa, where'd you get that thing,'" he says. Instead, he wants them to say, "Wow, where'd you get that great bike?" His reputation is on the line with each bike he sells.

Beyond Aero is a destination bike shop, and Douzoglou has set his hours at Monday through Friday, from 2 to 7 p.m. However, he intends to start opening on Saturday for a few hours in response to customer demand.

Douzoglou is delighted with the new location. He likes the quiet tree-lined street, with parking both in front and behind. "At some point," he muses, "I'll probably have some group rides that will probably leave from here." He is also happy about being next to Geppetto's Café. "Coffee and cycling go hand in hand," he believes. "This place seemed like a natural fit that checked all the boxes for us."

Beyond Aero can be reached at (925) 257-7035 (voice or text) and (415)545-8445 (voice only).

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## Changes at Rheem Shopping Center



Squeeze Juice Bar

Photo Jenn Freedman

In September, Squeeze Juice Bar opened in the former location of Little Hearty Noodle next to CVS. The bar features smoothies, shakes, fresh pressed juices, and soft-serve ice cream; organic boba teas and snacks are being added to the menu soon. The environment is colorful and kid-friendly ... kids can even draw on the walls with markers! Squeeze is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Also in September, Moraga Produce closed. No news on the new tenant yet.

In October, after a nine-month hiatus, New Delhi Bistro returned to the center in the same location. Owner Roos Pal decided to return to the original name and expand the offering to include both the Baagan vegan menu (which has been available since last fall) and the full previous Indian menu to increase their reach to more customers and also provide the only Indian food available in Moraga. New Delhi Bistro is open daily, Monday through Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

On the horizon, a new upscale consignment shop is expected to open in the shopping center before the end of the year.

Rheem Shopping Center has made a few physical changes as well. Specifically, look for new landscaping and string lights in front of China Moon, Lamorinda Pizza, Tangelo, and Noodle Theory, with new outdoor furniture coming soon.

### By Jenn Freedman

The fall season has brought a handful of changes to Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center.

## City leaders weigh in on controversial car wash plans

... continued from Page A2

For the immediate neighbors the concern about noise from the washers, blowers, buzzers, and cars idling just feet away from their border is only part of it. They are concerned too about pollution from idling cars, intrusive brighter lights and declining property values as a result.

Jon Williams made the point that it is not just the neighbors who will be impacted. He expressed concern about the additional traffic the car wash could bring to an already congested corridor, and for the safety of pedestrians in the area, noting that Acalanes High School students already jaywalk over to the existing retail shop to buy snacks.

Attorney David Bowie, representing the applicant/owner of the gas station Vanita Bindal, gave a 10-minute presentation during which he spoke of the need that this business fills in the area. He said the car wash is a "green" option, using filters and recycled water. He pointed to Bindal's willingness to comply with all conditions and extra mitigations aimed to address noise concerns, and said that by objective standards the noise would be well below permissible levels.

Claiming that the project is compatible with the city's

general plan, Bowie pointed out to the council that it is obligated to a legal standard. "It seems to me that this is a completely lawful use, that objectively all the information indicates is entirely appropriate for this site."

Bowie pointed to the applicant's more than 35 year-history as a good citizen – a major contributor of sales tax, with no history of accidents or confrontations – and the challenges of running such a business without an additional revenue stream. He said that the project would provide a necessary service. "If you deny this particular station you may end up having no station in that location," he warned.

However, plenty of Springhill residents, already frustrated with some of the worst traffic in the city, disagreed. Many were concerned about safety for vehicular traffic and pedestrians. Several cited concerns with particulate matter from idling cars. One Martinez resident who herself lives next to a car wash, said the sound wall next to her home doesn't block anything and that the lights are "like the noonday sun."

Of the 31 speakers during public comment, five spoke in favor of the car wash, including a couple who distribute fuel to the gas station. They spoke of Bindal's well-run operation and noted the eco-

logical value of car washes. They pointed to the already-existing, bigger impact of the idling cars dropping off students at Acalanes High School each day.

The council had concerns. Mayor Mike Anderson asked to see specific turning radius plans, as he questioned the amount of space available. Vice Mayor Susan Candell requested an assessment of the increase of ambient lighting from current, and more information on the decibel specifications. Other questions concerned clarification on parking allowances and use, and on the hours of operation. Council Member Teresa Gerring asked staff to look into putting in a crosswalk. Council Member Steven Bliss voiced concerns over proposed traffic circulation. The council also asked to see cross section showing elevations on the southern edge to get a better idea of impact.

Council Member Cam Burks made it apparent he was ready to vote on the issue right there and said that these questions should have been answered by the applicant and the applicant's attorney. "They should have been ready to go tonight," he said, but he deferred to the mayor saying, "I'm just expressing my displeasure in the bureaucratic process."

This matter will be continued on Nov. 18.



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# Letters to the editor

## Rotary's fight against polio

Polio is not something we think about, and there's a reason. In our country it has been wiped out. Worldwide, almost.

October 24 was World Polio Day, providing a good time to reflect on what has been accomplished.

In 1988, some 350,000 cases were reported in 122 nations. Thanks in no small part to Rotary, cases reported globally last year were down to 13, split between Afghanistan and Pakistan. In partnership with the World Health Organization and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the campaign launched by Rotary International in 1985 has been a phenomenal success.

Many are old enough to remember the scourge of polio. At its peak in 1952, 57,628

cases were reported in the U.S. However, with the introduction of the Salk vaccine in 1955, the number began to drop dramatically.

Since Rotary International spearheaded the ambitious campaign 30-plus years ago, more than 2.5 billion children have been vaccinated globally. Although the wholesale cost of an orally administered drop of vaccine is under 50 cents, cumulatively the cost is in the billions. Until the disease is totally eradicated, Rotary will continue to fund the effort.

Cliff Dochterman, now in his 90s and a longtime member of the Rotary Club of Moraga, deserves a salute from all of us. Cliff was instrumental in getting the initiative off the ground. And as president of Rotary International in 1992-1993, he was able to impart momentum

personally.

As sitting president of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, I can observe Rotary's impact locally. There are four clubs within this paper's circulation territory. In addition to the one in Moraga and ours, there are chapters in Orinda and Lafayette.

If you think you might like to "give back," membership in Rotary is a great means of doing so. For more information about Lamorinda Sunrise, and Rotary in general, visit our website at [www.lamorindasunrise.org](http://www.lamorindasunrise.org) or email me at [rotarytg@gmail.com](mailto:rotarytg@gmail.com). We will get back to you to explore how Rotary can help you get involved.

Tom Guyette  
Lafayette

## A thanks for birdhouse creations

We all love our birdhouse stop sign! Please continue this wonderful lovely hobby. Thank You!

Bev Rubini  
Moraga



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

## Public Forum

### Public Forum response regarding Candell recusal

Lafayette Councilmember Candell has a common law conflict of interest and can't lawfully vote on the Terraces Apartments Project

Vocal opponents of the 315-unit Terraces of Lafayette apartment project continue to mislead Lafayette residents. For example, a recent "Public Forum" comment from one opponent in the October 30, 2019 edition of the Lamorinda Weekly incorrectly asserts that City Councilmember Susan Candell has a right to vote on the project based on a 1975 case, *City of Fairfield v. Superior Court*, that did not address common law conflicts of interest. That "Public Forum" assertion regarding the Terraces contradicts the facts regarding Ms. Candell's project opposition and has no basis in the applicable law that does address common law conflicts. The only rights at stake here are those of O'Brien Land Company, whose constitutional right to procedural due process demands the recusal of biased local officials such as Ms. Candell.

Among other things, Ms. Candell signed two citizen petitions against the project

and has actively opposed it since 2012. On the eve of her candidacy last summer Ms. Candell encouraged the City to hire a new attorney to handle the project and spoke in favor of the City Council considering what it would take to make the stringent findings necessary to deny the project.

In seeking to raise campaign funds to aid in the defense of her unconstitutional activities to thwart the project, while sitting as a duly-elected public official and not a "mere" private citizen, she also recently admitted in writing to the Fair Political Practices Commission that "I have a common law conflict." She also admitted that the City's attorney for the project (the same attorney she encouraged the City to hire) advised her that she should recuse herself.

The City's attorney also explained in a February 26 letter that Ms. Candell originally recused herself "due to her past opposition to the Terraces of Lafayette project." And in a February 27 letter rejecting Save Lafayette's haphazard argument that Councilmembers Anderson, Burks, and Geringer have their own conflict of interest, he also agreed with us regarding the cases—*Nasha L.L.C. v. City of Los Angeles* (2004) and *Woody's Group, Inc. v. City of*

*Newport Beach* (2015)—that establish the relevant legal standard for determining when public officials such as Ms. Candell must recuse themselves due to a common law conflict of interest—"an unacceptable probability of actual bias."

Save Lafayette has a history of making dubious arguments based on bad advice from attorneys opposing the project who presumably should know better.

Tellingly, one of those attorneys is on the opposite side of the City's ongoing successful defense in *Fowler v. City of Lafayette*, which will ultimately cost taxpayers more than \$1M before the case is finally resolved in the City's favor. Perhaps more notably,

Ms. Candell's own attorney on this critical issue, an attorney she touts as an ethics expert, wisely has yet to make any public statement or produce anything in writing to support the unsupportable. Ms. Candell cannot lawfully vote on or participate in the City's processing of the project and doing so will severely and unnecessarily raise the City's legal risks.

*Bryan Wenter, a land use partner at Miller Starr Regalia and former city attorney for Walnut Creek, represents O'Brien Land Company.*

## Lamorinda growers begin grape harvest



Photo Wendy Scheck

Sal Captain, holding the hose, and Neal Captain filling the fermenting tub with fresh crushed Petit Verdot wine.

... continued from Page A1

Starting at 7 a.m., after getting comfortable and having some coffee, along with a hardy breakfast and orientation, club members picked up a lug (a rectangular bin) and got to the real experience, Captain said.

"The vines at the bottom of the hill were still in the early morning shade, perfect for the harvest," Scheck said. "The bins filled up quickly to about 30 pounds; some harvesters carried them out to the sideline or even all the way up to the top of the hill. Besides the conversations among the harvesters who got to know each

other, calls for empty lugs filled the hillside."

With the first truckload harvested, winemaker Sal Captain and his nephew Neal Captain started processing the grapes in the winery's garage. The club members could watch the work or empty lugs into the stemming machine, Scheck said.

Each lug is weighed and documented at crush, Captain explained. "Once we reach the limit, we stop and invite everyone to meet at the deck to start the celebration with lunch and wines of the grapes harvested."

This year, due to the heat and the abundant crop, Captain said they had to stop be-

fore completing the harvest. "We continued the next day until all the Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot were totally harvested and crushed." The grapes go through the fermentation process for around a week, depending on the weather, then it is ready to be pressed.

"The harvest and crush is a great opportunity for club members to experience the joy, friendship, cooperation, challenge and hard work that goes into a truly small family-owned and operated winery," said Captain. "That day, we harvested 1,309 Cab Franc and around 1,800 Petit Verdot. We continued the harvest for the next three days. Total Petit Verdot was 5,905 pounds!"

"It was hard work to carry the bins with the grapes up the hill but we had much fun," Scheck said. "It is a nice experience to work at the base of the wine production."

Captain Vineyards is part of the Lamorinda American Viticultural Area - the only one in Contra Costa County. All of the approximately 100 LWGA members are backyard vintners and many have won awards for their wines. Captain Vineyards has been recognized for its dry farming and becoming the first and only green winery in Contra Costa County. For information about Captain Vineyards, visit [captainvineyards.com](http://captainvineyards.com).



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## Moraga Town council members have emergency alternates in place

By Vera Kochan

It is something one hopes will never happen, but in case of town emergencies, such as the recent Oct. 10 Merrill Fire, Moraga already has emergency council member alternates in place. Case in point, Vice Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus' home was in the path of that fire, but thankfully her home, along with the others in the area, was saved.

The ability to have a pre-designated alternate available to step into emergency-caused vacancies and provide continuity of government is vital to the function of a community.

According to a staff report by Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg and Town Clerk Marty McInturf, "The California Emergency Services Act pro-

vides for the preservation of local government in the event of a state of war emergency, state emergency or a local emergency by allowing the town council to appoint a succession of standby officers in order to preserve law and order and, so far as possible, continue or restore government services."

Each town council member and the town manager is allowed to designate three alternates each to assume their vacant position. Those designated alternates are listed in a descending order of succession by numbers 1, 2 and 3.

Moraga Mayor Roger Wykle's standby officers are: 1) Julie Wykle, 2) Suzanne Jones, 3) Kathy Macchi.

Vice Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus' standby officers are: 1) Roberta Thomas, 2) Stephen

Huxley, 3) Todd Korpus.

Council Member Renata Sos' standby officers are: 1) Keller Strother, 2) Sonja Schoenwald, 3) Judy Miles.

Council Member Steve Woehleke's standby officers are: 1) Karl Davis, 2) Karen Mendonca, 3) David Stromberg.

Council Member Mike McCluer's standby officers are: 1) Teresa Onoda, 2) Sam Sperry, 3) Bill Vaughn.

Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg's standby officers are: 1) Chief of Police, 2) Director of Parks and Recreation, 3) Director of Public Works.

Should the need arise, the town clerk is directed to administer the oath of office to the standby officers, who would serve for the term of the elected official at the pleasure of the town council.



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## Continuing saga of Rheem sinkhole

... continued from Page A4

Also mentioned, even though there is a fence surrounding the sinkhole, the outlying area of unstable ground has yet to be identified.

Another potential hazard that the town points out is that the current condition of the

CMP is an "obstruction of the stormwater conveyance system," noting that "there are voids in the corrugated metal of the Stormwater Pipe. These voids not only impede the flow of water through the conveyance system but also allow water to flow out of the Stormwater Pipe and disperse

into the surrounding soil causing further deterioration of the corrugated metal," a concern with the rainy season fast approaching.

A Special Town Council Meeting is scheduled at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30 regarding the property owner's Appeal Hearing.












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# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## A haunting tour of Saint Mary's College



Photos Vera Kochan

Various orbs captured inside the SMC Chapel. (marked with red circles)

By Vera Kochan

It should come as no surprise that Moraga's Saint Mary's College would have its share of things that go bump in the night. Relocated from Oakland in 1928, its nearly 100-year history practically begs for a few ghost stories during the month of October.

Brother Michael Meister, a theology professor, is the resident campus ghost expert. Having been associated with the college for 39 years, he had many a tale to tell during a recent private evening ghost tour around campus.

In past years, Meister gave daytime tours to SMC's journalism classes. His spooky tales became so well known that he decided to take a break from them for a few years, until he was cajoled out of retirement for the private tour.

According to Meister, the first story began near the art museum. Brother Kyran Aviani, an avid painter, was killed in a car accident in the 1960s by an intoxicated California Highway Patrol officer driving on the wrong side of the road. On the anniversary of his death, many of his paintings that typically hung throughout campus were put on display at the art museum. The next day, 15 of them reappeared in their original locations and only the campus Brothers knew those locations of origin.

The Le Fevre Theatre's ghost story has its roots in the 1950s when a production of a Thornton Wilder play called for the casting of a young girl in one of the parts. An aspiring child actress named Amelia was driven to SMC to take part in the play. On a foggy winter's opening night

ning underneath it and throughout the campus. Today they house much of SMC's electrical circuitry. Decades ago, Meister said, an escaped murderer from Martinez's county jail made his way to the campus. Giving the sheriffs a merry chase he became cornered among the live electrical wiring and accidentally backed into it, thereby saving the taxpayers the cost of a trial and execution.

Before the catacombs contained most of the electrical workings for the campus, Meister said SMC used them to bury deceased brothers. Evening maintenance workers would often report glowing lights appearing in the tunnels near the underground cemetery. It wasn't until the remains were moved to a cemetery in Napa that the mysterious lights stopped.

In early years, fraternities often used the catacombs for pranks. A few students went into the depths not realizing the extent of the maze of tunnels. All but one made it out. By the time authorities had found him, said Meister, he was incoherent and clinically insane.

There are so many more stories to tell, but not enough space to tell them all. It is with tongue-in-cheek that Meister informed this reporter that all of the legends are false, but one. It is up to the reader to decide which story is true. Meister – and the ghosts – aren't telling. Trick or treat!



Brother Michael Meister, Master of the Macabre

her parents lost control of their car killing the occupants. Amelia continues to take curtain calls with her poltergeist antics of turning lights on and off, moving props, changing sound or lighting levels and eliciting giggles.

In 1989, during an evening Mass in the chapel, a priest was speaking about the beheading of John the Baptist. Quite suddenly the Loma Prieta earthquake began to shake the foundation as stunned churchgoers witnessed only the head of the statue of John the Baptist above the altar break off and roll across the sanctuary and down the altar steps. It is not known what scared the churchgoers more: the earthquake or the graphic beheading reenactment.

Behind Assumption Hall's parking lot is a very deep ravine that once contained Lake La Salle, Meister said. The water was so dark that only koi seemed to enjoy its murky depths. In the 1950s, three football players decided to take a small rowboat into the lake for an evening of skinny dipping. Only two boys made it back to the boat, all the while calling for the third with no reply. Police divers were never able to recover the body. Years later, a small sewage pump associated with the lake became jammed. The story goes that when a repair crew was called they discovered a decomposed arm wearing a class ring belonging to the missing football player.

Oftentimes, Meister says, the organ in the chapel would play for no apparent reason for exactly 60 minutes. The chapel doors are always locked when this happens.

The main arcade in front of the church is known to have many catacombs run-

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## ‘Ayla, The Daughter of War,’ a touching film from Turkey



Photo provided

**By Sophie Braccini**

Based on a true story, “Ayla, The Daughter of War” presents the surprising relationship forged between a Turkish soldier and a small Korean orphan during the Korean War in 1950. As the story develops, the relationship between the two heroes deepens to become a real father-daughter bond. But the war and the many difficulties Sargeant Süleyman is confronted with force him to leave Ayla behind when he has to return to Turkey. Will they ever find each other again?

“Ayla” is first and foremost a movie about love, telling the story about a father and daughter. In the middle of an atrocious war (Are there wars that are not so?) the miracle of love can still happen. A soldier is touched by the absolute distress of a child and decides to give her his heart. The movie shows with simplicity and authenticity how an entire group of soldiers mobilizes to

save and raise a child with whom they share neither language nor culture. Their consciousness of the damages of war is heightened as they empathize with the small victim. The scenario would seem too sentimental if it was not based on a true story.

In an interview published in the Turkish media Anadolu Agency, director Can Ulkay explained how shocked he has always been by the fact that children are the first victims of wars. This film, even if it tells a story that happened 60 years ago, was made to draw attention to the suffering of the young victims. Ulkay added that these atrocities continue today and his film is representative of present day struggles. Today in the world there are 25 million child victims of war who are injured, orphaned, displaced.

The movie also depicts how human beings can commit the worst inhuman acts and can also be transcended by totally unselfish love. This grace can touch two people of different ages, religions, eth-

nicity; it does not require being of the same blood to cherish and want to save a child.

There are some very interesting historic aspects to the film as well. Not many may remember the important Turkish engagement alongside the Americans during the Korean War. The depiction of certain characters may appear somewhat simplified and overly positive at times, or somewhat naive, but the movie reaches its target and it is unlikely that spectators will leave the theater without having shed tears at some point in the movie. The interpretation of the child actress Kim Seol is extremely convincing and touching.

“Ayla” received many international awards and was the 2017 Turkish selection to the Oscar. It is brought to the Orinda Theatre by the International Film Showcase and will be shown for at least one full week starting Nov. 8. For more information, visit [orindamovies.com](http://orindamovies.com)

## THT In the Wings staged reading features 'The River'



Image provided

**Submitted by Susan Evans**


Town Hall Theatre's first *IN THE WINGS* staged reading of the 2019-20 Season is a one-

night only performance of “The River,” a lyrical and mysterious new play about a man and a woman (or women, possibly), and fishing, by Tony Award winner Jez Butterworth.

In his subtly crafted play, Butterworth sets the story in a remote cabin on the cliffs beside a river. The Man has invited The Woman there, and he longs to share with her the ecstatic excitement of fishing for trout that night, a once-a-year moonless night. Darkness, the sound of the rushing river and lights come up on the Man calling the police about a woman who has gone missing while fishing. He is interrupted by a door banging and The Other Woman enters, seemingly having exchanged places. Are we witnessing some kind of ritual enfold? Are we watching a ghost story, a thriller or an elegy?


“The River” will have one performance at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 11 at Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street, in Lafayette. Tickets are \$10 general admission and free to subscribers, and are available through the box office at (925) 283-1557 or online at [www.TownHallTheatre.com](http://www.TownHallTheatre.com).

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# Weekend Getaways

## The Lost Sierra is paradise found



View from Nakoma Clubhouse

Photos Dan Miller

By Fran Miller

If Tahoe's teeming throngs and traffic leave you frustrated, here is a worthy alternative. Head about one-hour north of Truckee on Highway 89 to discover vast open spaces, car-free roads, and serenity. This is California's appropriately named Lost Sierra – an alpine wonderland of 8,500-foot mountain peaks dotted with 50 glacially carved turquoise lakes, miles of hiking and biking trails, and a stylish resort from which to enjoy it all.

This area of the northern Sierra Nevada is located in Plumas County and is anchored by quaint, time-forgotten towns such as Graeagle, Johnsville, and Sierra City (a favored stopping point for trekkers of the fabled Pacific Crest Trail). Sweeping vistas are found at every turn – verdant valley floor farms about the rolling hills and snow capped peaks, creating a Swiss-like vibe. Hidden lake trails lead to stunning views of rugged peaks. And best of all – there is room to breathe.

Pitch your tent at any of the dozen drive-in campgrounds, such as those at Sardine Lake, Salmon Creek, or Lakes Basin. Sardine Lake, at the foot of the majestic Sierra Buttes, also features cozy cabins that line the shore, but fair warning – these are often booked months in advance by families that have been visiting for generations. A great overnight option is the Lodge at Nakoma, a comfortable 42-room, minimalist spot that affords guests access to its resort-like amenities, such as the close-by Altitude Recreation Center, a state-of-the-art 12,000 square foot facility featuring activities for every age, including a fitness room, children's center, climbing wall, basketball hoop, lap pool, hot tubs, movie theater,

and bar and restaurant.

An additional ascent up Nakoma's hill leads to the resort's 18-hole championship course, which debuted as one of America's Top 75, according to Golf World. Named the Dragon, and featuring picture-postcard worthy views from every tee, the course was designed by Robin Nelson, designer of the famous Dunes at Mauna Lani on the Big Island of Hawaii. Nakoma's Clubhouse, a Frank Lloyd Wright design, is the centerpiece for which the resort was named and it houses the stunning Wigwam Dining Room with its towering ceiling, large four-sided fireplace, and picture windows that reveal stunning views. Adjacent is a well-stocked golf shop, and an amiable bar at which golfers gather after their day on the green. The lower level of the Clubhouse is home to Nakoma Spa; book a relaxing massage or facial and afterward enjoy use of the sauna and steam rooms.

The Nakoma property is situated in the center of no fewer than 14 trail heads – from the simple and easy 1.8-mile Dancing Bear Trail that affords views of the Nakoma community, to the strenuous 0.9-mile Falling Water River Access that parallels the river. Further up Gold Lake Highway, you'll find easy trails to Upper Sardine Lake or Frazier Falls; more intrepid hikers might prefer the Lakes Basin's obligatory challenge – the five-mile round trip hike to the Sierra Buttes Fire Lookout with its 360-degree view of snow-capped Lassen Peak and the sparkling Sardine Lakes. Mountain bikers will find miles and miles of rugged terrain and virtually empty trails, and the multitude of lakes keep the anglers happy.

As the Tahoe basin becomes more and more crowded, the Lost Sierra is

soon to be found. Be one of the first to recognize and appreciate its beauty. Nakoma stands ready and waiting to welcome and share with new visitors the bounty of the area.

Nakoma, 348 Bear Run, Clio, California



Nakoma Clubhouse



Lower Sardine Lake

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## Find the perfect preschool for your children at upcoming Fair



Last year's fair

Photos provided



### By Diane Claytor

It's a question that has likely plagued most parents at one time or another: how can I find the right child care for my family? There are so many options — and yet, for many parents, finding that perfect spot when you need it most can be daunting. (A quick internet search of “preschools near me” resulted in 21 listings, some as far away as San Jose!) Lamorinda Moms, a social and support organization for moms with children under the age of 6, is doing what it can to help local families traverse their way through the many choices.

For the 22nd consecutive year, Lamorinda Moms is hosting its free annual Preschool Fair from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Nov. 7 in the gymnasium at Oakwood Athletic Club in Lafayette.

With more than 30 local preschools represented, this event is the perfect opportunity for parents to learn what's available. Each preschool will have its own table where parents can pick up a brochure, view pictures and learn about specific programs and philosophies. Teachers and administrators will be on hand to answer individual questions and offer an overview of their facility. There are preschools attending

that accept children as young as six months while others may only accept toddlers; there are some offering full day programs, ideal for the working parent, and others that have shorter days. While most preschools registered are from the Lamorinda area, there will also be several from neighboring communities.

Attendees will leave with a detailed directory, providing far more information in one handout than you can find after spending hours searching online.

Kristin Oliveira Kraetsch, a co-director of Lamorinda Moms, notes that in less than two hours, families can learn enough about the local preschools to “hopefully find the perfect match for their children.”

The organization has partnered with the Oakland-based nonprofit, Help A Mother Out, whose mission is “to improve baby and family well being by increasing access to diapers for families in need,” so attendees are asked to bring diapers and/or diaper wipes. These will then be provided to family service organizations for distribution to families in need throughout the Bay Area, Oliveira Kraetsch said.

To register for the Preschool Fair, or to learn about Lamorinda Moms go to [www.lamorindamoms.org](http://www.lamorindamoms.org).

## Lamorinda teens saved the day at Orinda Olive Festival



Photos provided

### Submitted by Katharine Barrett

If not for the stepping up of dozens of willing teens, and many of their parents, this fall's Olive Festival would not have been the great success it was. More than 1,500 visitors from 39 Bay Area Cities – Sacramento, Los Gatos, Modesto, San Ramon, even New York City – attended the 10th Annual Orinda Olive Festival at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area on Oct. 6.

Great big shout out to Boys Team Charity (middle and high school boys and their parents), National Charity League (middle and high school girls and their moms), Boy Scout Troop 237, OIS Others First middle school students, as well as Carondelet and Miramonte high school students. Very capable teenagers from these groups welcomed visitors, worked with visiting youngsters exploring the pond and its wildlife, prepared and conducted a garden scavenger hunt for toddlers, raked pathways, sold raffle tickets, set up booths and picnic areas, and overall served as outstanding ambassadors of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area to the greater public. Capri Filippenko and Kate Bertenthal displayed their inspiring project to encourage people to plant olive trees, which help remove carbon from the atmosphere.

Shout out also to Orinda's own ALMA music, directed by James Fatarone, who presented an entertaining recital by dozens of student musicians and singers. The Orinda Ukulele Band enticed visitors through the Olive Gate with Hawaiian tunes in the historic Olive Grove, much to the delight of picnickers. Orinda's own Carole Amstutz gave Welcome Gate greetings and unparalleled concierge service to first-time Olive Festival visitors. Mary Welte, recently retired Orinda school teacher, patiently and generously guided more than 50 young artists with their tile painting endeavors.

Professors' emeriti, John Helms and Reg Barrett, guided families along the trails to the homestead, ruins of the blacksmith shop, and olive grove to hear the Orinda Ukulele Band. The proceeds of John's gorgeous olive wood creations of bowls and sculp-

tures were donated to the Nature Area. Children received Olive Passports to take to the activity stations for a nature stamp. Embracing the theme of olives and peace, Jan McGurk helped children and adults craft leafy olive crowns, which they crafted from fresh boughs.

There were 25 activity stations to choose from, such as Frontier Chemistry with Dan Phillips, and Claire McCullough's Face Painting station.

Well-loved nature columnist Joan Morris invited visitors to observe a variety of bird nests and shared her insights about animals and wildlife. Nearby, Friends of Orinda Creeks displayed maps and proposals for improving citizen access to San Pablo Creek, which runs through downtown Orinda. Alison Burns and Athena Davis of the Orinda Historical Society, attracted dozens of curious children and families to their array of 100-year-old household artifacts from the ruins of the historic Wagner Ranch; and nearby, Teresa and Kent Long shared visuals from the historic Moraga Adobe.

Special thanks to Teen Advisory Committee members Mallika Dandamudi, and Madi Lehman and Sara Lehman, all of Miramonte High School, who provide great ideas, guidance, and assistance to the Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area board of directors; and to our photographer, Wade Barrett.

Toris Jaeger handed out awards to the Eagle Scouts who completed projects in the Nature Area, including Brendan Ball, Alex Meckes, Logan Lee, Kendall Law, Daniel Lucas and Kobe Martin.

Opportunities abound for middle and high school students and adults! For more information on how to volunteer at the Nature Area, go to: [www.fwrna.org](http://www.fwrna.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](mailto: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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include “Celebrations and Remembrances” in the subject line.

## In Memory

### Sallie Fillebrown Hofmann

January 31, 1928 – October 7, 2019

Resident of Lafayette



Sallie Hofmann was born in New York City to Thomas and Beatrice Fillebrown. She was the younger of two children. Sallie attended Stuart Hall and Colby Junior College in New England before meeting her future husband Burt S. Hofmann while working at Harvard Law School. They married June 9, 1951 and they settled in the San Francisco Bay Area. Sallie was predeceased by her husband Burt Hofmann, brother Scott Fillebrown, father Thomas Fillebrown and mother Beatrice Fillebrown. She is survived by her children Deborah Anne Vivrette (spouse Michael), Darcy Elizabeth Smith, Thomas Scott Hofmann, Peter Starkweather Hofmann (Nancy), five grandchildren Lisa Davidovich (Yevgeniy)

Amanda Vivrette, Benjamin Smith, Jennifer Hofmann, Jason Hofmann, one great grandchild Grayson Davidovich, brother-in-law John R. Hofmann (Molly), sister-in-law Lavinia Fillebrown, and many nieces and nephews.

While growing up, Sallie competed in many sports and continued in later life playing tennis, skiing and swimming. Sallie loved quilting and gardening. There was always a quilt in process and several recently finished quilts on display. Nothing would please Sallie more than spending a few hours each day working in her colorful garden, especially when she was joined by her west highland terriers “protecting her from squirrels and rabbits.”

Sallie attended St. Stephen's Episcopal church in Orinda and was active in several ministries (alter guild, choirs, Sunday collections, garden committee, and vestry). One of her favorite ministries was the choir in which she served in for over 20 years. Her family experienced many Christmas Eve services in which Sallie participated with the choir and provided some of the most beautiful singing performances.

Sallie and her husband enjoyed traveling and meeting people from other cultures. They were active in supporting various foreign exchange student programs including AFS and foreign students at UC Berkeley. They would plan trips abroad and connect with acquaintances from their involvement with foreign exchange programs they participated in.

A family celebration of her life took place Oct. 25.

Donations in memory of Sallie Hofmann may be made to St Jude's Children's Hospital.



# Stanley Middle School's annual One Book-One School program reaches its 12th year



Photo provided

This year's One Book-One School pick: "Full Cicada Moon."

Submitted by Betsy Balmat

Each year Stanley Middle School's 1,300 students and

staff come together to read a selected book for its One Book-One School program.

This year's book is "Full Cicada Moon" by Marilyn Hilton. As part of the OBOS, every day for three weeks a staff member and a cross grade-level student group meet to read together and discuss the book. Generous support by the parents, PTA and LPIE enables all students to participate.

Focused on developing literacy, the program is also designed to build community and to promote this year's character-building theme: "What You Do Matters." In "Full Cicada Moon" the main character, Mimi, is a 12-year-old mixed-race girl who moves from Berkeley to Vermont in the winter of 1969. Mimi's dream is to become an astronaut. Set against the backdrop of the Apollo 11 space walk and the turbulence

of the era, Mimi remembers her father's advice, "Be kind. Be respectful and persist."

The One Book-One School program will culminate in a ceremony on Nov. 4, when Stanley will host Leon Logothetis to speak to the student body. Logothetis is a global traveler and motivational speaker as well as host of "The Kindness Diaries" on Netflix. He has visited more than 90 countries with his powerful message that anything you dream is possible with kindness and the power of human connection. <https://leonlogothetis.com/about/>

For further information about Stanley's One Book-One School program, visit <https://sms-lafsd-ca.schoolloop.com/obos>.

## Halloween Parade - fun for Orinda's youngest residents



Photos Pippa Fisher



Pictures don't lie. Fulfilling secret fears of school-age children everywhere that their younger siblings are having more fun while they themselves are restricted to school, the youngest members of the community most certainly were having fun Oct. 24 at the Orinda Community Center at the Halloween Parade hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department.

With police officers and members of the fire department handing out candy, the youngest and cutest ghouls, dinosaurs, and witches were among those who turned out to pose for a photo and then took part in a parade around the park, before heading to the craft tables for some Halloween-themed activities.

For one youngster the highlight was meeting his hero, Orinda's new Police Chief David Cook, to whom he presented a banner he had made that read, "Courage is being a police officer." - P. Fisher

## As seen in Lamorinda



This giant Grim Reaper looms over Rheem Boulevard in Orinda, a treat for Halloween. The inflatable figure appears out of the darkness, flickers, then glows strongly before disappearing again.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

## Trick-or-Treating around town



Photos Pippa Fisher



Downtown Lafayette was thronging with trick-or-treaters Oct. 25, as costumed kids went about the serious business of building their candy reserves. - P. Fisher

## November in the gallery at Wilder Art & Garden Center



By Sora O'Doherty

The artist featured in the November gallery display at the Art and Garden Center at Wilder is familiar to many in Orinda for her activism in the Tabor/Orinda Sister City Foundation. But the talented cross-stitch artist will now be showing works from her collection of miniature oriental rugs. The opening reception will be held at the gallery on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Guests will have the opportunity to see a selection of the works and meet the artist, Slavka Ruzicka, who will be giving a demonstration of her technique. Light refreshments will be served. Beginning Nov. 5, the gallery will be open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 8:15 p.m.

Slavka Ruzicka

Born in Czechoslovakia, now the Czech Republic, Bohuslava Ruzicka (also known as Slavka) was introduced to the art of cross-stitching when she was living in Singapore in 1987. She was asked to help with charity work to aid a local orphanage. She cross-stitched 100 small Christmas ornaments for their tree. After finishing the project, she began working on more challenging pieces. Since she accompanied her husband who traveled a great deal for work, Ruzicka was able to devote a significant amount of time to her artwork. She started the Miniature Oriental Carpets Project in 1996, completing it in 2005.

Her collection is inspired by Frank M. Cooper, who designed miniature needlepoint patterns of

authentic Persian, Caucasian, and Turkish carpets. He published a book of his patterns, which were derived from actual rugs that he has studied in his travels, and Ruzicka used his charts for the art in this collection. She will be showing 24 pieces. The largest is about 16 by 20 inches, while the smallest would be about 14 by 16 inches. Each piece has a two-inch border. The patterns are worked on Aida cotton 14-count cross stitch cloth with cotton embroidery floss. About half the pieces are professionally framed, the other half Ruzicka framed herself.

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

ART

Valley Art Gallery presents "Celebrating 70 Years of Fine Art," a new exhibition by gallery artists on its 70th Anniversary though Nov. 9. The gallery always features selected works by Gallery Artists on its unique sliding walls. Reflecting a wide range of motifs, styles and media, the show continues the mission to represent the best of the best of more than 100 East Bay artists. www.valleyartgallery.org

Christian Ehrhorn Fine Arts gallery grand opening and reception from 5 to 9 p.m. Nov. 1 at 39 Moraga Way in Orinda.

The October exhibit at the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library features the Three-Eight art studio which includes five Chinese women who paint together. The exhibit will run through Oct. 31 at 26 Orinda Way.

Irenka Kudlicki & Dalia Alekna at Samadian Gallery through Dec. at 23 Orinda Way, Suite 301, Orinda. The exhibit includes engaging abstract paintings by Irenka Kudlicki and alluring pastels by Dalia Alekna. There will be a reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 21.

"Teachers Have Class," Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way. The Lamorinda Arts Council is honored to feature the work of current and retired teachers who are also artists during the month of November. There will be a reception from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 10 where light refreshments will be served. Go to www.lamorindaarts.org for more information.

Bedford Gallery 12th Annual Craft Fest from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 16 at Bedford Gallery, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. While they shop, visitors can view our current exhibition, Off Menu: Contemporary Art about

Food. Bedford Gallery Craft Fest features the East Bay's top maker talent, with a prominence of vendors from Contra Costa and Alameda Counties! This mouthwatering show features over a hundred astounding pieces by renowned artists such as Salvador Dalí, Wayne Thiebaud and Kenny Scharf. Free.

MUSIC

Crowden Music Center presents Jeffrey LaDeur and Friends from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 3, at Crowden Music Center, 1475 Rose Street, Berkeley. Crowden presents acclaimed pianist Jeffrey LaDeur with mezzo soprano Kindra Scharich for an afternoon of virtuoso piano showpieces and song. Cost: \$25 general admission, \$20 seniors/students, Free for children under 18. For more info see https://www.crowden.org/concerts-and-events/sundays-four or call (510) 559-6910 or email concerts@crowden.org.

Campolindo High School Music Department Fall Concert from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Nov. 7 in the Campolindo Performing Arts Center, 300 Moraga Rd., Moraga. The concert will feature the Orchestra, Jazz Band, Concert Band, and Symphonic Band and will include music from Thelonius Monk, Gustav Holst, Caesar Giovannini, Jennifer Higdon, Robert Sheldon, and Eric Whitacre. The concert is free to attend, although donations to Campo Music Boosters are appreciated.

The UC Alumni Chorus will present "A Mass-Up," a mash-up of movements from the great masses at 3 p.m. on Nov. 17 at Hertz Hall on the UC Berkeley campus. Come hear the finest examples of choral writing ever amassed from a thousand years of Eucharist and Requiem Mass settings. Tickets are \$20 general, \$15 seniors, and \$10 students. Further information at ucac.net

This fall Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble presents "Passion, Joy and Beauty: Britten, Poulenc and Fauré" an ambitious program of exquisite 20th century music for women's voices and organ, under the direction of Guest Conductor Robert Wells. Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 16 at St. Perpetua Catholic Church 3454 Hamlin Road, Lafayette and at 4 p.m. on Nov. 23 at St Paul's Episcopal Church 114 Montecito Avenue, Oakland. Tickets: \$25 suggested donation at the door, \$20 advance, \$15 students, free for children between 6-12. Available at the door; or online from brownpapertickets.com or www.vocisings.org

Pacific Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Conductor Lawrence Kohl, presents a concert production of The Glorious - Handel Messiah with soprano Marnie Breckenridge, and mezzo-soprano Silvie Jensen, tenor Ricky Garcia, and baritone Ben Brady and the Pacific Chamber Orchestra Chorus, Ofer dal Lal Chorus Master. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 30 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church 24 Knox, Lafayette and at 3 p.m. on Dec. 1 at Bankhead Theatre, 2400 First Street in Livermore. Tickets may be purchased online at www.pacificchamberorchestra.org.

Diablo Women's Chorale Fall concert, "Winter's Light," at 4 p.m. on Dec. 8 at Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, in Lafayette. Backed by live musicians, the chorale will present a program of jazzy, uplifting music to kick off the beginning of the holiday season. Grab your friends and family members and join us as we lighten a winter afternoon with songs from Lisa Loeb, George Michael, Irving Berlin, Phil Spector, and many others. Purchase advance tickets online at www.DiabloWomen'sChorale.org or call 1-800-838-3006.

THEATER

DVC Drama presents "Seussical, the Musical" at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Sundays through Nov. 3 at 321 Golf Club Rd, Pleasant Hill. For tickets, call (925) 969-2358 or visit www.dvcdrama.net

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Orinda Books presents Marty Glick at 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 2 at 276 Village Square, Orinda. Marty Glick, a litigator with the international firm, Arnold & Porter, will read from and discuss his book, "The Soledad Children: The Fight to End Discriminatory IQ Tests." He documents California Rural Legal Assistance court battles to achieve equity for minority youngsters in California education.

The Intuitive Writing Project Presents "Open to Change: A Reading of the 3rd Annual Anthology of Teen Writers" from 1 to 3 p.m. on Nov. 3 at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Orinda. Twenty-four progressive teenage writers and thinkers—all outstanding female students at the East Bay's The Intuitive Writing Project—will read aloud their work. \$5 general admission and free for everyone 18 and under. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/open-to-change-book-launch-party-for-the-3rd-annual-anthology-of-tiwp-tickets-77571886601?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

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**LECTURE & LITERATURE**  
... continued

**The Lamorinda Arts Council** invites writers and artists to participate in their Art Embraces Words program from 2 to 4 p.m. on Nov. 3 at the Lafayette Library. Emerging writers read excerpts from their work surrounded by visual artwork from local artists. In this way art literally "embraces" the spoken word. Master of Ceremonies, Lafayette resident Lynn Carey, former host of the Times Book Club, moderates the event. A reception with light refreshments follows the readings. Go to <https://lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words/>, email [literary@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:literary@lamorindaarts.org) or call (925) 359-9940 for more information.

**DVC Emeritus Presents: The Palestinian Israeli Conflict: How Did It Start? Will It Ever End?** Presented by Guest Lecture Dr. Omar Dajani from 2 to 4 p.m. on Nov. 9 at Diablo Valley College. The conflict over the Holy Land continues to claim headlines, billions of dollars in U.S. aid, and the lives of both Palestinians and Israelis. But, contrary to popular misconceptions, it is neither an ancient dispute nor an unsolvable one. Registration is \$25. Students \$15. To register for this event please contact DVC Community Education at (925) 969-4600. Registration available at the door.

**KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS**

**Trick-or-treat with the kids** 3 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 31 at the Rheem Shopping Center in Moraga

**"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 MVPK 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. 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@mvpkctoday.org](mailto:ckallaher@mvpkctoday.org) at least one week in advance. For more info, visit [www.thenurturypreschool.com/programs/parenteducation/](http://www.thenurturypreschool.com/programs/parenteducation/)

**"Neighborhood skit comes together** to entertain the trick-or-treaters for over 25 years! Neighbors, friends, family deliver a performance from the garage from 7 to 9 p.m. at 12 Lynwood Place, Moraga. Show theme "Disney Garage Club". Let the magic begin.

**Lamorinda Mom's 2nd Annual Preschool Fair** from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Nov. 7 at Oakwood Athletic Club (gymnasium), 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Families, come interact and hear directly from the administrators and teachers of 30+ preschools in the Lamorinda and adjacent communities to explore the preschool programs for your little one. Childcare offered by Oakwood gratis for children who are walking. Bring diapers (open packages okay) and wipes to benefit charity, Help a Mother Out, which provides diapers and wipes to Bay Area families in need.

**2nd Annual Peace & Kindness Carnival:** A Mindful Littles Fundraiser from 10 a.m. to noon on Nov. 11 at the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, Orinda. School is out and we have set up an endless array of fun, games and time

with veterans to come celebrate Peace & Kindness on this special day! Live Band, Bouncy House, Face Painting, Balloon Artist, Carnival Games, Meet-n-Greet with Real Veterans, Food Trucks and more. All proceeds benefit Mindful Littles. Register at: <https://mindfullittles.org/events/>

**OTHER**

**The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District** is pleased to announce the Fourth Annual Open House 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 2945 Treat Blvd, Concord. This is a family-oriented event, featuring fun activities, live fire safety demonstrations, and exciting prizes for children of all ages for the general public. There will be free coffee and donuts provided with compliments of IAFF Local 1230. For more information about the event, visit [www.cccfpd.org](http://www.cccfpd.org) or call 925-942-3300.

**The Festival Weekend of All Saints and All Souls** through Nov. 3 at St Stephens Episcopal Church, Orinda, with special events at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 2 and at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Nov. 3. This is an opportunity for church members, friends, and neighbors to remember and honor our departed family, friends, and holy saints and ancestors, in community, with music, food, stories, and prayers. Choral Evensong and Litany of the Saints: send the names of those departed that you wish to be remembered to [office@ststephensorinda.org](mailto:office@ststephensorinda.org) by 5 p.m. on Nov. 1. These will be read aloud as part of the Litany of Saints during the Evensong service on Sunday Nov. 3. All are welcome to attend, and a reception follows the service.

**Youth Mental Health First Aid** event, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3 at Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library, will teach a five-step action plan to offer initial help to young people showing signs of mental illness or crisis, and connect them with appropriate professional, peer, social and self-help care. Ideally for adults who work with young people, ages 12-18. Register at <https://forms.gle/6WNposV8iFTFCVE29>

**"Why Great Public Schools Matter"** at 6 p.m. on Nov. 6 at Acalanes Performing Arts Center. Dr. Gloria Duffy, President and CEO of The Commonwealth Club, will facilitate a lively conversation with Lafayette public school alumni on the impact their Lafayette classroom education had on their personal and professional lives. <https://lovelafayetteschools.eventbrite.com>

**Blanket and Sleeping Bag Drive** for the Homeless - collecting lightly used blankets and sleeping bags to distribute to the homeless throughout the Bay Area during early November. The collection point is 1204 Larch Ave., Moraga. Donations can be dropped off on the front porch.

**Friends Corner Book Shop in Lafayette** is having a Half Price Birthday Celebration and Super Children's Book Sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 9. Proceeds benefit the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Located at the corner of First Street and Golden Gate Way in Lafayette. <https://www.lllcf.org/shop-for-a-used-book/>

**The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch** of the American Association of University Women (AAUW-OML) will host a Game Day fundraiser from 11:30 a.m. to 3

p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14 at the Miramonte Gardens Clubhouse, 1 Miramonte Drive, Moraga to fund AAUW-OML scholarships awarded to local young women. Attendees can play mahjong, bunco, dominoes (Mexican Train), or bridge and enjoy a catered lunch. Reservations are open to the public, \$40/each and due by Nov. 1. See AAUW-OML's website <https://oml-ca.aauw.net> for the reservation flyer.

**Alicia Hetman, a recognized expert** on Title IX and the topics of sexual harassment and discrimination, will speak at the AAUW-OML (American Association of University Women-Orinda Moraga Lafayette Branch) general meeting from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on Nov. 19 at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. She will speak on the importance of and threats to Title IX, the federal law prohibiting gender discrimination in education. Admission is free and open to the public. Community leaders and educators are encouraged to attend.

**For the 22nd year, Bobbie and Tom Preston** will be holding the Cycle Recycle, collecting repairable bikes to be refurbished and given to charitable groups to distribute at Christmas; new and/or used bikes and trikes—in working order or repairable, or useable bike parts may be delivered to the side driveway of the Preston's home at 1307 Larch Avenue in Moraga, throughout the month of November only. No skateboards or plastic bikes please; no need to call beforehand, but for more information contact Bobbie or Tom Preston at (925) 376-8474.

**GARDEN**

**The Walnut Creek Garden Club** will hold its monthly meeting beginning at 10 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 11 at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, in Walnut Creek. The topic of the presentation will be, "The future of our open space," presented by Executive Director of Save Mount Diablo since 2015, Ted Clement. Ted has worked in the conservation field for over 30 years. You do not need to be a gardener to join the Walnut Creek Garden Club.

**The Lafayette Garden Club** will meet at 10 a.m. on Nov. 14 in Lafayette Veteran's Bldg, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. The Speaker this month Tora Rocha, the founder of Pollinator Posse, will speak about native pollinators in our area, the plants and other resources needed to attract/support them, and ways to create beautiful gardens with these plants in mind. Free. Interested members of the public are welcome. For more information please contact [twalklet@comcast.net](mailto:twalklet@comcast.net)

**The Montelindo Garden Club** meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 15 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall. Presentation: Floral Creations, Speaker: Nyna Dolby. A floral designer at Filoli for more than 10 years, Nyna transforms supermarket bouquets into stunning floral arrangements. [www.montelindogarden.com](http://www.montelindogarden.com)

**Moraga Garden Club** monthly general meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 21 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street. Bill Welsh, the Bulb Baron's topic will be "How, Where and When to Plant Bulbs". Our general meetings are free and open to the public. We always welcome new members including men. Refreshments provided. For more information see: [www.moragagardenclub.com](http://www.moragagardenclub.com).

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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.

<b>October 31:</b> <b>Stan Bunger</b> Stan is a KCBS Morning News Anchor and award winning journalist.	<b>November 5:</b> <b>Concert at the Res 2019</b> Celebration and thank you for the Concert at the Reservoir 2019 success
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[www.rotarylafayette.org](http://www.rotarylafayette.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA](https://www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA)

**Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**

**NOVEMBER WEEKLY MEETINGS**

**1: Professor Tim White, UC Berkeley – Lucy and Our Ancestors**  
**8: Aeleah Soine, Ph.D., The Fall of the Soviet Union**  
**15: Kate Rooney, KRON Sports Center Reporter**  
**22: Gary Satterfield, Club Member Presentation**  
**29: No Meeting**

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

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

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# A warm and toasty take on a flavorful chestnut dish



Photos Sora O'Doherty

## By Susie Iventosch

As it turns out, we have several foodies in our Lamorinda Weekly family. When Sora O'Doherty was working on her article about Winters Chestnuts farm for the last issue, she sent me a quick note with the idea of collaborating on a chestnut recipe. I told Sora that I'd love to work together on a recipe, but since I'd only tasted chestnuts one time in my life, I really didn't have a "go to" chestnut recipe. In fact, the time I tried them, they were really kind of mushy and mealy and not all that appetizing. All that said, I really love the romantic notion of roasting chestnuts on an open fire, and since the holidays are rapidly approaching, what could be more fun than working with Sora (who happens to be a marvelous cook) to create an

enticing chestnut recipe?

We came up with what we think is a delicious fall holiday side dish, combining pumpkin, acorn squash, shallots and Fuji apples along with chestnuts and hazelnuts. Sora's familiarity with chestnuts was primarily using canned chestnut products in baking and she remembers eating roasted chestnuts outside the British Museum in London. But neither of us had any idea how to cook the darn things! Thank goodness for the internet. Sora found a recipe for roasting the chestnuts, and they were quite tasty this way, but we thought a bit too dry. So, I picked up another bag of chestnuts at the produce stand and took a stab at steaming them. I think they came out a bit more moist with this cooking method. What we did not get around to was boiling them, so if any of you readers have experience

with that, please let us know!  
**COOKING and PEELING THE CHESTNUTS**

When it comes to cooking the chestnuts, whether roasting, steaming or boiling them, you must first make an "x" in the shell with a bread knife, which works best for cutting through the outer shell. We read that you should make the "x" on the flat side of the chestnut shell, which is a bit tricky, since the round side doesn't sit still while you are making the cut. After our kitchen adventure, I read that you can also make the "x" on the rounded side of the shell, which makes a lot more sense and is much easier, but I have yet to try it that way.

To roast them in the oven, place chestnuts on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and bake at 425 F for about 25 to 30 minutes. Re-

move them from the oven and wrap in a kitchen towel, allowing the chestnuts to steam as they cool. If steaming them, place them on a French steamer in a pot with about 2 inches of boiling water in the bottom. Cover the pot with a lid and steam for about 15 to 20 minutes. Remove from heat and wrap chestnuts in a kitchen towel to keep warm. For both methods, when the chestnuts are cool enough to handle, but still warm, peel both the outer shell and the inner husk. The husk can get stuck in the grooves of the nut, but carefully pull the husk out of any crevices. It is much easier to peel the chestnuts when they are still warm, so the inner husk doesn't stick to the nut inside. By wrapping the cooked chestnuts in a kitchen towel, you can keep the batch warm as you peel each nut.

For more information on how to cook and peel chestnuts, please visit: <https://www.thespruceeats.com/how-to-peel-chestnuts-2216932>

## Chestnut Harvest Sauté

(Serves 6 as a side dish)

### INGREDIENTS

- 12 chestnuts, roasted or steamed, peeled and quartered (see article above)
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 sugar pie pumpkin, peeled, seeded and cubed into bite-sized pieces
- 1 acorn squash, peeled, seeded and cubed into bite-sized pieces
- 2 large shallots, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 Fuji apple, cored and thinly sliced
- ¼ cup dry sherry
- 1-2 teaspoons fresh thyme leaves
- ½ cup hazelnuts, roasted and halved



### DIRECTIONS

Cook and peel chestnuts according to directions above. Once cooked and peeled, quarter chestnuts and set aside. Place cubed pumpkin and squash on baking sheet (either sprayed or lined with parchment) and toss with 2 tablespoons olive oil to coat. Season with salt and pepper. Bake in 425 F oven for approximately 15-20 minutes, or just until tender. Remove from oven. Meanwhile, heat 2 tablespoons olive oil in a large sauté pan. Cook shallots with some thyme until translucent. Add sliced apples and continue to cook until shallots and apples just begin to caramelize. Toss the cooked pumpkin, squash, chestnuts and hazelnuts into the shallot-apple mixture in the pan and mix well. Season to taste with salt, pepper, fresh thyme and a splash of dry sherry. Continue to cook over medium heat until heated through. Serve warm.

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

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

You can find most of the recipes published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website. Food tab: [www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html)



## Lynn's Top Five

# Spooky financial decisions that might come back to haunt you!

By Lynn Ballou,  
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™

It's always fun to have a theme for my column. With Halloween here tomorrow, this is a wonderful opportunity to dig into my bag of planning treats to share five "tricks" to avoid in your financial planning. See if you recognize yourself in any of these disguises and if so, treat yourself to a better costume!

**1) Taking better care of others than yourselves:** If you dress up as the Statue of Liberty in life and care for everyone to your own financial jeopardy, it's time to rethink your costume. If you run out of assets, who will care for you? Work with your planning team to determine just how generous you can afford to be. Whether it's family, friends or your

favorite charitable organizations, if you need to give time instead of money, make that change!

**2) The Pinball Machine costume:** I frequently see clients who have spent much of their adult lives avoiding setting up a proper plan and just end up bouncing from thing to thing with no real path in mind. Sometimes they do so because they are concerned about the cost of working with a planning professional and worried that financial planning is just a ruse to sell them something that's not in their best interests. So, my advice: get out of the maze and treat yourself to a proper planning session with a qualified financial advisor such as a Certified Financial Planner who is a fiduciary acting on your behalf. The peace of mind and focused approach you can achieve working with the right advisor team can be both a time and money saver and help you live a focused financial life.

**3) The Time Value of Money Ghost:** Most everyone I talk to tells me they wish they had started saving earlier – they just don't know where the time went. Envision your future self as something more than a nebulous ghost like apparition. Have a true vision of what you'd like to do and be and start putting money away now for that future. We can outrun many things, but time isn't one of them. Think of time as your pal, just like Casper the Friendly Ghost, and start saving as much as you possibly can for your future and those whom you love, everyday.

### 4) The Devil on our Shoulder:

Ever been in a store staring at something you crave but do not need? And then you wage an internal battle of to buy or not to buy? It's like having an angel on one shoulder and a devil on the other. Disarm the devil with facts: using your plan, determine just how much you can afford to spend on wants versus needs and then look at that potential purchase through that lens only buying if it's within your budget. We can handily disarm that spending devil with facts. If you aren't sure and you need to think it through, just step away and then go home and do the math. You can always go back later if you can afford it and it really means that much to you. Typically, that purchase "devil" is an impulse that can be thwarted with solid planning and review.

**5) Dressing up as a "Jim Cramer" TV type personality:** While very entertaining, you should view your portfolio in a long-term lens and not as a television personality day trader. The taxes, the fees, the lack of purpose – all of the bad characters that work against a successful approach to life-time investing make great TV but poor life choices. Whether you invest your own portfolio assets or work with a truly qualified team of professionals, focus on what your money needs to do for you and in what time frames and don't become distracted by the noise from those who are selling media time and aren't working for you and in your personal best interests.



I hope this has been a fun way to tackle some easy to ignore tricks that can undermine our best planning selves. Wishing you only the best treats this Halloween!



Lynn Ballou is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and Regional Director with EP Wealth Advisors, a Registered Investment Advisory Firm in Lafayette. Information used in the writing of this column is believed to be factual and up-to-date, however, we do not guarantee its accuracy. This column does not involve the rendering of personalized investment advice and is not intended to supplement individualized professional advice. A financial, tax and/or legal professional should be consulted before implementing any of the strategies directly or indirectly suggested and discussed. All investment strategies have the potential for profit or loss.



# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Saint Mary's basketball a picture of optimism



Jordan Ford



Malik Fitts

Photos Tod Fierner

### By Jon Kingdom

Last season, Saint Mary's head basketball coach Randy Bennett was very much at loose ends as to who would be his top eight players, having lost three all-league players and having players returning from injuries. Despite all those issues, the Gaels had a 22-12 record, winning the WCC tournament and earning a spot in the NCAA tournament. Because of their success last season, Saint Mary's will not be flying under the radar, having been ranked 20th in the Associated Press preseason poll.

Having lost only one starter to graduation, Jordan Hunter, there is a lot more stability with the team's personnel from day one this season. It's been a fairly quiet offseason for the Gaels, unlike last year when Bennett took his team to Australia and New Zealand to play against top competition and enabling the team to go through a bonding process. "This year, some guys played in different events for their countries," said Bennett. "We can only take a foreign tour once every four years."

The first point of order for Bennett has been to replace Hunter, the star of the West Coast Conference championship game, at center. There are three returning players who will be vying for playing time in the middle. The leading candidate to start is Matthias Tass, who got a great deal of experience last year as a freshman, appearing in every game, averaging 3.7 points and 3.1 rebounds per game. Jock Perry, a 7'1" red-shirt junior, has been with the program for four years and 7'3" Aaron Menzies, who missed all last season with a hand injury are both familiar with the team's system and both should find playing time and ways to contribute to the team. "We have good depth here if they can stay healthy," says Bennett.

The strength of the team begins at the guard position with senior Jordan Ford leading the way. Ford, who has started the last 70 games, averaged 21.1 points last season, was named first team all-WCC and is on the Lou Henson Watch List for best mid-major player in the country and the Bob Cousy Award watch list, which recognizes the top point guards in Division I basketball. Ford has shown improvement over last season so far, says Bennett: "Jordan has put on some good weight which will make him more

durable and be able to take and give contact better. He has improved each year because he's such a disciplined worker and has made big jumps every year from his freshman year."

Ford has worked hard on all aspects of his game: "This summer I worked on improving my defense and on making the right reads and decision making, like kicking the ball out to find other players rather than going all the way to the basket at times. Still, I'm going to try and play the same style as last year, being really aggressive."

Tommy Kuhse became a starter in the eighth game of the year against California and the Gaels won 18 of their next 27 games and led the team in assists for the season. After two redshirt seasons, Kristers Zoriks is working himself back into game shape and Bennett is counting on him to be part of the mix this season: "If Kristers finally stays healthy, he'll be in the mix. He's been practicing and playing well, all things considered. He's got to work though any element of apprehension he might have and get his game experience back. He's been practicing for four weeks and he has three more weeks to be ready."

Logan Johnson, a transfer from the University of Cincinnati who was a 4-star recruit when he came out of St. Francis High School in Mountain View, just received his waiver to be eligible to play this season. Bennett is excited about Johnson's potential to help the team this season though it will take some time: "Logan's going through an adjustment period with us in learning the way we play offense and defense and that just takes practices and time. He's really quick, rebounds, attacks the basket well, and plays hard. He brings pieces that can help us win right away."

After redshirting in 2017-18, Malik Fitts established himself as a top forward in the WCC. Fitts started all season and was selected to the All-WCC Second team after averaging 15.2 points and leading the team with 7.6 rebounds per game.

Senior Tanner Krebs, 6'6", who was third on the team in scoring last season with an 8.9 scoring average, will be the other forward. Dan Fotu appeared in all 34 games last season as a freshman, averaging 2.8 points per game. After suffering a broken foot, Fotu was just recently cleared to play and only needs to get used to playing again. Elijah Thomas, who started 12

games last year, should also see considerable playing time. Freshman Alex Ducas, another Australian import who can play forward and guard, has shown well in the preseason is also in the mix.

The Gaels have a particularly competitive nonleague schedule opening the season on Nov. 5 against Wisconsin in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Saint Mary's will also be playing against Fresno State, at California, Long Beach State, Lehigh, Utah State, Dayton, Nevada and Arizona State among others. There's no group that Bennett can complain to over the strength of his schedule: "I am the scheduling group," said Bennett. "The key is to have a non-conference schedule that your team can handle. We have a team that is experienced enough that they can be up to the challenge of the schedule."

Bennett has welcomed two former Gaels players onto the coaching staff, Mickey McConnell and Rob Jones: "It's the best to have those guys back. They're Gaels and were great players and were part of our best times in basketball as far as success. It's good to have them help us try and keep this thing rolling. There's no question where their hearts lie."

Ford has really benefited from the tutelage of McConnell: "Mickey has been sharing so much of what he knows from playing professionally for such a long time. He's really good on the offensive side of the ball and I really love listening to him."

After such a successful season last year and with so many returning veteran play-

ers, Bennett appreciates the team's confidence and attitude he's seen so far: "They should be more confident. It's a different confidence and they have it. That's the advantage of having guys that played in the NCAA tournament that actually know what it feels like and how hard it is to do what we did last season and know the boxes you have to check to get there. It happened. They went through it. They did all the things they had to do to get into the position and then won the games that they did. They know they can do it. They've done it."

That's where we're at."

Ford echoes Bennett's sentiments: "Our practices have been a lot more competitive than it's been in my previous years. We're really hungry to do more than what we did last year. My years at Saint Mary's have really flown by quickly and I'm just going to enjoy my last season with my brothers and hopefully do something special with them."

Saint Mary's first home game will be at 6 p.m. Nov. 11 against Winthrop College (S.C.).

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## A conversation with Moraga native Matt Vasgersian



Photos provided

By Jon Kingdon

With the San Francisco Giants missing the playoffs and the Oakland Athletics losing in the first round, the Bay Area can still have a rooting interest in the playoffs. All they have to do is to turn on the Major League Baseball Network to see Matt Vasgersian co-hosting the show MLB Central. What is the connection? Vasgersian grew up in Moraga and is a 1985 graduate of Campolindo High School and grew up a great fan of the A's, Raiders and Warriors.

Vasgersian, who was born in Berkeley, looks back on Moraga with great fondness: "Growing up in Moraga in the '70s was idyllic. There are a lot of smaller communities that can claim this in the pre-internet, pre-cellphone era as things just seemed a lot breezier then."

Growing up in the glory days of the 1970s in the Bay Area was ideal for anyone with a love of sports and Vasgersian certainly fit that mold: "My memories of growing up there was listening to A's games on the radio, loving all the Oakland teams, seasonally, the A's, Raiders and Warriors but the A's really resonated with me the most because of the frequency of the games along with the success of the Raiders. I worshipped Bill King as an East Bay kid and had a distinct distaste for the stuff on the other side of the bay."

With an uncle who was an American Legion coach and with a very talented Campolindo High School team, Vasgersian saw firsthand a lot of talent, such as Campolindo grad Ron Delucchi who was a first round pick of the Pittsburgh Pirates: "I knew my limitations as an athlete. I couldn't play but it never affected my love for the game."

Vasgersian graduated from the University of Southern California and had not considered a career in broadcasting; he was working as a tour guide at Universal Studios soon after graduation. He became the epitome of the saying when opportunity knocks, say yes: "Each summer I would attend an Armenian summer camp growing up and I loved it. I eventually became a volunteer counselor at the camp where I connected with the camp's physician, sharing a mutual love of baseball. As it turned out, he was a minority investor in a minor league baseball team in West Virginia and they were looking for a radio announcer and he told me if I was interested in the position, I should put together my own tape for the other co-owners to listen to."

Vasgersian then went to a Dodger game and sat in the third deck, doing his own play-by-play, and submitted the tape. Despite the "guerrilla nature of the tape," he got the job and moved to Huntington, West Virginia.

Still, a broadcasting career was not yet at the forefront of Vasgersian's mind: "I just thought that it would be a really cool summer job. I liked it and felt that I could do okay by it if I kept going, not knowing if it would have an endpoint. I was very aware of the impactful nature of those jobs. I never got too far ahead of myself. I went from short season A ball to Class A to two years at Double A and two years at Triple A and then just got a lucky break that the Brewers had an opening and if it had not been that team at that time, I'm not sure I would have ever gotten a major league job. After six years in the minors, no one can ever accuse me of having it handed to me."

The jump from the minor leagues to the major leagues can be as difficult for the announcers as it is for the players: "Broadcasting in the minors is every bit as extreme as it is for a ballplayer because the jobs are so much more impacted," says Vasgersian. "I felt that that the only route to get where I wanted to go was by working in the minors. I wanted to do as many games as possible to get better. The bus rides were terrible. The per-diem was terrible. We did not stay at the Ritz or the Four Seasons. It's a lot of little towns and places that weren't that great."

Actually, Vasgersian looks back on his time in broadcasting A-level baseball with great memories: "The dynamic in A ball was the best. Everybody would eat at The Waffle House together and travel on the bus together. At the time, you didn't know any better so it was all kind of fun and especially in short season A and A ball, when everybody's pulling on the same end of the rope, you develop

friendships with the players because you're about the same age."

With so many games now televised and blackouts having become a thing of the past, the radio announcer has lost some relevance: "I worked at every level of the minors doing radio play-by-play which can't happen today because the way people consume baseball is different," says Vasgersian. "Radio games aren't as relevant for kids now as it was when I was a kid."

Since 1991 when he began his career, there have been many changes in sports broadcasting due to technological advances and marketing schemes, not all of which were met with Vasgersian's approval: "It changes so rapidly with technology leading the way. It's dictating the tastes with the shorter attention spans of the consumer. We see it all the time with these online platforms, whether it's ESPN.com or Foxsports.com where they went to an all-video format. Not only is there no journalism, there is no writing. Period. People that run these sports broadcast outlets are doing their best to dumb down the reading skills of America because it's all short clip video. Most of the guys that are getting hired come from different platforms. If a guy is a sports anchor at ESPN, he's probably viewed as a better candidate rather than a guy that has been doing minor league play-by-play because he may have some name value and some sort of a social media following. That's what it's really about."

It hasn't been just baseball for Vasgersian. He has worked on NFL and college football games ("which was a lot of fun"), the XFL ("I can certainly look back and smile on that now but at the

time, no chance."), poker shows ("Luckily, I do have a degenerate side in me and I love poker and games of chance."), and Olympic ski jumping and freestyle skiing ("The best prep I could do for my first Winter Olympics in Torino in 2006 was to walk up and down the aisles at Ikea and learn how to pronounce the Norwegian and Scandinavian words like the schrugen and the schlragen.").

It's important to have the ability to work in many different venues, says Vasgersian: "One of the mistakes I made early on was I was just too narrowly focused on one sport. I think it's great to have an emphasis like that but don't say no to an opportunity just because you're not comfortable with it. The ability to write and speak editorially will separate a young guy from someone who is simply calling action. That would probably mean doing some writing on the side. You also need to have a little depth with whatever sport you end up doing. You can't just helicopter into baseball having just paid attention to the last two years and think you're going to nail it and I think that it's true for the four major north American team sports and it's true for the specialty sports as well. There's a benefit to being an historian as well. You don't have to be encyclopedic but you kind of need to know what came before you."

Even with all of the various sports and teams that he has broadcast for, Vasgersian will still revert back to his roots: "I did the A's wild card game this year and it was a real thrill. It didn't go the way that I wanted it to and I had to really gnash my teeth to play that one down the middle but I was able to slug through it."



Matt Vasgersian with Joe Girardi

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# Orinda Bulldogs win the 2019 Middle School 8th Grade Girls Volleyball Championship



From left: Sadie Symonds, Nicole Tuszynski, Hannah Rush, Keira Elliott, Hanna Bjornson, Lexie Tucker, Charlotta Bell, Eva Patrick, Karena Eberts, Tara Dao, Gabrielle Decareau, Makena Gong, Lexi Hens

Submitted by Chivy Sok

The Bulldogs 8th Grade 8A Girls volleyball team of the Orinda Intermediate School has had an amazing season. They began their adventure with their first play against Foothill Middle School of Walnut Creek and won the game with a 25-15 and 25-19 record on Sept. 11. From this first game, the Bulldogs continued their winning streak against every single school with a 13-0 undefeated record.

OIS 8A Coach Kris Keller, who also directs the Vibe Volleyball Club, attributes the winning record to strong players all around.

"It truly has been a team effort throughout the season, with everyone stepping up at various times during different matches and sets to insure each win," said Keller.

Setters Keira Elliott and Lexi Hens provided excellent team transfer from offense to defense.

Defense specialists/liberos Nicole Tuszynski and Makena Gong proved that no serve or hit was too tough to handle.

Outside Hitters Hanna Bjornson, Lexie Tucker, Gabrielle Decareau, and Tara Dao played both front court and back court throughout every match showing their well-round play was unbeatable.

Middle blockers Eva Patrick and Karena Eberts improved throughout the year owning the skies above the net as well as the space behind them.

Opposite hitters Hannah Rush and Sadie Symonds showed their effectiveness from both the right side and serving.

Even the injured players, Charlotta Bell and Charlotte Mueller, who were not able to play, stayed with the team and provided team support.

Bulldogs concluded the season with an intense championship tournament from Oct. 15-18. They began the week with a successful game against Head Royce, winning both sets with a 25-11 during the first set and 25-5 during the second set. From this first match, OIS 8A advanced to play against Martinez Junior High. While Martinez worked hard to defeat OIS, the Bulldogs ultimately prevailed and advanced to the next match against host Standley Middle School on Thursday.

The OIS versus Stanley play on Thursday was an emotional game to watch. It was intensity taken to the next level. Stanley stepped into the match with determination and the two teams traded points closely throughout the game. But ultimately, Stanley won the first set with a 26-24 score. Bulldogs were equally determined to regain their position and fought hard to win the second set at 25-15. The game was ultimately decided on the third set where Bulldogs fell behind by 3 points, ending with a 15-12.

## Lafayette Reservoir Run local results

Photos Gint Federas



Justin Jayme, Lafayette  
5K 3 of 628, time: 17:13.5



G. Gunn, Lafayette  
5K, 8 of 628, time: 19:08.1



K. Mccasland, Lafayette  
5K, 16 of 628, time: 20:09.5



Adam Hathaway, Moraga  
10K, 2 of 313, time: 37:01.3



Rob Elia, Moraga  
10K, 5 of 313, time: 38:29.5



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# Bay Area Blitz 7th Grade Girls take the Ballin In Town Trophy in the 8th Grade Bracket

Submitted by Marina Chinn

8th Adidas, and the Oakland Lady Soldiers 8th in the championship game. Going forward the girls will continue to work towards the goal of playing in 7th grade AAU Nationals in Knoxville, TN in 2020.

The Bay Area Blitz 2025 girls basketball team (7th grade) won the Ballin In Town Tournament playing up against some of the top 8th grade teams in Northern California. The girls defeated the Blackhawks 8th, JBS



Pictured are Juliana Johnson, Jazlyn Alcantar, Ariana Hallstrom, Riley Walls, Karyss Lacanlale, Jadee Salvador, Natalie Frechman, Sophie Chinn; not pictured Dulcinea Vail and Zakara Cooper.

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*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

*... read on Page D12*

## Hometown Halloween skit hits milestone year



Last year's cast

For the past 25 years, neighbors, friends and family have delivered a Halloween performance between 7 and 9 p.m. from the Wilson family garage at 12 Lynwood Place in Moraga on Halloween night.

The “fun and zany skit” originated on the front porch of the Wilson’s home and grew to 15 cast members, according to event promoter Judy Michel Shumate. “As the cast grew, with family and friends joining in, the skit moved to the garage.”

In 2018, the Wilson family counted about 1,000 people who stopped by to watch the skit throughout the evening. “Moraga police always stop by to show their support,” Shumate said. “We usually go through about 25 bags of treats for the kids.

... continued on Page D4



Photos provided

THE *Beaubelle*  
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City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	8	\$757,500	\$4,500,000
MORAGA	5	\$860,000	\$1,670,000
ORINDA	14	\$800,000	\$3,200,000

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

### LAFAYETTE

1084 Brown Avenue, \$1,495,000, 3 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 09-11-19  
1000 Dewing Avenue #404, \$757,500, 1 Bdrms, 881 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 09-19-19  
3767 Happy Valley Road, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2973 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 09-18-19,  
Previous Sale: \$1,750,000, 12-12-18  
3828 Happy Valley Road, \$4,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 7478 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 09-19-19  
3340 Helen Lane, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1683 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 09-17-19,  
Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 02-26-16  
655 Los Palos Drive, \$2,440,000, 4 Bdrms, 2904 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 09-20-19  
10 Sessions Road, \$2,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2743 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 09-13-19,  
Previous Sale: \$1,295,000, 06-27-13  
1025 Willow Drive, \$940,000, 4 Bdrms, 1476 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 09-09-19

### MORAGA

875 Augusta Drive, \$860,000, 2 Bdrms, 1985 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 09-18-19,  
Previous Sale: \$124,000, 03-01-79  
302 Claudia Court, \$1,535,000, 5 Bdrms, 2908 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 09-09-19  
139 Donald Drive, \$1,255,000, 3 Bdrms, 1822 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 09-17-19,  
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 09-20-18  
35 Hansen Court, \$1,640,000, 2665 SqFt, 2003 YrBlt, 09-18-19,  
Previous Sale: \$1,360,500, 07-25-17  
63 Sanders Ranch Road, \$1,670,000, 4 Bdrms, 3114 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 09-13-19,  
Previous Sale: \$770,000, 05-26-98

### ORINDA

64 Brookwood Road, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1351 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 09-20-19,  
Previous Sale: \$652,000, 03-06-07  
19 Camino Del Diablo, \$1,702,500, 4 Bdrms, 2676 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 09-20-19,  
Previous Sale: \$985,000, 06-23-09  
147 Camino Don Miguel, \$1,570,000, 3 Bdrms, 2861 SqFt, 1932 YrBlt, 09-16-19,  
Previous Sale: \$1,766,000, 10-12-07  
7 El Campanero, \$3,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 3983 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 09-09-19,  
Previous Sale: \$765,000, 07-14-04  
3 El Nido Court, \$1,120,000, 3 Bdrms, 1576 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 09-16-19,  
Previous Sale: \$759,000, 06-04-09  
11 Gardiner Court, \$2,035,000, 4 Bdrms, 4552 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 09-20-19,  
Previous Sale: \$340,000, 05-01-89  
8 Hidden Lane, \$1,680,000, 5 Bdrms, 3695 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 09-11-19,  
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 09-28-00  
18 Loma Linda Court, \$1,331,500, 4 Bdrms, 2622 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 09-16-19,  
Previous Sale: \$539,000, 03-24-98  
325 Miller Court, \$2,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 3939 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 09-10-19,  
Previous Sale: \$2,286,000, 12-16-14  
540 Miner Road, \$1,448,000, 3 Bdrms, 2301 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 09-09-19  
4 Oak Flat Road, \$1,545,000, 4 Bdrms, 3007 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 09-10-19  
123 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1444 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 09-09-19,  
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 03-23-04  
16 Valley View Lane, \$2,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 4453 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 09-11-19,  
Previous Sale: \$2,600,000, 05-12-16  
324 Village View Court, \$1,975,000, 3 Bdrms, 2700 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 09-13-19,  
Previous Sale: \$1,245,000, 12-06-06

Just Listed



## 7 Lloyd Lane, Orinda

4 bed | 3 bath | 3,222 Sq Ft | \$1,830,000  
7LloydLane.com

Impeccably maintained 4 bed 3 bath close to downtown Orinda. High ceilings and crown molding throughout set the tone for this elegant home featuring hardwood floors in the main living areas, 2 fireplaces and a formal dining room with butler's pantry. Tranquil backyard with waterfall, flagstone patio, covered porch and flat lawn. Granite countertops, island with a wine refrigerator, large pantry and skylight in kitchen. Heated Italian marble floors in master bathroom. Conveniently located close to downtown Orinda, freeway and BART.



Just Listed



## 2 Roxanne Lane, Lafayette

5 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3,615 Sq Ft | \$1,875,000  
2RoxanneLane.com

Stunning custom home with spectacular views of Mt Diablo and the surrounding valley. This 5 bedroom 3.5 bath home includes an in-law unit on the lower level, 3-car garage and elevator. Large master suite with fireplace, 2 walk-in closets, and hot tub on a private deck. High ceilings and sliding glass doors in the family and dining rooms lead onto a large deck perfect for entertaining. Conveniently located close to trail and downtown Lafayette.



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# Hometown Halloween skit hits milestone year

... continued from Page D1

We have volunteers that help manage the crowds, and hand out candy after the show.”

Audio track creator James Shumate, who joined the fun at 4 years old and is now a graduate in sound and video from San Francisco State, adds his expertise.

Both of Michelle Wilson’s daughters have added to the fun as well. Daughter Amanda is a vocal coach in the community, and her voice can be heard in the audio. The Wilson family has roots in the entertainment business, Wilson was on the Stage in Las Vegas and had a part in “The Trial of Billy Jack” in 1974.

Now she enjoys creating smiles on the faces of the little goblins. “Laughter keeps us all young,” Shumate said. “We hope to deliver cauldrons of giggles!”

-- J. Wake



The garage is converted into a mini theater.

## 11 Critical Home Inspection Traps to be Aware of Weeks Before Listing Your LAMORINDA Home for Sale

LAMORINDA - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That’s why it’s critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn

prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you’re looking for, and knowing what you’re looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled “11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection” has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1- 844-941-0941 and enter 2503. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn’t cost you the sale of your home.

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3 Honey Hill Ct, Orinda - \$2,630,000



3911 Happy Valley Rd - \$2,280,000



26 Via Hermosa, Orinda - \$2,075,000

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## Feng Shui

# Choosing the right colors for your home



Photo provided

**By Michele Duffy**

Fall and the readiness for the upcoming holidays can often include an interior or exterior color refresh, but picking the right colors for your home can be a daunting task. A professional color consultation is a great way to connect your vision with color palettes that work effort-

lessly with your unique taste, style of home, and the rest of your neighborhood.

First, FengShui “colors” are designed to “activate” the Five Elements that are included in the primary FengShui tool, the Bagua map.

We can apply color to “activate” any of the Bagua areas and, in fact, changing the wall colors in a room to harmonize with the corresponding Five Elements color is the fastest way to change the energy to a more positive and nourishing space. To get the most out of your color picks always begin with:

- 1) Function of room;
- 2) Color palettes you love;
- 3) Bagua location of room to be painted;
- 4) Bagua Area element and corresponding “activating” colors; and
- 5) Color Journal no more than 2-3 options to pick a final winner.

It’s important to note first how you and your family use a room and how it functions in the household before picking a color. Obviously, the function of the master bedroom is very different from that of a dining room, with the master cultivating ease of sleep, resting and intimacy, while a dining room is more about activity, entertaining and lively Qi-filled food. So master bedroom color picks should not be too “active” or yang. Painting the master or any bedroom walls red, for example, is a Feng Shui no-no. Be thoughtful about the actual function of the room you want to paint.

Consider the color palettes you absolutely love and ideas that you would be comfortable with in your own master. Even if you don’t know the exact colors you want, the more you can research ideas and begin to narrow down your options by first acknowledging what colors would make you happiest. Maybe you don’t really know what colors you like. Sometimes, it’s “anything but what we have currently” so that’s okay, too, since this process will allow you to decide later.

Next we map the Bagua over your home to learn the Bagua location of the master bedroom. For our purposes, we will say it’s located in the “Relationship” area (far right from front door) which is indeed an ideal placement. The “Relationship” area is linked to the specific earth-element colors that include pink, earthy skin-tones, and white.

Once you have decided on two or three workable colors for your master, it’s important to understand how a small color swatch will look very different on walls.

### Getting started:

- 1) If you have a partner, be sure to include them in this process. Simply purchase sample sizes of your top 2-3 picks and create 1-foot by 1-foot “brush-outs” on small-medium poster boards that you can move around. You can create two sets of poster boards, if you like.
- 2) Label the paint color brush-outs. Three of my favorites for Master Bedrooms in the Relationship Bagua area are: BM Proposal AF-260; BM Hush AF-95; and BM White Dove OC-17.
- 3) Keep track of your impressions of your colors picks in a “color journal” – any notebook will do fine. Again, write down and label brush-outs Color No. 1, 2 and 3.

... continued on Page D10



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DRE# 01301392



## Feng Shui

# Choosing the right colors for your home



... continued from Page D8

4) Look at your color picks in the morning, at noon and at night since different times of the day provide varying natural light, and make sure you do this in the actual room you are painting!

5) Simultaneously, place the brush outs on the wall with the most light (opposite windows) and also on the walls that are the darkest (walls with windows). Move the brush outs around, too (that second set of brush outs is very handy now).

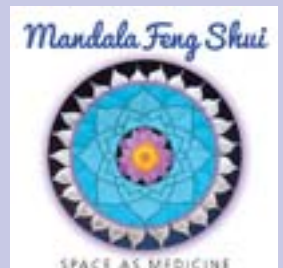
6) Record your impressions, for example, it's less brown than I thought or it has more green or is too light or too dark, etc.

7) Review your color journal after three days. Be mindful and notice if there is one color that you and your partner have

begun to gravitate toward. Is there one color that emerges as the “one” you prefer during more times of the day, and that also works well on your well-lit and dark walls?

At the end of this process the final color you choose will have the added assurance that you did a bit more of the thoughtful work upfront. This will help you to “know” it's the color that works best for you and this color selection process will help you avoid second-guessing your choice later, when it's on all four walls! This is an ideal outcome since you will sleep better in the color you picked over time, and which is also perfect timing, for sleeping longer and lingering in these late Autumn days.

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](mailto:spaceharmony@gmail.com).



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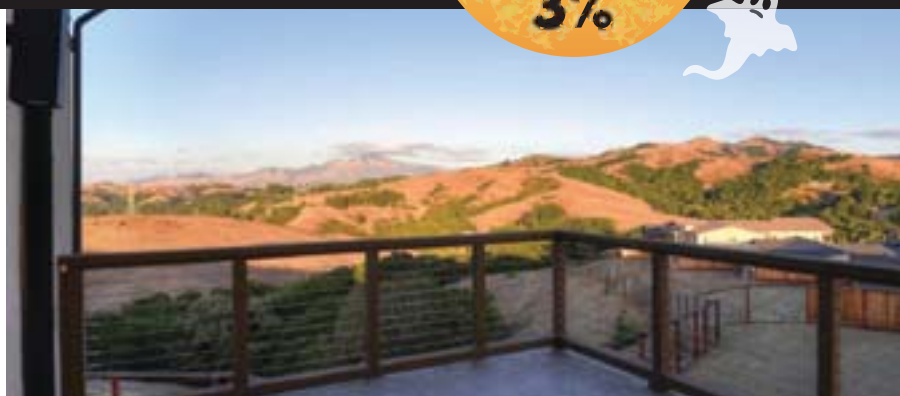
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BR# 01301389



## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

# Scary, scary night



The Merrill Fire burnt to the back fences of houses in Moraga,

Photo Cynthia Brian

**By Cynthia Brian**

*“Starry, starry night  
Flaming flowers that brightly blaze  
Swirling clouds in violet haze.” – Don McLean*

In 1889, post-impressionist Vincent Van Gogh painted one of his most memorable paintings, “The Starry Night,” as he looked out of his asylum east window. On Oct. 10, when I looked out our east window, the starry night was aglow with flames and they were not the brightly blaze of flaming flowers. Normally, I look forward to October because of the frivolity of Halloween – costumes, candy, scarecrows, black cats, ghosts, ghouls, jack o’lanterns, and trick or treating offer children a scary evening of amusement. It was a scary, scary night, but it was not Halloween.

The power was off and a fire erupted racing down the hill to a neighborhood fast asleep. Firefighters were swift and efficient evacuating the community and containing the inferno. Police officers assisted in maintaining peace and safety. Fortunately,

all structures were saved and no injuries were incurred, thanks to the professional first responders. Gardens and landscapes survived the blaze with only a few fences being torched.

What homeowners need to know to be more fire-safe:

Lamorinda is rural, wooded, with minimal escape routes. Many of the plants and trees growing throughout our area are highly flammable including pines, cypress, cedar, fir, bamboo, acacia, juniper, Pampas grass, rosemary, ivy, arborvitae, miscanthus, and eucalyptus. Coyote brush, although moderately fire-resistant when it is young and green, is highly combustible as it grows. It depends on fires to regenerate and grows everywhere in our hills. All of these plants need to be removed or carefully supervised. Since heat moves up, fire speed and severity is stronger on slopes where vegetation management is crucial.

Autumn is a prime time to prepare your landscaping for the next season and create a defensible space around your property. A defensible space is an area around a structure that has been cleared of ignitable

debris and botanicals that may cause a public safety hazard. No plant is fireproof. Under the right conditions, every plant will burn, especially those that are drought-stressed or not maintained. A “fire-safe” plant means that it tends not to be a significant fuel source in itself with a chemical composition that resists heat and combustion. It is critical to keep plants around our homes well tended and pruned as a fire protection tool. The closer plants are to the house, the more care is needed. Every homeowner is responsible for managing their vegetation to meet fire district requirements.

Neighborhoods are encouraged to form a committee to receive advice from local fire professionals on how to be Firewise. Being Firewise is dependent on the diligence of everyone in a neighborhood to keep property fire safe. Fires do not honor property lines. All properties become indefensible when one neighbor has overgrown bushes, brush, or low hanging trees.

... continued on Page D14

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### What makes flora highly flammable?

- Dry and dead leaves, twigs, branches
- Abundant, dense foliage
- Needles
- Low moisture foliage
- Peeling, loose bark
- Gummy sap
- Leathery or aromatic leaves
- Content of terpene, oils, or resin
- Dry uncut grasses

### What makes flora reasonably fire-resistant?

- Hardy, slow-growing plants that don't produce litter or thatch.
- Drought tolerant natives with internal high water content. Generally, but not always, California natives are more tolerant of fire and deer.
- Trees with thick bark that restrict the growth of invasive shrub species and hardwood trees such as walnut, cherry, maple and poplar are less flammable. Deciduous trees and shrubs are more fire resistant because they have higher moisture content when in leaf, lower fuel volume when dormant, and usually do not contain flammable oils.
- Supple, moist leaves with little to no sap or resin residue.
- Low growing ground covers.
- Bulbs with dried leaves cut to the ground.

### What can you do now to create a more fire-resistant landscape?

- Include pavers, bricks, pavement, gravel, rocks, dry creek beds, fountains, ponds, pools and lawns.
- Select high moisture plants that grow close to the ground with a low sap and resin content.
- Plant the right plant in the correct location. Leave space between plants.
- Minimize the inclusion of evergreen trees within 30 feet of structures. Clear the understory. Keep trees 20 feet away from chimneys.
- Remove invasive species or swaths of flammable plants including ivy, rosemary, broom, coyote brush, chamise, and juniper.
- Keep mulch moist. Create zones of rock, brick or gravel. Bark and leaves are not mulches recommended near structures.
- Prune trees 6-10 feet above the ground to hinder fire laddering.
- Keep appropriate clearance to reduce the threat of burning embers from decorative features such as gazebos, fences, sheds, porches and junk areas.
- Irrigate and maintain all flora, lawns, and hillsides. Clover, ground covers, and grasses that are kept low and green are excellent alternatives.
- Due to soil erosion, bare ground is not recommended.

### Helpful Websites

- National Fire Protection Association: <https://www.nfpa.org>
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District: <http://www.mofd.org>
- University of California Cooperative Extension: [https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/Prepare/Landscaping/Plant\\_choice/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/Prepare/Landscaping/Plant_choice/)
- Fire Safe Marin: <https://www.firesafemarin.org>
- Pacific Northwest Fire Resistant Plants: <http://www.firefree.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Fire-Resistant-Plants.pdf>
- Las Pilitas Nursery (Located in Santa Margarita, this website lists deer and fire-resistant flora plus burn times.) <https://www.laspilitas.com/easy/deerfire.htm>



Beautiful and fire-safe New Guinea impatiens.



The flower of coyote brush is fragrant with seeds that scatter to grow multiple plants.

Photos Cynthia Brian



The happy scarecrow points the way to the pumpkin patch.



Cynthia Brian in a flammable eucalyptus grove.

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 StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at [www.StarStyleRadio.com](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com). Buy a copy of her books, *Growing with the Goddess Gardener* and *Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers* at [www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store). Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com) [www.GoddessGardener.com](http://www.GoddessGardener.com)

### Sign Up for Alerts

- Location-specific alert is Contra Costa County Community Warning System: <https://cwsalerts.com>
- General alert: <http://www.nixle.com>

Having had warning of the looming PG&E blackout, I had deeply irrigated my entire garden and hillside. An alert from EBMUD instructed that in a power outage, water must be used judiciously, so as a preemptive measure, I watered my landscape thoroughly, soaking the grass, shrubs, mulch, trees and fences. Throughout the summer, thrice, I had weed-whacked the tall grass surrounding my property and that of neighbors, pruned low hanging tree branches, and a week before the fire I had, thankfully, cut the dry perennials to the ground. These are steps I encourage all homeowners to undertake. Maintaining our landscaping is a never-ending task mandatory for both our pleasure and protection.

Let's participate in keeping the fire-breathing dragon away. Enjoy a safe and scary evening of Trick or Treating under the starry skies!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Halloween!

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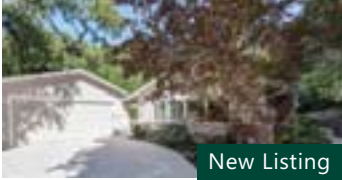


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## ORINDA



New Listing

**24 Valley Drive**  
Classic mid-century influenced 3 bed/ 2 bath home 2033 sqft with mature gardens & patios.  
**\$1,198,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

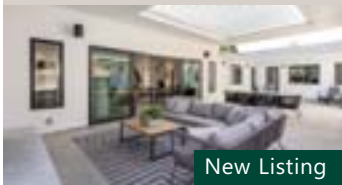
**8 Charles Hill Circle**  
Large 4320 sqft 6 bed/ 3.5 bath Orinda family home with separate in-law accommodations.  
**\$1,550,000**

## ORINDA



**271 Orchard Road**  
Updated & expanded rancher in the heart of Orinda. Large lawn, patio, sports court & rooftop deck.  
**\$1,645,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**257 Overhill Road**  
Beautifully updated modern 3 bed/ 2 bath home with hardwood floors & an abundance of natural sunlight.  
**\$1,795,000**

## ORINDA



**19 Donald Drive**  
Serene 3460 sqft garden oasis with panoramic views, luxurious interiors & numerous meditative retreats.  
**\$1,795,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**65 Lombardy Lane**  
4 bed/ 3.5 bath ranch home with oversized chef's kitchen in coveted Sleepy Hollow neighborhood.  
**\$2,495,000**

## ORINDA



**383 Miner Road**  
East Coast meets West Coast! Orinda Country Club Cape Cod home on 1.32 acres, updated.  
**\$2,550,000**

## ORINDA



**19 La Cintilla**  
Elegant 5 bed/ 3.5 bath with chef's kitchen, hardwood floors & patio. Minutes to commute & top schools.  
**\$3,198,000**

## ORINDA



**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 Circle**  
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**

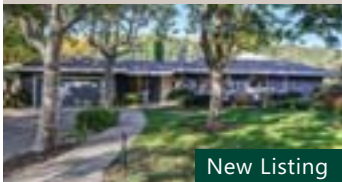
## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**871 Las Trampas**  
Sea Ranch inspired custom contemporary home with newly remodeled kitchen, master bedroom, & hardwood floors  
**\$1,295,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**806 Augusta Drive**  
Updated single level 3 bed/ 2 bath home on Moraga Country Club golf course. Close to schools & trails.  
**\$1,250,000**

## ROSSMOOR



**1341 Leisure Lane #4**  
Beautifully updated, sought after level-in Yosemite model, 2 bed/ 1.5 bath. Perfect for privacy. Views!  
**\$545,000**

## ROSSMOOR



**2642 Saklan Indian Drive #3**  
Updated 1546 sqft 2 bed/ 2 bath upper unit condo. Includes office, washer & dryer, & 1 car garage.  
**\$829,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



New Price

**1670 San Miguel**  
Spacious 2 bed/ 2.5 condo w/ remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors, & oversized master w/ large closet.  
**\$699,000**

## The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby  
Patricia Battersby  
Shannon Conner  
Meara Dunsmore

Linda Ehrich  
Emily Estrada

Joan Evans  
Linda Friedman  
Dexter Honens II

Anne Knight  
Susan Layng

April Matthews  
Hillary Murphy

Karen Murphy  
John Nash

Altie Schmitt  
Judy Schoenrock

Ann Sharf  
Amy Rose Smith

Molly Smith  
Jeff Snell

Lynda Snell  
Steve Stahle

Clark Thompson  
Angie Evans Traxinger

Ignacio Vega  
Ann Ward

Jenny Lyons Wilhite  
Margaret Zucker



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**Village**  
ASSOCIATES

It's Village. Of Course.

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