

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Independent, locally owned and operated!

26,000 copies delivered biweekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses

www.lamorindaweekly.com

925-377-0977

MARK BELLINGHAM PAINTING
 Is Your House Ready for 2020?
 Book Your Estimate Now
 Interior & Exterior Painting
 Light Carpentry & Dry Rot Repair
 925-247-0092
 MARKBELLINGHAMPAINING.COM
 Local Business Owner - Since 1985 - Licensed & Insured



Lafayette Tennis Club a total loss after Oct. 27 wildfire

Photo Nick Marnell

PG&E equipment the cause of Lafayette Tennis Club fire

By Nick Marnell

Major fires the last Sunday of October pushed the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District to its limits and caused the evacuation of thousands of residents in Lafayette, all part of possibly the busiest day in the fire district's history.

"We faced an historic and massive challenge Oct. 27, the likes of which we have not encountered

before and one that could have turned out much differently in loss of property and even life," Con-Fire Chief Lewis Broschard said.

ConFire responded to 28 incidents in Lafayette that day, with the major event the 6-acre grass fire that destroyed the Lafayette Tennis Club along the south side of Camino Diablo. "You could tell by the voices on the dispatch that this was big," Capt. Jeff Landis said. "When I arrived on the scene I thought, 'This looks like a video I saw of the Oakland Hills

fire.'"

Wind gusts up to 34 mph impeded the firefighting efforts, as did a large PG&E power pole lying across Camino Diablo. "We did not have great access because of that pole. Camino Diablo was cut off. The tennis club was completely involved, so we checked to see that no other structures were in danger," Battalion Chief Dominic Ciotola said.

... continued on Page A8

Advertising



- Not to be missed B6-B7
- Community Service B4
- How to contact us B7
- Classified C2
- Shop Moraga C4

	25 Rustic Way, Orinda 	21 Sycamore Road, Orinda 	60 Bowling Drive, Oakland
	Offered at \$4,250,000 www.25rusticway.com	Offered at \$3,750,000 www.21sycamoreroad.com	Offered at \$2,295,000 www.60bowlingdr.com
CalBRE#01272382 Laura Abrams (925) 253-4611 www.lauraabrams.com			

Orinda to ban non-hosted short-term rentals following mass shooting



Photo Sora O'Doherty

A memorial was erected in downtown Orinda for victims of the 114 Lucille Way mass shooting on Halloween.

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Library Auditorium was full and an overflow room in the community center was opened Nov. 5 as the city council tried to decide what to do about short-term rentals in the aftermath of a shooting on Halloween that left five people dead and one victim in a coma.

Mayor Inga Miller opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the victims of the mass shooting at a party at 114 Lucille Way. She named the dead as Oshiana Tompkins, 19, of Vallejo/Hercules; Omar Taylor, 24, of Pittsburg, Ramon Hill Jr., 23, of San Francisco/Oakland Javin County, 29, of Sausalito/Richmond; and Tiyon Farley, 22 of Antioch. Armani Reynolds remains in a coma. Miller noted that Supervisor Candace Andersen says that Contra Costa County has resources available to help people dealing

with the trauma of the shooting.

During the public forum, many of the speakers prefaced their remarks with expressions of sympathy and grief for the families of the victims. It was also announced that the property in question has been removed from Airbnb and Booking.com and will no longer be used as a short-term rental. The nearly 4,000-square-foot home with 11 rooms was purchased at the end of 2017 and registered as a short-term rental in 2018. According to one speaker, the owners of 114 Lucille Way own 11 other properties in Contra Costa County.

Police Chief David Cook gave the city council a summary of the incident. He thanked residents who offered both support and assistance to the police. Cook said that he understood that people had questions about the timeline of events on Halloween.

... continued on Page A6

Civic News A1-A12	Life in Lamorinda B1-B8	Sports C1-C3	Our Homes D1-D12
Rheem sinkhole repair conundrum continues - Page A4	Moraga mom's nonprofit gives gift of filled backpacks -- Page B1	Saint Mary's women's basketball preview - Page C1	Simple steps for a standout Thanksgiving - Page D1

Fire Districts A8

Former MOFD fire chief loses appeal -- Page A8



See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Lafayette:
 www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
 Phone: (925) 284-1968
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.lafayettechamber.org

3716 Crestmont Place, Lafayette | Newly Renovated Happy Valley Retreat



4 Bedroom + Office + Bonus | 3 Full + 2 Half Bathrooms | 4291± Sq. Ft. Main House + Detached Gym/Studio on a .60± Acre Lot with Sport Court
 Offered at \$3,589,000 | 3716CrestmontPlace.com

COMPASS

Lamorinda's #1 Realtor Since 2010
 925.339.1918 | Danagreenteam.com | DRE 01482454



Cancer Support Center shares plans at public information meeting



Rendering provided

By Pippa Fisher

A 5.75-acre plot of hillside opposite the Community Gardens, nestled near the Lafayette Reservoir, is soon to be home to the Cancer Support Center. Or at least that is the hope of CEO Jim Bouquin, who has worked hard over the past five years to get the project to this point. It is still in early days – plans were submitted to the city in early September.

Now, a month into staff review, the center is moving into a public review phase. At a Nov. 5 public meeting, held at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, Bouquin explained the concept and philosophy of the proposed center. The meeting was well attended and many stayed afterward to examine the renderings and diagrams on display, and to talk to representatives from Branagh Developers, Left Coast Architecture and Gates and Associates, Landscape Architects.

The CSC has operated for

the past 30 years out of a building located behind a Walnut Creek shopping complex that it has outgrown. The non-profit provides psychosocial care – a holistic approach promoting health and healing in mind, body and soul alongside medical treatment. All services are provided free to cancer patients, and survivors as well as caregivers and families.

The proposal is for a two-story building of roughly 12,000 square feet to sit lower on the hill, offering among its facilities classrooms and counseling rooms, children's and teens' activity rooms, a large teaching kitchen, a movement center, and a demonstration kitchen.

Less than 30% of the parcel will be developed. Behind the center, which is designed to be a gateway to the site and to reflect and connect with nature in its appearance, will be a retreat-like natural space with vegetable gardens, meditation spaces, an outdoor movement area for yoga

classes, a natural children's playground and walking trails. Bouquin explained the company is treating the land with reverence. He said that there are currently 144 trees on site and although 14 small trees will have to be removed, the company will be planting around 40 new ones, mostly in the front for screening. All plantings will be native.

Bouquin says the CSC experts who offer counseling, education and support are some of the best in the country but equally important to the members is the value of being connected in a community for those touched by cancer.

He sees the importance, too, of the CSC community fitting into the Lafayette community. "We are here to create a sanctuary for this community," he says, noting that CSC wants to engage and welcome others into its space to enjoy the trails and gardens.

Meetings such as the one held Nov. 5 are as much about listening to the community as



Photo Pippa Fisher

CSC CEO Jim Bouquin holds public meeting Nov. 5 to present and answer questions on the proposed new healing center near the Reservoir.

presenting the plans. Bouquin listened to questions. "Your concerns are our concerns also," he pointed out, when asked about the potential for traffic increase.

Bouquin said that traffic studies would be done but noted that CSC has the flexibility to stagger classes to avoid rush-hour times, and that it would be looking into creating a left-turn pocket. He also said the company would be providing a shuttle from BART.

It is the issue of traffic that the Acalanes Valley Homeowners Association objects to, along with the precedent it claims this project would set, leading, it says, to overdevelopment of the neighboring, larger 62-acre DeSilva parcel opposite Oakwood Athletic Club which shares the same zoning.

A post on the AVHA website concludes, "It would despoil the existing greensward south of Mt. Diablo Blvd all the way to downtown. It would aggravate traffic congestion on Mt Diablo Blvd near the Reservoir and hasten the demise of the semi-rural character of

western Lafayette." The project is still at least three years away, during which time the CSC will move into a more open fundraising phase. The center has received several generous lead donations – the land was gifted to the company from Ray and Angelina Leal late last year during purchase negotiations – and CSC has received a \$2 million donation from local philanthropists Myrna and Dennis Cheney. This, coupled with the proceeds from the eventual sale of its current center, puts the CSC almost halfway toward its goal of roughly \$12 million. Bouquin says he is grateful and touched by the community's generosity.

The meeting was the first of several public outreach meetings planned. Bouquin encourages anyone with questions or interest to contact the center. He drew attention to the monthly site tours. The next tour is scheduled from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Dec. 14.

More information on the Lafayette project can be found at <https://www.csclafayette.org/>

Please Donate

KINCADE FIRE RECOVERY



The Kurt Piper Group invites you to drop off canned goods in support of the Kincade fire recovery. We will be outside the main entrance of the Moraga Country Club to receive your donation.

Moraga Country Club

Wednesday, November 20, 2019
 Between 1:00pm and 4:00pm

Thank you for supporting the people of Northern California who have been impacted by these devastating fires.

Kurt Piper 925 818 8000 Kurt@KurtPiperGroup.com KurtPiperGroup.com
DRE 01130308

COMPASS

Nonprofit \$2M nearer to lighting up the Park Theater

By Pippa Fisher



Photo Lamo archive

The recently-formed nonprofit Park Theater Trust has announced it has a contingent donation of \$2 million, which it says will go a long way toward its goal of protecting and renovating Lafayette's iconic Park Theater.

"This generous anchor donation is great news for The Park Theater Trust just as we begin our fundraising efforts in earnest," said TPTT Board Member Kathy Bowles in an announcement released Oct. 25.

... continued on Page A11

<p>Lafayette Public Meetings</p>		<p>Planning Commission Monday, Nov. 25, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.</p>
<p>City Council Monday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m. special meeting Monday, Nov. 25, 7 p.m. regular meeting Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.</p>		<p>Design Review Monday, Nov. 25, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.</p>
<p>School Board Meetings Acalanes Union High School District Wednesday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m. AUHSD Board Room 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette www.acalanes.k12.ca.us</p>		<p>Lafayette School District Wednesday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m. Regular Board Meeting Stanley M.S. Library 3477 School St., Lafayette www.lafsd.k12.ca.us</p>

'Day at the Library' commemorates 10th birthday



Photos Pippa Fisher

Peter Pan Foundation President and Founder Leslie Noel and her cast of characters.

There was quite a crowd in attendance at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Nov. 9, including some fictional characters from a galaxy far, far away. Why? Because, well, storm troopers!

The Lafayette Rotary Club was providing the barbecue. The Friends of the Library had a huge sidewalk sale and the Historical Society was on hand to answer questions, even rolling out Lafayette's favorite fire truck, Old Betsy,

for the LLLC's 10th birthday celebration.

Along with crafts and story time with children's authors, dancing and musical entertainment was provided by the Peter Pan Foundation, the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society Student Jazz Ensemble and hula with Kaleo o Ka "Aina."

And there was of course plenty of cake.
- P. Fisher



Some traveled from other galaxies to attend.

Thousands of lights adorn historic tree



Photo Pippa Fisher

By Pippa Fisher

And with just a flick of a switch Lafayette is feeling the holiday spirit. The beautiful redwood tree outside Diablo Foods is shining as it does every year at this time – thousands of twinkling lights brightening the night.

It is a familiar sight to those in Lafayette and is a sure sign the holidays are upon us. But not all are aware that the tree has quite a history.

According to Mary McCosker of the Lafayette Historical Society, the redwood was planted by Jennie Bickerstaff Rosenberg, daughter of James Bickerstaff, in the late 1800s.

Jennie first came to Lafayette in 1875 when she was 7 years old. In 1877 the

family traveled back to Pennsylvania because Jennie's mother was sick. However the family returned two years later and James Bickerstaff built a cottage on an acre of land, on what would become the site of today's Diablo Foods, bought from Lafayette founder Elam Brown in 1879. Jennie, who went on to become a longtime teacher in various locations around the county including Moraga and right here in Lafayette, helped her father plant a garden including the redwood that has survived all these years, even after the house was torn down in 1964. Jennie had lived in that house for 85 years when she died aged 93. Diablo Foods has been on this site since 1968.

... continued on Page A9



KEITH KATZMAN

I'M SELLING MORAGA!

Moraga resident since 1966. Successfully selling real estate for over 33 years.

925.376.7777

keith.katzman@compass.com

DRE # 00875484

A simple solution to bridge the gap between the home you have and the home you want.

Compass Bridge Loan Services gets you access to competitive rates and dedicated support from industry-leading lenders, with the exclusive option to get up to six months of your loan payments fronted when you sell your home with me.

How it works

- 1 Work with me to find your next dream home.
- 2 Apply and get approved for a bridge loan with the lender of your choice.
- 3 Work with me to get the first six months of your bridge loan payments fronted.
- 4 Move into your new home while I work to sell your current home faster and for more money.
- 5 When your old home sells, simply use the proceeds to pay back the bridge loan and any fronted monthly payments.

Curious to learn more? Contact me to discuss how Compass Bridge Loan Services could help you.

As always, I am here to help ... I listen and I care!
I'm selling homes fast! Yours could be next!
Call me for a no obligation visit!

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01866771. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

COMPASS

Lamorinda's Most Loved Realtor Team

Awarded by NextDoor two years in a row



BRYDON & IVES
REAL ESTATE TEAM

Lisa Brydon & Kristi Ives
925.788.8345
bi@brydonivesteam.com
DRE 01408025 | DRE 01367466

Just Listed



1995 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill
Poet's Corner Perfection!
3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,424 Sq Ft | 0.36 Acre
1995OakParkBlvd.com

Coming Soon



Downtown Lafayette Charmer
3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,968 Sq Ft | 0.31 Acre

Let's Make a Plan for Your Next Big Move!
Work With Us! 925.788.8345

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.

COMPASS



MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
Town of Moraga:
 www.moraga.ca.us
 Phone: (925) 888-7022
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.moragachamber.org
Moraga Citizens' Network:
 www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Grateful to Live and Work in this Wonderful Community

COMPASS

Tara Rochlin
 925.586.3442
 tararochlin@gmail.com
 DRE 01330630

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

No movement to remove blight at 90 Greenfield Drive in Moraga



A state of disrepair at 90 Greenfield Dr.

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

For nearly three years residents in the vicinity of 90 Greenfield Drive have had to put up with a visual blight and fire hazard pertaining to a house that is currently in a state of disrepair and apparent abandonment.

Planning Department Director Derek Farmer made a quick presentation to the town council during the Oct. 23 meeting requesting the members to consider a resolution declaring the Greenfield property a public nuisance and asking for the allocation of \$15,000 from the general fund reserves to abate the visual blight.

The \$15,000 would include legal fees of roughly \$5,000 to \$7,000 to proceed with the abatement and an additional \$6,000 to have a contractor make exterior repairs to the house.

The 1,786-square-foot property was built in 1972. The original owner sold it to an individual who, according to neighbors, had plans to flip the house for resale. The town had issued a building permit to the new owner in 2015 for various repairs to include new windows and doors, a rear deck replacement and new stairs to the front porch. While some repairs have been made, for the most part the house remains in a state of incomplete construction.

The property owner is currently in violation of several municipal codes, including overgrown vegetation, possibility of vermin, appearance of abandonment, safety hazards and lack of proper approvals and permits.

Between 2016-18, the town has issued seven administrative citations to the property owner including partial payment of fines. The town has also issued two Notice and Order to Abate, one

in June 2018 and another one year later.

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District has also issued citations to the property owner for lack of weed abatement. In the process MOFD discovered that the property is in foreclosure.

During the public comment portion of the council meeting, neighbors on either side of 90 Greenfield Drive complained about the fire hazards the property poses to the immediate area.

Moraga's legal counsel obtained information regarding the property's bank and tax liens totaling nearly \$1.5 million. Mayor Roger Wykle acknowledged that in its current condition the property wouldn't come close to fetching that amount of money, in which case, Farmer acceded that there was almost no chance the town would recover its \$15,000 cost to abate.

The town council unanimously voted not to adopt the resolution to provide funds to abate the nuisance. However, it directed staff to revisit the situation in early 2020 with a progress report regarding the property's foreclosure status.

Rheem sinkhole property owner appeals abatement notice

By Vera Kochan

At a special Moraga Town Council meeting on Oct. 30, Stars Holding Co., LLC, property owner of 398 Rheem Blvd., made an appeal regarding the Notice and Order to Abate Violations.

The town states: the sinkhole is an Attractive Nuisance; the sinkhole and unstable ground are located in a driveway and walkway which present a public safety hazard; and the sinkhole and the failing stormwater pipe are an obstruction of watercourses.

In a Notice of Appeal letter to the town dated Sept. 23 by David M. Sternberg & Associates, the property owner's attorney, the violations and appeals were addressed as such:

The appellants asserted that the sinkhole is not an attractive nuisance because it has been appropriately fenced, and the public is, therefore, protected; that the sinkhole is in the process of being repaired and that the fencing is appropriate until the repair is finalized; and that the sinkhole has been temporarily shored and appropriately fenced while all repairs are made.

Sternberg, the lead attorney, added an "Objection to Timeframe" given by the town to perform repairs. "The required timeframe is, in general, a good plan of action, but the times are too short because of the extensive problem and the necessary coordination in attempting to obtain funds to repair the sinkhole in the light of

the fact that it may be the responsibility of the Town of Moraga, East Bay Municipal Utility District, the Up-Slope Owners who have directed the waters into the subject property, and others. The adjacent sinkhole took over two years to repair."

The town of Moraga provided testimony from three witnesses during the hearing to back up the claims behind the violations. Public Works Director Edric Kwan had stated that during a recent visit to the property with the shopping center's contractor he witnessed the ground "flexing" as the contractor jumped up and down to demonstrate the instability of the situation.

Senior Project Manager Robin Lee of Schaaf and



Photo Vera Kochan

Contractor access for sinkhole inspections and repairs

Wheeler, Moraga's on-call civil engineering firm, testified about the temporary structural supports that are holding up the pipe. "We would recommend moving them. When the higher flows come through those supports are going to act like bridge piers, and they're going to collect debris, so you also have a potential of flooding upstream. If they collect too much debris and then the force of water is very strong, those pipes are likely going to get knocked out and wash away."

Kwan verified that the temporary bypass pipes were washed away during the May storms and their locations within the system are not known.

Moraga Police Chief Jon King explained that his day shift officers are "constantly moving people away" from the fence surrounding the sinkhole area. Adults and kids have taken selfies in front of the sinkhole or have climbed the fence surrounding it for a better picture.

Mayor Roger Wykle asked

for clarification of easement regarding the stormwater pipe. Assistant Town Attorney Denise Bazzano replied, "The town's position is that the pipe belongs to the property owner, in this case Stars Holding Co., LLC. The town does not have any easement to enter onto the property. The town has not maintained that storm drain pipe. The town has not undertaken any repairs of the storm drain pipe in the past. The town's position is that this pipe belongs to the property owner."

Sternberg requested that the town council stay the abatement order so that his client may continue to raise funds and hire someone appropriate to fix the sinkhole.

The town council unanimously affirmed to adopt the resolution upholding the Notice and Order to Abate the Violations based upon all of the presented findings, but extended the effective date to begin after Nov. 13, the date of the next council meeting.

Local Knowledge

Extraordinary Results

• •

• •

Are You Considering Selling Your Home?

If so, please give us a call for assistance. We would be happy to provide you with a complimentary market analysis of your home's value, as well as a comprehensive marketing plan detailing how to get you the highest sale price in today's market!

Gary Bernie & Ken Ryerson

Gary Bernie
 925.200.2222
 gary.bernie@compass.com
 DRE 00686144

Ken Ryerson
 925.878.9685
 ken.ryerson@compass.com
 DRE 01418309

COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01866771. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

Town Council
 Wednesday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, Nov. 27, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission
 Monday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Park and Recreation Commission
 Tuesday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

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



EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Linda Ehrich
Realtor
93 Moraga Way
Orinda, CA 94563
925.698.1452
Linda@LindaEhrich.com
www.LindaEhrich.com
DRE# 01330298



LINDA EHRICH



Hacienda Holiday Faire

Over 45 Artisans

December 6-8

moragarec.com
925-888-7045



Public Works Department gets pavement preservation award for Moraga



Photo Vera Kochan

Public Works Director Edric Kwan holds The Sorenson Award

By Vera Kochan

It is evident with all of the road work that went on around town this summer that public works has been busy improving the streets. The 2019 Sorenson Award for Excellence in Pavement Preservation should come as no surprise for its bestowment on the town of Moraga.

Director Edric Kwan attended the Oct. 29 ceremony in Park City, Utah, to accept the prestigious award honoring the town of Moraga from the National Center for Pavement Preservation.

Some criteria for the award require entries to give examples of any notable preservation applications or techniques along with unique public awareness actions; the acceptance of preservations by elected town officials; demonstration of preservation principles; and, most importantly, the documenting of tangible benefits such as increased life of the pavement, utilization of new concepts and less frequency of reconstruction.

Moraga Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg gives credit to the residents who formed the

Revenue Enhancement Community Outreach to Neighborhoods in 2010. Its two years of grass roots efforts and meetings helped to put Measure K on the ballot which passed in November 2012.

According to Kwan, Moraga first gained recognition for its pavement efforts in 2013, while winning the Metropolitan Transportation Commission award for Best Pavement Management Program of the Year.

Kwan explained, "After that MTC began to follow Moraga's work." Continuing to be impressed with what a small town can accomplish, in 2018 "MTC asked me to write an article for the Pavement Preservation Journal ("Public Outreach Spurs Big Boost in Town Pavement Condition Index") Winter 2018 issue, which got a lot of attention. It's because of the article that we were asked to fill out an application for this award."

Past recipients of The Sorenson Award have been large municipalities. Kwan proudly stated, "Moraga may not be a big agency with ample resources, staff and funding, but we do care enough to do something to improve our local streets and roads ... and it shows."

Rheem Theatre addition gets green light from Planning Commission



Photo Wendy Schreck

By Vera Kochan

Cinema West partners Dave Corkill and Kyle Conner's plans for their newly purchased Rheem Theatre met with approval during the Oct. 21 Planning Commission meeting. Planning Department Senior Planner Steve Kowalski's presentation had no hiccups.

Located at 350 Park St. in the Rheem Shopping Center in Moraga, the circa 1957 building will see a transformative facelift in keeping with its historic integrity.

The applicant plans to construct a new 4,113 square

foot ground-level addition onto the back of the existing four-screen building. The addition would add two new screening rooms, one containing 82 seats and the other containing 41 seats. The new addition would not be visible from the front of the theater. The existing screening rooms are currently undergoing renovations that will include reclining seats and a state-of-the-art sound system. The newly remodeled theater would contain 559 proposed seats as opposed to the prior 658 seats.

... continued on Page A10

Get a head start to finding your home.

Access thousands of new listings before anyone else, only at compass.com.



0 El Caminito, Orinda
4.89 Acre Lot | \$2,195,000
compass.com

John Lucasey
510.774.8140
DRE 01990251



1756 Cole Avenue #203, Walnut Creek
2 Bed | 2 Bath | \$1,750,000
1756coleave-203.com

Cheryl Hata
510.912.5882
DRE 01389346

Lori Legler
925.286.1244
DRE 00805132



146 Manzanita Drive, Orinda
4 Bed | 3 Bath | \$1,700,000
compass.com

Lisa Shaffer
925.528.9278
DRE 00996886



4849 Geranium Place, Oakland
5 Bed | 3.5 Bath | \$1,349,000
compass.com

Lori Boukis
925.482.5432
DRE 018474437



194 Miramonte Drive, Moraga
4 Bed | 2 Bath | \$799,000
KRGrealtors.com

Karen Richardson Group
925.639.3904
DRE 01407557



99 Cleaveland Road #29, Walnut Creek
2 Bed | 2 Bath | \$499,000
compass.com

Shirley Sutton
925.285.6555
DRE 00612563



ORINDA

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

City of Orinda:
www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:
www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:
www.orindaassociation.org

He's All About Lamorinda!



CLARK THOMPSON

REAL ESTATE BROKER
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES

Office: 925-254-8585 | Cell: 925-998-7898



ct@clarkthompson.com | www.clarkthompson.com



CALBRE# 00903367

In the wake of the Halloween shooting in Orinda, Airbnb struggles to change

By Sora O'Doherty

The shooting on Halloween that left five young people dead and one in a coma has prompted Airbnb to make changes, as it contemplates going public next year. Airbnb CEO and founder Brian Chesky on Nov. 6 stated via social media, "Starting today, we are banning 'party houses' and we are redoubling our efforts to combat unauthorized parties and get rid of abusive host and guest conduct, including conduct that leads to the terrible events we saw in

Orinda." Later that day he sent an email to the company's employees, promising improvements to the company designed to restore trust. To address unauthorized house parties, beginning on Dec. 15, Airbnb will expand manual screening of high-risk reservations flagged by their risk detection models to the U.S. this year and globally next year. According to Chesky, "events by bad actors on our platform took advantage of that trust, including at a home in Orinda, California." He said the company was taking four steps to restore

trust. In addition to the manual screening of high-risk reservations, Chesky promised that by the end of the year, all seven million listings on Airbnb will be reviewed and verified. Beginning on Dec. 15, Airbnb will offer a guest guarantee so that any guest who is dissatisfied with a property can rebook at a new listing of equal or greater value, or get 100 percent of their money back. In addition, the company is launching a new, 24/7 Neighbor Hotline so that anyone can call the company anytime, anywhere in the world and reach a real per-

son at Airbnb. The hotline will be staffed with a rapid response team and will launch in the U.S. by the end of this year, and will roll out globally over the course of next year. According to the San Francisco Chronicle, after a statement was issued by an attorney representing the family of one of the victims, noting a lack of support for the family, Airbnb did offer to pay funeral expenses for all five of the people killed at the party, and to provide trauma counseling.

Orinda to ban non-hosted short-term rentals following mass shooting

... continued from Page A1

Cook said that at 8:35 p.m. on Oct. 31 the Orinda Police Department sent two officers to Lafayette to assist at a home invasion robbery. There had been, he said, several complaints about a noisy party on Lucille Way, but such complaints did not take precedence over a violent crime in progress. Returning from Lafayette at 10:50 p.m., the OPD officers headed for the Lucille Way residence, but the shooting happened shortly before they arrived.

Cook said that the department had received only two calls about this property since March, and neither complaint was concerning loud parties. At no time was there a complaint regarding the presence of weapons. The shooting incident is currently under investigation by a number of federal, state and local agencies, including the FBI. He said that people have come forward to offer to contribute

was not considered necessary at this time. Even after shortening the public comment time to two minutes per person, the meeting wound up being extended twice, running close to midnight. Two hundred members of the public attended the meeting, and were asked to show their support for speakers by a show of hands, rather than by applause.

After listening to speakers expounding a variety of points of view, and consulting with city attorney Osa Wolff, the council voted unanimously to adopt an urgency ordinance banning all non-hosted short-term rentals in the city. Wolff was of the opinion that the city had good grounds for such action, to protect the health and safety of its residents and that, while the city might be sued, she was confident that it could successfully defend against such an action. On Nov. 19 the council will vote on the urgency ordinance, which will ban all non-hosted STRs and will become effective immediately. Orinda staff will try to work with existing owners. The ordinance will be effective for 45 days, and may be extended to two years. An urgency ordinance requires a finding that action is required to "protect the public safety, health, and welfare."

Currently there are a total of 51 STRs registered in Orinda, but only 32 that are actively available for rental (19 STRs have been removed or deactivated from all STR listing platforms). Of the 32 active listings, according to Planning Director Drummond Buckley, 21 are hosted, meaning that the property owner is present during the short-term rental, and 11 are non-hosted, meaning that the rental is of the entire property and the owner is not present. Buckley reviewed how STRs are handled in other Bay Area locations: In Lafayette and Petaluma STRs require a

use permit; there are no regulations in Moraga, and short-term rentals are allowed; Danville STRs are a prohibited use in single-family residential zoning districts; and Piedmont STRs are allowed by permit. Sausalito bans STRs. During the public forum, the city council heard views from owners of hosted STRs, non-hosted STRs, neighbors of STRs, and others. A number of Lucille Way residents spoke of their problems with the Airbnb on their street. It was advertised as being "great for parties," said Sally Ng of Nickerbocker Lane, which intersects Lucille Way.

Tanya Caragol said that she lives a few houses away from the Lucille Way property and did not feel safe and had called the police twice on Halloween, at 9:30 p.m. and again at 10 p.m. Although some speakers thought that Orinda should have extra officers on duty for Halloween, Cook said that they had considered it, but a review of past Halloweens indicated that it was not necessary as there had not been any rise in crime on the holiday. Virtually all the speakers in the public forum were Orinda residents, with the exception of one who represented the San Francisco Tenants Union. She urged the city to hold Airbnb accountable. "Airbnb doesn't care about anything," she opined. Three owners of non-hosted STRs spoke of their unique situations. Richard Metzgen operates a ranch that is frequently rented by celebrities seeking a private retreat. He does not allow one day rentals, and has many two-day rentals up to four to five weeks. Parties are not allowed. While he is not always present, he said, because it is a working farm there is someone on the property nearly every day. He described extensive vetting procedures, including not renting at all on Halloween. The property is gated and there are cameras. This is his only

source of income. Gina Dashman said that she owns one of the 11 non-hosted STRs. It is her primary residence, she said, but she rents out her four-bedroom home when she is away. "So far, she has only had wonderful experiences," she said, but she believes that the city should eliminate STRs that are not the owner's primary residence. Carolyn Phinny wanted to know if Megan's Law applies to STRs, and Wolff replied that Megan's Law, which requires registered sex offenders to register their whereabouts, only applies after five days of a change in residence, so would not capture all guests at STRs. Christine Chalmers, said that she lives four houses down from 114 Lucille Way. She cited a San Francisco study that she said concluded that registrations should be required to demonstrate that a location is their primary residence in order to qualify for short-term rentals. Chalmers claimed that there have been 26 shootings at Airbnbs in the past six months resulting in 20 deaths, 10 of those in California.

Many speakers expressed concern about the level of police staffing and expressed shock that all police were sent to Lafayette on Halloween. City Manager Steve Salomon said increasing police coverage from two officers to three officers present on every shift would cost the city upwards of \$1 million. The mayor requested that the police chief explain about mutual aid agreements. While it was true, Cook said, that Orinda had sent both of its on-duty police officers to Lafayette under a mutual aid agreement, had there been a serious report in Orinda, other officers from outside the city would have been called in. He reiterated that the only calls that night had been in regard to a noisy party, not a violent crime.

- ◆ HARDWOODS
- ◆ CARPETS
- ◆ RUGS
- ◆ LINOLEUM
- ◆ TILE
- ◆ LAMINATE

FAMILY -OWNED
30 YEARS !

3344 Mt Diablo Blvd
in Lafayette
925-284-4440
lamorindafloors.com

LAMORINDA
FLOORS

Karastan
GALLERY

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

Send a letter to the editor:
letters@lamorinda
weekly.com

LeapFrog Plumbing



The one-call plumber Gas, Water & Sewer

- Emergency service
- Repairs & installation
- Video sewer inspection
- Copper re-piping
- Preventive checkups
- Water heater specialist

Tank, Tankless, Hybrid

Stuffed turkey...ok,
stuffed tummy...ok,
stuffed pipes NOT ok.
Be thankful this
Thanksgiving and
stuff right!



\$50 off
any plumbing job
performed by
LeapFrog Plumbing
\$225 or over*

*1 coupon per job, exp. 12/15/19

We Hop To It!

Family-owned and serving
Lamorinda since 1993

green solutions!




CA Lic
929641

(925) 377-6600

www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com



Orinda Public Meetings



City Council

Tuesday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m.
Regular Meeting
Library Auditorium, Orinda
Library, 26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Nov. 26, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda
Library, 26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Orinda Union High School District Board Meetings

Monday, Dec. 2, 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Rodent Proofing

Learn about Honest Rodent Proofing's industry-leading 4-step process to get rid of rats, mice and other rodents.

GUARANTEED

FREE In-Home Inspection,
Mention Lamorinda Weekly for a 10% discount

Call 925-433-3988

www.honestrodentproofing.com

Servicing the Bay Area to Sacramento



Maximize Selling Price and Sell Your Home Faster!

Coldwell Banker's new RealVitalize™ program covers your up front costs of home improvements, inspections, etc. CB gets paid back when your home sells. No hidden fees, interest charges or markups. Easy and hassle free! Call me for details.



Integrity ♦ *Knowledge* ♦ *Results*

Frank Woodward

Realtor®, Luxury Property Specialist

T. 925.788.4963

E.Frank@FrankWoodward.com



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

©2019 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.

Orinda Garden Club hard at work now for future beauty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

From left, Orinda Garden Club members Gina Barretta, Sugar Filice, Katie Rittmann, Lisa Hallahan, Jane Wisner, Sue Anderson-Berger, Linda Thompson, and Jane Zuercher.

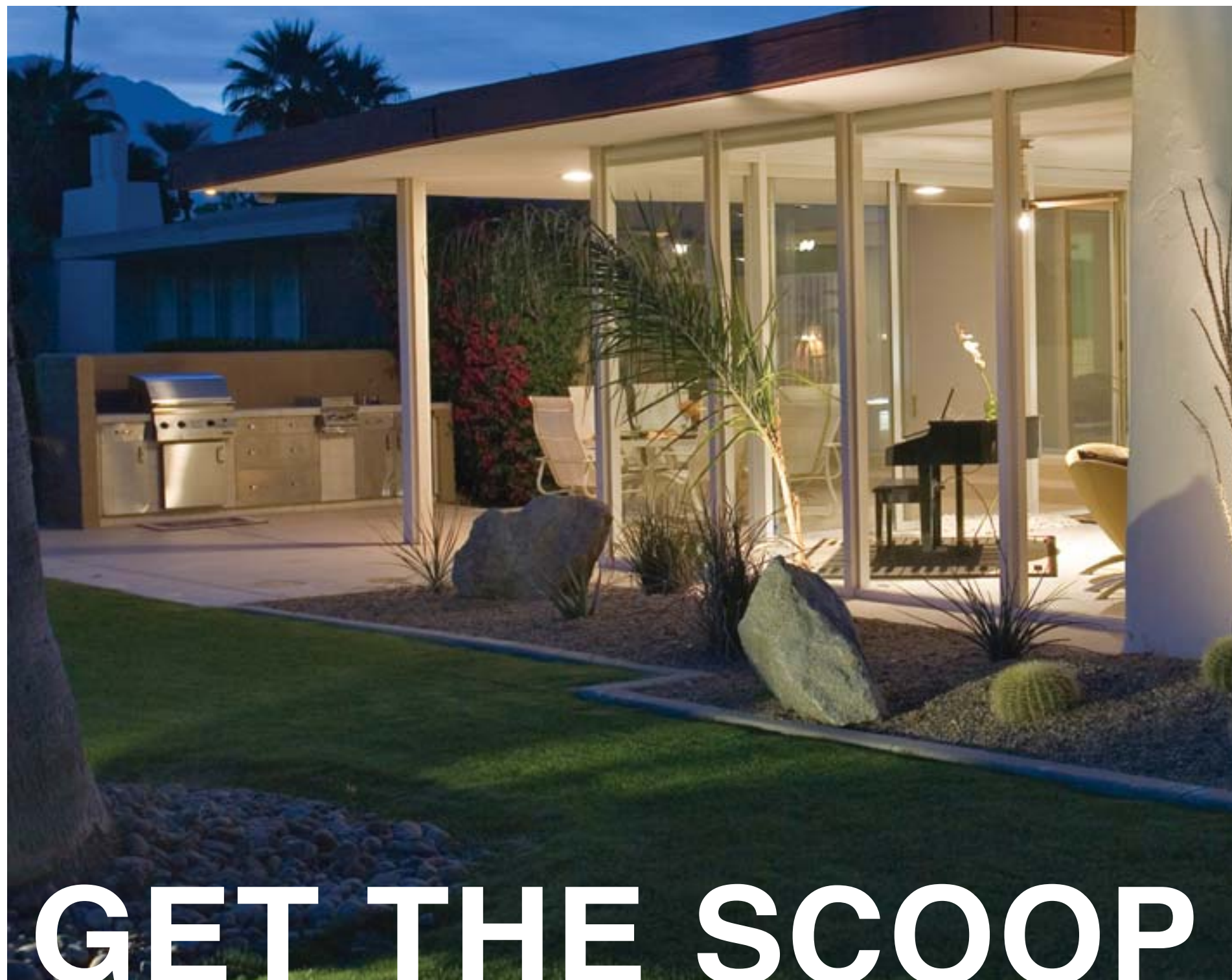
By Sora O'Doherty

Members of the Orinda Garden Club on Nov. 8 gathered to work on The Triangle, and plan another work day on the Highway 24 offramp. The group planted many bulbs and other plants to assure that the two properties will look their best come spring. Master Gardener Sue Andersen-Berger selected mostly white daffodils with some yellow ones, purple Chionodoxa (Glory of the Snow), Santa Barbara daisies, some variegated shrubs and grasses, and three native Philadelphus trees (mock orange), that will grow to about 6 feet tall with long, arching boughs of fragrant white flowers. Some taller bushes that had been obstructing visibility at the intersection of Orinda Way and Camino Sobrante were removed.

According to Wisner, originally, the piece of land known as "The Triangle" housed a real estate office, but it was considered a safety hazard given the proximity of the PG&E high voltage tower and was removed in the 1970s, when the Garden Club first began landscaping the plot. The Club's goal is to provide a bright and beautiful spot for all who travel through Orinda to enjoy, while maintaining safety. Present for the work day were Club President Jane Wisner, and members Gina Barretta, Sugar Filice, Katie Rittmann, Lisa Hallahan, Sue Anderson-Berger, Linda Thompson, Jane Zuercher and Julie Abramson.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com



GET THE SCOOP

Low home inventory has created major competition among buyers. Give yourself an advantage by using new listing alerts at **ColdwellBankerHomes.com** to see available homes as soon as they hit the market.

COLDWELLBANKERHOMES.COM



The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor agents and are not employees of the Company. ©2019 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker Logo are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. 188872SF_10/17 © CalRE License #01908304.

Appeals court dismisses Nowicki claim against MOFD

By Nick Marnell

A court of appeals has dismissed the lawsuit brought against the Moraga-Orinda Fire District by former Fire Chief Pete Nowicki, who claimed that MOFD was obligated to make up the money stripped from his pension by a county agency.

Nowicki signed on as MOFD fire chief in July 2006, and the district added amendments to his contract in February 2008 and December 2008, allowing the chief to sell back vacation leave, administrative leave and holiday pay. The chief retired in January 2009, and according to the Contra Costa

County Employees' Retirement Association board, the cashed-out perks granted in 2008 improperly inflated his retirement benefit and the district board, knowing Nowicki was soon going out the door, went along with the changes. The retirement board voted to cut Nowicki's annual pension of \$241,000 to \$173,000, and ordered him to return \$585,000, plus interest, in overpayments. The cost savings by correcting future overpayments were projected at more than \$1.2 million.

Nowicki subsequently sued CCCERA and the fire district, claiming that his pension had been wrongfully reduced.

In his suit against MOFD, Nowicki claimed breach of his employment contract and breach of the duty of dealing in good faith. He claimed that if CCCERA were successful in reducing his pension, then the fire district was responsible for making up the difference. The Contra Costa County Superior Court ruled against Nowicki in 2017, failing to determine how MOFD caused CCCERA to deprive Nowicki of his due process rights by reducing his pension, and finding no breach of employment agreement between Nowicki and MOFD. Nowicki appealed, and the appeals court upheld the court ruling. (Nowicki) was required to file a timely gov-

ernment tort claim as a mandatory prerequisite to the filing of his complaint against the fire district. (Nowicki) failed to do so, and the claims are barred," read the court decision.

"We wanted the district to join with us in going after CCCERA," Nowicki said. "The district should have had a contractual obligation to defend me." The former chief said that he was disappointed that no one from the district attended his CCCERA hearing, and he offered guidance for the men and women of the district. "Don't be fooled into thinking that the district won't let you sink by yourself if you get into such a situation," Nowicki said.

Though the chief's suit against MOFD has been dismissed, the Superior Court did not dismiss Nowicki's case against CCCERA, and district counsel Jonathan Holtzman said that a hearing is scheduled for Feb. 5.

"We are loaded for the fight against CCCERA," Nowicki said. "I am defending the district's good name by myself, and I am flabbergasted that the district is not defending itself."

Holtzman, whose law firm took over as MOFD counsel in 2018, said he could not comment on what occurred prior to that date.

PG&E equipment the cause of Lafayette Tennis Club fire



Courtesy ConFire

Fallen PG&E utility pole lies across Camino Diablo, just east of the tennis club.

... continued from Page A1

"It was very chaotic," Landis said. "Neighbors were fearing that the fire was headed their way. If the fire had gone up the hill to Springbrook, it would have really taken off." Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt said that some 2,400 Lafayette residents were evacuated that day, mostly from Springbrook and others from an offshoot fire south of Highway 24, near Pleasant Hill Road and Condit Road.

Fifty-six units responded to the Lafayette fire, aided by an early morning ConFire decision to hold all firefighters scheduled to go off shift that day. As a result, ConFire was able to deploy, in addition to normal staffing, a total of six fire engines, 15 wildland engines, two auxiliary support units, 14 command personnel and five support personnel. The remain-in-place order was given for

the first time in the history of the district.

Investigators determined that the downed PG&E power pole was the cause of the tennis club fire. A witness told an investigator that she was traveling on Camino Diablo and heard a loud "firecracker sound" and saw the transformer at the top of the power pole explode. "She saw sparks and flames coming from the transformer falling to the surrounding area and the pole toppled over to the ground," according to the district investigative report.

The fires were contained by mid-afternoon, no one was injured and damage to the tennis club was estimated at \$800,000. "If it had not been for the excellent weed abatement immediately adjacent to the downed pole, there is little doubt that, like the tennis club to the west, these structures would have been lost," ConFire spokesman Steve Hill said.

Sen. Glazer named recipient of 2019 Radke Championing Advocacy Award



Photo Lamo archive

Submitted by Dave Mason

State Sen. Steve Glazer has

been awarded the East Bay Regional Park District and Regional Parks Foundation's 2019 Radke Championing Advocacy Award. Glazer was instrumental in securing \$5 million in the 2018-19 state budget for improvements at Del Valle Regional Park in Livermore, including upgrades to the park's aging water delivery system, which supplies water throughout the 4,395-acre park. Glazer was presented with the award at a celebration in Sacramento in August.

Del Valle Regional Park is one of three state parks managed by the Park District at its own cost, with no operational funding from the state. Opened in 1970, Del Valle serves three critical functions of recreation, water storage, and flood protection. The full array of recreational oppor-

tunities include swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking, camping, boating, paddle boarding, and environmental education.

"Senator Glazer is a great champion for the environment and parks in Sacramento," said East Bay Regional Park District Board President Ayn Wieskamp, who represents the Livermore area on the Park District Board. "I am pleased that Senator Glazer has been recognized for his efforts with the 2019 Radke Champi-

oning Advocacy Award."

Glazer also introduced legislation in 2019 to ban smoking in state parks and beaches. The legislation has passed through both the Senate and the Assembly and was signed by the governor. The Park District prohibits smoking in its regional parks also.

"We appreciate Senator Glazer's leadership and advocacy in Sacramento," said East Bay Regional Park District General Manager Robert Doyle. "We value our contin-

ued partnership working together to protect land for conservation and recreation."

The Radke Championing Advocacy award is named for late Park District Board Member Ted Radke who advanced state and federal support for park funding and strengthened the Park District's ties in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Radke served 36 years on the Park District board of directors and was the longest-serving board member in its 85-year history.

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



ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber Room 107,
Administration Building
651 Pine St., Martinez.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Public Safety

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

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

Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt
925-299-3221

Police Department Tip Line
94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues
94549Traffic@gmail.com

Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049

Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, David M. Cook
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report
Oct. 20 - Nov. 2



Alarms	102
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	17
Traffic	131
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subject	18
Suspicious Vehicle	21
Service to Citizen	77
Patrol Req./Security Check	24
Pubic/School Assembly Check	12
Supplemental Report	26
Welfare Check	25

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary
3300 Block Springhill Rd.
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Dui Misd
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
10 Block Eleven

Hit And Run Misdemeanor
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Terrace Way
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
St Marys Rd./Hope Ln.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
700 Block Moraga Rd.

Petty Theft From Veh
10 Block Fallen Leaf Ct.
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.

Reckless Driving
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
Reliez Valley Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Condit Rd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Stanley Blvd.
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.
Florence Dr./N Lucille Ln.
Stanley Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
St Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.
Moraga Blvd./Hawthorn Dr.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24

Tc - Property Damage
500 Block Merriewood
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.
Acalanes Rd./Marianne Dr.
600 Block Glenside Dr.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Vehicle Theft
10 Block Red Bark Ct.

Other criminal activity
Burglary
1300 Block Martino Rd.

Commercial Burglary
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Counterfeit
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block Carl Rd.

Fraud Credit Card
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block Hawthorn Dr.

Fraud False Pretenses
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3200 Block Quandt Rd.
10 Block Arbor Way

Identity Theft
Police Department
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Panhandling
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
20 Block Leslyn Dr.
3300 Block Springhill Rd.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
800 Block Sibert Ct.

Petty Theft Bicycle
100 Block Lafayette Cir.

Residential Burglary
3200 Block Ronino Way
900 Block Acalanes Rd.

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

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.

Drunk In Public
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Intoxicated Subject
Carol Ln./Moraga Blvd.

Loud Music
4100 Block Canyon Rd.
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.

Loud Noise
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cir.
1100 Block Bacon Way

Loud Party
3700 Block Block Highland Rd.
Rowe Pl./Moraga Rd.
Canyon Rd./Upper Happy Valley Rd.

Public Nuisance
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
700 Block Tanglewood Dr.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Vandalism
Old Tunnel Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
400 Block Peacock Blvd.
3200 Block Hillview Ln. (2)
3400 Block Golden Gate Way

Other

Animal Cruelty
500 Block Hunsaker Canyon Rd.

Harassment
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.
Marine - Moving Citation
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Ordinance Violation
3300 Block Johnson Rd.
Oak Hill Rd./Orchard Rd.
1200 Block Rose Ln.
Acalanes Rd./Hidden Valley Rd.

Phone Harass
3300 Block Mildred Ln.
1200 Block Warner Ct.

Shoot Occupied Dwelling
10 Block Moss Ln.

Threats
900 Block Hough Ave.

Trespass
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Unwanted Guest
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
70 Block Bacon Ct.
3500 Block Deer Hill Rd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report
Oct. 22 - Nov. 3

Alarms	20
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	12
Traffic	47
Suspicious Circumstances	11
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Service to Citizen	52
Patrol Req./Security Check	34
Supplemental Report	7
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	1

Vehicle violations
Accident Injury
Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo
Accident Property
Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo
Auto Burglary



20 Block Hour Fitness Mor
Excessive Speed
Moraga Way/School St.
2101 Donald Dr.
10 Block Buckingham Dr.
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. (3)
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.
Reckless Driving
St. Marys Rd./Rheem Blvd.
Safeway
Tc - Property Damage
20 Block Hour Fitness

Other criminal activity
Identity Theft
Police Department

Nuisance to the Community
Barking Dog
1000 Block Larch Ave.
300 Block Donald Dr. (3)

Loud Music
10 Block Miramonte Dr.
Canyon Club Brewery

Loud Noise
2000 Block Ascot Dr. (3)
100 Block Ascot Ct.

Loud Party
Not Available

Other
Fireworks
Joaquin Moraga Int. School
Fish And Game
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.
Public Assembly Check
Rheem Valley Shopping Center (3)
Safeway
Unwanted Guest
Canyon Club Brewery



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report
will be back next time

Lamorinda officials come down hard on PG&E over power shutoffs



PG&E lineman works on the lines on Monday, Oct. 28, just before the restoration of power in Moraga



Photos Sora O'Doherty

During the shutdowns, people were able to recharge their devices and socialize at the Orinda Community Center.

By Nick Marnell

From Erin Brockovich to San Bruno to the Butte Fire, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company has paid out hundreds of millions of dollars in settlement costs for damage claims. PG&E's latest attempt at mitigating a potential disaster – the Public Safety Power Shutoff program – failed to impress Lamorinda public officials, who called for penalties ranging from customer restitution to dissolution of the company.

With a forecast of extreme weather, such as strong winds, low humidity and high temperatures – elements exacerbating a major fire risk – PG&E began instituting mass power shutoffs “for public safety,” as the company states on its website. The utility used customer provided contact information, as well as mainstream and social media outlets, to warn of imminent power shutoffs, which occurred twice in Lamorinda during October.

“The way it went down, people had no idea what was going on,” said Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Orinda resident and 16th District assemblywoman. Likewise, Orinda Mayor Inga Miller noted that, “A resident told me that when they checked the PG&E website, their property was not scheduled for a power shutoff. But, their power was shut off.”

“There was a lot of confusion. I hope PG&E will come and meet with people affected who received notifications, and learn from their experiences,” said Lafayette Mayor Mike Anderson, with a similar sentiment shared by Moraga Mayor Roger Wykle. Lafayette's Cam Burks – speaking as an individual council member and not for the city – spoke more harshly. “I'm appalled and outraged at the lack of planning and execution of PG&E's power shutoff program; their ‘safety program’ actually started a major fire in Lafayette, resulting in tragic destruction,” Burks said (see story on Page A1).

A crashed company website prior to and during the

shutoffs and the sweeping, unclear and sometimes contradictory notifications frustrated local residents and officials. State Sen. Steve Glazer, also an Orinda resident, called out the utility for its failure to more specifically target the locations of the blackouts, praising San Diego Gas and Electric for doing a better job in that regard. “Additional weather stations and electrical devices improve our ability to divide an electric circuit into smaller sections. We can be more precise when shutting off power so the number of customers impacted by a power shutoff is smaller,” the San Diego utility states on its website.

With Lamorinda residents faced with the realization that power shutoffs could become routine affairs, officials pointed fingers at the outdated PG&E electrical infrastructure as a main cause for the blackouts. Glazer and Bauer-Kahan said that the utility's inability to harden its aged equipment has made its infrastructure more vulnerable to the extreme weather events. “PG&E's decades of neglect in maintaining their electrical infrastructure – and the CPUC's negligent breakdown to regulate properly – has led to profound levels of hardship for our residents and businesses. (PG&E) must be compelled to pay significant restitution,” Burks added.

What can Lamorinda officials do to fix the problems with the company?

“There could be a big change in the utility. All options are on the table,” Glazer said. “They have not acted responsibly.” The senator posited that the state may look to create a utility model that focuses on safety and public protection. Burks agreed, and said that PG&E “needs to be dissolved by the governor and legislature, and taken over by a responsible body that will focus on providing our community with safe, reliable energy.”

Bauer-Kahan said she will back Assembly Bill 378, which would amend the Public Utilities Code to allow cost recovery for customers of a power

shutoff and penalize a utility for every hour a shutoff is in place. The assemblywoman said she also plans to introduce legislation in the coming weeks that will hold PG&E accountable and give localities more control of their own safety. “I think PG&E has failed us for years. Their performance is not acceptable,” Bauer-Kahan said.

PG&E acknowledged that turning off the power presented a hardship for its customers and communities, but was necessary to protect the customers and communities. “Proactively turning off power for safety is just one component of our comprehensive, service area-wide Community Wildfire Safety Program,” company spokesman Matt Nauman said. “As part of this program, we are enhancing our real-time monitoring and intelligence capabilities, putting in place new and enhanced safety measures and further strengthening and upgrading our electric system, with a focus on the highest fire-threat areas.”

Thousands of lights adorn historic tree

... continued from Page A3

But the tree's survival looked doubtful for a while. In 1976 Diablo Foods burned to the ground. The tree was badly damaged.

“My father loved that tree,” says Diablo Foods co-owner Connie Collier, referring to her father, Ed Stokes, who founded the store. Collier says her father nurtured the tree following the fire. With constant attention from an arborist, Stokes saw the tree back to full health.

The tree, which sits in front of the store, is watered deeply via holes drilled into the parking lot.

“We've been putting lights on it for the past 30 years,” says Collier, explaining that they leave the lights strung all year round. “We used to take the them off every few years when the lights were heavier, but with improvements in technology they weigh less now and can stay.”

The lights come on at Halloween and stay on each night from 5:30 p.m. until the new year. Collier says the exception to that was last year when they kept the lights on through January until they had held her father's Celebration of Life.

Ware Designs

Fine Jewelry since 1977

Expanding our Services with Two Goldsmiths

- Custom Designs
- Appraisals
- Expert Repairs
- Pearl Restringing

All your jewelry is insured with Jeweler's Block Insurance.

\$5 off Watch Battery

Reg \$15, Now \$10

1 watch battery per person. Exp. 12/15/19. Usually installed while you wait. W/coupon. Restrictions apply.

3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette between Trader Joes & the Post Office
283-2988 www.waredesigns.com Tuesday-Saturday 10-6

BURKIN ELECTRIC

“Let Us Light Up Your Life”

Residential • Commercial • Industrial



Serving Contra Costa since 1991
More than 40 years experience

All Work Done by Owner

Bonded & Insured
Lic.#C10-631523

Professional Installation of:

- Ceiling Fans, Recessed & Track Lighting
- Kitchen or Bath Remodel
- Exterior/Security/Landscape Lighting
- Electrical Service Upgrade
- Complete Home Wiring - Old & New
- Spa Installation

(925) 672-1519



James Burkin
Sole Proprietor

Do High School Differently

Public schools can be great, but they are not for everyone.

Orinda Academy is the perfect fit for students seeking a close-knit school community that inspires students to love learning

Open House on
Dec. 7
1 pm

Orinda Academy
"It's BARTable!" www.OrindaAcademy.org

Is this too young to go to Cal?



Actually, it's just the right age to get an eye exam at the University of California Eye Center. And again at three years. And regularly after that. (We developed ways to test kids' eyes while they play!) We're part of the UC School of Optometry, and offer you LASIK surgery, contact lenses, and an Eyewear Center with a vast collection of designer frames, too. We take most insurance plans, and major credit cards. It's time for your whole family to go Cal!



Open to the Public 7 Days a Week • www.caleyecare.com
510.642.2020

It's déjà vu – there's an OSH back in town



Photo Vera Kochan

Temporary OSH banner signals “open for business”

By Vera Kochan

No, you're not seeing things. The new OSH is open for business at 1550 Canyon Road, Moraga.

Replacing Orchard Supply Hardware, which parent company Lowe's closed last November, the new Outdoor Supply Hardware (aka OSH) quietly opened its doors for a soft opening on Sunday, Nov. 3.

Parent company Central Network Retail Group, based in Tennessee, owns a string of 104 hardware and lumber stores throughout the United States. The new OSH is its first foray into the California market. The Moraga location joins Napa as their breakout stores with three more on schedule

to open in Northern California this spring.

Assistant Operations Manager Nazila Behain was enthusiastic about the new store. “Everything is the same,” she said. “We wanted our customers to feel comfortable about finding things in the same spot where they used to be. If there's something you can't find let us know. We'll do our best to get it for you.”

Rental Manager Brian Otterholt, who used to work at the old Orchard Supply Hardware location in Pleasant Hill, is excited about the new rental section. “We rent lawn mowers, carpet cleaners, rototillers and more.”

Behain and Otterholt pointed out that much of the

signage inside now belonged to the prior store. While Lowe's had plans to sell everything including fixtures and shelves, within two to three months of closing its doors CNRG was in talks to purchase the location, thereby putting an immediate halt to selling everything including the proverbial kitchen sink.

Store hours are Monday through Saturday, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Behain stressed the number one goal of Outdoor Supply Hardware is customer service. As if to prove her point, as this reporter walked through the aisles an OSH associate asked if he could be of any help.

Lynn's Top Five

Year end tax planning 2019 – a big year for capital gains

By Lynn Ballou, Certified Financial Planner™

I wrote this while waiting for the power outage ax to fall. Not exactly how I was hoping to enjoy those otherwise beautiful fall days and I'm sure you shared my frustration! When the power was back on and your lives returned to “normal,” your thoughts might have wandered to pondering any year-end tax moves you should be considering.

Especially important for 2019: this could be a record year for pass through capital gains. Not only do you need to think about the gains you create with your investment moves, but you must also consider those that could flow from investments such as mutual funds. Because investors in general have been nervous this year, that's been translating into bigger than typical withdrawals from equity mutual funds. When that occurs, fund managers are forced to sell positions to provide liquidity and as an investor, you will share in a pro-rata amount of any gains from those sales –

even if you didn't elect to sell your shares. What should you do to mitigate and/or plan for any unavoidable impact? Here are a few ideas.

1) **Income tax forecasting:** On your own with robust software, or alongside your valued advisers, estimate your 2019 tax bite based on what you know today including any year-end capital gain distribution forecasts from your mutual fund holdings and investment advisers. Determine if you are on track to underpay your tax bill this year, and if so, are you penalty free or are adjustments needed? One solution if you determine you'll owe money to the IRS and/or FTB: pay estimated taxes. Another: withhold more tax via any remaining paychecks or planned retirement account/pension distributions before end of day 12/31/19. The latter is often the best solution in minimizing or avoiding under payment penalties if you should have paid in taxes earlier in the year and are just now catching up.

2) **Gift appreciated assets before year end:** Time to look at your year-end charita-

ble gifting. Especially for those who are sitting on highly appreciated equity positions, this might be the year to make donations to qualified organizations whose cause and calling matter most to you. Not sure which charities should receive your largess? Think about Donor Advised Funds. Setting these up properly allows you to take the charitable deduction this year but spread the actual gift to charities of your choosing over future years if you wish. Your trusted advisers can help you set these up in a timely and appropriate manner.

3) **RMD's for those between ages 70-1/2 and 72:** A frustrating unknown is whether or not the potential new tax law known as Secure Act 2019 will pass before year-end. Earlier in the year it looked like a shoe in, but now, very unclear. One provision of this legislation was moving RMD age to become 72 from the current age of 70-1/2. So, if this law is enacted in its current form before year-end, some of you may not need to take your Required Minimum Distribution as defined under current rules this year if you are younger than 72 years of age. Hopefully we'll know soon so you can either take your RMD or defer if you are eligible. This possible benefit could result in sizeable tax savings for those of you with large retirement ac-

counts.

4) **Tried and true tax loss harvesting:** Sitting on an asset with losses that you could liquidate? If you have sizable realized taxable gains to report on your returns this year, it's a good idea to consider offsetting those with any losses you can realize (lock in) before year-end. If you are worried about being out of the market after such a sale, unfortunately you must wait to buy back the same position until after 30 days. If you don't, you may not take that loss this year. However, you could still go ahead with such an asset sale, purchasing something similar but not precisely the same right away as a kind of “placeholder.” After 30 days, you can liquidate that position and buy what you previously held. Work with your adviser(s) who specializes in these rules to be sure you are on point and not in danger of disqualifying your tax moves.

5) **Changing your withholding now and then resetting for 2020:** If you do make changes in your withholding, don't forget to adjust again in 2020. After receiving a lot of complaints about their poor tax withholding estimator tools, the IRS updated their software for taxpayers to better determine their appropriate amount of withholding. You can access this improved calculator at this address: irs.gov/individuals/irs-tax-

withholding-estimator Whew!

Here's to a stress-free, enjoyable holiday season (with full power)! Cheers!



EP Wealth Advisors, LLC (“EPWA”) makes no representations or warranties as to the accuracy, timeliness, suitability, completeness, or relevance of any information presented here. The opinions expressed are exclusively of the authors and may or may not be representative of EPWA or all its employees, staff, or associates. All expressions of opinion are subject to change without notice. Information presented is general in nature and should not be viewed as a comprehensive analysis of the topics discussed. It is intended to serve as a tool containing general information that should assist you in the development of subsequent discussions with the appropriate professionals. Content does not involve the rendering of personalized investment advice nor is it intended to supplement professional individualized advice. Please consult a tax professional before implementing anything referenced directly or indirectly herein.



When I say “good,” you say “neighbor.”

Mike Rosa
Agent
925-376-2244
Insurance Lic. #: OF45583
346 Rheem Blvd., Suite 106
Moraga

Now that's teamwork.
CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7

 State Farm®

P097314.1 State Farm Home Office, Bloomington, IL

Rheem Theatre addition gets green light from Planning Commission



Back side of Rheem Theatre

Photo Vera Kochan

... continued from Page A5

The new addition to the rear of the building would require a reduction in 14 parking spaces to the immediate theater lot; however, Kowalski stressed that the theater side of the shopping center shares all of the parking spaces, allowing for theater patron parking throughout that side of Rheem Boulevard.

Of great concern to the Planning Commission and the Planning Department was to keep the historic character and features of the building. The applicants gave their assurances that in keeping with prior renovations to historic theaters throughout California, the Rheem Theatre's charm would continue.

A Historic Property Report was prepared primarily by Kara Brunzell M.A. and secondly by Nancy Elizabeth

Stoltz, AIA, both of Brunzell Historical. Their report concluded that “the Theatre was eligible for listing as a historic resource” on both the California Register of Historic Resources or the National Register of Historic Places. As such, under the California Environmental Quality Act there are certain guidelines allowed for the modification of historic buildings while preserving their historic integrity. In the Rheem Theatre's case this involves certain features like the marquee, the ticket booth and any murals on the walls of the main auditorium.

Any public comments during the meeting were of a favorable nature and most likely echoed the Moraga community as a whole that the Rheem Theatre will experience a new breath of life and help to revitalize commercial interest in the Rheem

Shopping Center. However, former Mayor and Town Council Member Dave Trotter, while out of town, sent in his concerns regarding Condition of Approval No. 7 of the Draft Resolution.

Trotter stated, “As drafted, Condition No. 7 expressly refers to some, but not all, of the historically significant and character-defining original design elements that are identified and exhaustively analyzed in the Sept 9, 2019 ‘Historic Property Report: Rheem Theatre’, prepared for the Town of Moraga by Kara Brunzell, M.A. of Brunzell Historical and Nancy Stoltz, MAI.”

His concerns were that the exterior box office, the terrazzo flooring at the theatre entryway or the lobby area were omitted. He also felt that future town staff and planning bodies must be properly guided in the event of a future use or building permit application in regards to the theater property.

The Planning Commission unanimously voted to adopt a negative declaration that was prepared in accordance with CEQA requirements and the approval of an amendment to a conditional use permit with accompanying design review to allow construction including an amendment to Condition No. 7 of the Draft Resolution as proposed by Trotter which had previously been thoroughly vetted by the planning department prior to the evening's presentation.



Bay Area Drainage, Inc.

Have You Checked Your Crawlspace Lately?

- French Drains
- Underfloor Drains
- Downspout Systems
- Subdrain Systems
- Sump Pumps
- Retaining Walls
- Pavestone Driveway & Walkways

A General Engineering Contractor
Locally owned and Operated
Contractor LIC # 762208

925•377•9209



visit our website
www.bayareadrainage.com

Letters to the editor

State control of local housing

I recently read where Lafayette Council member Cam Burks spoke out strongly against AB1487, which promotes State control of local housing. Mr. Burks said Lafayette had about 760 housing units built or pending against a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) of 400 units. Thus, Lafayette was “doing our part.” The need to retain local control is understood. However, consulting with authorities, I learned that Mr. Burks’s statement was, at best, an oversimplification, and questionably positive. RHNAs are divided into four parts. For moderate affordable housing, Lafayette has about met its quota. For “at-market” housing, Lafayette has vastly exceeded its RHNA requirement, and developer-profitable at-market construction currently represents about 90% of recently-approved housing. Approval of required low- and very-low-income housing has been minimal. I have to ask: “Doing our part for whom?” Lafayette’s lopsided approval record stands to put its Housing Element in jeopardy, with unpleasant consequences.

In addition to the disturbingly excessive at-market housing approvals, an even more questionable recent trend is approval of the demolition of existing office and commercial space to make room for yet more at-market housing. The Council already has approved a “demolition and replacement” project at Brown Ave. and Mt. Diablo Blvd., and another at 1st Ave. and Mt. Diablo Blvd. is pending. Condo development is far more profitable than renting office space. However, in addition to loss of local jobs, residents in the future may have to leave town for many health and other services.

Does all this represent responsible planning and decision making? My consultants say Lafayette needs to declare a moratorium on approval of all new at-market and moderate-income housing. This hopefully will allow time for the City Council to re-evaluate the course of downtown housing construction over the past decade, allow time to draft regulations bringing the City into compliance with its RHNA, allow time to modify or revoke the City’s “Housing by Right” ruling, and allow time to establish laws preventing displacement of critical downtown services by housing development.

William M. Gilbert, Ph.D.
Lafayette

Orinda’s Streetscape Folly

The consultant’s draft Streetscape Master Plan (<https://city-of-orinda.app.box.com/v/ConnectOrindaDraft>) should be rejected, because it does not deliver what we were promised we would receive in return for \$300,000 of taxpayer funds plus substantial city staff time.

This Plan was funded by a \$250,000 CCTA grant of taxpayer money plus \$50,000 of Orinda matching funds. The City promised the CCTA that we would receive a design level conceptual plan, and after public hearings, “DESIGN DOCUMENTS” consistent with the conceptual plan and a FINAL “Downtown Orinda Streetscape Master Plan.” (<https://www.cityoforinda.org/DocumentCenter/View/2614/Contra-Costa-Transportation-Authority>) It now turns out that we will receive none of the above.

The Draft ConnectOrinda Master Plan bears little resemblance to what the City promised the CCTA we would receive, what the RFP (<https://city-of-orinda.app.box.com/s/dl-fu2h9o979sn2w2tdcroendgymovjk>) required, and what the consultant promised to deliver. (<https://www.cityoforinda.org/DocumentCenter/View/2445/Eisen-Letunic->)

Instead of a “FINAL” plan, we will receive an INTERIM plan in which the consultant suggests that further consultants be hired to pursue future possible plans, each at a substantial additional cost.

Instead of “design documents,” we will receive “guidelines” that include “use landscaping” and “develop a maintenance program.” (see pp. 24-25 of the consultant’s contract for what was promised) These requirements could have been developed by a group of high school students doing a civics project. The plan does nothing to address parking, in contrast to the requirements of the RFP at pages 9 and 13, and in contrast to the promises of the consultant contract at p. 25. In fact, the only mention of “parking” is a vague suggestion to “improve bike/scooter parking.” (Item 4 of the Streetscape Design Guidelines.)

At a minimum, the Council should require that the consultant come back with something that is consistent with what the City promised the CCTA, and what the consultant

promised the City, we would receive.

Nick Waranoff
Orinda

A message from the Lafayette Chamber

Small businesses run on hard work and expectations. One of those expectations is knowing you will be open and ready for business each day. But that has changed for many businesses in our neighborhood. The PSPS (Power Shutdowns) have been a big challenge to our community. For families, it disrupts their routines.

Added pressure comes when you don’t have electricity and you can not predict if school will be open for the kids, or the gas station open to fill up. We rely on the services around us to get by each day. We take them for granted. We take electricity, and gas, and communications for granted. Now we face the “New Normal.” Our businesses have suffered and this is one of those times we need to thank our business community by supporting them.

Let’s go old school, skip the shopping on Amazon these next few weeks and shop downtown. Shopping Local matters! Remember, when downtown closes the city loses the sales tax revenue that goes directly into the city’s General Fund. All of us were inconvenienced with the shutdowns. Small businesses were devastated. Profit margins are fragile and loosing multiple days of commerce is critical to their survival. Restaurants and Grocery Stores took the biggest hit. They had to deal with all the perishables that were lost or at risk.

There will be discussion on who is responsible. Will there be compensation for the lost time and products? People are mad and this is understandable. But please, don’t take your anger out on the very people who are trying to help you. I had the opportunity to speak to a number of PG&E linemen. They have been yelled at, threatened, and been given the finger. These are not the people that have made questionable decisions about our utilities over the last 40 years. In my opinion, like our first responders, they are the heroes in this story. Show them you appreciate the work they are asked to do.

Lafayette has embraced the concept of BE KIND. Let’s model kindness. And one way we can do that is to support our local businesses. Put some money in the meters without

getting “pissed off.” We are all in this together. Our local merchants will be happy to see you.

Jay Lifson
Executive Director, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

Halloween massacre and an issue of race

When I saw the news reports last Friday that three people were killed at a Halloween party in Orinda, not a mile from my own home, I was devastated, as I am certain all residents of our small town would be. Murders are rare in this small town and that is part of what we all love about this place, why most of us chose to move to Orinda in the first place. But when I saw the photos of the people who attended the party, the people who arrived the next morning to pick up their cars which had been left behind, I was devastated again because everyone in the photos was Black. There was not a White face to be seen. My heart sank because I worry that this will increase fear of Black people in this community.

While I have no idea who the shooter was or what his or her motives were (or if there was even a motive), I am

ashamed that this event has once again proven that Black people are so much more likely to be killed by gun violence than White people, even when they are in a place like Orinda, filled as it is with White people. It’s rooted in the deep, deep systemic racism that exists in our country and I find it so sad that, even when attending a party in an affluent and White place like Orinda, they are still the ones being killed in random acts of gun violence.

So, to my White neighbors, near and far, I say: Do not be afraid because this violence was so close to home for us. We are safe because of the color of our skin. Rather, let us use the closeness of this event as a call to action, to stand with our Black neighbors in Oakland, Antioch and Vallejo. To say, along with them, that gun violence against anyone is unacceptable.

And to the families of those who were killed or injured, I say, along with many of my dear neighbors, that I am so sorry for your loss. As the sign at the memorial in our town reads: “Your Lives Mattered.” Black Lives Matter.

Vanessa Smith
Orinda

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

Nonprofit \$2M nearer to lighting up the Park Theater

... continued from Page A2

The trust evolved from a volunteer task force, called together last year by the city of Lafayette to explore ways to protect the theater for future generations.

Even though the theater has been shuttered since 2005, saving it remains one of the top community concerns. The trust has an extensive and growing mailing list for volunteers, another indication of interest in the community. TPTT is actively seeking new members for its board of directors, especially those with backgrounds in construction, finance, and fund development.

A classic example of Art Deco’s international offshoot Streamline Moderne, the 250-seat theater, built in 1941 was designed by cinema architect William B. David.

TPTT’s aim is to purchase the theater, refurbish it and then lease it to an experienced, for-profit operator, reopening as an accessi-

ble and inclusive, community-centered cinema, arts and culture hub. The targeted opening date is fall 2021, coinciding with the 80th anniversary of the Park Theater’s original opening in 1941.

The asking price for the property, including the fourplex residences behind the theater, is \$2.95 million. The trust estimates its fundraising goals from \$6 million to \$8 million.

TPTT Member Tracey Karsten Farrell says they anticipate fundraising through grants, activities, and private donations will start either late this year or early 2020. “Once we have met our ‘hard shell’ requirements, our for-profit operator will do the improvements required for its programming and lease the building from TPTT,” she says.

Farrell says this is all about community. “Think about it – when the Park first opened in 1941, people were finally putting the Great Depression behind them, but

there was growing concern and uncertainty about the war abroad. Having its own cinema was a real point of pride for our little burg, but also a special way to engage with each other and escape into all the fun entertainment Hollywood offered, without having to travel very far,” says Farrell. And she says it can do the same again.

“It’s something we can all embrace as a community and by protecting it in the Trust, also kind of pay forward,” says Farrell. “‘Movies at the Park Theater’ is something we would all love to do again – with each other, with our kids and grandkids – and what a wonderful community asset for all those folks to follow!”

Those interested in joining the board of directors should contact Kathy Bowles at bowlskathleen3@gmail.com

Further information on TPTT can be found at www.parktheatertrust.org

COMING SOON - Contact Me for More Details



SANDERS RANCH | MORAGA

4,468 sq. ft. | 1.07 Acres

6 Hastings Court | 4BD/3.5BA + Bonus Room and Office



ANN NEWTON CANE
415.999.0253
a.newtoncane@ggsir.com
AnnNewtonCane.com
Lic. #02084093
Each Franchise is Independently Owned and Operated.

Golden Gate | **Sotheby's** INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Your Full Service Lafayette Shop For Flowers, Plants & Gifts



Floral Arts FLORIST
(925) 284-5765
3584 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
www.floralartsflorist.com

Shop Local



CALL TOM FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

Since 1993!
Tom Gieryng, owner and operator



Building Foundations

- Lifting
- Leveling
- Stabilizing

GENERAL CONTRACTOR LIC. 967128

Why put food-soiled paper in your organics cart?

It's turned into **compost** that helps our community. It's so easy, everyone can do it!



Food-soiled paper contaminates your clean recyclables. Start composting today by tossing these everyday items into your green organics cart.

**PAPER
TOWELS**



**COFFEE
FILTERS**



**PAPER
PLATES**



No plastic coated paper in the green organics cart

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Making a difference one backpack at a time



Photo provided

Students from Cesar Chavez Elementary in Richmond receiving their backpacks and supplies thanks to the generous donations to the Contra Costa County drive so far.

By Diane Claytor

Driving through the 19 cities that make up Contra Costa County is a study in contrasts. From the multi-million dollar homes with pools and expansive yards to the small, rundown apartment buildings butted up to other small, rundown buildings, the differences within our county are glaring. According to city-data.com, the median income in 2017 of Orinda's 19,655 residents was \$200,553, while Richmond, only 10 miles away, has a population of 110,000 and a median income of \$67,000. This, of course, translates to many in our county having much, while others have very little. More than 36,000 Contra Costa County elementary students qualify for the free/reduced lunch program available to low income families, and, sadly, the Mt. Diablo Unified School District reports they have over 750 homeless students.

These numbers break Courtney Brockmeyer's heart and she is not one to sit on the sidelines doing nothing to improve things if she can. The Moraga mom and founder of Sydney Paige has been providing high quality backpacks to low income students for six years. Originally started with a "buy one, give one" concept, Sydney Paige - named after Brockmeyer's two daughters - would donate one filled backpack for every one sold. Since its beginning, the company has donated more than 50,000 supply-filled backpacks.

Then the Paradise fires happened and Brockmeyer wanted to do more. She did what she had been wanting to do for some time - Sydney Paige became a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization, allowing for larger tax-deductible donations. Partnering with Angie Guidi, a Rheem Elementary teacher who grew up in Paradise, Brockmeyer started a

fundraising campaign and was able to donate and personally deliver 250 brightly colored, supply-filled backpacks to Paradise students.

Brockmeyer's goals grew along with her passion to help underserved children learn. "Education equals success and quality equals dignity," Brockmeyer repeats often. "We want to give underserved youth the tools and confidence needed to thrive in school, as well as to spark a lifelong love of learning. Education is the pathway to long-term economic security."

With her 501(c)3 status, Brockmeyer is hoping to partner with more corporations so a greater number of children can receive the tools they need to help succeed in school. "There is so much need out there and all students, regardless of economic circumstance, should have equal access to quality tools and supplies," Brockmeyer says.

"We'd love to bring in corporate sponsors, do employee pack out events, get local businesses more involved," she says. She'd also happily schedule give events with schools. "I want to open people's eyes to what's going on out there and the impact their generosity can have."

Sydney Paige manufactures their own backpacks, along with many of the school supplies they place inside, thus ensuring quality and reducing costs. There are 40 different backpack styles and colors and many of the school supplies include messages of kindness and encouragement.

Brockmeyer's current campaign is quite local. "Here we are, three months into the school year, and there are thousands of kids in our own county still needing backpacks and supplies so they can do their homework," she says with great sadness.

Through research, Brockmeyer found 19 neigh-

boring elementary schools where 90% or more of the students qualify for the free lunch program; she contacted the principal at each school to see how many students did not have the necessary supplies to be able to complete their school work. Fourteen schools responded and sadly, 1,500 students were identified as needing materials. So Brockmeyer went to work because, as she notes, without crayons or erasers or paper at home, they can't do what they need to do. "When making a decision to put food on the table or keep the lights on, school supplies are typically not all that important to parents," Brockmeyer acknowledges.

She has partnered with several generous local companies and is now hoping community members will step up and help these underserved students. It's so easy. A click of a button on sydney Paige.roonga.com/cc will ensure that these kids have the tools they need to do their work. A donation of less than \$15 will purchase a colorful premium 16-inch backpack, perfect for the primary grades; an additional \$10 will fill it with a full set of quality supplies.

A teacher in Antioch reported back to Brockmeyer three months after her students received Sydney Paige backpacks. "What she said made it all worthwhile," Brockmeyer recalls. "She told me that since her students had gotten backpacks, attendance rose and their homework completion rate, which had been at 33 percent, increased to 100 percent. The kids are excited to do their work."

As Brockmeyer says, "By giving back together, the opportunities are endless. We are forging new ground by donating only quality items, and my heart bursts every time I hear the real and tangible impact we are making."

GET AN EARLY START ON YOUR HOLIDAY DECOR

HOLIDAY LIGHTS
20% OFF

NOVEMBER 15 - 17



Moraga Hardware & Lumber
an ACE hardware store
Proudly Local
Moraga Shopping Center

Total Clean
Congratulates
Lupe Robles

20 Years

of
Dedicated Service



HOUSE RENTAL
PUNTA MITA, MEXICO



Call: Tim Southwick cell (510) 385-1372
timsrtob@yahoo.com

GET AHEAD IN MATH THIS FALL



WHEN MATH MAKES SENSE, YOU SUCCEED!

MATHNASIUM
The Math Learning Center

GRADES K-12

Pre-Algebra • Algebra 1 & 2 • Geometry
Pre-Calculus & Calculus
SAT/ACT Preparatory
Individualized Instruction

HOMEWORK HELP FOR ALL LEVELS

Flat Monthly Fee

Drop-in any time, no scheduling needed!

1 WEEK FREE TUTORING & HOMEWORK HELP

Must present coupon. New students only.

3435 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette
(Golden Gate Way at Mt. Diablo Blvd.)
(925) 283-4200 www.mathnasium.com



TREE SCULPTURE

COMPLETE TREE CARE

Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!

Fully Insured ❖ Certified Arborists ❖ License #655977

(925) 254-7233 ❖ www.treesculpture.com

STEPS AWAY FROM
WORLD-CLASS SHOPPING,
DINING, AND ENTERTAINMENT.



Complimentary
Dinner in our
onsite
'Farm to Table'
restaurant,
Newton's Fine
Dining!

WALNUT CREEK'S PREMIER
ACTIVE SENIOR LIVING
COMMUNITY IN THE HEART OF THE CITY



(925) 943-7427 | 1785 Shuey Avenue, Walnut Creek
theheritagedowntown.com

YOUR SMILE IS EVERYTHING

Mary H. Smith D.D.S.

A Professional Corporation
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry



Taking care of all
dental needs for you
and your family.

Emphasizing
cosmetic dentistry
with implants, and
Invisalign. Nitrous
oxide is available.

Consultations are
complementary.

Dentistry with
Excellence.

96 Davis Road, Suite 5 Orinda, 925.254.0824

LAMORINDA
WEEKLY

Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda



**Our advertisers make our paper possible to
print and deliver free to your home. Please
thank them and let them know you saw
their ad.**

**Your publishers,
Andy and Wendy Scheck**

925-377-0977 www.lamorindaweekly.com

The solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short life of man is now a board game

By Sora O'Doherty

Several years ago Orinda resident Evan Ho was discussing life, when he called to mind the board game, The Game of Life, the classic board game where the game pieces are little colored convertible cars and players drive around the board collecting spouses, children, college degrees and jobs. Ho's vision is a bit darker, a bit more sarcastic, and definitely a bit more adult. He decided to create his version of a board game, with a philosophical slant, aimed at a market of highly educated adults.

Ho is a stock analyst who works remotely for a company based in New Jersey. He has been living in Orinda for about five years, and has a son in Sleepy Hollow Elementary School. About a year ago, Ho decided to start working on the game he'd thought up. He sat down at his computer and started to write. It took him several months to gather the raw material for his game. After developing a prototype, he played the game with people he knew and with people he didn't know. They seemed to find it entertaining enough to convince Ho to move into production.

The game is called "Hobbs, the Board Game," after the English philosopher Thomas Hobbs, best known for describing the life of man as "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." Players move through some 70 squares on the game board, and collect cards based on different stages of life: from childhood, through adolescence and middle age, and finally to old age. Each player starts out with 100 points, but points are lost throughout the journey owing to stressful life situations such as, "Head buried in your phone, you just missed your child's first steps in life," which loses the player 4 points. But this card is also marked with an R,

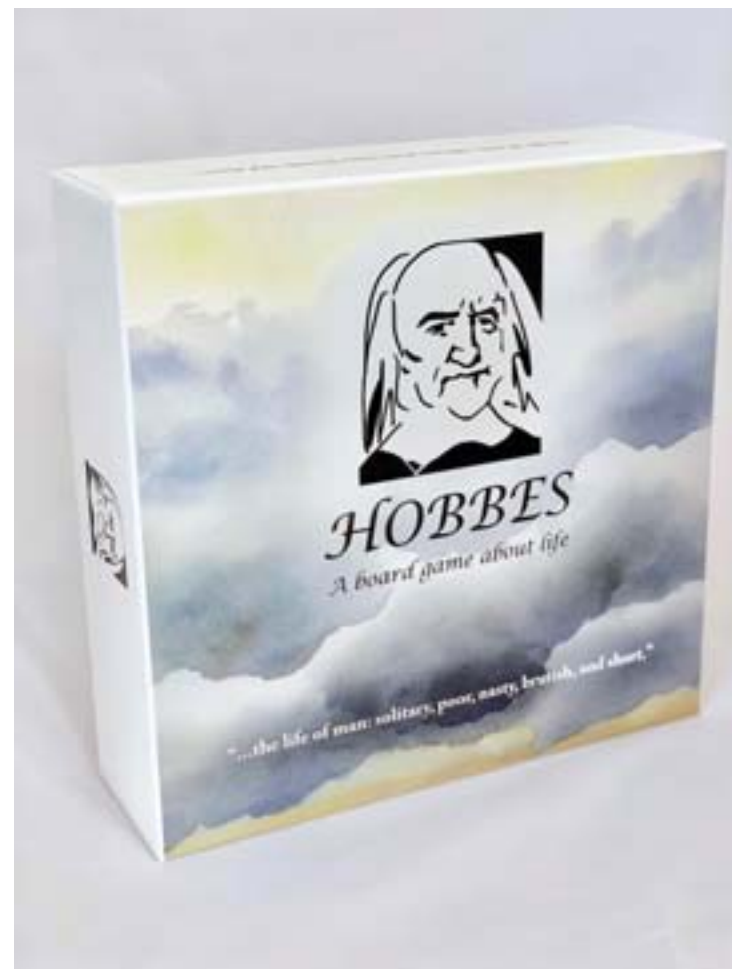


Photo provided

"Hobbs, the Board Game," created by Orinda resident Evan Ho.

which means that the player who draws it can inflict it on another player. Players occasionally pick up points by drawing a "philosophy card." Philosophy cards bear nuggets of wisdom from the classic philosophers such as a card that reads: "Wishing to be friends is quick work, but friendship is a slow ripening fruit – Aristotle," which earns the player points back.

Ho selected a game manufacturer in Michigan. This cost more than using a company in China, but Ho, whose Chinese parents came to the United States through Hong Kong and Taiwan, wanted to maintain more quality control over his product. He commissioned Berkeley artist Susan McAllister to create the cover art. He sells the game online and at local book stores, including Orinda

Books and Alexander Books in San Francisco. Ho admits that he sees the retail online giant Amazon as "the death star."

Ho is promoting his game through word of mouth advertising. He has donated some games to local fundraisers, for example. "This is a game for people with a sense of humor," Ho says. There is no other game out there that is based on philosophy, he says. "Philosophy is good for people," he maintains, adding, "the word 'philosophy' means 'love of knowledge.'" If Hobbs takes off, Ho has several other philosophers in mind for other games.

Ever esoteric, Ho has priced his game at \$28.26 online. If you wonder why, check out the Book of Proverbs.

Holiday songs at Diablo Women's Chorale concert in Lafayette



Photo provided

Submitted by
Jennifer Mack

What do you get when you mix "Fa-La-La" with "Cool Yule," add a dash of "Christmas, Baby Please Come Home," and fold in a blend of other winter holiday songs? You get the Diablo Women's Chorale fall concert, "Winter's Light," at 4 p.m. Sunday, 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 the chorale as they lighten a winter afternoon with songs from Lisa Loeb, George Michael, Irving Berlin, Phil

Spector, and many others.

The Diablo Women's Chorale – one of the oldest community choruses in the Bay Area – presents public concerts in December and May/June each year. Members include women from all areas of the San Francisco East Bay who share a passion for music and a gratifying sense of community and fun.

Director Stevie Greenwell is a well-known vocalist and choral educator. She earned a Bachelor of Music at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, and served as Director of Vocal Studies at Marin School of the Arts from 2012 to 2018 where she was awarded the "Golden Bell" from the California School Boards Association. Stevie now performs with the

Thrive Choir, the Jazz Mafia Choral Syndicate, and other artists around the Bay Area.

Accompanist Rebecca Hass is a pianist, teacher, and songwriter and holds a bachelor of music degree in piano from Ithaca College. Her extensive experience includes accompanying classical performers, musical theater classes, vocal competitions, church choirs, the Prelude Singer-Actor Performance Lab at the MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis, and the St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Arts.

Purchase advance tickets online at www.DiabloWomensChorale.org or call 1-800-838-3006.

Veterans honored at Moraga Commons Park



Photos Vera Kochan



Lamorinda residents gathered Nov. 11 at Moraga Commons to honor the men and women who serve in the United States military during the annual Veterans Day ceremony. The Advancement of Color Guard was represented by the Boy Scouts of America Moraga Scout Troops 212, 234, 246 and 249; and Orinda-Moraga Girl Scout Service Unit #327.

In 1926, the U.S. Congress adopted a resolution requesting that President Calvin Coolidge issue annual proclamations calling for an observance of Nov. 11. World War I formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect.

It took 12 years for a Congressional Act to officially make Nov. 11 an annual legal holiday. Originally known as Armistice Day, the name was changed to Veterans Day in 1954. —V. Kochan

LAA exhibit features abstract paintings and pastels at Samadian Gallery



Image provided

“We Should Stay Here,” painting by Irenka Kudlicki

Submitted by Margaret Lucas-Hill

Now through December, engaging abstract paintings by Irenka Kudlicki and alluring pastels by Dalia Alekna will be featured at the newly established Samadian Gallery in Orinda (23 Orinda Way, Suite 301). The gallery is hosted by a local business – Dr. Amin Samadian’s Comprehensive and Advanced Dentistry – in support of local artists. Both Lamorinda Arts Alliance members and Advanced Dentistry – in support of local artists. Both Lamorinda Arts Alliance members of the Lafayette Gallery and the Diablo Fine Art Gallery. An artist reception is planned from 5:30 to 7:30

p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, and will feature wine tasting from Scout & Cellar, a provider of specialty wines not available in stores. This will be a wonderful opportunity to mingle with the artists and enjoy a taste of specialty wines!

This exhibit is supported by Lamorinda Arts Alliance, a nonprofit organization that supports local artists. For more than two decades, LAA has promoted the visual arts through exhibits in libraries and businesses, at open studio events, street fairs, and lectures, and in the community’s art galleries.

Please submit stories and story ideas to: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Advice for parents with students applying to college

Learn about AdviseU’s industry-leading 3-step process that makes your child stand out from the crowd to the top universities and achieve their dreams

GUARANTEED

CALL our team today and schedule your free consultation to help your child craft an application for the nation’s top colleges and universities

- Stay one step ahead with our...
- Interview Consultants
 - Essay Application Tutoring
 - Application Referencing

FREE application advice with mention of Lamorinda Weekly
O. 925.222.5245 E. Chris@AdviseUni.Com



Quality Hearing Aids • In Ear Monitors • Ear Mold Impressions

FREE Initial Consultation
Now taking Blue Cross, Blue Shield and Medicare.

Dr. Erik M. Breitling,
Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA

LAMORINDA AUDIOLOGY

3744 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 100, Lafayette
(925) 262-4242 www.LamorindaAudiology.com

Swim Plugs • Comprehensive Diagnostic Adult Hearing Evaluations

Hearing Aid Evaluations | Musicians Hearing Protection

Go Beyond Traditional.

The Saklan School | Challenging Academics
Experiential Learning
Inspiring Teachers
Strong Connections

Come Visit Us for an Upcoming Open House.

Think Creatively. Act Compassionately. Live Courageously.
Pre-K through 8 • saklan.org

AAAAA **RENTSPACE**
Store It Yourself & Save

PRICES FALL @ 5A
RECEIVE UP TO
50% OFF
FOR 2 MONTHS
ON SELECTED UNITS
GOOD 11/1/19-11/30/19

AAAAA **RENTSPACE**
Store It Yourself & Save

We move you in FREE when you rent a unit!

Give us a review, we're happy to hear from you, appreciated! Check our website & on Facebook to find out about upcoming events

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
455 Moraga Rd. Ste. F
(925) 643-2026
www.5Aspace.com

Troop 224 of Scouts BSA acknowledges milestone



Photo provided

Submitted by Elizabeth Crinnion

In mid-September, the Scouts and parents of Troop 224 gathered for their fall Court of Honor, the traditional ceremony where Scouts are honored for achieving rank advancements/merit badges. The occasion is a time of cele-

bration, and on this occasion a very special acknowledgment was made.

Earlier this year, Troop 224, based in Lafayette, was one of the first troops in the nation to welcome girls into joining the newly rebranded organization known as Scouts BSA. Although girls officially have their own troop, scoutmaster and leaders, they are, in essence, two linked troops (T224B and

T224G) that share a common leadership structure and elect to share the hosting of the quarterly Court of Honor.

They have shared many adventures together, including camping at three national parks in Arizona, ski trips to Tahoe, backpacking, and summer camp on Catalina Island. For camping outings, the girls camp sepa-

rately from the boys and have their own adult leaders present. They later join T224B for the day's activities. Each troop may also select activities that are done separately, but activities for the upcoming year are determined by all the Scouts. One of the most important aspects of scouting is the opportunity for leadership training and experience. Troop 224 prides itself on the youth-led focus of its troops.

During the Court of Honor ceremony, Anthony Mirabito, Senior Patrol Leader of T224B, gave a special acknowledgment to the girls of T224G for their efforts in achieving rank advancements and merit badges and how they have embraced scouting. As a tribute to the girls' accomplishments and amazing efforts, he presented a framed article to Kyra Ariker, Senior Patrol Leader of T224G, that had been published in the San Francisco Chronicle. "The Girls' Troop is doing so well, and it's really impressive. They have hit the ground running, and the whole Troop is really proud of them," said Mirabito.

Troop 224 was established in 1953 and meets at the Hut located behind Happy Valley Elementary's Gymnasium. There is an Open House planned from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Nov. 18 at the Scout Hut. Pizza, games, cobbler!

Cycle Recycle returns



Photo provided

Submitted by Bobbie Preston

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. To date, over 3,450 bikes have been collected. This year the recipient organizations include Oakland International High School's Earn-A-Bike program, Marsh Creek Detention Center (which repairs and provides bikes to various Contra Costa County charitable pro-

grams as Christmas gifts for low-income kids), and to Trips for Kids in Marin (which repairs them for their Christmas giveaway to children of needy families).

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.

Katz wins \$3,500 in STEM contest



Lamo archive

Submitted by Wendy Li

Isabelle Katz, a 15-year-old from Moraga, placed first in the mathematics

category of the Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology, and Engineering for Rising Stars), giving her \$3,500 to spend on a STEM summer camp experience of her choice. Her project, "Analyzing Musical Instruments/Voice Using Signal Analysis and a Novel Color-Fingerprinting Technique for Vocal Training," used software and an algorithm to break down a musical sound into its different frequencies (see story about Katz' project in the Lamorinda Weekly archives at

www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1316/Local-student-to-represent-Lamorinda-in-STEM-competition.html)

The winners were honored during an awards ceremony on Oct. 29 for their achievements in science, technology, engineering and math together with their demonstration of 21st century skills including critical thinking, communication, creativity, collaborative skills and teamwork.

Eagle project provides instruments to Oakland Unified



Photos provided

Submitted by Richard Innenberg

As part of his Eagle Scout project with Troop 204, Acalanes High School junior Jack Innenberg worked to have the Lafayette community support less fortunate students in other areas. A lover of music, Innenberg wanted to do an Eagle Project that both used music as well as could help others. Innenberg raised over \$13,000 to purchase instruments, repair instruments and send Oakland Unified School District students to Cazadero band camp

over the summer. Innenberg contacted OUSD and learned that their music program budget has been drastically cut (essentially to zero) and they had almost no budget for new instruments, repairs and camps. Jack led a group of boys to repair instruments at the OUSD warehouse, raised around \$7,000 from the local community in cash donations after making contacts through an email campaign, flyers, and a very successful fundraiser in front of Diablo Foods, and received donations of 12 band instruments that were donated to OUSD.

'Walk for Adley' event raises much-needed funds for research



Photo provided

Nearly 300 participants join the Nov. 3 "Walk for Adley" in Lafayette.

Submitted by Emma Coffey

After the recent loss of 10-year-old Adley Osborne to a rare and terrible autoimmune disease, and in an effort to do something to help the many others in local schools and the community who are suffering from autoimmune disorders, more than 280 people participated in the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association's "Walk for Adley" on Nov. 3 in Lafayette, raising \$11,646 to support critical research aimed at solving the underlying immune issues that link all autoimmune disorders.

According to AARDA, approximately 50 million Americans (20% of the population or 1 in 5 people) suffer from autoimmune diseases. Women are more likely than men to be affected; some estimates say that 75% of those affected — some 30 million individuals — are women. Still, with these statistics, autoimmunity is rarely discussed as a women's health issue; and basic autoimmune research is significantly underfunded. AARDA has launched the Autoimmune Walk to change all this.

For information about AARDA, visit aarda.org.

Community Service:

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

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

Looking Good in Lamorinda

Dressing up for the holidays and beyond



James Tissot, Holyday, 1876.

Image courtesy Legion of Honor



Photo courtesy Myara Children's Boutique

Myara dress.

By Moya Stone

It's all about dressing up at Myara Children's Boutique, a recent addition to the Lafayette Clocktower. Proprietor Maryam Moraveji opened her shop earlier this year bringing to the table 18 years of experience in women's couture and bridal design.

Originally from Toronto, Moraveji moved to Lamorinda with her family in 2018 and was inspired to shift into children's fashion design when she had trouble finding clothing she liked for her then 1-year-old daughter, Rya, who is now 6. She was looking for "whimsical but not costumey" so she made Rya's clothes herself. When friends started asking Moraveji to make clothes for their daughters, it was time to consider a shop. But it wasn't until a few years later that the dream became a reality.

Myara is a wonderland of dresses, from 3 months to size 14, in quiet pastels like mint green and sky blue. Each design includes various unique details such as jeweled necklines, cutout backs, or ruffled sleeves. A signature look is layers of tulle, which speak of ballerinas and princesses. But these dresses are not just for special occasions. Moraveji believes in crossing pretty with practicality and giving girls permission to wear Myara dresses however they choose. She says they're not just for sitting and having tea. "No, no, no ... why not wear the dress and climb a tree?"

Moraveji uses stain resistant polyester fabric lined with cotton and many of the dresses can be machine washed. She also considers long-term wearability by adding a ribbon sash



Myara sneakers.

Photo Moya Stone

that will cinch in the dress as needed but can be removed. "We want these pieces to be worn as long as possible without compromising fit," says Moraveji, who is also proud of her prices that start at \$55 with the most expensive piece at \$225.

Then there are the sneakers! Myara offers sneakers specially designed to coordinate with the dresses. "We've had a great response to our shoes," says Moraveji. "And they have been tested for proper arch support." In gold, pink, or black these sparkly sneakers are a perfect choice for girls who wants to dance, run, jump, and skip in comfort. Let's not forget the boys. Inspired by her 3-year-old son, Moraveji has added a line of boys' clothes, which includes shoes and coats.

Myara's social media manager, Mariam Simpson likes to bring her 6-year-old daughter into the shop where she enjoys playing in the big playhouse located in one corner of the store. "This is what a closet of a princess would look like," says Simpson, who appreciates the balance in Myara clothing between special occasion and everyday reality.

One special occasion to dress up for might include afternoon tea. Shadelands Ranch Museum in Walnut Creek is hosting holiday teas Nov. 30 through Dec. 15. Tea luncheons are served downstairs in the historic Shadelands mansion while upstairs is a craft faire, featuring all kinds of handmade goodies including jams, candy, and various big and small gift items made by local crafts people. Call for reservations: (925) 935-7871.

The ladies and gentlemen of the 19th century knew all about dressing up as documented in the works of French artist James Tissot. On now at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco is the exhibition "Tissot: Fashion & Faith." Tissot is known for depicting the lives of modern society in mid-1800s France and England. Approximately 60 paintings, illustrations, and portraits are featured and presented thematically. In his detailed work we see animated people dressed to the nines in ruffles, bows, hats and gloves in the midst of a ball, afternoon tea, or a picnic and all so vivid viewers feel a part of the scene. What a fun family jaunt for the holiday season perhaps in a Myara dress. "Tissot: Fashion & Faith" runs through Feb. 9.

How about dressing up while reading? For the fashionable reader on your holiday list I recommend "The Gown" by Jennifer Robson (William Morrow). This is a fictional story of two women who worked on the wedding gown of then Princess Elizabeth in 1947. As embroiders for the fashion house of Norman Hartnell, Ann and Miriam work tirelessly for three months on the train of the royal wedding gown while learning to deal with painful memories of the recent past. Perhaps a bit predictable but still a page turner and well written, "The Gown" is an entertaining glimpse at couture crafting as well as life in post-war London. Just right for a winter read.

Happy holidays and remember to go forth in dressed-up style.

Moya Stone is a fashion writer and blogger at OverDressedforLife.com.

Sweet and savory side dish perfect for Thanksgiving



Photos Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

If you're looking for a delicious new way to serve yams with your Thanksgiving feast this year, we've got you covered. Sweet fig jam and savory Kalamata olives combine with the salty blue cheese to make a mouth-watering side dish. It was all my son's

idea, and I have to say, I was very impressed! Although, when he left the skins on the sweet potato cubes, I was a bit concerned, but it turned out great this way since they made for nice crispy edges. I should think this would also be a really great hearty dish for any vegetarians who plan to spend the holiday with you.

Sweet Potato Blues

(Serves 6 as a side dish)

INGREDIENTS

- 2 orange sweet potatoes (approximately 1.5 to 2 pounds), cleaned and cubed with skins on
- 3-tablespoons olive oil
- 2 large shallots, thinly sliced or chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ½ teaspoon sea salt
- ½ teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon white pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme or 1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
- ½ cup fig jam or spread*
- ½ cup finely chopped Kalamata olives*
- ½ cup crumbled blue cheese
- ¾ cup grated sharp white cheddar cheese

DIRECTIONS

Heat 1-2 tablespoons oil in a cast iron skillet. Add cubed sweet potatoes, garlic, shallots, herbs, salt, and black and white pepper. Cook slowly over medium-low, until edges of potatoes get crunchy and the insides are tender, turning occasionally so both sides get crispy.

Spread fig jam over potatoes in the pan, and sprinkle blue cheese crumbles evenly over the top. Continue to cook until cheese melts. Sprinkle cheddar over the top and broil in the oven just until cheddar gets bubbly and starts to brown. Serve hot.

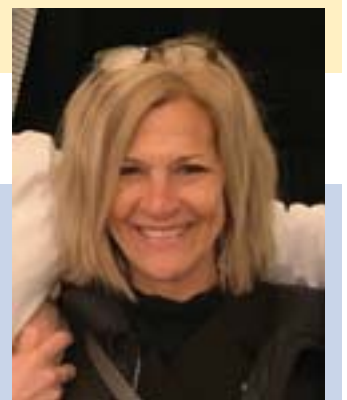
*Note: I used Divina Kalamata Fig Spread with Almonds, but if you cannot find it (see info box below) follow the recipe by using a plain fig jam or spread and mixing in ½ cup chopped Kalamata olives.)

To order Divina Kalamata Fig Spread, check with your local grocer, or visit amazon.com, they do carry it and can ship it to you.

Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com.

This recipe can be found on our website:

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



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

We are excited about the amount of activity we have had from the AD in your paper!! Thank you for allowing us to be part of the Lamorinda Weekly!!!

Sal, Sales and Marketing Director

Honestly, the Lamorinda Weekly is always the best source for our efforts. Everyone reads it, thoroughly!

Thank you very much.
Lucy

Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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

ART

Irenka Kudlicki and Dalia Alekna at Samadian Gallery through December 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.

On view at Saint Mary's College Museum of Art (SMCMoA) through Dec. 8 "Kal Spelletich: Significance Machines and Purposeful Robots" explores boundaries between humans and machines, integrating spirituality and mysticism through an unlikely form – robots. "New Formalism in Painting and Photography" presents the collaborative work of artists R&D (Diane Rosenblum and Joe Doyle) expanding the boundaries of painting and photography through digital manipulations. R&D will speak to their cross-generational artistic process at 6 p.m. on Nov. 21. SMCMoA admission and programs are free for everyone. For information on programming and hours, visit

www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum. "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. 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 Dali, Wayne Thiebaud and Kenny Scharf. Free.

Grand Reopening of the Moraga Art Gallery - to celebrate its reopening in a spacious, light-filled oasis in the Rheem

Shopping Center, the gallery invites the public to a free reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Nov. 23 at 432 Center Street (between Nation's and the Dover Saddlery.) Come to meet more than a dozen artists, both old and new, to sip wine, enjoy snacks, hear live music and admire an assemblage of artwork, some never before displayed in Moraga. For more information, visit the gallery's website: www.moragaart-gallery.com, call (925) 376-5407 or email moragaartgallery@gmail.com.

Valley Art Gallery Holiday Collection for Artful Giving at 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110 Walnut Creek. This holiday collection includes a wide variety of jewelry, ceramics, glass, textiles, holiday decorations, small paintings, and many other one-of-a-kind gifts crafted by greater Bay Area artists. A special open house reception is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 16. ValleyArtGallery.org

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

Musicians at Saint Mary's College of California will perform in the second of five Wednesday Student Recital Series concerts at 1:15 p.m. on Nov. 20 in the Saint Mary's College Chapel. Featured works include Sonatas for Violin and Cello by Grieg, Schubert and Dvorák, chamber music for flute, and various vocal selections. The finale of the program will feature the SMC Chamber Singers and Glee Club. Donations are welcome.

This fall Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble presents "Passion, Joy and Beauty: Britten, Poulenc and Faur," 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.

The Contra Costa Chorale, will present a concert featuring two masters of American music, Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland, at 5 p.m. on Dec. 8 at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. \$20 General, \$15 Students/Seniors/Disabled. Children under 12 – free admission. For further information visit our website at www.ccchorale.org, email ccochorale@gmail.com, or call (510) 255-5850.

Solo Opera presents a collaboration with Macy's Concord, a fundraiser for their season, entitled The Twelve Days of Christmas at 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 14. The event will include breakfast treats, a concert of opera and holiday music featuring soprano Diane Squires, a fashion show, a sing-along, and 12 enter to win prizes! All proceeds benefit Solo Opera, a local non-profit opera company and their 2020 season. Tickets - \$22 at Eventbrite.

MUSIC

The UC Alumni Chorus will present "A Mass-Up," a mash-

Lamorinda's Religious Services



ST MARK'S CHURCH OF ORINDA & MORAGA
Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.
 451 Moraga Way, Orinda
 www.stmarksorinda.org | (925) 254-5965
 All Are Welcome

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
 An Open, Affirming & Loving Community
Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM
In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare
 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
 24 Orinda Way (next to the Library) - 254-4212
Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am
 Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm
 ReadingRoom/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat. 10 - 12
 www.christianscienceorinda.org

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
 ALL ARE WELCOME
Sundays, 9:30 am & 5 pm



10 Moraga Valley Lane
 www.mvpc.today.org
 925.376.4800



Lafayette United Methodist Church
 955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 thelumc.org
 Sunday 10am Worship and Faith Formation for all ages
 Opportunities to Love God, Love Others, and Serve the World

ST. PERPETUA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
 celebrating our faith • enriching our community • sharing our gifts

Join us
 Masses Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.
 Sundays at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.
 School for TK - 8th grade
 Faith Formation for children and adults
 3454 Hamlin Road | Lafayette | stperpetua.org
 925.283.0272 Parish | 925.284.1640 School




Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422
www.holyshepherd.org


9:30 a.m. CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP
 10:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship in the Center for Ministry
 visit http://www.holyshepherd.org for more details



ORINDA Community Church
 10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org
"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"
Join us Sundays at 10 a.m. | Sunday School 10 a.m



ST. MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH
 1001 CAMINO PABLO, 925-376-6900
 WWW.STMONICAMORAGA.COM
 Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9:00 am followed by coffee and refreshments in our Peace Center.
Mass times: Saturday – Confessions 3:30 pm and Vigil Mass 5 pm
 Sunday – Masses at 7:30, 9 and 11 am.



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
 TRANSFORMED BY THE PATH WE WALK TOGETHER
 JOIN US FOR OUR SUNDAY SERVICE AT 9:30 AM
 CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS AT 10:45 AM



St Stephen's Episcopal Church
 66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda
 254-3770. www.ststephensorinda.org
 Sunday 8am, 10am

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 Where all are welcome, nobody is perfect, and anything is possible with God.



• Sunday Worship 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
 • Programs for all ages
 • Guest Speakers & Workshops
 • So much more! Connect with us today!

49 Knox Drive • Lafayette, CA • (925) 283-8722 • IOPC.org • #ILOPC

WILLOWSRING community church

Practical biblical teaching, contemporary worship, come as you are.
 www.willowspringchurch.com
 1689 School St. Moraga | 925-376-3550
Sunday Service 10:45 am

THEATER

Orinda Intermediate School Bulldog Theater stages Disney's "Frozen JR.," Dec. 5 - 7 at Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive. This spectacular musical is a heartwarming stage adaptation of the top-grossing animated film of all time. Tickets are \$3-\$10. Visit www.showtix4u.com for show times and tickets. Tickets are also available at the door.

Town Hall Theatre Company presents "Cinderella: A Fairytale" Dec. 7 through 21 at 3535 School Street, Lafayette. There will be previews at 8 p.m. on Dec. 5 and 6. For times, tickets, and prices: BOX OFFICE: (925) 283-1557; www.townhalltheatre.com

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Orinda Junior Women's Club announces Youth Ink 2020, an annual Orinda middle-school writing contest to support literary arts in the community. Prizes include a \$250 first prize award! Entry details will be on the Youth Ink 2020 submission forms available online by Dec. 2 at www.orindajuniors.org.

... continued on next Page

Not to be missed

OTHER

"It's a Wonderful Life in Lafayette" scheduled from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 6 in Lafayette's Plaza Park, located in downtown Lafayette. Tree lighting, live music, community sing-a-long, crafts – and, of course, Santa. Complimentary admission. For more details and the entertainment schedule, please visit www.lafayettechamber.org/holiday

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.

Watercolor animation direct from the U.S. premiere at the Mill Valley Film Festival in October, "The Swallows of Kabul" explores the "mentality of the Islamic extremists and complexity of the Muslim world." Mountain Shadow Film Society presents the film at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 16 at the Walnut Creek Library, 1644 N. Broadway St., Downtown Walnut Creek. General admission tickets are available on a first come, first served basis for \$12. <http://mountainshadow.org>

Rose & Heather Tours invites you to an Info meeting plus wine-tasting at Deer Hill Vineyards, Lafayette. Two dates: 5 to 6:30 p.m. Nov. 17 or 7 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 18. Enjoy a convivial evening, finding out about going off the beaten path ... deep in the English Countryside. A short presentation plus sampling Deer Hill's delicious wines and socializing with garden-lovers and history buffs. Complimentary. RSVP www.rose-and-heather-tours.com/events

Alicia Hetman, a recognized expert on Title IX and the topics of sexual harassment and discrimination, will speak at the AAUW-

Not to be missed

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.

Blanket and Sleeping Bag Drive for the Homeless. A Moraga family is collecting lightly used blankets and sleeping bags to distribute to the homeless throughout the Bay Area. Please drop your donation off by Nov. 20 at the latest on the front porch of 1204 Larch Ave., Moraga.

Golden Gate Audubon Society presents Golden Eagles in a Changing World from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Nov. 21 at Northbrae Community Church, 941 the Alameda, Berkeley. How disease and ectoparasites represent new threats to Golden Eagle populations. Ben Dudek shares information on Golden Eagle population threats. Cost: \$5 donation for non-

members. For more info see <http://www.goldengateaudubon.org> or call (510) 843-2222 or email ggas@goldengateaudubon.org.
41st Annual Community Thanksgiving Breakfast from 7 to 8:30 a.m. on Nov. 22 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center. Now is the time to come together in thanks and kindness! Tickets are \$25 per person. Our speaker is Sean Perlmutter of Pivotal Twist with "The Strangers of Kindness."

Orinda's 43rd Annual Holiday Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 23 at the Orinda Community Center. Get your holiday shopping started off with a bang at the 43rd Annual Holiday Bazaar. With some beloved favorites and brand new vendors this year, you will have an opportunity to shop over 50 unique vendors and crafters!

Moraga Country Club will hold its 3rd Annual Turkey Trot at 8:15 a.m. (7 a.m. registration) on Nov. 28. This event is a fundraiser opportunity where all proceeds benefit the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County. The event is open to runners and walkers of all abilities and age levels. 1.5K is \$20 and the 5K is \$30 (plus a \$3.45 sign-up fee). For more information and donation opportunities please visit the race website at www.runsignup.com/moragaturkeytrot.

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.

North Shattuck Association presents Snow? In Berkeley? from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 8 at Gourmet Ghetto, Shattuck Ave., 1451-1495 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Bring boots and mittens to 1451 Shattuck, Berkeley, Sun. Dec. 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Snow Queen, Pony

Rides, DIY Crafts, Holiday Craft Vendors. Free. For more info see <http://www.anotherbullwinkeshow.com/holiday-berkeley/holiday-gourmet-ghetto.html> or call (510) 334-6523 or email Lisa@AnotherBullwinkeshow.com.

Hospice East Bay's Tree of Lights ceremonies have offered community members a way to honor the lives of friends and loved ones. This year's ceremonies in Lamorinda are at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 21 at 21 Lafayette Circle, 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 7 at Orinda Village by Bank of America, and at 5:30 p.m. on Dec 15 at Moraga Country Club, 1600 St. Andrews Drive. For further information about these special events, visit Hospice East Bay Tree of Lights.

GARDEN

The Lafayette Garden Club will meet at 10 a.m. on Nov. 14 in Lafayette Veteran's Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. The speaker this month is Tora Rocha, the founder of Pollinator Posse, who 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

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

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.

Warm your heart with 'Frozen Jr.' at OIS



Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater proudly presents the musical, "Disney Frozen JR.," Dec. 5-7 at OIS. This spectacular musical is a heartwarming stage adaptation of the top-grossing animated film of all time.

Do you want to build a snowman? Kids of all ages will love this fanciful musical based on the 2013 Disney film and 2018 Broadway adaptation. Join princesses Anna and Elsa, Olaf the snowman, Sven the reindeer, and your other favorite characters as they embark on an epic, ice-filled journey of self-discovery, camaraderie, and the real meaning of true love. Included are your favorite Frozen songs such as "Love is an

Open Door," "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?," and "Let It Go," as well as wonderful new songs from the Broadway production.

There are three casts comprised of almost 80 OIS students, along with an additional 18 OIS students serving on tech crew. Performances will run Dec. 5-7 at the OIS Bulldog Theater. Performances last approximately 90 minutes, including one intermission. For show times and tickets, please visit www.showtix4u.com. Tickets are also available at OIS Theater one half hour prior to show times. "Frozen JR." is directed and produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre.

SMC Student Recital Series at Saint Mary's Chapel continues



Submitted by Renee Witon

Musicians at Saint Mary's College of California will perform in the second of five Wednesday Student Recital Series concerts at 1:15 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20 in the Saint Mary's College Chapel. Featured works include Sonatas for Violin and Cello by Grieg, Schubert and Dvořák, chamber music for flute, and various vocal selections. The finale of the program will feature the SMC Chamber Singers and Glee Club. Donations are welcome.

Pacific Chamber Orchestra to perform Handel's Messiah in Lafayette Nov. 30

By Cheryl B. North

For the first time, due to audience demand, a performance of Pacific Chamber Orchestra's acclaimed concert presentation of Handel's Messiah will jump start the holiday season.

After the stunningly uplifting experiences presented during Pacific Chamber Orchestra's September concerts in Lafayette and Livermore, the audiences emerged with feelings of unabashed joy. And indeed, "joy" remained front and center throughout the performances.

The poem, "Ode to Joy," written by German poet Friedrich Schiller, was set to music by a then deaf Ludwig van Beethoven. The composer said that a great poem is more difficult to set to music than a merely good one, because the composer must rise higher than the poet – "who can do that in the case of Schiller? In this respect Goethe is much easier."

These performances, marking the 30th anniversary of the Pacific Chamber Orchestra, were conducted by its founding music director, Lawrence Kohl. This orchestra has made its home in Livermore since 2005 and has introduced classical music to over 300,000 schoolchildren. For the choral finale of the last movement, the orchestra was joined by members and a few friends of the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, directed by Brett Strader. The four soloists were Ben Brady, bass-baritone; Christopher Bengochea, tenor;

Silvie Jensen, alto; and Rhoslyn Jones, soprano.

Beethoven's Ninth Symphony is a truly monumental work, demanding precision, power, and beauty from the orchestra and singers. It is usually done by a full symphony orchestra, a large professional chorus, and well-known operatic soloists. This time, the precision, power, and beauty were achieved by a much smaller chamber orchestra, a church choir, many of whom had not sung this demanding work before, and a quartet of soloists whose voices have the size, range, and agility for lead roles in major opera houses. Under the masterful leadership of Maestro Kohl, all these musicians showed that they were up to the monumental challenges of Beethoven's score.

Schiller's words amplified by Beethoven's music have thrilled audiences for nearly two centuries, and it happened again in Lafayette and Livermore in September. The audiences for both performances were uplifted and thrilled by this affirmation of brotherhood among the human family and the love of a benevolent God in the starry heavens.

For ticket information for PCO's performance of "The Glorious - Handel, Messiah" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church and at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1. at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore, visit <https://www.pacificchamberorchestra.org/>

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.

<p>November 14: Chief Ben Alldritt The Current affairs at the Lafayette Police Department</p>	<p>November 21: Peg Jackson The 3Rs of Business Resilience: Staying in Business No Matter What Happens</p>
---	--

www.rotarylafayette.org
www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA

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.

Contact us:

Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com
Delivery issues: homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com
Event listings: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Business press releases: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
General interest stories/Community Service: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
School stories/events: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Publishers/Owners: Andy and Wendy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Editor: Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com
Copy Editor: Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com
Sports Editor: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Advertising: 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Staff Writers:
Vera Kochan; vera@lamorindaweekly.com,
Pippa Fisher; pippa@lamorindaweekly.com,
Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com,
Sora O'Doherty; Sora@lamorindaweekly.com
Jon Kingdon; sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com
Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com
Contributing Writers:
Conrad Bassett, Sophie Braccini, Diane Claytor, Michele Duffy, Amanda Eck, Fran Miller, Jenn Freedman, Mona Miller, Kara Navolio, Moya Stone, Margie Ryerson, Linda Fodrini-Johnson, Victor Ryerson
Calendar Editor: Jaya Griggs; calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Photos: Tod Fierner, Gint Federas
Layout/Graphics: Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.
Mailing address: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133 Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 925-263-9223; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com
website: www.lamorindaweekly.com

SHOP MORAGA

across the way
a unique lifestyle store



Beautiful hand-made ceramic hens, from the south of France, created by ceramist Heidi Caillard.




Le Creuset classic cookware from France to inspire your holiday meals.

Moraga Shopping Center


You never know what you'll find across the way...

A good neighbor has your back.




Mark Hoogs, Agent
Insurance Lic#: OM08809
629 Moraga Road
Moraga, CA 94556
Bus: 925-254-3344

Life's a combination of good days and bad. I have your back for both. And who has my back? The company more people have trusted for 90 years. **CALL ME TODAY.**



1606040 State Farm Bloomington, IL

Member of Moraga Chamber of Commerce



MAKE LIFE EASY SHOP LOCAL SHOPMORAGAFIRST.COM



MARK BELLINGHAM PAINTING

CREATE A HOME YOU CAN'T WAIT TO COME HOME TO

925-247-0092

MarkBellinghamPainting.com

Interior & Exterior Painting Deck Restoration
Kitchen & Bathroom Cabinet Painting Dry Rot Repair
Light Carpentry

For a Quick Preliminary Estimate Email Photos of Project to:
Office@MarkBellinghamPainting.com

See our Reviews on NextDoor, Houzz & YELP

Local Business Owner - Since 1985 - Licensed & Insured

McCaulou's

Save Gas
Save Money
Save Time

Shop your local McCaulou's

Anthony's
Custom Picture Framers

After 28 years of service, we are proud to reintroduce ourselves as Anthony's Custom Picture Framers. Family owned and operated since 1991. Anthony and Tony look forward to seeing you soon and assisting you with all your framing needs.

1020 Brown Ave, Suite A Lafayette, CA 94549 925-283-7620

Mon: 10am-5pm
Tues-Sat: 10am-6pm
anthony'sCPF.com

\$30 off your next order with this ad!



Rheem Valley
Pet Shoppe
Pet Food & Supplies

Rheem Valley Center 388 Park Street Moraga (925) 376-8399
Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Terry Wolff Stratton

HAIR STYLIST

CC & CO HAIR DESIGNS
910 Country Club Dr., Moraga
(925) 437-2076

MORAGA GARDEN CENTER



Trees & Shrubs
Flowers & Vegetables
Soil Products & Fertilizers
Organic Products & Seeds

located at the Moraga Shopping Center
925-376-1810

Reflexion
SKIN CARE & HAIR SALON
Moraga's Premier Salon

\$20* Lip Wax w/ Brow Wax
* new clients only

925.376.7222
508 Center Street, Moraga (in Rheem Valley Shopping Center)

RHEEM VALLEY AUTOMOTIVE
(Rheem center-across from the Post Office)

Complete Auto Repair
State of California
Brake, Lamp & Smog Station

OFFICIAL BRAKE ADJUSTING STATION
OFFICIAL LAMP ADJUSTING STATION

STAR Certified

377-6020
WWW.RHEEMAUTO.COM

MORAGA MOTORS
since 1981 in Moraga. Located on Moraga Road, Rheem Valley Shopping Center

Professional Automotive Service and Repair
Foreign and Domestic

2016 Moraga Small Business of the Year

530 Moraga Rd. • 925-376-0692
www.moragamotors.com

MORAGA ART GALLERY

Serendipities

Come to the Grand Re-Opening of the Moraga Art Gallery
Saturday, November 23, 5 - 7 pm.

The gallery has moved to 432 Center St, in the Rheem Shopping Center

OPEN

This is the perfect time to start looking for that perfect gift for someone.

You will find paintings, ceramics, fused glass, jewelry, fine art photography, sculpture and more.

Follow us on the web and Facebook for updates!
432 Center St., Rheem Shopping Center, Moraga, CA
www.moragaartgallery.com 925-376-5407

Si Si Caffé

Best Latte in Town

910 Country Club Dr. Moraga
925-377-1908



SALE
PRICES FALL OR SAVE RECEIVE UP TO

50% OFF

FOR 2 MONTHS ON SELECTED ITEMS
GOOD THROUGH 12/31/19

10% OFF ALL MERCHANDISE
GOOD THROUGH 12/31/19

455 MORAGA RD. SUITE F • (925) 643-2026 • WWW.SASPACE.COM

Studio E

Studio E offering Personal Training and Semi Private/Small Group Classes. Come experience the personal attention and individual motivation you need to get you started on a healthy track for life.

Go to www.studio-e-moraga.com for a full list of classes.

1605 School Street Moraga (Entrance on Country Club Drive)
925-388-6779



\$50 off for new clients

Hall of Taxes
Peggy Hall, Enrolled Agent
Over 30 years experience
Stephen Hall, MBA, CTEC
Specializing in complex tax situations for individuals and small businesses.

Moraga
(925) 388-1040
www.HallofTaxes.com • peggy@halloftaxes.com

PROFESSIONAL EYECARE
OPTOMETRY

Dr. Wm. Schwertscharf, O.D.

- Comprehensive Vision Testing
- Eye Disease Diagnosis
- Specialty Contact Lens Care
- Finest Quality Eyewear and Sunglasses

1030 Country Club Drive, Ste. A Moraga • (925) 376-2020



Bay Area home companions

in-home care services

Affordable, Competent, Warm & Compassionate Adult Care

- Personal Care
- Light Housekeeping
- Meal Preparation
- Non-medical Outpatient Assistance

(925) 330-3999

www.bayareahomecompanions.com

The UPS Store

New hours: Mon-Fri 8:00-6:00 Sat 9-5, Sun closed

Our location: 1480 Moraga Rd, Ste C Moraga, CA 94556-2005

- ✓ Shipping
- ✓ Copying, Finishing
- ✓ Printing Services
- ✓ Notary Services
- ✓ Postal Services
- ✓ Business Services
- ✓ Live Scan
- ✓ Fingerprinting

www.theupsstorelocal.com/2291

Watch for Love Lafayette
November 27
Call for Advertising
925.377.0977

MORAGA RETREAT
CARE HOMES

residential assisted living for seniors

professional staff, resident-centered care
private rooms, home-made meals, medication management
unparalleled attention to detail

MORAGARETREAT.COM (925) 376-2273

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Strong shooting a hallmark for this year's SMC women's basketball team



Madeline Holland



Brianna Simonich

Photos Tod Fierner

By Jon Kingdon

Last year was a banner year for Saint Mary's women's basketball head coach Paul Thomas. He became the winningest coach in Saint Mary's women's basketball history with 256 victories, it was the eighth-straight year his team has won 20-plus games and the Gaels made their 10th consecutive post-season appearance.

It's the nature of college sports that one cannot rest on their laurels. This is particularly the case this season for Saint Mary's in that they have lost to graduation four key players from last season: Megan McKay (12.6 ppg, 7.8 reb), Sydney Raggio (12.8 ppg, 8.5 reb), Jasmine Forcadilla (10.0 ppg, 3.1 apg) and Carly Turner (6.0 ppg). All told, they accounted for 42% of the team's scoring and 54% of the team's rebounding.

As is the wont of all coaches, Thomas is both optimistic and realistic: "I'm very pleased where this team is at with the first week of November. I think this team has come a long way. All these kids are way smarter than I was at their age and they realize that they lost some very important pieces, players and people and they are smart enough to realize that they need to do something about it."

Of course, that is something that is easier said than done and it is going to take a group effort to fill the shoes of those players, says Thomas: "Losing Meg and Syd (who were both 1 and 2 in scoring and rebounding)

is hard and someone is going to have to get those points and rebounds. It won't be one person. It will probably have to be a combination of three to five people."

McKay also was a key on the court for the Gaels with her leadership and the ability to communicate on defense saved the team a number of baskets, said Thomas: "We don't have that yet this year. (junior) Maddie Holland and (junior) Emily Coddling have done a great job in stepping into the roles as leaders on the team."

Last season Holland started 28 games and finished second in the conference in three-point field goal percentage (.444). Coddling, who started 30 games, was named West Coast Conference All-Academic Honorable Mention and led the team with 33 steals, averaging 7.8 points and 3.7 rebounds per game and was second on the team with 45 three-point baskets.

As a freshman last season, Sam Simons made an immediate impact, starting 14 games and being named to the All-West Coast Conference Freshman Team after averaging 11.1 points and 3.5 rebounds per game. Sophomore Tayce Wedin, who broke the Oregon state high school record for three-point shooting was third on the Gaels last season with 44 three-pointers and finished sixth in the conference in three-point field-goal percentage (.396).

Both will be counted on to continue to improve, says Thomas: "Sam was a starter last year and will be counted

on to contribute right from the beginning. Wedin was more of a role player for us and will have to move up a level."

Senior Claire Ferguson, who has appeared in all 64 games the last two seasons, will be starting at center. Senior Tyra Moe and freshman Finau Tonga, from Salt Lake City, are both being counted on to provide size and strength inside as well: "My biggest concern is that I just don't know if we have the depth to get those rebounds. Claire has done a really good job stepping up as a leader," said Thomas. "At the pace that Finau is learning, she will be a real contributor and should get significant playing time."

There have been two pleasant surprises for the Gaels with the return of senior guard Katie Rathburn who redshirted last season and junior Brianna Simonich (both Carondelet graduates): "Katie should be good to go. She can really shoot the ball and I am super pleased where she is at," said Thomas. "Brianna is having a good fall this year. She has really put in the work and shot up the ladder and should play a lot this year."

Look for a lot of high scoring games this season, says Thomas: "The strength of the team is that we really shoot the ball well. We can really spread people out. Teams are going to have to guard us on the perimeter and we're a better passing team than we have been in year past."

If there has been an Achilles' heel for the Gaels

these past few years, it has been the large number of turnovers by the offense. Last season, Saint Mary's surpassed their opponents in every statistical category except one - turnovers - committing 210 more turnovers than the other teams.

For the team to be successful, it's simple, according to Thomas: "The key is to minimize our turnovers which has gotten us in trouble at times and we have to be able to get and convert offensive rebounds. I'm not sure if this team has that trait in them at the moment. I told the team to do their research to see where our program has ranked in the past 10 years in rebounding and let them know they're not going to be the team that does not uphold that tradition."

Thomas has put together a very interesting schedule

for the Gaels, focusing on their opponents' RPI (rating percentage index) which is a way to measure a team's strength relative to other teams, based large on the strength of their schedules. "We are very proud of our schedule for the 2019-20 basketball season," said Thomas. "Each contest will challenge us to bring our best effort as coaches and student-athletes."

Saint Mary's will be hosting the Thanksgiving Classic welcoming Marquette, Western Kentucky and Tulsa. Prior to league games, the Gaels will also be traveling to the University of Wyoming, the University of Kansas and to the UCF tournament in Orlando, Florida prior to Christmas to compete against the University of Central Florida and St. Bonaventure.

Campolindo, Acalanes and Miramonte in football playoffs

By Jon Kingdon

Last year, there was a three week-delay in football playoff games due to the fires. With the fires this year, there has only been a one-week delay in the NCS playoffs.

Campolindo (8-2), playing in Division 2, is the No. 3 seed and will be playing a home game this Friday against No. 6 Livermore who was 6-4 this season.

Acalanes (8-2) will be playing in Division 4 as a No. 3 seed and is also playing at home this Friday against No. 6 Newark Memorial who was 4-6 this season.

Miramonte (5-5) will be playing in Division 5 as the 6th seed and will be playing on the road against No. 3 Moreau Catholic (Heyward) who was 7-3 this season.

All of the games are scheduled to be played at 7 p.m.

LAMORINDA LACROSSE



Registration Now Open
for Boys and Girls Ages 6-14
Visit LamorindaLacrosse.com
to Register



SPORTS MEDICINE CENTER FOR YOUNG ATHLETES

OAKLAND
(510) 428-3558

SAN FRANCISCO
(415) 353-2808

SAN RAMON
(925) 979-3450

WALNUT CREEK
(925) 979-3430



Campolindo and Acalanes Girls Volleyball teams head to state tournament after reaching NCS Finals



Maddie Risch



Brianna Lee

Photos Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

Despite losing in the championship games in the NCS Divisions 1 and 3 respectively, the Campolindo (24-6) and Acalanes (19-7) Girls volleyball teams have to be happy with how their seasons have evolved. Despite losing to Bishop O'Dowd, the No. 1 seeded team by scores of 25-18, 25-22 and 25-23, Campolindo will still be going on to compete in the state tournament. Acalanes will also be competing in the state tournament after coming up short against Branson (Marin) in three sets as well, 25-20, 25-17, 25-21.

Acalanes first year head coach Haley Glass took a team that had been 17-14 the prior season to the NCS finals for the first time in 40 years, though the Dons did win the state championship in 2016, after losing to Miramonte in the NCS semifinals that season. Prior to the Branson game, the Dons had defeated Hercules (3-0), Moreau Catholic (3-0) and Tamalpais (3-1) to make it to the championship game.

"I would call it a successful season," said Glass. "Anytime that you have a new coach, there are a lot of question marks so to see how the girls handled it the way that they did and to see that type of growth in addressing the challenge in tackling that type of adversity was pretty awesome."

Glass took over a veteran team that was comprised of 15 seniors and juniors and only one sophomore (Aly Kirke) on the roster. It was the maturity and ex-

perience of the players that Glass relied on this season: "This wasn't the first time that they have been in these matches and I've been holding them to a higher standard, in preparing them for college and pushing them to be even more mature than they have been and to be good examples for the underclassmen."

Glass worked to inculcate a new attitude among her players with a more aggressive attitudes and instilling confidence in themselves. Maddie Risch once again led the team in kills this season but it was Kennedy Cornish that took to heart Glass' coaching: "I was pleasantly surprised with Kennedy, stressing to her that you're not out there to make friends, you're out there to make enemies, being aggressive and attacking. Let's attack and be really aggressive, which is something that she embraced and it shows in the number of kills that she had and how she has been a wall at the net. Erin Meade also really came out swinging and she showed that desire to want to get better."

Sydney Sowarby stepped in as the team's libero and Lane Webster were second and third on the team in digs behind Risch. "Sydney made a lot of diving saves into the stands. I wanted the players to learn that feeling when you get that ball up when no one thinks you can do it. That's one of the best feelings in volleyball. It's awesome to see how Lane played. We worked hard on her digs and she really embraced it."

It was the growth of the team during the season that Glass most appreciated:

"The biggest challenge was having confidence. They were very tentative at the start of the season and they really matured with an attitude that when we were in a tough spot, we're going to do what we have to do to get out of a tough situation."

Acalanes did not lose more than two matches in a row all season which epitomized the attitude that Glass was looking to instill: "The matches that we lost were learning experiences. You can either accept it or we could take the losses and learn from them and show the Don's way to play."

Campolindo head coach John Vuong expressed his concern prior to the season regarding the Cougars being moved up to Division I with schools having far larger student bodies. Still, when you have the MVP of the League Audrey Pak returning along with all league players, Sophia Newman and Erin Thomas, the Cougars remained a force to be reckoned with. The Cougars defeated Heritage (3-0), San Ramon Valley (3-1) and James Logan (3-0) to make it to the finals against Bishop O'Dowd.

"What's special about this team is that they believe in each other," said Vuong. "They really support each other on and off the court. That has really helped at this level of the game. In this new league, we did not know most of our opponents and that took a lot of scouting and studying. Our top players all played to their potential to prove a point." Junior outside hitter Molly Mitchell also drew praise from Vuong: "Molly really

rose to the occasion. She is a very calculated hitter."

Junior libero Brianna Lee had a similar perspective of the team: "The chemistry on this team is really amazing. We all get along well and it's a lot of fun play for each other. We know it's Audrey Pak's last season and so there is a special emphasis on every point in the game and we worked really hard to extend the season as far as possible."

Lee also gives credit to Vuong and assistant coach Dave Chen: "They really prepare us so well for the games. We knew where the hitters would open up and where the key shots would go to. They bring so much to practice with their drills and perspective on what we need to look for with our different opponents and everything else, which helps so much. They also see things during the games that might not be what we are seeing on the court. We play for ourselves and know what we can control which is our side."

Pak also has seen this season as being especially satisfying for her and the team: "Every person on the team has been really dialed in and you could tell in practice and when we watch film. Everyone is playing a huge part. It just feels really special and super invested this year. We're not that physical but we make up for that with our defense and just every single person working hard and doing their job."

On to the state tournament for Campolindo and Acalanes.

Miramonte's first year head coach Lindsay Ray was a young coach with a young team and is using the team's 8-16 record as a learning experience. "A lot of things went well," said Ray, "but it was definitely a rebuilding season for us."

The Matadors will be graduating five seniors and 10 underclassmen, which includes two freshman, outside hitter Amber Chu and setter Julia Berg. Juniors defender Haley Lim and libero Jenna Foster will be the foundation for next year's team.

Ray singled out Audrey French among the seniors that will be missed next season, but saw real potential and growth in the team as the season progressed: "Once the team realized that they were getting better, they began to work even harder, pushing each other and holding each other accountable. The girls played really hard all season, particularly against Campolindo and that was a proud moment for me and my sister (assistant coach Leslie Ray)."

It was a learning year for Ray as well as her team: "This was my first season coaching players that were younger than 17. I had a lot of young girls on my team and in also coaching the freshman team, I learned a lot about patience and look forward to next season."

Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

House Cleaning

www.totalclean.biz
Serving Lamorinda since 1985.
Insured and bonded 376-1004.

Music Lessons

Fun Piano Lessons
Learn your favorite song! I teach Certificate of Merit. BM & MM in Piano. Lessons in your home.
925-984-8322. lynn253@gmail.com

Caregiving Service

Reliable caregiver at your service! Available 24/7, live-in or hourly, short or long hours ok. Reliable, flexible schedule, highly experienced in all areas of caregiving. Call Ava 925-360-9860.

Furniture Restoration

Antique Furniture Restoration
25 years exp. - 925 765 0479
serving Lamorinda - references avail.
www.Cardonarestoration.com

Insurance

Totalintegrityinsurance.com
20+yr Lamorinda resident.
My independent insurance brokerage is here to serve you. Over 100 top carriers = great pricing and coverage for Biz Gen Liability, WComp, Homes, Auto, Life. Call Henry at (925) 247-4356 OE90108

Construction

Concept Builders
Remodeling, Home Repair & New Construction
Bonded & Insured. License no. 842563
(925) 283-8122, Cell: (925) 768-4983

Handyman

Quetzal Handyman
NO JOB TOO SMALL
OPEN 24/7
Please call Carlos Toledo
925-872-0422

Rusty Nails Handyman Service
Repair • Restore • Revamp
Call Rusty- (925) 890-1581

HANDYMAN SERVICE
Plumbing, Electrical, Carpentry, Etc., Etc. (925) 934-0877 Jim
NO JOB TOO SMALL

Plumbing

LEAPFROG PLUMBING
WE HOP TO IT!
(925) 377-6600
LeapFrogPlumbing.com

Rototilling

Ken's Rototilling
• 4 W/D Tractors
• Hillside Weed Cutting
• Mowing • Discing • Rototilling
Free estimates! 925-938-9836
licensed, bonded & insured. CA#667491
www.kensrototilling.com

\$10 per 1/2" classified ad height. Email to:
classified@lamorindaweekly.com

LMYA 2019 SOCCER CHAMPIONS



Congratulations to all of the LMYA Soccer Teams for a great 2019 season! Thank you to all of the coaches and parent volunteers for their support. Championship matches in two divisions were played on Saturday, 11/9. Below are the winners of the Commissioner's Cup Division. THANKS FOR PLAYING WITH US!



3rd GRADE GIRLS - NORWAY

(L to R): Edith Flory, Chloe Stewart, Charlotte Smith, Avery Marshall, Anika Rehn, Willow Ward, Natalie Cosso, Paige Hegarty, Lila Ward, Harper Swanson, Olivia Henry. (Not pictured): Coaches Joel Flory and Eric Stewart.



3rd GRADE BOYS - NETHERLANDS

(L to R Front Row): Jake Mikalis, Drew Megibow, Theo Penn, Drew Felder, William Gray. (Middle Row): Cade Yen, Owen Lee, Alex King, Kellan Middleton, Tyler King, Reed Lusch. (Back Row): Coaches Erik King and George Lusch.



4th GRADE GIRLS - BRAZIL & NEW ZEALAND

(Brazil green jerseys L to R): Ashlyn McCoin, Avelyn Shin, Addison Davis, Ellie McCormick, Indiana Perry, Caity DeFrancisci, Ava De La Cruz, Ashby Raheer, Olivia Purpura, Coaches Erin McCoin and Nick Perry. (New Zealand black jerseys L to R): Coach Albert Won, Lyla McGlothlin, Josie Freese, Isla Olsen, Daric McSorley, Jasmin Taylor, Amelia Won, Kylie Kaplan, Sawyer Cain, Madison Chong, Coach Benjamin Singer, Clare Wolpert, Isla Hill, Olivia Singer.



4th GRADE BOYS - BRAZIL

(L to R Front Row): Santino Voltattorni, William Mrachek, Swift Peatross, Xavier Jones, Cade Winter, Teddy Mrachek. (Back Row): Coach Nate Jones, Kyle Sanftner, Julian Dengler, Jack LaPlante, Julian Alessandrini, Sawyer Strotzman, Charlie McIlwain, Coach Cesare Alessandrini.



5th/6th GRADE GIRLS - ENGLAND

(L to R): Coach Andy Berkes, Kaylie Niejadlik, Aurora Cruz, Rachel Levin, Teagan Woodford, Tori Gilbert, Zara San Gabriel, Clare Lenny, Libby Wong, Kinneri Vivek, Sarita Berkes, Maya Reed, Coach Christian Reed. (Not pictured): Taryn Stevenson.



5th/6th GRADE BOYS - NETHERLANDS

(L to R Front Row): Jude Middleton, Nolan Potts, Luca Potts, Rai Marchetti, Avi Grossman, AJ Hastings. (Back Row): Matthew Wen, William Whiting, Tucker Jones, Anthony Mullin, Noah Auffhammer, James Ryan, Stefano Severo. Coaches: Pete Marchetti (head), Amelita Potts, Jon Middleton



7th/8th GRADE GIRLS - ENGLAND

(L to R Front Row): Meila, Addi, Madison, Jordan, Lila, Charley. (Back Row): Marina, Talia, Addy, Avery, Addie, Carolyn, Mari, Lulu.



7th/8th GRADE BOYS - ENGLAND

(L to R Front Row): Harrison Fuller, Collin Malmquist, Alex Cortez, Ashton Sonne, Miles Clayton. (Middle Row): Evan Sverak, Henry Ross, Peter Thorn, Ben Whipple, Edwin Karlsson, Jeffrey Strause, Andrew Ekren. (Back Row): Coaches Bob Sverak and Jim Malmquist. (Not pictured): Liam Gallacher and Alessio Vaccaro.



www.lmyasports.com

MOL football champs



In alphabetical order by first name: Blake Frechman, Dylan Moran, Henry Golinveaux, Jack Deal, Jack Dorward, Jax Kippels, Joe Smith, Keagan Baldwin, Marcus Yakaitis, Nicholas Coburn, Stone Jaquet. Coaches: Paul Baldwin and Brian Frechman.

Submitted by Meighan Baldwin

MOL football just finished its 2019-20 season this past weekend- celebrating 50 years of tradition uniting the Lamorinda suburbs of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda in flag football sportsmanship.

The 3rd/4th grade PAC-12 division was won by the undefeated Oklahoma Sooners. Despite the swirling wind-storm and impending power outages and fires, the boys held steadfast in their commitment to the game, shutting out their worthy opponent the Utah Utes. It was a complete team effort all season with each player contributing to the team's overall success.

Tiger Cats win the 2019 5th/6th Grade MOL Super Bowl



First row: Weston Calegari, Grayson Dehner, Tyler Winkles, Jackson Boselli; Middle row: Bo Iverson, Merek Mastrov, Wilson Daughters, Cade Williamson, Brooks Butler, Austin Harris, Connor Eun, Sevan Kalpakjian; Last row: coach Troy Winkles, coach Bill Boselli

Submitted by Bill Boselli

On Oct. 27 on a wind-filled day, the

speedy Tiger Cats took down the ferocious Falcons 26-0 to win the 2019 MOL 5th/6th Grade Super Bowl.

'Hoop Shoot' Free Throw Contest, Dec. 8



A smiling Jenna Chan, age 9, of Moraga after winning the Elks West Regional Hoop Shoot Free Throw Contest in Las Vegas last March.

Submitted by Mike Rittenhouse

The 48th annual Walnut Creek Elks local Free Throw Contest will take place from 8:30 to 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 at De La Salle High School in Concord.

Boys and Girls age 8 through 13 are invited to participate. (Contestant's age group will be determined by their age as of April 1, 2020).

Certificates and prizes will be awarded to all participants and beautiful trophies will be awarded to the top three finishers of each boy and girl category.

Age group champions will have the right to represent our lodge area in the Elk's District, California, Regional and National championship events beginning next January. (We have had 10 California state champions during the past seven years).

Free to the public, there is no cost! Show up and register at the gym between 8:30-10:45 a.m. and shoot 25 free throws. Bring your brothers, sisters, friends and teammates. It will be a great, fun experience. (Check out Elks.org/Hoop Shoot and watch a video of the 2019 national finals.)

For further information, contact Coach Mike Rittenhouse, director: (925) 360-2900; coach_ritt@yahoo.com.

Ravens Win Super Bowl



Photo Ted Ting

Back row, from left: coach Jack Appleton, Will Appleton, Jack Mooradian, Anthony Sanguinetti, Everett Schumann, Sam Whipple, Jake Hawkins, Kurtis Hunter, Drew McKenzie, coach Chris Hunter; front row: Kobe Wong, Luke Bonardi, Tristan Kenber, Kyle Ting

Submitted by Chris Hunter

The seventh grade Ravens team won the Super Bowl to cap off an undefeated 9-0 season over the

weekend of Oct. 26 and 27. Head Coach Jack Appleton and Assistant Coach Chris Hunter appreciate the Ravens' great teamwork and selflessness.

State recognizes karate athletes



Cormac Maher, Elijah Santos, Stafford Williams, Marcos Reyes, Wayne Doing, Ethan Luo, Ryoma Durkee, Zac Kemp, Parsa Shayestah, Amir Pourasteh, Sophia Hong

Submitted by Thomas Westernoff

Eleven karate athletes from Karate & Fitness USA in Lafayette were recog-

nized by the State of California Assembly's office for their outstanding performances in the sport of karate. Each athlete was awarded a Certificate of Recognition.

Congratulations to the 11 athletes.

CAL MAGIC 2008 girls win Boofest tournament



Top row: coach Lucca, Sawyer Bohlig, Inara Inesi, Michela Barbano, Lillian Polkinhorn, Caroline Tumilty, Grace Eppinger, Sydney Gray, coach Tony Neto; bottom row: Grace Merell, Eve Copeland, Carina Trento, Camilla White, Tatum Keely, Lily Schmidt

Submitted by Anna Eppinger

The CAL Magic 2008 Girls Team won the Championship at the 7th Annual 2019 Boofest Tournament in Brentwood over the Oct. 26-27 weekend. While dealing with the

crazy winds on the field, they had tough competition in the finals against the Benicia Arsenal FC 2008 Girls Team but prevailed with a 6-2 score. Congratulations 2008 CAL Magic Girls for another amazing victory! Now the CAL Magic 2008 Girls head into a busy State Cup schedule.

Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

... read on Page D8

Prepping for a perfect Thanksgiving



Photo provided

By Amanda Eck

Can you believe we are just weeks away from the holidays? This year I am in charge of cooking for Thanksgiving. God help us! But with these great tips I am hoping to pull off a successful and satisfying holiday feast. (But I'm buying some frozen pizzas just in case!)

Decorating a beautiful Thanksgiving table is only part of the equation for a festive gathering. You'll also need to know where you'll seat everyone. Confirm your guest list and finalize your menu. Does anyone have special dietary needs? Do you need to rent or purchase a folding table and chairs for extra seating? Do you need a children's table? Who will you seat at each table? Do you have enough silverware, dinnerware, glasses and linens for everyone? Do you have any items that need cleaning or replacing? Does any silver need to be polished? It's so much easier to figure all of this out ahead of time!

If you're planning to host overnight guests, you'll be so glad if you take the time during these weeks prior to Thanksgiving to give your home a thorough cleaning. If you devote the time and energy to cleaning now, you'll be in a better position to give your home a quick once-over right before the big day. Cleaning out your freezer now will make room for any dishes that you can prepare ahead and freeze. Bonus – you'll already have room in your freezer for after Thanksgiving leftovers!

Many items can be made ahead and frozen – pie crusts, rolls, homemade stock and more. Just think how glad you'll be to only have to pull your already prepared dish from the freezer when you're ready to start cooking.

Things you should do to prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday:

Two weeks before:

- Clean out your freezer to make room for the turkey and any dishes you can prepare ahead of time and freeze.
- Beat the crowds and shop for nonperishable foods now.
- Pick up alcohol and nonalcoholic beverages.
- Plan your table setting and guests seating.
- Decide what serving dishes you will need and have them washed up and ready.
- Shop for dishware (Costco is great for bulk plastic ware, or HomeGoods and even the Dollar store for inexpensive dishes and glassware).
- Purchase frozen piecrust before all that's left are the broken ones (don't ask me how I know this).
- Do any deep cleaning now because the closer it gets to the day the less time and energy you'll have.

... continued on Page D4

VLATKA BATHGATE**COLDWELL
BANKER****GLOBAL
LUXURY**

CalBRE#01390784

**IF I HAD A BUYER FOR YOUR
HOME WOULD YOU SELL IT?**

Call me at 925 597 1573

Vlatka@BestLamorindaHomes.com

**HAPPY
Thanksgiving****Thank you to all my 2019 clients so far****Coming Soon!** 66 Heather Ln, Orinda Price upon Request
For Sale - 1 Aghalee Rd, Orinda Offered at \$2,700,000
Sale Pending - 285 Camino Pablo, Orinda**Represented Sellers**

124 Fiesta Cir, Orinda
64 Brookwood Rd, Orinda
2480 Carthage Dr, Concord
27 Knickerbocker Ln, Orinda
1349 Camino Pablo, Moraga
12 Jack Tree Knoll, Orinda
6 Southwaite Ct, Orinda
86 Hillcrest Dr, Orinda
1 Culver Ct, Orinda -tenant
3 Lucille Way, Orinda
289 Camino Pablo, Orinda - tenant
3840 Yorkshire St, San Leandro
7 El Toyonal, Orinda
6 Camino Del Cielo, Orinda
12 Spring Rd, Orinda
14 Oak Rd, Orinda

**Represented Buyers**

124 Fiesta Circle, Orinda
2129 Ascot Dr, Moraga
408 Tharp Dr, Moraga
3 Lucille Way, Orinda
12 Jack Tree Knoll, Orinda
634 Francisco Ct, Walnut Creek
1 Culver Ct, Orinda - tenant
285 Camino Pablo, tenant

Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	13	\$724,000	\$4,475,000
MORAGA	9	\$540,000	\$1,700,000
ORINDA	10	\$715,000	\$2,625,000

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

370 Castello Road, \$2,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 3364 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 09-26-19,
Previous Sale: \$2,000,000, 03-02-16
1057 Dolores Drive, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 1931 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 10-03-19,
Previous Sale: \$645,000, 02-02-11
1442 Huston Road, \$1,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 2851 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 10-01-19,
Previous Sale: \$760,000, 11-04-04
3205 Iris Court, \$1,071,500, 4 Bdrms, 1695 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 09-26-19
951 Janet Lane, \$1,170,000, 3 Bdrms, 1703 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 09-23-19,
Previous Sale: \$690,000, 05-19-11
3250 Judith Lane, \$1,630,000, 3 Bdrms, 1953 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 10-02-19,
Previous Sale: \$768,500, 04-16-03
3467 Monroe Avenue, \$1,508,000, 3 Bdrms, 2264 SqFt, 1916 YrBlt, 10-04-19
828 Mountain View Drive, \$1,945,000, 3 Bdrms, 2432 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 10-02-19,
Previous Sale: \$702,000, 02-22-11
69 My Road, \$4,475,000, 5 Bdrms, 6601 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 09-27-19
2608 Pebble Beach Loop, \$925,000, 4 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 09-27-19,
Previous Sale: \$762,000, 06-09-14
1580 Sharon Circle, \$724,000, 4 Bdrms, 1537 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 09-24-19,
Previous Sale: \$745,000, 07-18-19
1206 Vacation Drive, \$1,303,000, 3 Bdrms, 1565 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 09-30-19,
Previous Sale: \$925,000, 06-18-14
1025 Willow Drive, \$1,082,000, 4 Bdrms, 1476 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 09-27-19,
Previous Sale: \$940,000, 09-05-19

MORAGA

1157 Alta Mesa Drive, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1954 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-01-19,
Previous Sale: \$148,000, 06-01-78
1958 Ascot Drive, \$540,000, 2 Bdrms, 1234 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 10-02-19,
Previous Sale: \$515,000, 10-15-05
2129 Ascot Drive #1, \$700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1643 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 10-02-19,
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 06-06-17
1349 Camino Pablo, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2443 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 09-26-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 12-07-17
122 Corliss Drive, \$1,485,000, 4 Bdrms, 2959 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 09-24-19,
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 04-28-99
171 Cypress Point Way, \$1,595,000, 3 Bdrms, 2708 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 09-27-19,
Previous Sale: \$925,000, 08-29-08
14 Hammond Place, \$1,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 2910 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 10-04-19
235 Paseo Del Rio, \$1,700,000, 7 Bdrms, 2938 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 10-01-19,
Previous Sale: \$530,000, 06-01-91
140 Walford Drive, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2190 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-01-19,
Previous Sale: \$685,000, 02-22-00

ORINDA

133 Ardith Drive, \$1,360,000, 3 Bdrms, 1768 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 09-24-19
29 Camino Del Monte, \$715,000, 3 Bdrms, 1728 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 09-26-19
3 Honey Hill Court, \$2,625,000, 5 Bdrms, 3985 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 09-30-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,905,000, 09-11-00
659 Ironbark Circle, \$1,540,000, 3 Bdrms, 3122 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 10-03-19,
Previous Sale: \$749,000, 07-02-99
3 Mariposa Lane, \$1,480,000, 4 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 09-23-19,
Previous Sale: \$895,000, 07-22-11
52 Muth Drive, \$1,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 2759 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 09-23-19,
Previous Sale: \$750,000, 04-05-04
122 Ravenhill Road, \$995,000, 2 Bdrms, 2116 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 09-26-19
42 Tara Road, \$1,280,000, 4 Bdrms, 1752 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 09-23-19,
Previous Sale: \$839,000, 08-13-04
57 Tomcat Way, \$2,406,000, 4 Bdrms, 3538 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 09-27-19,
Previous Sale: \$24,440,000, 12-23-15
6 Westwood Court, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2986 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 10-04-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,798,000, 06-15-17

WWW.DUDUM.COM

LAMORINDA
999 OAK HILL RD., #100
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549
925.284.1400

WALNUT CREEK
1910 OLYMPIC BLVD., #100
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596
925.937.4000

DANVILLE
100 RAILROAD AVE., #A
DANVILLE, CA 94523
925.800.3510

BRENTWOOD
60 EAGLE ROCK WAY, #B
BRENTWOOD, CA 94513
925.420.5717

ADAM HAMALIAN



925.708.5630
DRE# 01917597

CHRISTINA LINEZO



415.425.3085
DRE# 01964989

JOHN FONDAZIO



925.817.9053
DRE# 01938194

JULIE DEL SANTO
BROKER/OWNER



925.818.5500
DRE# 01290985

LISA TICHENOR



925.285.1093
DRE# 01478540

MATT McLEOD



925.464.6500
DRE# 01310057

905 DEWING AVE., LAFAYETTE CALL FOR PRICE



MARY PISCITELLI/PETER GILLIS 925.765.9095

22 TOLEDO COURT, LAFAYETTE \$5,795,000



BRYAN HURLBUT/JULIE DEL SANTO 925.383.5500

3384 MILDRED LANE, LAFAYETTE \$1,425,000



JANE SMITH 925.998.1914

5 HEATHER LANE, ORINDA \$3,998,000



MARY PISCITELLI/PETER GILLIS 925.765.9095

1837 CHAPARRO CT., WALNUT CREEK \$1,695,000



HURLBUT TEAM 925.383.5500

10 DORAL DRIVE, MORAGA \$967,000



HURLBUT TEAM 925.383.5500

148 ERSELIA TRAIL, ALAMO \$2,288,000



ZOCCHI & ASSOCIATES 925.788.5942

143 BIRCHBARK PLACE, DANVILLE \$1,575,000



MATT McLEOD 925.464.6500

1046 BROWN AVENUE, LAFAYETTE \$1,100,000



TINA FRECHMAN 925.915.0851

BRYAN HURLBUT



925.383.5500
DRE# 01347508

JANE SMITH



925.998.1914
DRE# 01476506

JOY WIEHN



415.377.1884
DRE# 02047712

LAUREN DEAL
HURLBUT TEAM



925.876.4671
DRE#02060294

MARY PISCITELLI



925.765.9095
DRE# 01426129

LET'S GIVE THANKS
WITH A GRATEFUL HEART.

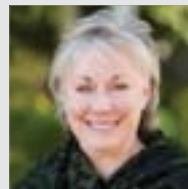
Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at Dudum Real Estate Group

RACHEL DREYER



415.990.1672
DRE# 01994561

SHERRY HUTCHENS



925.212.7617
DRE# 01320608

TERESA ZOCCHI



925.360.8662
DRE# 01907345

TINA FRECHMAN



925.915.0851
DRE# 01970768

VALERIE DURANTINI



415.999.6116
DRE# 01376796

Prepping for a perfect Thanksgiving



Photos provided



... continued from Page D1

One week before:

- Shop for heartier vegetables like potatoes, carrots, butternut squash, etc.
- Wash and iron any linen if you plan to use them.
- Shop for candles or any other tabletop décor.
- If you are having little ones over, think about purchasing some games or fun trinkets from the Dollar store to have at the kid's table to keep them busy before dinner is served.
- Ask for help! Reach out to other guest and assign them a side dish or ask if they would be willing to help with meal prep or clean up after the meal.
- If you are having out of town guests, prepare the guest bedroom with fresh linens, towels, soap, etc.
- Do your normal weekly cleaning- mopping, dusting, vacuuming, etc. now and you'll only need to do a quick once-over the day before the big day.

Three days ahead:

- Clear out space in the refrigerator to defrost the turkey.

- Set the table. I like to have my tables set and my serving dishes out days before the event so that I can focus on my guest the day of.
- Use Post-it notes to place on serving dishes so when you have others helping you the day of you won't be bombarded with questions of "where should I put the potatoes?"

Two days ahead:

- Purchase fresh flowers for centerpieces or for the front entry to welcome guests.
- Make pies or any other dishes that can be kept in the freezer or fridge.
- If you haven't set the table, do it now. You may have to eat in the living room or on portable tray tables, but it is worth it not having to stress the day of.

One day before:

Start to make sides that will reheat well, like casseroles or creamed onions. Prep garnishes, toppings, salad greens and stuffing ingredients. Cook soups and let cool before storing in the refrigerator if you didn't freeze any options in advance. If your stuffing recipe calls for stale bread, cut the bread now and set the cubes on a baking sheet to dry out. You can go ahead and make your pies, especially Ree Drummond's Pecan Pie that needs to cool overnight for a natural do-ahead dessert.

Thanksgiving Day

Our family tradition, after our Thanksgiving meal, is to go around the table and say what we are thankful for in the past year and what we are looking forward to in the year to come. It's a great way to end the meal in an inspirational way and the kiddos love being a part of it as well.

Take 10 minutes before guests arrive to meditate or think of all the things you are grateful for. Yes, the holidays for many can be stressful: Aunt Bertha who always complains about the meal or Cousin George who just can't seem to keep quiet about politics, or the moody teenager who sits crossed-armed at the table glaring at everyone; at the end of the day they are all still family and we are grateful they are here on this earth with us.

I hope these tips help you stay on top of your holiday gathering. And from our family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!

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

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

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





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.



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.



Paddy Kehoe

925.878.5869
 paddy@paddykehoeteam.com
 DRE 01894345



Claudia Gohler

925.765.8081
 claudia.gohler@compass.com
 DRE 01995498



Mary Statten

925.890.6875
 mary.statten@compass.com
 DRE 01947354



Dave Schurhoff

925.997.9569
 dave.schurhoff@compass.com
 DRE 01834201



Leslie Lomond

650.799.2110
 leslie.lomond@compass.com
 DRE 01968517

COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, and availability without notice. This advertisement is not intended to solicit property already listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.



LISTINGS FROM THE OLSEN TEAM

ACTIVE LISTINGS



1003 Woodbury Rd. No. 207, Lafayette - \$995,000
SELLER REP



147 Donald Drive, Moraga - \$1,595,000
SELLER REP

PENDING



15 LaSalle Drive, Moraga - \$995,000
SELLER REP

PENDING



105 Devin Drive, Moraga - \$1,195,000
SELLER REP

JUST SOLD!



1163 Larch Avenue, Moraga
\$1,425,000 Buyer Rep



28 Lynwood Place, Moraga
Listed at \$1,475,000 Buyer/Seller Rep



397 James Bowie Court, Alamo
Listed at \$1,498,000 Buyer Rep



209 Sonora Road, Moraga
Listed at \$2,172,000 Buyer Rep



BEN OLSEN



SUE OLSEN



LORI TRUE



ERIN KELLY



BEN ROJAS



The Olsen Team
925.200.6000

Mail@TheOlsenTeam.com | DRE #01409268





LOVING LAS TRAMPAS -
Updated trails home

SOPHISTICATED AND STYLISH-
Glorious in Glorietta



871 Las Trampas Road, Lafayette

± 2201 sq. ft, 4 beds + office, 3 baths, .81 acres
871lastrampasrd.com | \$1,249,500

257 Overhill Road, Orinda

± 2400 Sq. Ft. 4 bed + office, 2.5 bath .31 acres
OPEN SUN 1-4PM | \$1,995,000 |
www.257overhillroad.com



Emily Estrada
Village Associates
925.708.8116
emily@amyrosesmith.com
www.amyrosesmith.com
CalBRE# 01942438

FINDING THE *Right* FIT



AMYROSESMITH

Amy Rose Smith
Village Associates
925.212.3897
amy@amyrosesmith.com
www.amyrosesmith.com
CalBRE: #01855959



villageassociates.com | @villageassociates



925.254.0505 | **It's Village. Of Course.**



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for November

A time to plant ... a time to reap



Photos Cynthia Brian

Leaves on this maple are modeling their autumn wardrobe.

By Cynthia Brian

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

With the power disruptions and fire fears of October in our rearview mirrors, we welcome November with open arms and grateful hearts. It won't be long before the rains arrive. Driving or walking throughout the region, we witness a marvelous display of fall foliage as leaves on many deciduous trees turn from green to saffron to tangerine to crimson before dropping to the ground.

Time to fertilize heavily. In autumn, plants quit sending minerals and water to leaves and blooms. The nutrients are instead directed to increase the roots while storing food for the winter months. We witness the foliage color change to our great delight

When you fertilize at this time of year, you'll be feeding your trees, shrubs, plants and lawns. This dormant feeding is crucial for the success of your garden for the following seasons. The roots are busy storing nourishment even though the above-ground growth has halted. It's best to do this heavy feeding after the first rain to assist the fertilizer to go deeper into the ground. ... continued on next Page



Fibrous wax leaf begonias are still blooming. When flowers fade, cut back, but don't remove.

... continued from Page D8

The soil is still warm and will soak up the fertilizer.

Time to feed lawns. Lawns especially need fertilizing now. The blade growth has slowed, a signal that roots are digging deeper. Gradually start mowing your lawn shorter and fertilize heavily to prepare the grass for the long cold months ahead. There is still time to aerate if your clay soil is compacted. After the first rain is a good time to reseed grass or install new sod. Make a personal batch of grass patch by mixing a bag of potting soil in a wheelbarrow with enough lawn seed until you see 20 or more seeds per handful. Scratch or till any bare patches, scatter the seed over the fresh soil, rake lightly, water, and wait for the seedlings to sprout. Keep the area damp until grass is established. Do not let it dry out.

Time to prune dead branches and rake leaves. No plant or tree is fireproof.

Dead branches, dry leaves, and grasses are highly flammable. Reduce fuel laddering by pruning trees 6-10 feet from the ground and several feet from roofs. A person should be able to walk under a tree without being hit by a branch. Clean out your gutters, eaves, porches and decks.

... continued on Page D10



Brazilian feijoa pineapple guavas are self-harvesting. Scoop out the center to eat.

PREMIER KITCHENS

Your vision
brought to life.

From **cabinets** to **countertops**,
there is no project too big or
small for our team.

Schedule a meeting or give us a call!

(925) 283-6500

3373 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Lafayette, CA 94549

info@premierkitchens.net

www.premierkitchens.net

Wood·Mode
FINE CUSTOM CABINETRY



columbia
CABINETS

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for November



Fall leaves falling on pansies.



A colorful array of succulents adds drought and fire resistance to a garden.

... continued from Page D9

Time to watch for rodents and skunks. It's mating season for rodents and skunks. The recent fires have impacted wildlife movement allowing animals to migrate closer to residential development, including a plethora of rats. Vector Control Inspector Joe Cleope alerted me about the new procedures and protocols instigated in the district. Many people don't know that Vector Control is a free service. If you have a question or concern, please visit the website for assistance. <https://www.contracostamosquito.com>.

Time to plant garlic. Vampires may not like garlic, but foodies do! Planting just a dozen cloves will yield you a harvest of more than 120 cloves. A bulb has several cloves to break apart before planting in a sunny location in rich, well-drained soil. Put the pointy side up and the flat side down, cover the cloves with a layer of mulch, and they will multiply forming a new bulb. Harvesting will be late summer when the tops have yellowed. You can then tie or braid the stalks or cut the leaves above the bulb. Always save a large bulb for the next year of planting.

Time to harvest and eat pineapple guavas. Called feijoa, the fruit is self-harvesting. It falls from the tree when ripe, however, you can also pick the fruit. When cut, a fully ripened feijoa will have clear-colored jellied sections. If not ripe, put in a brown paper bag for

a few days with an apple. Scoop out the sweet/tart jelly and eat raw or make jams, sauces, glazes, or add to salads. The perfume from the fruit is as delicious as the fruit!

Time to cut hydrangea blossoms. If you enjoy drying the flowers of hydrangeas, November is a perfect month to do so. If not, once the flowers fade, cut back the stems to encourage new growth.

Time to plant succulents. Succulents are drought and fire-resistant. Many boast beautiful flowers, unique shapes, and striped striations. Planting a selection in one designated area presents a bigger impact of form, texture and color.

Time to pick grapes. The crops of grapes have come to season's end. If you still have bunches hanging on the vine, take the opportunity to cut them to refrigerate or dehydrate. Use the red-hued leaves in your autumn decorations and place settings.

Time to give thanks. We all have so much for which to be grateful. As Thanksgiving nears, take time to express your appreciation for the blessings and gifts you have received. Remember the people in your life that have been there for you on all occasions ... the good, the bad, and the ugly.

To everything there is a season and now is the time to turn, turn, turn.

Happy gardening. Happy growing.



Dainty pink lace cap hydrangeas make excellent dried arrangements.



Cynthia Brian takes a respite at the beach.

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. Buy a copy of her books, Growing with the Goddess Gardener and Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers at www.StarStyleStore.net Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

McDonnell Nursery

Christmas trees coming Thanksgiving week

family owned since 1933

Holiday Open House

Thursday November 14 from 5:00 -7:30

Refreshments, Door prizes, Special pricing and free gift wrapping

196 Moraga Way • Orinda • (925) 254-3713 • Open Daily

LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

ORINDA



6 Linda Vista

Incredible opportunity to design and build a home in this fine enclave of Orinda Country Club properties.

\$499,900

ORINDA



New Listing!

145 Meadow Lane

Fabulous opportunity! Fixer on almost flat 1/3 acre. Approved plans for new home included.

\$899,000

ORINDA



8 Charles Hill Circle

Large 4320 sqft 6 bed/ 3.5 bath Orinda family home with separate in-law accommodations.

\$1,550,000

ORINDA



19 Donald Drive

Serene 3460 sqft garden oasis with panoramic views, luxurious interiors & numerous meditative retreats.

\$1,795,000

ORINDA



11 Crestview Court

Bold modern Mediterranean inspired villa. Ideal for privacy & Luxury. Open floor plan and panoramic views.

\$1,899,000

ORINDA



161 Holly Lane

Custom contemporary 5 bed/ 4.5 bath home on .58 acres with panoramic views of Mt. Diablo.

\$1,975,000

ORINDA



383 Miner Road

East Coast meets West Coast! Orinda Country Club Cape Cod home on 1.32 acres, updated.

\$2,550,000

ORINDA



48 Oak Drive

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

\$2,599,000

LAFAYETTE



871 Las Trampas

Sea Ranch inspired custom contemporary home with newly remodeled kitchen, master bedroom, & hardwood floors.

\$1,295,000

MORAGA



806 Augusta Drive

Updated single level 3 bed/ 2 bath home on Moraga Country Club golf course. Close to schools & trails.

\$1,200,000

WALNUT CREEK



1341 Leisure Lane #4

Beautifully updated, sought after level-in Yosemite model, 2 bed/ 1.5 bath. Perfect for privacy. Views!

\$525,000

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing!

1310 Creekside Dr #101

Open & airy 2 bed/ 2 bath condo with an updated kitchen & spacious master bedroom. Close to Broadway Plaza & Iron Horse Trail.

\$669,000

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

facebook.com/VillageAssociates
twitter.com/villageassoc
instagram.com/VillageAssociates

93 Moraga Way, Suite 103 • Orinda, CA 94563 • Phone: (925) 254-0505

Visit www.villageassociates.com Click on [Sunday Open Homes](#)

Village

ASSOCIATES

It's Village. Of Course.

DRE#01301392