

Amabile School of Music hopes to hit a high note in Moraga



Amabile School of Music owner, Teresa Yu

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Amabile is an Italian musical term for

a directive to a musician to perform the indicated passage of a composition in a charming, gracious or amiable

manner. Whether she knew it or not, owner Teresa Yu chose a name that perfectly describes her.

Yu plays piano and has a master's degree in piano performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Having successfully opened her flagship business in San Francisco during 2008, Yu, a native of Taiwan, and her family moved to Orinda two years ago. She describes herself as "a local mom with two kids," while stating with pride, "The school in San Francisco has over 300 students and 25 teachers." Opening a second music school, on Jan. 11 in Moraga at 920 Country Club Dr., Suite 1B, comes with big plans for continued success.

"My own children will be taking piano lessons here," Yu said.

Amabile offers lessons to children as young as 4 years old, adults and seniors. Her roster of instructors all have college music degrees and experience working with students of all ages. Lessons in piano, guitar, violin, ukelele, cello, drums, trumpet and bass guitar are offered along with voice lessons. Yu assures neighbors

that sound checks were done in order to be acoustically compliant regarding noise levels.

Private lessons are available for anyone 5 years and older. Yu believes in a reward system and gives her students colored wrist bands for every level of achievement much like a karate belt. Certificates and personalized trophies are awarded as well.

In order to assure that students are comfortable with their choice, Amabile offers an initial free-trial lesson. In addition, any student who gives a new client referral gets a free 30-minute lesson. Also, multiple family members can have lessons scheduled during the same time period.

"Once the school becomes established, we will give classical performances of interest to various age group audiences," Yu said. "We will also do local outreach by having six recitals a year and send students to senior centers for performances."

For more information regarding hours of operation and rates visit: www.amabilemusic.org or call (925) 376-6328.

Kymerleigh Korpus: Her journey to becoming mayor of Moraga

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or raise taxes to avoid the first two scenarios.

By acknowledging the many challenges that Moraga faced in 2019, Korpus is inspired by the possibilities on the horizon for 2020. She hopes to make the coming year one of reflection and re-prioritization while taking pride in the many accomplishments achieved.

"For the last few years, Moraga has been caught in a nonstop disaster, recovery and aversion mode that has finally started to taper off in the last six months," Korpus stated. "In addition, during the past year we've been focused on a deep exploration and analysis of town operations, finances and unfunded needs."

"So, with all of the work that we've been doing over the last few years," she

stated, "we seem to be primed this next year to take some extra time to reflect and reprioritize as we make decisions and plans that we hope will set the town up for years to come - to deliver quality services and meet the community's needs."

Stressing the importance of serving the community, Korpus encourages citizens to serve on the various commissions and committees that currently

have openings. She also reminds residents of the three seats on the town council coming up for election in November. She is more than happy to answer any questions from potential candidates. "I want to encourage people with passion and vision for this town to step forward and offer to use their brains and skills in service to the town at this crucial time - because Moraga needs them."

MOFD fire marshal increases staff

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But Isaacs focused on his two main overall goals for the coming year: Bringing the community up to speed on the requirements of the aggressive new MOFD fire code, and proper community planning to mitigate major fire hazards.

According to Isaacs, the enforcement of the new fire code will limit the number of district structures that would be lost in a major fire event. And though he recognizes the importance of global enforcement, Isaacs stressed that implementing the changes will be done at a sustainable pace, with the emphasis on voluntary compliance.

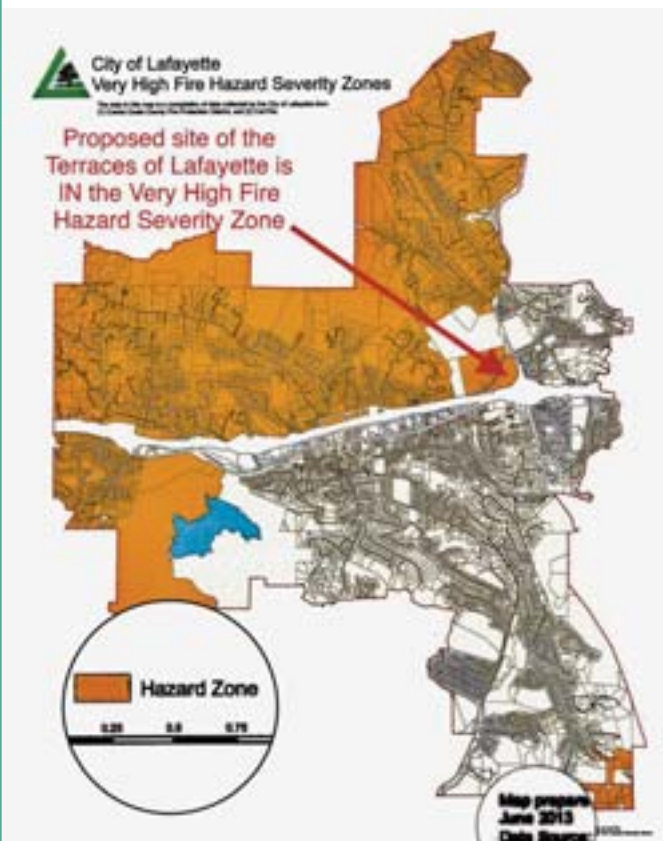
Code enforcement is only part of the district fire hazard planning, which Isaacs said also includes defensible space guidelines, intelligent land use planning and other fuels mitigation efforts. "How we develop our fire communities to be fire adaptive is the key," Isaacs said. "A fire should be able to tear through a neighborhood and not de-

stroy the neighborhood."

Isaacs conceded that changing the behavior of owners of the 14,000 district parcels will not be easy. "We have a lot to do," he said. "We intend to do everything we can to have this community rise into the upper echelon of fire safety."

SAVE LAFAYETTE

Urgent:
The Terraces
Massive Apartment
Project Now Being
Reviewed by the City



A new state law limits city review to 5 public meetings over a maximum of 90 days - the first occurred on January 21.

Stay informed and participate! Come to the meetings! Invite your friends!

- voice your concerns to the City
- hear what other residents think of this proposal
- learn more about the development impacts

Email the City Council stating your position c/o jrobbins@ci.lafayette.ca.us



Here are some of the major issues:

- 1. A massive apartment complex currently proposed at the busy traffic intersection of Pleasant Hill and Deer Hill Roads:**
 - 14 apartment buildings, 315 units
 - Leasing office + clubhouse; 550 parking spaces
 - Removal of up to 92 trees (60+ heritage trees already removed)
 - 500,00 cubic yards of dirt movement requires **80,000 dump truck trips** - Deer Hill Rd impacted for months!
 - 2. The site is in a very high fire hazard severity zone**, as declared in Ordinance 620, adopted by the City (2013). New state laws may restrict housing in such zones.
 - 3. The legal agreement between the developer and the City on this project expired years ago, per state law. Project should not be considered by the City Council.**
 - 4. More traffic** congestion and air pollution, with public safety getting worse. First Responders gave Pleasant Hill Rd an "F" years ago - Terraces would add 3,000+ daily car trips.
 - 5. The project does not comply with Lafayette's General Plan, Hillside ordinances. This is a dangerous precedent-setting proposal**, which, if approved, could allow similar massive developments anywhere in the City, without the option for voter referendum/lawsuits.
 - 6. Conflict of interest:** The City chose TJKM, a traffic planning firm, to do an updated traffic study, even though it knows TJKM recently was on the payroll of the Terraces developer, O'Brien Land Co.
 - 7. Lafayette has an approved Housing Element through 2022 and will meet its moderate affordable housing requirement soon** with other pending projects.
 - 8. Local Lafayette schools are already crowded.** Terraces children will (1) displace current Lafayette students or (2) attend school elsewhere in Lafayette, thereby increasing traffic.
- The City did a great job last month, rejecting a car wash across from the proposed Terraces site. Let's ensure they do the same with the Terraces and protect us.**



www.SaveLafayette.org

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To donate, please send a check to: Save Lafayette,
PO Box 1183, 3641 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette CA 94549