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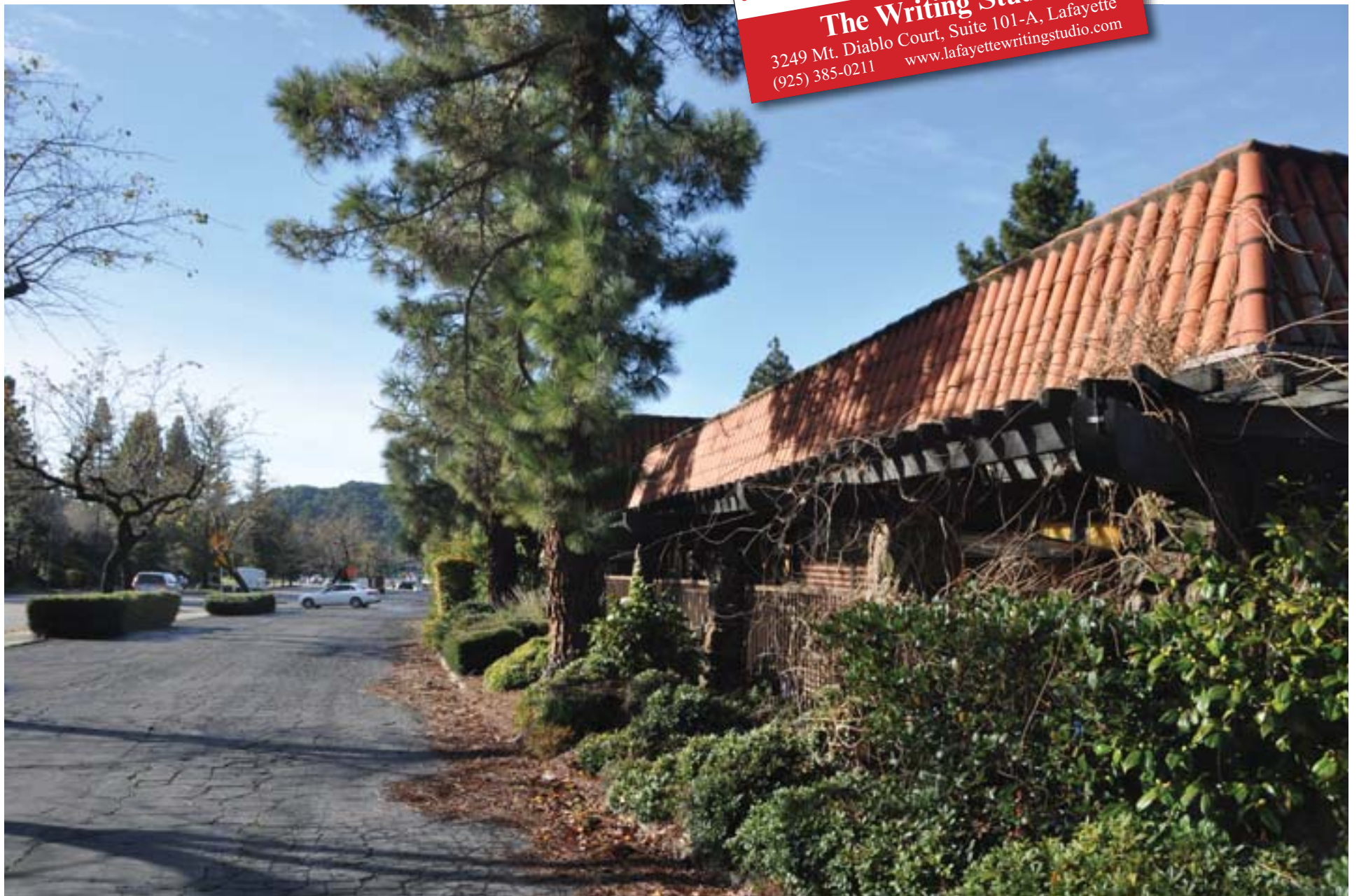
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A lot of work needs to be done around this structure under the newly proposed fire code. Photo Andy Scheck

MOFD chief proposes aggressive, radical fire code

By Nick Marnell

With California wildfires increasing in their rage and frequency, and with the entire response area of the district defined as in a Wildland Urban Interface, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winkacker proposed a drastically revised fire code

which will affect existing parcels, remodels and new development in Moraga, Orinda, and unincorporated sections of Contra Costa County that fall within district boundaries.

"I've not seen anything quite like this," said district President Steven Danziger, after the chief presented the updated code at two recent governing board meetings and at a public meeting in Orinda.

The new code proposes the district weed abatement compliance date be pushed up from June 15 to May 31, with the actual abatement period extended from 10 to 15 days. For existing parcels, eucalyptus and Monterey pine trees within 6 feet of a structure must be removed, and all new developments must use ember resistant construction.

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Residents pull together to restore native planting on creek banks



Residents showed up in force Jan. 12 to get the job done. Photo Pippa Fisher

By Pippa Fisher

Gathered next to Sotheby's Realty on Mt. Diablo Boulevard toward Lafayette's western end on a recent Sunday morning, a group of about 30 willing and able folks of all ages were eager to help with a planting project on the banks of the creek.

With some background knowledge delivered to the assembled group by John Zentner, chairman of the board for the Restoration Trust – an Oakland-based organization whose mission is to assist in restoration of land to native conditions and to promote native habitats – the volunteers got to work in small groups to plant native grasses, replacing the highly invasive, non-native plant, arundo.

Zentner explained how arundo, first planted by early European immigrants, has grown out of control especially along the creeks and is a flood and fire hazard that chokes out native, perennial plants, which are naturally more fire resistant and which provide food, shelter and breeding habitat for wildlife.

Armed with small trowels, the volunteers planted creeping wild rye on the sunnier upper edges of the creek and Santa Barbara sedge and field sedge lower down near the water.

... continued on Page A3

Lamorinda Weekly website

Our Website has temporarily moved to www.lamorindanews.com. We are working on a solution to bring back all of our archived content. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience.

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Staff to oversee Orinda Downtown Precise Plan - Page A6	Lafayette native joins fire fight in Australia -- Page B3	Lamorinda girls soccer battle in Diablo League - Page C1	Preparing the home for Chinese New Year - Page D1
Fire Districts A8			HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR! 2020 YEAR OF THE RAT



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Skinner letter prompts outrage



Council Member Cam Burks

Photo Pippa Fisher

By Pippa Fisher

A letter to the mayor from State Sen. Nancy Skinner prompted outrage from at least one council member at the Jan. 13 Lafayette City Council meeting. The council postponed a decision on how to respond and continued the matter until the next meeting on Jan. 27.

Council Member Cam Burks said that he has never been more outraged as he referred to what he called

the “height of abuse of power” from Skinner’s “interference in an active land-use application.”

In her Dec. 11 letter, Skinner reminded the mayor of several housing bills she authored, especially Senate Bill 330, which limits the authority of a local government to downzone to reduce the number of housing units allowed, specifically mentioning the controversial proposed development known as the

Terraces. “The provisions of both SB 167 and SB 330 likely impact not only the Terraces project but any project consistent with local zoning.” The letter ends, “Thank you for your consideration.”

“I consider the senator’s actions representative of the highest abuse of power of an elected official,” says Burks. “Her ending statement in the letter, ‘Thank you for your consideration,’ implies that the city must approve the application in her ‘opinion.’ Indeed, she goes so far as to state in her letter actions that our city has taken in the past on land use, under our lawful right. The hubris is insulting, and the corresponding unethical corruption in my view is egregious.”

Burks questioned whether the letter compromises the application now that an active member of the state legislature has “interfered and threatened action against our city if we deny the project.” He stressed that he believes any reasonable person would absolutely consider that as implied in her letter and he called for “a formal council-backed ethics complaint to the California Department of Justice’s Special Investigations Team; the State Senate Select Committee on Ethics; and possibly the U.S. Attorneys Office for the Northern

District of California/U.S. Department of Justice’s Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section – formal allegations of corruption and willful, with intent, unethical actions against a local jurisdiction.”

Additionally Burks wants an investigation on how this letter came to be, saying that somebody, or possibly a group, had to lobby her to do this. “I’m particularly interested in understanding who engaged the senator to compel her to write this letter and I think our community absolutely deserves to know this,” he said.

Burks expressed deep disappointment in both State Sen. Steve Glazer’s and Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan’s silence on the letter. “Our representatives should be protecting us from this type of behavior from one of their colleagues,” he said.

While Vice Mayor Susan Candell said she could not agree more and called for legal action, Council Member Teresa Gerringer took a more cautious approach, saying she would like more information especially from Robert Hodil, the outside attorney hired by the council to advise on the Terraces and who was not present at this meeting, specifically on any impact on the open application. Mayor Mike

Anderson said that while he understood Burks’ concerns, he too wanted more information before making any decision that could have “significant ramifications.”

The Terraces, which would sit on a 22-acre parcel on Deer Hill Road, was first proposed in March 2011 but its application was suspended in 2014 in favor of alternative plans for a scaled back development of 44 single-family homes, and amenities. Local preservationist group Save Lafayette sued the city, resulting in a referendum on the future of the revised project. With the defeat of Measure L in 2018, the developer O’Brien Homes resumed the original application for the 315-unit apartment project and the city council rezoned the property to low-density single-family residential to bring it in line with the general plan.

A motion to continue the matter to the Jan. 27 agenda when Council Member Steven Bliss will also be present to weigh in, along with Hodil, was unanimous.

Note: The Terraces was on the agenda for the Jan. 21 Planning Commission and Transportation and Circulation Commission meeting, taking place after this issue of Lamorinda Weekly had gone to print.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings Acalanes Union High School District

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m.
 AUHSD Board Room
 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Laf.
 www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
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A celebration dinner will be held on March 13 at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa to honor the winner! The deadline for submitting nominations is at 1 p.m. Feb. 5.

Nominations can be sent to nominations@lamorindaweekly.com or jay@lafayettechamber.org.

Residents pull together to restore native planting on creek banks



Photo Pippa Fisher

Mayor Mike Anderson (left) shares a joke with Restoration Trust Board Chairman John Zentner as they work.

... continued from Page A1

Members of Girl Scout Troop 33137 took part, working toward their Silver Award along with members of the Youth Commission and members of the Creeks Committee, together with Lafayette Mayor Mike Anderson and City Council Member Teresa Gerring.

The event is the result of the Lafayette Creeks Committee's work to secure financial support from the Walnut Creek Watershed Council and matching funds from the city. The funding made it possible to hire contractors through the Restoration Trust to remove the arundo prior to this planting event, and to pay for the replacement of native plants. Creeks Committee Member Jeff Gilman explained that labor and ongoing maintenance will be handled by volunteers in the future.

There are several areas along the creeks that need this type of restoration work. Gilman says this particular area was chosen for the first event for its central location and visibility, and that there will be signage to mark the spot and draw public attention to the work.

Creeks Committee Chairman Will Elder was very happy with the strong turnout of volunteers. "We had a waiting list for this event," said Elder, who noted that the plan will be to go all the way along the creek toward the reservoir.

Anderson agrees. "This first phase of the Lafayette creek restoration project was a great success with so many Lafayette residents working together and having a good time; while making a significant and lasting improvement to our city," he said. "What a perfect start for a truly beneficial project."



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Moraga's Planning Department hires new administrative assistant



Photo Vera Kochan

Planning Dept. Administrative Assistant Raquel Segovia

By Vera Kochan

For first-time visitors to the town offices in Rheem,

Raquel Segovia is often mistaken as the building's receptionist due to her desk's location. However, the new administrative assistant for the Planning Department is much more than that.

Segovia holds a degree in business administration/marketing management from Cal State East Bay. She has over 20 years of experience in the business field, and one of her earlier jobs was working over 12 years for the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco. "I worked for the IT Department and Disaster Recovery Business Resumption for the bank," she explained. "We were responsible to keep things operating in case of a disaster such as an earthquake." Her most recent work experiences were with the cities of Pinole and Rich-

mond.

Hired in late September, Segovia has jumped right into her position as a primary point of public contact for the Planning Department. "Most inquiries are concerning plans," she said. "People want to do a modification for a home or business and want to know the procedures. I help educate the customers and then direct them to a planner for technical support. I'm the first level of communication."

Besides managing the front counter for customer inquiries and phone calls, she assembles packets for Planning Commission meetings, prepares rooms for meetings, handles accounting functions and performs support duties for the department.

When asked to compare working for Moraga as op-

posed to larger cities, Segovia replied, "I like working for a small town like Moraga, because I get to meet more people, and it's family oriented." As far as the job goes, "if I need anything to perform my duties, I don't have to go through a lot of red tape. I work with a good group of people in the Planning Department. They're very supportive and help me out when I need it. On my first day, the town manager introduced herself, and I felt very accepted. That was nice."

Segovia commutes to work from El Sobrante, but was familiar with the town thanks to friends who live here. "I love Moraga," she said. "It's such a unique place and really beautiful."

Unfunded Needs Assessments survey results

By Vera Kochan

The town of Moraga gave its citizens the opportunity to weigh in where tax dollars should be spent. There were two community outreach meetings at the Hacienda de las Flores and one during a Kiwanis meeting, all held in December. The town also informed the public through the About Town newsletter, the town website, and on social media platforms. Additionally, Lamorinda Weekly's Dec. 11 issue contained an article urging residents to fill out the survey. In a town whose population contains approximately 17,000 people,

only 26 surveys were turned in as of Jan. 8.

Town staff is seeking public input involving three top priority areas: capital asset replacement; California Public Employees' Retirement System unfunded pension liability; and the Storm Drain Master Plan.

With regards to capital asset replacement, the town's services are asset dependent. Parks, the library, the Hacienda, town offices, landscaping, police vehicles and public works trucks are just some of the town's major capital assets.

The town's unfunded pension liability is the gap between the amount of future

benefits a pension fund is expected to pay out and the assets presently in the pension fund.

The Storm Drain Master Plan involves visual and closed-circuit television inspections, debris cleanup and repairs to damaged storm drain pipes.

The feedback questionnaire allowed residents to prioritize each need according to a low, medium or high order of importance. With only 26 citizens weighing in, it is difficult to properly assess ratings; however all but the area of pension liability were ranked by respondents at a medium to high level of importance. Pension liability

ranking at low to medium based on the surveys received.

The feedback survey also gave ample space for comments, and responses involving the Storm Drain issue included, "Mother Nature is hitting Moraga with a vengeance. Fire, earthquakes, power outages, etc. Let's not add floods to the mix." Others stated, "We clearly need to get this done, experiencing another significant failure is not an option." And, "The storm drain issue isn't new, it's just been ignored. Not good policy - which is why we have the problems we have now."

In comments involving capital assets, some residents

recommended selling the Hacienda, or making sure that town-owned assets be maintained to avoid a negative feeling about living in Moraga. One respondent simply said, "Invest now; save for the future."

Resident comments on pension liability questioned whether the town should continue to hire staff. "How many employees does a town of 17,000 really need?" Others suggested installing a 401k plan for new hires. Dropping out of CalPERS was mentioned, but that option would come at a steep cost to the town.

... continued on Page A10



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LINDA EHRIKH



Kymerleigh Korpus: Her journey to becoming mayor of Moraga



Photo Vera Kochan

From left, new Vice Mayor Mike McCluer and new Moraga Mayor Kymerleigh Korpus at the dais.

By Vera Kochan

As Moraga's new mayor, Kymerleigh Korpus takes the reigns of a reorganized town council while looking back on her road to the end result. In 2011, when she and her family moved back into the town where she grew up, Korpus never imagined that one day she would become its mayor. "I vaguely intended to try to 'get involved' in town government at some point in the future, but the intention wasn't clearly enough formulated in my mind to even consider the possibility that holding an elected position here in town was a potential reality – much less being the mayor."

Korpus' first foray into government involvement was to join the Planning Commission in March 2016, after a neighbor's complaint over a Rainbow play structure she was installing for her kids the prior year. Upon her appointment, she voraciously studied the Moraga Municipal Code and Moraga Design Guidelines. When a controversial project (Moraga Town Center Homes) came up for review Korpus' research showed that a particular analysis/standard did not appear in the MMC. Through her efforts, the Planning Commission ended up denying the application in a 3-3 vote stalemate. Despite her attempts to take the matter public through open letters to the town council and social media in the summer of 2016, the town council approved the MTCH project.

Korpus' work did not go unnoticed by residents who were frustrated about planning issues. When one resident asked her to run for town council she laughed at the idea. Soon others approached her to run. "What really got me to take the idea seriously, though, was when one resident told me how valuable he thought my approach to making decisions was," Korpus recalled. "And that my ability to articulate and stand up for what I believe (rather than just acquiescing to the status quo) was exactly what the town council desperately needed."

When asked how it felt to be mayor of a town she grew


up in, Korpus replied, "It's a bit surreal, actually ... and a bit like playing dress-up sometimes. I'm still that same young girl inside in many ways, and that young girl peeks out from time to time and lets me know she is a bit in awe of the fact that she now gets to stand up in public and bear the impressive title of mayor of the town she grew up in."

Recalling her halcyon days of youth spent hanging out with friends at the Rheem Valley Bowl or Fudge Alley, bike rides along Moraga's trails with her mom, cardboard sliding down hills during summers and playing volleyball for Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School or Campolindo High School, Korpus acknowledged, "But when I feel the awe, I only feel it in spurts – because the reality of the situation is that it's a lot of work!"

Korpus said her family is proud of her work on the town council. "In particular, my three boys are very enamored with the title 'mayor' because they've been hoping for three years for the opportunity to brag that their mother is the mayor," she laughed. "They even nagged me for weeks after I was elected mayor about the fact that the town website hadn't been updated to list me as the mayor yet, because their friends wouldn't believe them that their mom was actually the mayor of Moraga."


With the hope that the council members can continue to work together to set Moraga back on track, Korpus sites some of the issues that still need attention (pavement, storm drains, capital asset replacement and pension liability). As the town begins the new Canyon Bridge project and completes others already underway, Korpus said, "It became clear last year that the town is quickly approaching a crossroads. In the near future, the town will need to decide who it wants to be." Citing three potential scenarios to Moraga's fiscal recovery as either to proceed with cash flow issues due to failing infrastructure; make painful cuts in services;

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Town Council
 Wednesday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.
Planning Commission: TBA
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.
Park and Recreation Commission: Tuesday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.
Moraga School District Board Meetings: Thursday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us. See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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Orinda downtown precise plan: RFP fails, staff will do the job

By Sora O'Doherty

Last August the city council directed staff to issue a request for proposals to draft a downtown precise plan for Orinda. Staff reported back to the council on Jan. 7 that the RFP failed. They received only one proposal, despite reaching out to a number of companies seeking their participation. Staff posited three reasons for the failure to respond: the budget was insufficient; concern that the project would be controversial; and limited availability of consultants because there are numerous projects already underway in the area.

Staff suggested two alternatives: either reissue an RFP with a substantially larger

budget and a tightened scope, or manage the project in-house and issue either an RFP and/or a request for qualifications for specific tasks. The second alternative, according to the staff report, will still require an increased budget, but would cost less than the first alternative.

After discussion, the second alternative was adopted by the council. The project will be headed by full-time senior planner Mayank Patel for a period of 18 months. The city will also hire a temporary planner. In response to a question from Council Member Inga Miller about whether staff were concerned about push-back from the public, Planning Director Drummond Buckley said that on the contrary, "we are very excited about doing it in-house, with Mayank Patel in

particular." Buckley added, in response to another question, that he was not concerned about finding a temporary employee. "The desire to get a foot in the door is very high," he said.

A specific plan is a tool defined by state law to allow a customized set of development standards to be legally adopted for a specific property or area. A precise plan is a similar type of document but more loosely defined that allows flexibility in defining the priorities for a specific area. Under the alternative adopted, the precise plan will be completed by the planning staff, with the help of contractors for specific tasks, which might include actually writing up the draft plan.

The advantages of keeping the project in-house, Buckley

stated, include that it will be less costly and that the staff can start work right away, without the delay of another RFP. Council Member Dennis Fay said he was very comfortable with the approach suggested by staff, because it was what he did in his former employment. "You'll be able to start tomorrow?" he asked, and staff agreed that they could.

Buckley said that he has had discussions with Lafayette staff, who utilized their planning commission when they did their downtown plan in-house. It was agreed that the Orinda planning commission should also be involved in the project, as well as the downtown subcommittee of the council.

Amy Worth steps up as Orinda vice mayor for fifth time

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Amy Worth begins an historic fifth term as Vice-Mayor of Orinda.

Since being elected in 1998, Amy Worth has never been off

the Orinda City Council, and has been mayor more times than anyone else. For 2020 she will serve in the position of vice mayor for a historic fifth term. Before being elected to the city council, Worth volunteered with the county library, and the Orinda library remains very important to her.

Worth stresses that Orinda has the third lowest budget in Contra Costa County, with only Clayton and Moraga having less money to run their cities. So Worth is very focused on making the best use of the money available to the city. She is proud of the progress made on local roads, but is searching for funds to allow the city to maintain the progress it has made. She serves with Mayor Darlene Gee on the Tax and Revenue Subcommittee that is looking into either extending the current city half cent sales tax or increasing it to one cent. "The key," according to Worth, "is

that Orinda's taxes stay local and are well managed." The subcommittee is currently polling a variety of things that the sales tax could be used for, including roads, public safety, or even daylighting San Pablo Creek.

Worth also sits on subcommittees on transportation, the library, and also liaises with Orinda Union School District and chairing the School Bus Authority for Lamorinda. She is excited to be working with the new manager of the school bus program, Whitney Simon.

Downtown development is a subject much on the minds of Orinda residents, and Worth is no exception. In light of changing state laws, she says, it is very important that the city have a plan. Currently, there is a request for proposal out for writing design standards for downtown Orinda. Worth wants to know how people feel about housing in downtown

Orinda, and notes that Orinda is special because of its access to transportation, making it easy to get to cultural events either in Walnut Creek or in San Francisco. However, she also thinks that the BART board needs to devote more effort to making BART safer. Worth is very involved in transportation issues, and says that people feel safe on County Connection buses, but not on BART, and adds that BART ridership is falling.

Worth, who always makes a point of thanking people for their work on projects that come before the city council, had words of high praise for the city's staff and particularly for City Manager Steve Salomon. One of his accomplishments was organizing city planning for the public safety power shutoffs in the fall. Worth was also impressed with how the Orinda schools handled the days without power.

City of Orinda seeks applications from resident volunteers

Effective this February, there will be term expirations on the Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission, Finance Advisory Committee, Historical Landmarks Committee, Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, Public Works Aesthetic Review Committee and Art in Public Places Committee. Also effective in February, there will be term expirations on the County Mosquito and Vector Control District, County Library Commission, and Contra Costa Transportation Authority Citizen Advisory Committee.

Statement of Interest forms are available from the Orinda City Clerk's Office, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda or by contacting Sheri Smith, City Clerk at (925) 253-4221 or ssmith@cityoforinda.org. Completed Statement of Interest forms should be submitted to the City Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. Feb. 14.

Qualified applicants will be invited to interview before the City Council on Feb. 22.

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

No change in Orinda committees and commissions

By Sora O'Doherty

Following the reduction in the number of members of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee in late 2019, Orinda staff recommended to the city council that other changes could be made to the city's committees and commissions in order to streamline operations. For example, staff suggested, the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

and the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission could be combined into one public works commission. However, when suggested to those groups, they were unanimously opposed to the proposition. Additional negative feedback was received from the Public Works Aesthetic Review Committee.

At the Jan. 7 city council meeting, several members of the Art in Public Places Committee spoke out against any

changes to that committee. Ted Urban, who has been involved in the committee since its inception 12 years ago, cited the need for continuity of thought on ongoing projects, and suggested that, while he supports monthly meetings, any reduction should result in no fewer than quarterly meetings. Mayor Darlene Gee complimented the APPC on their "tremendous passion" and added that the CIOC is not

staffed up to do aesthetic work. Vice Mayor Amy Worth noted that without the APPC Orinda would not have "the magnificent art we have." Richard Weston wrote to the city council in support of the APPC, concluding "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," and the council agreed.

Orinda is currently seeking resident volunteers for various committees and commissions, including the APPC. (See box on this Page.)

Orinda moves forward with in-lieu parking fees

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council moved ahead with a proposed ordinance allowing businesses to pay fees in lieu of providing the required number of parking spaces for new or remodeled businesses in Orinda downtown commercial and downtown office districts. The ordinance, which will likely take effect on Feb. 20, "gets the


word out that Orinda is open for business," according to Council Member Nick Kosla.

The in-lieu fee allows businesses to pay a fee for each reduction in parking spaces, and the fee increases depending on the number of parking spaces omitted. The new fee will be included in the master fee schedule that comes before the council annually, and may be adjusted as required by cir-

cumstances. The fee was brought to the council in December, but as presented would have applied to any business within Orinda. The council at that time requested staff to bring the proposal back, but limiting it to the downtown business districts. In-lieu fees apply only to businesses, not to residential property.

The idea behind in-lieu

fees is to encourage development within the two downtown business districts, while finding alternative ways to make more parking spaces available. The money from the fees will be used by the city to find alternative parking solutions, which may range from restriping existing parking spaces to increase the number available to leasing space from other property owners.

 <p>Orinda Public Meetings City Council Tuesday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m. Regular Meeting Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way</p>	<p>Planning Commission Tuesday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m. Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way</p>	<p>Parks & Recreation Commission Wednesday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m. Community Center Room #7, 28 Orinda Way, Orinda</p>	<p>Orinda Union High School District Board Meetings Monday, Feb. 10, 6 p.m. Regular Board Meeting 8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda www.orindaschools.org See also AUHSD meeting page A2</p>
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Fresh and local: Orinda Farmers' Market now all year long



Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

At the request of the Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Market, Orinda has approved a year-round farmer's market for the next three years. Starting April 4, the popular market will operate each Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way.

Staci DeShasier, the CCCFM manager, indicates that the most common customer request has been for a year-round market, and that the majority of providers also favor that schedule. DeShasier believes that the year-round market will likely attract new farmers and vendors as well. The new contract runs through March 25, 2023.

New stop sign installed at Zander



A new stop sign has been installed at the top of the hill at the intersection of Zander Drive and Rheem Boulevard. In January 2019 the Orinda city council approved the addition of the traffic control, as residents of the area found it difficult and dangerous to turn from Zander onto Rheem, and were particularly concerned about their learner drivers. In addition to the existing stop sign on Zander, the intersection is now controlled in all three directions. -S. O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

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Photo Nick Marnell

MOFD Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs

MOFD fire marshal increases staff, determined to mitigate community fire hazards

By Nick Marnell

With the importance of the fire marshal role taking on added significance in the new decade, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District named Jeff Isaacs, an industry veteran with decades of firefighting and administrative experience, to the position in January.

Isaacs spent 20 years with the California Department of

Forestry and Fire Protection, where he worked his way up to division chief of the Southern Region in Fresno. Since September Isaacs served as the MOFD fuels mitigation manager, a position that he intends to fill immediately as he beefs up the fire prevention division.

The fire marshal also plans to replace the six part-time code enforcers with three full-time fuels mitiga-

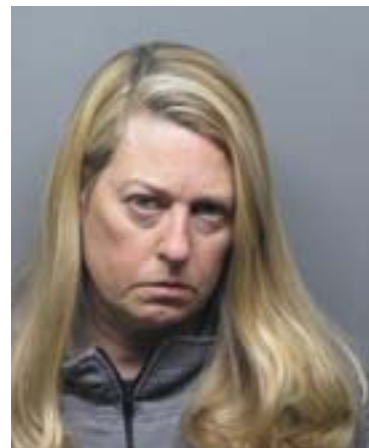
tion specialists, who will report to the fuels mitigation manager. "We'll be able to train better and provide more consistent supervision," Isaacs said. That should come as a relief to the district residents who had been subject to arbitrary code enforcement by former part-time employees.

Isaacs laid out his 2020 operational plan to the district governing board Jan. 8.

Highlights included the reorganization of his department in the first quarter, public outreach and education of the new fire code requirements in the spring, property inspections and re-inspections all summer, and continuation of the district's popular chipper service throughout the year.

... continued on Page A9

Orinda teacher charged with sexual abuse of a minor



Courtesy Lafayette Police Dept

Kyle Ann Wood

By Nick Marnell

Detectives from the Contra Costa County Office of the

Sheriff Jan. 8 arrested Miramonte High School teacher Kyle Ann Wood, who was subsequently charged with two counts of felony sexual abuse of a minor by the District Attorney's office. According to the criminal complaint, the abuse occurred between October 1997 and June 1998 while Wood was a teacher and the victims were students at Acalanes High School. One of the two students has passed away.

Colleen Gleason, sexual assault/child abuse unit supervisor with the DA's office, said that the accuser came forward to law enforcement in October and the sheriff's office immediately began its investigation. "They knew

that Wood was still a teacher and they worked hard to wrap up the case over the holiday break," Gleason said. "We were able to file charges because there was independent evidence that clearly and convincingly corroborated the victim's allegations." Wood has pleaded not guilty to both counts.

John Nickerson, superintendent of the Acalanes Union High School District, confirmed that Wood has been a teacher with the district since 1994 and said that she was immediately placed on administrative leave. Wood taught at Acalanes High School until 2009 when she was transferred to Miramonte. "It was not a discipli-

nary transfer," Nickerson said.

On the Miramonte High School website, Wood is listed as teaching ninth grade and 10th grade physical education. "I enjoy hiking, surfing, and photography. I played high school and college basketball, swam and played summer softball," Wood wrote in her profile. Julie Parks, Miramonte High School principal, did not respond to a request for confirmation.

"We hold student well-being as our greatest priority, and whenever we hear about situations that are counter to this value, it is of the greatest concern. I assure you that our district office will cooperate

fully with law enforcement in this ongoing investigation," Nickerson said in a statement.

Though no one from the sheriff's office or DA's office would comment on the motivation or timing of the allegations, it should be noted that Assembly Bill 218, which Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Oct. 13, gives those who experienced childhood sexual abuse until age 40, or five years from discovery of the abuse, to file civil lawsuits. Survivors also have a three-year period starting this January in which sexual abuse claims that have since passed the statute of limitations can be pursued.

The DA's office was not aware of a civil suit filed by the accuser.

MOFD chief proposes aggressive, radical fire code

... continued from Page A1

But probably the most drastic proposed regulation is a ban on the use of combustible ground cover, including mulch, within 2 feet of each district structure, and that all vegetation must be trimmed within 2 feet of each structure.

"It will have a dramatic impact on how homes look," said Winnacker, noting that a reduced fire threat cannot coexist with a fully vegetated, semirural community. "You can't have both."

Included in the code is the requirement for an exterior fire hazard inspection within six months prior to the sale or transfer of real prop-

erty. Winnacker had been frustrated with the lack of effort in bringing parcels up to code, especially those along district evacuation routes, and he proposed this regulation to ensure that weed abatement is completed before a property changes hands.

Other highlights of the code include an increase in tree clearance from 5 feet to 6 feet around a structure, the requirement of exterior under-eave sprinklers for new construction and an increase in road width up to 28 feet for new construction.

The district will coordinate the adoption of the code among the MOFD board, the two district municipal coun-

cils and the Board of Supervisors. All four governing bodies must adopt the code to ensure uniformity of standards within the MOFD jurisdiction. If one entity makes a change to the proposed ordinance, the fire code must go back to all four for adoption of the same change.

Winnacker said he hoped to complete the process by the end of February, and the new code would take effect imme-

diately. As it will be impossible to inspect all 14,000 district parcels in one year, the chief said his top two enforcement priorities for 2020 are the roadsides along district evacuation routes and properties that lie along the perimeter of wilderness areas.

Before the fire code is sent to the governing bodies, the district will hold another public meeting Jan. 28 at

Joaquin Moraga Middle School in Moraga. "It's not necessarily to convince people why this needs to be done, but to explain what we are proposing," Winnacker said. "These recommendations come from my professional opinion about how we can create the greatest increase in fire safety at the lowest possible cost and lowest impact to the district."

Public Safety

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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
Dec. 22 - Jan. 11



Alarms	88
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	24
Traffic	143
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subject	43
Suspicious Vehicle	35
Service to Citizen	53
Patrol Req./Security Check	54
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Supplemental Report	35
Vacation House Check	46
Welfare Check	24
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)	
1200 Block Clover Ct.	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
700 Block Glenside Cr.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
100 Block Camellia Ln.	
400 Block Florence Dr.	
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
900 Block Buchan Dr.	
1100 Block Robles Ct.	
1100 Block Hidalgo Ct. (2)	
1000 Block Serrano Ct. (2)	
80 Block Lafayette Cr.	
DUI Misdemeanor	
Reliez Valley Rd./Gloria Terrace	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

Exhibition Of Speed	1000 Block Silverado Dr.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	3200 Block Marlene Dr.
Police Department	Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft From Vehicle	1000 Block Serrano Ct.
Reckless Driving	Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Mountain View Dr.	Old Tunnel Rd./Manzana Pl.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Old Tunnel Rd.	600 Block Moraga Rd.
Oak Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24	Moraga Rd./Hamlin Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Almanor Ln.	Reliez Valley Rd./Johnson Rd.
1st St/Wb Sr 24	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr., Mor.	Mt. Diablo Blvd./Brown Ave.
Tamper With Vehicle	1400 Block Sunset Loop
Vehicle Theft	Quandt Rd./Del Arroyo Ct.
1000 Block Via Media	1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.
10 Block Greenvally Ct.	
Other criminal activity	
Attempt Strongarm Robbery	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Brandishing Weapon	3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Commercial Burglary	1000 Block Brown Ave.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Fraud Credit Card	10 Block Valley High
Fraud False Pretenses	Police Department
Identity Theft	3900 Block Rancho Rd.
1000 Block Hunsaker Canyon Rd. (2)	Police Department
Misc Burglary	3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Panhandling	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft	3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
4100 Block Canyon Rd. (2)	900 Block Dewing Ave.
3200 Block Ameno Dr.	3300 Block Ameno Dr.
900 Block Moraga Rd. (2)	4100 Block Canyon Rd. (2)
3300 Block Mildred Ln.	1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
Shoplift	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)	
Threats	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1200 Block Barott Rd.	3200 Block Marlene Dr. (2)
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbance-domestic	3400 Block St. Marys Rd.
3200 Block Camino Colorados	3500 Block Terrace Way (2)

1000 Block Carol Ln.	900 Block 3Rd St.
800 Block Reliez Station Rd.	Disturbing The Peace
Police Department	Drunk In Public
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	Loud Music
3400 Block School St	1000 Block Carol Ln. (2)
Loud Noise	900 Block Dewing Ave.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	Public Nuisance
3400 Block Golden Gate Way	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cr.	Quandt Rd./Del Arroyo Ct. (2)
Vandalism	1000 Block N Thompson Rd.
1000 Block Glen Rd.	3300 Block Deer Hill Rd.
1200 Block Bacon Way	3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	Other
Animal Cruelty	1000 Block Dewing Ave. (2)
Fireworks	3300 Block Vaughn Rd.
3800 Block Quail Ridge Rd.	H&S Violation
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.	Loitering
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	Ordinance Violation
1000 Block Dewing Ave.	Golden Gate Way/Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block Dewing Ave.	Brook St./Mountain View Dr.
1000 Block Dewing Ave.	Trespass
3600 Block Chestnut St.	Unwanted Guest
1100 Block Monticello Rd. (2)	3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	200 Block Lafayette Cr.
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.	Violation Custody Order
3200 Block Sweet Dr.	300 Block Buckeye Ct.
800 Block Acalanes Rd.	

Supplemental Report	17
Vacation House Check	9
Welfare Check	6
Vehicle violations	
Accident Property	Safeway
Center St./Rheem Blvd.	1000 Block Larch Ave.
Auto Burglary	St. Marys College
DUI Misd	90 Block Danefield Pl.
Excessive Speed	Moraga Way/Viader Dr.
Country Club Dr./School St.	Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.
Reckless Driving	Donald Dr.
Rheem Valley Shopping Center	Moraga Rd./Moraga Way
Tamper With Vehicle	200 Block Willowbrook Ln.
Tc - Property Damage	Seven Eleven
Corliss Dr./Woodside Dr.	Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
Other criminal activity	
Burglary	Round Table
Fraud False Pretenses	2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Grand Theft	400 Block Center St.
Petty Theft	School St./Moraga Way
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbing The Peace	20 Block Hour Fitness
Public Nuisance	1000 Block Block Alta Mesa Dr.
500 Block Moraga Rd.	Donald Dr./Laird Dr.
Unwanted Guest	20 Block Hour Fitness
Vandalism	1900 Block Ascot Dr.
Other	
Fireworks	Campolindo High School
Loitering	Bollinger Canyon Rd./St. Marys Rd.
Mentally Ill Commit	300 Block Birchwood Dr.
Public Assembly Check	Rheem Valley Shopping Center (3)
Fayhill Rd./Rheem Blvd.	Trespass
Rheem Blvd./St. Marys Rd.	Violation Custody Order
1700 Block St Andrews Dr.	

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.
Visit www.mofd.org

ConFire
Board of Directors
Tuesday, Feb. 11, 1:00 p.m.
Board Chamber Room 107,
Administration Building
651 Pine St., Martinez.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Dec. 31 - Jan. 13	
Alarms	17
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	3
Traffic	39
Suspicious Circumstances	9
Suspicious Subject	11
Suspicious Vehicle	15
Service to Citizen	39
Patrol Req./Security Check	30

ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report
Dec. 29 - Jan. 11

Alarms	55
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	3
Traffic	63
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subject	11
Suspicious Vehicle	15
Service to Citizen	85
Patrol Req./Security Check	78
Public/School Assembly Check	19
Supplemental Report	8
Vacation House Check	5
Welfare Check	10
Vehicle violations	
Accident Injury	Police Department
400 Block Moraga Way	Accident Property
Camino Pablo/Wb 24 Off	10 Block Valley View Rd.
Safeway	700 Block Miner Rd.
Auto Burglary	60 Block Moraga Way (2)
600 Block Orindawoods Dr. (5)	DUI Misdemeanor
Moraga Way/Camino Encinas	Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Bart Orinda Station	Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.
70 Block Moraga Way	Reckless Driving
Miner Rd./Camino Pablo	Orinda Country Club
Eb Sr 24 At Camino Pablo	Rheem Blvd./Zander Dr.
Tc - Minor Injuries	Coral Dr./Ivy Dr.
Other criminal activity	
Identity Theft	10 Block Whitehall Dr.
80 Block El Toyonal	400 Block Miner Rd.
Other Felony	Wb Sr 24 At Wilder Rd.
Residential Burglary	10 Block Darnby Ct.
300 Block Miner Rd.	Shoplift
Beverages And More	Rite Aid
Cvs	Warrant Arrest
Nations	Ivy Dr./Moraga Way
California Shakespeare Festival	Nuisance to the Community
Barking Dog	100 Block Leslee Ln.
Public Nuisance	Brookwood Rd./Camino Pablo
Unwanted Guest	1100 Block Monticello Rd., Laf.
Other - none	

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

... continued from Page A5

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

... continued from Page A8

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.

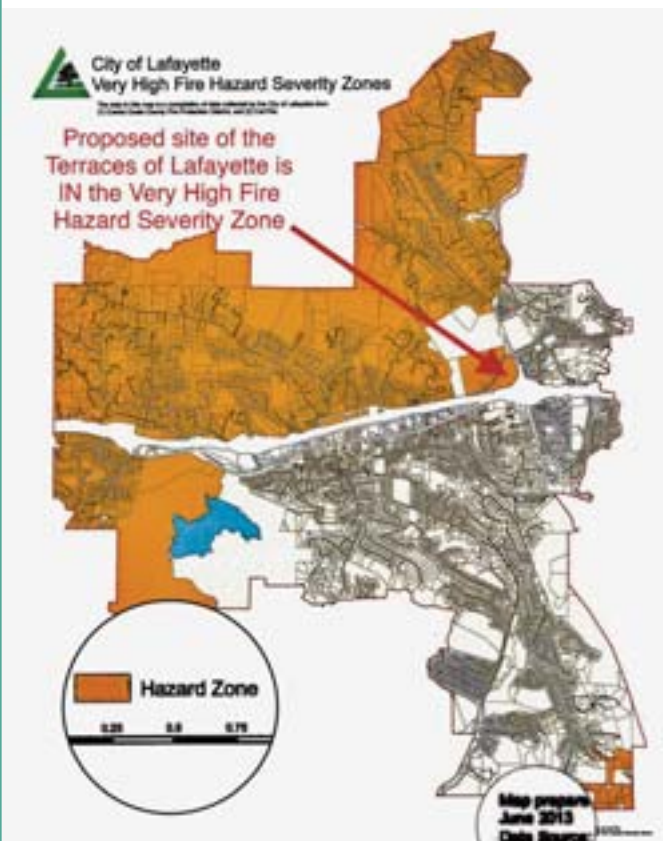
Code enforcement is only part of the district fire hazard planning, which Isaacs said also includes defensible space guidelines, intelligent land use planning and other fuels mitigation efforts. "How we develop our fire communities to be fire adaptive is the key," Isaacs said. "A fire should be able 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.**



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Letters to the editor

MOFD power grab

I was disturbed by the report that the Board of MOFD has continued with its "unprecedented reorganization" by electing board member Steve Danziger President for the second year in a row, as opposed to tradition (shared by both the Orinda and Moraga Councils) of passing the gavel to a new "leader", each year.

Mr. Danziger was elected to the Board in November 2018 along with Michael Donner and Greg Baitx, all three heavily supported by the firefighters' union. Their first public act was to break tradition, by voting in freshman board member Danziger as president over the existing vice president John Jex even after Chief Winnacker explained historical rotation and all public comments were against the break from tradition. They have now continued this power grab for a second year. Is Mr. Danziger now president-for-life (or at least for his four year term)?

The Community needs to pay more attention to MOFD. We send them 26 million property tax dollars each year; over three times what Orinda and Moraga receive. Employee compensation, including the funding of the retirement plans, accounts for almost 90% of MOFD's expenses; with half of the compensation costs going to fund the retirement plans, which are \$70 million underfunded.

So who do we elect to oversee this effort? Three employee-sponsored board members who have decided not to play by the "rules" and grab the reins of power. What do they plan next?

In 2021 the firefighters' employment contract comes up. What will the board give them?

Right now we are served by 17 firefighters per shift; manning six response units. Last year they responded to 2,000 medical emergencies, 40 fires and 250 vehicle accidents; 2,300 emergencies in total. That averages to one incident per day per unit. But members of the board have been pushing for another two person unit, two more firefighters per shift. As opposed to concentrating on wildfire prevention.

The community needs to be aware of this.

Steve Cohn
Orinda

Yes, Mike McCluer is the right choice for Moraga vice mayor

Articles in the Lamorinda Weekly Dec. 25, 2019 and Jan. 8 editions appear to question the rationale for electing Mike McCluer over Renata Sos to 2020 Moraga Vice Mayor. I believe the articles are based on incomplete information. First, I have great respect for Mike and Renata, and all Council Members, and we all have strengths and opportunities to improve in representing Moraga's citizens.

Up until 2020, there would have been no question that Mike was the right choice. The historical norm was for the highest vote getter in the last election to be elected Vice Mayor, in line to become Mayor the following year. Mike received over 5000 votes in the November 2018 election, compared to Renata being appointed by four members of the Town Council, just before that election, to fill the seat vacated by Jeannette Fritzky's death. There is rationale to using votes received as criteria for electing a Vice Mayor. The election process is lengthy, during which each candidate must demonstrate more-than-significant capabilities and dedication to the Town, and the citizens themselves get multiple opportu-

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

Unfunded Needs Assessments survey results

... continued from Page A4

Additional comments included adding an additional police officer to focus on the schools, having developers pay more fees, and utilizing the talents of local residents on a volunteer basis to fix things like the flag pole, or interior lighting at library. "Many projects can be accomplished on this basis," one resident said.

Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg stressed, "People can still provide feedback. There is no deadline, but we will consider input from the community as part of the budget preparation process, so I would say we will incorporate feedback received prior to March 31.

"The Feedback Form was developed to obtain input from the community regarding how the town should prioritize its resources," Battenberg said. "This is an opportunity for residents to let us know how they would like their tax-payer dollars spent and we hope to hear from them."

The survey is on the landing page of the town's website www.moraga.ca.us in the article titled "Update on Unfunded Needs."

Jennifer Perlmutter, Business Person of the Year, connecting through art

By Pippa Fisher

This year's Business Person of the Year, Jennifer Perlmutter, is proof that art and business are not mutually exclusive. Nonetheless this year's recipient of the award says she was truly surprised to learn she had received the honor.

"As an artist, 'business person' is only a title that I have really embraced for the last six years," says Perlmutter. "It's always been my livelihood but to truly embrace business within a small community and do it with success, I have had to learn how to engage civic organizations, fellow business owners and local residents on a scale that is new to me."

Although Perlmutter has run a small gallery on the western end of Lafayette since 2014, it wasn't till February of last year that she opened the "pop-up" gallery in the old Wells Fargo building. The highly visible gallery was born of an idea floated at a city council meeting as property owners and retailers brainstormed ways to fill the then-growing number of vacant storefronts.

Property owner Steve Cortese recognized the potential for this building. Perlmutter says she "dared to dream" and on Feb. 14 the new gallery named JP@TheBank opened to a huge crowd, anxious to see what she had done with the large airy space, leaving the teller counter and the bank vault in place.

As Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson says, since then each exhibit has highlighted a variety of media, large and small sculptures and illustrations. "But

what makes the gallery unique is the way other art forms are celebrated. Music, performing art, poetry, and art in motion have all been woven into the fabric that has become a center for our community to meet, learn and appreciate art," says Lifson.

Lafayette City Manager Niroop Srivatsa agrees. "Jennifer has raised awareness of the arts in downtown Lafayette. The corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road has never seen so much buzz and excitement!" she says.

Perlmutter, the youngest of three, is a California girl, born in Mountain View and raised in Napa. She attended Emerson College in Boston and started her working life in radio. On graduation in 1989 she moved to New York with her then-boyfriend Sean Perlmutter. Her work in radio transitioned to work on film and TV production. In 1990 a move to L.A. saw her continue work in the film industry, on set with stars such as George Clooney and Salma Hayek. She even had a line in a Little Cesar's national "pizza-pizza" commercial.

Her landlord (an interior designer) noticed Perlmutter's interest in art and introduced her to a high-end furniture painter in need of assistance. One year later, she opened her own furniture design and painting studio focused on exploring high-end finishing techniques. She began creating her own collection of art and hung it throughout the studio. Designers and clients bought directly, galleries followed, and soon she was presented with an opportunity to create special paint effects and finishes

in South Korea for two luxury real estate destinations.

Jennifer and Sean married in 1996, their son Jaco was born in 2002 and, in 2008, they moved to the Bay Area, settling in Lafayette for the great schools. Perlmutter took a studio in Berkeley but, tired of the commute by 2013, she left the studio, as she says, not knowing where she would paint next.

A few weeks later, she took a chance and called the number on the window of the little brick storefront on Mt. Diablo Boulevard across from Diablo Foods – the building that would house the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery.

Perlmutter creates art while curating and showing the work of others. She was invited to give a TEDx talk in 2011 on her approach to art and business: one brick at a time, from wherever you are, responding to what is and trusting the process.

Perlmutter says that her mission is sharing compelling fine art that touches and inspires. She has always loved communications and for her, in both her art and her business, it is all about making connections. She believes we all have a quest for purpose in life and says that for her, the answers come when we listen for the questions. This is a philosophy echoed on signs around her gallery: "What is art?" "Why does it matter?"

There is no doubt in Perlmutter's mind about the quality of people who surround her. "It's like a vortex," she says of the gallery. "It draws all these great people in." She is referring to her



Photo Christa McCabe

Jennifer Perlmutter, this year's Business Person of the Year

staff Martin Segobia, Yvonne Banis, and Hilary Shipway who will be emceeding the dinner in her honor at the end of the month.

"JP@TheBank is a very interactive space," explains Perlmutter. "Kids drag their parents in for the treasure hunts that Martin comes up with." It's just another way she connects people with art.

Lifson sums it up; "She helped make our community a better place to work, live, learn, shop and play. That is

why she was named the Lafayette Chamber's 2020 Marquis Business Person of the Year."

Perlmutter is very grateful. "In any field, it's nice to be acknowledged. I don't take the recognition for granted and feel a sense of responsibility and also celebration." And the community will get a chance to celebrate with Perlmutter at a dinner in her honor at 6 p.m. Jan. 31 at the Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa.

Tickets can be purchased on the Chamber website:

<https://cca.lafayettechamber.org/EvtListing.aspx?dbid2=CALAF&evtid=26988&class=B>

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OUSD Kinder/TK Registration in February

Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration for children entering an Orinda public school in August 2020 will be open Feb. 3-6. On those dates, parents may register their child online at www.orindaschools.org. Kindergarten students must be at least 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2020. A child is eligible for Transitional Kindergarten if their fifth birthday is between Sept. 2, and Dec. 2, 2020. Additional information regarding registration is available at the district website: www.orindaschools.org.

Shooting in Moraga injures three

By Nick Marnell

Three people were shot in an apparent domestic dispute outside the Moraga Starbucks early Sunday evening, Jan. 19, according to the Moraga Police Department.

Police officers responded to the incident in the Rheem Shopping Center about 7:30 p.m. and found two shooting victims in a vehicle at the scene. The victims and witnesses described the suspect and told officers he

had run north from the area. Officers found the suspect, identified as Isaiah Glaze, 21, of Sacramento, suffering from a gunshot wound in a parking lot in the 400 block of Moraga Road. Officers also recovered a firearm near the suspect.

"At this point, the gunshot wound suffered by Glaze appears to have been self-inflicted. The incident remains under investigation, but Glaze and one of the victims had a prior dating relationship and the incident

may be domestic violence related," said Police Chief Jon King in a statement.

The victims and suspect were treated by Moraga-Orinda Fire District paramedics. One victim and the suspect were transported by ambulance to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact the Moraga Police at (925) 888-7056 or (925) 888-7055.



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Gold Coast Chamber starts 2020 with 'Czech Marks' concert



Photo Alicia Gholami

Pamela Freund-Striplen with the members of the San Francisco Piano Trio: German violinist Axel Strauss, French cellist Jean-Michel Fonteneau, and American pianist Jeffrey Sykes.

By Sophie Braccini

There is a special relationship between the Czech Republic and Lamorinda. First the active sister-city relationship between Orinda and Tabor, then the very successful annual Czech-centered concert in Lafayette curated by Pamela Freund-Striplen and her Gold Coast Chamber Players.

The violinist confesses that if she had a favorite musician it would be Antonín Dvořák, and because her love of the 19th century composer is met with equal enthusiasm year after year by her audi-

ence, the next GCCP concert, on Jan. 25, called "Czech Marks," will feature works by Dvořák and two composers influenced by him. Freund-Striplen believes that the program will be a lighthearted journey with a fairy tale quality that will be very well received. She will be playing with the San Francisco Piano Trio.

The chamber music collective director becomes lyrical when she talks about Dvořák, his fantastic spirit, the influence of folk music in his composition, and how he is just a great chamber music composer. This year Freund-

Striplen is proposing for the first time in Lafayette the Czech composer's Piano Quartet No.1, Op. 23 for Violin, Viola, Cello, and Piano. He wrote the first of his two piano quartets, Op. 23, at the age of 34, and the Czech media of the time is said to have recognized and appreciated the Slavic spirit that dominated this new creation.

Freund-Striplen says that Moravian folk music is very present in this first piano quartet, giving it a fantastic vibe.

To compose that night's program the director has chosen to add Leoš Janáček's

Sonata for Violin and Piano and Vítězslav Novák's Piano Quintet Op. 12, for Piano and String Quartet. Novák was one of Dvořák's students in Prague and he began teaching there at the turn of the 20th century. The specific piece presented in Lafayette is both very romantic and influenced by the folk art of his native land. Novák influenced in turn a whole generation of Czech composers in the 20th century. Janáček had a similar approach, collecting Moravian folk songs and being inspired by them to produce his music. He did considerable work incorporating the inflection of his native language into his music. The sonata presented by the GCCP was written at the beginning of World War I. Janáček said that in that piece he could just about hear the sound of the steel clashing.

Freund-Striplen is not Czech herself; she traces her ancestry to Budapest, and Eastern European music and

especially Czech, resonates with her. She has once again invited the San Francisco Piano Trio, Axel Strauss, Jean-Michel Fonteneau, and Jeffrey Sykes, to play with her in this ambitious program. The GCCP artistic director describes the three musicians as dedicated, passionate teachers, generous of spirit and wonderfully collaborative performers. Liana Bérubé from Québec and former student of Strauss will join as second violinist.

This year marks GCCP's 20th season and as Freund-Striplen has deepened her roots in Lafayette, more community partners are getting involved with her work, such as Jennifer Perlmutter (Lafayette gallery owner and Business Person of the Year), working together to make Lafayette and Lamorinda a vibrant artistic center in the East Bay.

More information and tickets can be found online at www.gccpmusic.com.

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Simple Super Bowl sliders make the grade



Super Bowl Sliders - French Onion Style Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

We visited some good friends in Arizona over the holidays, and upon our arrival, their

entire family was on hand to greet us. This was especially fun, because two of our adult kids were with us, too, and they had all known each other since they were very young. Of course, nothing enhances a reunion of friends more than a sumptuous meal. Murry's tri-tip sliders were amazing and the second I tasted them, I knew they would be fodder for the food column! I count on two sliders per person, but some of your guests may eat more, so just multiply the recipe accordingly.

While I was trying to figure out how exactly to spell tri-tip (with a hyphen or without – turns out either way is fine) I came across some interesting information about this cut of meat and how its name came about in the first place. Oddly, it never occurred to me that this cut is always a triangular shape coming from the same shaped muscle located near the bottom of the sirloin section of the steer. Therefore it became known as "tri-tip." On the East Coast, it is sometimes referred to as a

"triangular steak" or just plain "steak tip" and in California it has several monikers, including "Santa Maria steak" and "Newport steak." In any case, it is delicious for this meal, and whether you marinate it or just season it with salt, pepper and Johnny's Seasoning Salt, it will be perfect for these sliders. We actually used buffalo tri-tip the last time we made it and it was fantastic. When you get ready to serve the tri-tip, slice it thinly across the grain for these sandwiches.

Murry's Super Bowl Sliders – French Onion Style

(Makes 12 sliders)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 package (12) King's Hawaiian Sweet Rolls (or you favorite dinner rolls)
- 1 tri-tip steak, 2-3 pounds
- 1-2 teaspoon(s) Johnny's Seasoning Salt
- 1 package French Onion Soup Mix
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 package (5.2 ounces) Boursin Garlic and Fine Herbs cheese

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 F. Preheat grill to medium heat. Season top and bottom of tri-tip with your favorite rub or seasoning salt. I like the simplicity of Johnny's for this recipe, since you have the French onion soup flavors on the rolls. You can also marinate the tri-tip in a simple marinade for a few hours ahead of grilling.

Melt butter and stir in 1 packet of the French Onion Soup mix. Split rolls in half horizontally with a bread knife and place them on baking sheet. Brush tops with melted butter mixture. Heat in a 350 F oven for about 10 minutes, or until tops are golden brown, but rolls are still soft.

Barbecue tri-tip anywhere from 5-10 minutes per side, depending on the thickness and desired doneness. Remove from grill and slice thinly across the grain.

When ready to serve, spread Boursin on the bottom half of each roll and layer slices of tri-tip over the cheese. Place tops back on roll and you have yourself some super-duper Super Bowl sliders!



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.

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Lynn's Top Five

The resolution revolution! A better path toward financial health

By Lynn Ballou CFP®

Have you overdosed on New Year's resolution articles and advice columns? Did you launch with good intent only to find yourself already wobbly, off course? While I love the notion of a clean slate to launch a new year and I support anyone willing to give it a solid try, I think we have to ask ourselves why do so many of our New Year's resolutions fall by the wayside?

The truth: We look for a quick fix. We don't want to do the hard work to figure out why we covet and create resolutions. It takes almost nothing to blow us off course and we haven't the tools to work our way back.

My suggestion? Toss out the resolutions. Instead create new habits by setting up new approaches that work for you.

Over the course of a well-lived life we seem to share three overriding personal financial planning aspirations. I'm asking you to choose just one thing, one aspect, one morsel of your financial life where you want to start and focus your efforts on change for achievement of just that one thing.

Start by focusing on what matters most to you, right now. Here is a master road map for change.

1) Live Debt Free

- Know your true take-home income; spend less than that.
- Craft a lifestyle you can afford;
- If you can't afford your lifestyle, earn more and/or spend less.
- Save monthly for the big annual expenses: property taxes and vacations are examples.
- Have an emergency fund because life is often more expensive than what we plan for.
- Replenish your emergency fund when you tap into it by cutting back on discretionary spending until your emergency fund is built back up.
- Know your available benefits at work and use all of them as robustly as appropriate.
- Be cautious: only take on affordable debt to acquire

cars and homes.

- Invest monthly as part of your budget. Do not go into debt to invest. Instead, live below your means and use that differential to invest.

2) Don't Outlive Your Resources

- Define your goal for financial independence: key components are the lifestyle costs you aspire to maintain and age you desire that independence.
 - Do the math to determine how much you need to invest, in what time frames, and for how long, to successfully reach those goals.
 - Go back to the "living debt free" checklist. Accomplish those steps and stay on top of them as your lifestyle choice. Lather, rinse, repeat!
 - Learn what you need to invest in and how to do so systematically using payroll deductions and other automatic investing techniques.
 - Review your progress twice a year.
 - Incorporate good and bad times and up and down markets into your planning. Stress test your plan to determine the likelihood of a successful outcome.
 - If you want too much and/or too soon, be honest and modify expectations or craft change now in your income, spending and investing.
 - Pay your future-self first before using discretionary cash flow for vacations and other current wants that aren't really needs.
- ### 3) Give Back and Pay it Forward
- Be affordably charitable to family. Your heart might be larger than your resources. Know your limits and how to communicate them.
 - Provide charitable assistance only to the primary causes that matter most to you to keep yourself within budget.
 - Know what can you really afford and in what time frames.
 - Consider both time and asset donation as giving options.
 - Keep it real so that you don't end up becoming a beneficiary of the charities you support.
 - If you are discontented with one or more aspects of

your personal financial health, examine what is instilling discomfort. Focus on that, the changes you need to make to overcome any roadblocks so you can create a better outcome for yourself. Craft a path for change with steps you can actually do. Create a checklist in chronological order of what needs doing. Then take those steps.

Overwhelmed? Work with professionals who are required to act as fiduciaries on your behalf as you navigate the complexities of giving, including income and estate tax planning. None of us can accomplish all of these alone. Seek out educated and appropriately licensed professionals that you connect with to help you create the financial narrative you want for your life.

Hoping things will work out is not a plan. It's a fantasy. Follow these steps so that the next time you read about New Year's resolutions, you can feel confident that you have a real plan that you can rely on, and not just a wish.



Lynn Ballou is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and Regional Director with EP Wealth Advisors, a Registered Investment Advisory Firm in Lafayette. The review, assessment, and/or opinion expressed in this column are limited to and in association with general financial planning subjects. They are intended to introduce the reader to a general financial planning topics. This column should serve as a tool that should assist readers in the development of subsequent discussions with a financial planning professional. Always consult an accountant and/or attorney to assess your individual situation prior to implementing any financial planning strategy, including any strategy directly or indirectly referenced in this column.

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'By the Grace of God' – a powerful and impactful movie



Image provided

By Sophie Braccini

The newest presentation of the International Film Showcase in Orinda, "By the Grace

of God," is not an easy movie on any count. The topic is tough: it shows the fight to bring to justice a priest and Scout master who used his position and charisma to mo-

lest hundreds of very young boys. The way the director, François Ozon, decided to narrate the story is almost that of a documentary, the names are real (for the priest and hierarchy, not the victims) and the facts have been checked. This lack of embellishment or voyeurism makes the raw reality of political cynicism sink in with great power.

The movie starts with Alexandre Guérin, a devoted Catholic man and father of five who continues to put his faith in the church. He learns one day by chance that the priest who abused him as a child is still in charge of a parish and teaches young children. He decides it has to stop and chooses to go the regular route of appealing to the priest's hierarchy and Cardinal Barbarin to have him removed from his parish and defrocked.

As the priest's story of abuse surfaces, other former victims decide to join the fight. The film in turn examines the different ways that abuse has marked these men's lives and how they have affected relationships with their family and others. François Debord, an atheist, at first

does not want to get involved in the fight to try to remove the priest, but when he finally gets in touch with his long-buried emotions, he decides to do all he can to alert the media.

These men, whose case has legally expired because of the statute of limitations, look for people who can still press charges. Emmanuel Thomassin is one of them. A young man who never really got his balance back, he is a dropout, full of anger and violence. He agrees to join the fight and the three men start an association to free the expression of the victims. Thomassin presses charges, is confronted with the priest, and the French judicial system starts to move forward slowly.

What is thrilling in the film is the cynicism of the Catholic hierarchy that does not appear to be concerned at all with the suffering of the children. Ozon exposes the veil of silence that covered the priest's acts for years, coming from the church, but also from some parents who decided to either not see or minimize what was happening.

The actors are incredibly simple and believable, includ-

ing Bernard Verley who plays the priest and François Marthouret, who plays Barbarin.

The way the movie gets its name is chilling and revealing. Moviegoers will discover it by themselves toward the end of the film.

The film is over two hours long, so it might take some stamina to stay until the end, although it is totally worth it. The movie opens Jan. 24 for one week at the Orinda Theatre.

Coincidentally, Bernard Preynat's trial opened in Lyon, France on Jan. 14. Preynat pleaded guilty and confessed to having molested four or five children each week in the Scout camps, and one or two every weekend in his parish, over a period of at least 20 years. He added that his hierarchy knew of his tendencies since his preparation to the seminary when he was 16 years old.

The Office of the Public Prosecutor requested eight years in prison for child molestation; the final verdict is expected in the spring.

For information, visit www.orindamovies.com/

Lafayette native helps in Australia firefight



Photos provided

Forestry staffer Martha Morse with a ringtail possum she and her crew saved at the North Black Range Palerang Fire.

By Jennifer Wake

With bushfires continuing to rage across the country, Australia is not a destination most Americans are choosing

in their travel plans. Unless, of course, you're a firefighter.

Lafayette resident Mike Morse has been in touch almost daily with his daughter, Martha, since she left Oct. 26 to help battle the Australian blazes as part of a private firefighting company crew on a six-month contract. With only two U.S. fire seasons under her belt, the 21-year-old firefighter, who attended Springhill Elementary, Acalanes High School and Tilden Prep, and played LMYA soccer and basketball with St. Perpetua CYO, says she's never experienced anything like this. "The fires we are witnessing today in Australia are like no other," Morse wrote in a Jan. 10 Australian newspaper article. "The impact alone is devastating."

The Australia fires, which began in September, are responsible for killing at least 24 people, millions of wildlife, and destroying over 2,000 homes in the 32,000 square miles that have burned since the blazes began. The devastated area is over 80 times larger than the total area burned in the California wildfires, according to an NBC News report.

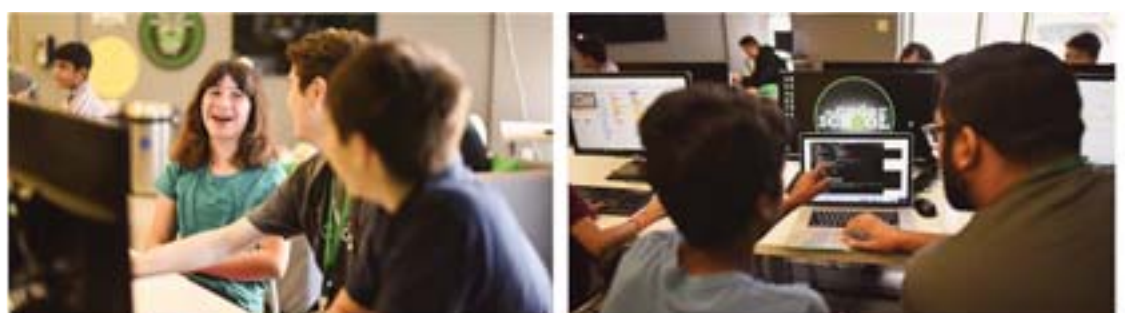
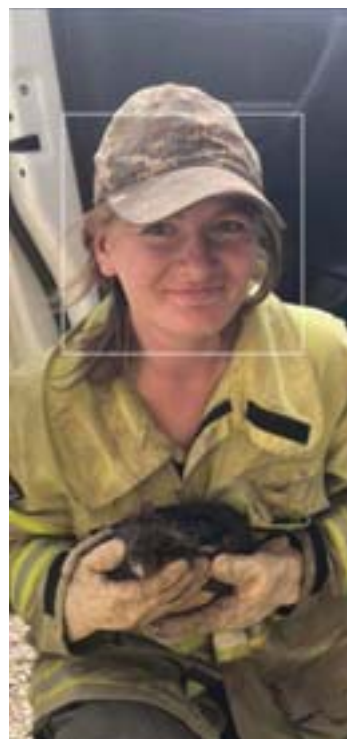
Morse has been fighting seasonal wildfires with contract crews based out of Oregon for the past two years. "She typically works at a ski resort in winter, fights fires and raft guides in the summer," her father said. This month, the crew was averaging 12-16 hour shifts, working about six days straight before having a day off.

Martha has been impressed with the volunteer firefighters in Australia, saying how incredible it has been to see people actively saving homes in their community. One of her crew members commented in a recent news article how Aus-

tralia's situation would be completely different without the rural volunteer firefighting group.

As for his daughter's safety, Mike Morse says her crew and company take safety very seriously and she is learning a lot. "I'm happy that she has found a job that challenges her and fits her outdoor lifestyle and orientation." He keeps in touch with his daughter through WhatsApp, getting photos and texts.

While wet weather helped some of the fires dissipate, it caused other issues such as flooding and landslides. And, unfortunately, it wasn't enough to extinguish all of the flames. As of Jan. 16 more than 80 fires continued to burn, with 30 yet to be contained.



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ART

Lamorinda Arts Alliance presents an exhibit, "Strictly Abstract," though Feb. 28 at the Lafayette Bank of America at 3530 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. The new exhibit features abstract paintings by Susan Erickson, Carla W. Gelbaum, Irenka Kudlicki, Pam McCauley, Geoff Meredith and Judy Bolef Miller. <https://laa4art.org>

The Lamorinda Arts Council kicks off the New Year with the artwork of the F-15 Photography Group, Alex Meckes' mathematical origami and ceramics by Ian Clark, Diva Fontinelli and Angela Lusk of the Rossmoor Ceramic Arts Club at the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, through Jan. 31. For more information visit www.lamorindaarts.org.

Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents "Artist talks 3D" at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 22. It's time to bring in the artists to share their stories and studio practices on a deeper level. Featuring multiple artists, you will hear from sculptors working in clay, bronze, stone, metal and concrete. Each artist will have time to walk us around the gallery to share specific artworks with you and to answer your questions. This talk is free and open to the public.

There is two-hour parking in the back parking lot of the building 3525 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

Moraga Art Gallery's new show "Serendipities," runs through Feb. 1 and includes artwork by a score of guest and member artists, including Graig Crossley of Moraga, an abstract painter who uses a full palette of blazing primary colors, and Rick Nelson, a wood-turner of the first rank whose forte is museum-quality wooden bowls. An oversized metal sculpture by popular Joe Bologna serves as the show's centerpiece along with jewelry by K. de Groot and walls lined with photographs of landscapes by Wenda Pymman, florals by Lucy Beck, watercolors by George Ehrenhaft and various mediums by new members. The Gallery's new location in the Rheem Shopping Center is 432 Center Street (between Nation's and the Dover Saddlery). For more information call (925) 376-5407 or visit www.moragaartgallery.com.

Moraga Art Gallery presents a new art exhibit and reception at the reopened gallery: "Kaleidoscope" from Feb. 5 through April 4. An opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Feb. 8 will offer live music, complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres, and an opportunity to mingle with the artists as well as with

other devotees of painting, sculpture, jewelry, print media, ceramics, photography, wood-working, and much more. For more information, visit the gallery's website: <https://moragaartgallery.com>, or call (925) 376-5407 or email moragaartgallery@gmail.com.

Orinda Book Store artist of the month Lisa Gunn on exhibit through Jan. 31.

MUSIC

Gold Coast Chamber Players concert "Czech Marks" at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25 in the Don Tatzin Community Hall, Lafayette Library and at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 26 at Piedmont Center for the Arts, 801 Magnolia Ave., Piedmont. There will be a pre-concert talk 30 minutes prior to each concert. Tickets: \$45 General, \$40 Senior (65+), \$15 Student. Purchase online: GCCPmusic.com or by phone: (925) 283-3728.

St. Paul's Concert Series presents Rena Harms and Anyssa Neumann, Soprano and Piano Duo at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek. St. Paul's Concert Series kicks off its 2020 Season with Soprano Opera Star Extraordinaire Rena Harms joining piano virtuoso Anyssa Neumann, presenting works by Strauss, Schoenberg, Barber,

and Vaughn Williams. Donation at the door: average \$20, students \$10 (all are welcome regardless of donation).

Soprano Ann Moss and pianist Steven Bailey will be featured on the OSLC Concert Series at 4 p.m. on Jan. 26. Their program, "EX UNO OMNES: Music of Isolation and Alliance," is about our mutual experiences of such things as fear and loss, love and mutual recognition. The program includes works by women and LGBTQ composers. Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Free admission, freewill offering taken.

Diablo Women's Chorale singers wanted. Do you love to sing and want to bring more harmony, fun, and musical company into your life? Then audition for the Diablo Women's Chorale at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 27 at Saint Matthew Lutheran Church, 399 Wiget Lane in Walnut Creek. Auditions are by appointment only. Contact Nancy Hickman, membership chair, at (925) 899-5050 or hickmandg@gmail.com, to book an audition time. www.diablowomen.com

The award-winning concert choirs of Moraga's Campolindo High and Danville's San Ramon Valley High join the Diablo Symphony Orchestra and four Bay Area soloists in perfor-

mances of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. on Feb. 9 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave, Walnut Creek. Advance tickets are available at the Leshner Center box office (925) 943-7469, or by visiting <https://www.diablosymphony.org>. Adults, \$35; Youth 13-17, \$10; Children 12 and under, free. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

THEATER

Plotline Theater Company presents "The Glass Menagerie" at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays, 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and at 2:30 p.m. on Sundays through Feb. 2 at the Martinez Campbell Theatre, 636 Ward St, Martinez. Tickets: \$22 for adults and \$19 for seniors and students. Online ticket purchase at brownpapertickets.com or call (925) 350-9770. <https://www.campbelltheater.com> for more info.

Town Hall Theatre continues the IN THE WINGS staged reading series with a one-night only performance of "Incognito," a compelling brainteaser of a play by Nick Payne. Incognito will have one performance at 8 p.m. on Feb. 3 at Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street in Lafayette. Tickets are \$10 general admission and free to subscribers, and are available through the Box Office at (925) 283-1557 or online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents David Talbot and Quincy McCoy: "Between Heaven and Hell: Story of my Stroke" from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27 at Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar Street, Berkeley. Talbot and McCoy will discuss Talbot's new book, "Between Heaven and Hell: The Story of My Stroke," answer questions and sign books. Cost: \$12 advance, \$15 door. For more info see <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4486178> or call (510) 967-4495.

The Stanford Women's Club of the East Bay presents the 45th Annual Books on Review program, featuring four Stanford authors speaking about their books from 9:15 a.m. to noon on Jan. 30 at Shadelands Art Center, 111 N. Wiget Lane at Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Price: \$35, cash or check only, at the door. Or register for this sell-out event now at <http://alumni.stanford.edu/goto/BOR>. Everyone is welcome!

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Registration opens Jan. 24 for the fifth annual AAUW-OML Techbridge STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) conference for middle school girls being held from 8 a.m.- 3 p.m. on March 21 at Saint Mary's College in Moraga. For online registration and more information visit the conference webpages via the link on AAUW-OML's website <https://oml-ca.aauw.net>. Conference registration fee is \$25 per student. Space is limited; early registration is encouraged.

The East Bay Regional Park District will host two Youth Job Fairs designed to raise awareness of employment opportunities for youth in the East Bay. The fairs are scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon on Jan. 25 at Hayward Area Senior Center, and Feb. 1 at Pleasant Hill Senior Center. Both events offer attendees an opportunity to learn about the specific Park District jobs available and interact with current employees to get insight into what it's like to work for the Park District. The Youth Job Fairs also include general information sessions on resume writing, application submittal, and job interviewing for youth looking to enter the workforce, whether at the Park District or elsewhere.

... continued on next Page

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OTHER

Understanding Your Breast Cancer Risk Factors from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 28 at the Lafayette Library, Community Room. Come and experience an event focusing on the most common breast cancer risk factors. A panel of medical experts will give an overview of genetic counseling, MRI breast screening guidelines, extremely dense breast tissue findings, recommendations for chemoprevention therapy and lifestyle changes. Reservations recommended. Call (925) 677-5041 x272 or email to sjung@dvoimg.com.

"All Means All," a joyful service of welcome to LGBTQ folk and their allies, will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 26 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. Special musical guests are "Emma's Revolution." For more information, (925) 283-3722 or martin@oslc.net.

The free all-new Lamorinda Home Show will present dozens of exhibitors on hand to explain their home improvement products and services indoors at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1. Free admission and free parking to the indoor Lamorinda Home Show. The Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building is off Highway 24 at 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

All Lafayette residents are invited to attend the Lafayette Homeowners Council (LHC) Board's Community Meeting "Issues Night" to be held at 7 p.m. on Feb. 6 at the Community Center's Sequoia Room at 500 St. Mary's Road. Scheduled speakers include Mayor Mike Anderson with "State of the City" remarks followed by School Superintendent Richard Whitmore on our Schools and former Mayor Don Tatzin regarding transportation and traffic is-

ues. This Community Meeting is a chance for our Lafayette residents to hear directly from community leaders followed by a Q&A about issues they find important. Folks can also look on the LHC website for further information at LafayetteHomeowners Council.org

Diablo Ballet presents the second program of their 26th season, "Balanchine & Beyond" at 8 p.m. on Feb. 7 and at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Feb 8 at the Del Valle Theatre in Walnut Creek. The program features selections from five ballets. Tickets: \$15-\$48 (925) 943-7469; lesherartscenter.org, diabloballet.org

Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church 15th Annual Crab Feed and Dance from 6 to 11 p.m. on Feb. 8 at 1700 School Street, Moraga. Chicken available by special advance order request. Dinner & Dance - \$60. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For questions, please call Thea at (925) 672-6799 or (925) 890-0918, or email her at thecubsfan23@yahoo.com.

Welcome to Medicare is a free class presented by Contra Costa Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP). You will learn when and how to enroll, about Medicare costs and benefits, prescription coverage, Medicare Advantage plans (HMOs), Medicare Supplements and how Medicare coordinates with other coverage. Classes are monthly on the second Wednesday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at John Muir Medical Center, Walnut Creek. Upcoming date: Feb. 12. See www.cchicap.org or call (925) 602-4168 to enroll.

Lafayette resident, Papa John Kiefer, will, again, offer workshops on "How to Raise Your Own Chickens." Topics will include raising young chicks, laying hen maintenance, and sustainable

coop construction. Workshops are free and will be held in Lafayette from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on March 1 and 15. Reservations are required. Contact: chickenspapa-john@gmail.com. Location provided upon registration.

SENIORS

Anne Randolph Physical Therapy presentation on Arthritis from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Jan. 22 at the Sequoia Room, Lafayette Community Center. Live the best life you can with arthritis! Understand the challenges and changes arthritis brings on and find practical solutions to make daily activities easier. Members: free; non-members: \$10.

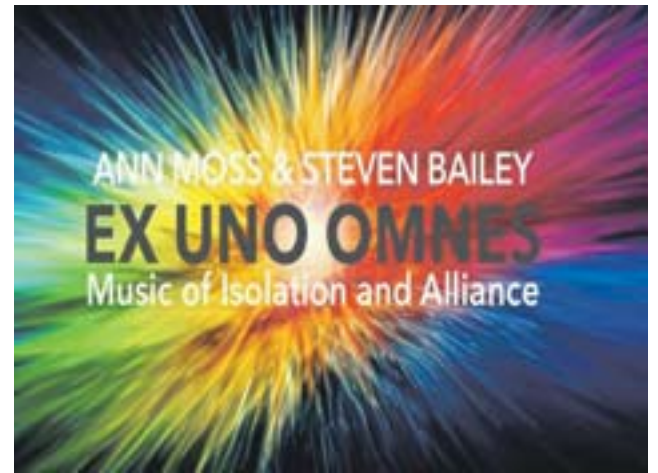
GARDEN

Winter Rose Care Workshop at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 at McDonnell Nursery, 196 Moraga Way, Orinda. Email info@mcdonnell-nursery.com or call (925) 254-3713 to reserve a seat.

The Walnut Creek Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting at 10 a.m. on Feb. 10 at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, in Walnut Creek. The Walnut Creek Historical Society will be speaking and showing a visual presentation. The presenters are Sheila Rogstad, vice-president and archivist of the Walnut Creek Historical Society, and Lee Culver, historian and archivist.

Lafayette Garden General Meeting starting at 10 a.m. on Feb. 13 in the Lafayette Veteran's Bldg, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Guest Speaker John Greenlee is an expert in grass ecology and champion of sustainable design. Free. Interested members of the public are welcome. For more information please contact twalklet@comcast.net.

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THT's 'In the Wings' staged reading series continues

Submitted by Susan Evans

Town Hall Theatre continues the "In the Wings" staged reading series with a one-night only performance of "Incognito," a compelling brainteaser of a play by Nick Payne. Using only four actors to portray 21 characters, Payne's "Incognito" ingeniously weaves together three stories: a pathologist steals Albert Einstein's brain; a neuropsychologist falls in love with another woman; and an amnesiac patient suffering seizures can only remember one thing: the love he has for his wife.

In what the New York Times termed a "self-examining drama of ideas," the play deftly explores the illusory and complicated nature of selfhood, of personal identity and memory. "Incognito" is directed by Anna Smith and will feature Town Hall regulars and Bay Area talents.

"Incognito" will have one performance on Monday, Feb. 3 at Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street, in Lafayette. Tickets are \$10 general admission and free to subscribers, and are available through the Box Office at (925) 283-1557 or online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.



'Women Composers & Women Performers' concert at SMC Chapel



Submitted by Jean Ahn

Ensemble Ari will be collaborating with SF Opera Soprano Rhoslyn Jones as part of a guest artist concert, "Women Composers & Women Performers," featuring two world premieres by women composers at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 in the Saint Mary's College Chapel.

Along with song literature by Clara Schumann and Fanny Mendelssohn, American composer Amy Beach's Piano Trio will be performed by Ensemble Ari. Beach's Piano Trio shows her mastery and idiomatic writing that

negates the belief that "women cannot write like men," which prevailed during her lifetime. She is remembered as a central figure in the history of women in music. Local composer and Director of Ensemble Ari, Dr. Jean Ahn says, "We hope to educate young musicians to the wide variety of women composers' works." Violinist Hijung Lee joins the group in this concert and will premiere Sunhee Cho's, "Beyond." Doors open at 7 p.m. and admission is free, but contributions are welcome. Parking is 50 cents per hour in the visitor's lot to the left of the guard's gate.

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.

January 23: Michaele MaKay McCoy The American Constitution	January 30: Michael Barrington Update on Clean Water and Toilet Project in Honduras
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www.rotarylafayette.org
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Lamorinda Weekly

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Lafayette Library Art Gallery opens call for artists

Submitted by Jenny Rosen

The City of Lafayette Public Art Committee is inviting artists living or working in the Bay Area to submit proposals for exhibitions in the Library Art Gallery located at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in downtown Lafayette through Feb. 29. The Library Gallery at the LLC was created to support rich and diverse artistic expression and to encourage the appreciation of the visual arts in the community. It provides an exciting opportunity for local artists to display their work in Lafayette's cultural center.

Beginning this fall, four exhibitions will be presented each year: October-December, January-March, April-June, and July-September. Please apply through lovelafayette.org.



Jared Young Chong's "Hala at Sunrise," oil, 1971.

Photo provided

Blood drive honors Miramonte teen



Photo provided

By Sora O'Doherty

Lamorinda residents, and others, have been invited to donate blood in honor of Anthony Bradley, a Miramonte senior. Bradley, 18, is currently battling Osteosarcoma (bone cancer), and will require blood transfusions during his cancer treatment. He is raising awareness for the importance of blood donations to cancer patients.

An avid swimmer, lifeguard, and Rugby player, the Orinda resident is part of a huge community with his extended family in the Bay Area and Michigan, his church, the Columbo Club, school, and sports.

Deena Mader, whose sons are friends of Bradley's, is helping to promote the blood drive, and emphasizes that people should attend, even if not giving blood. "More people will be fun and uplifting and show the community solidarity that our area is so known for," she says. "The Bradley family have been so touched by the amazing outpouring of love, kindness and support," she added. "Anthony has remained so positive and shown such character these past few months in part due to so much love being poured into him. His altruistic nature makes this effort no surprise that he would want to rally his community and raise awareness of lives that can be saved by donating blood." Only 38% of Americans are eligible to donate blood, but only 10% actually do donate, according to Mader. In order to give blood, a person must be over 17 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds.

The two venues for the drive are on Friday, Jan. 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the small gym at Miramonte High School, located at 750 Moraga Way, Orinda, and on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the parish hall, Church of Santa Maria, 40 Santa Maria Way, Orinda. Identification will be required and space may be limited.

To make an appointment or get more information, visit redcross-blood.org; enter sponsor code: AnthonyBradley. For information about eligibility to donate blood, call 1-866-236-3276 or visit <http://bit.ly/elgble>.

In Memory

Barbara Harbuck

Feb. 4, 1938 – Nov. 28, 2019, Resident of Moraga, CA



The family of Barbara Jane Harbuck is sad to announce her passing on Thanksgiving Day. She is survived by her loving husband Col. James Harbuck, her sister Nancy Gnepper, brother Steve Johnson, grandchildren Haley and Cooper Harbuck, daughter-in-law Jill Harbuck, and many other loving family members. Her beloved son David pre-deceased her in 2016.

Barbara was a longtime resident and community leader in Moraga and had established a wide circle of friends throughout Lamorinda. She had a passion for people and tirelessly devoted her life to her family, friends, and philanthropic

organizations. In her early career she was a grade-school teacher. She was a volunteer at John Muir hospital and the Navy League. She was a strong supporter of education, and a longtime respected member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Barbara served as President of AAUW in 1987-88 and won the AAUW Distinguished Woman Award in 2004.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Feb. 1 at 1:30 pm at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of AAUW to support women's education.

H.S. Mock Trial looks for legal professionals to volunteer their expertise



Submitted by Jonathan Lance

Bay Area soon-to-be, practicing, and retired law professionals are invited to provide assistance to their future brethren at the upcoming 39th Annual Contra Costa County High School Mock Trial Program, held on seven weekday early evenings, during January and February, in the Martinez court rooms. Last year, close to 80 Bay Area practicing and retired attorneys and sworn judges, as well as third-year law students volunteered their time with the Mock Trials.

Coordinated by the Contra Costa County Office of Education, Mock Trial is an academic event provided for high school students. The hands-on educational program was created to help students acquire a working knowledge of our judicial system, develop analytical abilities and commu-

nication skills, and gain an understanding of their obligations and responsibilities as participating members of our society.

Schedule for 2020 Contra Costa County High School Mock Trials:

Preliminaries: Jan. 28, 30; Feb. 4, 6 – 5 to 8 p.m. (Eight competitions each night)

Quarterfinals: Feb. 11, 5 to 8 p.m. (Four competitions)

Semifinals: Feb. 13, 5 to 8 p.m. (Two competitions)

Final and Consolation: Feb. 18, 5 to 8 p.m. (Two competitions)

Mock Trial will be headquartered at the A.F. Bray Courthouse, 1020 Ward Street, in Martinez.

Interested volunteers can learn more by visiting the CCCOE's Mock Trial web page (https://www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/programs/for_parents_students/academic_events/mock_trial) or contacting Jonathan Lance at (925) 942-3429.

In Memory

William S. Robinson

SF Engineer, Long Term Moraga Resident



William Stewart Robinson (Bill) was born in Thunder Bay, Ontario in May 1924, and died in Bellevue, Washington in late December, at the age of 95. Bill lived a remarkable life of adventure: working for Boeing at age 15, serving in the Canadian Merchant Navy during WWII, surveying throughout British Columbia, attending the University of British Columbia, moving to California to start a new life with Joyce, his bride-to-be, working for an engineering firm in San Francisco that he later owned, developing several award-winning surveying patents, retiring to a life shared between California and

Semiahmoo in Washington, and completing his life after nine happy, productive years at his home in Silver Glen.

Bill was known for his sense of humor, adventurous spirit, intellect and unfailingly positive attitude. He lived each day with a sense of joy and appreciation. He was a remarkable father, fostering confidence, principle and adventure. He was a devoted husband, thoroughly in love with his wife, Joyce, for all of their 57 years together. And after Joyce's passing in 2011, Bill found a special happiness with Naomi for his last eight years.

Bill was blessed with wonderful friends, both in Moraga, where he and Joyce raised their children, and at Silver Glen in Bellevue. He saw his children weekly, and enjoyed many visits from his California neighbors, and extended family in Canada, including our recent Canadian Thanksgiving in October with his brother, George, and many nieces/nephews. Bill was loved by his three children and four grandchildren, of whom he was extremely proud.

Bill was a Renaissance Man – engineer, scientist, writer, sports lover, camper, hiker, explorer, reader, boater, game player, skier, space enthusiast. He never met a game he didn't enjoy or an adventure he wouldn't take. Bill will be sorely missed by his three children: Steve, a UC Davis professor; Kerry, a Seattle lawyer (Steven); and Lynne, a Bellevue City Councilmember (Dan); his four grandchildren: William, Ian, Amanda and Nolan; his Canadian family, his many dear friends, and all those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

With love and thanks to you, Dad.

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.

Submit stories and
story ideas to
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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lamorinda girls soccer battling in challenging Diablo League



Photos Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

The Lamorinda girls soccer teams have a combined non-league record of 15-1-3 (Campolindo 4-0-2; Acalanes 7-0 and Miramonte 4-1-1). It's become a bit more difficult early in the competitive 13-team Diablo League with the teams in fifth, eighth and 10th place (Campolindo 4-1-1, Miramonte 2-1-3 and Acalanes 1-3-1).

Miramonte

Coming off a championship season, winning the North Coast Section and the Northern California Regional Championship, Miramonte head coach Barry McQuain understands the difficulty of being at the top of the mountain: "We'd love to repeat and that is our goal for this year but I know that the other teams have us in their sights, which means they are all going to be playing harder against us. It's been and will continue to be a competitive season and I like to think that we have a chance of doing well."

Despite losing five players to graduation and some who have opted to play for club teams, this is still a veteran team, says McQuain: "The eight seniors are the most that we have had in the last four years."

The offense is led by seniors Jordan Goularte (16 goals, 7 assists), Bea Whitaker (5 goals, 5 assists), co-captain Olivia Grillo (3 goals, 4 assists) and co-captain Juliet Adams (1 goal, 5 assists).

"As our center forward, Jordan makes it happen on offense due to her speed and ball skills," says McQuain. "She is also leading the team in assists because of her ability to find the other players and they have also found her. The negative is that she is now often double- and triple-teamed, though it does provide openings for her teammates."

The defense is led by senior co-captain Sabrina Grant and freshman Tahra Minowada, a combination that works well for McQuain: "Sabrina runs the defense and is one of our strongest and fastest players and I'm really happy with her performance this year. It's good have her working with Tahra."

Minowada is fourth on the team in scoring and has been a pleasant surprise for McQuain: "Tahra has the talent for defense and offense. She has such good ability to score in a crowd. When she scores, it means that we really have good control of the game, allowing her to move up the field."

Miramonte has the benefit of two goalies that have both been effective in the net – senior Mikayla Smith and sophomore Rowan Blacklock. "We are just lucky to have them both," says McQuain. "They're

both skilled and athletic. Mikayla has very good experience and Rowan has had a lot of training at the club level. They work well together, training each other."

Freshman Lola Kassella has become a factor on the team as well, says McQuain: "Lola has done a nice job in adapting to varsity soccer and the bigger opponents. Though she is not that big, she gives as good as she gets."

With limited time in pre-season, it's an ongoing process for the teams to come together and the Matadors are still looking to continue to develop by getting back to basics, says McQuain: "If you're just standing there, you're probably in the wrong position. If you're moving, it's probably the right thing to do. Give up the ball when you know the other player has a better position and know that you will get the ball when you have the better position. We're having a fun season and the girls all get along. We just want to make sure everyone stays as healthy as possible."

Campolindo

After making it to the second round of the Northern California Regional Tournament last year, Campolindo head coach Luis Pinto had reason for optimism this year: "We only lost three girls to graduation and have 16 returning players so we were able to pick up at a higher point than last year and have been a more consistent team."

The offense is led by two sophomore attacking midfielders, twins Mia and Ella Colombini, said Pinto: "They work well together and their transition speed is insane, being able to get back on defense and put in that extra work."

On defense, it's been the work between the defensive midfielders and the two center backs that has allowed only 12 goals in their 11 games. Senior Devon Ortman, Junior Kendall Runckell and sophomore Sami Kolin are all returners from last year's team and have coordinated well in keeping the defense performing so well.

Senior Mallory Louis also is very much responsible for the low number of goals given up, says Pinto: "Mallory is having her best year so far after having established herself as the starter."

Two freshmen, left wing Audrey Le-Nguyen and midfielder Coletta Tuba have provided top performances for Pinto and the Cougars: "Both Audrey and Colette have been a big part of the team and always make a positive impact when they have come into the game."

The co-captains are Louis, Ortman and Celia Campo and have been a big help for Pinto: "They have done a good job in taking charge of the team. They have the respect of their

peers and have helped us to maintain a fun and competitive culture."

Still there is room for improvement, says Pinto: "Our transitioning back to defense could be sharper. It's been more reactive than proactive so that has made us a little late at times."

This past week, Campolindo had four games and will have two games each week for the rest of the season so depth is going to be a key, says Pinto: "It's important that we avoid injuries with so many games in a week. I will be rotating a lot of players in to avoid injuries and burnout for the players."

Acalanes

On a veteran team with 15 seniors and four juniors, the leading scorers for the Acalanes Dons this season have been two freshmen. Addie Bailey (8 goals, 1 assist) and Tatum Zuber (7 goals, 6 assists) have combined for 37% of the team's goals. "Both of them

have come in and really pushed the upperclassmen and really given us a lift," said head coach Nick Barbarino. "I know that the team has really welcomed them and I'm excited at what the future brings for them and the team."

It's far more than a two-girl team with the upperclassmen playing key roles on both offense and defense. Seniors Molly Broad (1 goal, 2 assists), Eliza Parry (1 goal, 3 assists), Julia Pratt (3 goals) and junior Emily Keeler (5 goals, 1 assist) have all been contributors.

"We have a lot of seniors and they have been great," said Barbarino. "There is a lot of leadership on this team. They have been very welcoming to the younger girls and are really keeping us together. Our attitude, work ethic and team chemistry are very good. We love to have fun and the seniors do a great job seeing that everyone is included."

Leading the defense have been juniors Aliye Wingate,

Sam Hansen and Olivia Parnell. Parnell in particular has made big strides after being injured last season.

In goal, senior Kate Carter has taken charge both physically and verbally, says Barbarino: "Kate has been rock solid in the goal. She consistently makes great saves and also does a great job helping our offense, coming out to get the ball and then distributing it which has been a key for us."

The co-captains for the Dons are seniors, Carter, Dylan Hagglund, Ivy Souza and junior Aliye Wingate who represents the underclassmen on the team.

The key for the rest of the season? "Staying positive," says Barbarino. "We're still looking to improve in all areas. We've gotten better with every single game that we have played and I think that we're going to continue to gel as we keep getting used to each other."

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Adrian Bautista – 120 lbs of power and technique on the mat



Photos provided

By Jon Kingdon

If someone asks why don't you pick on someone your own size, they certainly weren't at a high school wrestling match. While so many sports give an advantage to the larger athletes, wrestling has 14 different weight classes – 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 160, 170, 182, 195, 220 and 285. Each weight class goes up by two pounds after the new year.

Adrian Bautista, a senior at Campolindo, began wrestling as a freshman, at 110 pounds, and has in four short years become a top candidate to make it to the state tournament in the 120 pound class. So far this year, Bautista's record is 18-6 with nine pins, having placed third at the Bill Martell Invitational, second at the Nick Buzolich Classic and second at the Kermit Bankson Invitational and is currently ranked sixth in the North

Coast Section.

Co-head coach Louis Suba was Bautista's first coach for his freshman and sophomore years: "I've seen his progress and it has been amazing. Adrian was a good athlete but as a wrestler he was a blank slate. Still I could tell that he had that innate ability and we just had to work on his strength and technique."

Bautista was drawn to wrestling after seeing a demonstration at the high school: "I saw how these guys were throwing each other and it seemed that it was a good way to stay fit and also a way to make friends. With Sam Settello, who was the head coach at the time, it was like a family, with everybody helping everybody out."

The innate ability that Suba saw in Bautista was his natural strength, athleticism and aggressiveness. "Some kids are strong but don't have that aggressive personality," Suba says. "Some are

aggressive without the strength. Adrian had all the tools. We just had to get him under control and teach him the proper technique which he definitely adopted."

Nikko Triggas, the other co-head coach with Suba, was a state champion himself when he was a student at Campolindo and Bautista gives credit to what he has learned from Triggas and Suba. "Both of them have been awesome coaches," he says. "Coach Louis taught me the technique along with being a good role model. Nikko relies on basics, which can be annoying, but it's really important because basics is what you need in order to get better. Both of them love the sport and they create a fun environment. They get us to believe in ourselves which builds up our self-esteem. The dedication and the time that they put into the team shows how much they care for us."

Suba draws an analogy to what a cross country run-

ner has to go through, being willing to put up with a lot of pain. "The pain is pushing yourself to the limit," says Suba. "Wrestling is a short burst of energy every 15 seconds and you have to push yourself to the limit if you're executing a move. If you relax at any point in time, you're going to get taken advantage of and put on your back. Adrian is definitely a kid that will go through a lot of pain and put himself through a lot of anguish to come out on top. Each match is six minutes and that may not seem a lot but there's just no stopping. It's the most grueling thing that you'll ever go through. If you're willing to put yourself through the suffering and the anguish, that is the definition of the successful wrestler."

It's at the end of the matches where Bautista feels you can hit the wall: "It's mostly in the third period when your muscles are aching and you have to keep on wrestling if you want the win. You have to tell yourself that you're more capable than what you think you're capable of. Putting in all the hard work in the off-season and during the season, putting your heart and soul into it and then getting the win is what makes you feel happy."

Suba also appreciates the technique that Bautista has mastered and learned from himself and Triggas. "Adrian is just fundamentally strong and sound. All his take downs look really good. His double leg, his single leg, his high C. He is strong on top and bottom," says Suba. "We try to give the wrestlers all the positives and negatives that they've done. Usually there are just not many negatives at all with Adrian. His margin of error in his losses has been so razor thin, he could be undefeated but for a few minor things in each one of those losses."

If there is one move that Bautista and all of the wrestlers at Campolindo

have come to rely on, it's the arm bar that was Triggas's speciality when he wrestled, said Suba. "When Nikko wrestled, it was almost indefensible. Nikko is now handing that down to all of our wrestlers. In the nine pins that Adrian has had, probably eight of them have been with the arm bar."

As much as he does utilize the arm bar, Bautista has learned to not rely on that single move: "Nikko says that you can't rely on one option. I do use the arm bar a lot but you have to have multiple take down moves in mind."

It not just the coaches that have helped Bautista with his performance. Noah Hammond (11-8 this season) who wrestles at 126 pounds has worked closely with Bautista for the past four years. "Adrian also has a really good training partner with Noah," says Suba. "They just push each other as much as they possibly can at practice."

"Noah is one of my best friends," says Bautista. "He and I are about the same weight and we've both been wrestling beginning as freshman and at camps together. We just really work hard and encourage each other."

As a senior, Bautista has taken on a leadership role, says Suba: "Adrian leads by example. He's not the most vocal guy but he is one of the hardest workers and is constantly moving during practice. He'll just keep pushing himself. He's very coachable and respectful. He's never one to think that he knows more than the coach. Even though Adrian is in one of the toughest weight classes, he can certainly make it to the state tournament."

Bautista sums it all up simply: "You learn to fight through the pain and believe in yourself. Making state has been my goal since my sophomore year. I want to make myself proud and to show that hard work pays off."

Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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Lafayette Sailor announced finalist

Submitted by Antonia Hutzell



Daniela Moroz

Photo provided

US Sailing is proud to announce the shortlist for US Sailing's 2019 Rolex Yachtsman and Yachtswoman of the Year Awards. Local Lafayette resident, Daniela Moroz, has made the list of finalists. The national event will be held in San Diego and is set to take place on Feb. 6 at the USS Midway Museum.

The annual determination of this year's awards represents a wide range of accomplished sailors at different stages of their respective careers and from various disciplines in the sport. All six of these finalists represent their own unique pathway to the top of the sport and have each mastered their craft with a dedicated focus on precision and performance on the grandest stage.

Miramonte Girls Wrestling



Photo provided

Submitted by Jason Rosiak

Shannon Lipp and Hannah Ripper from Miramonte High School are

co-champions at the Kusumoto Klassic in Saratoga, CA on Jan 10th. They duplicated the same accomplishment 2 weeks ago at the Crossface Classic in Vallejo.

Matthew Dellavedova to Receive Saint Mary's College's Alumnus of the Year

Submitted by Zack Farmer, Saint Mary's College

Saint Mary's College of California has named Matthew Dellavedova, an Australian professional basketball player for the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers, its 2020 Alumnus of the Year and will be honored at the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Awards in February.

The award is given to the alumni who have made a significant contribution to their professional field and/or has demonstrated consistent service to the college, exemplifying the spirit and dedication of a Saint Mary's College graduate. The 2009-10 Saint Mary's men's basketball team, which advanced to the Sweet 16, will also be inducted into the school's Athletics Hall of Fame that night. Dellavedova was a member of this team.

The ceremony will take place Feb. 15 in the Soda Center at Saint Mary's College. There will also be an on-court ceremony following the event during the Saint Mary's-Pacific men's basketball game.

A graduate from the class of 2013, Dellavedova has used his NBA stardom to support several communities in need in Milwaukee, Cleveland and in his native Australia.

In 2017 while with the Milwaukee Bucks, Dellavedova started "Delly's Deer" reading program, which seeks to increase student interest in reading with middle and elementary school youth. Through this program, he and his wife Anna (also class of 2013) provided vision screening and reading glasses to children in need.

Now back in Cleveland, they continued the program and in 2019 through their Vision Day hosted 150 kids at University Settlement, an organization that helps families overcome poverty. Every child participating received a free vision screening, and if it was determined they needed glasses, they were able to meet with a doctor on-site to determine their prescriptions. With education being an important area of focus for Matthew and Anna, they continue their community outreach around literacy and vision in the Cleveland area, knowing an important part of reading is being

able to see properly.

In September, Dellavedova released his first in a series of children's books titled, Daring Delly #1: Team Tryouts, where young readers can follow alongside a young version of Delly as he takes on the challenges, adventures, and fun of playing for his hometown team the Maryborough Blazers.

Beyond Dellavedova's literacy and vision work, he has participated in the Akron Children's Hospital's "A Prom to Remember" event, and spends time in the off-season with youth hoops clinic in both Australia and the states.

He has also partnered with his fellow Australian NBA players to fundraise for the fire relief effort to combat the fires currently ravaging Australia.

Following four years at Saint Mary's College, Dellavedova graduated with a degree in Psychology in 2013. During his Saint Mary's career, the Gaels made the NCAA tournament three times and in his freshman year, all the way to the Sweet 16. He finished his college career as Saint Mary's all-time leader in points, assists, games played, free throw percentage, and three pointers made and the 2012 West Coast Conference Player of the Year. Saint Mary's retired his No. 4 jersey in 2014, at the time the second ever retired by the program.

After going undrafted in 2013, Dellavedova joined the Cleveland Cavaliers for the NBA Summer League. A strong showing in the Summer League and then at the Cavs training camp earned him a place on their roster. Dellavedova continued his success in the NBA ending the 2015-16 season as an NBA champion with the Cleveland Cavaliers. Dellavedova was acquired by the Milwaukee Bucks in 2016 where he played for two-plus seasons before a mid-season trade took him back to the Cleveland.

He is a member of the Australian National Team, representing the Boomers in 2009 and 2011-14. This included the 2012 London Olympics and most recently he was a key member of the team at the World Cup in Spain and member of the 2016 Rio Olympic basketball team.

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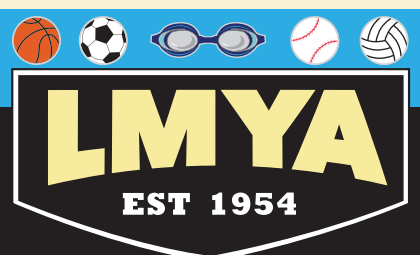
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AMAZING STORIES

By Robert Koch

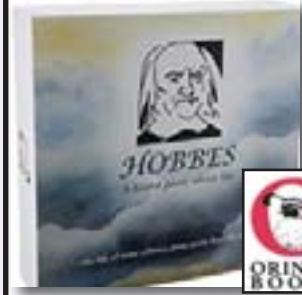
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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

... read on Page D8

Feng Shui

Preparing your home for the Year of the Metal Rat



By Michele Duffy

This is going to be a wild, powerful, and intense year for all starting Jan. 25 as it scurries in with the Male Iron Mouse (Tibetan) Male Metal Rat (Chinese).

Rat year marks a new beginning, a new start and signifies a year of profound and practical renewal. Rat is a quick study, and will usher in greater vitality and a fertile ground for growth and success. The positive Rat qualities are many, including intelligence, survival, tenacity, shrewdness, resourcefulness, adaptability, charm, passion, ambition, quick-wittedness and frugality, all forming the energetic signature of 2020.

Rat is the first of the 12 zodiac animals and rules career and life journey, and so there will be many opportunities to earn

more money and advance in our career paths. In life we are asked to face challenges and cleverly turn them into opportunities and above all, to remain positive, resilient, and hard working. Using Rat's tenacity and speed toward our work will also mean we will all be very busy, so it's also important to practice 2019 Earth Pig's lessons of greater work-life balance. We will need to stay focused as well, so getting a grip on and better managing our exposure to social media and our screen devices is essential for our concentration and serenity.

Since Rat is social and warmhearted many committed relationships will deepen and experience positive renewal. We do well to focus on one's mates and their needs, and not just on oneself. There will also be many new opportunities for successfully finding new love in 2020, for those who are unattached. Family time will factor largely in 2020 and planning holidays and trips to spend time with family is favored in family-oriented Rat year. This will be an excellent year for marriage as well as a year for many births, since Rats reproductive prowess is significant.

Health will be good if we remember to keep moving, get regular exercise, and refrain from junk food and eat a more healthy diet. Equally important is our personal care, and countering the fast pace of the year with periods of rest, rejuvenation, deepening knowledge, and spending time with family.

The energetic signature of 2020 also includes Rat's love for learning and acquiring wisdom and then also offering guidance, and so if we, collectively, ignore the wisdom of science, climate responsibility and good

financial planning, we will be out of alignment with the nature of Rat which will create problems.

In general, if we also work to avoid Rat's shortcomings and faults such as greediness, stubbornness, wordiness, timidity, eagerness for power, deviousness, and gossiping we will have a decidedly successful, new beginning 2020.

While preparing your home for the New Year, first quietly calm your mind and create a clear intention of letting go, releasing anything from 2019 that no longer serves you. Next, visualize the new beginnings details of the specific prosperity, health and harmony you wish for yourself and your family. As you prepare and clean things out, do so with the motivation of releasing old energy and fully welcoming the new energy of the New Year.

How to prepare your home for the New Year (do before Jan. 25):

1) Before you begin cleaning, do a visual space clearing of your home and walk clockwise around the house either burning sage or ringing a bell to energetically remove stale, old energy and invite positive, fortunate, successful 2020 Qi in;

2) Next clean thoroughly every single surface and room, including moving and cleaning behind furniture;

3) Donate any old clothes and shoes, and tidy the closets;

4) Discard any old foodstuffs from the pantry and restock pantry items;

5) Open all the windows and doors for at least an hour and bring fresh Qi in;

... continued on Page D4

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	7	\$1,150,000	\$2,500,000
MORAGA	5	\$350,000	\$1,600,000
ORINDA	8	\$620,000	\$3,300,000

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

- 1010 Almanor Lane, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 1898 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 12-04-19, Previous Sale: \$312,000, 08-28-98
- 927 Carol Lane, \$2,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3709 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 12-05-19
- 1946 Marion Court, \$2,155,000, 5 Bdrms, 4625 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 12-02-19, Previous Sale: \$1,625,000, 10-15-13
- 948 Reliez Station Road, \$1,170,000, 2 Bdrms, 1950 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 12-11-19, Previous Sale: \$1,170,000, 08-24-15
- 1340 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,949,000, 4 Bdrms, 2716 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 12-06-19, Previous Sale: \$1,650,000, 07-25-16
- 3198 Stanley Boulevard, \$1,540,000, 5 Bdrms, 3070 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 12-12-19, Previous Sale: \$570,000, 05-27-15
- 3703 Sundale Road, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2364 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 12-11-19, Previous Sale: \$176,000, 08-28-15

MORAGA

- 2129 Ascot Drive #7, \$557,500, 2 Bdrms, 1314 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 12-06-19, Previous Sale: \$419,000, 06-14-16
- 806 Augusta Drive, \$1,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 1842 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 12-05-19, Previous Sale: \$1,185,000, 03-21-17
- 244 Calle La Montana, \$1,395,000, 5 Bdrms, 2632 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 12-06-19
- 7 Lisa Lane, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2973 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 12-06-19, Previous Sale: \$396,500, 08-01-87
- 651 Moraga Road #2, \$350,000, 1 Bdrms, 669 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 12-06-19, Previous Sale: \$290,000, 04-19-05

ORINDA

- 285 Camino Pablo, \$750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1485 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 12-04-19, Previous Sale: \$723,000, 03-12-15
- 112 Camino Sobrante, \$1,240,000, 3 Bdrms, 2303 SqFt, 1924 YrBlt, 12-06-19, Previous Sale: \$410,000, 10-01-86
- 19 Donald Drive, \$1,738,000, 3 Bdrms, 3294 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 12-02-19, Previous Sale: \$1,335,000, 05-02-11
- 259 El Toyonal, \$620,000, 2 Bdrms, 1200 SqFt, 1944 YrBlt, 12-05-19
- 13 Gardiner Court, \$3,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 5137 SqFt, 2002 YrBlt, 12-06-19, Previous Sale: \$2,525,000, 03-12-04
- 24 Los Amigos, \$1,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 2155 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 12-02-19, Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 05-18-15
- 40 Mariposa Lane, \$2,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 4098 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 12-03-19, Previous Sale: \$517,000, 06-01-85
- 31 Oak Drive, \$1,215,000, 4 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 12-04-19, Previous Sale: \$850,000, 07-24-19



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Feng Shui

Preparing your home for the Year of the Metal Rat

... continued from Page D1

6) Prepare special foods, sweets, and foods that Rats enjoy like cheese and nuts, and also be sure to include oranges, which welcome the “Wealth Gods” since they are round and shaped like coins and fruit is symbolic of abundance;

7) On the actual day of New Year’s do not clean or you will clean away the New Year’s blessings;

8) On New Year’s Day wear new clothes and something that is red and as opulent as your budget can afford since Rat loves luxury;

9) On New Year’s Day give red envelopes to children with money inside, give gifts to loved ones and have a celebratory beginning.

Happy New Year to all!

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



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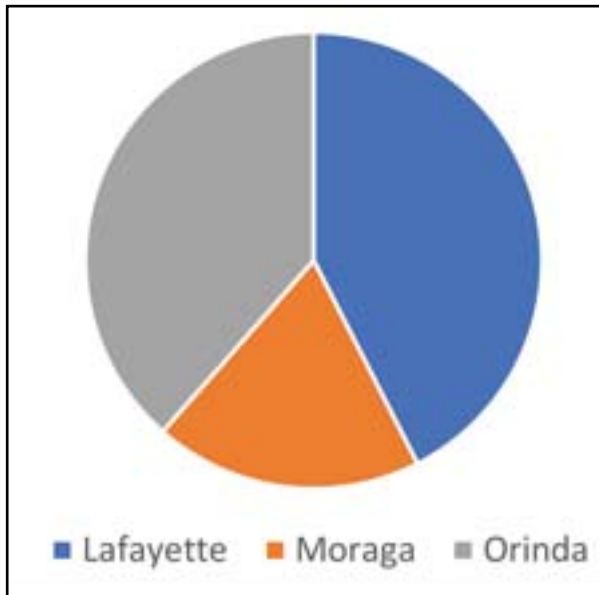
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The Real Estate Year in Review



Single family homes closed in 2019

By Conrad Bassett,

Licensed Real Estate Broker and CRP, GMS-T

This was another extremely strong year for sellers of residential real estate in Lamorinda. Sales volume was solid in 2019 with a minimal increase in supply matched by continued strong demand and average prices went up in Lafayette and Moraga, but slipped in Orinda.

Homes stayed on the market for a similar limited time as in 2018 and the majority of homes sold at or above their asking price.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported for closings Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2019, 288 single family homes closed in Lafayette versus 300 in 2018 and 322 in 2017. For the 288 reported closings, sales prices ranged from \$540,000 to \$5.85 million and the average time on market was 27 days, a slight increase from 20 days in 2018. The average sale price was \$1,789,012, up from \$1,736,519 in 2018 and \$1,625,636 in 2017. The average sales price was 101.5% of the final list price. There were two Lafayette foreclosures sold on the MLS.

In Moraga there were 129 single family closings in 2019, consistent with the 132 in 2018, which was down from the 164 in 2017. Prices ranged from \$925,000 to \$2.8 million. Only two homes closed in the MLS at less than \$1 million. The average sale price was \$1,486,327 ... nearly identical to the

\$1,485,713 in 2018. It was \$1,388,287 in 2017 and \$1,272,179 in 2016. The average number of days on market in 2019 was two, versus 16 a year ago. The average home sold for 101.0% of its last list price. There were no REO properties that closed on the MLS and no short sales.

In Orinda the number of single-family closings was 261, down a slight bit from the 280 in 2018. In 2017, it was 242 and 229 in 2016. The reported sales ranged in price from \$570,000 to \$4.85 million with an average price of \$1,629,030. This was a \$100,000 drop from 2018 when it was \$1,729,306. The average market time was 36 days, a slight increase from the 31 days a year ago. The average sales price was an average of just under 101% the final list price for the reported sales ... the same as Moraga. There was one REO (bank owned) sale in Orinda in 2019.

There were no reported sales in Canyon in the MLS in 2019.

On an average price per square foot basis for reported sales in 2018, Lafayette homes sold for \$671.90, down slightly from 2018's \$687.13, but up from 2017's \$642.46.

In 2019, Moraga homes sold for \$610.00 per square foot – an increase from the \$589.93 a year ago. The price in 2017 was \$565.37. In Orinda last year it was \$624.28, slightly down from 2018 when it was \$638.12. In 2017 it was \$609.13.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had 17 closings in 2019 in the MLS. This as a sharp drop from the 36 closings in 2018, which was an increase from 30 closings in 2017. This can be attributed to the lower number of new construction closings reported to the MLS. Resale prices ranged in 2019 from \$619,000 to \$1.425 million. In 2018 it was from \$600,000 to \$2.45 million. Moraga had 67 closed units, down from 85 in 2018 and similar to the 65 in 2017. Sales ranged from \$350,000 to \$1.12 million. This includes attached homes in Moraga Country Club. Orinda had six closings while in 2018 there were nine and eight in 2017. They sold from \$995,000 to \$1.125 million – all in Orindawoods.

There was one Below Market Rate (known as a BMR) sale in Orinda last year – for \$459,941 on Citron Knoll.

It should always be noted that there are also a few direct sales that do not go through

the MLS and they are not reported here. These may include some foreclosures that were sold at the courthouse as well as some sales between private individuals.

As of Jan. 13, there were 32 dwellings under contract per the MLS in the three communities combined, with asking prices of \$849,000 to \$2.35 million. It should be pointed out that there are no REOs and no short sales. Prices have continued to rise over the last few years and more owners now have equity in their homes and have not had to go the short-sale process or face foreclosure.

A comparison of year-end inventory in the three communities combined shows 53 homes on the market. Last January there were 47 homes on the market. Seasonally the biggest inventory is in the spring and early summer; however this current number may point to another year with a combination of qualified buyers vying for a continued limited supply. The current asking prices range from \$580,000 to \$4.175 million in the three communities combined.

In Lamorinda in 2019, 137 homes sold for over \$2 million, compared to 163 homes that sold for over \$2 million in 2018 and 115 in 2017.

Interest rates have remained historically low although there has been some increase the last few months but they are still very attractive to those with down payments of at least 20%. Corporations continue to expand and contract and also to relocate families. The minimal amount of single-family new construction has helped keep supply and demand within a better balance than a lot of other neighboring communities.

The East Bay communities like Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda as well as Piedmont and several neighborhoods in Oakland and Berkeley, continue to benefit from their proximity to San Francisco where prices remain very high. Comparably speaking, the East Bay is still relatively more affordable.

The trend that began in 2011 continues today where in many situations in the three communities, the seller receives multiple offers and homes sell for above the list price. This, when coupled with a relatively low supply and a willingness by sellers to be realistic in their pricing, should continue to fuel a strong market in 2020.



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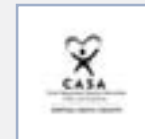
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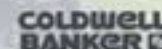
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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

2020 Garden Trends, Part 2

Dream green



Photos Cynthia Brian

Water lilies oxygenate a pond or water source.

By Cynthia Brian

“A dreamer dreams that everyone else in his dream must awaken before he can awaken.”

~ Ramana Maharshi

After my column, “The Power of RE” was published, I received numerous positive comments about how readers were implementing RE into their lives. It is gratifying to know that people read my articles, but I’ve always wondered what people do with the information they receive.

Orinda resident Kathy Boyle showed me. She wrote: “I was intrigued by your ideas in your Lamorinda Weekly article about the power of RE. As I was reading your article, I was envisioning those ideas in the context of gardening and recycling in my everyday life. But then that wonderful Cervantes quote inspired me to amplify the ideas to how I am trying to live my life, especially during these very odd times.” (“Take a deep breath of life and consider how it should be lived.” ~Miguel de Cervantes)

An elementary school resource specialist for 40 years, Kathy had learned the power and effectiveness of ideas being created as colorful bulletin boards for kids. Now in retirement, she uses doors, walls, windows, mirrors, and even the shower door as her special bulletin boards by designing colorful visual pages to inspire herself. She also crafts pocket cards to carry with her on her hikes in nature. Her innovations helped me re-imagine my dream for this second part in the 2020 Trends series. Thanks, Kathy for sharing your talents and for



Aloe is a plant that everyone needs as it heals burns and cuts.

reaching out. Your art has reinvigorated me.

Green careers are on the rise. From Boomers to Generation Z, people are finally understanding the call of the wild. From watering vacation gardens to talking to struggling plants, jobs are waiting to be filled. Horticultural therapy and plant blogging can become full-time careers.

As our climate warms and more natural disasters occur, it is time for everyone to wake up to dream green.

Growing up on our farm, to be “dirt poor” meant that we had plenty of land, but not enough money. I remember the first time I visited New York City when I was 19 and witnessed tiny bags of “dirt” being sold for \$5 and more. I telephoned home and told my Daddy that we could be rich if we packaged and sold our acres of dirt. He responded that there was a big difference between soil and dirt in our century. Healthy soil is rich in vitamins, minerals and organic matter. Dirt doesn’t have any nutritional value and isn’t valuable for growing anything. Unfortunately, today soil has been stripped of its nutrients. Erosion and deforestation have washed away one-third of the world’s topsoil. Crops are planted for yield, not for nutrition. According to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, if this negative trend doesn’t retreat soon, organically rich soil will be eliminated by 2050.

We have to dream green.

By embracing regenerative gardening practices, changing methods of farming and forestry, we can mitigate carbon and reverse the damage. We need to rebuild soil with organic matter, restore degraded



Kathy Boyle’s creative poster for The Power of RE.

soil, and reduce runoff. By composting, cover cropping, and no-tilling practices we can conserve wildlife and return to native soil. People are waking up to sustainability and the importance of caring for our environment. Composting reduces household waste by 40%. By growing organically, we revitalize the soil naturally. Planting cover crops of alfalfa, clover, beans, and mustard will control weeds and add nutrients to the soil. When planted in lawns, clover adds nitrogen to the earth, eliminating the need for additional fertilizer.

What about the greening of indoor spaces? Houseplants are connecting people with nature while cleaning the indoor air. Many young people have less income and live in smaller spaces. Succulents, bromeliads, peace lilies, snake plants, aloes, and fiddleleaf fig are easy to grow and long-lasting. Taking a class, attending a seminar, or watching how-to videos on YouTube are all terrific ways to learn more about growing nature inside.

Pollution, pesticides, UV radiation, and climate change are all leading to the destruction of habitat for amphibians and wildlife. If your garden is silent, it is not healthy. We need the croaking of the frogs, singing of the birds, and the hooting of owls. They keep our gardens vital by dining on mosquitoes, beetles, snails, rats, gophers and other pests. Plant ferns near water sources to protect frogs, toads, and turtles. Submerge water lilies to oxygenate the water while providing cover.

...continued on Page D11

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for January

BE AWARE of coyotes. I have had numerous reports of coyotes jumping backyard fences or digging under them to grab cats, chickens, rabbits and small dogs. Since the autumn fires, food is sparse and the coyotes are roaming neighborhoods.

READ this Asbestos and Natural Disasters Guide that covers the impact of wildfires on structures made with asbestos:
www.asbestos.com/asbestos/natural-disasters/
 California-specific: www.asbestos.com/states/california

DRY branches from tree trimmings for kindling.

BRIGHTEN your landscape, porch, or balcony by planting primroses which come in a variety of colors.

REPAIR broken pipes and irrigation systems while you have time.

PLANT bare root roses and fruit trees. Follow instructions on the packaging. Soak roots for a full 24 hours and cut off broken roots. Plant the bud union 3 inches above the ground.

REPOT potted plants you received as gifts of the holiday. Remove wrapping to allow for good drainage. Trim spent blossoms, water, and fertilize regularly.

REEDUCATE yourself about mulch:

www.akhomeshow.com/mulch-information-guide.php

REST. It is winter and time for a break. Sit by the fire on non-Spare the Air days. Drink hot cocoa or hot mulled wine. Dream a green dream.



The peace lily, also known as a sail plant, boasts a white flower that resembles a sail.



Red clover adds nitrogen naturally to lawns or wherever planted.



Ferns provide cover for frogs, toads, and turtles.

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

2020 Garden Trends, Part 2

Dream green

... continued from Page D8

Mushrooms are the trendy super-food of 2020. Some species of fungi eat plastic and could help with rapid plastic decomposition. Edible mushrooms can prevent or treat hundreds of conditions. Although you don't want to forage unless you are certain that a mushroom is not poisonous, if you want to grow mushrooms, inoculated logs can be purchased.

Being "woke" is a popular refrain these days. If we are going to dream green, we have to wake up to smell the roses. This is the year that we must conceive unique sustainable ideas so that we achieve a world where we can breathe, live, and enjoy.

Implement the power of RE and dream green.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Rest and relax by the fire as Cynthia Brian does.

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.cynthiabrian.com/online-store.

Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures.

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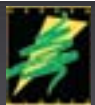
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\$1,550,000

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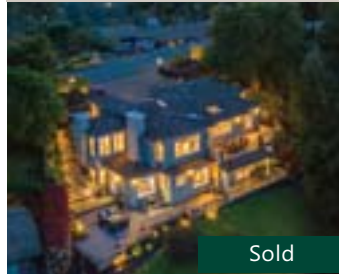
Sold

19 Donald Drive

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

\$1,795,000

ORINDA



Sold

11 Crestview Court

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

\$1,899,000

ORINDA

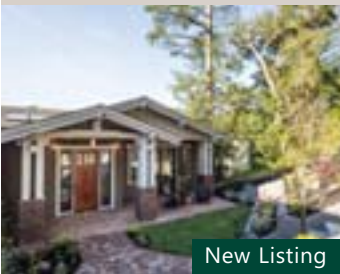


8 Moraga Court

Single level 5 bed/ 4 bath home with pool & expansive grounds. First time on market in over 34 years!

\$1,995,000

ORINDA



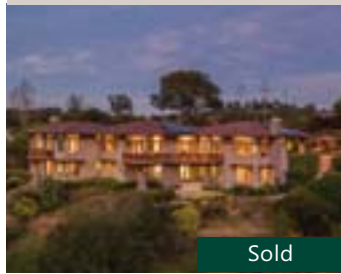
New Listing

48 Oak Drive

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

\$2,495,000

ORINDA



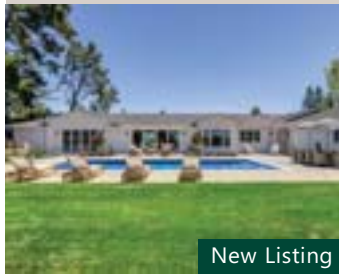
Sold

13 Gardiner Court

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

\$3,595,000

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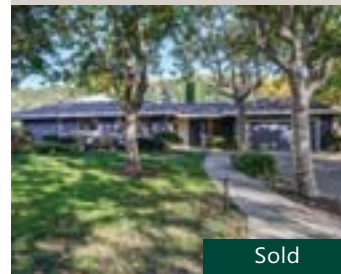
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57 Charles Hill Circle

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

\$4,395,000

MORAGA



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806 Augusta Drive

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

\$1,200,000

BERKELEY



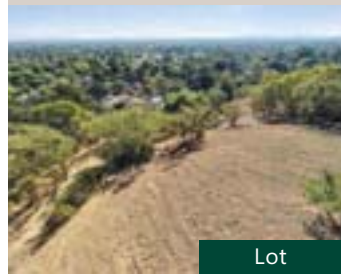
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7164 Buckingham Boulevard

Fabulous, furnished, light-filled 3 bed/ 3 bath home. Easy access to Hwy 24, UC Berkeley, & the Caldecot Tunnel.

\$7,500/ mo

PLEASANT HILL



Lot

20 Whitfield Court

Great parcel at top of knoll with views of Mt. Diablo. Ideal for privacy. Investment opportunity!

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WALNUT CREEK



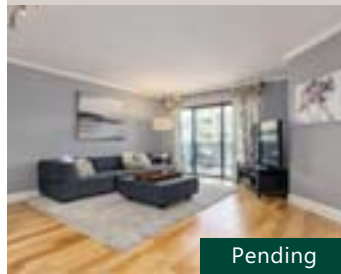
Pending

1341 Leisure Lane #4

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\$499,000

WALNUT CREEK



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