

TG HARDWOOD FLOORS
Moraga California
DESIGN • REFINISHING • INSTALLATION
925-376-1118
Lic # 974653

Since 1993!
Tom Gieryng, owner and operator

CALL TOM FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

Bay Area UNDERPINNING
GENERAL CONTRACTOR LIC. 867128

Building Foundations
• Lifting
• Leveling
• Stabilizing

707 310-0602
www.bayareaunderpinning.org

GENERAL CONTRACTOR LIC. 867128

BURKIN ELECTRIC
"Let Us Light Up Your Life"
Residential • Commercial • Industrial

Serving Contra Costa since 1991
More than 40 years experience

All Work Done by Owner
Bonded & Insured
Lic.#C10-631523

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

(925) 672-1519
James Burkin
Sole Proprietor

Total Clean Congratulates
Consuelo Orizaga
12 Years
of
Dedicated Service

LeapFrog Plumbing

Save some WATER 'n save some GREEN this St. Paddy's Day with a re-circulating hot-water pump. There's one to fit your needs (push-button, timer-activated, full-time & more). Tired of waiting for that hot water to arrive? No more water down the drain while you wait for hot water!

Head Frog Mo Williams

\$25 OFF!
any plumbing job (\$225 or over)*

\$100 OFF!
Hot water recirculation pump systems & tankless water heaters.
Late model tankless water heaters have integral pumps. Contact us for more information!

*Expires 3/31/20 Provided & installed by LeapFrog Plumbing, 1 coupon per job.

We Hop To It!
Family-owned and serving Lamorinda since 1993
green solutions!

(925) 377-6600
www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com

Look for our Summer Camp Guide in section C

experience the difference

ANA ZIMMANK
SRES
GLOBAL LUXURY SPECIALIST
M. 925.640.6008
ana.zimmank@camoves.com
CalBRE #00469962

When it comes to your most important real estate investments, trust the professional who is exceeding expectations every day. Whether you are looking for the perfect home to suit your lifestyle or want to sell your home for the best return, you can count on me to carefully guide you through the process.
Experience the difference.

Suspect in local bank robberies arrested

By Sora O'Doherty

Following a bank robbery at the Lafayette branch of Wells Fargo Bank, local police were able to determine that the robbery was connected to earlier robberies of the Moraga Wells Fargo bank branch on Feb. 12, and the Walnut Creek branch on Feb. 1. Lafayette and Walnut Creek Police arrested 41-year-old Brendan Gray Feb. 20 at his home in Alamo. Gray is a suspect in a series of recent bank robberies that have oc-

curred in Contra Costa County.

Jimmy Lee, Contra Costa Sheriff's Office Director of Public Affairs, in a statement said that Lafayette police detectives, assisted by Danville police, the Sheriff's Office, and Walnut Creek police were able to identify the suspect vehicle and identify Brendan Gray as the suspect in the robberies. Gray was taken into custody without incident and was booked into the Martinez Detention Facility on three counts of first-

degree robbery. Gray is being held in lieu of \$300,000 bail.

The Lafayette Police Department has asked that anyone with additional information regarding these robberies contact detectives at (925) 283-3680 or (925) 299-3234 or email Sergeant Rossberg at ross@so.cccounty.us. Tips may also be emailed to the Lafayette Police Department at: 94549TIP@gmail.com.

MOFD Chief pushes to sell new fire code to councils



Image provided

Removal of mulch and combustible vegetation within 2 feet of the home is intended to make our community safe. To see full videos showing ember caused fire in mulch, visit: <https://ibhs.org/wildfire/wildfire-demo-2019/> or <https://vimeo.com/79340385>

... continued from Page A1

In regards to home sales, Winnacker believes the duty to assure compliance with the fire code should properly rest with the seller, not the buyer. Under the proposed code, an exterior fire hazard inspection would be required, and sellers would be obligated to provide buyers with proof of compliance before the close of escrow. The chief would have discretion to accept alternatives in the event that bringing a property into compliance would delay the close of the sale.

Council members were concerned that sellers might need their equity to live on, or to purchase another home. Winnacker assured them that no-interest liens will be available for sellers to bring properties into compliance before the close of escrow, although those liens would then be satisfied from the equity before it would be disbursed to the seller. Rochelle Latimer, a resident of Orinda who also owns property in the Lake Tahoe area, spoke during the comment period and reassured the council that this lien method is being successfully used in subdivisions in Lake Tahoe.

The revised fire code applies differently to existing buildings and new buildings, and also has provisions for new housing developments. For existing buildings to be in compliance would chiefly mean removing plants and trees from close to the build-

ing. There was considerable confusion about what types of plants and trees are allowable, and concern about the expense of removing large trees in a short period of time. Under the new code, the time allowed to remedy noncompliance would be extended from 10 to 15 days. Basically, for a two-foot area around existing structures no combustible materials would be allowed, but this increases to three feet around new structures. This includes a ban on all forms of mulch, but would allow green grass, bare ground, river rock, crushed rock or gravel. Certain plants would be allowed, but some would need to be trimmed up two-feet from the ground.

Certain types of trees would have to be removed if within six feet of a structure or three feet of an evacuation route. This includes eucalyptus and Monterey pine trees. Because of the size of the problem, residents would be given until 2023 to remove all juniper and bamboo within 10 feet of a road.

The chief proposes more stringent requirements for new construction, which would include major remodels. The proposed code requires ember resistant construction and exterior under-eave sprinklers for residential systems. The proposed code also requires increased road widths for new units: an increase from 16 to 18 feet for one to two new units and to 28 feet for three or more new units.

There are 14,000 parcels in the fire district. In answer to a question about the viability of inspecting all those parcels, Winnacker said that the vast majority can be inspected from the street. Council Member Inga Miller said that there were accusations that particular properties had been "targeted" for enforcement, and Winnacker agreed that two members of the community were targeted for their political affiliations and that the employees responsible were fired.

Terry Murphy, former head of the Orinda planning commission, said that, at first, he thought that the chief's plan was a case of "classic overreach."

"Then," he said, "I remembered a burned boy who took a year to recover. The chief is trying to make our community safe," he concluded.

Michael Brown said that he thinks that some elements of the plan, such as the under-eaves sprinklers, should go to the planning commission. Dan DeBusschere urged the council not to delay but to adopt the plan, which he characterized as reasonable, and doable.

Vice Mayor Amy Worth praised Winnacker, noting that since he's been on board, Orinda has had much more active fire code enforcement. Winnacker said that his proposed plan is the distillation of his experience over the past two years.

Lafayette's newest public art piece and first-ever art Walk and Talk event

... continued from Page A3

The walk will begin at 1:15 p.m. and will visit works at the LLLC, Plaza Park, La Fiesta Square, the Mercantile Building, the Town Center, the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, culminating after

about an hour and a half at the latest public art on Mountain View Drive to hear Stern talk about her work.

Peacock, a five-year member of the PAC and 27-year resident of Lafayette who has been active in the arts for many years, will be

leading the tour with PAC Vice Chair Susan Loria. Peacock urges residents to "Come see Lafayette's wonderful collection of outdoor art." She notes there are many lovely, and often overlooked works of public art in the city.