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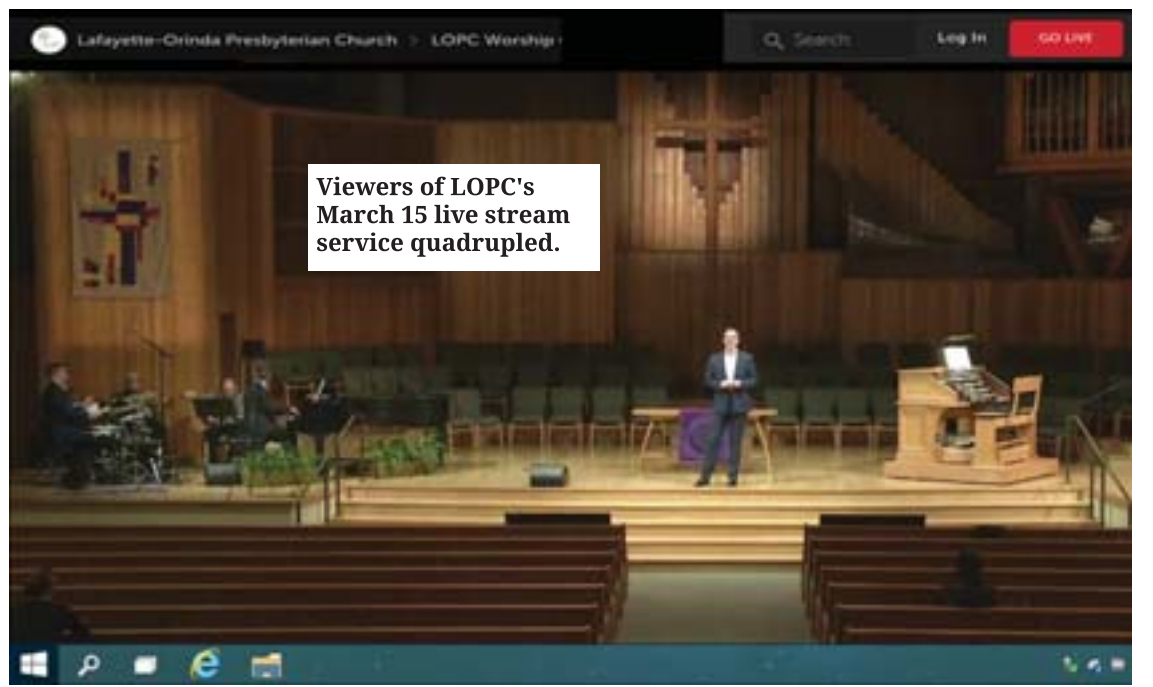
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## Coronavirus upends life in Lamorinda

By Nick Marnell

The afternoon of March 11, our lives abruptly changed.

That day, the director-general of the World Health Organization said that COVID-19, a disease caused by a new coronavirus, "can be characterized as a pandemic. We have never before seen a pandemic sparked by a coronavirus. We have rung the alarm bell loud and clear."

Almost instantly, financial markets collapsed, sweeping travel bans were put in place, major sporting events were canceled, and sports figures, celebrities and politicians announced that they had been infected. Public events were canceled one after the other, at a pace so breathtaking that it was sometimes difficult to keep up.

COVID-19, a flu-like illness, originated in a Chinese province in December and as of mid-March, 165,000 people worldwide had been infected and more than 6,400 had died, according to the WHO. "We have had limited testing, and there are more out there than have been detected," cautioned Ori Tzvieli, acting Contra Costa County Health Officer. He said that testing so far has been limited to the sickest patients, those who have traveled and those in nursing homes. Should county hospitals need to increase capacity, Tzvieli said they would cancel elective surgeries, erect tents on site and rely on regional partners.

Contra Costa County reported 29 cases of COVID-19 by March 15, nearly five times the number of the previous week. The Board of Supervisors proclaimed a local emergency, and the county

health department prohibited mass gatherings of 100 or more through March 31. Gov. Gavin Newsom on March 15 called for "deep social distancing," asking all California bars to close and calling for home isolation of everyone over 65, though he stopped short of mandating either action.

... continued on Page A12

### Coronavirus coverage

Do to the fast-changing, fluid nature of coronavirus guidelines being put into place, Lamorinda Weekly staff worked diligently to update information, however some of the information may be outdated since going to press on Monday afternoon. Thank you for your patience. Lamorinda Weekly

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## Spring sports suspended in Acalanes Union High School District

By Jon Kingdon

It was determined March 11 that the Contra Costa County schools would be allowed to continue to play their games but would have to do so without spectators. The official policy was that only athletes, coaches, officials and necessary volunteers should attend these games. It did not take long for that policy to become null and void.

Campolindo High School Athletic Director Raymond Meadows, along with the high school athletic directors, have been trying to adjust on the fly. "It's been changing and progressing every hour and we are doing our best to control what we can control

within our areas and communities," said Meadows. "Obviously it's way bigger outside of our high school level."

On March 13 the Acalanes Union High School District announced that all sports activities (games and practices) have been suspended for the next three weeks. The North Coast Section commissioners planned to meet on Tuesday, March 17 to decide what to do next.

The suspension of spring sports was something that did not take Meadows by surprise. "With the cancellation of the professional and college sports, that seemed to be the precursor of where things were going. Everybody is going to be very respondent to

the athletes and also to be cognizant that sometimes the issue may be bigger than what we can control. Our job is to protect our student-athletes and that's the best route for us to do so."

The Bentley School was in fact the first school to close their campus and suspend their athletic programs March 11. "We are in a video learning," said Athletic Director Rob Rafeh. "Our spring sports have been suspended at least through spring break which will end on April 13th and hopefully by that time it will be okay to resume our athletic activities. Obviously, things can change, but that is our hope right now."

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## Voters prioritize schools; further cuts avoided with success of Measure L



Photo Pippa Fisher

**By Pippa Fisher**

No one was more pleased to cancel the March 4 school

governing board meeting than the board members themselves. This was the meeting at which they were to have discussed cuts to

school spending if Measure L – the parcel tax to secure additional funding for all district TK to eighth grade schools – had failed. It didn't. Voters showed their support of the measure, which got over the two-thirds majority the measure needed to pass.

The seven-year, \$290 per year parcel tax is needed, according to campaign organizers, to attract and retain high quality teachers, and to prevent deep cuts to math, science, reading, language arts, engineering, technology and robotics programs as well as to maintain manageable class sizes, keep facilities safe, clean and well maintained, and to preserve the high quality programs currently offered in music, visual and

performing arts.

Lafayette School District governing board President Meredith Meade is grateful to the voters of Lafayette. Recognizing the hard work of the Yes on L campaign co-chairs Tom Mulvaney and Danielle Gallagher and their support team, she says that since Dec. 3, when the Lafayette School District governing board voted to go forward with a parcel tax, these citizens and many other community volunteers worked tirelessly to inform and educate residents about this measure.

"Due to the state of California's Local Control Funding Formula, our District is dependent on the support of our community to help bridge the funding gap and maintain

schools that are consistently ranked among the top in our state," says Meade, adding, "The board will continue to keep a sharp eye on our budgets and funding sources, but thankfully the urgent need to make cuts has subsided. In fact, we are hopeful that we will be able to reinstate some programs that we have had to cut the past few years, and institute some new ones based on our students' current needs."

Gallagher echoes Meade's thanks to the community volunteers who worked so hard on the Yes on Measure L campaign. "Their efforts exemplify why Lafayette is such a great place to live, work and raise our children," she says.

## Housing, jobs, transportation; critical balancing act, says mayor

**By Pippa Fisher**

Sharp-eyed residents might have noticed a little more activity recently at the site of the long-silent, large hole in the ground on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Dolores Drive. The Lennar Homes development is finally under way and will provide 66 condominiums plus 5,400 square feet of commercial uses including a full-service restaurant.

The three-story building

will feature a 171-space underground parking lot. Ten of the units are to be offered at below market rate to income-qualified households. Completion is estimated for the end of 2021.

In fact the backhoes and diggers provide a constant humming through the length of Lafayette these days, with construction in progress also at Woodbury Highlands, at 3700 Mt. Diablo Blvd. above the Woodbury development, and at the other end of town, at the Tancready develop-

ment on Brown Avenue.

At Woodbury Highlands the project will provide 99 units, 15 at BMR, with completion of the first 27 estimated for spring 2021. The Brown Avenue construction will provide 13 condominiums, two at BMR, with completion expected late next year. Since 2010 Lafayette has approved 247 units, some of which are now completed and occupied and some of which are under construction. Additionally there are another 603 units


under review.

... continued on Page A3



Photo Pippa Fisher

**Woodbury Highlands is in the preliminary stages of development.**

 <p><b>Lafayette Public Meetings</b></p>	<p><b>City Council</b>                  Canceled during March                  Lafayette Library &amp; Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.</p>	<p><b>Planning Commission Meeting</b>                  Canceled during March                  Lafayette Library &amp; Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.</p>	<p><b>Design Review</b>                  Canceled during March                  Lafayette Library &amp; Learning Center, Arts &amp; Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.</p>	<p><b>School Board Meetings</b>                  Acalanes Union High School District                  Wednesday, March 18, 7 p.m.                  AUHSD Board Room                  1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Laf.                  www.acalanes.k12.ca.us</p>	<p><b>Lafayette School District</b>                  Wednesday, April 22, 7 p.m.                  Regular Board Meeting                  Stanley M.S. Library                  3477 School St., Lafayette                  www.lafsd.k12.ca.us</p>
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# Sullivan Fortner, Kyle Athayde perform and educate for school and community



Photo Pippa Fisher

**Bob Athayde takes a back-seat (left) as jazz pianist Sullivan Fortner and vibraphonist Kyle Athayde perform at Stanley Middle School March 3.**

Stanley Middle School Teacher Bob Athayde once again scored a winner both for his students and the community when he opened his classroom March 3 to all to watch his son, vibraphonist Kyle Athayde, play alongside Grammy award-winning jazz pianist Sullivan Fortner. The performance coincided with the release of their first CD together entitled "Tea for

Two." Fortner and Athayde took time between pieces to educate students and to demonstrate techniques.

The concert was sponsored by an anonymous donation to the Generations in Jazz Foundation.

Fortner and Athayde also performed later the same day at Lamorinda Music in Lafayette.  
- P. Fisher

# Housing, jobs, transportation; critical balancing act, says mayor

... continued from Page A2

Certainly Lafayette has to abide by legislation coming down from the capital to address housing shortages. Recently the mayor and the city manager took a trip to Sacramento to meet with housing legislators in an attempt to discuss how Lafayette, with its unique set of challenges, including its designation as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, and lack of industry, can best comply with state goals including those of increased housing, and reduction in green house gases.

But although Lafayette has added more than 400 multifamily housing units in the last 10 years, 23 percent of which are BMR, it has taken a toll on jobs, with an estimated 615 potential jobs lost to development. And the loss of jobs at home is not helping get the 76% of Lafayette residents who work outside the city, out of their cars.

Mayor Mike Anderson says that the city acknowledges the necessity for additional housing in the Bay Area, as well as statewide to accommodate the needs of a flourishing tech-based economy.

"However, making that

housing affordable and situated in a comfortable community that is proximate to employment opportunities is a complicated and yet critical balancing act," says Anderson. He says that bills proposed by state legislators that stipulate increased density without accommodating the role of local control over land use decisions, can upset this balance of factors that is essential for truly livable communities.

Anderson says that while working to meet housing obligations, Lafayette is encouraging a balanced approach that considers housing, transportation and jobs holistically.

Anderson points out that "building housing away from large employment centers without adequate transportation infrastructure seriously erodes the quality of life in our communities and works against achieving California's greenhouse gas reduction goals.

"We need to find common ground in the housing debate and do what is best for our community, the region, and all of the state to create more opportunities for living and not just housing," says Anderson.



Photos Pippa Fisher

**Work has started on the Lennar project in earnest now.**



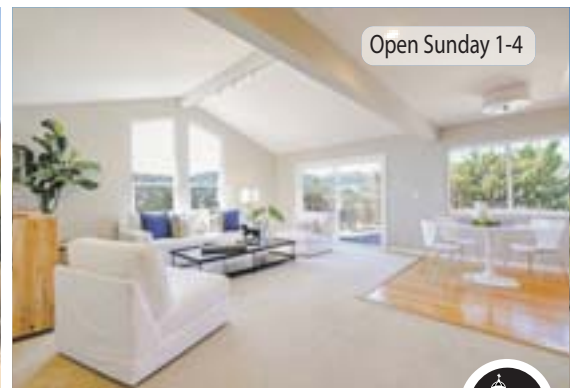
**On Brown Street crews have started grading. Once site work is complete they will start the vertical construction.**

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Phone: (925) 888-7022

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org  
Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



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## Moraga's new public works director is a familiar face



Photo Vera Kochan

### Moraga Public Works Director/ Town Engineer Shawn Knapp

#### By Vera Kochan

Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp first came to Moraga in April 2017 as the town's senior civil engineer. From the moment he showed up for his first day of work Knapp's skills were put

to the test.

According to Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg, "Shawn's first day at the town was the morning after the Canyon Road bridge closure." Battenberg took Knapp out to the site for a field inspection of the damaged bridge. "Shawn guided the town through the temporary bridge project, including obtaining federal funding and applying for reimbursements."

"I was supposed to get a lot of filing done and get accustomed to Moraga's files and projects," Knapp recalled. Instead, he had to begin designing the new bridge and secure funds for it. He also had to tackle the 2016-17 Rheem sinkhole repair project.

Moraga has kept Knapp busy in the three years he's been here. Besides providing technical assistance on last summer's crosswalk and

paving projects, he has overseen the town's land use development function.

Knapp's prior experience was working as a civil engineer for the city of Pleasant Hill. Before his 16 years with Pleasant Hill, Knapp spent eight years as a consulting energy conservation engineer/scientist for Pacific Gas and Electric Company. His many professional licenses and certificates include: Civil Engineering P.E.; Mechanical Engineering P.E.; Qualified Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Developer and Practitioner; and California Department of Transportation Resident Engineer.

When questioned about the progress of repairs for the latest Rheem sinkhole, located at the intersection of Rheem Boulevard and Center Street, Knapp explained that the town is in the process of filing an

abatement request with the Superior Court. The property owner of Moraga Star Gas Station, where the sinkhole is located, was sent a courtesy notice of the town's intent. "The town is separately coordinating with the Rheem Valley Shopping Center on repair work that may impact Center Street, which is part of the shopping center property," Knapp said. "These impacts include setting up traffic control with lane closures while the work is happening." Due to the danger the current situation poses to the public, the town plans to proceed with repairs, and upon completion expects a reimbursement from the Moraga Star property owner. If a reimbursement is not forthcoming the town can put a lien on the property.

On Knapp's Wish List are the storm drain projects. "I'd like to get that up and running.

That will be fun for me. With most of the disasters behind us and the funds we've been able to get back I can concentrate on construction projects." In April, he plans to revisit pavement options for some of the town's worst streets.

"I am confident that he will continue to serve the town well in this new role," Battenberg added. "Shawn has new ideas and strategies for how to do things more efficiently and cost effectively and has already begun implementing them."

"I am looking at efficiency within the department. How we're staffed and our costs," Knapp said. "I want to train staff to be able to do each other's jobs as much as possible - change the philosophy on how we run the department and save costs so as not to hire outside consultants."

## Clarification of responsibility for storm drain easements

#### By Vera Kochan

With rain finally falling once again, storm drain topics began to take a front seat in town council discussions once again. During Moraga's March 11 town council meeting a private drainage easement ordinance update was on the agenda.

The town doesn't maintain such facilities on private property unless an easement has

been accepted through a resolution by the town council or by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors before Moraga's 1974 incorporation. Such is the case with Lafayette, Orinda and Contra Costa County jurisdictions.

Public Works Director Shawn Knapp stated, "The staff report is based on clarifications about private storm drain easements. We are not changing how the town operates re-

garding subdivisions, but providing some additional information in our code for residents, property owners and developers to understand a little bit about how the town functions when it's creating storm drain easements and other types of easements within subdivisions. We're not changing how we normally do business."

Some property owners may not understand their maintenance responsibilities in



Typical storm drain in a Moraga neighborhood. Photo A. Scheck

regards to their own storm drain facilities, leading to unanticipated costs and garnering confusion as to what's expected from the town's services. The public works staff report recommendations attempt to clarify the town's limited responsibilities for private storm drain systems.

Minimal standards such as creating a legal document noting where the location of the easement and ensuring materials in construction of the type

of drainage facility are to current standards, must be met before the town would step in, Knapp explained.

The town council cast four votes in favor with one absentee vote, as Council Member Roger Wykle was not present, to approve a resolution amending the Moraga Municipal Code to clarify the town's policy regarding drainage easements with amended language.

... continued on Page A5

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## Nominate a 2020 Moraga Citizen of the Year

It's time to nominate a person you think should be Moraga's 2020 "Citizen of the Year".

This year's Selection Committee consists of 2019 Citizen of the Year Fred Weil and representatives from the event's four sponsors: The Lamorinda Weekly; The Moraga Chamber of Commerce; Saint Mary's College and the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley.

The basic criteria for selecting this year's Citizen of the Year are:

1. The nominee should have given of their time, talent and energy to help make Moraga a vibrant community - one where people want to live, work and shop;
2. The nominee's body of work should have helped to bring our community together and made us proud to be Moraga residents;
3. Please include specific examples of your nominee's contributions to Moraga.
4. Nominees must reside in Moraga. Paid public officials, current members of the Moraga Town Council and other current elected officials are not eligible;

Email your nominations to [nominations@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:nominations@lamorindaweekly.com) or send them to: "Moraga Citizen of the Year Nominations", Lamorinda Weekly, PO box 6133, Moraga CA 94556.

An optional, directly downloadable, easy-to-fill-in Nomination Form is at: <http://bit.ly/2020Moraga>

**The deadline for receiving nominations is March 25.**

The celebratory dinner honoring this year's Citizen of the Year will be held on Saturday, May 2 at Saint Mary's College Soda Center.



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## Local businesses weather residual effect of coronavirus fears



Sign posted at Rheem CVS

Photos Vera Kochan



Toilet paper and paper towels nearly gone at this grocery.

### By Vera Kochan

Amid nationwide fears, event cancellations, stock market plunges and lower than average patronage of retail businesses the week of March 9 Moraga's merchants were weathering the residual effects of the coronavirus with positive attitudes and a range from small to major dents in customer activity. What a difference a week makes.

Bartender/waiter for Pen-nini's Restaurant, Wyatt Miskel said, "It's been a little bit slower than usual during lunch, but nights are a lot slower. The bar is doing really

well."

Now, following a decree by Gov. Gavin Newsom on March 15 all bars, wineries and brew-pubs in California will be temporarily closed. Bill Chao, a manager at Chef Chao, is extremely disappointed with the loss in diners during recent weeks. "Business is very, very slow. Regulars are still coming in." Restaurants must now limit customers to 50% capacity.

Rheem Theatre Assistant Manager Tiffanie Cone said weekends were still busy, but said "it could be that we've begun alcohol service and that's a disinfectant. Our \$5 Tuesdays are also busy." So far, movie

theatres remain open, but so-cial distancing is recommended.

CVS in the Rheem Shopping Center posted a handwritten sign on bright orange paper at their entrance door letting customers know what items are out of stock. Shipments of zinc, toilet paper, hand sanitizers, rubbing alcohol, masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes and sprays are not expected to arrive at the store until St. Patrick's Day. One clerk commented, "We're out of everything - it's crazy."

Rheem Starbucks Assistant Manager Jackie Bassett said mornings were as busy as usual the week of March 9, but

now the store is limiting purchases to mobile and store pickup only.

Long lines greeted customers at Diablo Foods in Lafayette and other grocery chains over the weekend, with certain sections of the store's shelves nearly empty, especially bread, paper products and hand sanitizers, baby diapers and other childcare products, where items would normally be fully stocked.

Empty shelves had handwritten signs tacked to them, explaining how purchases are limited to between one or four per customer.

According to one store employee, even canned goods and

nonperishable food items sold at a higher rate than normal.

Licensed Professional Counselor Bill Prasad breaks down the psychology behind bare store shelves. "This is very much at times a lot about copy-cat behavior. If you see someone in the store stocking up on toilet paper, you're thinking, 'OK. I should do that. That seems to be a good idea. I'll do it.'"

Prasad said that this type of behavior is also about control. "Stocking up on things may make you feel better, because you feel like you are taking some kind of action. For some people, just washing their hands, they feel like that's not enough, they have to do more." He advises people to just take what they need, because even though "stocking up on things may feel good, it could be harmful also because it could create shortages."

Moraga Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathe Nelson said, "Moraga retailers, restaurants and organizations have been quite transparent with the precautions they are taking to follow the guidelines presented both by the state of California and the CDC in regards to the COVID-19 virus. ... It is important to continue supporting our local businesses. They remain operational to serve us, the community."

## Moraga welcomes new Chamber president



Brandy Ford

Photo Vera Kochan

The Moraga Chamber of Commerce has selected Brandy Ford as the new president of the chamber's board of directors. Ford has served on the board for approximately four years and is currently Mechanics Bank's branch manager. Ford stated, "The main reason I wanted to volunteer for the position is to continue to make an impact on the community." - V. Kochan

## Storm drain easements

... continued from Page A4

The resolution also clarifies that the town will only take responsibility for easements that have been accepted by the council. Any easements offered to the town that haven't been accepted by the council will be the

responsibility of the property owner. The council additionally allowed for a process and established an acceptance prioritization whereby the town can accept easements of dedication in the future if any funding becomes available.



### Town Council

Wednesday, March 25, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

**Planning Commission:** Monday, April 6, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

**Park and Recreation Commission:** Tuesday, April 21, 7 p.m., Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

**Moraga School District Board Meetings :** Thursday, April 14, 7 p.m., Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga [www.moraga.k12.ca.us](http://www.moraga.k12.ca.us). See also AUHSD meeting page A2



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### ORINDA

See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
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# Orinda City Council won't be hurried to adopt proposed fire code

By Sora O'Doherty

Although public speakers and correspondence seem to overwhelmingly support adopting the revised fire code proposed by Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker, the Orinda City Council still has questions, and won't move forward on the new code yet. Winnacker appeared for a second time at the March 3 council meeting to answer questions. The largest stumbling block appears to be the necessity – or lack of it – for a specific declaration that Orinda is a Wildfire Urban Interface area and the coordination between different agencies doing work in Orinda aimed at reducing a wildfire threat.

Council members, including Nick Kosla, Inga Miller, and Vice Mayor Amy Worth expressed concern that the new fire code might constitute a declaration by the city that Orinda is a WUI, while the fire chief was adamant that Orinda has been a WUI for 20 years. There was a lot of back and forth about the specific language, to the point where members of the public

shouted at the council to “just let it go.”

In a later interview, Worth emphasized that the council does want to adopt a new fire code, recognizing that the city needs to update. However, she explained, there are some of the details that the council needs to understand.

“We need more clarity on the issue of how the fire zone affects the building code,” Worth explained. “We still have to clarify exactly what needs to be done as to how you implement it.” She acknowledged that it is wise to update the building code, as was done for Wilder. Worth is interested in the idea of a two-pronged code, one part of the construction code for new buildings and another for existing structures. She also wants to pursue the ability and resources that the fire district can put in to ensure voluntary compliance with the fire code.

During the council meeting, Council Member Dennis Fay said a letter from the California insurance commissioner noted that the WUI designation “does not play into insurers’ decision-making or rating plans.” Winnacker agreed that the administrative designation of the WUI for the purpose of the building code for new construction is to simplify and clarify the requirements that must be met by any applicant for a building permit. He repeatedly stressed, “We are not making a finding of fact, we are not saying that we need to expand the area of WUI and, as the insurance commissioner seems to agree, we don't think that

there is a negative implication from doing this.” This largely applies exclusively to new or major renovation, Winnacker noted.

Tom Huggett, Principal Structural Engineer for Contra Costa Building Inspection explained that while WUI came into effect in 2007, the preliminary maps were inaccurate, so building departments did not jump in to enforce. City Attorney Osa Woolf said she would research who made the findings of WUI that would result in the correct code sections being enforced, and report back to the council.

The discussion continued to range over questions about the nature of the landscaping requirements, structural changes that MOFD would like to see implemented, how the fire code can be enforced and what can be done to get property owners to voluntarily improve the fire safety of their property.

During public comment, a letter signed by 600 Orinda residents supporting the proposed fire code was submitted to the council. David Shaffer, who has an insurance agency in Walnut Creek, said that California has experienced 300,000 non-renewals of fire insurance thus far and predicted more in future. In addition, there have been premium increases from 10 to 20% up to 100%. If canceled, a new policy could be up to 300% higher. When asked why he believed people were having such different experiences with insurance, he said that every insurance company has a different concentration of policies and reinsurance

companies are putting pressure on insurance companies.

The only public speaker who was slightly cautious about the new code was Michael Bowen from Friends of Orinda Creeks, who exhorted the council to recognize that nuance should be the watchword. “The risk seems low in some places relative to the damage that can be done,” he said, urging the council to “seek balance.”

When the matter came back to the council for discussion, Miller asked about how those with code violations are notified before issuance of a citation. Winnacker said absentee landlords are immediately given a violation, while there is a discussion with residents who are there and may not know about a violation. “Writing violations is administratively burdensome on us and if we can get to the end result without writing a violation, we do everything we can to stay in that space,” he said.

In the spring everyone gets a postcard that will prioritize just three or four primary items that need to be addressed in simple to understand language. “People who aren't clear on what we are asking are reticent to invest that effort until you know for sure what's required,” Winnacker said.

Those who say they just won't do the work will get a violation notice. If they indicate they are willing to do the work, they get a 30-day notice, and this year residents can self-report their compliance by sending a picture, he said. ... continued on Page A8

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# City reacts to state law changes regarding accessory dwelling units

By Sora O'Doherty

New state regulations allow accessory dwelling units to rise to a height of 16 feet and as close as 4 feet from a lot line, and there are also new state rules about “junior” ADUs that do not exceed 500 square feet and are to be handled according to a streamlined, ministerial approval process. The Orinda City Council is now considering codifying its urgency ordinance that was put in place last December in response to the state rules.

At the March 3 council meeting, Planning Director Drummond Buckley discussed amendments to the Orinda municipal code proposed in response to the state law changes. According to the staff report, the state legislature has continued to pursue even greater production of ADUs. “Much like the 2017 and 2018 versions, these laws are convoluted and difficult to interpret, but indicate a clear intent to limit local control even further,” the staff report notes. The state rules, which were adopted in 2019 and went into effect Jan. 1, cover a broad range of issues including minimum setbacks, maximum size, and the num-



LW archive

ber of ADUs allowed per lot.

The urgency ordinance allows four types of “streamlined” ADUs that are not subject to the city's non-discretionary standards: ADUs within existing single family homes or accessory structures; new, detached ADUs on lots with single family dwellings; ADUs within existing, non-living space within a multifamily dwelling; and up to two new detached ADUs on lots with multifamily dwellings. The urgency ordinance specified that no short-term rentals are allowed in any streamlined ADU.

The ordinance also allows standard ADUs that are sub-

ject to the city's standard non-discretionary standards, such as floor area ratio regulations, height limits, parking requirements or environmental protection overlays, with some state-mandated modifications. Side and rear yard setback requirements are limited to four feet for new construction, and are eliminated for conversions or replacement structures. The maximum size for these ADUs is 850 square feet for a one-bedroom unit and 1,000 square feet for a unit of more than one bedroom. This replaces the 1,200 square foot maximum in the existing code.

... continued on Page A9



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## Orinda Starlight Village Players hold auditions for 37th season



Image provided

By Sora O'Doherty

General auditions for all three shows in the Orinda Starlight Village Players' season will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. March 29 at the amphitheater in the Orinda community park and from 7 to 9 p.m. March 31 in the Carpentry Room at the Orinda Community Center.

Orinda Starlight Village Players' first show for the 2020 season will be Agatha Christie's "Toward Zero" performed June 5 through July 4. Directed by Amy Cook, the plot revolves around a house party at Gull's Point where Nevill Strange finds himself caught between his old wife and his new flame. A nail-biting thriller, the play probes the psychology of jealousy in the shadow of a savage and brutal murder.

The rest of the season will consist of George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion," July 24 through Aug. 15, and Malcolm Cowler's adaptation of L. Frank Baum's "The Marvelous Land of Oz," Sept. 11 through Oct. 3. "Pygmalion" is Shaw's classic tale of two linguists, Professor

Higgins and Colonel Pickering, betting on whether Higgins can transform the life of flower seller Eliza Doolittle from a cockney flower girl into a proper English woman in six months. "The Marvelous Land of Oz" follows the adventures of a young boy named Tip as he escapes from a wicked sorceress and tries to recapture the Emerald city.

Actors who wish to audition should be prepared to cold read from the script, should bring a resume and headshot and also something with which to write. If you can't make Tech Week (May 31-June 4), it is unlikely you can be cast, so actors should also bring a list of conflicts.

Rehearsals are generally held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Re-


hearsals for the first show will start in April, for second show in June, and the third in August.

More information can be found at [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org)



Photo Charlie Jarrett

Last season's production of "The Women in White". Actors Claire Stevenson as the Women in White and Jeff Kimmich.

 <p><b>Orinda Public Meetings</b> <b>City Council</b> Canceled Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way</p>	<p><b>Planning Commission</b> Tuesday, March 24, 7 p.m. Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way</p>	<p><b>Downtown Planning Discussion Council Subcommittee</b> Canceled Sarge Littlehale Community Room 22 Orinda Way City Hall Orinda</p>	<p><b>Orinda Union High School District Board Meetings</b> Monday, April 13, 6 p.m. Regular Board Meeting 8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda <a href="http://www.orindaschools.org">www.orindaschools.org</a> See also AUHSD meeting page A2</p>
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Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)

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# MOFD awarded wildfire preparedness grant

By Nick Marnell

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Fire Marshall Jeff Isaacs announced another boost to his fire prevention efforts with the award of a \$15,000 grant from the California Fire Foundation. Isaacs plans to use the funds to develop an interactive fire prevention website, Prepared MOFD, which will feature educational material covering wildfire safety and commu-

nity preparedness unique to the residents of the district. "The end goal for all of our wildfire preparedness efforts is to prevent death and injuries," Isaacs said. "In concert with nearly a dozen active community risk reduction projects, the proposed website is intended to act as both a primary and secondary vehicle to deliver information targeted to all residents of the fire district, with emphasis placed on our higher risk populations."

Isaacs envisions the website as an interactive multimedia platform providing wildfire safety, community preparedness and fire prevention information via educational videos and interactive courses, plus serving as a hub for district forms and documents related to fire prevention, fuels mitigation and fire safety.

Prepared MOFD will feature an FAQ section, dealing with questions like, What is a ladder fuel? (A fuel that al-

lows fire to travel from the ground into the tree canopy.) Or, how do I remove leaf litter from my gutter? Also envisioned are links to photos of members of the fire prevention staff, providing the ability for the public to ask questions related to their specific prevention issues.

Isaacs said he will hire a website consultant to design and create the new site, but he and the fire prevention staff will develop the content. The fire marshal plans a

strong marketing and educational campaign, featuring videos presented at community and neighborhood events and flyers distributed throughout the district.

The MOFD board voted unanimously Feb. 19 to accept the \$15,000 award.

The district continues to seek grant funding for its fire prevention efforts, such as through programs sponsored by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

# Rescue One Foundation reaches out to local high school students



bigstock image

By Nick Marnell

The Rescue One Foundation, an adjunct nonprofit organization to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, is sponsoring an essay contest on innovative

uses of technology to increase the effectiveness of emergency evacuation notifications within the district's jurisdiction. The contest, aimed at local area high school students, features a \$500 college schol-

arship prize and runs through April 30.

According to Fire Chief Dave Winnacker, most district evacuation scenarios involve a partial evacuation due to limited street capacity, with the concern that a mass evacuation notice would create major traffic delays and put residents at increased risk. Thus, limited evacuations are prioritized and time-phased in order to first contact those nearest the threat before streets become congested.

"The purpose of this essay contest is to identify new and innovative ways to contact residents in the event of an evacuation," Winnacker said. Current evacuation notifications include phone calls to a

landline, or phone calls, texts and emails to residents who have registered with the Community Warning System. The district conducted wildfire evacuation drills in Moraga in 2018 and in Orinda last year.

"Who knows more about technology than our young people?" said Gordon Nathan, Rescue One president. "Maybe they saw something during our evacuation drills and were hesitant to bring it up, or didn't know where to bring it up."

Rescue One officials have contacted the Acalanes Union High School District with contest details, and the school district plans to schedule wildfire evacuation presentations by the fire chief to the students at

Campolindo and Miramonte high schools.

The essay contest is open to those who attend either an Orinda or Moraga high school, local residents who attend a high school out of the area or district home-schooled high school students. The winning submission will be judged on ease of implementation and effectiveness of the evacuation proposal. An application and contest details are available at the Rescue One website.

"Evacuation is a real concern to our public, and picking the brains of our students for evacuation ideas that could give us better drills that can save lives will put us on a clear path to fire safety," Nathan said.

# Moraga Road to close for repairs

The city of Lafayette will be performing street pavement repairs along Moraga Road between Sky Hi Drive/Via Granada at the Moraga/Lafayette city limit, and Old Jonas Hill Road between March 30 and April 3. The "patch and leveling"

paving which will smooth out sections of the road has been scheduled to correspond with spring break to minimize disruption. The repairs will require closing the road in both directions between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and traffic will be de-

toured around this section of Moraga Road. Residents living between the limits of the roadwork will need to speak with a traffic controller to be allowed into the closure. Garbage, postal and delivery services will be allowed in.

Changeable message signs will be placed near the limits of work to warn of the road closure. City staff asks residents to be respectful to the traffic controllers and to allow extra driving time to detour around the closure.

Residents can contact the engineering department at (925) 284-1951 with specific questions. Daily updates will be available on the city's website during the project at <https://www.lovelafayette.org/>. -- P. Fisher

# Orinda City Council won't be hurried to adopt proposed fire code

... continued from Page A6

Miller also said that she has received complaints about Caltrans cutting down trees. Winnacker said, "Caltrans says it is exempt and they won't work with us." Miller raised the issue of slope stabilization and Winnacker replied that only a small number of trees need to be removed, except for the eucalyptus trees and Monterey Pines. Miller then suggested that there needed to be some joint meetings with Moraga, MOFD and the

County. "To even call this a rough draft is really a stretch," she conclude.

Kosla agreed. "The intent is great ... but trying to get this all done in a relatively short period" presents problems. He spoke of cost issues, current projects, realtors in Orinda, enforcement, availability of loans, and escrow procedures. "It has to be very explicit," he said. And, he added, this will affect how downtown will look.

Worth thanked Winnacker and said she absolutely shares his goal, but continues to have concern

about a declaration of Orinda's fire status. "What I hear is that it is already in place, which is very different from self-declaration of WUI."

Fay said that he, for one, has a very real sense of urgency, and suggested that it might be possible to separate the fire code into two parts, one dealing with existing

houses, and another dealing with new development, which, he said, is not rapid. "I'm worried about the next fire season," he said, and asked about mapping out Firewise communities. "We can help you if we have the tools," he noted.

Mayor Darlene Gee commended Winnacker for

everything he's done. "This is very important and very urgent," she said. Gee loved Miller's idea of joint meetings, concluding that "a lot of things haven't been implemented for so many years." The matter was then deferred to a date uncertain.

## Public Safety

**Emergency response:**  
Emergency: 24 Hours 911  
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours  
925-284-5010  
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)  
**Lafayette Police Department:**  
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
925-283-3680  
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt  
925-299-3221  
Police Department Tip Line  
94549Tip@gmail.com  
Police Department Traffic Issues  
94549Traffic@gmail.com  
**Moraga Police Department:**  
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055  
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049  
**Orinda Police Department:**  
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820  
Chief of Police, David M. Cook  
925-254-6820  
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org



**Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report**  
**Feb. 23 - March 7**

Alarms	67
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	11
Traffic	109
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subject	14
Suspicious Vehicle	33
Service to Citizen	56
Patrol Req./Security Check	40
Public/School Assembly Check	1
Supplemental Report	52
Vacation House Check	1
Welfare Check	25

**Vehicle violations**

Attempted Stolen Vehicle	1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
--------------------------	------------------------------

**Auto Burglary**

3400 Block Golden Gate Way
3500 Block Terrace Way
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Exhibition Of Speed**

Mt. Diablo Blvd./Mt. Diablo Ct.
---------------------------------

**Grand Theft From Vehicle**

3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
-----------------------------

**Hit And Run Misdemeanor**

10 Block Wallabi Ct.
3700 Block Sundale Rd.
15t St/Eb Sr 24
Greenvally Dr./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Petty Theft Veh Parts
Deer Hill Rd./Oak Hill Rd.
Reckless Driving
900 Block Moraga Rd.
Old Tunnel Rd./Manzana Pl.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Mountain View Dr.
3300 Block Moraga Blvd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Greenvally Dr.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dewing Ave.
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Oak Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24
Eb Sr 24 At Pleasant Hill Rd.
Stolen Vehicle Recovery
10 Block Eleven
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Vehicle Theft
1200 Block Sunset Loop
3500 Block Terrace Way

**Other criminal activity**

**Commercial Burglary**

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
200 Block Lafayette Cr.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Forgery**

800 Block Mountain View Dr.
-----------------------------

**Fraud False Pretenses**

1000 Block Magnolia Ln.
1400 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
10 Block My Rd.
1000 Block Dewing Ave.
100 Block Camellia Ln.
3800 Block Los Arabis Dr.

**Identity Theft**

3300 Block Sweet Dr.
600 Block Burton Dr.
10 Block Valley High
900 Block Stow Ln.
3900 Block S Peardale Dr.

**Petty Theft**

3400 Block School St. (2)
Stanley Intermediate School
900 Block Reliez Station Rd.
900 Block Moraga Rd.
3200 Block Elvia St.
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.
60 Block Lafayette Cir.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Petty Theft Bicycle**

3400 Block School St.
-----------------------

**Residential Burglary**

3500 Block Moraga Blvd.
500 Block Merriewood Dr.
3400 Block Springhill Rd.

**Shoplift**

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
-----------------------------

**Nuisance to the Community**

**Disturbance-domestic**

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
-----------------------------

**Disturbing The Peace**

El Nido Ranch Rd./Sunnyhill Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Loud Music**

3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.
100 Block Of Lafayette Cir.
Mountain View Dr./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Loud Noise**

1000 Block Leland Dr.
-----------------------

**Public Nuisance**

3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
El Curtola Blvd./Bart Track
10 Block Roxanne Ln.
3300 Block Hermosa Way
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Vandalism**

200 Block Lafayette Cir.
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
900 Block Hough Ave.
500 Block Silverado Dr.

**Other**

**Defraud Innkeeper**

3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
-----------------------------

**H&S Violation**

3200 Block Withers Ave.
-------------------------

**K9 Outside Assist Request**

200 Block Siino West Ave., Bpo
400 Block Bolla Pl., Rou

**Mentally Ill Violent**

3500 Block Golden Gate Way
----------------------------

**Threats**

Wb Sr 24 At Acalanes Rd.
Police Department

**Unwanted Guest**

3400 Block Moraga Blvd.
-------------------------

**Violation Custody Order**

1200 Block Warner Ct.
-----------------------

**Violation Restraining Order**

20 Block Sweet Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Vehicle violations**

Dui Misd
Paseo Grande/Paseo Del Rio
Excessive Speed
Rheem Blvd./Chalda Way
Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd. (3)
Rheem Blvd./Glorietta Blvd.
Rheem Blvd./Stuart Ct.
Moraga Rd./The Skate Park
Seven Eleven
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.
Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln.
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.
Reckless Driving
Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo
Campolindo High School
Canyon Rd./Larch Ave.
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd. (2)
St. Marys Rd./Carter Dr.
Shuey Dr./Larch Ave.
20 Block Hour Fitness
Moraga Rd./School St.

**Other criminal activity**

**Embezzlement**

500 Block Moraga Rd.
----------------------

**Extortion**

St. Marys College
-------------------

**Identity Theft**

Indian Wells/St Andrews Dr.
Moraga Commons Park

**Petty Theft**

Campolindo High School
------------------------

**Nuisance to the Community**

Disturbing The Peace
10 Block Hastings Ct.

**Loud Noise**

200 Block Corliss Dr. (2)
---------------------------

**Loud Party**

Not Available
---------------

**Other**

**Fish And Game**

St. Marys College
-------------------

**H&S/Poss Of Controlled Substanz**

Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.
--------------------------

**Violation Restraining Order**

Police Department
-------------------

Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subject	12
Suspicious Vehicle	11
Service to Citizen	87
Patrol Req./Security Check	75
Public/School Assembly Check	27
Supplemental Report	19
Welfare Check	9

**Vehicle violations**

Auto Burglary
Orindawoods Dr./Kite Hill Rd.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
20 Block Orinda Way
100 Block Lombardy Ln.
Petty Theft From Vehicle
Wilder Sports Fields
Reckless Driving
Camino Pablo/Ardilla Rd.
Rheem Blvd./Glorietta Blvd.
Camino Sobrante/Orinda Way
Tc - Property Damage
Theatre Square
Orinda Way/Santa Maria Way
10 Block St Stephens Dr.
Irwin Way/Orinda Way

**Other criminal activity**

**Burglary**

300 Block La Espiral
----------------------

**Fraud False Pretenses**

Police Department
40 Block Lost Valley Dr.
Bank Of America

**Petty Theft**

Miramonte High School
Police Department

**Residential Burglary**

50 Block Miner Rd.
600 Block Crossridge Terrace

**Shoplift**

Rite Aid
----------

**Warrant Arrest**

Orinda Community Center
10 Block Lost Valley Dr.
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way
Beverages And More

**Nuisance to the Community**

Public Nuisance
100 Block Estates Dr.
Vandalism
Rite Aid

**Other**

Accident Property
100 Block Moraga Way
Police Department
Failure To Obey
Jackson Way/Danville Blvd., Ala
Ordinance Violation
100 Block Moraga Way
Simple Assault
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way
Unwanted Guest
Safeway
Violation Dom Viol Order
Police Department

**Fire District Public Meetings**  
**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**  
Board of Directors  
Wednesday, March 25, 7 p.m.  
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.  
Visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

**ConFire**  
Board of Directors  
Tuesday, April 28, 1:00 p.m.  
Board Chamber Room 107,  
Administration Building  
651 Pine St., Martinez.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.cccfpd.org](http://www.cccfpd.org)

**Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report**  
**Feb. 25 - March 1**

Alarms	10
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	61
Suspicious Circumstances	1
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	23
Patrol Req./Security Check	12
Supplemental Report	2
Vacation House Check	7
Welfare Check	4

**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report**  
**Feb. 23 - March 7**

Alarms	37
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	75



# Letters to the editor

## The issue of Orinda storm drains

Re: "Orinda Takes Deep Dive Into Storm Drains." Actually, it was a shallow dive. According to its Public Works Director, Orinda has "hundreds/possibly thousands" of private storm drains (i.e., storm drains under or across private property) that connect to its public storm drains, yet the city refuses to repair, maintain, or even inspect those private drains. It doesn't even have a complete inventory of them. If Orinda has a legal right to use the private storm drains, then it has a concomitant legal and common-sense obligation to inspect, repair and maintain them. If Orinda

lacks any such legal right, do the owners have the right to prevent Orinda from using them? Orinda has no plan to deal with either possibility. It needs a plan.

Also, the Orinda Council knew and was told a year ago (by the undersigned) that the approximate cost of repairing the public storm drains would be \$30 million, and that funding would need to be secured. Yet it has apparently done nothing in the last year to develop a plan to raise the money, other than a flawed survey that grouped essential storm drain (and road) improvements with optional improvements to the creek. At the risk of mixing metaphors, the Orinda

Council has its head in the sand on this issue. It needs to do better.

Nick Waranoff  
Orinda

### A thank you regarding Measure M

On behalf of more than 150 volunteers, Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns, and our entire campaign committee, we would like to thank the community of Moraga for supporting our public schools and passing Measure M.

From the Yes on M Campaign Committee

# Spring sports suspended in Acalanes Union High School District

... continued from Page A1

It was not an easy decision for Rafeh and the administrative team at Bentley to make. "We have been meeting every day and considering every alternative, such as playing without fans and only playing league games, but in the interest of all the kids and with all the recommendations of social distancing, we just decided to suspend all of our athletic teams. It all kept coming back to the health and safety of everyone."

Ironically, within an hour of Bentley's suspension of their athletic program, the NBA canceled the rest of its season. "So goes Bentley athletics, so goes the NBA," said Rafeh with more than a little

irony and pride.

What happens at the end of spring break for Bentley? "That hard to answer right now," said Rafeh. "We're waiting for direction from the governing bodies and listening to the health authorities and will see how things progress. We just all have to feel it's safe to get out there."

Rafeh's empathy was for the senior student-athletes. "For most of them, this is the end of their athletic careers and they won't get to play at the next level and beyond. A lot of our kids were stunned after having put in so much work for their sport. However, when the NBA canceled the rest of their season, our players seemed to see that it does make sense for us to put a pause on things."

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

# City reacts to state law changes regarding accessory dwelling units

... continued from Page A6

FAR cannot be used to reduce an ADU to below 800 square feet. The city cannot require replacement parking when a garage is converted to an ADU, but can require one parking space per ADU, with some exceptions, such as if an ADU is within one-half mile from transit. The ordinance also eliminates impact fees for units smaller than 750 square feet and imposes a proportionality requirement of fees for units larger than 750 square feet. Processing time was reduced from 120 days to 60 days.

Council Member Nick Kosla asked Buckley if two-

story ADUs are allowed. Buckley said that the answer is confusing, because there are different rules governing the conversion of an existing structure. Buckley said that discretionary review, as opposed to ministerial, is only allowed if an ADU results in buildings exceeding the FAR, which is the relationship between the total amount of usable floor area of buildings and the total area of the lot on which the buildings stand.

Kosla asked, "So no discretionary process for a two-story ADU?" Buckley explained that it would be allowable to establish a 16-foot maximum for all ADUs, which would effectively prohibit

two-story ADUs. Kosla also asked about using landscaping to screen ADUs, but Buckley noted that with only four feet to the lot line, there isn't a lot of space for landscaping. He added that the planning commission has recommended that the city council adopt a 16-foot limit for all ADUs.

David Hop urged the council to allow 1,200 square feet, two-bedroom ADUs. He said that he and his wife live on a large lot in a home that covers five levels. They want to downsize, but also want to have enough space to entertain large family groups. Chris Kniel urged the council to challenge the state law.

Buckley said it would be possible to have an ADU of 1,300 square feet with design review. Kosla suggested that Orinda could limit ADUs to one story, but allow larger, two-story units with discretionary approval. When Vice Mayor Amy Worth asked what the process would be for an ADU on top of a garage, Buckley said that the state has not said anything about building over a garage. Worth also asked if it would be possible to allow ADUs up to 27 feet with design review, and Buckley said he thought it would be okay "if it applies to all buildings."

City Attorney Osa Wolff suggested that the city should

conform the requirements for accessory structures to those for ADUs because accessory structures can be easily converted to ADUs, and, even without conversion, it is possible for people to live in accessory structures. She added that further research is required to determine exactly what may be allowable. Worth agreed that she sees the wisdom of having the same requirements for accessory structures as for ADUs. After further research, the matter will return to the council on April 7.



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## New tea shop in Orinda attracts all ages



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Ada and Hadley Nolen waiting for their wintermelon lemonade tea at Sharetea, Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

Since its grand opening at the end of February, Sharetea in the newly remodeled building

at 41 Moraga Way in the Theatre District has been attracting tea drinkers of all ages. Sean Yee holds the franchise from Sharetea, a long-standing company that originated in Taiwan.

The Orinda shop offers an extensive menu of drinks including ice cream drinks, hot tea and, of course, boba tea. Customers can choose from fruit teas, milk teas, fresh milk with black, green or oolong tea, matcha, coffee, and cocoa. There are signature, non-alcoholic mojitos, brewed hot teas, and ice blended teas with pearls, pudding, ice cream or jellies. Customers can select the desired level of ice, the level of sweetness, ranging from 30 to 100%, and toppings, which cost an additional 75 cents. Creama adds \$1.25 to the base prices, which range from \$4 to \$5.75.

Yee says that the classic milk tea with pearls and the Thai iced tea with pearls are really popular. He adds that his customers range over all ages and all ethnicities. "It's not just an Asian thing!" he says. In the afternoon, the shop tends to be busy with children and teens, while on the weekends, families come in. During the day, business people stop by for a drink. Yee currently employs 18 staff members. Yee himself can be found serving tea, and his wife also helps with the business, when she is not working at her part-time job as a human resources manager. Yee, who spent 12 years working as an attorney while his wife has worked in the food and beverage industry all her life, grew up in Orinda and his parents and two sisters still live here. Sharetea is Yee's first franchise.

## Voters reject half-cent sales tax increase for transportation

By Sora O'Doherty

Measure J on the March 3 ballot failed to garner the two-thirds vote required to pass a revenue measure, although it did exceed half the vote. Therefore, for the third time, Contra Costa voters refused to extend the half-cent sales tax dedicated to transportation. Nevertheless, the current half-cent sales tax for transportation, adopted by the voters in 2004, will continue until 2034. The ballot measure had been supported by every municipal council in Contra Costa County, as well as by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.

Orinda Vice Mayor Amy Worth is also an ex officio

commissioner of the Contra Costa County Transportation Authority. "At this point," she said on March 10, "we are waiting for all the returns." She acknowledged that the vote may have been influenced by economic concerns with the market and in particular the effect the coronavirus will have on the market. However she said that the CCTA will just see how to keep moving forward with all programs. "We have another 16 years of the programs to do," she explained, "but there is no capital funding." Further complicating matters, in order to qualify for state or federal matching funds, she said, you have to have local money. Without it, there may

not be funding to do the larger projects.

Another complicating factor is that right now, the CCTA is covered by special legislation that allows them to exceed the 2% local cap on sales tax. That legislative exemption ends on Election Day in November. Although CCTA could go back to the voters in November, Worth deems that unlikely. Before a new measure could be brought to the public after November, new legislation would be required to allow CCTA to exceed the sales tax cap.

The CCTA board was scheduled to meet on March 18.

## March 3, 2020 Unofficial Election Results

Updated Friday, March 13, 2020, 2:44:46 PM

**J - CONTRA COSTA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, 2/3 required to pass**

Yes 146,058 50.60% No 142,586 49.40%

**M - MORAGA SCHOOL DISTRICT, 2/3 required to pass**

Yes 4,734 70.27% No 2,003 29.73%

**L - LAFAYETTE SCHOOL DISTRICT, 2/3 required to pass**

Yes 8,977 72.60% No 3,388 27.40%

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## In Memory

### Jeanette Margaret Bergfeld

1924-2020



Under a full moon in Leo, the soul of Jeanette Margaret Bergfeld (nee Carroll) took to the high winds of February 9. She was welcomed into Heaven by God, Nana, Poppo, Earl, Greg, Mary Jane, Hal, Bill, Charles and many other cherished relatives and friends. She was born in Grand Junction, Colorado and came to the Bay Area as a baby. She grew up with her large, happy family on 41st Avenue in Oakland and attended St. Elizabeth's Catholic School. She was a great beauty with naturally curly hair and twinkling blue eyes. She danced the jitterbug with her brothers and crowds would gather

to watch. She graduated from Providence School of Nursing and was proud of her skills. At a USO dance she saw a handsome soldier, Earl, and while he was dancing with another, she tapped him on the shoulder and said "Wasn't this our dance?" It was love at first sight, with marriage and five darling kids to follow, Carol, Greg, Jim, Sally and Dede. The family moved from Berkeley to Moraga in 1960 and her home on Larch Avenue was where all the neighborhood kids congregated. She would say "Set another place at the table, there's always room for one more!" She is survived by her children, eleven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, her wonderful younger sister, Nancy, and many nieces and nephews. Jeanette was spoiled and sassy and wild and loving and can never be replaced. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at St. Monica Church, Moraga at a future date.

## In Memory

### Kevin R. Montoya, aka "Hadztse"

September 5, 1969 – January 31, 2020



Kevin R. Montoya, aka "Hadztse", his family given Indian name, passed away on January 31, 2020, in San Francisco. Kevin was born on September 5, 1969, in San Pablo to parents Robert or "Bob" and Donna Montoya. Kevin's father Bob was a Pueblo Indian of Laguna, N.M., a heritage Kevin embraced. He was raised in Napa where he attended St. John's Lutheran School and graduated from Vintage High School in 1987.

Kevin would continue his football career at San Francisco State where he played for 2 years. He then transferred to play football at UNLV. He returned to the Bay Area to attend the University of California at Berkeley where he majored in Economics. While at "Cal" Kevin joined Theta Delta Chi fraternity where he would make many lifelong friends.

After graduating from Cal Kevin worked as a Wealth Advisor for Dean Witter-Morgan Stanley working his way to becoming a Senior Vice President of the firm. During his years in San Francisco Kevin and his wife, Nicole, enjoyed living in the Marina District. It was Kevin's father who introduced Kevin to his favorite San Francisco teams, the Forty-Niners and the Giants as Bob worked in concessions at Candlestick Park. Kevin was a lifelong fan of the two local teams.

Kevin and his wife, Nicole, moved out of the city in 2003 to raise their two children in Lafayette. They became active members in their community serving as Lacrosse coaches, Soccer coaches, volunteers at their swim club, HOA presidents, classroom volunteers, team managers and more. Their children attended Happy Valley School, Stanley Middle School and are now both at Acalanes High School. Kevin loved talking about his children and was so very proud of them. They were his pride and joy.

Kevin is survived by his wife Nicole, son Robert (17) and daughter Katherine (15) of Lafayette; his brother Steven of Albuquerque, N.M., and his sister Melanie of Napa. He will be very missed by all that really knew him.

A Celebration of Life Service was held at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church on Saturday, March 14, at 2:00 p.m.

## 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.





...would like to thank the Lafayette Community for its support of Measure L.



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### Public Forum

A timely message from Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson

With the knowledge that there is so much information coming from so many sources, I am concerned that this message will only add to the confusion. But here goes:

We are all faced with some really difficult decisions over the next 3-4 weeks maybe longer. We have all moved into the "Containment" phase of COVID-19. I am no expert, but I do know someone who is. Their advice was listen to Dr. Fauci. He is telling it like it is. Politicians, Cable News shows and Influencers all have other agendas. Please, trust science first.

Containment of the virus will come with great sacrifice and economic hardship. The Chamber supports our local businesses, and we have never needed to support them more than we do now. Small business is Lafayette. No BIG BOX Stores. No businesses getting special tax breaks. These are hard working people who have created the kind of town we want to live and work in. So how can we support the local merchants and services without exposing ourselves or others to the threat of contracting the virus? Here are my thoughts:

- Start by calling your local favorite businesses. Ask them what you can do to support them at this time. An example: we called a bunch of our local restaurants and they will take to go orders, and deliver them to your car, when you pull up. Some businesses have even offered private shopping.
- Continue using common sense and dine either a little early or late when restaurants are slow and you can practice "social distancing."
- Go to the grocery store during the off hours. I went into Safeway at 5 a.m. the other day, and there were maybe 3-4 other shoppers. Businesses might want to change their hours...
- If a local store has online shopping or deliveries, use it.
- If you are not part of the "most vulnerable" group that experts tell to stay home, shop for a neighbor. If that is not "kindness" I don't know what is.

BUY GIFT CARDS NOW. That is a win-win Small Business owners are our friends. They are the ones that give you those gift cards when you are putting on the school fundraiser. They employ our kids. They help generate nearly 30% of the General Funds that pay for our Police, Public Works and many of the things that give you reason to live here. This period of time is going to be crucial for their survival. They will surely make decisions to help their bottom line that will not be easy. But if you can find a way to help them now, the recovery will be that much easier.

It is easy to shop on Amazon! However, investing in our community has never been more important. Not only do businesses need to find creative ways to connect with you during this phase, they also need to provide a safe environment for you and their employees. They need to be flexible with sick leave and show compassion to their employees, many of whom do not have health benefits.

If you are a property owner, consider giving your tenants a little more time to pay rent. (I am sure I'll get a response on this crazy idea).

As the recession began back in 2008, the Chamber launched the "TRY LAFAYETTE FIRST" campaign. We asked residents to take a pledge that they would shop here in Lafayette before going elsewhere. During that time, Lafayette experienced the lowest unemployment rate in the State of California. The loss of business and sales tax revenue barely made it into double digits. Our residents got it! They understood why shopping local was so important for all of us. We now stand at the gate of the unknown. We have never faced this kind of assault on our health and the strength of our community.

I urge all of us to come up with more ideas and suggestions to keep us safe and to keep our business community healthy. Let's do this together! Jay Lifson

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## Coronavirus upends life in Lamorinda

... continued from Page A1

As a result, a massive lifestyle disruption swept through Lamorinda. The city of Lafayette canceled its entire March public meeting calendar March 12 as well as all events scheduled at city facilities, and later closed city offices to the public. "We don't have enough information on the virus and how to mitigate it. Because of that, we decided to take this action to prevent the spread of the virus," Mayor Mike Anderson said. The city of Orinda canceled all of its public meetings for March and shut down all city facilities. The town of Moraga has closed its offices but will conduct business via email and telephone. The March 25 council meeting remains in place but will be live-streamed to the public.

Lynn Mackey, Contra Costa County superintendent of schools, called school an "essential convening" at a March 10 press conference and did not recommend mass closures. "Evidence that closing schools will prevent an epidemic is just not there," Tzvieli said. But after emergency board meetings late on March 13, all four Lamorinda public school districts announced a three-week can-

cellation of classes through April 3. Saint Mary's College has suspended in-person classes until April 14, shifting to online instruction. Alicia Trost of BART reported that ridership of 232,000 on March 12 had dropped 45% from an average Thursday in February, but she could not provide specific data for the Orinda and Lafayette stations. "Unfortunately it is an automated process and staff is not able to manipulate it at this time," Trost said.

Lamorinda first responders changed many of their operating procedures. The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District adjusts its emergency dispatch protocol when COVID-19 symptoms are called in, and the district crews send in one person donned in protective equipment to do an assessment of a patient. "Only then do we involve the rest of the crew," district spokesman Steve Hill said. The Moraga-Orinda Fire District follows the same dispatch protocols and the recommendations of the county health department. Battalion Chief Jerry Lee said that all crew members are outfitted in hospital-type gowns, respirators, eye protection and gloves to respond to patients with respiratory illness

symptoms. MOFD reported no transports of patients who had tested positive for COVID-19.

The Diocese of Oakland, which includes three Lamorinda parishes, updated its guidance to excuse all Catholics from mandatory attendance at Sunday Mass, until further notice. Other Lamorinda churches suspended live services or dispensed with many of their social norms, requesting that parishioners stay at least an arm's-length apart.

At the end of an extraordinary, pandemic-driven week - capped by the president's declaration of a national emergency - uncertainty was the rule as day-to-day life took a surreal turn. Should we stay home? How often should we wash our hands? Which friends can we safely touch? Will we ever see fully stocked store shelves again?

Still, public health officials have set the odds of serious illness or death due to COVID-19 very low. Most people infected by the virus develop mild or moderate symptoms, such as a fever or cough, and recover in about two weeks. "Wash your hands a lot and stay home if you're sick," Tzvieli said.



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<p><b>2918 CHERRY LANE, W.C.</b> \$1,250,000</p>  <p>JUST LISTED</p> <p>CHRISTINA LINEZO 415.425.3085</p>	<p><b>1081 BOLLINGER CYN, MORAGA</b> \$1,395,000</p>  <p>PENDING</p> <p>SHERRY HUTCHENS/ADAM HAMALIAN 925.708.5630</p>	<p><b>61 MORAGA VIA, ORINDA</b> \$1,305,000</p>  <p>SOLD REPRESENTED BUYER</p> <p>TINA FRECHMAN 925.915.0851</p>	<p><b>VALERIE DURANTINI</b>  415.999.6116 DRE# 01376796</p>		



# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Canyon's historical roots run deep



Photo provided

xxx

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Historical Society hosted a presentation titled “Canyon, a Unique Community” with guest speaker and longtime Canyon resident Vicki McCosker Saputo. The Feb. 27 event, at the Moraga Library, drew an unexpectedly large crowd eager to hear about days-gone-by involving our neighbors who dwell among the redwood trees.

Saputo can be considered a historian of the area in that her ancestors have inhabited the region since the 1850s. Her McCosker side of the family, going as far back on the family tree as her great-grandparents, have lived in Canyon for nearly 160 years. Her maternal great-grandparents (Pereira) settled there from Portugal in the 1850s. Later generations continued the tradition through four grandparents, 13 great aunts and uncles, her father and his five siblings.

“Canyon is in my blood,” stated Saputo. “I lived there for 10 and a half years in my early 20s and 30s. My sons were born there and my eldest, Sean, lived there a total of 20 years, because he lived there again in his 20s with my granddaughter, Seaya, who’s mother, Maya, also grew up in Canyon.” Her granddaughter is the sixth generation to call Canyon home.

Through recollection and research, Saputo has put together a timeline of events, to the best of her knowledge, that occurred in Canyon during the days when her family first came to the region.

Attention was first drawn to the canyon in 1845 when ships coming into San Francisco noticed the 300-foot tall redwood trees through the “golden gate.” Many of the trees had a diameter of 30 feet, much like sequoias, which is why Canyon was initially called Sequoia. Living among the trees were wild animals such as condors, bears, mountain lions and bobcats.

“The so called ‘Gold Rush’ of lumber scattered the wildlife

when 300-400 lumbermen descended and four saw mills were set up (first with whip-saws and then steam saws),” Saputo said. The lumber camps prospered between the 1850s and 1860s with much of the lumber being used to help build San Francisco’s luxurious hotels and buildings as well as the San Jose Mission and buildings in the general Bay Area.

Re-christened Redwood Canyon, it became the economic center of the East Bay at which point it was the first stage coach stop between Oakland and Walnut Creek. The community had two hotels, a liquor store, post office, a gambling den and a grocery store. Once the lumber trade died down, thanks to over-production, Canyon’s economy turned to hunting, trapping and farming.

In 1865, Saputo’s paternal great-grandparents, Patrick and Cathrin McCosker, arrived in Canyon via Ireland, Philadelphia and San Francisco. Building a house and later a barn (with the help of hired Native Americans) they became the first homesteaders, locating at the end of Pinehurst Road. The McCoskers and Pereira families were neighbors and eventually became friends, between them owning over 450 acres of Canyon land used for cattle grazing, and growing clover and alfalfa.

According to family lore, in 1855, famed Mexican bandit Joaquin Murieta once stole \$100 from great-grandfather Joseph Pereira who was on his way to a cattle auction at Valle Vista (now under the San Leandro Reservoir). Days later, Murieta stopped by the ranch to leave Pereira a whopping \$400 in return.

In the early 1900s a train ran through Canyon and eventually along St. Mary’s Road to Lafayette. Originally called the Oakland/Antioch/Eastern Railroad before it was renamed the Sacramento Northern Railway, which extended up to Chico. Once the Broadway Tunnel (now known as Caldecott) was built in 1937, the passenger

trains ceased to run.

A one-room Canyon School was built in 1918. The current school was built in 1986.

The 1960s saw the Hippie culture descend on Canyon. Drugs, sex and untidy surroundings forced many longtime Canyon residents to move to family-friendly neighborhoods.

In 1969, the Canyon Store and several other buildings were destroyed when a Shell Oil pipeline running from Martinez to Oakland International Airport was intentionally blown up during a labor strike. Shell offered a \$50,000 reward, but no one was ever convicted of the disaster that set Canyon on fire, injuring several citizens and killing one employee.

John H. McCosker, Saputo’s father, used the helicopter pad and lake on his property to help during the Oakland Hills fire of 1991. She also recalled, “Dad planted 150 redwoods on his property.” That was 26 years ago, and she now guesses the trees to be around 80 feet tall.

Saputo rode horses as a child throughout the Canyon area, and it continues to be a favorite activity for her. The various types of terrain and views from different vantage points still draw her in. “I’ve traveled all over the world and ridden in many lands, but Canyon continues to be my favorite. It’s like a live meditation for me.”

Describing the approximately 215-member Canyon enclave of today, Saputo stated,

“There are a variety of people and houses in this community ranging from mansions and other nice homes and log cabins, to straw roofs and domes, tree houses and trailers, apartments, big and little homes.”

Maybe, if conditions are just right, one can still hear the saw mills grinding, the cattle mooing, the gamblers playing cards or the ghosts of Canyon’s past continuing to live on in the small community among the mighty redwoods.

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# Lafayette environmentalist pens book for kids about Earth Hour



Photo provided

Nanette Heffernan dons a suit made from a weeks' worth of plastic bags.

By Kara Navolio

When Nanette Heffernan, a 25-year resident of Lafayette, was driving across the Golden Gate Bridge on the last Saturday evening of March 2015 all the lights went out. The eerie darkness made her believe there had been a power outage, but later she learned that it was part of a global event called Earth Hour. She did not know it then, but the environ-

mental activist would soon take this experience as inspiration for a children's picture book called "Earth Hour: A Lights-Out Event for Our Planet" (Charlesbridge, 2020).

Earth Hour, sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund, occurs each year on the last Saturday in March at 8:30 p.m. local time across the planet. Lights are turned off for one hour as a pledge for what each individual plans to do for

the environment in the next year. Monuments across the globe also go dark from the Eiffel Tower to the Great Wall of China, and from the Sydney Opera House to the International Space Station.

Writing about Earth Hour was a natural fit for Heffernan, who has spent over 20 years working with kids and with environmental causes. She has worked with Sustainable Lafayette, Sustainable Contra Costa and the Lafayette School District's Green Team. She also leads an active, outdoors-loving Girl Scout troop, which participates in community service related to the environment. While a parent volunteer at Springhill Elementary School, Heffernan was a parking lot traffic guide at drop-off time. She would wear fun hats as a way to keep the atmosphere relaxed. One day she noticed all the trash in the school's dumpster, mostly plastic from kids' lunches. She decided to make a hat from one week's worth of plastic bags. However, one week's worth of plastic bags was too much for just a hat; it evolved into a complete suit! With the principal's support, Heffernan led a waste-free lunch initiative, and the school reduced its plastic trash by 50%. Heffernan used the trash suit to lead the Earth Day Festival parade. She now brings it along on author visits when discussing her book.

"Earth Hour: A Lights-Out Event for Our Planet" was celebrated with a Launch Party

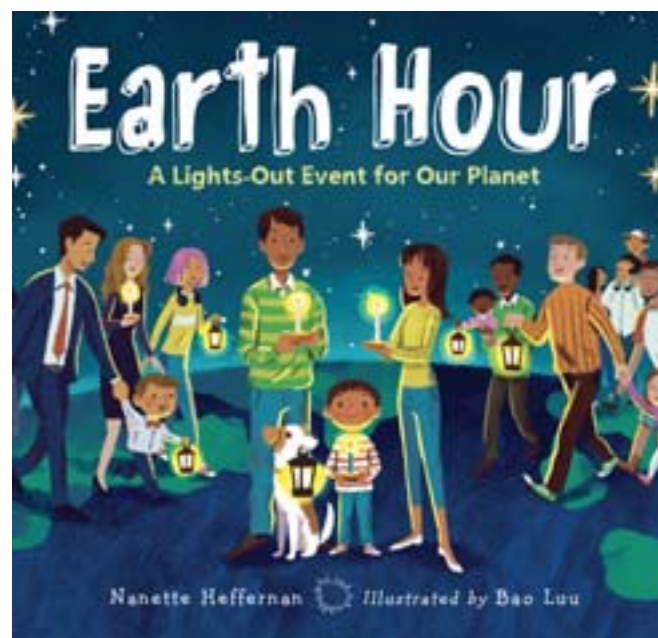
at Bel & Bunna's Books on Jan. 26. Supporters were also offered the opportunity to buy a book for a Bay Area Title 1 school, another of Heffernan's passions. The Dailey Method also hosted events (called Barre and Bubbles) and donated studio space to help raise donations to Heffernan's Title 1 book drive. Each of the 150 books donated so far also comes with a free virtual author visit for the school via Zoom. Her author visits at schools are often accompanied by hands-on, interactive activities to help kids understand the impact we all have on the environment. "Children are empowered to learn what a difference it makes when you carpool or take a bus versus everyone driving individually in cars," Heffer-

nan said.

Signed copies of the book are available at Bel & Bunna's Books and Orinda Books. Heffernan can also be seen in her trash suit, reading her book and leading a solar lantern making craft at Flashlight Books in Walnut Creek on March 18 and Mrs. Dalloway's in Berkeley on March 21. Visit her website nanetteheffernan.com for more future events or to learn about school visits or donating a book to Title 1 schools.

"I hope that children learn that even their activities, as one person, all add up and make a difference," added Heffernan.

Don't forget to turn off the lights at 8:30 p.m. on March 28 and make your pledge to help the environment.



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## Thinking about graduate or professional school? Think about how to pay for it

By Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D.

As you consider a graduate or professional school program, think about how you will cover costs. If you are already in the workforce, are you willing to work full-time while pursuing a degree part-time? Your work experience might help you to succeed in the classroom, and your employer might offer (paid or unpaid) time off from work to study for exams and complete assignments. However, prior to accepting these incentives, be sure to understand if there is any obligation to remain with that employer longer than you might want both during your education and after. Take care to scrutinize what is involved before making and/or agreeing to a proposal.

But what if you're still in college, have graduated but are not currently employed, or you are not working in a field that is related to the advanced degree that you want to pursue? Or what if the program that you want, such as the MD or DO requires a commitment to full-time study? Outside of personal or family funds, fellowships for the best qualified PhD candidates, and scholarships tied to military service or other community service, the most likely aid will come in the form of

student loans. The most selective doctoral programs offer fellowships to the most qualified applicants. The fellowships cover tuition and fees as well as a stipend for teaching or research. But law schools, business schools and advanced degree programs in the allied health professions offer few scholarships. Dental, medical and veterinary schools offer practically none, except on rare occasion to highly qualified candidates.

Students and their families can borrow more for an advanced degree than they did for college. For example, the Federal Direct Student Loan program allows borrowers to borrow up to \$20,500 each year toward an advanced degree, and up to \$40,500 toward the costs of the MD, but none of the interest, regardless of the borrower's income, is subsidized. Borrowers or their families must pay the interest while in school, or it is capitalized, and added to the loan balance to be repaid after graduation. The Federal Grad Plus student loan program allows students to borrow for the total cost of their education, less other loans and aid. The interest for these loans is also unsubsidized. Private loans are also available, but interest rates are likely to be higher, and repayment terms less lenient.

Loan forgiveness programs offered by organizations such as the National Health Service Corps are available, but their future is in question due to the present administration's education leadership. These programs are noteworthy, because they eliminate a portion of the debt in return for service in a community of need. However, the Trump Administration has proposed that these programs be closed to new borrowers, while income-based repayment, where debts may be extended for as long as 25 years and the balance forgiven at the end, is likely to continue.

The process of applying for financial aid for graduate school is similar to the one you might have gone through when applying for aid to help cover college costs; but there are some differences. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is still required, but only the student information ap-

pears on the form. If the student is a college senior, work study income is excluded. If the student has worked since college, their primary residence, retirement savings, military combat pay, insurance and personal property are excluded in estimating financial need. Only income and liquid assets are considered. The CSS Profile may also be required, but again, only student information is required. Financial aid offices will use this information to develop their own calculation of need, which will be different from school to school. The colleges may also ask for more financial information that does not appear on either form, not only from the student, but also the applicant's parents.

Graduate and professional schools require a hefty commitment of time and money. Before you begin to tackle the applications and financial aid processes, be sure to have a goal worthy of the commitment and a plan in place to bring it to fruition.



Elizabeth LaScala, PhD personally guides each student through each step of selecting and applying to well-matched schools for undergraduate and graduate school study. Over the past two decades, Elizabeth has placed hundreds of students in some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the U.S. The number of clients taken is limited to ensure each applicant has personalized attention. Contact Elizabeth early in the process to make a difference in your outcomes. Write elizabeth@doingcollege.com; Visit www.doingcollege.com; or Call: 925.385.0562.

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9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> grade soloists - \$750	Audience Award - \$300

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Renee DeWeese Photo provided

## Moraga native lands part in SF production of 'The Pajama Game'

Submitted by Jonathan White

Moraga native Renee DeWeese will be playing "Gladys" in the 42nd Street Moon's production of "The Pajama Game" – one of the loveliest (and rarely-performed) Tony Award-winning "Best Musicals" of Broadway's Golden Age.

DeWeese grew up in Moraga and attended Donald Rheem Elementary, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate and Cam-

polindo High schools. She went on to study musical theater at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts where she received her BFA in Drama (CAP21 Studio). DeWeese has been teaching, directing, choreographing and running children's theater programs throughout the Bay Area since 2004, and has performed professionally in the Bay Area with CCMT, DTC, Woodminster, and American Musical Theatre of San Jose. She received her second Shellie award for

choreography for CCMT's "Oklahoma!" and a 2010 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for best supporting actress in a musical for her portrayal of Cassie in "A Chorus Line."

"The Pajama Game" will run from April 15 to May 3 at San Francisco's Gateway Theatre. For ticket information, visit [www.42ndstreetmoon.org](http://www.42ndstreetmoon.org) or by call (415) 255-8207.

## Troop 204 announces new Eagle Scouts



Photo provided

Oliver Lane of Boy Scout Troop 204

Submitted by Mika Watanabe

Lafayette's Boy Scout Troop 204 will honor 14 Scouts for achieving the Ea-

gle Scout Rank at the troop's 67th Eagle Court of Honor. Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the Scouts BSA | Boy Scouts of America and these Scouts will be honored at 1 p.m. March 21 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Thirteen of these Scouts' Eagle Projects were mentioned in the March 4 issue of Lamorinda Weekly, but Oliver Lane's project was inadvertently omitted from the article.

To attain the Eagle Scout rank, a Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout Spirit, and successfully complete an approved Eagle Service Project. Troop 204 Eagle Scouts have also attended the annual 50-mile backpacking trips, including planning and leading a trek on a nine-day trip.

Lane, in partnership with the Lafayette Historical Society and the Lafayette Library, installed auto shop flooring beneath the Historical Society's antique fire engine "Old Betsy". Upon completion of the floor, he cleaned the Historical Society's exhibit cage.

## Local teams take top prizes at Odyssey of the Mind regional competition



Photo provided

Submitted by Janine Ogando

Local SF Bay Area teams competed at the yearly SF Bay Regional Odyssey of the Mind Competition Feb. 28 at Concord High School. Odyssey of the Mind, in its 41st year, started at a college in Pennsylvania and is the second largest worldwide competition which includes children – second only to the Junior Olympics. Teams must solve one of five different problems, (1) vehicle, (2) robotic, (3) classics; (4) balsa wood, or (5) drama. Teams compete against other teams in their age division – elementary, middle school, high school or college.

Teams placing first or second in their region are able to compete at the

state level and the top two state teams are invited to compete at the world competition. The local teams did very well, with 31 teams advancing to the state competition (Lafayette Elementary 1, OIS 2, Orinda Rotary 1, Glorieta 2, Wagner 1, Stanley 2, Moraga Rotary 5, Burton Valley 2, Happy Valley 1).

This year, a rare award, the Rana-tras Fusca Creativity Award for outstanding creativity, was bestowed upon the OIS 6th Grade (Balsa Wood) Team consisting of Ryan Chan, Polly Efimova, Janie Luo, Augie Martinez, Will Riley, Parker Hjortsvang, and Vinny Yu, coached by Janine Ogando for their 18 gram structure which was able to disassemble, do the limbo, resemble and still hold a significant amount of weight (800+lbs).

## Moraga Rotary event raises \$33K for safety upgrades at Moraga schools



Photo provided

Enjoying "A Nite at the Races" are Ana Moon, MEF Communications Director; Bruce Burns, Superintendent of Moraga School District; Janelle Chng, Vice President, and Heather Davis, President, both of the Governing Board.

By Gary Irwin

The Moraga School District will be the beneficiary of more than \$33,000 which was contributed by participants at the 18th Annual "A Nite at the Races," a March 7 Moraga Rotary Club dinner/auction fundraiser. All these funds are intended to enhance the safety of the students and faculty in the MSD. While the particular uses of the money have not been decided, it is possible that the amount can be increased by additional grants from within the Rotary District and International organizations, similar to the way \$12,000 was raised in 2019 toward the purchase of radio communication devices for all teachers in MSD.

However, \$2,230 of the funds raised will go to specific needs; participants donated money toward 24 classroom medical kits, seven exterior light fixtures, and five exterior signs, and this money may be spent immediately.

MSD Superintendent Bruce Burns spoke to the participants about the drive toward safety in local schools, and that no sources of funds are currently available for necessary improvements other than community contributions. The Moraga Education Foundation is very effective in raising large amounts, but all their funds go

toward classroom education efforts. Also attending were Heather Davis, president and Janelle Chng, vice president, both of the MSD governing board, and many MEF officials, as well as parents who volunteer time at the schools.

In addition, \$14,200 was raised for the Lumumba Children's Library in Goma, Congo, which will serve desperately poor children who have never held a book in their hands. It is an ongoing project of Moraga Rotary in partnership with Goma Tumaini Rotary Club in the Congo. Previously, more than \$55,000 has been raised. The balance of the funds raised will be devoted to the several service projects conducted each year by Moraga Rotary.

Moraga Rotary is a 53-year-old service club within Rotary International, one of the five clubs in Lamorinda, and one of about 33,000 Rotary Clubs in about 200 countries. Regular meetings are held at noon on most Tuesdays at Michael's Restaurant in Moraga. If you are interested in information about Rotary, or would like to donate to these worthy causes, please contact [moragarotary@gmail.com](mailto:moragarotary@gmail.com), visit [moragarotary.com](http://moragarotary.com), or call Brian South, president-elect at (925) 260-2143.

## New officers of Moraga Garden Club announced



Photo provided

Moraga Garden Club's new slate of officers. Left, outgoing president, Roberta Klapproth; third from left, incoming president, Penny Walwark

Submitted by Linda Foley

The Moraga Garden Club announced its new slate of officers for the coming year starting September.

In addition to its many efforts of beautifying and supporting the town, the club has worked in conjunction with Moraga to give a facelift to the Triangle – the intersection of Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road – includ-

ing an interesting whimsical, whirling sculpture. Several members have also diligently worked to create and develop a perennial garden in the Hacienda, exemplifying artistic and solid garden planning. Other members have taken on the long neglected urns on Country Club Drive.

For information about Moraga Garden Club, visit: [moragagardenclub.com](http://moragagardenclub.com)

## Loaves and Fishes Calls for Volunteers

Due to the COVID-19 virus some regular volunteers may need to stay home, and Loaves and Fishes is in a tough spot, because they need volunteers in order to provide services for people in need. For anyone

who is home from work and wants to help provide meals, please contact Operations and Volunteer Manager, Karen Olson at [karen@loavesfishesc.org](mailto:karen@loavesfishesc.org).

### Community Service:

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



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

**Events that have not been canceled (as of March 13). Cancellations are ongoing, so please check individual events for updates. This information may not remain current:**

**Art**

**Valley Art Gallery presents** "Cheers to Color" opening March 28. Drop by or visit online. You're sure to find a colorful representation that will enhance your mood. Opening Reception from 2 to 5 p.m. on March 28. ValleyArtGallery.org Moraga Art Gallery presents a new art exhibit and reception at the reopened gallery: "Kaleidoscope" through April 4. For more information, visit the gallery's website (<https://moragaartgallery.com>), call (925) 376-5407 or email [moragaartgallery@gmail.com](mailto:moragaartgallery@gmail.com).

**Music**

**Cantare Con Vivo's Chamber**

Ensemble will present Mystery and Majesty at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 28 at St. Perpetua Church in Lafayette. The concert with feature Swiss composer Frank Martin's exquisite "Mass for Double Choir." Also featured will be Ešenvalds' "Only in Sleep," "The Old Church" by Paulus, and works by Anders Ohrwall, Randall Stroope and Billy Joel. General tickets: \$20; Students: \$10. [www.contareconvivo.org](http://www.contareconvivo.org).

**Lectures & Literature**

**Orinda Community Church** presents a discussion forum: Paths to Middle East Peace from 4 to 7 p.m. on March 22 at 10 Irwin Way. Panelists include Ellen Brotsky (Jewish Voice for Peace) and John Anderson, who recently returned from Gaza and works on the Presbyterian Board on Middle East Peace. A Middle Eastern dinner (suggested donation of \$12) will also be served. Questions, visit [orindacommunity-church.org](http://orindacommunity-church.org) or call (925) 254-4906

church.org or call (925) 254-4906

**Pat's Book Group** will read and discuss Women Talking by Miriam Toews at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 2. They meet monthly at Orinda Books and welcome new members. [www.orindabooks.com](http://www.orindabooks.com)

**Kids**

**Mindful Littles presents** Cornhole Classic from noon to 4 p.m. on April 26 at the Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way. Join this little friendly compassionate competition for a good cause at the first annual Cornhole Classic! This event will be a fun-filled afternoon including a cornhole competition with prizes, a taco truck, craft beer from Topa Topa Brewing, lawn games for kids, and more! This event is family-friendly however the competition is only open to adults for now, and depending on interest we may

add a youth category. Cost: \$50 for a team of two players. To register: [www.flipcause.com/secure/event\\_step2/NzY2OTY=/69224](http://www.flipcause.com/secure/event_step2/NzY2OTY=/69224)

**Garden**

**Pease join the Orinda Garden Club** for its annual community meeting at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 19 at the Orinda Library Auditorium. Brenda Coffee, one of America's top women Bloggers, will speak about the joys and perils of a full and ambitious life. There is no charge to attend and there will be a small sampling of garden club items available for your shopping pleasure.

**The Moraga Garden Club** Monthly General Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 19 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street. Goddess Gardener Cynthia Brian will speak about Fire Safe Landscaping with a Flair. You should not miss this

flamboyant speaker who is sure to inspire green and brown thumbs alike. Free. [moragagardenclub.com](http://moragagardenclub.com)

**The Montelindo Garden Club** March meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 20 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall. Presentation: Don't Snub the Shrubs. Speaker: Rebecca Sweet. [www.montelindogarden.com](http://www.montelindogarden.com)

**Other**

**Mardi Gras Lobster Fest** from 6 to 11 p.m. on April 18 at Saint Mary's College Soda Center. Put on your beads and mask for this festive annual event, sponsored by Moraga Valley Kiwanians! The evening will include cocktails, a lobster dinner, auctions, and dancing, all among good friends! Secure your tickets, \$65 per person, by calling (925) 388-0492. Go to [moragavalleykiwanis.org](http://moragavalleykiwanis.org) for more details. All proceeds go to local charities.

**Area residents who own** classic cars are invited to participate in the 14th annual Moraga Classic Car Show, which takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 9 as part of the 2020 Moraga Community Faire. The \$35 registration fee includes an entry ribbon, lunch for two, a commemorative photo, and a chance for owners to display their restoration work to the public. Prizes will be awarded. The registration deadline is April 31. Please note that if the Faire is canceled, all registration fees will be refunded. To register, go to [www.moragachamber.org/faire](http://www.moragachamber.org/faire) or, call Gloria at (925) 247-4473.

**Canceled or Postponed events**

**All Library programs** including storytime, author events, LEGO clubs, knitting circles, book clubs and all others will be canceled for the remainder of the month. Libraries will remain open for regularly scheduled hours. The situation will be re-evaluated on a regular basis.

**Due to evolving** circumstances around COVID-19, Saint Mary's College is postponing all events through April 14.

**Canceled.** Our Savior's Lutheran Church presents Spring Equinox Celebration at 7 p.m. on March 19 at 1035 Carol Lane, Main Hall.

**Canceled:** <https://lafayette-spring-equinox.eventbrite.com>

**Canceled:** David Auerbach, baritone, sings at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 22 at the OSLC Concert Series. [www.oslc.net](http://www.oslc.net).

**Canceled:** All remaining performances of "The Cherry Orchard" at the Town Hall Theatre. THT is exploring the option of live streaming a performance next week, and we will update you as information becomes available. [www.townhalltheatre.com](http://www.townhalltheatre.com) Box Office Phone: (925) 283-1557.

**Canceled:** Town Hall Second Annual Playwrights' Cage-Match: AMONG THE TREES. [www.townhalltheatre.com](http://www.townhalltheatre.com)

**Postponed:** The Moraga Junior Women's Club will host the 38th annual Spring Egg Hunt at Moraga Commons Park, featuring an egg hunt, games, bounce houses, rock climbing wall, face painting, and arts and crafts. Tickets are \$15/child (age 0-8). Order online at [www.moragajuniors.org/events/spring-egg-hunt](http://www.moragajuniors.org/events/spring-egg-hunt)

**Postponed:** "And Then They Came for Us" documentary in the Juaquin Moraga Intermediate School auditorium.

**Canceled:** Pacific Chamber Orchestra at the Campolindo High School Performing Arts Center. [www.pacificchamberorchestra.org/](http://www.pacificchamberorchestra.org/)

**Postponed:** Poker Night Fundraiser for a new playground at the Lafayette Community Center March 14.

*Lamorinda's Religious Services*

Many of these normally scheduled worship services have been cancelled for the next several weeks and some will be available online to view or stream. Please call or check the church's website for updated information.

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# Tasty cake evokes all the lovely freshness of spring



Pistachio Cake

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

I was looking for a fun Easter dessert, when I scrolled across

a lovely green cake on Pinterest! I know we just passed St. Patty's Day and we've done our fair share of green lately, but this is a lovely pastel spring green, which comes from the pistachio pudding used in the frosting and no additional food coloring. The cake in the picture turned out to be a vanilla cake with pistachio buttercream frosting. I really wanted more pistachio flavor in the cake, and I found an amazing cake on Sally's Baking Addiction. I made a minor change by replacing the sour cream with plain nonfat yogurt, which is something I usually do whenever a recipe calls for sour cream. Even though we are talking about dessert, it's nice to skip a calorie here and there, whenever possible.

One thing I would suggest, if you decide to make this cake, is to sift out and discard as many of the tiny nut fragments as possible from the pistachio pudding mix when making the frosting. I encountered some blockages in my cake decorating tips due to the tiny bits of nuts. I spent a good deal of time and watched several videos on how to make frosting roses, and even though I totally understand it, it turns out I am just not very good at it. So, in the end, I took my No. 822 open star frosting tip and made giant swirly looking flowers. This is good enough for me, but if you are good at making roses, I do think they'd be beautiful on this cake for springtime!

Also, on a great tip from Sora O'Doherty, I've been using



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

the Wilton's cake strips to make the cake layers nice and flat. By wrapping the layer pans with a dampened cake strip, the cake will come out nice and flat on top. Before using these, my cake layers were always a little bit like a Mt.

Vesuvius, with a great big hill in the center, or sometimes a crater. Now I can always count on them being perfectly level. This helps a great deal when it comes to putting the layers together and frosting the cake. Thanks, Sora!

**Wilton's Bake Even strips:**  
<https://www.wilton.com/bakeeven-strips/415-0796.html>

## Pistachio Buttercream Frosting

(Makes enough to frost a 3-layer cake and the decorative flowers on top.)

### INGREDIENTS

- 4 sticks unsalted butter (1 pound)
- 1 (4.3 oz.) package pistachio pudding mix (sift out the little nut pieces)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 8 cups sifted powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup milk

### DIRECTIONS

In a large mixing bowl, beat butter until creamy and fluffy. Add pistachio pudding mix and blend well. Mix in vanilla and almond extracts. Now, add powdered sugar, 1 cup at a time, beating well after each addition and scraping down sides of bowl. Continue to add powdered sugar until you reach desired spreading consistency.

## Pistachio Cake

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter (3/4 cup), at room temperature
- 1 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 5 large egg whites
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/2 cup milk (2% or whole milk)
- 1/2 cup nonfat plain yogurt (I used Greek yogurt)
- 2 1/3 cups cake flour (sifted with other dries)
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups, very finely chopped unsalted, roasted (shelled) pistachios (1 1/2 cups for cake and 1/2 cup for garnishes on top of cake)

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 F. Prepare three 9-inch layer pans by greasing and flouring the entire inside surface and fastening the damp "Bake-even" strips around the outside edges of the pans. (If you don't have these, you can still bake this cake, but trust me, they are well worth the investment.)

In a medium mixing bowl, combine flour, 1 1/2 cups pistachios, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, cream together butter and sugar until fluffy and smooth. Stir in vanilla and almond extracts. Beat in egg whites, until well integrated, scraping sides of bowl as you go. Beat in yogurt. Now, add dries alternately with milk, beating with each addition until well incorporated and scraping down sides of bowl as you go. Begin and end with dries.

Distribute batter evenly into the three prepared cake pans and bake for about 22-25 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

To assemble cake set aside about 1/3 of the frosting for decorations on top. Then, place first cake layer on your cake plate. Spread about 1/2 -3/4 cup of the frosting over the first layer. Repeat with remaining two layers. Then frost the sides. Place reserved frosting in a pastry bag that has been fitted with the coupler and decorating tip. I used the No. 822 tip, which worked well for my purposes, but you can use whatever decorating tip you like best. Make your decorations for the top of your cake. Sprinkle reserved chopped pistachios over the top of the cake, in and around the flowers.

Happy Easter!

# 'Corpus Christi' challenges our perceptions of good and evil



By Sophie Braccini

Image provided

A strangely beautiful, though sometimes violent film from Poland is coming to Orinda March 27 as part of the International Film Showcase. For Christians, spiritual people and non-believers alike, the film asks questions about redemption, faith, truth and social order. The movie, which is both very simple and complex, will undoubtedly touch movie goers.

In a small town in today's Poland, a sick priest is replaced at a moment's notice by Daniel, a 20-year-old imposter, who steps into the role almost despite himself. The community, which was recently traumatized by a tragic event, welcomes the novelty offered to it. Is the young ex-juvenile convict a manipulator, is he enlightened by his faith, or does he simply want to be somebody for once in his life? Whatever the reason, the deeply wounded community finds help through him and begins to heal.

Daniel (Bartocz Bielenic) is not a evil imposter, he is not seeking money or revenge. He is sincere. He wanted to become a priest,

but his criminal past barred him from ever being able to enter a seminary. He is portrayed as young, sometimes filled with the light of pure faith. He is like an angel at a crossroads – one side probable damnation; the other, possible redemption. The scenario was based on a true story and evolves like a spiritual quest. Daniel has what he wanted, his wish has come true, but he must now face the consequences. As he gets more and more involved with his parishioners, he goes further along the road of deceiving.

Jan Komasa's film is set in a small town where an immemorial order still seems to prevail. Money, church and social order have always advanced hand-in-hand. The story challenges the model, suggesting that truth might be on the side of the young imposter. He is sincere and seems to get his words from Christ himself. We have known for some time that nowadays clothes do make the man, but should faith be stronger than law? Maybe Komasa also wants to tell us to beware of the passionate leader who can manipulate crowds for better or for worse.

The choice of Bielenic to interpret Daniel was key to the effectiveness of the film. In an interview during the Mostre a Venezia, the director said that role required someone different in a charismatic way. Bielenic is a experimental theater actor, someone Komasa calls a real artist with angel eyes. He is also quite versatile, giving realism to this very complex character, constantly oscillating between guilt and faith.

The film set in the little Polish town speaks also to us about ourselves, how we are quick to judge, ostracize, categorize between good and bad without nuance. It talks about our shared humanity and desire to heal.

"Corpus Christi" was nominated to the 92nd Academy Awards in the Best International Feature Film category. Bielenic won the award for Best Actor at the Chicago International Film Festival and Stockholm International Film Festival; he also won the Shooting Stars Award for the most promising up-and-coming European actor. The movie will play for one week at the Orinda Theatre starting on March 27. More information at [www.orindamovies.com](http://www.orindamovies.com)



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Thank you to all Gala participants and organizers!

No meetings in March

[www.rotarylafayette.org](http://www.rotarylafayette.org)  
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### Contact us:

Letters to the editor (max 350 words): [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Delivery issues: [homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com)  
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**Publishers/Owners:** Andy and Wendy Scheck; [andy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:andy@lamorindaweekly.com), [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Editor:** Jennifer Wake; [jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Senior Staff Writer:** Nick Marnell; [nick@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:nick@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Sports Editor:** [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Advertising:** 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)

### Staff Writers:

Vera Kochan; [vera@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:vera@lamorindaweekly.com),  
Pippa Fisher; [pippa@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:pippa@lamorindaweekly.com),  
Nick Marnell; [nick@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:nick@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Sora O'Doherty; [Sora@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:Sora@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Jon Kingdon; [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; [cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Food: Susie Iventosch; [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com)

### Contributing Writers:

Conrad Bassett, Sophie Braccini, Diane Claytor, Michele Duffy, Amanda Eck, Fran Miller, Jenn Freedman, Mona Miller, Kara Navolio, Moya Stone, Margie Ryerson, Linda Fodrini-Johnson, Victor Ryerson  
**Calendar Editor:** [jaya@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:jaya@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Photos:** Tod Fierner, Gint Federas  
**Layout/Graphics:** Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.  
**Mailing address:** Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133 Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 925-263-9223; email: [info@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**website:** [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)



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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## SMC and Campolindo represented at Olympic Marathon Trials



Sara Mostatabi, second from right

Photos provided

### By Jon Kingdon

It was Henry Kaiser (1882-1967), a famous American industrialist that said: "Taste the relish to be found in competition - in having put forth the best within you." Kaiser's words and sentiments speak to the attitude and strength that marathoners bring to their sport.

Runners competed Feb. 29 in Atlanta to be among the top three finishers for the men and women to earn a position on the United States Olympic team. Among the runners were Sara Mostatabi, a 2011 Campolindo graduate and Rajpaul (Raj) Pannu who graduated from Saint Mary's College in 2014.

The United States Olympic Committee did not make it easy for any of the runners. "There were 20 to 30-mile gusts that day plus you gained 1,400 feet of elevation which is generally unheard of," said Mostatabi. "It was also a hilly course along with 34 meaningful turns where you lost your momentum."

Pannu added, "It was probably the most brutal course ever for the Olympic trials."

There were 735 runners (250 men and 485 women) that began the race and only 565 were able to complete the course. Pannu's time was 2:20:55, finishing in 63rd place out of the 175 men that finished the race. Mostatabi's time was 2:48:28 and finished in 91st place out of the 390 women that made it to the finish line.

With support from her boyfriend, family and friends from high school and college along with her high school coach Chuck Woolridge at the race, it was all positive for Mostatabi as she surpassed her expectations: "This was definitely a highlight of my running career. I had the goal of beating my seeded place

(156) and I wanted to finish in the top third of the race and to be among the top 100 runners so it became a dream come true."

Mostatabi had been training with his former Saint Mary's coach, Marty Kinsey, and had to battle through a number of injuries. "Raj was out for months and then slowly built himself back, starting six months prior to the trials by running just two miles," Kinsey said. "Considering where he began, to be in the top 25% of the field was pretty cool."

Mostatabi who works as a math teacher for ninth-graders at the Impact Academy of the Arts and Technology, a public charter school in Hayward, was more pleased than ecstatic at the end of the race: "I felt so relieved to be honest. The grind of the last several months of working full time as an educator and then working out in the cold and the dark, it was a very isolated lifestyle. It was also bittersweet knowing that I could have been in the top 20 if I had been able to have a full training load in preparation."

Mostatabi and Pannu each discovered, as freshmen in high school, that they had an innate talent for running distances.

Pannu was recruited from Diablo Valley College to Saint Mary's by Kinsey: "My goal was to turn Raj into an Olympics Marathon Trials Qualifier which was absurd to throw out there. When he raced, you could see him putting his body through another level of pain. It's visible and that's something that you can't coach, and I knew that if we could get him training at a higher level with his desire to push the limits, it would be a good combination." During his career at Saint Mary's, Pannu held the school records in 800, 1500, 5,000 and 10,000 meters.



Rajpaul Pannu

To qualify for the Olympic trials, a runner must beat a set time at their chosen marathon. For Mostatabi, it was "Grandma's Marathon" in Duluth, Minnesota, where she ran 2:41:14, easily beating the required Olympic time of 2:45:00. Pannu qualified for the Olympic trials at the California International Marathon in Sacramento, a feat he took almost casually: "I spent months

visualizing what I was going to do. I anticipated running a 2:16:58 second and I was only seven seconds off that."

Mostatabi, who grew up in Moraga and works as a senior associate at The Riverside Company in Santa Monica where she assesses new acquisition opportunities, attributes much of her academic success at Claremont-McKenna College and athletic success to her time at Campolindo. "As our track coach, Chuck poured himself into the runners that gave the sport and him the respect that it deserved. It speaks volumes to the fact that I'm still in touch with him and he came to support me in Atlanta. I consider him a friend now and feel lucky to have him in my life."

Saint Mary's was a special place for Pannu: "Saint Mary's means community to me. There is a feeling of community and I just really liked the mission statement which was serving. Coach Kinsey was incredibly patient with me. I was injured my sophomore year and he still supported me in so many ways and he went to bat for me which allowed me to give 110% for Saint Mary's."

For Woolridge, his favorite memory against Mostatabi was at the 2008 Olympic trials at Hayward Field in Oregon, sitting in the stands with Sara, who was one of two kids that Woolridge took up there for that week to watch the trials. "Twelve years later, she is running in the Olympic trials and I thought that was a pretty amazing journey," Woolridge said. When Mostatabi told him that she had qualified to run in the trials, Woolridge told her he would be booking his flight. "I have an unwritten rule that if any of my kids make it to the Olympic trials, I'm going to be there."

Mostatabi and Pannu, though satisfied with their performances see it more as a steppingstone: "I absolutely want to try running again in the trials with a goal of running 2:37:00," said Mostatabi. "I want to reach the A standard which is my next goal."

Pannu's first goal is to take some downtime: "I want to get my body healthy, starting from the ground up but in the long term my goal is to run a 2:12:00 marathon which would make me an elite among the elites which I think is my capability. I just have to make sure that my body is ready to handle that workload so I'm going to make sure that I'm healthy. I want to try out for the next Olympic trials but a lot can happen in four years. There are just so many things that can happen and nothing is set in stone."



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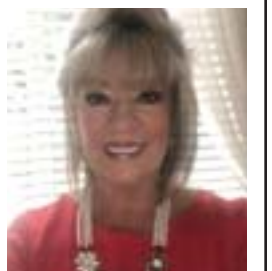
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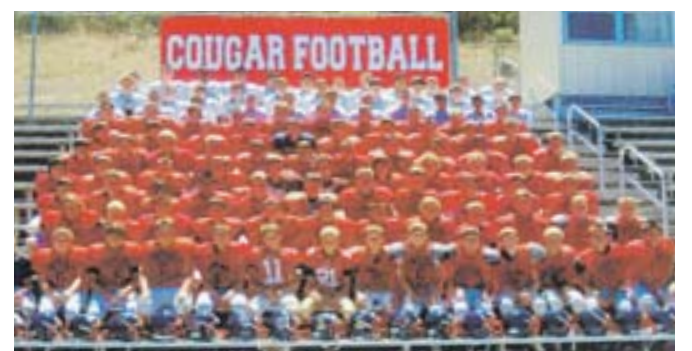
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## Campo a casualty after CIF cancels remainder of state basketball championships



Photos Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

Campolindo defeated De La Salle High School 54-49 on Tuesday, March 10, to claim back-to-back NorCal titles in what they felt was the final steppingstone to make it to the state championships in Sacramento. Just two days later, however, head coach Steven Dyer heard officially on a conference call that due to the coronavirus, all the championship games for the men and women were canceled. With that the Campolindo boy's basketball team, preparing to play Ribet Academy, saw their season end, not with a bang but a whimper.

It was not an easy decision for Dyer and his team to accept: "I texted the guys as

soon as I found out and then we had a lunchtime meeting and a team dinner on Thursday. It was a very emotional and heartbreaking for us to get as far as we did and then have the 'what if's' out there. It was particularly tough for Carter Mahaney and Rex Curtis who won't ever get to play together with their brothers along with our other two seniors, Tyler Smith and Peter O'Donnell."

As the seventh seed in Division I, Campolindo had a particularly different schedule in the playoffs but ended up defeating the second, third and fourth seeds (Capital Christian, Salesian Prep and De La Salle), making it to the state championship game. "It was a crazy run at the end of

the season," said Dyer. "It's something that we are proud of, beating three elite teams and all of them on the road which makes it all the more impressive."

Campolindo was ahead by 18 points in the middle of the third quarter against De La Salle when their offense went cold, and De La Salle reduced the margin to three points several times in the fourth quarter but could not get any closer.

It was having such a difficult regular season schedule that put Campolindo in a position to handle the adversity they confronted against De La Salle, said Dyer: "There was not a situation that we hadn't been in during the season. For example, the first time



Carter Mahaney

that we played Salesian during the season, we were up by 14 at the half when we blew the lead and lost by five points. Then after being up by 18 in the middle of the third quarter against De La Salle, and though we didn't play great, we didn't blow the lead and ended up winning. Just having all that experience, playing against great teams and having close games only helped at this point of the year."

Aidan Mahaney, Campolindo's leading scorer who was constantly double teamed, was held to only nine points but put in four straight

foul shots at the end to insure the victory. The Cougars were led by Emmanuel Callas with 18 points followed by Carter Mahaney with 15 points.

"Aidan had a great game on both ends," said Dyer. "He didn't force the ball offensively and he guarded De La Salle's leading scorer Chris Bunch and held him to four points. It was an outstanding effort on both ends and that is why he is a great player because when he gets double teamed, he'll let the other guys carry the load on offense and the other guys did."

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# Congratulations LMYA BASKETBALL 2020 Champions

LMYA Basketball wrapped up the 2020 season with Championship matches for its 4th-8th grade Girls and Boys Divisions. There was spirited competition on display fueled by fun with teammates and new skills learned and perfected during weekly practices. Congratulations to all of our players and thank you to all of the coaches, refs and parents for making this another great LMYA Basketball season!



## 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE BOYS, LAKERS

(L to R): Oliver Landa, Teddy Mrachek, Nathan Kligman, William Mrachek, John Noah Chang, Andrew Taylor, Pierce Chapman and Coach Justin Chapman.



## 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> GRADE GIRLS, SPARKS

(Front Row): Inés Coyne, Talia Rosenblat, Aria Falahati, Evelyn Hollenberg, Sarah Weaver, Elina Ojha and Kayli Wright. (Not pictured): Mikala Reynolds. (Back Row): Coaches Rustom Falahati and Doug Cardoni.



## 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> GRADE BOYS, LAKERS

(Front Row): Arnav Shinde, Elijah Lee, Joshua Smith, Luke Hansen, Troy Rickman, Henry Goodman, Adam Caicedo, Aria Valiyee and Kai Parker. (Back Row): Coaches Josh Smith and Scott Parker.



## 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> GRADE GIRLS, WINGS

(Front Row): Jordan Dwyer, Anessa Cardoni and Maya Shoenhair. (Back Row): Lauren Hoffman, Savannah Cahoon, Livia Davis, Hayden Tostie and Lucy Bai. (Not pictured): Coaches Tom Shoenhair and Doug Cardoni.



## 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> GRADE BOYS, CELTICS

(Front Row): Jeffrey Strause, Mackie Hall, Nicky Fosina, Joey Fosina and Lucas McCaffrey. (Back Row): Coach Jeff Strause, Jake Hawkins, Michael Goodwin, Siddharth Iyer, Benjamin Axelrod and Coach Ken Fosina. (Not pictured): Issac Paul



[www.lmyasports.com](http://www.lmyasports.com)



## Eighth grade St. Perpetua boys champions



Photo provided

Back row: coach Chris Hession, Sully Bailey, Liam Gallacher, Cooper Carmichael, Beck Murphy, Grady Conrad, Conor Hession, coach John Murphy; front: Ben Brekke, Nino Crudele, Michael Tague

Submitted by Chris Hession

St. Perpetua eighth grade boys won the CYO National Division championship.

## Sparks girls win LMYA championship



Photo provided

Players from top left: Inés Coyne, Talia Rosenblat, Aria Falahati, Evelyn Hollenberg, Sarah Weaver, Elina Ojha, Kayli Wright, and Mikala Reynolds (not pictured). Coaches: Rustom Falahati and Doug Cardoni.

Submitted by Aria Falahati (fifth grade, BVE)

The fourth-fifth grade Sparks girls won their championship game on Feb. 29th against the Sky. The Sparks were evenly mixed with four fourth graders and four fifth graders from Burton Valley and Lafayette Elementary

schools. The game was at Springhill Elementary. The Sparks finished the season with only 1 loss and 8 wins in the LMYA league with 6 teams. The Sparks also played in the halftime game for Saint Mary's College on Feb. 8th. That day Saint Mary's won against the top 10 ranked Gonzaga women's team!

## Victory at the Brazen Victory Race for the Rain or Sunshine Run Club athletes



Photo provided

Back row: Megan, Mia, Liva, Nia, Mia, Cameron, Dashiell, Brendan, Cody, Ian; middle row: Sadie, Lauren, Colbie, Drew, Cody, Coach Diane; front row: Sam, Nathan, Cate, Dash, TJ, missing Taejin

Submitted by Diane Batchelor

Stanley Middle School students from the Rain or Sunshine Run Club trained for eight weeks to work towards either the 5K or 10K in Point Richmond March 7. Many went home with Age Group medals. Notable places overall in the 5K were Cate McCormick 2nd female followed by Mia Lawrence 3rd female with Lauren Foster & Colbie Freese placing fourth and fifth female's

overall. In the male division of the 5K TJ Cronin came in 12th male overall in a super fast male field. All Run Club athletes claimed the top 30 spots overall among 517 participants.

In the 10K Megan Yee was fourth female overall followed by Cameron Powell seventh female overall. Brendan Miles was 15th male overall among 338 participants.

Coached by Diane Batchelor & Isaac Brent.

## St. Perpetua seventh grade girls National team wins 2020 West Diablo CYO Championship



Top from left: coach Dino Duque, Robin Parmelee, Srinidhi Pradeep, Violet Martin, Carolyn Colachico, Sophie Gold, coach John Wackowski; bottom from left: Elsa Ceridono, Grace Ayers, Georgiana Wackowski, Danica Duque

Submitted by Ruth Duque

Wackowski, St. Perpetua seventh grade girls won the 2020 West Diablo CYO National Championship over St. Mary's with a final score of 22-12.

Coached by Dino Duque and John

## St. Monica's seventh grade boys won West Diablo



Photo provided

Back row from left: Sebastian Cazares, Jacques Tseng, Andrew Davenport, Rex Pastore, coach Mark Pastore. Front row from left: Diego Hafizi, Ali McCauley, William Myers, Kyle Ting, Max Roberts.

Submitted by Mark Pastore

St. Monica's seventh grade boys (National) won the West Diablo CYO 2020 league championship, besting St. Perpetua in a close-fought final game. The team also finished runner-up in

the Oakland diocese regional championships, defeating St. Joseph of Fremont and St. Bede of Hayward before falling to Immaculate Heart of Brentwood in the diocese championship game.

## St. Perpetua third grade boys American Team Champions



Photo provided

Front row from left: Coach Joe McDonough, Dylan Moran (with ball), Calan Thornton, Matt Roberts; back row from left: Zenai Kaplanes-Jones, Callen McDonough, Jacob Kubalik, Mateo Valenzuela, Dominic Byra, Eli La Rotonda, Coach Mike La Rotonda and Henry O'Connor.

Submitted by Mike La Rotonda

championship in a close game against St. Monica's of Moraga. The final school was 39-35.

The St. Perpetua third grade boys American Team won the CYO Cham-

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

... read on Page D8

## Three ways to wow your walls



Photos provided

### By Amanda Eck

As a designer I obviously love adding beautiful furnishings to a home, but beautiful design starts with the four walls that surround the room. You can place the most amazing pieces in a room but if the walls are the wrong color or are bare, the entire space will feel off. So today I want to share three ways to wow your walls.

#### Paint

Never underestimate the power of a can of paint. It is the least expensive way to make an immediate impact in a space. When selecting paint colors I like to look for the “muddy” more “muted” colors in the paint deck versus

the bright-saturated ones. And here is a little designer secret – we choose paint last.

It is much harder to match a fabric or piece of furniture to a wall color; there are more paint colors in the world than there are people! So pick your paint last. If you are using existing furnishings grab your paint deck and fan out the colors on your fabrics and look for a hue that picks up the color in the fabrics. Also make sure your paint selection plays nicely with your flooring. And when in doubt go neutral.

Some great neutral go-to’s: Benjamin Moore Swiss Coffee, Sea Pearl, Revere Pewter and London Fog. And don’t forget the fifth wall: your ceiling. Ceilings do not need to be white. Try painting them the same color as

the walls or paint them lighter or darker than the walls. We recently did that in one client’s dining room and it added a wonderful dramatic effect.

#### Wallpaper

Wallpaper is making a comeback and it is here to stay. If you are afraid to commit to a patterned paper I would suggest textured wallpaper.

We have been using lots of these papers like grasscloth, vinyl, and silks. In a recent client’s dining room we did this beautiful blue grasscloth to not only added color but interest to the space. If you are not ready to commit to a large room in your home, powder bathrooms are the perfect place to create a big experience in a small space.

#### Art

Art is another great way to create the wow factor in your home. Especially pieces that have meaning or you have collected over the years. Large-scale art is a great way to cover a lot of space and make an impact.

... continued on Page D6





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LAFAYETTE	2	\$1,143,500	\$1,500,000
MORAGA	1	\$587,000	\$587,000
ORINDA	1	\$998,000	\$998,000

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### LAFAYETTE

1000 Circle Creek Drive #1002, \$1,143,500, 4 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt,  
1962 YrBlt, 02-03-20, Previous Sale: \$900,000, 10-29-15

921 Dana Highlands Court, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3813 SqFt,  
1994 YrBlt, 01-31-20, Previous Sale: \$1,096,000, 03-20-00

### MORAGA

1472 Camino Peral #A, \$587,000, 2 Bdrms, 1281 SqFt,  
1970 YrBlt, 01-29-20, Previous Sale: \$475,000, 08-05-14

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21 Calvin Court, \$998,000, 3 Bdrms, 2149 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 01-31-20



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## Three ways to wow your walls



Photos provided

... continued from Page D1

If original art is not in your budget, there are lots of great online resources for inexpensive art like [www.art.com](http://www.art.com). We also like to use Minted ([www.minted.com](http://www.minted.com)) for inexpensive prints of original art.

If you have a collection of smaller art pieces, I would suggest placing them in a gallery

style versus hanging on individual walls.

One of our clients had a collection of art from her travels and we had them framed in the same finish to create a cohesive feel. If you prefer a more relaxed, casual look, then you don't necessarily need to match the frames.

Now go add some wow to your walls! Until next time dear friends!

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

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

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## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

# Spring ahead!



Chinese fringe is a fun-frilled foundation shrub. Photos Cynthia Brian

### By Cynthia Brian

*“Spring drew on ... and a greenness grew over those brown beds, which freshening daily, suggested the thought that Hope traversed them at night, and left each morning brighter traces of her steps.” - from “Jane Eyre” by Charlotte Bronte*

With the World Health Organization declaring the coronavirus a pandemic, daily living as well as travel is interrupted. While we need to be alert and prepared, we cannot panic. My method of staying healthy while diminishing anxiety during these very troubling times is to avoid crowds by going into my garden.

The vernal equinox is only three days away, yet we have been experiencing spring since the first days of February. The cows are munching on the green grass in the hills, the frogs are croaking their mating calls, and gardens are bursting with color. Other than the copious dancing daffodils, nothing spells spring more than abundant camellia blooms, the eye-catching Chinese fringe shrub, and the fragrance of both freesia and hyacinth. Garden chores performed in the fall is paying dividends now.

In the South, camellias are known as the “belles” of the plant world. There are over 30,000 cultivars with blooms in many shades of red, pink, purple and white. Some feature double petals, others look like roses or peonies. Most species prefer shade to semi-shade thriving in well-drained acidic soil. They are drought-tolerant and best of all, depending on the species, blooms can begin in the fall continuing through the beginning of summer. Float blooms in a shallow bowl for

a pretty centerpiece. Make sure to pick up fallen blossoms.

A fabulous foundation plant for any garden is the Chinese fringe flower, a fast-growing shrub that provides evergreen foliage and a strong structure to the garden. In spring, showy, frilly fringes of pink cover the plant. Prune the plant to keep it the size you desire knowing that it can grow to 20 feet. A great perk is that you can propagate with stem cuttings and even make a border or a wall of fringe. Did I mention the flowers boast a sweet aroma as well?

Freesias are bulbs that are grown for their beautiful scent as well as their gorgeous variety of colors. I happen to adore the upward-facing bells of the blue or purple freesia but the yellow, white, pink and red produce gorgeous presentations as well. These bulbs multiply and come up just as spring springs forward year after year. They are deer and rabbit resistant and very easy to grow. Cut a handful for a long-lasting indoor arrangement that provides beauty and perfume.

Hyacinths are dramatic with rich, deep blooms in many colors. Like freesia, they make excellent cut flowers, can be grown in containers, are deer resistant and bee magnets. Their heady scent exudes from both their flowers and their leaves. Plant them along pathways, stairs, and in the front part of your garden to savor their elegance and aromatic character. They, too, will surprise you each year, sprouting as the sunshine warms the earth to delight the senses.

Consider adding any of these favorite garden specimens to your environs for perennial spring enchantment.

... continued on Page D11



A single petal deep pink camellia with a yellow center.



Close up of a delicate and fragrant purple freesia.



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## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

- **START** seeds as soon as the soil is warm enough. If you are anxious, start your crops indoors near a south-facing window or use a fluorescent light for 12 or more hours per day.
- **CLEAN** out perennial beds now and prepare the soil for replanting.
- **WELCOME** home the migrating birds with fresh water in the fountain and seed in the feeder.
- **PLANT** edibles amongst your ornamentals. Lettuces, parsley, dill, and basil are pretty as well as delicious.
- **DIG** out and replace older woody lavender bushes. Lavender thrives for about 5 or 6 years then is ready for the compost pile.
- **ADJUST** your lawnmower to a higher setting and allow the clippings to nourish the soil.
- **PLANT** host plants for the butterflies such as milkweed and dogwood. Leave a patch of dense vegetation for protection from inclement weather and a small mud puddle to quench their thirst.
- **INVEST** in a well-made wheelbarrow or hand truck to haul heavy bags of soil, rocks or pots of plants.
- **RESEED** lawns with the people, pet, and planet-friendly Pearl's Premium lawn seed available in 5 or 25-pound bags of a sunny mix, shade mix, or sun/shade blend. The roots go to 4 feet needing 50-75% water, making for a better drought-tolerant lawn. To order, visit [www.PearlsPremium.com](http://www.PearlsPremium.com). Use discount code STAR20.
- **EMPTY** all vessels that contain water as mosquito larvae is already hatching.
- **PICK** up fallen camellias and dispose of them. Camellia blooms are abundant this year and they drop daily. Do not allow the decayed petals to stay on the ground to avoid damage to the mother plant. If you notice dark brown veins in the petals, your camellia may be suffering from petal blight. Treat weekly with a foliar fungicide.
- **PRUNE** the new wood on your woodland or panicle hydrangeas down to 18-24 inches now to encourage fuller blooms later.
- **STAY** informed about Covid-19 only via reliable information. Visit Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov> or The World Health Organization at <https://www.who.int> for updates.

May hope traverse our nights and bring us all a brighter morning free of woes. Take a breath and inhale spring.

Stay healthy, be well, and be safe.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Spring.



Fallen camellias blooms must be gathered regularly to protect the plant.



Late-blooming daffodils sing with joy. Note the early bloomers behind are finished.



*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

## Spring ahead!

... continued from Page D8

### **New fire code on the horizon that affects landscapes**

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker has proposed a plan to declare all areas in our district as Wildland Urban Interface in the fire code to prevent insurance companies from canceling policies since Lamorinda is designated a fire zone. When it comes to landscaping, the proposed code would require a 2-foot area away from current structures and 3 feet on new construction to be cleared without any combustible materials. These materials include wood bark, mulch, and plants that are growing taller than two feet. Ground coverings that would be allowed would be green grass, river rock, gravel, crushed granite, or even bare earth. Some trees will need to be removed, especially eucalyptus, pine, bamboo, and junipers if they are within six feet of the structure. This new code is not yet in effect, but with spring on the horizon, this is a great time to start cleaning up your landscape to make it more fireproof.



### **Cynthia Brian outdoors on a cooler February day.**

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your spring garden. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at [www.StarStyleRadio.com](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com). Buy copies of her best-selling books, including, *Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul*, *Growing with the Goddess Gardener*, and *Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers* at [www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store). Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com) [www.GoddessGardener.com](http://www.GoddessGardener.com)

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# LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 8 Rose Lane

Old world charm surrounds this 3 bed/ 2 bath cottage complete with in-law studio on private grassy lot. A rare gem! **\$965,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 2 Irving Lane

Single level 3 bed/ 2 bath on corner lot in popular Sleepy Hollow one mile from elementary School & Swim & Tennis Club. **\$1,345,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 325 El Toyonal

Private custom 5 bed/ 3 bath home with updated baths and kitchen, hardwood floors, and charming curb appeal. **\$1,399,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 390 Camino Sobrante

1958 Midcentury modern contemporary 4 bed/ 2.5 bath. Designed by Ken Sakurai, just blocks from Orinda Country Club. **\$1,495,000**

## ORINDA



### 8 Moraga Court

First time on market in over 34 years! Single level 5 bed/ 4 bath 3450 sqft home with pool & expansive grounds. **\$1,925,000**

## ORINDA



### 383 Miner Road

East Coast Meets West Coast! Updated Orinda Country Club Cape Cod home on 1.32 acres. **\$2,495,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 511 Hawkridge Terrace

Sophisticated, totally updated single story home on level view lot close to town, this home has it all. 4 beds, 3 1/2 bath and 3,012 sqft. **\$2,950,000**

## ORINDA



### 21 Sycamore Road

Rare opportunity! Beautiful European architectural 4 bed/ 4.5 bath estate on .92 acres with modern open floor plan & 3 car garage. **\$2,995,000**

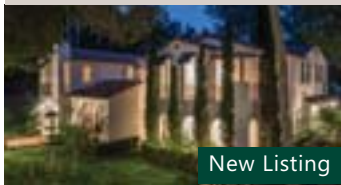
## ORINDA



### 49 Overhill Road

Private updated 6 bed/ 5 bath. Close to BART, Highway 24/680 & top rated schools. **\$2,995,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 18 Charles Hill Circle

Santa Barbara style 5 Bed/ 5.5 Bath 6137 sqft gated estate on 2.99 acres complete with bonus room and In-Law/ Au-Pair Space. **Call For Price**

## MORAGA



### 57 Charles Hill Road

A new SpringHill Homes masterpiece! 5 bed/ 4 baths +2 half baths with an open floor plan on a .75 acre lot. **\$4,395,000**

## LAFAYETTE



### 3971 Canyon Road

Private gated 6 Bed/ 4 Bath/ 3 Half bath estate including two-story guest house located in desirable Happy Valley. **\$3,175,000**

## WALNUT CREEK

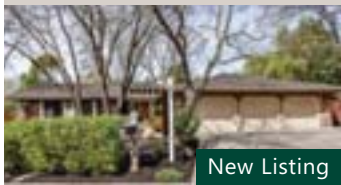


New Listing

### 49 Iron Horse Lane

Modern loft style 1 bed/ 2 bath condo located across from the Iron Horse Trail. Close to restaurants, shopping, freeway, and BART. **\$675,000**

## WALNUT CREEK

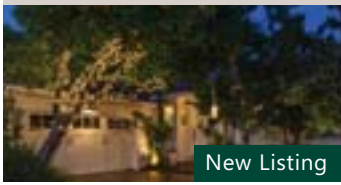


New Listing

### 4350 Walnut Boulevard

Dream home in the heart of Walnut Heights on .41 acre lot. Close to downtown, Walnut Creek schools, BART, and freeways. **\$1,545,000**

## CONCORD

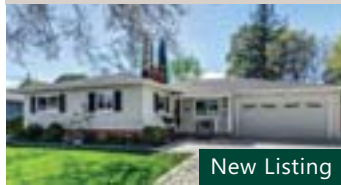


New Listing

### 1380 Schiller Court

Stunningly renovated 4 bedroom with huge bonus room, beautiful & private backyard in quiet cul-de-sac. **\$939,000**

## CONCORD



New Listing

### 1793 Landana Drive

Updated home with two master suites and beautiful yard. Conveniently located next to Concord BART. **\$749,000**

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