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One of an army of sewers formed in Lafayette to meet mask needs.



The Kosla sisters, Audrey and Grace, have been leading production of face masks in Orinda.



CAPA moms worked in Moraga on mask production.



With bags donated from Diablo Foods to the Lafayette volunteers, masks are allocated to various recipients across the area ready for use.

Photos provided

## An army of local volunteers answer call for face masks

By Pippa Fisher

Although the news is dire, Lamorindans across the tri-city area can take pride in knowing that the sense of community is alive and thriving. In Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda teams of volunteers have taken quietly and without fanfare to their sewing machines to churn out large numbers of non-medical face masks for essential workers in

the area.

In Lafayette Susan Goldie of Sewnow Fashion Studio said the idea originated from the community. "As the extreme nature of the pandemic was unfolding, I received email after email or tags on my social media account, asking if there was any way we could help make masks," she said.

Goldie explains she started with the medical community but their requirements were not compatible with what they could provide, so she pivoted

to designing the best cotton mask they could realistically create. About the same time, Kathy Bowles of the Lafayette Community Foundation and Anne Birdsong at Lafayette Rotary were seeking mask solutions for non-healthcare essential workers in the community. They reached out to Goldie and the Lafayette Mask Brigade was born. Their goal: Identify the organizations in need and then create and deliver up to 2,000 free, reusable face masks as quickly as possible. ... continued on Page A10



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## Pandemic delivers a blow to public finances. But how much of one?

By Nick Marnell

Because of actions taken at the federal, state and local level, COVID-19 is expected to negatively affect the financial condition of the Lamorinda municipalities, but for how long and how severely remain in doubt.

"Nobody has a crystal ball," said Steve Salomon, Orinda city manager. "There is a wide range of beliefs about what's going to happen, and some are more optimistic than others."

Business closures and the order for residents to stay at home will likely have the most negative effects on local financial statements. Over the next "month or so," Salomon sees a drop in fees the city earns from classes, facility rental and sports activities through the Parks and Recreation Department as one of the biggest losses in revenue to

Orinda, and he expects that sales tax, gas tax and development related revenue will be less than the amount the city budgeted. "My own estimate is that the impact could be well over \$1 million on the city's \$16.3 million budget," Salomon said.

Assuming that the stay-at-home order remains through June, Lafayette estimates slightly more than a \$1 million hit to its operating budget. Sales tax will contribute \$650,000 to the deficit, the largest component of the loss by far. Because property is not changing hands as expected, transfer tax revenue will come up \$180,000 short, but property tax revenue itself should be relatively stable. "Prices have not dropped at this point, so property tax should come in close to normal," said Tracy Robinson, administrative services director.

Neither city included expense reductions in its

forecast, though Orinda has declined to fill three staff vacancies and has stopped scheduling hours for part-time employees. "While it is not necessary to make any drastic changes now without the full complement of facts, the city manager has already put a hiring freeze in place and instructed department managers to cease all nonessential spending," Robinson said.

Moraga has not released updated financial information as it pertains to the virus. "The budget discussion is scheduled in May and we are addressing the financial impact in the adjusted FY20 and proposed FY21 budget," said Norma Veloso, director of administrative services. According to town documents, Moraga reports a 2020 operating budget of \$10.24 million.

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# Lafayette leaders request temporary relaxation of planning, development deadlines during SIP

By Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette city council at its April 13 city council meeting threw its support behind a letter from the mayor to California State Gov. Gavin Newsom requesting “relief from statutory deadlines governing land use applications.”

Mayor Mike Anderson is requesting suspension of certain state-required processing deadlines during the COVID-19 pandemic while the city remains under a shelter-in-place order

prohibiting public meetings in their usual format.

The letter explains, “to meet the current project processing deadlines, while grappling with the realities of the extended shelter-in-place order, we have had to use teleconferencing to hold our public hearings which severely limits the ability of our residents to fully participate.”

“This action,” says Anderson of a potential suspension, “would reconfirm the State’s interest in the full participation of its resi-

dents in those local community issues so important to the well-being of their communities.”

The letter follows a similar request by the League of California Cities dated March 22.

Anderson commented, “It’s a very broad shot, but it is trying to get the governor to pay attention to the fact that public participation is suffering in a big way and it’s not good for us or for the public.”

Currently public comment on any subject must

be sent in by email ahead of the meeting. Comments can be provided during the meeting by sending an email to cityhall@love-lafayette.org for city staff to read into the record (the usual three-minute time limit still applies). However many members of the public and the city staff agree this method is a far cry from full face-to-face public participation.

While this would affect all projects in the city, many residents are keeping their eyes specifically on

the controversial Terraces project, which is due to come before the Planning Commission on May 18, rescheduled from April 27 “to allow the city’s consultant and staff to complete the addendum and staff report,” according to the city. The addendum to the certified environmental impact report will be published on the city’s website on May 4.

The council supported the mayor’s letter unanimously, with one city council member absent for the vote.

## Residents keep distance during Earth Day off-ramp cleanup



Photo provided

Lafayette residents Wei-Tai Kwok, Violet Kwok, Sharon Richard, Steve Richard, Nolan Richard, Michael Dawson, and Gina Dawson celebrated Earth Day April 22 by collecting 13 bags of trash by the central

Lafayette Highway 24 off-ramp (pictured) and by the Hwy 24 on-ramp, all while sticking to family groups and maintaining at least 6-foot distance. -- P. Fisher

## Pink flamingos have sprung up on lawns during pandemic



Photo provided

Lafayette realtor Kristina McCann is helping local children celebrate by delivering a flock of flamingos to their lawns the night before their quarantined birthday. Word has spread and the flamingo-wrangler is now up to almost 100 families. McCann is providing the services for free but encourages those who wish to make a donation to support local schools. -- P. Fisher

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## Lafayette Strong – city offers assistance for small businesses



Photo Pippa Fisher

**Downtown Lafayette is quiet at midday as small businesses remain shuttered during SIP.**

**By Pippa Fisher**

The city of Lafayette is taking steps to support local small businesses and non-profits during the COVID-19 pandemic in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and the Lafayette Community Foundation.

The city council voted earlier in April to allocate \$30,000 from the emergency reserve fund to contract with Townsend Public Affairs, the city's advocacy firm, as a resource to help small business owners navigate the sometimes-confusing waters of state and federal loan applications.

Under the umbrella of "Lafayette Strong," resources are all listed on the city website, including the Lafayette Business Assistance Program, offered free.

The program kicked off with a webinar (available for viewing through a link on the city website) presented by TPA Senior Associate Austin Webster April 15 in which members of TPA gave an overview of the types of loans available. The firm is available to help small businesses identify organization needs, by providing step-by-step instructions, and by assisting with any issues arising from a submitted application if necessary. To be eligible the small business or nonprofit must have fewer than 500 employees and be located in Lafayette.

Registration for the program is available

through the city website (see below for link). Once city staff has verified eligibility through a business verification form, TPA staff will schedule a time to discuss specific needs and questions.

In the week following the launch of the LBA program, according to an update provided to the city by TPA Associate Johannus Reijnders, the advocacy firm had connected with 34 small local businesses and had completed one-on-one triage for 24 businesses with more scheduled. According to Reijnders the 34 businesses reflect over 250 employees and independent contractors within the Lafayette community. Roughly half of the businesses have applied for Payroll Protection Program funding and as yet, none have been approved, "reflecting the frustration nationwide that banks have been prioritizing their larger business customers over a first-come, first-serve basis, disadvantaging mom-and-pop style businesses," according to Reijnders.

The LCF is meeting the crisis by increasing its support to local nonprofits and has extended its deadline for grant application through April 30 to allow more time for nonprofits to assess their needs, matching every dollar donated up to \$25,000. The COVID-19 Community Matching Campaign will allow them to grant up to \$100,000 to nonprofits hit hard by the pandemic.

**More information is available on the city website at <https://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/lafayette-strong> Donations to the LCF can be made at <https://lafayettetcf.org/donate/>**



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**Construction of new Canyon Bridge begins with sizable funding from Caltrans**



Canyon Bridge work

Photo Andy Schreck

**By Vera Kochan**

Anyone traveling over the Canyon Bridge beginning April 20 was aware that work has begun to remove the temporary bridge and replace it with a brand new two-lane bridge. The project is slated for completion by November 2021, with most of the cost being picked up by the California Department of Transportation, thanks to the diligence of the Public Works Department in securing the funding.

Originally built in 1936, the bridge was scheduled for replacement with funds from the Caltrans Highway Bridge Program when the first landslide occurred in 2017. A second landslide required the new bridge to be relocated south of the original, thereby increasing costs with a re-design.

In January, the town received HBP funding allocation approval for an increased project budget totaling \$9,916,750. The HBP participating cost was \$8,780,000 or 88.53% of the project. The town's cost came to \$1,136,750 or 11.47% of the project. These costs covered preliminary engineering, right-of-way, construction, construction engineering and contingency. However, by February, design refinements, various set-backs and Caltrans funding delays resulted in a budget increased by \$1,728,350 to a new total of \$11,645,100.

Preliminary Engineering costs increased by \$90,000 due to environmental monitoring, design enhancements and document finalization. Right-of-way costs increased by \$50,000 to compensate for environmental permits required by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Regional Water Quality

Board in addition to compensating for the loss of 1.26 acres of aquatic habitat. Construction costs increased by \$972,000 and can basically be attributed to inflation and post-construction restoration, mitigation, maintenance and monitoring. Construction engineering costs increased \$519,150 due to a revised budget involving the construction management firm and town staff's expenses for project management and closeout filings. Lastly, contingency costs increased by \$97,200 due to construction cost increases.

With the additional budget increase, the HBP share of the cost for the new bridge rose to \$10.31 million and the Town of Moraga's cost is now \$1,335,100. The Public Works Department is proposing that Contra Costa Transportation Authority Measure J grant funds be used to cover the town's 11.47% portion of the total cost.

Original plans to allow through traffic on the bridge have been updated. Due to shelter-in-place mandates, the Public Works department has decided to change the contractor's work schedule to longer hours to complete Phase 1 ahead of time. With a marked decrease in traffic, it is hoped that the new schedule will inconvenience fewer drivers. Beginning May 4 the Canyon Bridge route will be closed to all cars, bicyclists and pedestrians from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. This will permit large equipment to move freely and safely during the construction process. Only emergency vehicles will be allowed through the closure. Informational signs will be posted and more information can be found at: moraga.ca.us/canyonroadbridge

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## Town of Moraga sees to Rheem sinkhole repairs



Rheem sinkhole repair complete

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

With most of the community sheltering in place, many may not be aware that the gaping sinkhole in the Rheem Shopping Center has finally been repaired.

Just over a year ago, when the sinkhole first appeared, Moraga experienced a déjà vu moment as memories of a prior sinkhole, located across the street from the current one on Moraga Star Gas Station's property at 398 Rheem Blvd., was recalled. For a while, any obvious re-

pairs had come to a screeching halt when the last apparent bit of progress occurred in May. At that time, the property owners had set up two sediment basins to remove debris from the damaged corrugated metal pipe below street level.

Further progress had stalled until the town issued a Notice and Order to Abate in September followed by a special town council meeting in October regarding the property owner's appeal hearing.

The town's greatest con-

cern was for public safety, and with that in mind, it received approval of an inspection and abatement warrant from the Superior Court of Contra Costa County that was issued on March 9 with a 10-day delayed start date. According to Public Works Director Shawn Knapp, "This allowed the town's contractors to order specialized materials that were needed for the sinkhole abatement work and to stabilize the 8-foot diameter storm drain pipe that runs under portions of the gas station and Rheem Shopping Center. The construction work began on March 19, the first allowed construction day of warrant, through April 8, the last day of warrant." The repairs were completed on time earlier that day before the warrant expired at 6 p.m.

"The gas station and Rheem Shopping Center property owners were responsible for the final surface restoration work of repaving the asphalt gas station driveway and Center Street road," Knapp added, "along with re-pouring the concrete sidewalk and driveway approaches, which

they have completed and reopened to the public."

Due to the property owner's delay with the sinkhole repairs, the costs increased as the size of the sinkhole grew larger and more material was damaged in the process. Knapp stated that the town doesn't have final expenses from the contractors, as yet. Once they are compiled the town will, in turn, prepare an invoice for the project to send to Moraga Star's property owners.

"It cannot be overstated how important it was to complete this work when we did. The damage caused by a complete failure of the underlying pipe - which our consultants told us was only a matter of time - would have been catastrophic and many times more expensive

to repair," said Knapp. "The 398 Rheem Blvd. sinkhole abatement work was designated an essential project by the Town of Moraga due to its importance and urgency."

Every effort was made to provide the work crew with a situation that conformed to coronavirus safety precautions put forth by the Contra Costa County Health Department. Hand washing stations were located on-site and hand sanitizers were available for frequent use throughout the day. "The work was completed safely, quickly and efficiently," Knapp added, "with minimum interruption of public access to Rheem Boulevard, the shopping center and the gas station."

## Moraga mayor discusses COVID-19 impact on the town

By Vera Kochan

Like most every city in the United States, Moraga's residents have been sheltering in place for over a month. However, what makes this town unique is its smaller population. That factor helps to reinforce the ideology of a close-knit community. With this in mind, Moraga Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus was asked to give her thoughts and observations on how the town is responding and handling the coronavirus shelter-in-place mandate.

Moraga's government has continued with business-as-usual, albeit remotely. "Thankfully, we live in a time and location where we have so many technological services available to us, that we have been able to switch over fairly seamlessly to using video conferencing technologies to attend and conduct meetings," observed Korpus. "From what I can tell, staff is continuing to be creative and productive in providing needed services to the community."

Korpus hasn't personally received any feedback from local businesses, "but I do know that many of our businesses are still open and working hard to continue being the positive, creative and productive contributors to our community that they are." Korpus stresses the importance of residents continuing to support the town's businesses during these times. She also wants everyone to be aware of the frequent business updates available through the Moraga Chamber of Commerce website: www.moragachamber.org.

When asked what feedback she has received from residents, Korpus replied, "Generally speaking, like many other areas in the country, it's a mixed bag. Many residents are frightened by what they are hearing about the coronavirus, afraid to leave their homes, and grateful for any and all efforts to protect the most vulnerable members of our community from exposure."

"On the other hand," she added, "other residents are chaffing at the restrictions, because they believe that we are risking far more harm to residents through economic devastation than we are mitigating with the physical distancing guidelines." Korpus is pleased that residents, despite their opinions, continue to comply with the county and state health orders while continuing to support each other.

With Moraga having very recently begun to see brighter days to its economic outlook, it will once again have to concentrate on replacing revenue losses, from reductions in gas and sales tax, in the days ahead. "The first and most important thing that can be done to address our financial challenges, that will result from the shelter-in-place orders, is for our health and governmental representatives to figure out a way to get our businesses back open, and to get us all back to work," explained Korpus. She admits that until the shutdown has ended, any impact would be difficult to determine. The town's staff is in the process of analyzing the effects of COVID-19

on Moraga's 2020-21 budget and expects to discuss the findings at the May 13 town council meeting.

"I feel very fortunate to be sheltering-in-place here in the midst of my family and friends in such a beautiful and supportive community," said Korpus, "and I want to express my family's encouraging and healing thoughts for everyone affected, as well as our heartfelt condolences for all those lost in the fight."



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## Results of polling on sales tax in; Orinda looks to conservative spending measures

By Sora O'Doherty

A majority of Orinda residents approve of extending and/or increasing sales tax, but it might be difficult to get the two-thirds majority required for a tax that is specifically dedicated, according to David Metz, president of FM3 Research, the company that conducted the poll. The current half-cent sales tax has yielded approximately \$1.2 million per year. Given the present state of the economy, it is expected that the sales tax revenue will drop, probably by 10-20%. The one cent tax would generate approximately \$2 million in revenue annually.

The matter was before the city council so that it could receive the results of the poll, but they do not need to decide on the ballot measure until later this year, according to the staff

report prepared by Assistant City Manager Larry Theis. The council will take another look at the issue in May, and it is hoped that the Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Committee will have a chance to consider it prior to the next time it appears on a city council meeting agenda.

The poll included 436 Orinda residents. Not all were asked the same questions as on some issues the poll was split into two separate groups. For example, the poll question on whether or not to renew the existing half-cent sales tax and increase it to one cent was split between groups who were asked either if the increased sales tax should last for 10 years and another group who were asked if the increased tax should last until ended by the voters in another election. The polling on both was favorable, but the 10-year deadline polled higher at 64% who would definitely, probably or who leaned toward voting yes, versus 59% of the total positive for an increase not limited by time.

The city is considering putting some kind of sales tax measure on the November ballot. The current half-cent sales tax, which has been largely used to improve Orinda's roads, will expire in 2022. Owing to the complexity of election rules, however, the city has limited opportunities to put the matter to a vote before the tax expires.

The current sales tax is a general tax, which only requires a simple majority

to pass, so both sets of polling numbers seem favorable to the increased one-cent tax. However, Metz explained in response to a question from Council Member Inga Miller that if the city council wished to dedicate the revenue from the sales tax to any particular expenses, it would then require a two-thirds majority to pass. The polling numbers were not so favorable that it was likely that a one cent sales tax on the ballot would attain that level of yes votes. However, the option of retaining the current half-cent sales tax polled at 72% favorable, which would exceed the two-thirds majority required for a specific tax. Metz pointed out that in California it is very difficult to get a two-thirds vote on a revenue measure. In the March election, he said, historically high number of such measures around the state failed.

In addition to the specific sales tax questions, the poll also included questions about the general satisfaction of residents with the city's performance, and tested the idea of the city taking responsibility for private roads and/or drains. Respondents indicated a highly favorable view of the quality of life in Orinda, while the response regarding private roads and/or drains was not highly favorable. By far the most important use for the sales tax revenue, polling at 45%, is that infrastructure needs to be repaired and maintained. A majority of those who opposed

the sales tax indicated that taxes are already high and/or they are against additional taxes.

The poll was conducted in early February, before the effects of the novel coronavirus were manifest. The pandemic will affect both the amount of revenue raised by the current tax and the general revenue situation of the city, as well as the economic situation of residents. Owing to this uncertainty, the council asked Metz to conduct a tracking poll to see if the climate changes with regard to the potential tax increase.

Council member Miller expressed support for the one-cent tax, and Mayor Darlene Gee said that she is open to pursuing it. Council member Nick Kosla raised some technical points regarding the limits on what sales taxes a city may impose with City Manager Steve Salomon. Salomon agreed that had the transportation tax passed in March, it would have limited what Orinda could put on the ballot. Salomon said that if Measure J had passed Orinda could not have considered full cent unless there was special legislation. Kosla concluded that "it sounds like this is a year we can ask for full cent, but in 2022 we might not be able to." If a one-cent sales tax fails on the 2020 ballot, the city would still be able to seek a renewal of the half-cent sales tax prior to its expiration in 2022.

## School news: OUSD deals with possible wildfires, distance learning; summer school plans

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Union School District board met on April

13 via Zoom and dealt with two significant issues: how distance learning was going and how to protect stu-

dents from wildfires when they return to school.

A resolution to observe California's Day of the Teacher on May 13 passed unanimously. Board president Cara Hoxie observed that "Our teachers have been heroes during this distance learning," adding that what the teachers have done since they began distance learning in March is extraordinary, especially given that everyone came with different levels of comfort.

Board member Carol Brown praised the teachers for rolling out a very fast delivery of a new way of learning, "in many cases, while their own kids are home too." How exactly the day will be observed has yet to be determined. The board will brainstorm with parents' clubs and volunteers.

... continued on next Page



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## School news: OUSD deals with possible wildfires, distance learning; summer school plans



Photo Sora O'Doherty

### Sleepy Hollow Elementary multi-purpose room

... continued from Page A6

Charles Shannon, president of the Orinda Education Association, commented on the effort to move to distance learning. "It's been a remarkable effort," he said, that "pushed us into 21st century learn-

ing." He added, "It isn't easy, but I feel that we are getting better at this every day. It is very hard, but very rewarding. I have a feeling that kids will be stronger, more resilient, better prepared." The board is currently in the process of developing survey ques-

tionnaires to help it gauge the success of the distance learning experience.

The board also tackled a matter that had been tabled so that Director of Facilities Stuart House could verify that the roof structure of the multi-purpose rooms at Wagner Ranch and Sleepy Hollow elementary schools can support the proposed weight of sprinkler systems between 100 and 150 pounds.

MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker told the Board that there are concerns about rapid fire intrusion at Sleepy Hollow School.

Sleepy Hollow, like Wagner Ranch elementary school, as been equipped with a 10,000 gallon water tank to enable a MOFD fire truck to pump water and protect the students and staff gathered in the multipurpose room. But Chief Winnacker worried, "What if we are not

able to get a fire engine there?" Therefore he asked the OUSD to install a rooftop sprinkler system as a first response to a wildfire. The chief explained that he was talking about a big "mister" to wet down the roof and surrounding areas. At 12% moisture, it is unlikely that flaming embers or brands would ignite the roof. It isn't a perfect solution, he said, but an available interim step.

House answered questions about Sleepy Hollow School, including details about a generator to power the sprinkler system, which will be installed a sufficient distance away from the multipurpose room, in a separate shed, shielded with cement board to minimize the possibility of fire getting close to it. There is no likelihood that fire will get close to it, he said, and it is highly improbable that a

generator would explode. The matter passed unanimously. The board also passed a resolution designating the public works as essential, so that work can proceed while the schools are still closed.

In other school-related news, John Nickerson, Superintendent of the Acalanes Union High School District that includes all three high schools in Lamorinda, told Orinda Mayor Darlene Gee at her monthly Liaison Meeting that schools have been directed to be closed through the academic year, and are starting to have conversations beyond that. Summer school will be distance learning as well, he said, and officials are beginning to think about what things might look like in the fall. It is still too early to make any definite plans for that, he concluded.

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# Letters to the editor

## PG&E tree removal and wildfire safety

Recently PG&E announced plans to remove 141 mature trees in Lafayette this summer along the electrical lines of St. Mary's Road and Moraga Road. With PG&E's new discretionary "Enhanced Vegetation Management" program, entire 100-year-old heritage trees, many 30 feet or more away from power lines, will be lost despite the fact only four-foot tree trimming clearances are required by law.

PG&E has better options for wildfire safety. In February, PG&E filed a 500-page "2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plan" with the CPUC describing plans to harden their system. This plan in part outlines PG&E's program to bury electrical lines underground in specific areas: high-wildfire zones intersected by roads serving as emergency routes for first responders and the evacuation of residents in tree-rich communities. If St. Marys Rd and Moraga Rd do not match these requirements, I don't know which areas will; but I do know PG&E

has no plans to bring the safest electrical hardening to our area. We deserve better. Recall Lafayette's two wildfires last year caused by a new PG&E power pole. Portions of town were evacuated, and for many of us, ashes rained down on our yards while a nearby transformer exploded, leaving us without power for days. This was not caused by 100-year-old trees, but by PG&E's failure to manage their above-ground electrical grid. Lamorinda deserves what PG&E has described as a solution and has promised their own regulator: better equipment buried underground, in our populated high wildfire zones, and along major exit routes.

Without a better solution, Lamorinda can look forward to more dangerous wildfire seasons and to many bare stumps that will serve as monuments of failure to enact the safest remedies possible.

Michael Dawson  
Lafayette

## MCC open to walkers

"The road to hell is paved with good intentions." This statement precisely describes the Moraga Country Club (MCC) Board of Director's decision to leave the golf course open for walkers, members and non-members alike.

While other similar clubs as well as many parks are adhering to the intent of Contra Costa County's (and the state's) Shelter In Place mandate, the MCC is taking pride in being inclusive rather than exclusive and tacitly inviting people from all around the county to walk on our beautiful golf course. The irony is that by trying to be a good neighbor, the MCC is, in essence, being a bad neighbor by jeopardizing the health and well-being of club residents, club members, and the entire population in the surrounding neighborhood.

In its most recent message to the membership, the MCC board stated: "The Board has taken all of the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of our Members and Staff with closures of the Clubhouse and recreation areas where possible, deciding to err on the side of caution." The irony of that statement is mind-boggling as clearly erring on the side of caution would be to close the golf course to everyone just as Orinda and Roundhill have done.

I have urged the board to be proactive rather than reactive...and close the golf course to all immediately. Surely the board will have to reverse its decision if a club member is

diagnosed with COVID-19. Why increase the odds of that unfortunate occurrence? Why put the entire community at increased risk?

Sadly, my position is not a popular one. Many in the club support the board's decision. They simply do not understand the risks of increased exposure to a wider population.

Ethan Bortman  
MCC Resident

## Dredging SF Bay?

The San Francisco Bay is a recreational treasure to be enjoyed by all residents of Contra Costa County. When the inland valley heats up, my family enjoys walking along the Bay trail at Marina Bay in Richmond, picnicking along the shore, viewing the beauty and breathing the fresh cool air.

It is unthinkable that a plan is in place to dredge the San Francisco Bay in order to allow larger and more numerous oil tankers bringing dirty tar sands to local refineries. This will add high levels of smog and dangerous particulates in the air with estimated additional CO2 emissions equivalent to 1.4 million cars per year in the county.

It is time to transition away from fossil fuels, not increase GHG emissions, nor increase the risk of a gigantic oil spill. Let's protect our natural and recreational resources for current and future generations. Let's work together for a just transition from fossil fuels and preserve the economic prosperity, beauty and health of our Bay Area counties.

Amanda Casey  
Saranap

## Neighbors Appeal Lot 66 Decision to City Council

Please help us fight Dick Holt's scandalous plan to develop Lot 66. In 2008, the City Council and Planning Commission denied the project because Lot 66 has never been buildable. In 11/26/08 Lamorinda Weekly: "A legal lot is not necessarily a buildable lot,"

said Les Hausrath, attorney for the neighbors. "The entire lot is encumbered by easement.

Recorded documents show the easement runs the width of the map. The documentation is quite clear of the existence of the easement. This lot was developed as a gateway for upper lots; it was never designed to be a developable lot." EBMUD removed Lot 66's water meter on July 1, 1970. Why? Because the lot was no longer buildable; it was designated an easement/access lot only to develop subdivisions up the hill. Lot 66 is bisected by Sessions Road. Yet current planner Jonathan Fox instructed the Planning Commission to go straight to siting and massing based on City Attorney Mala Subramanian's advice to ignore the easement issue. In 1/21/09 Lamorinda Weekly, former mayor/attorney Ned Robinson wrote, "The city attorney is just dead wrong if she says (as reported) that the city can grant a right to build on the easement (except the trail easement that the city owns). It should be noted that the county has said the lot is "unbuildable." To my knowledge, no planning agency -- city or county -- has ever tried to grant the right to develop over someone else's property...and an easement is an interest in property." On April 6, the PC voted 4-2 to grant Holt's permit. Kristina Sturm and Greg Mason, the only two PC members who saw the site's story poles, voted no. Holt served 23 years on the Planning Commission. He has a right to apply for a permit; however, the PC's decision now makes it possible for ANY developer to build on an unbuildable lot. It also sets precedent for Lafayette to IGNORE its own variances requirements and to grant special privilege to Holt and all future developers. This decision must be overturned. Support a dozen neighbors and submit public comment to the City Council.

Find me on NextDoor.  
Thank you.

Pam Swarts  
Lafayette

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

**Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report March 29 - April 18**

Alarms	58
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	15
Traffic	24
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subject	36
Suspicious Vehicle	16
Service to Citizen	74
Patrol Req./Security Check	168
Public/School Assembly Check	20
Supplemental Report	30
Vacation House Check	3
Welfare Check	23
Ordinance Violation	54

**Vehicle violations**

Auto Burglary  
Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd.  
10 Block Westminster Pl.  
1000 Block Brown Ave.  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
1600 Block Springbrook Rd.  
Reckless Driving  
Lucas Dr./Michael Ln.

1000 Block Via Roble  
Upper Happy Valley Rd./Hilldale Rd.  
Moraga Blvd./Moraga Rd.  
Stolen Vehicle Recovery  
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.  
Tc - Property Damage  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
900 Block Reliez Station Rd.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Olympic Blvd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.  
**Other criminal activity**  
Commercial Burglary  
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
Fraud False Pretenses  
1100 Block Loveland Dr.  
10 Block Silver Leaf Ct.  
1000 Block Woodbury Rd.  
900 Block Reliez Station Rd.  
Grand Theft  
S Lucille Ln/St. Marys Rd.  
Identity Theft  
3400 Block School St.  
1100 Block Hillcrest Dr. (2)  
Petty Theft  
1000 Block Brown Ave.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3300 Block S Lucille Ln.  
800 Block Solana Dr.  
800 Block Avalon Ave.  
3700 Block Mosswood Dr.  
3300 Block Silver Springs Ct.  
1000 Block Windsor Dr.  
Residential Burglary  
10 Block White Oak Dr.  
Shoplift  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (5)  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.  
3600 Block Robertson Rd. (2)  
3200 Block Ameno Dr.  
3300 Block Mildred Ln.  
Disturbing The Peace  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
900 Block S Thompson Rd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.  
Drunk In Public  
10 Block Eleven  
Loud Music  
1000 Block Brown Ave. (2)  
Loud Noise  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1000 Block Carol Ln. (2)  
400 Block Florence Dr.  
4100 Block Coralee Ln.  
1000 Block Brown Ave.  
800 Block Broadmoor Ct.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Loud Party  
10 Block Greenvalley Dr.  
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.  
Quandt Rd./Summit Rd.

Public Nuisance  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3500 Block Brook St. (2)  
Acalanes Rd./Hidden Valley Rd. (2)  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
500 Block Merriewood  
Vandalism  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
600 Block Jennie Ct.  
**Other**  
Harassment  
900 Block Hough Ave.  
K9 Outside Assist Request  
600 Block Contra Costa Blvd., Phi Heather Farms Park, Wcr  
300 Block Garretson Ave., Rod  
600 Block San Ramon Valley Blvd., Dan  
**Threats**  
1000 Block Dewing Ave.  
900 Block Leland Dr.  
900 Block Dewing Ave.  
3500 Block Springhill Rd.  
**Trespass**  
1000 Block Dewing Ave.  
800 Block Broadmoor Ct.  
40 Block Knox Dr.  
900 Block Dewing Ave.  
**Trespass W/ Vehicle**  
Stanley Blvd./Camino Diablo  
**Unwanted Guest**  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Violation Custody Order**  
Police Department  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)  
**Violation Restraining Order**  
3300 Block Sweet Dr.

**Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report March 31 - April 19**

Alarms	26
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	11
Traffic	11
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	6
Suspicious Vehicle	1
Service to Citizen	72
Patrol Req./Security Check	83
Supplemental Report	6
Vacation House Check	1
Welfare Check	7
Ordinance Violation	13

**Vehicle violations**  
Accident Property  
100 Block Moraga Rd.

Auto Burglary  
Not Available (3)  
Excessive Speed  
Moraga Way at Station 41  
Moraga Rd./Commons (3)  
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr (2)  
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa  
Petty Theft From Veh  
Police Department  
Reckless Driving  
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way  
Moraga Rd./Canyon Rd.  
Sanders Dr./Hetfield Pl.  
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.  
Tc - Property Damage  
Campolindo High School  
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way  
Vehicle Theft  
Not Available  
**Other criminal activity**  
Battery Sexual  
400 Block Tharp Dr.  
Burglary  
200 Block Paseo Bernal  
Not Available  
Extortion  
700 Block Crossbrook Dr.  
Fraud False Pretenses  
100 Block Walford Dr.  
Identity Theft  
100 Block Miramonte Dr.  
10 Block Tamarisk  
Petty Theft  
1000 Block Alta Mesa Dr. (2)  
Not Available  
Warrant Arrest  
10 Block Kendall Cir.  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbing The Peace  
2100 Block Ascot Dr.  
Loud Music  
300 Block Rheem Blvd.  
10 Block Natividad Ln.  
Not Available  
Loud Noise  
Not Available  
300 Block Rheem Blvd.  
Loud Party  
10 Block Hastings Ct.  
Not Available  
60 Block Miramonte Dr.  
Sanders Dr./Canyon Rd.  
Brookline/St. Andrews Dr.  
Public Nuisance  
Ace Hardware  
Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.  
**Other**  
Animal Cruelty  
300 Block Claudia Ct.  
Mentally Ill Commit  
100 Block Brookline

Other Infraction  
Skatepark  
Possession Of Stolen Pro  
Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln.  
Unwanted Guest  
60 Block Miramonte Dr.



## Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report March 22 - March 28 April 5 - April 11

Alarms	10
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	3
Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subject	7
Suspicious Vehicle	1
Service to Citizen	92
Patrol Req./Security Check	109
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	9
Welfare Check	12
Ordinance Violation	12

**Vehicle violations**

Auto Burglary  
10 Block Ridge Ln.  
Reckless Driving  
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.  
**Other criminal activity**  
Burglary  
10 Block Lost Valley Dr.  
Commercial Burglary  
Glorietta Ct.  
Fraud False Pretenses  
Sleepy Hollow Ln./Ichabod Ln.  
Residential Burglary  
200 Block Canon Dr.  
Shoplift  
10 Block Theatre Sq.  
Warrant Arrest  
Bear Creek Rd./Camino Pablo  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Loud Noise  
60 Block Knickerbocker Ln.  
Public Nuisance  
CVS  
**Other**  
Corporal Injury Spouse  
90 Block Davis Rd.  
Failure To Obey  
100 Block Canon Dr.  
Violation Custody Order  
Orinda Theater



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**Schools and communities try to cheer up locked-down seniors**



Photo Sora O'Doherty



Photo Pippa Fisher



Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

For most Americans, senior year of high school is fun and memorable.

For the class of 2020, there is no doubt it will be a memorable year, but likely not a fun one. In Lamorinda, the high schools and communities are teaming up to deliver

some fun to the homes of seniors who cannot go to sporting events, dances, senior outings, or even to school.

In Moraga, red is beginning to appear around town as Campolindo High School is running a campaign called "Red 'C' Rising" to support its students and increase hope and spirit in the community. Starting on April 20, the community was urged to decorate homes, mailboxes and driveways with red "C"s. In addition, graduating seniors found signs planted on their lawns congratulating them.

While Moraga is dressing up in red, Lafayette is painting the town blue. Acalanes High School and the Lafayette community are also distributing congratulatory lawn signs, with additional community activities rolling out each week. In addition to decorating their homes and dressing in blue, Acalanes students have been encouraged to participate in a variety of volunteer activities to help the community as well as to keep their spirits up. For example, students can sew face masks, donate blood or make no-

sew fleece blankets for foster youth.

Miramonte seniors are getting regular "gifts" sent to their homes, according to Miramonte High School Principal Julie Parks. Congratulations yard signs were the first of a series. Seniors also had T-shirts delivered to their homes, and further gifts were planned. In addition, Parks said, there will be green ribbons going up around Orinda in the upcoming weeks and many other spirit activities.

Parks added, "While we support our athletes 100%, we are very interested in supporting all students." Miramonte is making a variety of things accessible to students, like spirit week from leadership with different themes and lunch time activities (in Zoom rooms) to keep kids connected. Parks cited activities such as Mats Fit workouts and Zoom workouts to help kids stay active, and Lunch Room drop-ins hosted by teachers to bring together clubs and create opportunities to get students engaged.

**Lamorinda elected officials continue to serve without compensation**

By Nick Marnell

On April 14, the Concord City Council members voted to immediately cut their own salaries 10% to help ease financial pressure on the city caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Each council member's compensation dropped from \$1,352 to \$1,217 monthly.

A motion like that could not be proposed by any Lamorinda-based public agency because the elected officials of the Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda municipal councils, the four Lamorinda school districts and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District do not earn one cent for their service.

"We began as a city dedicated to small government," Lafayette

Mayor Mike Anderson said. "It's been the tradition, yet a lot of people don't realize that we do not get paid."

A Contra Costa County grand jury realized that elected officials were getting paid, sometimes excessively. "There are a large number of boards and councils that are being compensated amounts which may be viewed as exorbitant," read the 2011 grand jury report that carried the telling title, "Elected Board Membership - Public Service or Public Employment?" The report ordered 16 of the 19 county municipalities to conduct a public review of the compensation given to their elected officials.

Exempt from the grand jury order: Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, whose elected officials

earned nothing then, nothing now and nothing since the formation of their municipalities.

"Orinda was incorporated as a volunteer community. It's always been like that. People volunteer for commissions and committees, and the community wants to keep us a volunteer city," Orinda Vice Mayor Amy Worth said.

Moraga has also maintained a minimal government philosophy since the town was formed in 1974. "We have an enormous network of community service groups, which add to our small-town feel, and we rely on those groups for fundraising" Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus said. "There's no extra money in our budget to pay council members."

Serving on a volunteer basis

are not only the Lamorinda municipal council members but also the trustees of the four Lamorinda school districts. "They receive no salary, no stipend, no health benefits, no life insurance. Full volunteers," said John Nickerson, superintendent of the Acalanes Union High School District.

That same compensation plan is awarded all five MOFD directors: nothing, which was recognized in the Special Districts section of the grand jury report.

Unless they start paying for their seats, Lamorinda elected officials will not be able to ease the public financial burden resulting from the coronavirus pandemic via their own salary adjustments.

**Local businesses weather the difficult storm**

By Sophie Braccini

Tom Frainier, Moraga businessman and co-owner of Semifreddis bakery, continues to radiate his usual upbeat energy around town, talking, at a distance, with his friends and neighbors. The business he has been managing and led to a profitable growth over the last 32 years, Semifreddis, has experienced a 23% loss in sales over the last five weeks, but he hopes to weather the storm. Frainier notes that his business model, selling

more than half of the breads and bakery specialties to retail stores over restaurants, has insulated the company somewhat better than other bakers who relied mostly on restaurants for their revenue.

Frainier and a majority of his workers continue to come normally to the Alameda production unit where the baking happens every day. Because he was concerned about disruption in the supply chain extra flour, salt and yeast were ordered.

On the factory floor, workers

stay at least 6 feet apart and a friend of one of the managers sewed masks for everyone. Now not only do people wear gloves and hairnets but also face masks as they work all day. The safety of his workers is paramount to Frainier.

The resilient business owner has been able to avoid layoffs for now, but he is quite concerned for the survival of the whole fresh food industry and the restaurants. On the professional bakery's meeting room white board,

Frainier has inscribed a quote from Winston Churchill during World War II: "When you are going through hell, keep going."

He is not quite sure of what Semifreddis will look like once the crisis subsides. Downsizing might be unavoidable down the road. Frainier hopes that the economy rebounds and that people go back to restaurants and consume the way they used to, in a not too distant future.



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## Be safe – cover your nose and mouth

County Health Officers require everyone to cover their nose and mouth when doing the following:

- working at an essential business
- are inside an essential business, such as a grocery store
- visiting a healthcare provider or facility
- waiting in line for or ride public transportation

The order also requires ride share drivers, public transit, and government workers to wear masks when they come close to others, or where the public is likely to be present. Do not be surprised if police officers and firefighters are wearing masks and other personal protective equipment when they respond to an emer-

gency call.

Businesses must take reasonable measures, such as posting signs, to remind visitors about masking, and not serve customers who do not observe the order.

The new order does not extend to people driving in personal vehicles alone or with members of their households. Additionally, children under 12 years old do not have to wear a facial cover and children 2 years old or younger should not wear a cover due to suffocation risks. People who are outside exercising also do not have to wear a cover unless someone is within 6' of them...and they need to carry a face covering or mask. For example, if you are hiking or walking on a trail, you only

need to cover your nose and mouth when you pass someone...and remember to make room so there is space between people.

The Health Department has also opened 4 locations for drive-through testing for people with COVID-19 symptoms. Testing is done in your vehicle. Call 844-421-0804 to be screened by a nurse and make an appointment to be tested. Testing is being done at County Health Department offices in San Pablo, Martinez, Concord, and Pittsburg.

For current information about the COVID-19 situation, go to [www.coronavirus.cchealth.org](http://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org) or call the Health Department information number at 844-729-8410. Source: Moraga Police Department Nixle alert.

## Volunteers across Lamorinda answer call for face masks



Photos provided

... continued from Page A1

Beneficiaries have included Lamorinda Village, Meals on Wheels, Seniors Around Town, White Pony Express and those who work in grocery stores such as Diablo Foods. They are providing masks to those managing critical business for city offices and those supporting clients at Orinda Senior Villages as well as Las Trampas Inc., Monument Crisis Center, Trinity Center, and Loaves and Fishes, Hope Solutions, Chateau Lafayette, Merrill Gardens and Belle Terre senior centers along with Shelter, Inc., and Youth Homes.

With financial assistance forthcoming from the Lafayette Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, Diablo Foods and the City of Lafayette along with many of the "sewists," within 24 hours Goldie had 40 people signed up to sew. As she developed a high-quality design she brought in three critical new members – local custom tailors Joseph Jamkochian of Creative Alterations and Carlos Gomez of Moises Gomez, and Linda Morris of the Cotton Patch. The core team worked around the clock to pre-cut fabric and create kits of 40 masks each, for "sewists" to complete at home.

Lamorinda Village Op-

erations Manager Kathryn Ishizu is grateful. "These masks will keep our volunteers safe as they work to keep our vulnerable older population safe. This is an incredible community effort and we will all get through this together."

They've been busy in Moraga as well, where Paula Hertel who works in assisted living services says she has seen how hard the caregivers and staff have been working to keep residents safe, engaged and healthy despite all of the obstacles and hardships.

"I knew our Moraga community would rise up and help. My daughter dances at CAPA. I remembered seeing all these women sewing costumes and ballet shoes for the CAPA shows," says Hertel. She reached out to Jen Schnayer, Christy Kutzscher, Laura Finnerty and Christine Curtis, all CAPA "moms," to ask them if they would help. "Christine, a master organizer, made material kits and called on many of the CAPA sewing group to help as well. Our generous community also helped with donating and funding the costs of materials," says Hertel.

In addition, Hertel's daughter Elissa Goldman started a thank you letter campaign for residents and

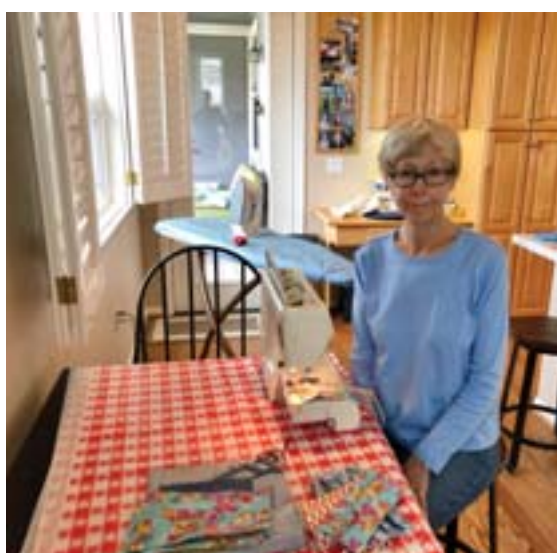
staff at these communities. She raised enough money to send over 150 cards and gift cards to caregivers and hundreds to residents. "The letters they receive remind them that they are valued and not forgotten. The caregivers feel the same way – a cloth mask and a thank you card with a \$5 Target gift card is more than the value of the materials – we see you, we care and we want you to be safe," says Hertel.

Meanwhile in Orinda the community is being led in its efforts by a couple of youngsters - sisters, seventh-grader Audrey, and fourth-grader Grace Kosla, who have so far with the help of friends and family already created over 300 face masks. Close to 20 friends and family members have contributed by making masks, donating materials and giving lessons.

Audrey notes that she has learned the importance of time management and persistence, "It's important to set a deadline and make sure to complete the task at hand."

The Kosla family's masks are going to delivery people, health care workers, numerous charities and other friends and family, they say.

"It's really fun and exciting to help people," says Grace.



Photos provided

# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## The arts and COVID-19: striving for survival



Image provided

By Sophie Braccini

The majority of the local art industry has never been known to build opulent profit margins; sheltering in place might well be the final blow for many arts businesses. Community support may make all the difference for these theaters, galleries, and local artists. Many have found online tools to continue connecting with their audience, but generating life-saving revenue is proving more challenging.

One of the first venues to close was Jennifer Perlmutter's gallery at 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. The painter and gallery owner has been benefitting from a larger pop-up space at the corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard, so when the order to close up was issued in March she realized that her historic first space could no longer be viable and she closed it with a heavy heart. Following suit, both the Moraga and Orinda movie theaters closed their doors to movie goers. Cal Shakes canceled its entire 2020 season, while Town Hall Theatre had to cancel the last shows of its "Cherry Orchard" production, and reimburse bought tickets.

Cal Shakes decided early-on to entirely call off its 2020 season, a decision that director Eric Ting and his team found incredibly hard to make, but that could not be avoided given the uncertainty of times and months of work that are required to put on a show. Sixty percent of the staff is furloughed while others have reduced their hours.

Local venues like movie theaters are silenced, doors are closed, but local artists have, when possible, moved to the world of YouTube videos, Facebook live, and Zoom sessions to at least stay in the heart and soul of their community, if not to make any kind of decent income. On the night of the last THT "Cherry Orchard" show, with sparse audiences due to social distancing, three cameras were set in the theater and the production was filmed. With that video, THT decided to move online and start a new virtual business model. Artistic Director Susan Hovey said she was pleased with the number of people who purchased tickets for the online show. The theater company also realized how much the community cared when the majority of season ticket holders did not ask for full refunds of their tickets. Cal Shakes was thankful for the same extraordinary support from their patrons.

Another example of online innovation during this trying period of time is Perlmutter's new gift shop called "Small Gifts," which offers a collection of unique objects, paintings or jewelry made by local artists. She also offers the opportunity to potential patrons to simulate displaying art she sells in their own homes to evaluate how it would fit; she invites the community on the first Friday evening of the month for an online party of art discussion, discovery and music.

In spite of the online action, Town Hall Theatre staff has cut their hours – one is now a volunteer. Operating costs are still

there, although the landlord is easing the burden of rent. The group has applied to the Lafayette Community Foundation as well as others supporting the arts are expanding their criteria to accept grant requests to fund operating costs. Cal Shakes' also confirmed that the company is applying for such funding.

Both organizations are holding fundraisers, "Day of Giving" on April 21 for THT and "Be a Beacon" for Cal Shakes. The Orinda Theatre, also caught in the grips of a high fixed cost and no revenue paradigm, is asking supporters to buy gift cards to be used at future movie viewings.

Theater summer camps are typically a source of revenue for live theater companies, and both Cal Shakes and THT are offering online theater camps this summer. Cal Shakes Clive

Worsley noted that his company is brainstorming with other Shakespeare training groups all over the world to design a curriculum that is both interactive, requires off-screen time and is meaningful. They are now preparing the classes for either online or in-person sessions or a combination of the two, due to the uncertainty of the times. As Perlmutter puts it, all we have now is uncertainty, taking days one at a time.

Everyone remains confident and reasonably optimistic. Worsley believes that in fact this crisis will help people understand the importance of the art in their lives and will spur even stronger support and funding in the future.

To support these businesses, visit: calshakes.org, www.jenniferperlmutter-gallery.com, www.orindamovies.com, www.townhalltheatre.com.



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thanks all the volunteers who have been delivering groceries during Shelter in Place and supporting our seniors through the years. We appreciate your kindness!

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## A pandemic can't keep this Orinda singer down



Orinda singer Mina Lim, 13.

Photo provided

By Sora O'Doherty

Mina Lim has put her musical talent to work, and can be found singing a Covid-19 parody on YouTube these days. The 13-year-old is familiar to the Lamorinda arts scene as a frequent competitor in the Lamorinda Idol contest, last year winning the 6-8 grade category and the group category with her group 4 O'Clock!

During spring break, while on lockdown, her mother June Lee Lim gave her an assignment to write her own parody. Mina came up with a poignant but amusing parody of "Part of Your World" from her favorite musical, "The Little Mermaid" with lyrics like, "I've got Purell and Lysol and Clorox; I've got

canned food and hand soap galore; You want toilet paper? I've got twenty ... (four); But who cares? No big deal ... I'm so BORED!!!!!!...."

Mina reported that "lots of people enjoyed it," including her teachers at Orinda Intermediate School. Next year Mina plans to attend Campolindo, to avail of their renown choir and musicals.

Mina is quite sensitive to the coronavirus because she herself suffered from a serious but unidentifiable illness last fall. Now she is sheltering at home with her mother and

father. Her grandparents are sheltering at home. Mina misses her family and friends, but uses Zoom and Facetime to keep in touch. "Only Mom goes out now," Mina says, as she and her father have asthma issues. June Lim added that they have friends in the health field, some of whom are in New York, so the situation is quite frightening. "We are keeping upbeat," she said, "trying not to dwell on it, and the parody has been a lot of fun, keeping our minds off it." People are sharing Mina's parody on social media.

Mina's parody can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9L8z2XF9Q0>

## Five tips to managing anxiety in challenging times

By Linda Fodrini-Johnson

Staying healthy and managing stress is even more crucial to our lives now. Given "Stay in Place" orders, we have time to explore a variety of mindfulness practices both to change and improve our habits that will lead to better lives.

The current worldwide pandemic is causing sleepless nights, hand wringing and some strange behaviors. Fear can sometimes bring out the worst in us. However, I am also seeing some incredible acts of kindness and selflessness in neighbors helping neighbors.

The anxiety that many of us are experiencing related to the current COVID-19 epidemic is a "situational anxiety" brought on by something we can't very well control

outside changing our behaviors for a period of time.

Below are five tips and resources for balancing our emotions during this unprecedented time in our history:

1) Focus on the positives in your life and the world. Start your morning with a gratitude prayer or list of what you are thankful for. Read the comic strips before you read any news and save a positive story to read last. Say a daily affirmation. You could limit your news watching to every other day or once a week if you find it distressing.

2) Mindfulness exercises are a wonderful way of disconnecting from all emotions by connecting with your inner being and at the same time disconnecting from all the negativity and to-dos of our daily lives. This does not happen with one try. It is some-

thing that you need to do daily and increase the time of the exercise as you become more comfortable. Just learning to focus on your breathing can be a great first start – and it helps with sleeping too!

3) Get productive. Distraction is a great mind diversion when you are ruminating on your fears or unfounded beliefs. Have a list of projects you would like to complete and tackle one of them every time you get yourself in a worry-knot.

4) Exercise. If you start to worry or become anxious, take a walk or follow an exercise video. Yoga is a great exercise that is both a mindfulness practice and moves your body to be more flexible. If getting on the floor is a challenge, look for chair yoga.

5) Eat well. Diet is extremely important to mental health. Add immune boosting foods to

your diet like citrus, blueberries, almonds, mushrooms, green tea, and red bell peppers.

If your feelings are interfering with your daily life, such as trouble concentrating or increased use of alcohol, seek help. The Disaster Distress Hotline is 1-800-985-5990.

If you need to process your worries, reach out to a friend or professional. Sometimes it is just good to talk through our anxieties. The Eldercare Services Aging Life Care Professionals can take your calls and help with consultations on the phone or via FaceTime calls. The Home Care Assistance team is available to assist you with caregiving needs. Our teams are following very high standards to keep everyone healthy during this epidemic – call us at (925) 937-2018.



Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC, is a Licensed Family Therapist and Certified Care Manager. She has been practicing professional care management since 1984. Linda founded Eldercare Services, a full-service care management and home care company in 1989. Eldercare Services is now a division of Home Care Assistance and continues to provide Bay Area families with care management, advocacy, counseling, support groups and education.

## One family finds silver lining during stay-at-home order



Moraga mother of three, Tami Shaffer, who is also owner and manager of children's play space Gymboree Play & Music in Lafayette, found some silver linings after the few first weeks of shelter-in-

place, the first being that her family was way overscheduled.

"Before SIP, I had a color-coded calendar on our kitchen wall (each person in our household had a color), in ad-



Photos provided

dition to a Google calendar to try and manage activities. After 5 weeks of SIP, I am realizing that maybe we went a little bit overboard," Shaffer explained. "Because of the overscheduling, we really

missed out on the simple pleasures. Before SIP, we rarely walked around our neighborhood. Now, we make it a point to take a family walk every day. We connect with neighbors and spend quality

time chatting (from a safe social distance, of course). We also sit down for a nice family dinner every night. Everything is less rushed, slow-paced, and quite simple. But it's pretty darn cool."

Shaffer has also found that her kids can manage without her micromanaging, they can do chores, devices are not evil and community is more important now than ever before. "People need people! And you can find community in many forms," she says. "My oldest kid has his virtual gaming community; my younger two live for FaceTime or Zoom calls. My husband and I need the live 'hello' from neighbors from a safe social distance, and we are also able to find community through social media. We will make it through as long as we have each other!"

-- J. Wake

## Try these tangy, spicy sprouts with balsamic-Dijon-shallot reduction



Balsamic Brussels

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

A couple of years ago, we featured a cheesy Brussels sprouts recipe in this column, and for all of you Brussels sprouts lovers out there, here is another recipe, which is tangy, salty and a bit spicy all at the same time. I don't know about you, but once I became a Brussels sprouts

convert, (for years I wouldn't go near them), I've never looked back. They do have a very distinct aroma and whenever I smell them cooking at a nearby restaurant, it makes me want the have them. But, it's not a scent you want around all the time. For example, I once bought two orders of our favorite Brussels sprouts from a food stand

and these are absolutely delicious with the crunchy, browned edges of the sprouts tossed in a balsamic-Dijon-shallot reduction. The key is to let them brown for a few minutes undisturbed before finishing the cooking and making the sauce. That's the best way to get the beautiful crispy edges.

### INGREDIENTS

4 tablespoons olive oil  
1 cup walnut halves  
1 large shallot, finely chopped  
1 pound Brussels sprouts, cleaned and cut in half  
2-4 tablespoons water  
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder  
1 teaspoon lemon pepper  
1/4 teaspoon red pepper chili flakes  
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard  
1 tablespoon honey  
1/3 cup balsamic vinegar  
Salt and pepper to taste

### DIRECTIONS

Heat one tablespoon olive oil in a cast iron skillet or large sauté pan over medium heat. Add the walnuts and cook just until toasted, stirring occasionally. (Watch them closely so they don't burn.) Remove from pan and set aside. In the same pan, add remaining olive oil along with shallots and cook just until translucent. Add Brussels sprouts to pan, all with the cut side down. Cook uncovered and undisturbed over medium heat for about 3-4 minutes until the bottoms have all become golden brown. Add 3-4 tablespoons of water, cover pan, and allow to cook until al dente, or barely tender. Add a dash more water if the pan runs dry before they are tender. Remove sprouts from pan and set aside.

Add the Dijon, lemon pepper, garlic powder, honey and balsamic vinegar to the pan and cook until slightly thickened and reduced by about 1/3. Toss Brussels sprouts, walnuts and red pepper flakes into the pan and stir to coat with the balsamic reduction. Continue to cook just a couple more minutes or until heated through. Season to taste with salt and pepper.



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.

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

“Defusing Teen Stress: Navigating Tough Times and Finding Healing” will be discussed in a talk at 7:30 p.m., May 4. Free online registration at <https://healing101talks.org/teen/>. Local speakers, Scott Chavez and Graham Wiseman will outline how they provide the suicide hotline and address mental health issues in our

communities. Melanie Wahlberg, a Christian Science Practitioner, will share how spirituality and prayer heals these problems.

Please submit events to: [calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)

## Saint Mary's College 2020 Commencement postponed



By Vera Kochan

Due to the ongoing health crisis, Saint Mary's College has postponed its May 23 and 24 commencement exercises. In the meantime,

degrees will be awarded at the end of the semester and diplomas will be mailed to all of the May degree recipients. SMC anticipates scheduling a future date for the graduation ceremonies and festivities.

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## Service Clubs Announcements

**Lafayette Rotary Club**  
**Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting.**  
 Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.  
**Hang TOUGH Lamorinda**  
**We will come back stronger**  
 Meetings suspended for now  
[www.rotarylafayette.org](http://www.rotarylafayette.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA](https://www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA)

**Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**  
**Zoom Meetings on Friday Mornings at 7:00 a.m.**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82609498205>  
**MAY WEEKLY MEETINGS**  
 1: Dr. Nadine Hachach-Haram, Worldwide Remote Surgery  
 8: Lauren Pufpaf, The Impact of Music on Our Brains and Behaviors  
 15: Nick Wong, Innovative Technology in Elder Care  
 22: Dr. Cat Hobaiter, The Language of Wild Chimpanzees  
[www.lamorindasunrise.com](http://www.lamorindasunrise.com)

## Lamorinda's Religious Services

Worship services are available online to view or stream or they have been canceled for now. Please call or check the individual websites for updated information.

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 925.283.0272 Parish | 925.284.1640 School

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[www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)  
  
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 10:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship in the Center for Ministry  
 visit <http://www.holyshepherd.org> for more details

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 66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda  
 254-3770. [www.ststephensorinda.org](http://www.ststephensorinda.org)  
 Sunday 8am, 10am  


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## Moraga Rotary makes 1K face shields for East Bay hospitals & facilities

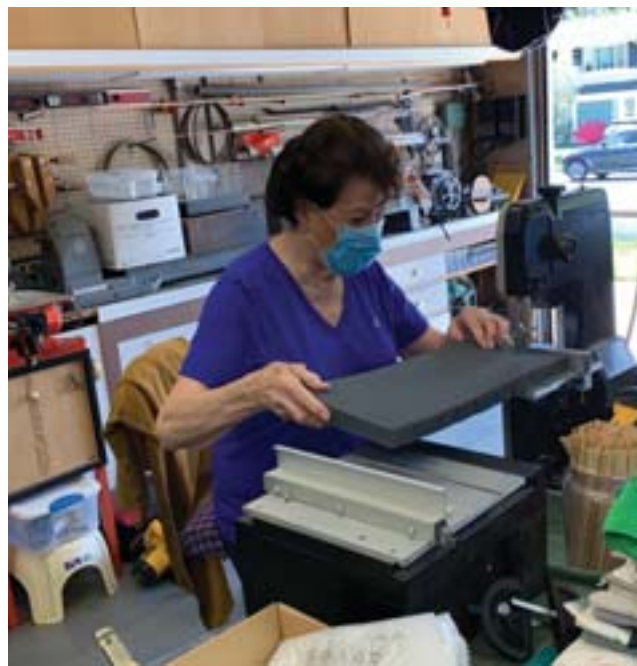


Photo John Erickson

Moraga Rotarian Mary Sue Erickson uses a band saw to cut precise foam blocks to make the forehead pieces for face shields.

Submitted by Hubert Ma and Gary Irwin

One thousand plastic face shields to help protect medical staff are being constructed and delivered by Moraga Rotary Club to local and regional medical service providers and essential workers. These plastic shields are used in addition to face masks,

and provide additional protection to medical professionals who are battling this pandemic day in and day out. It was Rotary's way to give back to the medical professionals by making something that would help protect them as they help protect us.

The project commenced in late March by Rotarians Debbie Koo and Hubert Ma in a conversation about the shortage of face shields. Materials were ordered the very next day, and the first face shields were being made within the week, following established designs, and costing a bit more than \$2 per shield. Requests for shields may be made to moragarotary@comcast.net.

The face shields have been delivered to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, John Muir Health Medical Center, and Sutter Health, and to our local Moraga Royale, and 100 will be delivered to County Connection bus drivers. Some appreciative comments include: "Resources [face shields] like these are life savers for our front line caregivers, and we appreciate your effort on our behalf," Jamie Wood of Sutter Health commented, and Rowena Chesney of John Muir Health said they "are very fortunate for the community's generous support."

Dianne Wilson of Moraga Royale said, "Face shields provided by Moraga Rotary equip those on the front line who are protecting our most vulnerable citizens."

Rotary Club of Moraga is a 53-year-old service club within Rotary International, one of about 34,000 Rotary Clubs in about 200 countries. Regular meetings are held on most Tuesdays at noon, currently via teleconference. If you are interested in joining Rotary or would like more information, please contact moragarotary@comcast.net or visit the website at www.moragarotary.com to get in touch with Brian South, membership chair.



Moraga Royale Senior Advisor Dianne Wilson (in blue) assists Executive Director Loto Rickman, left, and Medical Technician Lei Akoteu with their personal protective equipment, now including plastic face shields made by Moraga Rotary.

## Students keep connected while discovering distance learning

By Ania Keenan

Students on March 13 received an email verifying the Acalanes Union School District's decision to close schools through April 3 in response to the coronavirus, which came shortly after the Orinda Unified School District and many other districts around the state reached similar conclusions. "The Board and staff understand how immensely disappointing this is to many of you as your school, activities and social world has been completely disrupted. For that, we are profoundly sorry," AUHSD Superintendent John

Nickerson stated in his email to students, expressing his remorse.

Without access to classrooms students began transitioning to online schooling in the weeks leading up to spring break. The two-week period between March 16-27 was used as a trial run with the understanding that teachers would apply more interactive teaching platforms to reach their students if the closure was extended to meet public health needs.

A few weeks into online schooling most of the AUHSD students have been receiving a majority of their lessons through Google Classroom

and other online platforms with some teachers using YouTube to post virtual lectures. Miramonte Sophomore Natalie Kurtz says that she gets most of her class assignments from Google Classroom with limited use of Zoom or other virtual communication tools.

"I'm learning, it's just not like learning at school. I'm learning different ways to do my work but not necessarily learning a lot of new material," Kurtz said. This is a sentiment shared by many other students who recognize the difficulties of the situation but hope that the school can improve their strategies.

"While their communication hasn't been the best, it's been adequate enough to get us through the past week without too much issue," Miramonte Senior Harry Burnick said. "But I think if they just sent out a mass email, with a schedule for Zoom classes that every class has to follow, rather than the 'every man for themselves' approach the school is currently following, that would help this go a whole lot smoother."

Despite lack of connection on campus many school leadership programs are continuing to reach out to their students during the closures. The Miramonte leadership pro-

gram continues to post on their social media accounts, as have other schools in the district, and have floated the idea of virtual spirit days in the chats they send out to the student body.

"Currently, Leadership at Miramonte is actively planning a spirit week that can still occur virtually. This would include fun daily social media events that everyone can take part in," Miramonte All-Student-Body president Erik Johansen said. "My class, the junior class, is looking into potentially having a grade-wide Zoom call along with a variety of other ideas."

## In Memory

### Christopher John Beggs

Age 4, a resident of Moraga

2-10-16 – 4-20-20



This beautiful, most precious little boy lost his 2.5-year battle with Leukemia. He has spent most of that time in the hospital or in isolation, yet he had an unquenchable thirst to learn and laugh. He loved LEGOs and Paw Patrol. His strength and courage during his battle was an inspiration to everyone who met him. He will be remembered for the joy he spread despite the situation he was in.

Christopher is survived by his parents, Matt and Erin, his sister, Claire as well as grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins. He will also be missed by scores of friends and neighbors who were touched by him. No services during these times.

## Lamorinda Chinese Americans mobilized in mask donation



Submitted by Jamiel Liu and Laura Liu

Following the Bay Area beginning to "shelter in place" and the state of California following suit, the Lamorinda Chinese-American community extensively discussed the rapid increase of COVID-19 cases and the shortage of masks in the United States on WeChat, the popular Chinese social media.

Many expressed worries for their elderly neighbors, people working in the essential business and those working in healthcare, all groups who had little to no personal protective equipment (PPE): "We need to do something to help the community, and quickly... The healthcare workers are the frontline fighters against the virus. They need to be protected... We should pitch in and help."

Some families donated N95 and surgical masks, protective suits, gloves, and disinfectant wipes that they had saved to the Occupational Services of Kaiser in the Napa/Solano area. Others pledged to fundraise when further supplies were identified, reached out to their family and friends in China to ask them to send supplies and provide logistic resources, and put a great deal of time into researching federal PPE standards.

The first fundraising efforts began on March 17 when Alice Zhang, a member with a great understanding of PPE standards, secured a purchase of 93 boxes of Medline Surgical Masks (containing 4,650 masks in total). More than \$4,400 was raised in three hours by Chinese residents in the Lamorinda area, allowing for the order to be placed. The

masks were ultimately distributed among Sutter Health in Oakland, Kaisers in the Napa/Solano area, and Kaiser Diablo within one day. Furthermore, on that same day, a batch of 200 surgical masks and 20 N95 masks were collected from among the group and sent to the East Bay Gastroscopy Center. All medical centers responded with overwhelming joy and gratitude.

In addition, Zhang contacted a Chinese vendor to order regular masks for neighbors and themselves. Ye Liu, the group WeChat admin, reached out to neighbors through social media inviting others to take advantage of the opportunities. On March 26, approximately 20,000 regular masks arrived and were distributed to more than 100 neighborhood families within two days through swift work and help from many volunteers.

Another fundraiser, with a goal of \$5,000, was launched on March 27 to supply these same masks for grocery stores, post offices, police and fire departments, senior homes, gas stations, restaurants, and other staff around Lamorinda. According to volunteer accountant Hongyu Wang, by March 29, donations amounted to more than \$10,900, used by Zhang to complete the order. In total, 18,000 masks were received and distributed to senior homes, gas stations, grocery stores, and post offices, among others on April 4. In addition to the collective donation, personal donations of N95 masks, KN95 masks, surgical masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes have been delivered by more than 10 volunteers to senior homes, Children's Hospital Oakland, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, and the UCSF Medical Center, with more on the way.

All those in the Chinese-American community have been ecstatic to see their efforts helping the community. "This has been perfect teamwork," Liu said between tears of joy while discussing the outpouring support from all. "We know everybody in the community is doing their part. We are glad we are all in this together."

### Community Service:

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

## Lamorinda Weekly

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### Contact us:

Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com  
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**Publishers/Owners:** Andy and Wendy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Editor:** Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Sports Editor:** sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Advertising:** 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Staff Writers:**  
 Vera Kochan; vera@lamorindaweekly.com, Pippa Fisher; pippa@lamorindaweekly.com, Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com, Sora O'Doherty; Sora@lamorindaweekly.com, Jon Kingdon; sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com  
 Food: Susie Iventosch; suzieventosch@gmail.com  
**Contributing Writers:**  
 Conrad Bassett, Sophie Braccini, Diane Claytor, Michele Duffy, Fran Miller, Jenn Freedman, Mona Miller, Kara Navolio, Moya Stone, Margie Ryerson, Linda Fodrini-Johnson  
**Calendar Editor:** Jaya Griggs; calendar@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Photos:** Tod Fierner, Gint Federas  
**Layout/Graphics:** Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.  
**Mailing address:** Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133 Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 925-263-9223; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com  
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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Four years of basketball excellence for Jordan Ford at SMC



Jordan Ford

Photo Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

After a 26-8 regular season record, the Saint Mary's basketball team was preparing to learn who they were going to play in the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament. At the same time, senior guard Jordan Ford, who was averaging 21.9 points per game this season, was on the verge of becoming the all-time leading scorer for the Gaels. Ford was trailing Matthew Dellavedova, who scored 1,933 points from 2009 to 2013, by four points, only to find out that due to the coronavirus, the rest of the season was being canceled.

Though there was some frustration for Ford, his first concern wasn't about his personal goals. "What was more frustrating was that we couldn't play in the NCAA tournament, not my being the leading career scorer at Saint Mary's because I know that I would

have broken the scoring record," he said. "There's nothing I could do about it and I don't dwell on it, but it would have been cool to have passed someone like Dellavedova who is a Saint Mary's legend."

SMC head coach Randy Bennett was also disappointed for Ford but appreciated how he handled the situation. "He was so classy at not getting the scoring championship," he said. "You would never know it was on his mind but I'm sure he knew. We weren't even paying attention to it but when they canceled the season, they told me Jordan only needed four more points. I was like, 'Can it get any worse?' It would have been cool if he had that record because that was what he was really good at - scoring. We'll have to put an asterisk next to his name because he would have gotten that record."

As a senior at Folsom High School, Ford was named second team all-state by MaxPreps and was a two-time Sacramento Bee Player of the Year and a three-time all-NorCal selection after finishing his career averaging 19.7 points per game. It was not cut and dried that Ford would attend Saint Mary's. "Jordan had a number of schools that were recruiting him," Bennett said. "It was between us, California, Oregon and UC Santa Barbara."

As it is for most freshmen, playing at a Division I school was not an easy transition for Ford. "It was quite an adjustment in terms of getting my game ready on the defensive end and slowing the game down on the offensive end in my head, as I was too quick for my own good."

It was also a challenge to learn the Randy Bennett system: "It took a while for me to learn all of the plays. The other three freshman (Tommy Kuhse, Elijah Thomas and Jock Perry) and I would watch the upperclassmen and learn on the fly and then go back over it with each other. I also had to get used to the size of the other players. Everyone played good defense and I had to find a way to work around that."

Ford averaged 5.7 minutes a game as a freshman and only scored 2.4 points per game. "We had two very good starters in Joe Rahon and Emmett Naar so Jordan did not get as many minutes as I had anticipated he would get," said Bennett. "He improved his strength, his defense and moving to his left. His best role was as a scorer and when the ball was in his hands."

The talent of the upperclassmen was not lost on Ford: "Being able to watch players like Joe Rahon, who was a fantastic leader, Emmett Naar, Jock Landale and Calvin Hermanson really helped all of us. You just wanted to follow in their lead, to not mess it up and help them in any way we could."

It was toward the end of his sophomore year when it began to come together for Ford: "I started to build my confidence with each game and the team began to have confidence in me to make plays. As a sophomore, I was just a piece of the puzzle playing with Jock, Emmett and Calvin. My scoring improved

towards the end of that season." Ford would go on to become the first Saint Mary's player to score more than 700 points for two seasons, his junior and senior year.

It was as a junior that it became Ford's team to lead, said Bennett. "The fact that Jordan paid attention those first two years enabled him to be a tremendous leader his junior and senior year. He was a little bit quiet but with his leadership style, he was very effective and unselfish, holding the team and himself accountable. He was always positive with his teammates and never got down on any of them."

It certainly helped that there was a great mutual respect between Ford and Bennett. "Coach Bennett did a great job with me. He always told me what I needed to work on and helped me get to where I am, especially as a shooter, making sure my footwork was right and shooting the ball correctly. He would also work with me on going to my left more and he said that he would figure out a way to get that done. It was one of those relationships where he had no problem saying what he needed from me and if I had an issue that I wanted to bring to him, I felt comfortable going into his office and expressing that."

The respect Bennett has for Ford goes beyond his ability as an athlete: "Jordan's a great human being, with a great attitude and was really easy to coach. You could coach him hard and he would take the parts he needed out of what you said to him and transfer it to his game. You want a player like that. He would tell me what was on his mind in the right way. I respected that he had enough self-confidence and he would never go out of bounds with it. He was great that way. I cannot remember a game where he wasn't ready and did not bring his best effort. There were not a lot of guys that you could say that about. I knew that in big games he was going to bring it to another level."

With the campus closed, Ford is back in Folsom with his parents and taking his final class, a communications project on mental training and how it affects your performance. He will be receiving his degree in Communications in late May. "Right now, I'm staying locked down and shooting in my backyard," said Ford. "I've been able to find some gyms here and there and making sure I'm not getting any exposure to the coronavirus."

Ford is hoping to follow in the footsteps of former Gaels Dellavedova and Patty Mills to play professional basketball. "I want to play in the NBA and I'm working very hard to prepare for that now. The process is a little different this year. It will probably be limited or no workouts for the players. The NBA draft combine could get canceled or pushed back. All teams can do right now is set up interview calls. I had my first interview call with the San Antonio Spurs, which was really cool, and will be talking soon with Utah and Denver."

... continued on Page C4

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Look for an updated "Summer Camps & Classes" listing in our May 27 issue.

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**Moraga Parks and Recreation Summer Camps** (Moraga)

Moraga remains hopeful that we will be able to run all of our summer camps this year. We are waiting to hear from the State and Contra Costa officials as to what restrictions will be in place for camps and day care this summer. Though there may be changes to how camps are run, registration is open online now. www.moragarec.com

**Legarza Sports** (Orinda) **see ad**

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see ad

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see ad

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## Spanish Immersion Summer Camps with Viva el Español (Lafayette)

see ad

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## The Saklan School (Moraga)

see ad

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## The Writing Studio - Camp Young Writers (Lafayette)

see ad

Summer camps at The Writing Studio provide both remote classroom writing instruction and remote one-on-one sessions for grades 3-12. Writers step into a world of storytelling and essay-based expository writing, developing proficient techniques and strong writing skills in the process. Dates: June 8- July 3 and July 13- Aug. 7. Phone: (925) 385-0211 www.lafayettewritingstudio.com

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Look for an updated Summer Camps & Classes in our May 27 issue. We all hope to have more clarity as to what traditional camp programs may be allowed by then. If you have a summer program offering, please email information to wendy@lamorindaweekly.com.

The Lamorinda Weekly Summer Camp listings are not paid advertising. Our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. In the event we have inadvertently printed misinformation, please let us know. LW is not liable for errors or omissions.

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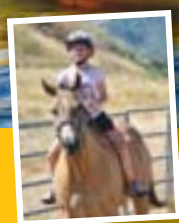
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## Four years of basketball excellence for Jordan Ford at SMC

... continued from Page C1

Bennett sees the NBA as a realistic goal for Ford: "I have been contacted by a number of teams about Jordan and he has a good reputation with the NBA scouts. I've had enough of them contact me and I can tell there's a buzz about him. The more they get to know him, the more they are going to like him. He is still only 21, which is young for a college senior. He's going to get stronger and he will keep getting better as a

player. He reminds me a lot of Patty Mills (who was drafted in the second round in 2009 by Portland and has played 10 seasons, and is currently on the San Antonio Spurs' roster) as a scoring point guard. I think he has a good chance to make it."

Ford took his academics seriously from the start: "It was just a matter of prioritizing my time correctly and making sure I stayed on top of my schoolwork and staying organized. There were outlets for me to go to and

get help if I needed it. The best part about college, I would like to say, was just meeting all the great people at Saint Mary's, from the students and the fans after the games and having all of the relationships I built with my teammates and the coaching staff, which will last forever."

It was during the final team meeting, when the team learned that the rest of the season was being canceled, where the real meaning of what the last four years of playing at Saint Mary's

meant to Ford: "It was frustrating not to finish out the season because we had worked so hard to get where we were. To not be able finish out something that meant so much to us, it was a disappointing time because we believed we could have made some legitimate noise in the tournament. We were all in shock at what was going on. Despite that, everyone was showing love to each other, especially to the seniors."

# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 14 Issue 5 Wednesday, April 29, 2020



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

## Wild and free



Photos Cynthia Brian

**A patch of calendula and nasturtium with an owl guard the vegetables.**

**By Cynthia Brian**

*"I think that I cannot preserve my health and spirits, unless I spend four hours a day at least — and it is commonly more than that — sauntering through the woods and over the hills and fields, absolutely free from all worldly engagements." — Henry David Thoreau*

Mother Nature has an astounding way of rebounding. The blackened, charred hills behind my house from the October wildfire are now a carpet of emerald green grass accessorized by a super bloom of glorious orange California poppies, and tall, bright yellow mustard. My orchard is blanketed with a plethora of colorful wildflowers mixed with the blooms from seeds either scattered by the wind or me at the end of autumn when the first rains drizzled onto our parched earth. Nigella, morning glory, nasturtium, calendula, statice, euphorbia, chamomile, lupin, daisy, yarrow, and more. My fruit trees have been a succession of flowering petals and delicate fragrance, forecasting a bounty of fresh treats to come.

After six weeks of staying at home, my garden is more alive and gorgeous than ever. The sky is blue and free of jet streams. The heady perfume of jasmine, lilacs, and wisteria waft through the clean air. The birds are singing as they build their nests. Trotting turkeys “gobble gobble”— bowing to one another, then gobbling

again in their quest for mates. Untamed vines tangle their tendrils up tree trunks, along wires, and onto fences. Tulip, rose, lavender, iris, azaleas geranium, pelargonium, cyclamen, vinca, bird of paradise, and a plethora of other plants are a parade of festivity. Drifts of daffodils and mounds of grape hyacinth continue to add color and liveliness. Herbs and leafy greens are harvested daily to add nutrition and zest to meals. Freshly picked as needed, oranges, tangerines, lemons, limes, and tangelos provide plenty of vitamin C to keep my family well. My spirits are soaring with gratitude for my garden. I am healthy and happy as I witness spring unfurl in all its glory. I may not be interacting with people, but I am intensely involved with living beings in every moment I spend outdoors. Hopefully, with people ensconced at home, our planet is healing and rebuilding its strength.

The natural world is wild and free. Humans have the power and the responsibility to save our planet. In this beautiful month, be grateful for everything we are and everything we have. Refocus and reclaim your positivity. Reduce stress and anxiety by going where the wild things are ... hills, fields, and your garden. Grow yourself!



**Wild and free hillside of statice, nigella, euphorbia, poppy, calendula, and more.**

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**Coming Soon 66 Heather Ln., Orinda**



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**Lamorinda home sales recorded**

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	18	\$745,000	\$3,018,000
MORAGA	18	\$590,000	\$2,175,000
ORINDA	25	\$1,140,000	\$3,350,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

**LAFAYETTE**

- 3079 Camino Diablo, \$745,000, 2 Bdrms, 1253 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 03-20-20, Previous Sale: \$680,000, 02-06-17
- 1140 Camino Vallecito, \$3,018,000, 4 Bdrms, 3716 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 02-28-20
- 7 Cherry Hills Court, \$1,415,000, 5 Bdrms, 3413 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 03-16-20, Previous Sale: \$1,415,000, 03-16-20
- 693 Francis Drive, \$890,000, 3 Bdrms, 1548 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 03-12-20
- 4031 Happy Valley Road, \$2,995,000, 4 Bdrms, 3176 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 03-16-20
- 3548 Herman Drive, \$1,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2839 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 03-20-20, Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 08-27-10
- 855 Hidden Pond Court, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 3188 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 03-12-20, Previous Sale: \$1,340,000, 01-23-08
- 3269 Judith Lane, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1642 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 03-05-20, Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 03-02-20
- 4060 Los Arabis Drive, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2986 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 03-04-20
- 1250 Medfield Road, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 1886 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 03-17-20, Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 09-22-05
- 3368 North Lucille Lane, \$1,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2080 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 03-16-20, Previous Sale: \$1,110,000, 07-24-18
- 3838 Palo Alto Drive, \$2,630,000, 4 Bdrms, 3440 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 02-28-20, Previous Sale: \$2,350,000, 10-24-18
- 3176 Rohrer Drive, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2104 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 02-28-20, Previous Sale: \$1,020,000, 05-29-14
- 3354 Springhill Road, \$2,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 3746 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 02-28-20
- 1038 Sunnybrook Drive, \$1,510,000, 3 Bdrms, 1589 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 02-24-20, Previous Sale: \$385,000, 09-15-00
- 3276 Sweet Drive, \$1,800,000, 6 Bdrms, 3371 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 02-26-20, Previous Sale: \$1,145,000, 05-27-08
- 1017 Windsor Drive, \$1,668,000, 4 Bdrms, 3294 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 02-27-20, Previous Sale: \$218,000, 05-01-85
- 1010 Woodbury Road #202, \$2,360,000, 3 Bdrms, 2468 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 02-28-20

... continued on Page D4

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1045 Timothy Lane went pending well over list price after 7 days with multiple offers.



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## Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

### MORAGA

- 7 Buckingham Drive, \$1,149,500, 3 Bdrms, 1370 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 02-28-20,  
Previous Sale: \$950,000, 02-03-16
- 188 Calle La Montana, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2415 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 03-11-20,  
Previous Sale: \$839,000, 02-24-12
- 1351 Camino Peral #A, \$617,000, 2 Bdrms, 1031 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 03-02-20,  
Previous Sale: \$315,000, 03-25-03
- 1375 Camino Peral #D, \$590,000, 2 Bdrms, 1279 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 03-16-20,  
Previous Sale: \$360,000, 12-15-03
- 748 Country Club Drive, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 02-28-20,  
Previous Sale: \$639,000, 07-07-10
- 788 Country Club Drive, \$925,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 03-09-20,  
Previous Sale: \$796,000, 07-21-15
- 147 Donald Drive, \$1,535,000, 3 Bdrms, 2543 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 02-25-20,  
Previous Sale: \$360,000, 10-01-87
- 167 Draeger Drive, \$1,445,000, 5 Bdrms, 3134 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 03-09-20,  
Previous Sale: \$690,000, 09-23-99
- 6 Hastings Court, \$1,975,000, 4 Bdrms, 4468 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 02-28-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 05-02-02
- 231 Paseo Bernal, \$815,000, 2 Bdrms, 1937 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 03-16-20,  
Previous Sale: \$557,000, 03-29-04
- 1 Peralta Court, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2825 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 02-26-20,  
Previous Sale: \$376,000, 12-01-87
- 1288 Rimer Drive, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 3386 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 03-03-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,830,000, 04-07-19
- 1372 Rimer Drive, \$1,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 2789 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 03-16-20,  
Previous Sale: \$275,000, 03-01-88
- 1079 Sanders Drive, \$1,104,000, 3 Bdrms, 1512 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 03-10-20,  
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 08-24-15
- 53 Sanders Ranch Road, \$1,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 4093 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 03-20-20
- 217 Sonora Road, \$2,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 4685 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 02-27-20
- 112 Walford Drive, \$1,530,000, 4 Bdrms, 2410 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 03-06-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,081,500, 09-23-13
- 57 Warfield Drive, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2499 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 03-02-20

... continued on Page D6

# LISTINGS FROM THE OLSEN TEAM

The Olsen Team continues to help people buy and sell homes in a way that is smart and safe. We have dramatically changed our business to reduce in-person showings and interaction, while still creating a safe path to success for buyers, sellers and renters.

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124 Via Joaquin, Moraga  
Offered at \$765,000

2 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,354 Sq. ft.  
3D tour at [www.124ViaJoaquin.com](http://www.124ViaJoaquin.com)



133 Donna Maria Way, Orinda  
Offered at \$1,500,000

4 Bed | 2 Bath | 2,285 Sq. ft.  
3D tour at [www.DonnaMariaWay.com](http://www.DonnaMariaWay.com)



1003 Woodbury Rd. No. 207, Lafayette  
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## PENDING



1743 Spyglass Lane, Moraga  
Seller Rep \$1,395,000

3D tour at [www.1743SpyglassLn.com](http://www.1743SpyglassLn.com)



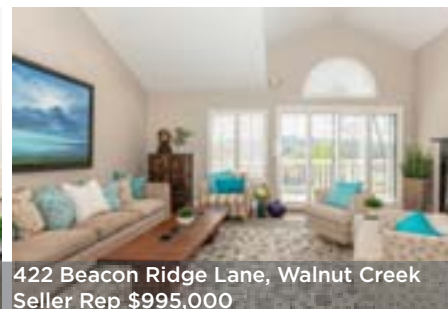
831 Terra California No. 1, Rossmoor  
Seller Rep \$825,000

3D tour at [www.Rossmoor-Condo.com](http://www.Rossmoor-Condo.com)



192 Cypress Point Way, Moraga  
Seller Rep \$1,095,000

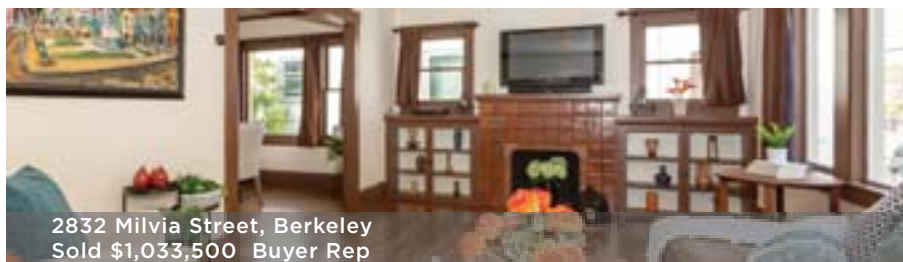
3D tour at [www.MoragaCCHome.com](http://www.MoragaCCHome.com)



422 Beacon Ridge Lane, Walnut Creek  
Seller Rep \$995,000

3D tour at [422BeaconRidgeLn.com](http://422BeaconRidgeLn.com)

## JUST SOLD



2832 Milvia Street, Berkeley  
Sold \$1,033,500 Buyer Rep



5 Lynch Court, Moraga  
Sold \$1,200,000 Buyer Rep



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**The Olsen Team**

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DRE #01409268



## HOME IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

— JUST SOLD —

115 Devin Drive, Moraga



Centrally located charmer updated throughout. Listed for \$1,250,000, sold for \$1,375,000 with multiple offers. Represented sellers.

346 Birchwood Drive, Moraga



Mid-century modern in the Rheem Valley Manor. Listed for \$1,295,000, sold for \$1,350,000 with multiple offers. Represented sellers.

2 Patrick Lane, Orinda



Glorietta beauty with spectacular views and large lot. Sold for \$1,885,650. Represented buyers.

359 Donald Drive, Moraga



Completely remodeled Rheem Valley Manor home with park-like yard. Sold for \$1,700,000. Represented buyers.

Even in these challenging times, things are moving in the Lamorinda real estate market. Please contact me to find out about ways to buy and sell property while abiding by shelter in place guidelines.

Hope you are staying safe, sane and healthy.

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

**Michelle Holcenberg**

Coldwell Banker Top 100 SF Bay Area

michelle@holcenberg.com

925-324-0405

BRE #01373412

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## Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D4

### ORINDA

- 71 Ardilla Road, \$1,257,500, 3 Bdrms, 1852 SqFt, 1923 YrBlt, 03-16-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,180,000, 05-19-16
- 57 Bates Boulevard, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1932 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 02-27-20,  
Previous Sale: \$934,500, 10-04-19
- 22 Carisbrook Drive, \$1,140,000, 4 Bdrms, 1987 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 03-13-20
- 7 Charles Hill Road, \$1,905,000, 5 Bdrms, 2726 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 03-13-20
- 16 Del Mar Court, \$2,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2870 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 03-12-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,976,000, 04-05-17
- 23 Donna Maria Way, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1879 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 03-09-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,260,000, 05-16-18
- 6 Estates Court, \$3,350,000, 5 Bdrms, 4071 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 03-06-20
- 18 Frogs Leap Way, \$2,220,000, 3 Bdrms, 2872 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 02-24-20,  
Previous Sale: \$595,000, 07-15-13
- 39 Hazel Tree Ridge, \$1,310,000, 3 Bdrms, 1931 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 02-25-20
- 51 Knickerbocker Lane, \$2,350,000, 5 Bdrms, 2702 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 03-09-20
- 12 Lind Court, \$1,320,000, 3 Bdrms, 2240 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 02-26-20
- 61 Moraga Viax, \$1,305,000, 4 Bdrms, 2164 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 03-02-20
- 90 Mossbridge Lane, \$1,922,500, 5 Bdrms, 4154 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 03-12-20,  
Previous Sale: \$2,250,000, 08-08-14
- 65 Oak Road, \$1,695,000, 4 Bdrms, 4011 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 02-26-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 09-05-02
- 85 Oak Road, \$1,480,000, 3 Bdrms, 2131 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 02-26-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,218,000, 04-13-15
- 257 Overhill Road, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2357 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 03-17-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 12-18-18
- 40 Singingwood Lane, \$3,100,000, 6 Bdrms, 3952 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 03-17-20
- 76 Southwood Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1951 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 03-11-20
- 6 Saint James Court, \$1,180,000, 4 Bdrms, 2488 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 03-04-20
- 48 Tarry Lane, \$1,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 3262 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 02-26-20,  
Previous Sale: \$490,000, 03-01-92
- 25 Van Ripper Lane, \$3,105,000, 5 Bdrms, 4104 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 03-02-20,  
Previous Sale: \$720,000, 07-11-00
- 18 Via Hermosa, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2408 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 03-06-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,255,000, 05-19-17
- 9 Vida Descansada, \$1,951,000, 7 Bdrms, 3272 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 02-27-20,  
Previous Sale: \$1,525,000, 06-16-09
- 36 Wilder Road, \$2,305,000, 4 Bdrms, 4081 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 03-05-20
- 404 Wovenwood, \$1,495,000, 3 Bdrms, 1811 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 03-10-20,  
Previous Sale: \$790,000, 03-23-17



ADAM HAMALIAN



925.708.5630  
DRE# 01917597

BRYAN HURLBUT



925.383.5500  
DRE# 01347508

CHRISTINA LINEZO



415.425.3085  
DRE# 01964989

JANE SMITH



925.998.1914  
DRE# 01476506

JOHN FONDAZIO



925.817.9053  
DRE# 01938194

JOY WIEHN



415.377.1884  
DRE# 02047712

JULIE DEL SANTO  
BROKER/OWNER

925.818.5500  
DRE# 01290985

LAUREN DEAL  
HURLBUT TEAM

925.876.4671  
DRE# 02060294

## DUDUM REAL ESTATE GROUP

WHERE REAL ESTATE IS STILL PERSONAL

To our beloved community:  
We are thinking of you and your families during these trying times.

We are honoring the Shelter In Place, and encourage our clients, family, and friends to do the same.

Real Estate is now considered "essential" and therefore, we are still here to support you, albeit primarily virtual. We still have many county and statewide restrictions and regulations to abide by while facilitating our sales transactions. The health, safety and wellness of our agents, our staff, our community and each of you is still our primary concern!

Agents and staff are here for you, just in a different manner. Reach out to your local Dudum Real Estate Group agent to learn more on how we are working remotely to best serve our clients. Thank you for your loyalty and support. Dudum Real Estate Group is sending warm thoughts to you and your families, and together, we will get through this! Be cautious out there and please stay safe, stay healthy and stay home!

LISA TICHENOR



925.285.1093  
DRE# 01478540

MARY PISCITELLI



925.765.9095  
DRE# 01426129

MATT McLEOD



925.464.6500  
DRE# 01310057

RACHEL DREYER



415.990.1672  
DRE# 01994561

SHERRY HUTCHENS



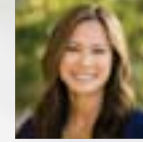
925.212.7617  
DRE# 01320608

TERESA ZOCCHI



925.360.8662  
DRE# 01907345

TINA FRECHMAN



925.915.0851  
DRE# 01970768

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415.999.6116  
DRE# 01376796



## In this rapidly changing world ...

One thing that remains the same is our commitment to our clients and our community. Your health and wellness has always been and continues to be our priority. We are grateful and proud to be a part of a community that genuinely looks out for each other.

We wish you and your loved ones health, happiness and safety. Please stay well.

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EXPERTISE



**Chris Swim & Tracy Keaton**

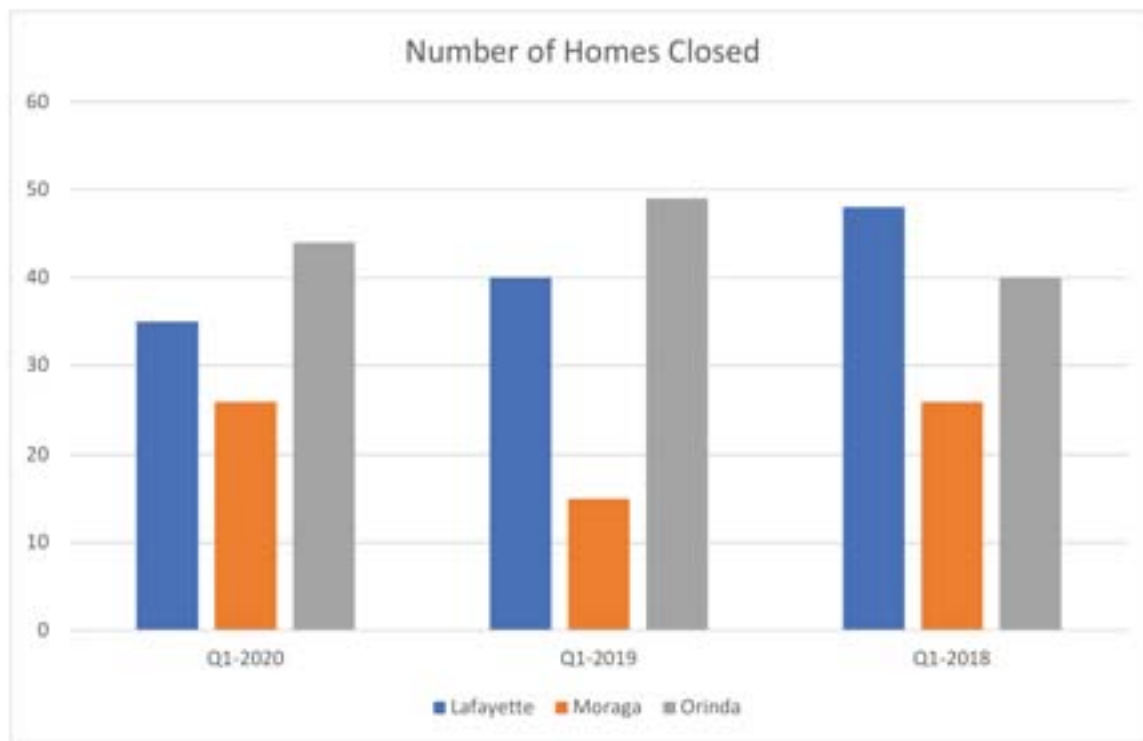
DRE 00943989 | 01051349

925.766.1447

chris@chrisswim.com

chrisswim.com

# The Real Estate Quarter in Review



**By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS-T**  
Licensed Real Estate Broker

The first quarter of 2020 began with a continued fast pace in activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate. The closings that occurred, for the most part, came from properties that went under contract in late November to late February, before the COVID-19 pandemic changed the market.

Supply decreased as many people took their homes off the market so we will likely see significantly reduced numbers in the second quarter moving forward. The average sales price decreased in Lafayette versus the year ago period while in Moraga and Orinda it increased. The days on market remained short and the homes that have multiple offers are increasing.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from Jan. 1 through March 31, 35 single-family homes closed in Lafayette down from the 40 that closed in the same quarter in 2019, and 48 in the first quarter of 2018. Sales prices ranged from \$890,000 to \$3.805 million and the average number of days on market was 26. The average sales price was \$1,825,127 down from the year ago price of \$1,984,125 but still exceeding the

\$1,469,744 in 1Q2018. This change can be due to a smaller sample size and very few homes selling at the high end of the range.

The median sales price was \$1.65 million.

In Moraga the number of single-family closings was 26, a huge increase from the 15 in the year ago quarter. It was back to the 26 closed in 1Q2018. Prices so far this year have ranged from \$1.01 million to \$2.3 million. The five highest prices for sales were all new construction homes off Rheem Boulevard. No resales sold for more than \$2 million. The average sale price was \$1,578,476 up from \$1,436,733 a year ago. It was \$1,534,007 in 2018. The average marketing time was 37 days, versus 26 days a year ago.

No single-family homes sold below \$1 million in Moraga.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was 44, versus 49 in 2019 and 40 in 2018. Sales prices ranged from \$995,000 to \$5.6 million with an average price of \$1,783,674. This was also an increase from a year ago first quarter when it was \$1,587,598 and also above the \$1,673,088 in 2018. It took an average of 37 days on the market to sell a home in Orinda where a year ago it was 40 days on the market.

In the first quarter of 2020, Lafayette

homes sold at an average of \$648.43 per square foot, down from the \$690.74 in 2019 and below the \$683.73 in 1Q2018 and the \$645.43 in 2017. Moraga came in at \$594.37—pretty close to the year ago of \$599.38. Orinda was at \$635.02, up slightly from a year ago when it was \$617.12 – almost identical to 1Q2018 at \$616.89 compared with \$625.23 in the first quarter of 2017.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had 10 closings reported to the MLS. They ranged from \$834,000 to \$2.36 million. Moraga again had 12 like a year ago, ranging from \$502,000 to \$1.03 million. Orinda had one on Wovenwood that traded at the asking price of \$1.495 million.

As of April 22, there were 53 homes under contract per the MLS in the three combined communities (a year ago it was 76 and in 2017 and 2018 they were both at 95) with asking prices of \$350,000 to \$4.395 million. Again, this is because of the limited supply of available properties as many have taken their homes off the market during the pandemic.

Inventory is at 89 – less than the 103 a year ago. This number is really inflated by new construction inventory in Moraga, Lafayette and Orinda; there are 21 new single family and townhomes in the MLS that were not available a year ago.

There are 30 Lafayette properties currently on the market versus 42 properties on the market in April 2019. Asking prices in Lafayette currently range from \$929,000 to \$3.995 million. In Moraga, buyers have their choice of 27 homes, up from 21 homes at this time in 2019 – again the majority are new construction. The price range is \$465,000 to \$2.45 million.

In Orinda there are 32 homes on the market including several new construction homes in Wilder. A year ago there were 40. The list prices range from \$849,900 to \$4.995 million.

There are no distressed (bank-owned or a short sale) sales available in Lamorinda.

As is the case nearly every quarter, the most active price range is in the more “affordable” price ranges. At the high end, 28 homes sold above \$2 million in the three communities combined. One year ago there were 27 and in 2018 there were 21. There are 41 currently available above this amount in Lamorinda.

... continued on next Page

# The Real Estate Quarter in Review

... continued from Page D8

Interest rates have bounced a lot in the last few weeks but have seemingly settled at very competitive rates. Relocation from the corporate side has slowed as many companies are having their people work remotely and as such, many of those buyers are on the sidelines at their departure locations before making housing decisions.

Lamorinda continues to be attractive with BART access and highly-rated schools. The real estate markets in Oakland, Berkeley and Piedmont have continued to be active so there has been some spillover effect where buyers are willing to make longer commutes in order to find more “affordable housing.” Of course, Lamorinda and affordable housing is somewhat of any oxymoron.

Lastly, it is important to look at what homes are selling for versus their list prices. Often homes come on the market at unrealistic prices and they do not sell. We also are seeing more homes listed well below true values so that it may encourage bidding wars that sellers hope might generate a higher overall sales price. In the first quarter of this year many homes have had multiple offers and have sold at or above the list price.

Of the 35 single-family home sales that closed in Lafayette in the first quarter of 2020, 22 sold at or above the list price. In Moraga, 11 of the 26 sales were at or above the asking price and in Orinda, 29 of the 44 sold at or above the final listing price.

This will typically happen when a house goes pending in the first two weeks on the market. Of the 53 currently pending sales in the three Lamorinda communities combined, 32 went pending in 21 days or less. The actual average days on the market would be markedly lower but many agents are setting up marketing plans where they hold the home open to the public and to brokers and follow with an offer date in a week or so after exposing the property to the market – pointing to a high likelihood of a continued trend in homes selling above the asking price.

In the detached home category in the first quarter of 2020, the average sale price in Lafayette was 101.7% of the asking price. In Moraga it was 100.5% and in Orinda it was 102.3% of the final asking price.

Of course, the ability to market homes at this time has changed as Open Houses are not allowed and there are limitations on how homes can be shown other than “virtually.” Local real estate boards as well as state groups have put limitations on the number of people who can be in a home to see it at one time as well as how the agent can show the house.

The second quarter statistics will likely show drastically changing numbers in volume although prices appear to remain strong.



**SORAYA GOLESORKHI**  
REALTOR®

A huge **THANK YOU** to our wonderful community, first responders, essential workers and all who are lending a helping hand through these challenging times. Hoping you and your families are doing well.

Stay home, stay safe and stay healthy everyone!

With sincere gratitude,



**1062 VIA ROBLE, LAFAYETTE**  
**Stylish Mid-Century Modern with**  
**Top Location, Views & Huge Yard!**  
**\$2,195,000**

Stylish, enchanting Mid-Century modern home with captivating views from most every living area, huge back yard and top location only a short jaunt to town! 5BR/4BA w/approx. 3,525 sq. ft. of living space on .51 acres.

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## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for May



**Reliable, repeat David Austin Lady of Shallot rose boasts a rich salmon color and tea fragrance.**

**SOW** for succession to provide pollinators a buffet throughout the growing season.

**SAVE** your back and build a raised bed. It's easy if you enjoy DIY projects. When you wire the bottom, you won't have gophers or other diggers eating your crops.

**INVOLVE** your kids in gardening by allowing them to grow seeds that feature a rainbow of colors to fill their plates. Red radishes, orange carrots, green peppers, purple beets, and an array of lettuces will sprout quickly.

**PLANT** aromatic herbs and nutritious vegetables that will ensure the health of your family. Beans, peas, eggplant, broccoli, potatoes, cabbage and turnips. Toward the end of the month, add tomatoes to your plot.

**TRELLIS** your vining plants such as wisteria, jasmine and bower plants.

**TOWER** gardens are a great alternative if you have a small space. Find ready-made options online.

**CHECK** sprinklers and irrigation systems for leaks.

**FERTILIZE** containers as needed. Plants in pots lose nutrients more quickly than those planted in the ground.

**SPRUCE** up your patio to prepare for entertaining. Power wash hard surfaces and get ready to celebrate a Mother's Day picnic at home.

**SOW** annuals now in a rich soil mixture. Marigolds, cosmos, zinnias, and bachelor buttons are excellent choices for a showy summer.

**MULCH** your garden with grass clippings, chopped leaves, and other organic composts to reduce weeds.

**ELIMINATE** any standing water from gutters, pot saucers, old tires, or



**A flowering cherry is a beautiful asset to any landscape.**

puddles to reduce the breeding of mosquitoes.

**DEADHEAD** spent blossoms from any annuals or perennials to encourage continuous blooming.

**PRUNE** back daffodil leaves only when they are yellow and crispy.

**THROW** bait to eradicate snails and slugs from devouring new sprouts.

**READ** my books available from

<https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. To avoid shipping charges, I will leave your enhanced package outside my office door for you. There will be no personal contact.

**MOW** your lawn without the bag at least every other week. This allows the nitrogen and nutrients that are in the grass to nurture the growing blades.

**EAT** the flowers from nasturtiums, roses, arugula, cilantro, thyme, roses, basil and sage. They add flavor and beauty to many dishes.

**CUT** a branch from a flowering tree, like cherry, for a striking indoor statement.



**Riotous wisteria twines amongst magnolias and loquats.**

**CREATE** stunning aromatic bouquets with blooming lilacs, wisteria, jasmine and roses.

**REGISTER** your yard or garden as a Certified Wildlife Habitat at <https://www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat>. The \$20 fee supports wildlife.

**FOLLOW** up ground fertilizing of flowers, perennials, vegetables, and fruits with foliar and micro-nutrients at appropriate times during the growing season.

**EAT** fresh fruits and veggies, especially those you grow yourself.

**SLEEP** seven to eight hours every day to keep your immune system strong.

**BREATHE** and know that the sun is going to shine tomorrow.

It may take some months before we are social gathering again. For those of us who usually shake hands or hug, we may be wise to take the advice of the World Health Organization and begin bowing. Or do as I learned in India last year: clasp hands in prayer, bow, and whisper Namaste. Although we are apart, we are together, and we can view this time as a learning experience. Get thee into thy garden. Grow thyself! Be wild and free.

Stay healthy. Stay safe. Stay home.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



**A bee feasts on euphorbia nectar.**



**Reblooming iris performs best when fertilized after the first blooms disappear.**



**Cynthia Brian under her Meyer lemon tree flanked by azaleas and camellias,**

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). Cynthia is available for virtual writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com) [www.GoddessGardener.com](http://www.GoddessGardener.com)



## 24 Mariposa Lane, Orinda



3 bd | 2 ba | 1318 sqft | .46 acre

Set on a spectacular parcel w/ panoramic views, total privacy & bountiful gardens, this one-level home provides ease of living in a super convenient location.

Offered at \$1,195,000



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