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Kelly and Ben Rojas and their children enjoy their new raised beds full of vegetables.

Linda Bowers raises 24 little chicks at her home for friends who want to start a new coop.

Photos Sophie Braccini

Crisis brings revival of the homestead

By Sophie Braccini

It has become quite a hunting game to find some of the most coveted tomato plants or beneficial herbs at local nurseries. Growing vegetables or raising chickens in Lamorinda has definitely been on the uptick for the past two months, with chicks just as hard to find as heirloom tomatoes or borage. The desire to run less errands for food supplies may be

the motivation, but with more time at home and children to keep busy, growing the homestead has become a fruitful endeavor for many Lamorindans.

Kelly and Ben Rojas moved their young family from San Francisco to Moraga last year. Growing a vegetable garden became one of Ben Rojas' priorities from the get-go, but only this year has the family devoted the time researching and planning for the new raised beds he built.

Not very far, in Lafayette, Papa John Kiefer

(a.k.a. Lamorinda-chicken-guru) was stunned at the sudden unprecedented rush to his website where people can purchase plans to build the perfect coop and register for his chicken class series. He heard that the craze was such that in April, the usual month to get baby chicks, all the local suppliers were out of female poulets for sale and ordering from the Midwest would send buyers waiting until June.

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Lamorinda weed abatement deadlines fast approaching



Photo courtesy ConFire

This October vegetation fire is a stark reminder to clear away the weeds.

By Nick Marnell

Lamorinda fire agencies have ramped up their efforts to alert property owners to remove problem vegetation by the abatement deadlines before the

weeds spark a community catastrophe. The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District deadline is May 31 and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District deadline is June 15.

While Contra Costa County resi-

dents were ordered to stay at home for much of this spring, Lamorinda weeds thrived and returned with a vengeance, especially after the dry winter. To avert a potential fire season disaster when overgrown vegetation dries out, county health officials clarified in April that landscaping and gardening were permissible outdoor activities.

"With so many people at home, we are fielding many more phone calls, with people asking questions and filing complaints on neighbors," said Gorden Graham, MOFD fuels mitigation manager.

The fire district explained its process for bringing property owners into fire code compliance.

On May 1, MOFD sent parcel owners a mailer reminding them of the upcoming fire season and the steps needed to create defensible space around their property. The receipt of that letter did not mean the property owner was in violation; it was a reminder to everyone.


"Starting June 15, we will perform an assessment on every property for

violations of the fire code," Graham said. "Upon assessment, properties that are determined to need additional mitigation will be mailed the assessment letter advising of the additional steps needed on their property."

Thirty days after the district mails the assessment letter, the district reinspects the property. Properties that fail the reinspection will be mailed a Notice to Abate. Then, 15 days after that mailing, the district does one more reinspection. Parcels that fail the second reinspection will be mailed a notification that the vegetation will be abated by the district and the cost will be assessed through a lien on the property.

But the district stressed that it has no desire to punish residents. "We want to make this about education," Graham said. "It is our intention to educate the public and gain voluntary compliance to provide for a safer community." MOFD said that inspection of properties along evacuation routes was its No. 1 priority.

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Lafayette to seek more information before STR ruling



Photo Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa is currently the city's only hotel.

By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette city leaders voted

unanimously to hold off and gather further information before making any decisions on the future of short-term

rentals in the city. Although no action was taken, the discussion brought up several issues and was recognized as opening up important dialogue.

City staff recommended the introduction of an ordinance to modify language in the Lafayette Municipal Code to define a short-term rental. Planning Technician Melanie Erickson noted that the lack of explicit language in the LMC has caused confusion among residents with many unaware that STRs are not currently permitted in residential areas of the city.

STRs are generally defined as dwellings and/or accessory dwelling units that are rented out for less than 30 consecutive days, often through internet-based platforms such as Airbnb or VRBO. STRs can be hosted (when the owner remains on the property) or unhosted (usually the whole house is rented and the owner is not present). Erickson said there have been seven noise complaints recently around some of the properties in the city, although she noted those

were only for a handful of places. While it's hard to know the exact numbers of STRs, said Erickson, staff had found at least 10 units listed on Airbnb and five on VRBO on a date in April.

Erickson said that the impacts of STRs on neighbors such as noise, additional trash, and loss of parking together with loss of business for local hotels and the potential impact of reducing the number of lower-cost, long-term rental units with people choosing to use their ADUs for STR instead, would outweigh the benefits of convenience, increased revenue to local businesses as visitors spend in the city, and increased income to homeowners.

The council however, while all recognizing that the language needs clarification, did not agree that the time to do this was now. Neither did they accept that an outright ban would be the solution, especially after hearing from several members of the public who urged the council not to ban STRs. Many said they use their rentals mainly for out-of-town family members

and rent them out for short periods at other times.

Council Member Cam Burks said that public safety has to be their number one concern and noted the tragedy in Orinda last year when several partygoers at an unhosted Airbnb lost their lives.

Vice Mayor Susan Candell questioned the timing, a sentiment echoed by Burks who asked why they would impact a source of income for an owner of a home at this time, in a depression. "Let's not put pressure or additional anxiety on the community," Burks said.

Mayor Mike Anderson suggested reaching out to those who had provided public comment to help the council understand, so they can make a better decision on how to regulate and make it work in a better way.

"Hosted? Unhosted? Where? ... The first step is to gather information," said Anderson.

The item will come back before the council at a date not yet specified.



Burton Valley teachers on a Zoom conference show their heart.

Distance learning – lessons learned

By Pippa Fisher

As the school year draws to a close, in a way no one could have ever imagined last August when it started or even a mere two months ago, lessons have been learned by school administrators, teachers, parents and students after pivoting to the uncharted territory of across-the-board home-based distance learning.

Lafayette Superintendent

of Schools Richard Whitmore says that one of the most important lessons is how personalized the shelter-in-place experience is for each individual, both school employees and students.

"Everyone has a different set of responsibilities in his or her own home, and we have needed to acknowledge that," says Whitmore. "I know there is a lot of 'after dinner' work that has been accomplished by teachers as well as by students."

Whitmore says the hardest part was getting started.

In what he describes as a "leap of faith" for families and teachers, he says, "We had to build a template for online lessons, we had to introduce new technology platforms, especially in the early elementary grades, to teachers and families, and we had to get lesson plans to be accessible online, no matter what the device you might be using in your home."

... continued on Page A9

Housing market is heating up.

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No decision on Lafayette's controversial 315 apartments; discussion continues



Image from City of Lafayette website

The proposed 315-apartment project would be located next to Hwy 24 south of Deer Hill Road and west of Pleasant Hill Road.

By Pippa Fisher

A marathon planning commission meeting to approve or deny the controversial Terraces development has been continued to mid-June.

The meeting went into the early hours as the commission heard close to 90 public comments reflecting both those for and against the development in almost equal numbers.

PC Chair Kristina Sturm said that given the lateness of the hour, it would be better to continue the discussion and vote at their regular June 15 meeting, which will be the third hearing on this application of the five total allowed by recent changes to legislation designed to encourage housing.

City staff was recommending approval at the May 18 virtual meeting. The commission heard from attorney Robert Hodil of Coblenz, Patch, Duffy and Bass – the outside counsel hired by the city – that under the recently-amended housing accountability act, in order to deny a project, the city would need to find “a significant, quantifiable, direct, and unavoidable impact, based on objective, identified written public health or safety standards, as they existed on the date the application was deemed complete.” Such findings, said Hodil, could not be made.

Hodil said that if the city were to be sued by the applicant for denying the project in violation of HAA, it could end up costing as much as \$15.75 million.

The Terraces, which if approved would sit on a 22-acre parcel on Deer Hill Road, was first proposed in March 2011 but its application was suspended in 2014 in favor of alternative plans for a scaled back development of 44 single-family homes, and amenities including a dog park, playground, playing fields and a car park. Local preservationist group Save Lafayette sued the city, resulting in a referendum on the future of the revised project. With the defeat of Measure L in 2018, the developer O'Brien Homes resumed the original application for the 315-unit apartment project under the process agreement. The applicant is proposing that the provision of 20 percent of the units, 63 in total, will be affordable, offered at below-market-rates.

There have been many concerns by local residents about the traffic impacts of such a large development on the already “F” grade intersection of Pleasant Hill Road and Deer Hill Road, and the knock-on effect it could cause for the Pleasant Hill corridor. However, traffic studies done by traffic consultants TJKM showed, with proposed mitigation measures, no new significant impacts.

Of equal concern to some residents is the potential impact of building in the Very High Fire Severity Hazard Zone on evacuation, although according to the staff report, both the fire and police departments determined that an evacuation of the site would not cause delays for areas north of the property. Furthermore the fire department viewed the development as

an improvement over the existing conditions noting that it “will provide fire hydrants and sprinklers, a fire pump backup generator, compliant ingress/egress and landscaping that is irrigated and maintained regularly.”

Commissioner Farschad Farzan wanted further clarification on why TJKM had used 2013 data, rather than more recent data, and joined Commissioner Stephen LaBonge in wanting a clear statement from the fire department that the project would not endanger residents north of the development in an evacuation scenario. Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Deputy Fire Chief Aaron McAlister responded saying that the development has multiple fire stations that could respond, and noted its location near the highway. “If this development were at the end of a two-lane road ... I would say don't do it. That's not the case here.”

In his presentation Dave Baker, project manager for O'Brien Homes, drew attention to the mitigation measures proposed for traffic, including adding a trap lane to take traffic directly along Pleasant Hill Road to the freeway. The development would provide a shuttle to BART during commute hours. Baker also pointed to the benefits of such a housing project, bringing more affordable living to some of the workers at the 9,400 jobs in Lafayette without the loss of any jobs, and, given the proximity to schools and BART, the probability of having less cars on the road.

Save Lafayette founder Michael Griffiths continues to believe that more information is needed. “The commission needs much more complete information than the EIR addendum provides in regard to traffic congestion, wildfire risk and evacuation, emergency response time, air pollution, wildlife and scenic preservation,” said Griffiths in a statement after the meeting. “This underscores the need for a more substantial subsequent EIR.”

Lafayette resident Kristen Altbam is also calling for a SEIR, noting that the Elite traffic review provided by SL, and SL's attorney Richard Drury's report citing what they say are new significant impacts, were not discussed. “Residents are hoping that the planning commissioners will regroup on June 15 realizing, at the bare minimum, that a subsequent EIR is just and warranted.”

“The city has not explained why it has not applied the 2015 General Plan and should not override the significant, unmitigated public health and safety risks,” Griffiths said.

Agreeing with several members of the PC who went on record with their feeling that these meetings should be postponed to a time after the shelter-in-place order is lifted and the city can hold face-to-face meetings – something that the city requested of the governor, but which is currently not allowed – Griffiths says the YouTube format doesn't work as an effective forum for dialogue.

... continued on Page A9



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4145 Lafayette Blvd	4	3	1,850	11,000	\$1,050,000
4145 Lafayette Blvd	4	3	1,850	11,000	\$1,050,000
4145 Lafayette Blvd	4	3	1,850	11,000	\$1,050,000

Moraga					
Address	Beds	Baths	Sq Ft	Lot Ft	Sold Price
4145 Lafayette Blvd	4	3	1,850	11,000	\$1,050,000
4145 Lafayette Blvd	4	3	1,850	11,000	\$1,050,000
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Campo seniors awarded scholarships in memory of former librarian



Kimya Peyvan



Isabelle Sofia Restrepo



Taylor Floyd



Armaan Singh Johal



Ryan Lenahan

Photos provided



Carol Merlone

By Vera Kochan

Five deserving Campolindo High School seniors are the first recipients of the Carol L. Merlone Educational Foundation's pilot program, awarding an annual total scholarship of \$50,000 (\$10,000 for each

student). Many Campo alumni will remember Carol Merlone manning the front desk of the library between 1970 until she retired in 1990. She was a longtime Moraga resident, moving from Orinda in 1960 with her husband F. Charles

and her sons Steven, James and Peter.

It was Merlone's love for Campolindo and its students that gave her sons the idea last summer to form CLMEF – a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt entity funded from family resources. Merlone's six grandchildren – Joseph Merlone, Gina Marek, Kathryn Golueke, Juliana Carlson, Kristen Merlone and Michael Merlone – are the directors of the foundation.

The pilot program of CLMEF was run under the supervision of Campolindo Principal John Walker along with College and Career Advisor Joan Batcheller. "We've met with them and discussed how we wanted the pilot program to work," Peter Merlone explained. "I feel very strongly that we don't teach our young people how to give back." He expects one day to have the foundation's benevolent reach extend to other high schools. The CLMEF awards will go toward tuition only and will be paid directly to the recipient's college or university.

The selection committee was made up of teachers and counselors with 30 students applying for the scholarship. "The minimum Grade Point Average was 3.5, and was not need-based," Batcheller said. "The applications were given numbers so the judging was done blind. Once half the group was eliminated and the interview process began, we knew who they were."

Students were judged from resumes, transcripts, essays and teacher letters of recommendation. The final determinations were done via internet interviews over a three-day period. The five recipients met the committee's criteria of high academic achievement, leadership skills and service to others. Sadly, Carol Merlone passed away on April 24 at the age of 95, exactly one week after the recipients were announced.

This year's scholarships were awarded to Kimya Peyvan (UCLA) biophysics with possible minors in environmental science, mathematics or entre-

preneurship with the hope to do research in quantum biology and pulmonary health; Isabelle Sofia Restrepo (USC) World Bachelor in Business – a four-year program in coordination with the Hong Kong School of Science and Technology and University of Bocconi in Milan which will result in degrees from all three universities; Ryan Lenahan (Boston College) finance/leadership/management with plans to be on the college's Division 1 swim team; Taylor Floyd (Dartmouth) biomedical engineering and physics; and Armaan Singh Johal (UC San Diego) cognitive science/computer science/biology with plans to pursue interests in artificial intelligence/medicine.

"This experience has been a rewarding one," Kristen Merlone said. "We truly enjoyed getting to meet (at least virtually) these amazing and talented young men and women. Their drive, dedication and intelligence are awe inspiring."

For more information email: CLMerlone.foundation@gmail.com.

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Moraga focuses on safety in short-term rental discussion

By Vera Kochan

Hoping to avoid an incident like the 2019 shooting that occurred at an Airbnb in Orinda on Halloween night, the town of Moraga chose to take proactive measures regarding its short-term rentals.

The lack of hotels or bed and breakfasts in this college town has opened up a market for residences to become available to rent. On May 13 there were 19 such listings in Moraga: three non-hosted entire home rentals, five accessory dwelling units, 10 bedrooms, and one recreational vehicle rental.

Moraga does not have a short-term rental ordinance in place to regulate such uses. According to Moraga Police Chief Jon King, there have never been any complaints from citizens concerning activity from these rentals, but there's no guarantee that there won't be problems in the future.

During the May 13 town council meeting, members were asked to consider several issues pertaining to the proposed ordinance, keeping in mind that during the planning commission's April 20 meeting its members voted 5-2 in favor of adoption. The presentation to the town council was provided by Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg and Assistant Planner Mio Mendez.

The first issue was whether to allow, as opposed to banning, short-term rentals. At this time,

Moraga has only three non-hosted short-term rentals. Most homes are not considered a "party house" – a large home with a pool, hot tub and large indoor/outdoor gathering spaces. According to research by the city of Orinda post-tragedy, bans have not proven effective.

Another issue concerned hosted versus non-hosted short-term rentals. Hosted is when the owner or operator is on-site during the rental, either by living in the same building, main house or in an ADU on the property. A non-hosted rental has no owner or operator on-site. Moraga's town staff believed that a hosted rental would decrease the possibility of negative behavioral instances.

According to the staff report Contra Costa County caps its occupancy at two persons, and staff reasoned that limiting the number of simultaneous listings would curtail non-permitted parties and reduce the number of cars parked in a neighborhood, and prevent the homes from becoming boarding houses.

Many municipalities have chosen to limit the amount of days per stay with a minimum of two nights in the hopes that it would curtail short-term rental parties that usually occur for a single day or night.

Town staff recommended that there be a limit on the total number of days per year that a property can be rented in order to reduce the impact on a neighborhood. CCC currently has a 90-day limit with a possibility of up

to 150 days as permitted by a zoning administrator.

Other jurisdictions require owners/operators to acquire a permit from the planning department and the staff recommended that the permit be valid for one year with the option to renew. The initial cost of the permit would be \$500 to reflect staff costs with a \$250 fee for each renewal, and there would be a revocation and fine process to ensure compliance. CCC allows for permits to be revoked as well as fines and citations issued to violators.

Moraga staff stated that any preventative action is a step in the right direction with regards to public safety.

At the conclusion of nearly two and a half hours of discussion, the town council determined it was best to simplify the terms of the proposed ordinance at this time.

With a 3-2 vote (Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus and Council Member Steve Woehleke voting against), changes to Title 8 of the Moraga Municipal Code with regards to short-term rental regulations now include: all short-term rentals must be hosted; short-term rentals shall not be rented for less than two consecutive nights; and short-term rentals shall not be allowed in a vehicle, trailer or tent.

The ordinance is scheduled to return to the town council for a second reading during its May 27 meeting.

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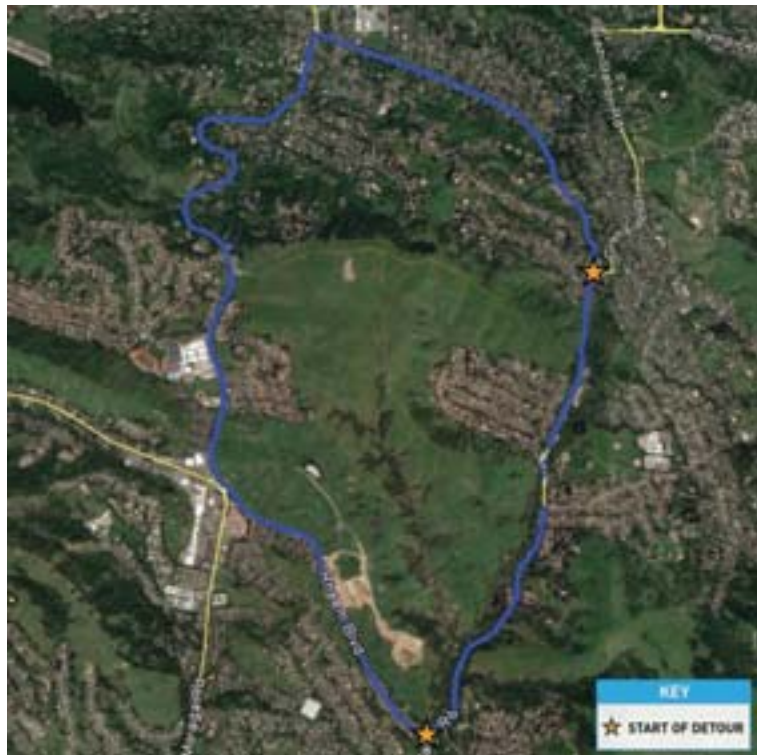


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PG&E gas pipeline project to begin on St. Mary's Road June 1



Detour: Local traffic only will be allowed in-between the stars; No thru traffic allowed Images provided

By Vera Kochan

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company will undertake a gas pipeline replacement project beginning June 1 that should potentially last for the next 11

weeks. Saint Mary's Road will be closed from South Lucille to the Lafayette Community Center Park while PG&E replaces 450 feet of outdated gas transmission pipe in order to increase capacity.

Moraga's public facilities and community events update

By Vera Kochan

While the public yearns for the resumption of normal activities, the town of Moraga is adhering to the guidelines issued by the Contra Costa County Health Officer. At this point in time the town offices, Hacienda de las Flores and the Moraga Library remain closed through May 31. The Moraga police department continues to remain open.

Campout originally scheduled in June has been postponed for now. The Moraga Community Fair and Classic Car Show, typically held the second Saturday in May, hopes to make an appearance later in the year.

With regards to park facilities, all parks, open space, trails, park restrooms, the skate park and most parking lots are open with the reminder to observe physical distancing of 6 feet when near non-household members and to wear a mask.

"The county has not allowed social events to resume," stated Brandt. "The private events/rentals scheduled at the Hacienda through June have all been canceled or postponed. With the COVID-19 impacts on the 2020 event season, the 2021 season is booking up fast. The Hacienda will be available for viewing by appointment only starting June 1."

Still on the closed list are playgrounds and play structures, picnic areas, off-leash hours at Rancho Laguna Park, basketball/volleyball courts and the main parking lot at Moraga Commons.

Parks and Rec still plans on launching the Moraga Day Camp for families who will need summer childcare. Strict guidelines set forth by Contra Costa County Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be maintained. The program will run June 8 to Aug. 7.

Unfortunately, the town has had to cancel its summer-time family favorite events. The Hacienda Nights food trucks (June/July) and the Summer Concert Series will have to wait for next year. The Fourth of July celebration and fireworks have been canceled as well, but according to Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt plans are in the works for a virtual celebration event. The Family

Enrichment Camps at the Hacienda have been canceled for the summer due to space constraints related to social distancing requirements. One exception is the Skateboard Academy to be offered at Moraga Commons with additional precautions. Many enrichment opportunities will be offered virtually.

For further information: email recdesk@moraga.ca.us or call (925) 888-7035.

Virtual Town Hall Meeting scheduled to discuss status of town during pandemic

The Moraga Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Zoom conference from noon to 1 p.m. Monday, June 8 featuring Moraga Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg, Police Chief Jon King, Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt, and Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus, each presenting their area of expertise discussing the current status of the town during this pandemic. Questions from the community sent to Moraga Chamber Executive Director Kathe Nelson (kathe@moragachamber.org) prior to June 3 will be addressed.

Those interested in joining the meeting can use the link below. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5567052644?pwd=endZVW5EMlhSVVWQ1WWFiNUpBdkpuQT09>

According to PG&E Public Affairs Representative Marcos Montes, "Our project team will be meeting with first responders in advance of beginning work to discuss safety precautions and develop a plan in case of an emergency."

PG&E sent letters to Moraga and Lafayette customers detailing the project's schedule, road closure and detour information. Automated phone calls to residents were scheduled the week prior to the project's start date to remind them of the anticipated construction.

PG&E plans on upgrading and strengthening the electrical system to help reduce wildfire threat. They have identified this as a reinforcement and capacity project which will include replacing 80 electric poles, installing 11,000 feet of larger covered power lines, performing vegetation management, installing down-guys and anchors along with updating equipment.

"The Enhanced Vegetation

Management work will include meeting state standards for minimum clearances around the power line and addressing overhanging limbs or branches 4 feet out from the lines and up to the sky," explained Montes. PG&E also plans on "removing hazardous vegetation such as dead or dying trees that pose a potential risk to the lines and evaluating the condition of trees that may need to be addressed if they are tall enough to strike the lines."

While the work is in progress the road closure will apply to non-residents. No through-traffic will be allowed. Anyone traveling north on St. Mary's Road will have to detour onto Rheem Boulevard. Anyone traveling south will have to detour onto Glenside Drive (there will be posted detour routes). The hours of closure are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday beginning June 1 and ending on approximately Aug. 14.

For project information

contact PG&E Public Affairs Team Member Julian Lacson at (925) 348-3532 or julian.lacson@pge.com.



Green line = existing pipeline; blue line = proposed new line

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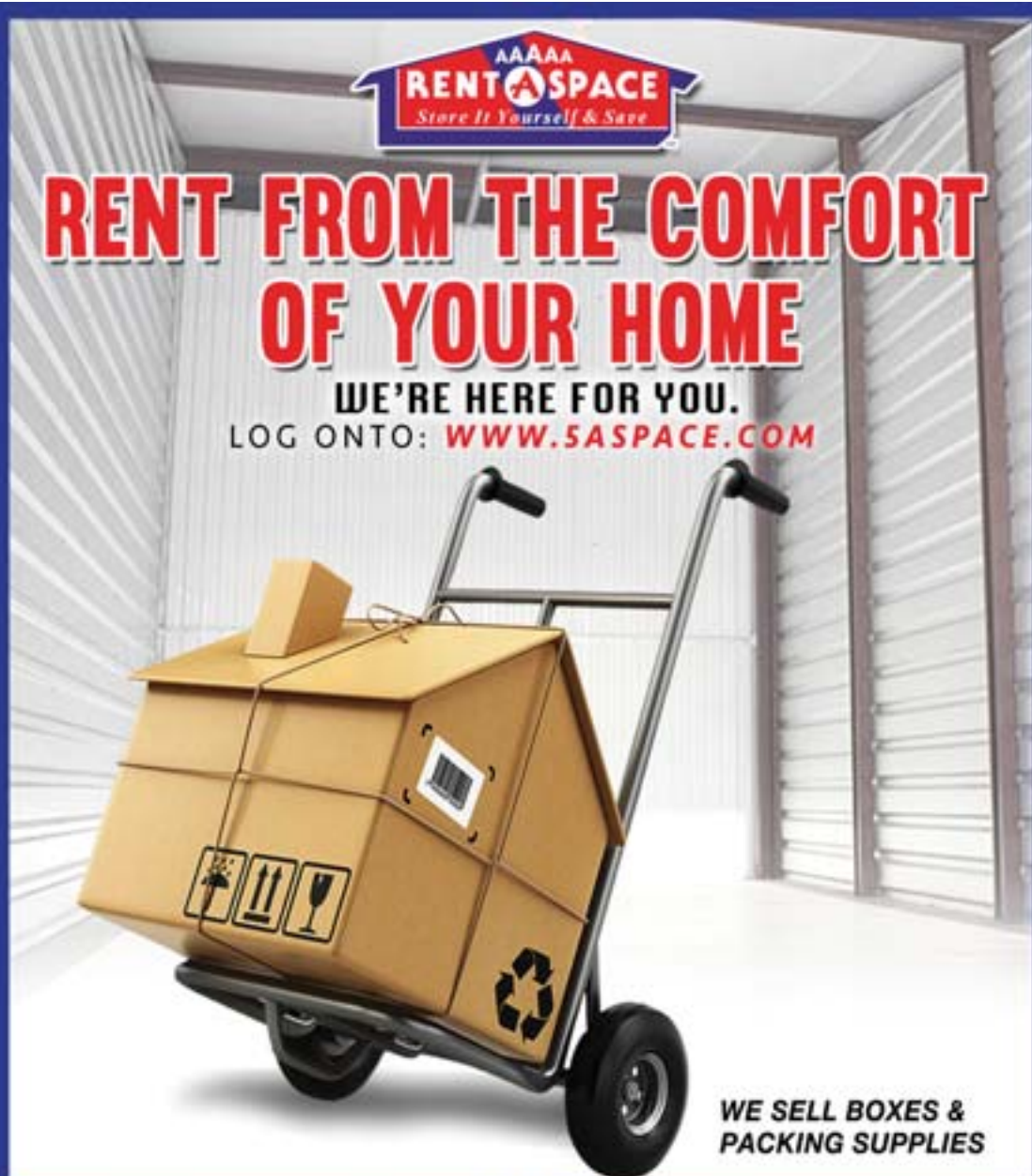


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Orinda Council ponders tax increase, disaster-response coordinator position

By Sora O'Doherty

As Orinda tries to gauge the appetite of residents for increased sales taxes, one idea that is gaining ground is the addition of a permanent employee to coordinate the city's response in the event of a disaster. At the May 19 city council meeting, such a proposal was put forth by Orinda Police Chief David Cook, who talked about staffing for all-hazard planning and disaster evacuation planning.

Cook said he has been working closely with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and was very impressed. However, in light of emergency programs at the national and state level, local plans need to be continually reviewed, he said. In addition, there is a need for a person to coordinate emergency planning and community outreach.

Council Member Inga Miller talked about the tragedy

caused during the Oakland Hills fire by cars parked on small, windy roads, and wondered if part of the evacuation planning would include no parking signage in times of high fire danger. Cook agreed that such signage was definitely a possibility, and said that the position suggested would be a full-time job with specific duties including working with community groups to make sure they understand disaster plans, such as the need to keep the route to Sleepy Hollow School free for emergency vehicles in the event of a wild fire.

City Manager Steve Salomon told the council that staff has talked about this being a city employee. "While wild fire is the predominant threat," he said, the city also has a history of landslides, earthquakes, and other disasters. "There is," he said, "a variety of things the community could be better prepared for."

Director of Public Works and Assistant City Manager Larry Theis presented the staff report on a possible ballot measure in November to either extend the current half-cent sales tax, set to sunset at the end of 2022, or to extend it and raise it by up to another half-cent. Although the city had commissioned a poll of voter attitudes, it was con-

ducted prior to the impact of the novel coronavirus that struck the state, resulting in shelter-in-place orders being implemented in early March. The council has until around August to decide if they wish to have an Orinda sales tax ballot measure, and if so, what the specifics might be. One of the factors motivating the council is that should such a measure be placed on the November ballot, but fail to pass, the council would have another opportunity in 2022.

Theis also emphasized the need for additional funding to complete Orinda's extensive road renovation project. Although the residential roads have been largely completed, the city still has to deal with its arterials and collectors, as well as its storm drains. The subject of road improvements has continually been brought before the city council, and the work could easily absorb all of the increased revenue from an extension of the half-cent sales tax or even a proposed increase. Theis emphasized that the more money spent on the roads early, the lower the costs will be later. The issue of whether or not the city should contribute in some manner to the upkeep of private roads has been controversial. Although there were no speakers on the subject participating in

the meeting, there was a large number of written submissions, including a long discussion by private roads proponent Steve Cohn, who stated that he believes "the community has voiced a strong opinion in favor of publicly funding roads and storm drains built on private property." The council received emails supportive of the private roads from a further two dozen residents, the Bear Ridge HOA Board of Directors and a petition signed by 735 residents of Orinda.

Other written submissions were from residents, including those who live in Orinda's Firewise communities, emphasizing the need for much greater efforts to prevent future wild fire events from affecting Orinda.

The council authorized funding for more polls, more detailed than tracking polls. The matter will return to the council, possibly more than once prior to a decision on what tax measures, if any, should be placed on the November ballot.

A joint fire prevention committee between MOFD and Orinda and Moraga council members and others was also announced at the meeting (see story Page A10).

All the materials submitted to the city council are available on the city's website: <https://cityoforinda.app.box.com/v/citycouncilmeetings/file/667174071671>

State housing pressure drives Orinda to adopt objective standards

By Sora O'Doherty

In response to a great deal of public comment, the Orinda City Council on May 19 removed from its consent calendar the award of a contract to draft objective design standards for the Downtown Precise Plan, but passed the item unanimously nevertheless.

The contract was awarded to Opticos Design, Inc. The proposed cost for the work is \$90,000, with a contingency for change orders of 15%, resulting in a maximum expenditure not to exceed \$103,500.

The city council received over a dozen comments urging that the city not commit to spend that amount of money during a fiscal crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The staff report was presented to the council by Planning Director Drummond Buckley and Senior Planner Mayank Patel. They explained that there were two factors that made the expenditure advisable: first, a great deal of the cost is being funded by a source provided by Senate Bill 2 for streamlined housing approval. That \$70,000 cannot be used for any other purpose; if not used for this, the money would have to be returned and could not be used for any other city projects.

Second, the pandemic has made the housing crisis in California even more urgent, and the state legislature will continue to try to impose more housing on localities. Buckley pointed out that despite the changes in California's economic outlook, housing streamlining remains in the

Governor's revised budget. The only control that localities have in streamlined applications may be their adopted objective design standards, which will apply to new construction even where the city lacks any discretion over the application.

Objective standards include criteria such as housing density and building heights. Objective standards can also include requirements about "shaping the box," for example, breaking up rooflines, upper story setbacks, horizontal articulation, vertical orientation of windows, and roof mount requirements. If the city doesn't decide how to regulate mixed-use and residential buildings, the state will step in and decide, the staff said.

Council Member Inga Miller asked if interim objective standards could be put in place to protect the city. However, Buckley said that to do so would use additional resources when the city is already pushed to its limits. Trying for interim standards would be a big distraction, he added, noting it is not warranted and could cause a delay in staff's other responsibilities. Miller agreed that it would be inadvisable to try for interim standards.

Nick Waranoff in public comments compared Orinda to the Titanic heading for an iceberg. He argued that every city in the state is "going to be thrown into the SB 35 bucket" and that there isn't going to be time in the streamline standards process. "From Walnut Creek to Berkeley to Oakland," he said, "we've all seen the really ugly buildings that have been built under objective

standards." Council Member Dennis Fay concluded, "We need to move forward with this; if we don't, we'd have to give the money back." Mayor Darlene Gee agreed that there is no logic in handing money back to the state. She noted that while many commenters don't want to see housing in downtown Orinda, many state legislators "would love to see lots of housing in downtown Orinda, and they are not backing off." The mayor said that the city is on the right course of setting its own destiny. "By not doing so," she said, "we would be at extraordinary risk of the state coming in and saying what downtown Orinda should look like." Vice Mayor Amy Worth was impressed by the proposal that results in the highest level of public input into the standards.

The process is scheduled to take about nine months, and to involve a great deal of public input. Upon award of the contract, staff will hold a kickoff meeting with the consultant to refine the scope and schedule (as necessary), go over data needs, and discuss potential collaboration opportunities with other consultants the city has engaged for the downtown precise plan. At a minimum, Opticos will conduct a micro-analysis and visual inventory of existing site conditions design; draft new zones, permitting procedures, and regulating plan; and develop objective design standards for building types, frontages, thoroughfares, civic/public space, and parking.

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MOFD braces for \$1.5 million operating loss in 2021

By Nick Marnell

Facing its toughest financial year since the Great Recession, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District projected an operating loss of \$1.5 million for fiscal year 2021, with nearly all of the deficit directly or indirectly related to the coronavirus pandemic. The district has not reported a loss so steep since 2013.

“We have sufficient funds in our reserve to cover the deficit,” President Steven Danziger assured district

taxpayers.

District revenue is expected to remain flat at \$24.8 million but only because early property tax forecasts show a 4% jump for next year. That increase adds \$1 million to the general fund.

But ambulance fees are projected to drop \$800,000, as the district expects the steep decline in ambulance transports to continue into the next year, which begins July 1. “At the same time, our costs are not going to go down,” Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said.

Because of fewer plan reviews and inspections, fire prevention fees are projected to fall by \$148,000 next year.

District expenses are forecast to rise 1% to \$26.3 million, of which \$23.6 million – 89.7% of operating expenses – goes to salaries and benefits. Salary expenses include the addition of three firefighter-paramedics, bringing the district to 56 full time suppression personnel, and the filling of four positions in the Fire Prevention Division. Local 1230 person-

nel receive a 3% wage and equity bump July 1.

Even with the bleak forecast presented at the May 20 meeting, the district could face an even harsher financial reality.

Vice President Craig Jorgens warned that the 4% property tax revenue increase may be aggressive, because after the last financial downturn property tax revenue remained flat for four succeeding years. And Director John Jex again stressed the need for the district to grow

the general fund balance to 50% of revenue, so that MOFD would not have to borrow money to fund operations. The general fund balance is projected to drop from 34% this year to 28% on June 30, 2021.

“If we have several years like what we’re talking about for this year, we’ll get into a position where we won’t be able to operate,” Jex said.

Lamorinda weed abatement deadlines fast approaching

... continued from Page A1

The window between the end of the rainy season and the beginning of fire season is a short one, and soon much of today’s Lamorinda green will turn to yellow and brown. “As fire season is fast approaching I would like to remind citizens and property owners of the need to create defensible space and harden your home

from wildfire,” Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs said. “Working together, we can make our community safer and increase the survivability of homes during wildfire events.”

ConFire follows similar inspection protocols as MOFD, with an important difference being the earlier deadline for Lafayette parcel owners to abate the weeds on their

properties.

“Large portions of Lafayette are a concern, especially around the Happy Valley and Upper Happy Valley areas,” said Capt. George Laing of the district’s fire prevention bureau.

Lafayette residents likely need little incentive to remove problem vegetation, having experienced an historic blaze in October that de-

stroyed a tennis club, caused a nine-alarm grassland fire and resulted in mass evacuations. ConFire Chief Lewis Broschard said that 2019 was one of the longest fire seasons on record, and fire officials said this year could be just as intense, heightening the concerns for Lafayette vegetation fires.

“It’s good to have Station 16 open again,” Laing said,

referring to the northwest Lafayette fire station that reopened in September.

Ordinances, fuels reduction programs and other abatement guidelines can be found at the two district websites: mofd.org and cccfpd.org

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Veterinary visits in the time of COVID-19

By **Mona S. Miller, DVM**

In October 2019, I wrote an article for this publication that in hindsight, I should have written for this month: Lamorinda Weekly, <https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1316/How-to-get-the-most-from-veterinary-visits.html>. It is even more true in these surreal COVID-19 times to “be prepared.”

It is well worth another read of this article at this time, in order to maximize the effectiveness of your veterinary visit. However, I'd like to now add in the components of “be patient” and “be kind.”

Veterinary services have been deemed essential from the start of COVID-19 shelter-in-place policies, and so veterinary hospitals have continued to remain open for business during these past two months. However, there have been some significant changes to methods and protocols of operating in the time of COVID-19.

To start, there is a wide net of definition for what is “essential” veterinary care. Guidelines have been provided to veterinarians by both the California and American Veterinary Medical Associations, but ultimately it has been left to the discretion of each hospital to define what services they provide.

Some hospitals have narrowed the definition to urgent

or emergency unexpected illness or injury, providing this level of service only. Other hospitals have kept the definition wide, including traditional wellness care, such as vaccinations and elective surgeries (spays and neuter, routine anesthetic dental cleanings and evaluations) in the services provided. The California Department of Public Health issued a statement in March that encourages rabies vaccination of pets as an essential service, recognizing that veterinarians provide an important role in zoonotic disease prevention.

Check in with your veterinarian if you are unsure whether your pet needs an examination at this time. If so, plan ahead for less urgent situations – consider making an appointment for 1-2 weeks from now. Allow your vet to keep some openings in the schedule for urgent matters that require same-day examinations.

Veterinary hospitals are following “social distancing” and safety measures to help prevent transmission of COVID-19, and have implemented new protocols to allow vet services to continue. These measures help protect the pet owners, as well as veterinary staff, and keep the physical interactions to a time limit and physical distance. Of course, veterinary staff are wearing masks at all times and gloves (or washing hands numerous

times during the day).

Owners are asked to wear masks, bring their cell phones, limit the number of people in attendance (and in the car) with the pet, and to not bring their pet if owners are experiencing illness. Most pets are being transferred to a nurse in the parking lot or reception area, brought to the treatment room for exam and procedures, and veterinarians are doing primary communication by phone.

Pet owners are being asked to wait in the car, keeping a cell phone line open in order to talk with the veterinarian. Payment is being handled over the phone, and receipts/care instructions are being emailed, in an effort to limit physical paper contact.

If you have any questions at all about how your own veterinarian is handling exams, vaccines, medication refills, protocols he/she is asking of clients, please take a moment to ask the receptionist for these details when you make your appointment. In some cases, emails are being sent ahead of the appointment for you to provide information so that the flow of the appointment can be smoother. If this is the case, please take a few minutes ahead of the appointment to thoroughly complete these questionnaires so that the veterinarian has this information prior to the appointment.

My top list of advice for

pet owners during these times:

1. If you need medications refilled, give your vet plenty of time to get requests processed. Everything is taking longer nowadays, including shipping from online pharmacies. To avoid running out of meds, start the request process 1-2 weeks ahead of time.
2. For in-hospital exams, adhere to safety protocols – wear a mask, limit the number of people in the car, and do not bring your pet if you have been experiencing signs of illness yourself. Wipe down dog and cat carrier handles with bleach, Clorox or Lysol.
3. For in-hospital exams, be thoughtful regarding efficient verbal communication. Bring a charged cellphone and leave the line open for communication with the vet. If you are a note-taker, bring a pen and paper to take notes during the phone call. Please do not schedule a work conference call during a vet exam.
4. Be patient - this whole process adds 10-20 minutes onto the expected appointment time, much like going to the grocery store takes longer nowadays. The veterinary staff is working hard to make the flow as smooth as possible, with limitations of one-person-at-a-time in the lobby area and back-and-forth communication between vet and client.
5. And as Ellen Degeneres says, “Be kind to one another.” Most veterinary staff have not experienced staying at home.

In the two hospitals in which I work, the days are just as long and fraught with emotional expenditure, and there is now an added stress component of increased risk of exposure to COVID-19, and less “childcare” in the form of school attendance. Please recognize that veterinary personnel are second-line health care providers in this fight against this virus, in the same vein as grocery workers.



Dr. Mona Miller lives in Lafayette with her son, two cats and yellow Labrador. She attended UC Berkeley as an undergraduate, and received her DVM from UC Davis. She has been happy to call Lafayette home since 2001. She can be reached via email at MonaSDVM@aol.com. She welcomes questions from readers that may get incorporated into a column.

Distance learning – lessons learned



Natalie Kassel, Burton Valley fourth-grade teacher

... continued from Page A2

Faced with reinventing teaching methods, Whitmore acknowledges there were no shortcuts. “It takes a lot of elbow grease and even more time to get an online lesson ready than it does to create a classroom-based lesson plan,” he says.

Burton Valley Elementary School fourth-grade teacher Natalie Kassel certainly agrees. “In the beginning there was a lot to figure out: how to translate lessons into a digital format, how to create and communicate lesson plans, and how to keep students engaged and part of the class community,” she says.

Teachers have been trying to keep broadly to their classroom model of lessons which would typically include a mini lesson, independent work time and sharing at the end. Kassel says that in the digital environment, the mini lesson is a short video, followed by independent work, and finally students are encouraged to share.

Using platforms such as Zoom, Google Classroom and

Padlet, teachers hold office hours to support students. Kassel says the process has involved trial and error.

“One issue that occurred was that many students were not actively watching lesson videos, or some skipped the videos altogether before doing related work,” says Kassel, which prompted her to introduce a lesson on how to learn from a video, including pausing, re-watching parts, and even taking notes.

“One unexpected bright point about Zoom is that my class is getting to know each other more personally, including pets, siblings, and self-directed projects and boredom busters,” noted Kassel, who says that keeping the kids feeling connected and supported is the most important aspect.

Whitmore says that he and his staff aim to stay attuned to students’ social and emotional needs. “A big part of social and emotional growth is respect for diversity and an atmosphere of inclusion, and we know the coronavirus has created challenges in supporting a fully-inclusive school community, so we hope to have an eye to that as we welcome everyone back eventually, too.”

Whitmore is happy that the community has stayed engaged and made a concerted effort to have their children engage with distance learning. “While there have been families who have let us know it is overwhelming, most everyone has been in regular contact, and as time has passed we have heard from more and

more of our families on a regular basis,” he says.

The early days were full of complex decisions for Whitmore but he says he is most proud of the collaboration of the district team at every level of the organization.

“The first two weeks of lessons were done with grade level teams led by principals,” says Whitmore, noting that the collaboration continued unabated ever since.

“The teachers have been amazing but so have our teams of custodians, maintenance and operations staff, aides jumping in to lend a hand. Everyone has risen to the occasion and I can honestly say not a single employee of the district has contacted me to complain about having to empty out our schools or having to conduct distance learning.”

Using a diverse array of tools – packets or home-based materials, occasional small group settings for some, new products or new uses for old products, the teachers are

hoping to reach all students, recognizing that some will thrive and others will find distance learning more challenging.

Whitmore encourages parents to support their children’s education over the summer. “Read together as a family, talk about the books you are reading, stay physically active, ensure there’s an opportunity for social and emotional learning in the midst of all of this,” he says.

“If you hear from a teacher that your student may be challenged in the core curriculum, especially reading, writing or math, make sure you have resources available to keep your student engaged over the summer,” he says, noting the district will make resources available via their website and will be keeping online programs open for the summer when it makes sense to do so.

Whitmore hopes to know better what the next school year will look like

over the next month or so.

Kassel says looking at the next school year brings many unknowns. “We do not know if we will be remote learning, back in the classroom, or a hybrid of the two. Classroom learning enhances peer collaboration, discourse, and immediate teacher support. Online learning facilitates flexibility, self-pacing, and independent study opportunities. We will be intentional in planning for any scenario, trying to maximize student engagement and connection.”

No decision on Lafayette’s controversial 315 apartments; discussion continues

... continued from Page A3

“That is why the next commission meeting should be public in the traditional fashion, if ‘shelter-in-place’ has been set aside by June 15.”

Altbaum agrees. “It should be very disconcerting to all Lafayette citizens that this meeting was held in the first place and in such a pro-development fashion, so that out-of-town density advocates could get their comments read without having to sit or stand at the library till 1:45 a.m. and provide their addresses for the record,” she says.

“We are, of course, quite disappointed that the Planning

Commission continued the hearing on this important housing project,” said Attorney Bryan Wenter, counsel for the applicant, in a statement after the meeting. “This is the most heavily studied project in Lafayette, it will improve existing conditions and provide important and needed affordable housing in a community that has little, and there is no evidence that it will have any negative health or safety impacts.”

Wenter points out, “As we have repeatedly explained to the city, there is no lawful way to disapprove the project, nor will there be any regardless of how much more it is studied.”

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MOFD and local municipalities create joint fire prevention committee

By Nick Marnell

So that all agencies are in sync with fire prevention efforts, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board unanimously approved the formation of a joint fire prevention committee with the city of Orinda and the town of Moraga.

“Working together, the city of Orinda, town of Moraga and the district can ensure the separate agencies are up-to-date with fire prevention efforts underway, can identify where the city and town need to assist, and can examine any opportunities to leverage resources,” Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said at

the May 20 district meeting. Public outcry for stronger district fire prevention efforts, especially from Orinda residents, led in large part to the formation of the new district committee. Board President Steven Danziger participated in the May 5 Orinda City Council meeting and said he felt the passion and intensity from community residents and elected officials as the city set up its own subcommittee to augment district fire prevention efforts.

“It seemed like almost every item they discussed was about wildfires and fire prevention,” Danziger said. Orinda subcommittee

members include Mayor Darlene Gee and Council Member Dennis Fay, with the Moraga representatives including Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus and Council Member Steve Woehleke.

MOFD added power and urgency to the joint project by naming three directors to its committee, calling for more frequent meetings than quarterly and recommending that district concerned citizens be invited to attend.

Once legal details are worked out among the agencies, the first joint meeting could take place in early June.



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Lamorinda Weekly staff receives Public Service Journalism award

Multiple reporters at the Lamorinda Weekly, as part of the 2019 California Journalism Awards announced in May, received a Public Service Journalism award for their coverage last fall of the fires and evacuations during the PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs.

Crisis brings revival of the homestead



Photo Sophie Braccini

Linda Bowers and her husband in front of their coop with one of their hens.

... continued from Page A1

Linda Bowers did not have the issue of finding new chicks. A founding member of the Citizens of Lamorinda United Chicken Keepers (CLUCK), Bowers was part of the group that 10 years ago lobbied Lafayette to allow chickens in most suburban gardens. As the coronavirus spread and shelter-in-place became mandatory more and more people reached out to CLUCK for information. “A month ago we started a CLUCK Facebook page and within a few days we got 100 members,” she recalls.

A group of 30 people on May 3 crowded cyberspace to hear Papa John’s teaching. When asked, these new future chicken owners confirmed that the health crisis had revived their desire to have chickens. Yvette Castillo felt that this was a perfect time to raise chicks. Monica Kase got her new chicks from Dare 2 Dream Farms in Lompoc. “We heard that they would have some chicks available, so people

stood in line from early morning and the chicks were gone within minutes,” she said. Jennifer Soller and Bethany Block, who bought homes that had coops that were left unused for years, decided that it was time to revive them, but as Bowers noted, the prices for baby chicks have multiplied as scarcity set into place.

Nurseries, since they reopened, report having been flooded with new as well as seasoned vegetable gardeners. Some of the local gardening communities that used to sell tomatoes or other early spring seedlings canceled their annual sale. Moraga Community Garden or the UC Master Gardener Program of Contra Costa County both decided that opening to the public was not safe so they redirected their production to local nurseries better equipped to manage social distancing, such as the Moraga Garden Center or Orchard Nursery in Lafayette. Both places reported large numbers of customers, though sometimes it was hard to distinguish between catch-up

from the close-down period and a new craze. McDonnell nursery in Orinda had stayed open most of March and April and Sarah McDonnell confirmed an increase in vegetable gardening requests.

From conversations with new vegetable gardeners like the Rojas, Rachel Chaudhary or Angela Munoz, it appears what motivated them most this year was the additional time they had and the enjoyment they derived from working in their new beds as a family. Munoz had also moved from San Francisco and found herself in a house with empty vegetable beds; mixing the dirt with her kids and watering with them has been a part of her new simple life pleasures this spring; just like the Rojas children enjoy observing small plants becoming edible vegetables they recognize, nibbling on mint and strawberries, while their mother added weeding to her offsprings’ chores list.

All the new gardeners, like the new chickens owners, relied on their community, and the universal “YouTube University” to learn about life cycles, feeding, companion planting, seasonality, and progressed through trial and error. Chaudhary, for example, reached out to one of her neighbors when she discovered at 6 a.m. one morning that slugs were having a field day with her baby eggplants.

All who were interviewed swore that the new hobby is now ingrained in their family life and will not go away with the easing of shelter-in-place constraints. After World War II the craze of Victory Gardens died down and millions of gardens were abandoned. Only time will tell if this health crisis will have a longer and deeper effect on the way people relate to their land and their food supply.

As some new gardeners have expressed it, gardening is simply a nice thing to (re)discover right now, and cultivating something beautiful and useful could have mental health benefits in times of great stress.




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AUHSD makes graduation happen for seniors



Photo Gint Federas

By Sora O'Doherty

Mindful that high school graduation ceremonies are an important part of student life, the superintendent and principals at the Acalanes Union High School District have been hard at work to make something happen for this year's seniors, caught in the an unexpected pandemic. So, on different days during the first week of June, seniors at all AUHSD schools will have an opportunity to walk across a stage and collect their diplomas, and then follow the tradition of moving the tassels on their caps from right to left. However, this won't be a traditional com-

mencement ceremony, but one designed with safety as the first priority.

The order of the graduations will be, Miramonte High School (June 1), Campolindo (June 2), Las Lomas (June 3), and both Acalanes High School and Acalanes Center for Independent Study (June 4).

The unusual ceremony was explained by Campolindo Principal John Walker: "The actual ceremony will be a hybrid: a webcast and a live event. The webcast will begin at 9 (a.m.) with pre-recorded speeches, music, and the formal presentation of the class. Students will then come to campus, 25 every 30 minutes, to walk across the stage on the field and receive

their diploma. They will of course be at least 6 feet apart. As of now, students will simply receive their diploma from a decorated table on stage, not from a school official. This could change by June 2. With our social-distancing requirements, the whole ceremony will take approximately 7 hours. The other schools are using a similar format, just different campus locations."

Owing to social distancing guidelines, students and their families will not be on campus for every facet of the ceremony. To ensure proper social distancing, students and their immediate family members will be invited to campus during a specific timeframe to participate in a diploma presentation. Professional videographers will film every component of the ceremony and present it via a live webcast. Photographers will also be on site to capture the moment. The webcast will be recorded by professional videographers and will be available, in a condensed format, after graduation.

Miramonte students started their celebrations on May 20, according to Vice Principal Sarah Harris. Beginning with a drive-through parade, Miramonte seniors picked up breakfast burritos at Orinda Intermediate School, then came onto the Miramonte campus to pick up their caps and gowns,

panoramic pictures, nice sashes, and to meet their teachers. Seniors also had an opportunity to meet with their teachers in one-on-one Zoom sessions.

Only immediate family and support staff will be allowed to witness students graduating. Students will have their names called out and walk across the stage to get their diplomas, one at a time, with social distancing. The proceedings will be

live streamed.

The principals have vowed to work closely with school staff as well as AUHSD staff to plan and facilitate the ceremonies. As the expectations for maintaining safe social distancing evolve, they will continue to collaborate with Contra Costa Health Services and local officials to ensure that they are following the most current guidelines. (See a list of graduates on Pages B2-B3.)

Miramonte Peer-to-Peer club hopes students will stay safe this summer

Members of the Miramonte High School Peer-to-Peer club have put a video up on YouTube, wishing students a safe summer and hoping that when school returns, some will decide to join the peer-to-peer club. The club meets under the auspices of Jamie Rich, Environmental Prevention Program Director at Contra Costa County's Center for Human Development. Throughout the school year club members seek to educate and advise the student body about the dangers of substance abuse, including alcohol and vaping. The club's final video of the year can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/27pEEzyC9mY> -Sora O'Doherty



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Anonuevo, Adrian
Armanino, Alyssa
Bains, Damanveer
Baker, Charles
Baker, Murphy
Balmat, Thomas
Bamont, Nicolas
Barakos, Aristeo
Bautista, Brian
Beltran Rodriguez, Angel
Benisek, Zoe
Benveniste, Sophia
Bertolami, Laura
Bettencourt, Robert
Birmingham, Emma
Bishop, Jamie
Bishopp, Katherine
Bobrowsky, Seth
Bodner, Aidan
Bodner, Jude
Boren, Taylor
Boynton, Jaedyn
Braunstein, Joel
Broad, Maile
Broumand, Brooks
Browne, Sophia
Bunszel, Nolan
Burrill, Carson
Cain, Robert
Carlson, Ethan
Carpenter, Georgia
Carter, Kate Anna
Cate, Zoe
Caulfield, Jacqueline
Chao, Irvin
Christensen, Sydney
Claassen, Annika
Clark, Benjamin
Clark, Taylor
Clavin, Matthew
Cohen, Benjamin
Cohen, Leo
Coleman, Isaiah
Condy, William
Harrington, James
Hayes, Lucas
Heffelfinger, Mary
Heffernan, Nikolai
Hemmenway, Erin
Hesby, Alexander

Dao, Christopher
Darin, Macauley
Daughters, Elizabeth
Dawadi, Anubhav
Delaney, Jake
Dexter, Kyle
D'Orazio, Andre
D'Orazio, Maxine
Douglas, Leah
Dubrovsky, Lior
Dunsmore, Abeigail
Dunsmore, Temesgen
Dwinell, Paola
Easley, William
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Elliott, Olivia
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Eppinger, Lucas
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Glass, Charlotte
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Goodman, Ari
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Guerra Echeverria, Marcelo
Gundacker, Jane
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Hagglund, Dylan
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Harriman, Allison
Harrington, James
Hayes, Lucas
Heffelfinger, Mary
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Judson, Thomas
Julian, Lucas
Jung, June
Jung, Parker
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Kenney, Tabitha
Keohane, Charlotte
Kerns, Erin
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Maile Broad
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We are so very
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Way to go!
Love,
Nana and Papa

Photo by Renee Sweeney
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Congratulations
Leo!
We are so proud
of you and can't wait
to see what you
do next!
Love, Mom and Indira

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Ava Sparacio
Congratulations Ava!
We are so proud of you.
Love Mom & Dad

CAMPOLINDO YEAR of 2020

Cooper Smith
Congratulations,
Coop!
You make us
proud with
everything you do.
Love,
Nana and Papa

ACALANES YEAR of 2020

Devon Smith
Congratulations,
Devon!
You did it!
We are so proud.
Love,
Nana and Papa

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Campolindo Class of 2020



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Luke Fox Ahearn
Arielle Jordan Allen
Nathanial Scott Alvarez
Allison Catherine Appleton
Andres Sebastian Artale
Joseph Daniel Arth
Devon Lenore Fillingier Ashburn
Brent Elias Avenell
Jean-Luc Landen Axelrode
Natalie Grace Baier
Margaret Lauren Balfrey
Juliette Zoe Barlier
Adrian Bautista
Liana Belinsky
Declan Bhagwat
Jairius Caleb Blaj
Lara Tang Bloom
Gyamfiah Kendra Boateng
Alexandra Grace Bonardi
Russell Bradley
Bennett Elijah Brassinga
Isabella Tarin Brocato
Katherine Anne Brown
Jeffery William Brown
Ryan David Brown
Jaelyn Demaris Brudzinski
Chasity Buquing
Beverly Ann Burke
Lily Mae Campbell
Cecilia Lynn Campo
Maximiano James Campos
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Olivia Morgan Clizbe
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Madeleine Grace Pears Cortright
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Zoe Crews
Conor Joseph Cronin
Dylan Francis Cronin
Jake Crumbaugh
Brynn Ellen Cummins
Michael Vincent Cunningham
Rexford Jules Curtiss
Dylan Le Dacumos
Jack Joseph Daugherty
Rebekka Renee Davis
Elizabeth Jean Davis
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Laura Christina Durski
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Kiera Mary Glenn
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Lamorinda celebrates its graduates

Miramonte Class of 2020



Amin Saeed Abdi
Ashley Lynette Abramson
Nicholas Antonio Acevedo
Juliet Elizabeth Adams
Hayden Alyssa Aitchison
Luke Aidan Allen-Walmisley
Abigail Ruth Allison
Adilson Vicente Amado
Areana Vicente Amado
Emery Janel Anderson
Caroline Elizabeth Andrews
Nisha Sarah Andrews
Ryan Paul Ansel
Gregory Brent Austin
Ryan David Banisadr
Kent Patrick Barbir
Sierra Madison Barnes
Sean Michael Barry
Ava Elizabeth Bartosiewicz
Rose Anna Bathgate
Nicholas P Beaham
Elizabeth Whitney Becker
Lucy Rain Becker
Alissa Rose Beckerman
Daryan S Behtash
Brinly Kathinka Bell
Freddie Bell
Billy Paul Beltran
Lauren Alexis Benedict
Gabriel Joseph Bensusen
Caroline Ann Berg
Kenya Marie Bertoli
Jeffrey Alexander Biggers
Ian M Blacklock
Kate Marie Blanchard
Jackson F Blazona
Kyra Elise Bommarito
Anthony Jerome Bradley
Dominic Thomas Bradley
Thalia Roze Bradley
Jacob Andrew Brewster
Quenton P Breznikar
Eavan Katherine Bronfman
Rhys David Bubrick
Isla Rose Burch
Theodore Harrison Burnick

Reed Dennis Callister
Samuel Thomas Camp
Zosimo Thaddeus Briones Canilao
Isabella Francesca Capozzi
Keshini Leila Cardozo
Seth Douglas Carlson
Matthew Brody Carrington
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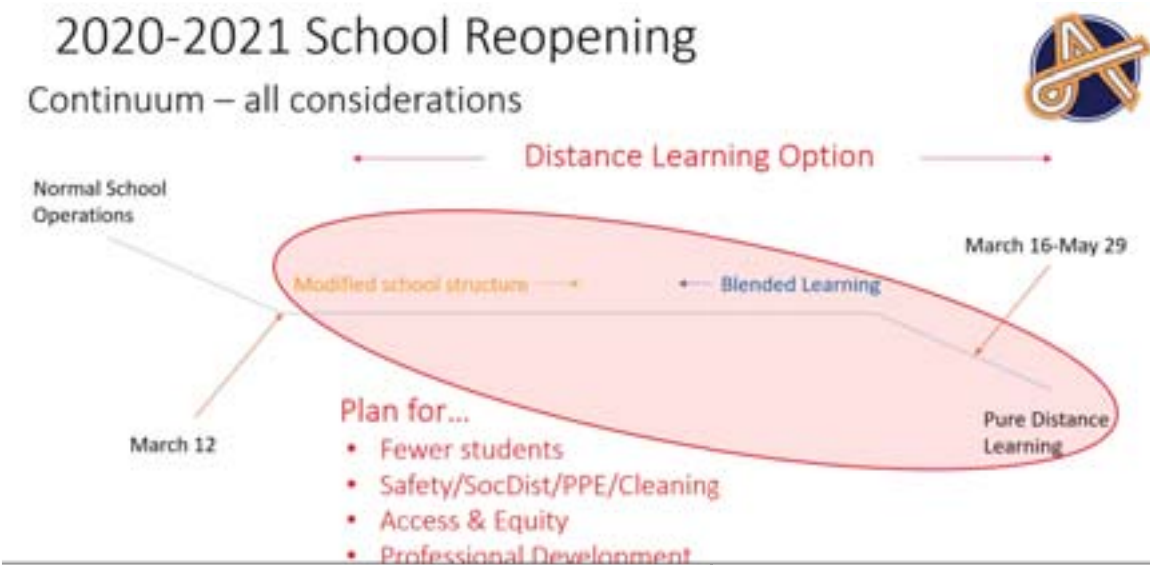
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What will local schools look like when they reopen?



Credit/no-credit versus letter grades sparks tense discussion

A significant number of parents were infuriated by a recent AUHSD board decision to evaluate students performance with credit/no credit rather than with letter grades for the spring semester. The board presented the move as the only option to avoid penalizing some students who may be less likely to succeed in a distant learning environment. A petition from Lamorinda parents claimed that the decision would significantly hurt the hard work of their children who are competing for access to colleges and scholarships, and asked that the board revert back to letter grades. When asked about possible effect the grading decision could have on college applications, College Advisor Elizabeth LaScala, PhD, noted, that “colleges as a group have clearly stated that they will not penalize students for what their school district decides. Colleges will place greater weight on other aspects of a student’s application, like their extracurricular activities, essays and how they have managed themselves during the COVID crisis.”

By Sophie Braccini

When Acalanes Union High School District Superintendent John Nickerson at the May 6 board meeting presented what the high schools will look like this fall, he did not lay down one, two or even three possibilities; he introduced a continuum of options that the school districts have to get ready for now, while facing uncertainties. For Lamorinda school districts, getting ready for all types of situations needs to happen over the summer, while the budget for next year looks quite grim, with a potential 10% reduction in income. Among the possibilities, Nickerson listed separating the student body, with half working mornings and the other afternoons; a two-week on, two-week off option; or four days on, 10 days off new rhythm. The superintendent noted that the district may have to resort to complete distance learning again if there is a surge of COVID-19 infections, and that the district is working on making its online teaching capacity more robust. A task force is working on creative new ways to engage the students, reflecting also on the future of performing arts and sports. Other questions include the capability of testing everyone for the coronavirus, flow of traffic, hygiene and cleaning, and the need for more custodial staff. AUHSD parent Dr. Michelle Stevens Jones asked many questions about how the district was planning to innovate and improve distance learning. She asked about plans for incoming ninth-graders, what

platforms the district would choose for online learning, how it would keep teachers accountable, how everyone would be trained, and how parents and students would be kept informed of changes. Nickerson listed among the constraints, the need to coordinate with the local K-8 districts in order to minimize families’ stress levels. All local education leaders meet once a week to coordinate their efforts. Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns reported the same level of uncertainty as Nickerson. “It feels like building a plane while it is flying,” he said. He confidently reported that his district had 100% student participation in distant learning – which is not the case for the AUHSD – but that engagement varies from child to child. He explained that special education and English as Second Language teachers have a goal of providing continuity and are engaging students individually. Burns acknowledged that parents’ perspectives vary widely, from those who are not comfortable having their kids come back, to those who just want the return of normalcy as soon as possible. In Lafayette, Superintendent Richard Whitmore explained that the district was waiting for guidance from the state, both the Department of Education and the statewide public health agency, and that guidance would be processed through county agencies for education and public health. “It is complicated oversight and we expect it to take a bit longer to understand what our options

for operating in the fall will be. I’m hoping mid-June,” he said. In the very short term, the AUHSD is finalizing plans for the summer program. With an increased number of at-risk students, it was very important for the district to offer six-week classes for credit recovery again this summer. Associate

Superintendent Amy McNamara explained that the district’s own teachers will teach the classes and that some effort will be made to offer in-person small group teaching for English learners and for geometry advancement for incoming ninth-graders. The district will

also look into wellness programs in small groups of students to address isolation and loneliness. Nickerson said that the district would send a survey to all its stakeholders to get their feedback. For now, the first day of school is still set for Aug. 11.



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Turkey Sloppy Joes

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

Sloppy Joes are one of my favorite quick meals. They are like a burger with all the fixings, but all mixed together from the get-go. And they are super easy to make. You sauté the meat (I like to use ground turkey) along with mustard, ketchup, caramelized onions

and a little soy sauce for good measure. The problem I have is that my husband doesn't like the sweet taste once the ketchup is added, so he won't go near them. But that all changed with this last batch, when I added medium salsa in place of the ketchup. It was a winner, and I may have even convinced myself to

make them this way from now on. Although, I do love the original version, so I've included both here for you! Also note, that you can use whatever ground meat you like in this recipe from ground chicken to turkey, bison, beef, venison or elk.



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

Sloppy Joes

(Makes 4 Sandwiches)

INGREDIENTS

4 hamburger buns or large biscuits
1 pound ground turkey
2 tablespoons canola oil or olive oil
1 large yellow onion, coarsely chopped
1 clove garlic, minced
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1 teaspoon sugar (optional)
2 tablespoons yellow mustard (can use Dijon)
1 tablespoon soy sauce
3/4 cup ketchup (or medium salsa)
1 teaspoon fresh squeezed lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground pepper
1/4 cup water (more or less as needed for consistency)
Garnish: 1/2 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese

DIRECTIONS

Heat oil in large skillet. Add onions and sauté over medium-low heat until browned and beginning to caramelize. Add minced garlic, oregano and ground turkey, and continue cooking until the meat is thoroughly cooked, breaking up the meat with a meat chopper or wooden spoon as you go. Then, mix in mustard, soy sauce, ketchup (or salsa), lemon juice, and season to taste with salt and pepper. Heat for about 5-10 minutes over low heat to allow all flavors to meld. Add water if and as needed for consistency. Can be made ahead and frozen or refrigerated for several days. Reheat meat mixture before serving.

When ready to serve, heat Sloppy Joe mixture and spoon over toasted bun or biscuit. Sprinkle grated cheese on top of meat before closing the sandwich.

The Saclan Indians – Lamorinda's first residents



Photo courtesy Moraga Historical Society

Various Saclan artifacts on display at Historical Center

By Vera Kochan

Over 200 years ago, the Saclan Indians thrived within the area now known as Lamorinda. With tribal borders as far north as Highway 24, south to the Alameda County line, east through Burton Valley and west to Canyon, the Saclans belonged to the East Bay Miwok tribes (a branch of the larger Miwoks).

There is documentation of the Miwok peoples dating back to 1579, by a priest who was on a ship commanded by explorer Sir Francis Drake. Specific ref-

erences to the Bay Miwoks appear in California Mission records dating back to 1794.

The Saclans were believed to have been called "Saclanes" by the Spaniards and have also gone by the spelling of "Saklans."

As noted in an article by Maria Forester, "Bay Miwok of Contra Costa County," several villages were scattered throughout the Lamorinda area with a population of 70-200 people in each. The villages were built next to streams or creeks for the fish and water supplies. Tribal dwellings con-

sisted of dome-shaped structures called tule houses. Tules are large bulrushes that grow along shorelines of freshwater wetlands. Their seeds were edible and the reeds were used to make baskets, cord, clothing and sandals.

The Saclan men hunted for meat, fish and birds. Often the menu included such animals as ducks, deer, rabbits and even rodents, caught with hunting tools fashioned from bones or wood. These implements consisted of spears, arrows, knives, clubs and nets. The women gathered food from the earth, collecting and preparing herbs, nuts, and greens. Forester stated that acorns were an important and plentiful source of nourishment, adding that the tribe was grateful for anything that nature provided and believed that every living thing had a spiritual power. With this doctrine in mind, nothing was ever wasted, and the Saclans only took what they needed from the land.

While typically preferring to wear barely any clothing, animal skins and grasses provided some protection during the colder months of the year. According to Moraga Historical Society President Susan Sperry, "They also used to take mud and smear it on their bodies to protect against the cold." By contrast, jewelry was always worn and came in the form of

shells, bones and wood. Tatoos were also a popular choice of adornment. Saclans typically wore their hair long and only cut it short as a sign of mourning. That being said, they were known to enjoy a good party and loved to dance, often incorporating it into their various ceremonies.

Forester explained that each village had its own leader who was a problem solver and tribal judge. The title was inherited and passed down from father to son. The offspring of Saclan tribal leaders were expected to marry members from another village. This philosophy was simple. With so many relatives in various tribes there was a good chance of keeping peace throughout the region. With this goodwill, came open trading of goods that extended to all of the Bay Miwok tribes beyond the Lamorinda area.

While it may seem that the Saclans lived a harmonious and bucolic lifestyle, when push came to shove, they were known to defend themselves against Spanish influence, often raiding local missions to "kidnap" fellow tribesmen who had voluntarily chosen to enter a Christian existence.

It is this contact with the Spaniards and the eventual exposure to foreign diseases that became the beginning of the end for the Saclan population. Many of today's descendants

have intermarried with the larger Chochenyo Ohlone community.

Saclan artifacts and burial sites have been discovered throughout the Lamorinda area. "We have several artifacts such as jewelry, arrowheads and sewing utensils at the Historical Center that have been authenticated by the Smithsonian Institute," said Sperry. "We invite people to visit us and see them." Skeletons, mortars, pestles and arrowheads have been found at Saint Mary's College. Also unearthed was a skeleton near Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Lafayette Circle; skeletons and artifacts at McDonnell Nursery on Moraga Way; mortars at the Moraga Adobe, San Leandro Creek in Canyon, Las Trampas Creek in Bollinger Canyon and Moraga Creek near the country club area. Arrowheads have been found in caves above Rheem Shopping Center. Spearheads, arrowheads and shell jewelry turned up near Redwood Inn in Canyon.

The Saclans may have disappeared from the area long ago, but they have inadvertently left behind the bits and pieces of a culture that lived off the land and revered it for all of its life-giving sustenance and joy – treasures for Lamorindans to continue to discover and learn from for years to come.

Some emotional side effects from sheltering in place

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

By the time you read this, we all will have spent over two months sheltering in place, experiencing many real and potential consequences from this pandemic. It is a time of great worry and upheaval for just about everyone.

As a therapist (using remote methods of communication now), I've been aware of certain emotional responses to our current need to isolate and the toll it takes personally and on our relationships. In addition, financial hardship and uncertainty for many, school closings, childcare worries, and the threat of exposure to COVID-19 all make for a difficult mix of emotions.

Some side effects of our recent frustrations, worries and fears may include:

- 1) Having less patience and tolerance with other people. When we feel stressed, we can easily discharge our stress onto others if we're not careful. The psychological term is displacement, and its function is to release our negative feelings in order to avoid having them swirl within. People rarely do this consciously, but it is a common means of finding some relief, an unhealthy coping mechanism that comes at the expense of others. One way to combat this is to be highly aware of our underlying feelings, especially frus-

tration, worry and anger, and deal with them in more constructive ways than lashing out at others.

- 2) Having less patience and tolerance for frustration. When our world has suddenly shrunk, little things that wouldn't bother us as much in the past are more magnified. We all have heard about some people's reactions when stores have run out of certain supplies. Sometimes the problem is with a computer or a washing machine or food deliveries. Certainly, people demonstrating with guns to push for earlier reopening of society fall into this category. Many feel less control in their lives, and distress that life has become more difficult and unpredictable. When we're already saturated with frustration, fear or worry, it can be hard to accommodate one more thing.

- 3) Not taking good care of ourselves, physically and emotionally. During this difficult time, we need to have patience with ourselves. We have many more challenges now and it isn't easy to always do our best. This is a time to relax some of our standards for ourselves, whether it's getting things done, having a clean house, eating only healthy food, or being the best partner, parent or adult child. In other words, when there are already so many external pressures, it helps to relax our internal

ones. When we feel positive about ourselves, we can plan and execute more effectively and make good choices.

One client, whom I'll call "Denise," is a single mother who has been sheltering in place with her two children under the age of 9. Her ex-husband lives three hours away and has a young child with his new wife. Denise works part-time, from home now, and has had to add in the role of caretaker and teacher to her children who would usually be in school while she worked. Denise suffers from long-term depression and anxiety, and the current situation has heightened her feelings of worry and despair. At the same time, she tries to constantly present a good face to her children to help them feel safe and secure.

Denise has added to her current burden by continually questioning her ability to be a good mom and an adequate teacher for her kids. She says she has a feeling that others are doing a much better job than she is. With no available childcare relief right now, she also feels isolated, out of shape physically, and out of sync with the world. Unfortunately, her current coping mechanisms have involved excess food and alcohol.

There isn't much that Denise can do about the hardships she's facing due to the pandemic, but she does have

the ability to revise her image of herself. This is the time when we need to focus on our strengths and not on our weaknesses. Denise needs to be proud of all she's done to help her children through this exceptional time. She has managed to keep up with her work as well. She assists two of her elderly neighbors by ordering food for them along with her food orders. Denise needs to realize that everyone is struggling in one way or another, and to stop comparing herself to an imaginary ideal.

In addition, Denise is putting unneeded pressure on herself to present a positive image to her children at all times. Children are capable of witnessing their parents' sadness and frustration as long as they feel secure. Allowing our children to have a small window into our reality, while being careful to shield them from too much of our distress, gives them more understanding of life's challenges. If they see us facing problems and trying to deal with them effectively, they will be better equipped when it's time to manage their own problems.

This is also a time where we need to allow ourselves to lean on others emotionally. Sharing our sadness about what we miss in life and our worries and frustrations helps us unburden ourselves. Having enough support through this time of potential emo-

tional depletion will help fill us up. Denise was stuffing down her feelings with food and alcohol and becoming more depressed in the process. We need to find ways to help release our anxieties. Talking, exercising, meditating, doing yoga, playing music, cooking, playing games, and doing crafts are just some of the many options we can turn to.

Some people had significant struggles getting along with partners, children, and others before sheltering in place, and now the situation has become exacerbated. It is very important for those who are in difficult relationships right now to reach out to professionals for help. And, of course, if there is abuse present it is essential to get help. The 24-hour Contra Costa Crisis Hotline phone number is: 1-800-833-2900.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a local marriage and family therapist. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com. She is currently working remotely on Zoom, Facetime and by phone.

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

THT shares some favorite productions online

Submitted by Susan Evans

Town Hall Theatre continues opening up the archives to share some of its past productions with audiences. Next up: 2011's "Twelfth Night" video, accessible for viewing through June 14.

Shakespeare's joyous comedy of mistaken identity and thwarted love, "Twelfth Night" closed Town Hall's 2010-11 season. The production was directed by Søren A.

Oliver and featured Town Hall Managing Director Dennis Markam as Orsino, Assistant Technical Director and Scenic Artist Justin DuPuis as Sir Andrew and former THT Artistic Director Clive Worsley as Feste. You might also recognize Yahya Abdul-Mateen II (from Watchmen on HBO) as Antonio.

THT archival videographers recorded during a live performance with the feeling of an in-person viewing. Once you make your purchase, the box office will email you with

details and instructions and a web link, as well as a password to enter that will let you view the show. (The password will be active for a 48-hour period, reset after 48 hours at noon, and there's one view per ticket-holder.) The price of your ticket to this video will help Town Hall continue to produce exciting live (and recorded) theatre for the community for the next 75 years. Future archival digital releases from Town Hall Theatre may include "An Ideal Husband" (2017).

Tickets are all pay-what-you-can, and are available through the Box Office at (925) 283-1557 or online at <https://www.townhalltheatre.com/town-hall-video-archives>

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Campo Student Library Project books arrive at Malawi school



Photos provided

Submitted by Carla Barros

The Campo Student Library Project at Campolindo High School teamed up with the global literacy nonprofit, African Library Project, to collect and ship 1,000 gently used children's books to create an elementary school library. Last school year, the club ran a book drive and multiple fundraisers to cover shipping the books to a rural community in Malawi, Africa. It took 10 months for the books to reach their destination, Pambachulu Primary School, where the books were received by local Chief Kuchombe, school administrators and parent committee leaders. The Campo students were thrilled to receive photos from Malawi showing the books that they collected in the hands of local leaders who will create a library that will benefit not only the students, but the entire community.

Campo Student African Library co-founders Emma Bennett and Gracie Woidat are currently raising funds to



ship their latest collection of books to a new elementary school in Malawi, and would be grateful for support of their GoFundMe effort: www.gofundme.com/f/campo-student-african-library-project

Senior class of NCL Acalanes Area Chapter recognized for service



NCL Inc., Acalanes Area, Class of 2020

Photo Juleen Lapporte

Submitted by Jillian Esopa

National Charity League, Inc., Acalanes Area Chapter announced the Senior Class of 2020 has served 8,154 hours in local communities. Through their volunteerism, fundraising and donations, the class of 2020 has made a positive impact on the lives of many people in need. For their Senior project, the girls wrote a grant to a local family foundation to obtain funding to furnish two houses through Grateful Gatherings, a

local charity organization which helps transition families from homelessness or crisis into homes equipped with beds, kitchen items, bedding, sofa and other furnishings. Together with their fathers, the girls assembled furniture, cleaned and hung pictures, made beds and helped make these two spaces into comfortable homes.

For information about the NCL, Inc., Acalanes Area Chapter, please visit <https://acalanesarea.nationalcharityleague.org/>

Teachers of the Year candidates announced

Submitted by Jonathan Lance

The following Lamorinda teachers were recently recognized as 2020-21 Teacher of the Year candidates to the Contra Costa County Office of Education: Christina Nitsos, Lafayette School District, Lafayette Elementary School; Brett Lorie, Moraga School District,

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School; and Katherine Sahn, Orinda Union School District, Del Rey Elementary School. The newly honored teachers are not only recognized for their outstanding education achievements, but they also represent the approximately 8,600 teachers educating more than 177,000 students in Contra Costa County's public schools.

Photographer swaps portraits for cash to benefit MCC



Photo Craig Isaacs

One example of a pandemic porch portrait benefitting Monument Crisis Center

Local photographer Craig Isaacs recently started a fundraising project to benefit the Monument Crisis Center: "People donate to MCC," he said, "and they get a 'pandemic porch portrait.'" So far, Isaacs' photos

have resulted in raising about \$5,000 in donations to MCC. (All donations go directly to MCC via their website or checks sent to the organization - Isaacs says he does not touch or accept any money.)

Community comes together to benefit local nonprofits



Submitted by Rhonda Andronico

Lafayette Community Foundation would like to thank everyone who participated in the COVID-19 Community Matching Campaign. The community really came together and helped LCF exceed its campaign goal proving that community can't be can-

celed. LCF will distribute more than \$124,000 to 26 nonprofits - the most in its 20-year history. The needs of these worthy agencies are ongoing as they move toward recovering and rebuilding from the crisis. Therefore, LCF will continue to accept donations and steer those funds toward future Excellence Grants. To learn more, please visit lafayettecf.org

Community Service:

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

In Memory

John Nason Fisher



John Nason Fisher died March 22 after a brief battle with cancer in The Villages, Fla. Survived by his parents George and Julie Fisher, sister Holly Baumgartner (Jim) and Ann Wright (Tim). Loving uncle to Casey Wright and Kelly Wright. Friend to many but especially Mike Worrell, his best friend and roommate.

Johnny had a long career with Johnson Controls as a security service technician - a job he was well suited for as he could figure out how anything worked! We relied on his knowledge of everything technology related and will miss being able to call him on a moment's notice.

Playing the guitar was Johnny's safe haven. His lifelong passion for those six strings led to performing in several bands - "Group Therapy" and "Appomattox Courthouse" at Joaquin Moraga Junior High School, with "Passage", "Messenger", "Valence Shell" and most recently "The Space Between" as an adult. "A Space Between" will hold a tribute concert at a later date. All of his tracks were recorded, so the band will be able to play together one last time.

An avid Raider fan, Johnny was glued to the computer to watch the building of the new Raider stadium in Las Vegas. He loved watching NASCAR races and football. One of his favorite apps tracked rocket launches from Cape Canaveral. Anything that had anything to do with water was a longtime passion. He had been on several cruises and lived on a lake. Coupled with his love of flying (he had taken several flying lessons) he often wore a T-Shirt that said "I love the smell of jet fuel in the morning!" But the last shirt he wore was better - "Cruising through life one port at a time."

When Johnny realized the end was near, he said "I'll just check out what's on the other side."

We will miss his funny sense of humor, his quick wit and ... everything about him. Condolences can be sent to The Fisher Family 856 Folsom Place, The Villages, FL 32162.

Donations can be made to Cornerstone Hospice 601 Casa Bella, The Villages, FL 32162.

In Memory

Mary Dorothy Nurre Broad

January 26, 1924 - May 17, 2020



At age 96, "Dottie" passed away peacefully on Sunday. Her smiles and giggles will be missed, but wonderful memories remain. Beloved wife of 71 years to the late Frank Broad. Devoted mother of seven children. Loved grandmother of 13. Great grandmother to 12. Dear sister of the late Anne Nurre "Fritzi" Heidt and Marilou Nurre McMaster. Dottie was involved with St. Monica's church when they lived in Moraga, as well as the Guild at Saint Mary's College of California. After moving to Carmel in 2001, she and Frank

were very involved with their new life at Carmel Valley Manor. She's an alumna of Mount St. Joseph University (called Mount St. Joseph on the Ohio when she went there) and realized the importance of a good education. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to www.msj.edu/give in the Tribute Gift area or www.stmarys-ca.edu/giving, for The Saint Mary's College Guild Annual Scholarship.



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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Grant Harper – Leadership on and off the field



Grant Harper

Photo Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

For every college bound student, it's very much up in the air as to what to expect next fall. For Grant Harper, a soon-to-be Campolindo graduate who will be attending UC Davis in the fall, the football program is another aspect of college that remains somewhat uncertain.

Harper, who was the starting quarterback the last two years for the Cougars and backed up John Torchio as a sophomore, finished his career

with a 30-11 won-loss record having completed 406 out of 661 passes for 6,096 yards with 62 touchdowns and only 15 interceptions.

Harper focused on the major sports growing up in Orinda: "I played in the MOL flag football league growing up and with the tackle football programs in Walnut Creek and San Ramon, along with playing baseball for Max Luckhurst through high school and basketball up until the eighth grade. My Dad, (Scott), coached me in football and

baseball growing up and he still coaches at Monte Vista High School."

Coming into his freshman year at Campolindo, varsity head football coach Kevin Macy was already familiar with Harper's ability as he had attended the Campolindo Youth Football summer program from third grade to eighth grade. Through high school, they developed a relationship of great mutual respect, said Harper: "Coach Macy and I went through everything together. My friends and I would even hang out with him at lunch. That's how close we became. Coach Macy emphasized being a competitor and proving all the doubters wrong. He would toughen you up as your career got going because he would know what you were capable of and so much more."

According to Macy, this past season, Harper's leadership skills were on display as well as his passing ability: "Grant had a brand new group of everything, so much of his energy had to go into not only knowing everyone else's job but also having to communicate to them, making sure they knew what they were doing and that was a lot for him to do as both a junior and senior. It wasn't that we didn't have bright kids; there just were very few returners each season. He just has that natural composure in the huddle and at the line of scrimmage and during the play. When his teammates saw that, they knew they were seeing something special."

It was a challenge that Harper met head on: "That was something that I wasn't quite used to. We had five senior offensive linemen my junior year. This year, our only returning receiver had only played a little the prior year so Ryan O'Neil at running back and Charlie Craig, our tight end, were essentially the only

returning starters on offense. It became a normal thing to tell most of the players where to go every play."

Dan Hawkins, the head coach at UC Davis, was aware of Harper's ability: "He's come to our QB camp so we knew about him then. We really like his whole approach to the game. He is extremely accurate and is a smooth thrower and he's really into the x's and o's and the science of football and the culture of quarterbacking. You have to have the grades to get in here, which helps because we give our quarterbacks so much autonomy and so much ownership of what is going on. Grant is all of those things rolled into one."

It did not take long for Harper to know that UC Davis was where he wanted to go after high school: "Besides being impressed with their facilities, I was taught a lot about life and immediately after that camp, I knew I wanted to go there. Later, Coach Hawkins said he expected big things from me and soon after made the offer to me. I had other opportunities, but in my heart, I knew that Davis was where I wanted to go."

Still, there was far more to Harper's high school experience than football. There was his becoming an Eagle Scout the winter of his junior year, something he began working on in middle school. "It was a great experience and there was a lot of work that went

into it with Troop 212. I'm glad I went through it and when Coach Hawkins found out that I was an Eagle Scout, his face just lit up, which was a cool moment for me."

As a freshman, Harper volunteered with the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church to go to Tiajuana, Mexico: "I got to spend time with a family who I helped to build a house for. The experience gave me a new perspective on life."

After finishing at Campolindo on May 29, Harper will particularly look back with great appreciation to the teachers there: "There were all very interactive with us. They personalized things, wanting to make sure to know what is going on with us, establishing a trust with me and my classmates."

For all of these reasons, it's why Coach Hawkins feels Harper will fit so well into the UC Davis academic and athletic philosophy: "It revolves around several things – a concept of excellence with class and a balance of life attitude. We want to win and expect to win championships but we also get that there are other things in life as well and we have an appreciation for that and incorporate that in our program as well. Kids have been coming here for a long time to get a great education and to play great football and we try to combine those two so it's not either or, it's not one or the other, it's both."



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Programs for Kids SUMMER CAMPS & Classes

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- 1) Programs must be carried out in stable groups of 12 or fewer children ("stable" means that the same 12 or fewer children are in the same group each day);
- 2) Children shall not change from one group to another;
- 3) If more than one group of children is at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other; and
- 4) Providers or educators shall remain solely with one group of children.

In the event that the state relaxes restrictions on childcare and related institutions and programs, the county health officer will consider whether to similarly relax the restrictions imposed by the public health order.

Adventure Day Camp (Walnut Creek, San Ramon, & Alamo)

see
ad

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www.adventuredaycamp.com

Artemis Rowing (Oakland)

see
ad

Artemis Learn to Row camp held at the Jack London Aquatic Center introduces rowing to 6th through 12th graders. No experience necessary.
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DONS Youth Football Academy (Lafayette)

see
ad

The Dons Youth Football Academy will be staffed by current Acalanes High School Football coaches as well as a full complement of experienced high school and college players and a certified trainer and will teach fundamentals, develop skills, and help kids with the transition to tackle football in a fun, fast-paced, and non-contact environment.
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www.acalanesdonsfootball.com
email: acalanesblue@gmail.com

Friendly Flash Fiction (Virtual)

Friendly Flash Fiction is a high school-run virtual creative writing program designed to have upper school students teach younger kids how to write flash fiction! The program is open to kids ages 8-13, and each 30-minute one-on-one virtual lesson is taught on a donation basis (all proceeds are donated to the UCSF Coronavirus Response Fund). www.FriendlyFlashFiction.org

Lafayette - Recreation Summer Camps & Classes (Lafayette)

In-person programs for households with working family members and several virtual offerings for all ages! The Community Center Care program offers lots of fun activities with a stable group of kids throughout the week. Don't miss Bricks 4 Kidz STEAM Camp, Skyhawks Sports, and Art Exploration, fun, engaging, and enriching programs that have been built around County & CDC guidelines.
Email: recreation@lovelafayette.org 925-284-2232
www.LafayetteRec.org

Legarza Sports (Orinda)

see
ad

Legarza Sports programs give children the knowledge and motivation they need to achieve their personal best in sport and life. Our camps are tailored to help your young athlete succeed in a safe, professional and encouraging environment of learning and fun. Legarza camp has been designed to adhere to the latest safety guidelines and will provide a stable, socially distant program. Virtual Programs are also now available!
www.legarzasports.org

Moraga Day Camp (Moraga)

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www.moragarec.com

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Programs for Kids SUMMER CAMPS & Classes

Orinda Parks and Recreation (Orinda)

Orinda Parks and Recreation will offer certain youth summer programs which must comply with a number of specific conditions. It is likely that children may only be allowed to attend one three-hour camp (9 a.m.-12 p.m. or 1-4 p.m.) per week and no extended care will be offered. Additional information will be available in the coming weeks. We hope programs will be available by late June or early July.

Randy Bennett Basketball Camps (Saint Mary's College, Moraga)

see ad

The Randy Bennett Day Camps held at Saint Mary's College in McKeon Pavilion are a great way for boys and girls ages 4-13 to receive top-class instruction on every aspect of the game, led by Coach Bennett and his staff. Morning, afternoon and full day options available.
smcmensbasketballcamps.com

Roughing It Day Camp (Lafayette)

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The Writing Studio - Camp Young Writers (Lafayette)

see ad

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Programs for Kids SUMMER CAMPS & Classes

Campolindo athletics named state champion by MaxPreps



Photo Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

MaxPreps on May 1 awarded the “MaxPreps Cup” to Campolindo High School, signifying it as the top high school athletic program for the state of California. MaxPreps is a CBS Sports Division focused on high school sports that has been presenting this award to the top high school athletic

programs from each state annually since 2016.

With the Cougars boys and girls cross country teams winning state titles, the girls volleyball the state runner-up and the boys basketball team seen as winning the state championship (though the final game was canceled), Campolindo amassed a score of 975. St. John Bosco (Bellflower) fin-

ished in second. Other Bay Area schools that finished in the top 10 in the state were (5) Archbishop Mitty (San Jose), (6) Montgomery (Santa Rosa) and (9) Bishop O’Dowd (Oakland).

Raymond Meadows, in his first year as the athletic director at Campolindo, sees the award as a reflection of the commitment to athletics by the entire Campolindo community. “This is a huge honor for the school and our athletic program,” he said. “I’m proud to accept it on behalf of the school but there are a lot of people alongside me and those who came before who helped build this culture and athletic success here and I’m proud to be a part of it. We have so much support for our program and I’m learning every day what that means and how to do that better. We have a long-standing tradition of consistent and professional coaches

and there is a lot of parental involvement who are right there on the positive side. Our teachers are also heavily involved – they are at the games and are supportive of the kids along with the school’s administration. I meet with Principal (John) Walker daily and he’s very involved in athletics and how it defines the culture of the school on top of everything else that he does.”

The fact that Campolindo has about 900 athletes out of a student body of only 1,400 students, makes the award all the more notable to Kevin Aske-land of MaxPreps. “It’s much more difficult to win a California state championship because of the high number of schools that compete,” Aske-land noted. “There are only six divisions for the California state championships in basketball, for example, which means about 500 schools compete in each division, on aver-

age. In New Hampshire, there are four divisions that compete for a state championship in basketball, which means only about 20 teams compete in each division which makes it much easier for New Hampshire schools to rack up state championships. So, it is very impressive that a medium-sized school like Campolindo wins the California MaxPreps Cup because it has a lot of things working against it. Even more impressive is that it is a public school. Usually the only small schools that win a Max-Preps Cup state title are private schools.”

As for athletics next fall, Meadows is cautiously optimistic. “We’re getting ready for it,” he said. “NCS, CIF and everybody are on the same page in terms of doing everything we can to make it happen. So we’re really crossing our fingers at this time.”

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

... read on Page D12

Feng Shui

Home office tips for the home-bound worker

By Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S.

With the shelter-in-place orders still in effect and many of us working remotely from home, it's a perfect time to conduct a Feng Shui audit on the home office during this 2020 Metal Rat/Iron Mouse year.

Releasing feeling stuck in any office is always a relief for my clients. Proven Feng Shui recommendations on everything from desk placement, art arrangement, lighting and color, all affect our creativity, productivity and resilience with our life's work. We might do well to fashion our work spaces as if we were able to closely mimic the experience of being in the middle of a forest, at the ocean, or on top of a mountain, with the Five Elements seamlessly incorporated into the design, by a seasoned professional.

Below are some positive home office Feng Shui tips:

- Remove all reminders of "Home" to include only one family or spouse photo;
- Place a fish aquarium, or a lovely sounding tabletop fountain in the home office Career Bagua area to activate vital cash-flow and career success;
- Paint the walls a stronger, more lively hue of the color to help keep you alert and awake;
- Place a new white or clear crystal on top of your desk, and also, a round one hung from the ceiling directly over your head to promote clear thinking and focus and general well-being of the state of the business;
- Place your company's logo prominently on the wall you face at your desk;
- Place photos or paintings of the other Five Elements or natural elements on the office walls, for example, waterfalls, sunrises over landscape or ocean, mountains, and sky.
- Sit in the corner farthest from the entrance to the room to have a "command" position, and do your best face the door from your desk chair;
- Keep your back toward a corner or a wall for support. If a post protrudes from the corner or wall, correct it by covering it with floor-to-ceiling mirrors or hanging a coin-shaped leaved plant's draping foliage;
- Sit with a tall building behind you to provide the support of a "mountain" if your back is to a window; ... continued on Page D4



Photo provided

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www.66TaraRd.com

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A Picture Perfect Classic
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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	3	\$1,168,000	\$1,700,000
MORAGA	4	\$1,200,000	\$1,750,000
ORINDA	4	\$1,305,000	\$1,886,000

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

3253 Brookwood Drive, \$1,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 2043 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 04-06-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,010,000, 05-08-18

3184 Rohrer Drive, \$1,168,000, 3 Bdrms, 1650 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 04-14-20,
Previous Sale: \$745,000, 05-16-05

15 Southampton Place, \$1,585,000, 4 Bdrms, 2465 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 04-17-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,363,000, 06-23-16

MORAGA

5 Corliss Drive, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2407 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 04-07-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,425,000, 03-05-15

5 Lynch Court, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2006 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 04-14-20,
Previous Sale: \$701,000, 06-06-00

264 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,395,000, 5 Bdrms, 2626 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 04-17-20,
Previous Sale: \$420,000, 12-09-98

22 Sanders Ranch Road, \$1,615,000, 4 Bdrms, 3845 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 04-07-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,485,000, 11-13-00

ORINDA

131 Canon Drive, \$1,615,000, 3 Bdrms, 2019 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 04-06-20,
Previous Sale: \$970,000, 12-07-16

38 El Gavilan Road, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2702 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 04-15-20,
Previous Sale: \$125,000, 02-01-78

18 Monte Veda Drive, \$1,305,000, 3 Bdrms, 1687 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 04-08-20,
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 01-02-20

2 Patrick Lane, \$1,886,000, 4 Bdrms, 3183 SqFt, 1995 YrBlt, 04-17-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 05-30-13



LAMORINDA

999 OAK HILL RD., #100
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549
O: 925.284.1400 F: 925.284.1411

WALNUT CREEK

1910 OLYMPIC BLVD., #100
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596
O: 925.937.4000 F: 925.937.4001

DANVILLE

500 RAILROAD AVE., #A
DANVILLE, CA 94523
O: 925.800.3510 F: 925.800.3520

BRENTWOOD

60 EAGLE ROCK WAY, #B
BRENTWOOD, CA 94513
O: 925.937.4000 F: 925.937.4001

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1461 QUAIL VIEW CIRCLE, W.C. **CALL FOR PRICE**



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2821 OAK GROVE RD., WALNUT CREEK **\$1,299,000**



JOHN FONDAZIO 925.817.9053

257 LOMBARDI CIRCLE, W.C. **\$1,600,000**



SHERRY HUTCHENS/ADAM HAMALIAN 925.212.7617

905 DEWING AVENUE, LAFAYETTE **\$2,225,000**



MARY PISCITELLI/PETER GILLIS 925.765.9095

1182 GLEN ROAD, LAFAYETTE **\$3,595,000**



JULIE DEL SANTO/MATT MCLEOD 925.818.5500

11 CANDLELIGHT LANE, LAFAYETTE **\$2,195,000**



MATT MCLEOD 925.464.6500

475 KINGSFORD DRIVE, MORAGA **\$1,549,000**



MATT MCLEOD 925.464.6500

2484 BILTMORE DRIVE, ALAMO **\$2,050,000**



HURLBUT TEAM 925.383.5500

3526 EAGLE POINT ROAD, LAFAYETTE **\$2,400,000**



ZOCCHI & ASSOCIATES 925.360.8662

3286 FAIRHOLM CT., LAFAYETTE **\$1,879,000**



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5 BUCKINGHAM DRIVE, MORAGA **\$988,000**



MATT MCLEOD 925.464.6500

3955 CANYON ROAD, LAFAYETTE **\$1,905,000**



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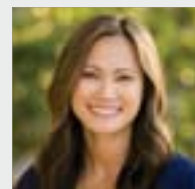
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DRE# 01970768

Feng Shui

Home office tips for the home-bound worker

... continued from Page D1

- Put your laptop/computer in the Career or Children area of your office to enhance your creativity. Place the computer in the Fame area if you use it to generate income.
- Place a safe, constructed of metal, in either Children or Helpful People area of the office, as both areas represent the metal element. The safe symbolizes the security and financial stability of a business.
- Have a good balance of yin/yang when decorating your workspace. Balance light and dark colors, soft and hard surfaces, and smooth and rough textures in your choice of window treatments, furniture, and flooring. Art should reflect the inspiring and creative aspects of your work and minimize overhead lighting in favor of floor or tabletop lamps.
- Treat the files in your office with respect. They represent your past, present, and future business.
- Keep the cords to your office equipment well hidden. This eliminates the negative energy clutter creates and allows for the free flow of healthy Qi.
- Remember not to face away from the door or with your back to the door. Business will symbolically come to you through the door, so don't turn your back on it. You shouldn't arrange your workspace so that you look straight out the door into any corridor or see the stairs, storage rooms, closets, elevators, escalators or toilets, and you should not sit in line with the door, as you will be in the path of too much unsettling rushing energy.

Finally, and very importantly, inviting our businesses to grow upwardly, just as the wood element grows upward, thoughtfully and bit by bit, so our businesses benefit from our bringing juicy symbols of life force into our spaces and reminding us continually, that we are alive and our business is flourishing.

The wood element's life force is perfectly activated with fresh-cut flowers (don't allow them to get murky), orchids (white by front door, purple in Wealth Bagua area), large potted evergreens or rectangular planters with stick-straight bamboo flanking the home's front entrance. Ensure that you fully and completely understand your home-office natural light availability before selecting your options and then place with love, and care for them like your children.

Happy, healthy and prosperous 2020 to all!

WEALTH & PROSPERITY XUN Wood Southeast Purple	FAME & REPUTATION Li Fire South Red Summer	RELATIONSHIPS Kun Earth Southwest Pink
FAMILY ZHEN Wood East Green Spring	HEALTH TAI JI Earth Center Orange, Yellow Brown	JOY & COMPLETION DUI Metal West White Autumn
KNOWLEDGE & SELF-CULTIVATION GEN Earth Northeast Blue	CAREER & OPPORTUNITIES KAN Water North Black & Dark Blue Winter	HELPFUL PEOPLE & TRAVEL QIAN Metal Northeast Grey

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



The Paddy Kehoe Team Is Excited To Bring New Inventory To The Market!



The market is heating up a little later this year! Check out these fabulous homes before they're gone.



32 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Orinda

5 Bed, 3 Ba, 2036 Sq Ft
Listed at \$1,750,000
32SleepyHollow.com



7 Butler Drive, Orinda

3 Bed, 2.5 Ba, 3606 Sq Ft
Listed at \$1,995,000
7ButlerDr.com



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Lamorinda Listings

COMING SOON - 14 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Orinda



3+ BD | 2 BA | 2,120± SF | 0.29± ACRES
Offered at **\$1,575,000**
14sleepyhollow.com

1024 Timothy Lane, Lafayette



5 BD | 3.5 BA | 3,334± SF | 1.03± ACRES
Offered at **\$1,999,000**
1024timothy.com



Terri Bates Walker
DRE 01330081
510.282.4420
terri@terribateswalker.com
terribateswalker.com



66 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Orinda



3 BD | 2 BA | 1,883± SF | 0.37± ACRES
Offered at **\$1,435,000**
66sleepyhollow.com

PENDING - 1435 Camino Peral, Moraga



2 BD | 2 BA | 1,159± SF | 0.09± ACRES
Offered at **\$655,000**
1435caminoperal.com



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<p style="text-align: center;">New Listing! 20 Hacienda Circle \$4,250,000</p> <p>Stunning state of the art Orinda estate designed by Orinda architect Richard Bartlett includes 8000+ sq. ft. comfortably situated on a flat 1.3-acre site adjacent to the Orinda Country Club's 13th hole. www.20haciendacircle.com Melanie Snow 925-360-0344; Laura Abrams 510-697-3225 Lic#00878893, #01272382</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10 Rheem Blvd. \$2,050,000</p> <p>Quintessential Masterpiece Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573 Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com Lic #01390784</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9 La Fond Ln. \$1,849,000</p> <p>A Picture Perfect Classic Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573 Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com Lic #01390784</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Orinda</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Orinda</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Alamo</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Orinda</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">34 La Cuesta Rd. \$1,550,000</p> <p>Mid-Century Charm in OCC Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573 Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com Lic #01390784</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15 Candlestick Rd. \$1,499,000</p> <p>A Heavenly Vista Awaits Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573 Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com Lic #01390784</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">35 Oak Glen Ct. \$1,455,000</p> <p>4Br/2Ba on 1.45 ac w/Mt Diablo views. Horse set-up. ADU? By Appt Hank Hagman 925-963-9969 www.35oakglenct.com Lic #00771832</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">66 Tara Rd. \$1,199,000</p> <p>Nature Lover's Paradise Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573 Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com Lic #01390784</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Walnut Creek</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Walnut Creek</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Martinez</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Rossmoor (Walnut Creek)</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">1549 Pyrenees Place \$999,000</p> <p>Impeccable Town House - 2552 Sq ft. 4 bdr, 3.5 bath- in coveted Heather Farms. Ana Zimmank 925-640-6008 Lic #00469962</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1112 Chiltern Drive \$975,000</p> <p>RUDGEAR ESTATES TOWNHOUSE 3 bdr; 2 1/2 baths, appr. 2,055 sq. feet Suzanne Geoffrion 925-699-4832 1112chilterndr.com Lic # 01878803</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1801 Castro St. \$815,000</p> <p>DUPLEX 3/2 up and 1/1 down, Updtd Lrg lot, great rents, LOCATION!! Tom Stack 925-878-9964 Tom.Stack@cbnorcal.com Lic #01501769</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3306 Ptarmigan Dr., #3B \$749,000</p> <p>2BR 2BA 1452± SF. Elegant upstairs condo with soaring ceilings. Tony Conte 925-708-1396 tony@mbtccpartners.com Lic #00959101</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Rossmoor (Walnut Creek)</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Moraga</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Moraga</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Walnut Creek</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">2308 Pine Knoll Dr., #4 \$499,000</p> <p>2BR 1BA 1330±SF Super charming level-in end unit (co-op) Mary Beth MacLennan 925-324-6246 marybeth@mbtccpartners.com Lic#01480008</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1233 Bollinger Canyon \$495,000</p> <p>BEAUTIFUL, 10(+/-) ACRES IN MORAGA. Less than 10 min to Moraga shopping and top rated schools. Suzanne Geoffrion 925-699-4832 myagentsuzanne.com Lic # 01878803</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1255 Bollinger Canyon \$495,000</p> <p>Serene and Peaceful, 17(+/-) ACRES IN MORAGA. Life in the country doesn't get much better than this, dream big! Suzanne Geoffrion 925-699-4832 myagentsuzanne.com Lic # 01878803</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1493 Marchbanks Dr. #3 \$370,000</p> <p>Updated upper unit, 1/1 Views Pool/2 car pkg, No rental restr Tom Stack 925-878-9964 Tom.Stack@cbnorcal.com Lic #01501769</p>



Go Bears!

JUST LISTED

In Orinda



257 Ivy Place, Orinda

\$1,550,000

5 BEDS

2 BATHS

2,556 SQFT

This single-level home sits at the end of a cul-de-sac on a large .57 acre flat lot. Highlights include a large living room with a brick fireplace, a formal dining room with a built-in banquet, and a family room right off of the kitchen and breakfast nook with access to the oversized yard. 5 bedrooms make it easy to shelter in place! The star of this house is the incredible backyard with mature plantings, a large grassy area, a covered deck, and planter boxes. Conveniently located walking distance to Miramonte HS and just moments away from Del Rey Elementary, and OIS. If you're looking for a house with a substantial flat backyard for gardening, play, barbecuing and entertaining on a rare double cul-de-sac street filled with kids on their bikes then this is the home for you!



SC shannon conner

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Moraga Country Club Stunner! IT'S THE BEST OF INVERNESS.



106 Brookline Street, Moraga

Totally updated throughout with hardwood floors, walls of dual pane windows and sliders, custom remodeled gourmet eat-in kitchen with large center island, light granite counter tops, crisp white cabinetry, stainless appliances and a fabulous open floorplan!

\$1,245,000 - Call me and we'll go "clubbing!"

2 <i>Bed</i>	2 <i>Full Bath</i>	.12 <i>Acre</i>	±1,906 <i>Sq ft</i>
1 <i>Office</i>	2 <i>Car Garage</i>	1 <i>Golf Cart</i>	100% <i>Fun!</i>

Amy Rose Smith
Village Associates
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amy@amyrosesmith.com
www.amyrosesmith.com
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FINDING THE *Right* FIT



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LUXURY IS EVERYWHERE *in the hills of Orinda.*



100 Sandhill Road, Orinda

5+ Private acres, with outdoor kitchen, covered pavilion, pool, 160 Sq. Ft bonus room (Yoga Studio/Art studio/Office?) irrigation well, owned solar, 1 Exquisite Home with 5 Bedrooms (4 En-Suite), 1 of which is currently a handsome "work from home" office, grand living room with vaulted ceiling & trestle beams, formal dining room with large picture window, updated eat-in kitchen/family room, Incredibly spacious second family/game room, 3 Car Garage with extra storage and more!

Feel a million miles away, but only minutes to downtown Orinda and Lafayette, BART/FWY commute as well as all K-12 years of top-rated schools!

This custom and extensively remodeled in 2005 and further tastefully updated in 2020 home with oversized rooms, vaulted ceilings, gorgeous bronze European windows & doors, reclaimed Austrian hardwood floors & hand selected materials is perfect for one

who wants a lovely custom estate with "away from it all" privacy yet close proximity to it all in a wonderful Sleepy Hollow Orinda location.

Not to mention, incredible views out every window including Briones Reservoir and Tilden Ridgelines as well as miles of walking/trails from your backyard.

\$3,750,000 | 100Sandhillrd.com

5 <i>Bed</i>	4.5 <i>Bath</i>	5.03 <i>Acres</i>	±4,971 <i>Sq. ft</i>
1 <i>Studio</i>	3 <i>Car Garage</i>	<i>Solar (Off the Grid!)</i>	100% <i>Wow!</i>

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NEW & ACTIVE 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. Virtual showings for every property through Matterport 3D scans are listed below.

ACTIVE LISTINGS



839 Augusta Drive, Moraga
Offered at \$1,250,000

3 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 2,142 Sq. ft.
3D tour at www.839AugustaDr.com



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

3+ Bed | 2 Bath | 2,285 Sq. ft. / .24 Acres
3D tour at www.DonnaMariaWay.com



1003 Woodbury Rd. No. 207, Lafayette
Offered at \$950,000

2 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,110 Sq. ft.
3D tour at www.1003WoodburyRd.com

PENDING

SOLD



11 Gloria Court, Moraga
Offered at \$1,295,000

3D tour at www.11GloriaCt.com



180 Willowbrook Lane, Moraga
Seller Rep \$2,195,000

3D tour at www.180WillowbrookLane.com



192 Cypress Point Way, Moraga
Seller Rep \$1,100,000

3D tour at www.MoragaCCHome.com



1743 Spyglass Lane, Moraga
Seller Rep \$1,350,000

3D tour at www.1743SpyglassLn.com



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ERIN KELLY



The Olsen Team

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DRE #01409268



Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Grounded!



The bumblebee drinks nectar from a bottlebrush plant.



Take the family on a bike ride on the Moraga/Lafayette Trail to see the display of birdhouses.

Photos Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

"I rejoice when I see anyone, and especially children, inquiring about flowers, and wanting gardens of their own, and carefully working in them. For the love of gardening is a seed that once sown never dies, but always grows and grows to an enduring and ever-increasing source of happiness." – Gertrude Jekyll

Like airplanes and cruise ships across the country, many of us continue to be grounded. As we embark on our 11th week of staying at home and online learning, adults and children are naturally a bit antsy.

When I was a kid and school was closed for whatever reason, my very first instinct was to get outside and explore. I wanted to be on the tractor plowing the fields with my dad, tending the vegetable garden with my mom, or leading the rest of the ranch kids on an adventure through the creeks and hills to identify flowers, plants, amphibians and insects.

I'm certain that my love of the natural world began as a child. As an adult, I have always felt it was important to share this passion with youth. Gardens offer a crucial way for people to access and experience the natural environment. Nature is a public health resource that is available to everyone. Since it's springtime and we are all grounded, why not employ some fun activities that the entire family

can enjoy together while practicing social distancing?

Here are a few ideas that I've implemented with my family and students over the years.

1. Begin a nature journal. Use a spiral binder, a notebook, or design a beautiful unique diary. Go outside and observe. Use crayons, markers, or paints to illustrate and chronicle what you see.
2. Record nature sounds. You'll hear different sounds at various times of the day. Crickets chirping, frogs croaking, birds singing, water tricking, wind whistling, squirrels chattering, bees buzzing. Make a personal meditation recording on your smartphone.
3. Underground exploration. The earth is crawling with activity. Underneath the surface of the soil, countless critters are busy at work. Go to a corner of your garden and gently dig up a trowel full of soil. What do you see? Earthworms? Millipedes? Sowbugs? Slugs? Are there spiders or other insects crawling? Note your findings in your nature journal.
4. Make a "stained glass" window. One of my favorite projects as a kid was picking pretty flowers to press. Instead of making a book, we made "stained glass" windows by pressing an arrangement of petals between two sheets of wax paper and ironing the wax paper. Make sure to place a thin dishcloth on top of the wax paper before ironing. The wax paper seals the flowers together creating a colorful window.

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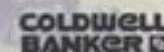
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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Grounded!

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Choose brightly colored flowers and dark green foliage that will lay flat. California poppy, bougainvillea, pansy, violets, rose petals and nasturtium work especially well. Hang them with ribbon by a window to reflect the rainbow of hues.

5. Decorate your mailbox. Plant a climbing rose or trumpet vine at your mailbox to brighten your street. You'll need to keep it shaped and pruned.

6. Grow a vegetable garden. Besides the ease and rapid sprouting of beets, radishes and carrots, one of the most rewarding combinations to do with kids is to plant a Three Sisters Garden. If possible, give your child her own little plot so she will feel proud of being a farmer. The Iroquois Native Americans planted corn, beans and squash for a balanced diet. Corn is a source of carbohydrates, beans offer proteins, and squash is filled with vitamins. The corn is the pole for the beans to climb while the squash grows low to the ground providing shade and keeping the soil moist. There is nothing tastier or more nutritious than home-grown food. Make sure to plant tomatoes and peppers now.

7. Plant herbs and flowers in containers. In several containers, sow seeds of your favorite herbs for seasonings. Dill, cilantro, parsley, basil, thyme or mint. Sprinkle a few flower seeds for color. Cover with wire to keep the critters and birds out, using Christmas clips to secure the wire. Decorate with rocks, shells, or other trinkets that your kids have found.

8. Go on a tasting adventure. For this experience, an adult must know with 100% accuracy that a plant is edible because there are many toxic flowers and leaves in nature that can make us very sick or worse. This is an educational encounter that kids truly savor. Some unexpected plants that can be sampled include rose, nasturtium, fennel, calendula, dandelion, wild mustard, miner's lettuce, and the berries of Oregon Grape. Leaves and flowers of all herbs can be sampled. Make sure there are no pesticides or insecticides on any of these specimens. Record the flavors in the journal. Do you find something sweet, sour, bitter, or something else? Emphasize the importance of knowing what is edible and what is poisonous before tasting anything.

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Let your child plant seeds in a container, using Christmas light clips to hold the wire in place.



Plant a climbing rose to cover your street-side mailbox.

9. Scavenger Hunt. Animals are always building, hunting, gathering and scavenging. Take a walk around your backyard or a hike in the neighborhood to collect a few of nature's discarded treasures. What did you find? An empty bird's nest, twigs, acorns, feathers, bark, pinecones, or nuts? Design a natural art piece together.

10. Introduce animals. Children are naturally drawn to animals. Since grounding, I've noticed a huge uptick in people who have decided to buy newborn chickens, rabbits, birds, potbelly pigs, goats, dogs and cats to familiarize their children or grandchildren with animal husbandry. As someone who was born and raised on a farm and has always been surrounded by animals, I'm a huge proponent ... with this caveat. Remember that these adorable babies grow up to be adult animals who aren't always so cuddly. They require food, water, grooming, shelter, and constant care throughout their lives. Raising any animal teaches discipline,

responsibility, patience, kindness, gentleness, interdependence and love. These are all magnificent virtues. Are you ready and prepared for the long haul?

Gardening has many benefits for the physical and mental health of everyone in the family. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we burn approximately 330 calories per hour of gardening. Gardening lowers our blood pressure, it reduces depression, anxiety and stress while increasing our wonder, happiness and satisfaction.

For the foreseeable future, we are all grounded, but we don't have to endure a perpetual Groundhog Day. Expand the quality of daily living by proposing the joys of gardening and being one with nature to your children, teens and community. Go outside and meander.

Stay healthy. Stay safe. Stay sane. Stay home.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



A toddler enjoys learning about chickens and nature from Cynthia Brian.



Cynthia Brian's selfie in the trees

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. 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. Cynthia is available for virtual writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

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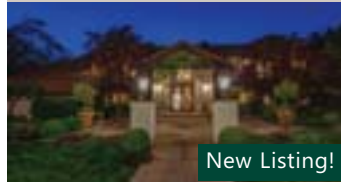
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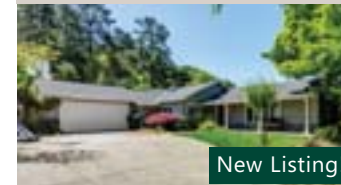
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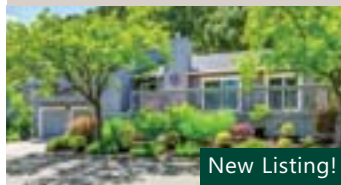


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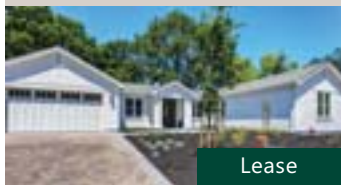


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