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Campolindo High School Counselor Patrick Turner addresses a packed Plaza Park at a protest June 7 in Lafayette.

Photo Pippa Fisher

## Residents gather for peaceful protests amid pandemic

By Pippa Fisher and Sophie Braccini

The anger and frustration of a nation, triggered by the recent death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police, has been evident even in the sleepy Lamorinda suburbs. Several peaceful protests were held in Lamorinda last week, with

the largest on June 7 in Lafayette, featuring speakers who called out the racism they say they regularly experience in the schools and community. Earlier protests had led to rioting and looting in neighboring Walnut Creek, and the mayors of all three Lamorinda cities had declared states of emergency, and had reached out to community members for calm.

In Lafayette Mayor Mike Anderson addressed the city June 1 in a Facebook Live broadcast, taking a few moments to address the historical aspect of prejudice towards people of color, and reminded the community of its shared humanity.

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## Nearly 80 trees slated for removal on St. Mary's Road: council powerless to intervene



PG&E work began June 1, with tree removal planned to start the week of June 15.

Photo Pippa Fisher

By Pippa Fisher

The city council recognized with expressed frustration, their powerlessness to regulate Pacific Gas and Electric Co.'s enhanced vegetation management along St. Mary's Road in Lafayette ahead of the utility's planned work this summer, which will include the removal of 79 trees on both city-owned and privately-owned land.

Work started on the gas transmission pipeline June 1, and a portion of St. Mary's Road will be closed Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Aug. 14. The tree removal is scheduled to begin the week of June 15. "None of us want this to go the way it's going," said Vice Mayor Susan Candel at the May 26 council meeting.

City attorney Mala Subramanian explained that the city's own tree ordinance rules are preempted by the California Public Utilities Commission General Order 95 and so this work is outside local control.


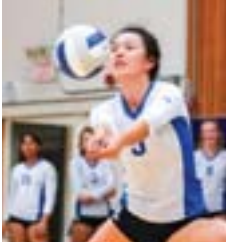

Based on this preemption, the city cannot require PG&E to provide arborist reports, which are generally required under the ordinance. While the city has requested this information, PG&E has so far declined to provide it.

To minimize impact to the community the EVM program work will be happening in conjunction with work to install 450 feet of new gas pipeline across the bridge south of South Lucille Lane, completing a capacity expansion project from two years ago, and system hardening, consisting of pole and wire replacement along St. Mary's Road.

But it is the tree removal that has prompted pages of letters and comments to the council over the past couple of months.

On April 13 PG&E Manager of Integrated Public Affairs Marcos Montes presented to the council, covering all aspects of the work. Montes explained that the EVM work addresses vegetation that poses a high potential for wildfire risk.

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See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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## Lafayette switches back to live audio public comments following residents' complaints

By Pippa Fisher

The city of Lafayette is going back to using a virtual platform for meetings that allows remote live audio public comment, using a webinar format with safeguards in place to prevent "Zoom-bombing," starting June 8.

It is in response to an outcry from residents who found the previous system of emailing comments to be less than fair. Residents complained their comments were sometimes missed, not always read clearly and that it favored anyone from anywhere making a comment without having to sit through the meeting or even leave a name/address.

In particular many objected to the two hours of public comments read at the almost-seven hour May 18

planning commission hearing of the Terraces application. During that time residents complained no one was reached for questions on their comments.

Lafayette resident Paul Melmed Ph.D. says that outside pro-development groups infiltrated city virtual meetings and some are not even being asked to identify themselves. "This is even more dangerous than being Zoom-bombed," he says. "At live city meetings speakers are always asked to tell who they are and where they live."

Melmed, who has over 50 years experience specializing in speech and language development and learning, points out that human communication involves an instantaneous decoding of complex and intricate cues that are simultaneously delivered and understood with gestures, facial and body ex-

pressions as well as with rapid words, pitch and tone changes. "Online meetings still restrict this essential interpretive experience," he says.

"The last planning commission meeting, May 18th, was online and lasted nearly seven-hours. No interaction with the public was encouraged. No effort was given to have a resident's face appear on the monitor," says Melmed, calling for further discussion of one of the largest housing developments in Lafayette history to be postponed until after the pandemic.

At the May 26 city council meeting Lafayette Vice Mayor Susan Candell described the amount of emails she has received from people unhappy with the old format as "not getting deluged, but getting avalanched."

Lafayette Communica-

tions Analyst Jeff Heyman gave a brief recap in his staff presentation of the background, noting the problems the city had in its first meeting as cities across the state pivoted to virtual platforms made necessary by the shelter-in-place. In that first meeting, open to the public for full participation, Zoom "bombers" twice interrupted with crude and graphic content. To prevent a repeat, subsequent Zoom meetings were restricted to the participants but broadcast live, with the public encouraged to email their comments to be read out by staff.

Recognizing the city has some big meetings coming up, especially the planning commission's June 15 meeting regarding the Terraces, Mayor Mike Anderson stressed the need to get a better system in place quickly.

The council voted unani-

mously to allow live comment, at first settling on using a remote operator to host via a contract with PrimeGov or a similar vendor. However following the meeting, upon further examination the format seemed more complicated and, said Heyman, "was not a good fit for the city." Instead the city will be using Zoom with staff running the meeting and screening participants prior to comment. Video will not be allowed.

"The city listened to residents' frustration and is taking action to remedy the situation by allowing live comment," said Heyman after the meeting.

Full details of how to participate in public meetings can be found on the city website www.lovelafayette.org and links can be found on the agenda prior to the meeting in question.

## Nearly 80 trees slated for removal on St. Mary's Road: council powerless to intervene

... continued from Page A1

Trees are assessed for safety under a tree assessment tool, which evaluates several factors to determine the overall health of the tree and possible danger.

Following the May 26 city council meeting the city put out statements on social media and through its weekly newsletter noting that, "Even if exempted from the ordinance, PG&E must comply with GO 95 when conducting tree trimming for electric facilities." These rules require a 4 foot separation with a recommendation for 12 feet at

the time of trimming for most electric facilities in high fire risk areas.

The utility held a community workshop virtual presentation May 28. Three members of the team answered questions on all three projects, but once again most of the questions concerned the tree cutting, with emailed-in comments asking why tree information was denied to the city, and posing questions about the qualifications of the contractors who worked on the tree assessment. PG&E Senior Vegetation Program Manager Matt McLane, who is an arborist, replied that their

contractors are mostly certified, and that he also looked at all the trees and agreed with the assessments.

The answer didn't satisfy Save Lafayette Trees/Gas Safety Task Force Member Michael Dawson. "It appears they used contractors-in-training and realize the tree information would be used against them. It's clear PG&E can't stand behind the information that determines the removal of 141 trees," he said, referring also to further tree removal that is planned under the EVM program on Moraga Road. "So unfortunately some healthy iconic

oak trees will be unnecessarily cut down due to PG&E's sloppy implementation."

Dawson says that since each tree lies outside of the CPUC mandated 4-foot clearance, PG&E must receive permission from the landowners before removing. "I urge every homeowner to meet with PG&E to review the rationale for tree removal," says Dawson. "Outside of the 4-foot clearance, property owners have a right to request PG&E leave their trees alone or ask for trees limbs to be pruned instead."

Dawson is concerned that PG&E hasn't received permis-

sion from each landowner since the property lines along St. Mary's Road are unmarked and ambiguous as to who owns which tree.

PG&E Spokesperson Tamar Sarkissian notes, "The safety of our customers and the communities we serve is our most important responsibility."

"We don't dispute dangerous trees should be removed, but PG&E seems to be under-investing in system hardening, and haphazardly cutting too many trees without working with the city," said Dawson.



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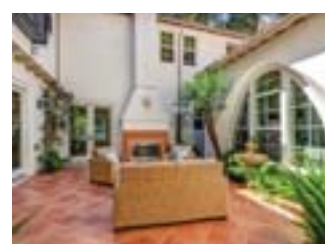
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# Car rally celebrates graduates



Photo Pippa Fisher

Horns were blaring, and people, social distance-appropriately spaced out, were cheering as the Acalanes High School graduates of 2020

drove through the center of Lafayette May 29 proving indeed that "Community Can't be Canceled." -P. Fisher

# Lafayette teacher a finalist for County Teacher of the Year



Photo provided

**Christina Nitsos is a first grade teacher at Lafayette Elementary School.**

**By Pippa Fisher**

A Lafayette teacher has made it into the final four under consideration for a top educator award.

In late May the Contra Costa County 2020-21 Teacher of the Year nominations were narrowed down from 22 nominees to four finalists, including Lafayette Elementary School's first-grade teacher Christina Nitsos.

Nitsos has worked all her 17 years in education in the Lafayette School District as a teacher in first grade and kindergarten and also as an English language learner teacher. Lafayette Elementary School Principal Ann Kim explains Nitsos was among the first teachers from Lafayette to attend the Teachers College Reading and Writing Program in June 2013, attended summer institutes in 2015 and 2016 and was an early implementer of the Phonics Units of Study.

"She has the ability to navigate challenging situations with calm, grace, and ease and when teachers have questions or need support, it's Christina whom they seek out for advice and feedback," says Kim.

Kim notes that Nitsos has served on the school site council, district dialogue committee and principal's advisory team. She is an integral part of the Lafayette District's Math Professional Learning

Community.

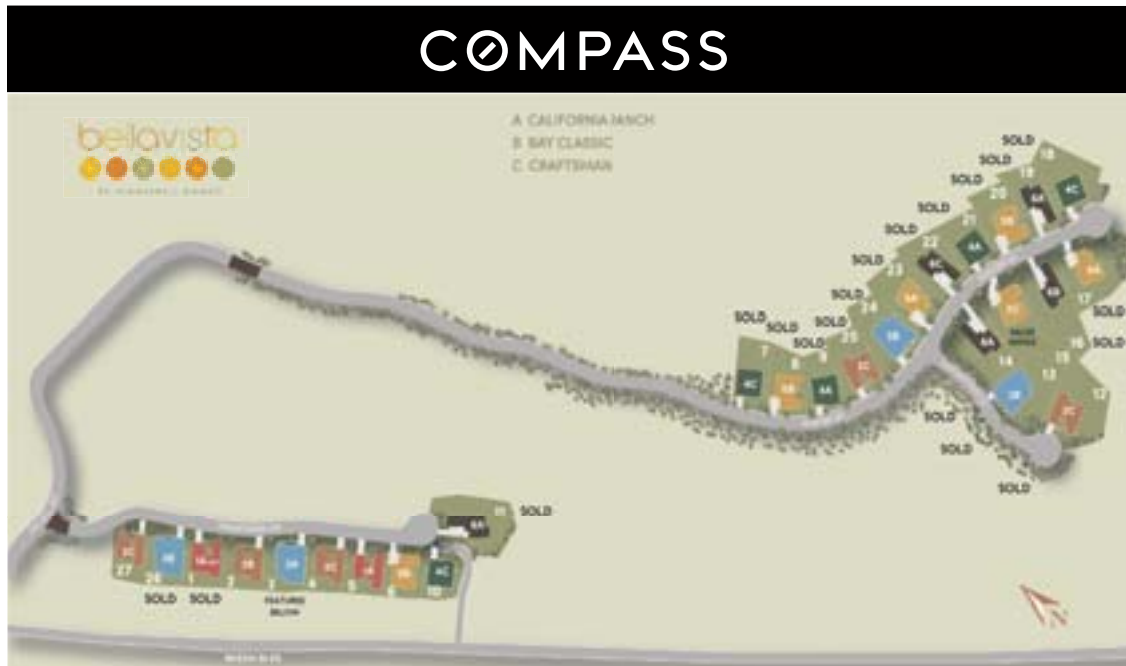
Nitsos' skills extend far beyond her own school. She is a research advisor at Saint Mary's College, supporting graduate students and works to support five urban schools with early literacy. She is a senior member of Teach Plus Fellow where she reviews and gives feedback on legislation, advocating for students with special needs, and for the need for strong pre-service programs for teachers.

Lafayette School District Governing Board Member Rob Sturm has observed over the years that a common theme for all Teacher of the Year finalists is that their civic and betterment activities extend even beyond teaching and broadly inspire everyone within their expansive orbits – teachers, youth, the local community – to be and do their best.

"Teaching is truly one of the most noble professions and the process of selecting our county's Teacher of the Year is particularly rigorous," says Sturm. "Our county has so many outstanding instructors and yet there can only be four finalists; each one is inspiring, passionate about teaching and learning, and has special abilities to bring out the best in their students. We are so fortunate to have Christina Nitsos as a member of the Lafayette School District family, working tirelessly on behalf of our children."

The Teacher of the Year program is coordinated by the Contra Costa County Office of Education, combining a three-step process, but was slightly changed this year due to COVID-19. School districts nominated teachers in late April/early May. Over June and July interviews and speech presentations will take place before a panel of judges consisting of educators, business, and public-sector representatives via Zoom.

At this time it is uncertain if the traditional gala event to honor the teachers will be possible but the county will be announcing the two county Teachers of the Year via a news release in September.



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- MLK



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**Lafayette Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Wednesday, June 22, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:  
http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube

**Planning Commission Meeting**

Wednesday, June 15, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Don Tatzin Community Hall

**Design Review**

Wednesday, June 22, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Arts & Science Discovery Room

**School Board Meetings**  
Acalanes Union High School District

Wednesday, June 17, 7 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Laf.  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

**Lafayette School District**

Wednesday, June 17, 6 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
Stanley M.S. Library  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us





## MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
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# Moraga looks ahead to 2020-21 Capital Improvement Program

By Vera Kochan

Trying to remain optimistic in fiscally uncertain times due to coronavirus economic setbacks, Moraga is forging ahead with a Capital Improvement Program budget aimed at strengthening the town's infrastructure needs.

Public Works Director Shawn Knapp, in conjunction with Administrative Services Director Norm Veloso and Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg, began the 2020-21 Fiscal Year budget plan by streamlining the project tracking system for assigning individual projects separate CIP numbers as opposed to using the same number over numerous years as had been

done in the past.

The buildings and facilities projects, which involve minor capital improvement along with improvements to government facilities such as funding for construction or upgrades, include continuing upgrades to facilities requiring Americans with Disabilities Act enhancements. The project will also replace the flat roofs located at the town offices and Hacienda de las Flores. Budget costs are expected to come to \$111,000.

Creeks and drainage projects include the Laguna Creek restoration at the Hacienda, which is expected to involve removing the undersized culvert and restoring the natural stream channel in order to prevent another

flood like the one that occurred over six years ago. The anticipated cost is \$693,000.

Parks and open space projects will run about \$215,000 and are all directed at the Moraga Commons Park, with plans to renovate two picnic areas in addition to replacing the existing irrigation system with minimal valve control to help conserve water and decrease maintenance and utility costs. The bandshell's composite roof will also need replacing.

The transportation category carries a hefty expected cost of nearly \$11.5 million and involves many projects which are either in final phases or still under construction. These include making curbs ADA compliant;

creating a Livable Moraga Road-Corridor Plan (looks at ways to improve the function and character between Campolindo High School and St. Mary's Road); Canyon Bridge Replacement Project; minor traffic safety programs; St. Mary's Road/Rheem/Bollinger Canyon roundabouts design; Moraga Way and Canyon Road/Camino Pablo improvements; and pavement management (fixing neighborhood streets).

Finally, general government projects include the Bollinger Valley Special Study Area; streamlining the planning and zoning review and approval process; and implementing the 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation. These costs come in at

\$595,000.

The CIP budget proposed for FY 2020-21 and presented to the town council during the May 27 meeting tops out at \$13.1 million. Town staff's diligence in obtaining grant funding will offset that amount by 70% (\$9.2 million). Other sources of funding will come from Measure K, Garbage Vehicle Impact Fees and Measure J, relieving the town of an additional 27% in costs. Taking that into consideration, only 2% (\$325,000) of the proposed budget will be funded from the General Fund revenue. The preliminary FY 2020-21 budget, including updates to the CIP budget, will be presented at the June 10 council meeting.

## Voluntary temporary furlough program for town staff

By Vera Kochan

Besides changing the way the town provided services, with the town of Moraga closing its offices and facilities to the general public after the March 16 shelter-in-place order and many of the town's employees shifting to telework, the economic impact from COVID-19 on the town may not be as large as originally feared.

Moraga's General Fund revenues for Fiscal Year 2019-20 are projected to de-

crease by \$421,000, according to a May 27 presentation for the town council by Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg. "Initially we were very concerned regarding the impact of COVID-19 on our operations and our revenue," Battenberg stated. "We were hearing some really scary news that revenue was going to be severely impacted. The town of Moraga appears to benefit in an economic downturn in the same way that we don't benefit from an economic upturn in that our revenues are relatively flat, so we're not seeing a huge impact to our revenue that leads me to be concerned that we need to look at furlough programs."

The decrease will be partially offset by \$155,000 in expenditure savings at which point the town is expected to meet the 50% General Fund Reserve policy at year's end.

Deciding to look at the big picture and take proactive steps to protect the town's finances throughout the COVID-19 situation, Moraga's council members voted unanimously to enact a voluntary temporary furlough program effective through June 30, 2021.

"Almost all staff have continued to work without taking extra time off, even through COVID-19, and many people are busier than before," Battenberg explained. Now that construction has restarted, the planning department has been in demand again. The parks and recreation department has become occupied with the start of the

camp season. The biggest impact is for town staff with kids at home. No layoffs have been necessary as yet, but the town felt it prudent to have a program in place for future needs.

The Voluntary Temporary Furlough Program allows employees to reduce their regular hours by either 10% or 25%. Furlough hours will be calculated for each bi-weekly pay period and can be taken in increments of one hour, and employees who are unable to work full-time due to personal issues or a lack of work will be strongly encouraged to participate in the furlough program. A request to participate in the furlough program, however, will not be granted if it will result in the need for another employee to work overtime to perform the duties that would otherwise be completed by the employee taking the voluntary furlough time off.

In order to avoid unintended overtime liability, Moraga Employees Association employees may not perform work while on furlough or work additional hours during the work week to make up for lost productive time. Any employees who participate in the program would continue to receive 100% of their normal medical benefits along with vacation and sick leave at their current accrual rates.

The Voluntary Temporary Furlough Program would not be offered to members of the Police Officers Association.

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**Town Council**  
 Wednesday, June 10, 7 p.m.  
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

**Planning Commission:** Monday, June 15, 7 p.m.  
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.  
**Park and Recreation Commission:** Tuesday, June 16, 7 p.m.,  
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.  
**Moraga School District Board Meetings :**  
 Special Board Meeting - Superintendent Evaluation  
 Wednesday, June 10, 5 p.m., [www.moraga.k12.ca.us](http://www.moraga.k12.ca.us).  
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2





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# Town clarifies property owner's 'Right-of-Way' landscaping responsibility



The "Sidewalk Area" is the area between the street edge and the private property line. It is the "Public Right-of-Way" outside the "street" area shown in the above three examples.

By Vera Kochan

It may surprise many residents, but the town of Moraga is not responsible for the maintenance of trees, hedges, shrubs and sidewalks in the area located from the roadway edge to the private property line (public right-of-way). This confusion can lead to unexpected costs for the property owner and unrealistic expectations of what the town's services should or

shouldn't provide.

Public Works Director Shawn Knapp noted during his May 27 presentation before the town council that the Moraga-Orinda Fire District requested clarification of a 1990 ordinance in the Moraga Municipal Code's Chapter 12.04 regarding maintenance and repair of sidewalks. As the fire season approaches, MOFD wants property owners to be prepared due to the increase in wild-

fire possibilities.

The existing ordinance states, "The owner of a parcel of real property which fronts on any portion of a sidewalk area between the property line of the parcel and the street line, including a parking strip and curb, is responsible for the repair and maintenance of the sidewalk area and shall pay the cost and expense of repair and maintenance."

Additionally, the ordi-

nance states that it is the property owners' duty to the public to keep the sidewalk area in a safe condition. Failing that, any negligence could result in liability measures from said public that may arise from injuries incurred in that sidewalk area.

The public works staff reviewed municipal codes for the cities of Lafayette and Orinda, along with those of Contra Costa County, in order to make recommendations to Moraga's town council with regards to clarifying the ROW landscaping responsibilities.

In proposing a new Chapter 12.10 to the existing ordinance the following definitions were adopted: "Abutting Property Owner" means the owner of a parcel of real property which fronts on any portion of a sidewalk area between the property line of the parcel and the street line, including a parking strip and curb." Also, "Public Right-of-Way" means the area in, upon, above, beneath, or across any land or interest which by deed, conveyance, agreement, easement, dedication, usage, or process of law is reserved for or dedicated to the use of the gen-

eral public for travel, and includes any public street, road, highway, freeway, bridge, lane, court, alley, boulevard, sidewalk, median, parkway, or emergency vehicle easement."

Addressing the upcoming fire season, the importance of keeping ROWs clear and maintained in a semi-rural town such as Moraga is vital in the event of an evacuation so as not to impede a pedestrian escape route.

The town council voted unanimously to introduce the proposed ordinance clarifying abutting property owners' responsibilities in that "each tree, shrub, hedge or other landscaping placed in the Public-Right-of-Way, except for those trees, shrubs, hedges, or other landscaping placed by the Abutting Property Owner in a neat, healthy and safe condition."

It also notes that any improper or lack of landscaping maintenance is unlawful and considered a public nuisance. Any such violation will be enforced according to the Moraga municipal code or state law.

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See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
**City of Orinda:**  
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**Chamber of Commerce:**  
[www.orindachamber.org](http://www.orindachamber.org)  
**The Orinda Association:**  
[www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org)

## Mayor incensed by state's attempt to eliminate single family home zoning

By Sora O'Doherty

Prompted by the incident in Orinda on Halloween 2019, state Sen. Steve Glazer has introduced a bill to raise fines for short-term rental violations. Orinda Mayor Darlene Gee is writing a letter of support for SB 1049, one of a number of current bills that the city council reviewed on June 2. Other bills that will get support from Orinda include SB 793, a bill to eliminate flavored tobacco

products, and SB 862, which deals with public power outages.

Other bills, however, raised the ire of the city council, and especially of the mayor, who sees an attempt by Sacramento to eliminate zoning for single family homes. Gee was particularly incensed by SB 1120. The title of the bill refers to subdivisions and tentative maps, but according to Gee is really aimed at eliminating all single-family-home zoning. Gee said that the bill is "just

out and out subterfuge. ...

The title this bill has wouldn't get anyone's attention," she said, "but I think if you told people in Lamorinda that it eliminates single-family-housing zoning, that would get their attention!"

Gee will also write to oppose AB 1279, which is another housing measure and AB 1484, which eliminates the city's ability to collect impact fees.

The council received a report on proposed legislation from Planning Director

Drummond Buckley. It was pointed out that by this time in most years, proposed legislation would already have been going through the legislative process, and many bills would have been eliminated. However, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic and the concomitant delays in Sacramento, more bills will be processed more quickly, making it more difficult for local governments to track them and respond.

## ONE Orinda: a new fundraising scheme for Orinda schools

By Sora O'Doherty

It seems that the world has changed a lot since the Orinda Network for Education (ONE Orinda) was envisioned, but, nevertheless, the new fundraising model for Orinda schools will be up and running on July 1, in time to address the most severe funding crisis ever faced by the community. Although Orinda is one of the richest communities in California, and its schools are ranked in the top 1% in the state, it is almost at the bottom when it comes to state funding. This is because California schools receive base funding on a per-student basis with some districts receiving additional monies for higher-need students. Even with generous local support, Orinda is just barely better off than the average California school district.

For many years fundraising for Orinda schools has been conducted by the parents' groups for each of the five schools, plus the Educational Fund for Orinda (EFO). According to Brian Rogers, ONE board president, this fundraising model was disjointed with multiple "asks" for donations and each school depending on its own fundraising, plus the separate fundraising by EFO. This year, for example, Miramonte asked parents to contribute \$500, and EFO asked for \$650. Next year, there will be one consolidated ask from ONE. Rogers believes that confusion about where their money was going and whether it was going to go to their school led to a decrease in the amount the community donated. ONE Orinda was conceived to bring in more resources by consolidating and streamlining fundraising under a centralized foundation.

On July 1, ONE Orinda will replace the parents' clubs of the five schools and the EFO as the district's fundraising engine, but will have rep-

resentatives of the EFO and each of the clubs as leaders of its efforts. Each parents' club account will reside under the umbrella ONE Orinda account to provide the backing it needs to attract community and corporate donations while maintaining local autonomy of the parents' clubs. Parent donations from each school will go into an account for that school and will be controlled by the parents' club for that school.

While EFO was completely volunteer run, ONE Orinda has paid staff, including one full time paid executive director, Darcy Taylor, and paid part-time hourly staff, comprising an administrator and a database administrator, and a bookkeeper. EFO was not able to have a community-wide fundraising event for all the schools, which ONE Orinda plans to do, as well as continuing the three traditional fundraisers: mail solicitation, online donations, and events. In addition to the executive director, ONE has a board, with Rogers as president and Clay Deanhardt as secretary, and nu-

merous volunteer committees and subcommittees.

Rogers has said that coronavirus is making fundraising harder, but ONE still has the same fundraising goals. This is an obligation to schools for the current year that needs to be paid by the end of the fiscal year.

ONE expects to increase revenues and pay for its administrative costs. According to Rogers, many of the elementary schools carry a safety net, a reserve fund, which equals about a full year of operations for the parents' club. These funds are held in checking accounts not raising money. Under the new agreement, each school will agree to pool the reserves so that they can then be invested in low risk investments, like an endowment. EFO currently has an endowment of \$1.5 million. If all of the reserves are pooled, the amount could be \$4 to \$5 million. Rogers says that the return on such a fund can pay for the professional employees of ONE as well continuing to act as a reserve.

More information about ONE Orinda can be found on their website: [www.oneorinda.org](http://www.oneorinda.org)

## With Parks and Rec revenue gone, Orinda furloughs some staff



Photo Sora O'Doherty

All four playing fields at Wilder are empty during COVID-19 pandemic, bringing in no revenue to the city.

By Sora O'Doherty

The coronavirus pandemic has caused a drastic drop in revenues for the city of Orinda, and the most drastic is the total cessation of fees coming in from the use of the city's parks and recreational facilities. The city is facing a two-year projected

General Fund budget deficit of \$850,000. As a step to addressing this looming budgetary crisis, the city council on June 2 agreed to make temporary changes concerning unrepresented employees, including placing three parks and recreations positions on furlough with a 40% reduction in hours worked. The Director of Parks and

Recreation, Recreation Supervisor II and the Facility and Parks Supervisor will be reduced from 40 to 24 hours per week, but will retain benefits including health care.

The change will result in an estimated cost reduction of \$160,000.

... continued on Page A12

	<b>City Council</b> Tuesday, June 16, 7 p.m. Regular Meeting By Teleconference Only	<b>Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission</b> Tuesday, June 10, 6:30 p.m. By Teleconference Only
	<b>Planning Commission</b> Tuesday, June 23, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only	<b>Orinda Union School District Board Meetings</b> TBA 8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda <a href="http://www.orindaschools.org">www.orindaschools.org</a> See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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# Orinda school board tries to budget in time of uncertainty

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Union School Board received a preliminary draft budget from Theresa Sidrian, Director of Business Services, that projects deficit spending in the next two years. However, in the face of unprecedented uncertainty about what school will be like in the next academic year, the board unanimously decided to delay the budget process in the hopes of having more information available. Therefore, it scheduled a special meeting for June 22, in addition to its June 8 meeting. Each school is required to submit its budget by the end of June, and Sidrian said that there would be sufficient time after the June 22 meeting to meet the requirement.

One thing that the board was able to do was to adopt the school calendar for the 2020-21 academic year, which will start Aug. 13, the day after Acalanes and finish May 28, 2021, the day after Acalanes. As a cost-cutting measure, the board is considering replacing two teacher development days with furlough days. In addition, Feb. 18 2021 has been designated as a "potential weather day," which

could be used to make up a day that school was canceled owing to an adverse weather event, or which could be used as a vacation day, if not required for make up. Beyond that, nothing is clear about how school will be conducted next year.

The OUSD, like all school districts in California, is facing significant budget cuts owing to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19. The governor's budget, introduced in May, includes large cuts in school appropriations. The budget will be final at the beginning of July, but there may be further cuts to come in future revisions. The cuts come despite the fact that the governor has prioritized school funding and hopes to shelter schools from the worst economic effects of COVID-19. Other unanswered questions include what school enrollment will look like for the fall and the outcome of collective bargaining.

Basically, the district is looking at an over \$2 million loss in revenue that will result in dramatically lower reserves for this budget and deficits for the next two years. Sidrian reported that this is the first time in her memory that the district

would fail to have a positive balance for the two upcoming years. Board President Cara Hoxie pointed out that this budget is based on income from last year, but that income for this year may significantly lower, causing an even greater problem for next year's budget.

The board considered how to deal with the lower revenue and potentially increased expenses. One thing that could reduce expenses would be to continue with distance learning, even if school were allowed to resume. However, the board rejected this option. Board member Hilary Weiner said, "If it is safe for kids to be in school, then they should be in school." Although Hoxie wondered when students will feel truly safe in school.

The board did adopt an increased statutory school fee for all new developments, whether residential or commercial. Another option to bring in more revenue, espoused by Charles Shannon, president of the Orinda Educators Organization, is to ask the community and parents groups for a large, one-time donation. (See story, Page A6). The board also heard from its budget reduction subcom-

mittee, Carol Brown and Jason Kaune. Brown talked about the unintended consequences of some previous attempts to reduce expenditures, and warned the board to look out for such possibilities. For example, combining human resources with student services led to increased legal costs.

Among the items considered for cost cutting are classroom staffing, distance learning, and special education. Class size increases from 20 to 24 students at the elementary level and up to 30 students per class in intermediate school could result in savings of up to \$990,000. Instructional aides cost \$800,000, which has been paid for by parent's clubs.

In the event that distance learning continues, there are possible savings of up to \$370,000 for music instruction, \$196,000 for librarians and library techs, and additional savings for physical education and maintenance/safety expenses, including reduced utility use. Special education aides could be a potential cost savings of \$38,000, but Brown warned that this could backfire if they have to hire contract aides as a replacement, which could

cost more.

Also under consideration are pay cuts for administrative and staff and a possible "step and column" freeze for teachers, which would have to be negotiated and could have negative unintended consequences.

Brown said that she hopes the board can find transformational ways to permanently reduce costs, to avoid having a cycle of cuts and increases. Hoxie said she doesn't like all or nothing thinking and suggested partial reductions. Board member Liz Daoust said that, as a parent, she would favor larger class sizes over loss of enrichment programs. The committee also presented the views of the individual schools on a number of possible reductions.

In a related matter, it was reported that the district issued \$20 million in bonds with interest at an historically low rate: 2.48% over 30 years. Sidrian reported that the bonds were met with enthusiasm, which she attributed to the district's AA+ rating, the highest possible.

# A creek runs through it: Orinda seeks kids' input on the future of downtown

By Sora O'Doherty

The city of Orinda is looking to hear from Orinda children for its downtown plan. The planning department put together a brief video to provide local kids with background information as well as a survey just for kids. If you have school-aged children in Orinda, the planning department would love to hear from them!

The video asks children about some things they may not be aware of, such as that San Pablo Creek actually runs through downtown Orinda, and that the planning department is making a 3D model of the downtown.

Senior Planner Adam Foster presented the video to Cathy Campbell's third-grade class at Wagner Ranch Elementary School. Foster found the children to be very enthusiastic about the project. They suggested a singing fountain for downtown.

The survey has nine questions for children, including, "What do you think downtowns are used for? What is your favorite thing to do in downtown Orinda? Of all the downtowns you have been to, which did you like the most? Why? And, Does anyone live in downtown Orinda?" The survey also has room for suggestions.

The responses so far are from a variety of kids, from first through 12th grades. The answers are thoughtful, and the children seem well traveled, liking nearby downtowns, such as Danville, to New York City across the country. A number of cities in Oregon were named as fa-

vorites, including Bend and Ashland. Walnut Creek got some positive comments, but also some negative ones. Santa Cruz and neighboring Lafayette also received positive comments.

Children like to visit the library, with Orinda's library getting praise, to visit the toy store and eat out. Loard's Ice Cream, Starbucks and Nation's Giant Hamburgers got shoutouts, as did the local hardware store. Respondents wished for more parks, more restaurants, and more shops, including a book store. One respondent, who noted that their parents were divorced and had to sell the family home, wished there were smaller homes or apartments available in Orinda. Another also wished for more affordable housing.

An eighth-grader suggested, "Please make Orinda exciting!! It's always so dead, so please build more affordable housing, add retail and maybe consider raising the height limit on buildings." A second-grader suggested murals for downtown. A sixth-grader said, "Grass Valley has my favorite downtown. This is because the city has preserved its history very well, but it is still a very interesting place to hang out. Plus there always seems to be something exiting going on, like a parade, street market, or festival." A fifth-grader answered the question, "What do you think downtown Orinda will look like in 100 years?" with the pithy observation, "I will be dead."

The kids survey is in addition to the survey for adults, which is still available. Over 600 people have already completed the survey. The plan-

ning department has also released a tentative schedule of upcoming meetings on downtown development. The city council's downtown subcommittee will meet at 5 p.m. June 10 via Zoom Webinar and again on July 7. On June 23 there is a second community

workshop on the downtown precise plan. The workshop, tentatively scheduled for 7 p.m., will also be via Zoom Webinar.

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# County approves 15% wage increase for ConFire employees

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District board of directors unanimously approved a three-year labor agreement with Local 1230 firefighters that gives the rank and file a 15% pay increase over the term of the contract. The board also agreed at its May 26 meeting to the same percentage pay increase for district chief officers and for unrepresented safety management employees. The new agreements take effect July 1.

"Thank you for making our contract a priority, for being timely and for supporting us," Vito Impastato, president of the United Chief Officers Association, told the board.

County Administrator

David Twa said that the first year cost of the new labor packages adds \$4.4 million in expense to the district, and that the \$26.3 million added labor expense over three years is the fully loaded cost for all positions, including taxes, benefits, overtime and the employer contribution to the employee pension plan.

"At the time (the contract) was agreed to, our projections showed it could easily be absorbed into our ConFire budget - both the base wage and all additional pension cost," said Candace Andersen, chair of both the county Board of Supervisors and the fire district board of directors. "After discussing it with our county administration we felt we had adequate income and reserves to move forward with the raise we had agreed to." ConFire pro-

jects its general fund reserve balance at \$32.8 million for this fiscal year.

In its recommended 2021 budget, Contra Costa County calls for property tax growth of 4.5% for next year and beyond; however, because of the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic county officials now say that figure may be optimistic. The city of Lafayette, with some of the most stable real estate values in the fire district, projects only a 3% property tax increase for 2021. ConFire derives 88% of its revenue from property taxes.

Andersen said that the negotiations and the offer to settle with the firefighters were at the same level the county had settled with other public safety groups and were part of a long-range plan to achieve full staffing

and reduce mandatory overtime, too much of which puts a stress on employee morale. Fire district officials have said recruitment for firefighters and paramedics has been a challenge, and county negotiators analyzed pay scales of regional fire agencies to come up with a number that would bring ConFire employees' earnings into line.

"This contract keeps the firefighters' pay consistent with the median range and will provide for stable recruitment as well as a stable workforce, as we likely head into very difficult times," Twa said.

All employee pay increases are spread equally over the three years, with a 5% raise taking effect each July 1. Firefighters will continue to contribute anywhere

from 9% to 18% of their pay to fund their retirement account with the Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association.

"I appreciate all the parties coming together and committing the time and resources to reach an agreement during these challenging times," ConFire Chief Lewis Broschard said. "Having these agreements in place for our firefighters, dispatchers, fire prevention personnel and chief officers allows us to focus on our mission which is particularly important as we continue to deal with the ongoing challenges of COVID and what is likely to be a busy fire season ahead of us."

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District labor agreement with its firefighters runs through June 30, 2021.

# Hand crews bolster ConFire prevention efforts



Photo courtesy ConFire

### ConFire adds Crew 12 to its Fire Control Worker program.

By Nick Marnell

Anticipating a long, hot fire season, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District introduced its inaugural Fire Control Worker program, which

consists of hand crews that assist in weed abatement operations, fire trail maintenance, and equipment and apparatus restoration at fire scenes. The first hand crew, Crew 12, was deployed on May 20.

Crews consist of temporary, seasonal employees who work 10-hour shifts, Wednesday through Saturday each week, and will remain staffed through late October or until the end of fire season. Crew 12 comprises 12 members, supervised by a dedicated fire captain.

The hand crews are deployed in vans and pickups loaded with weed eaters and power saws, plus whatever else the crews need to clear vegetation and perform other maintenance tasks. A utility vehicle tags along, equipped with thousands of feet of hose which can be loaded onto a fire engine as a replacement during an incident. When called upon, the hand crew can retrieve used hose at the scene, clean the hose and return it back into service.

Battalion Chief Scott Valencia oversees the Fire Control Worker program. "If we can put things in place to slow a fire down, it gives us more time to put the fire out," Valencia said. "Once the fire is out, there is a

ton of work to be done. We'll be able to release the fire units earlier by having the hand crews do the clean-up work."

In addition to pre-emptive abatement activity and support for fire suppression efforts, the hand crews aid in one other key district function: recruitment. "It creates a path for them to become firefighters," said Steve Hill, district public information officer.

A few days after the hand crews were put into service, the area experienced its first major heat wave of the season. "Their efforts had a significant impact in keeping crews available through a series of fires and events that occurred ... where we had incident after incident after incident," Fire Chief Lewis Broschard told his board of directors.

If the district deems the Fire Control Worker program successful, it looks to expand the hand crew operations next year to include response to wildland fires in support of fire suppression efforts.

### Protective gear helps safeguard first responders



Photo courtesy MOFD

Firefighter-paramedics David Azevedo and Mike Stiehr model the protective gear used when responding to patients with known COVID-19 symptoms. Through early June, not one of the MOFD suppression personnel has tested positive for the virus.

-- N. Marnell

### Fire District Public Meetings

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**  
Board of Directors  
Wednesday, June 17, 7 p.m.  
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.  
Visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)



**ConFire**  
Board of Directors  
Tuesday, June 16, 1:00 p.m.  
Board Chamber Room 107,  
Administration Building  
651 Pine St., Martinez.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.cccfpd.org](http://www.cccfpd.org)



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**Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report**  
**May 17 - May 30**

Alarms	30
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	5
Traffic	41
Suspicious Circumstances	11
Suspicious Subject	18
Suspicious Vehicle	16
Service to Citizen	43
Patrol Req./Security Check	62
Public/School Assembly Check	34
Supplemental Report	20
Vacation House Check	8
Welfare Check	18
Ordinance Violation	9

**Vehicle violations**  
Auto Burglary  
900 Block Risa Rd.  
1000 Block Brown Ave.  
100 Block Lafayette Cir.  
1000 Block Miller Dr.  
3100 Block Rohrer Dr. (2)  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1000 Block 2Nd St.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Dui Misd  
3400 Block Golden Gate Way  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor

Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.  
Reliez Valley Rd./Silver Dell Rd.  
Avalon Ave./St. Marys Rd.  
Petty Theft From Veh  
1000 Block Brown Ave.  
1000 Block 2Nd St.

Reckless Driving  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.

Tc - Property Damage  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Deer Hill Rd./Sierra Vista Way

Vehicle Theft  
3200 Block Marlene Dr.

**Other criminal activity**  
Identity Theft  
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.  
600 Block Los Palos Dr.

Petty Theft  
3700 Block Highland Rd.

Residential Burglary  
700 Block Moraga Rd.

Shoplift  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.

3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.  
3200 Block Andreassen Dr.  
1000 Block Carol Ln.

Disturbing The Peace  
Police Department  
Moraga Blvd./3Rd St.  
1000 Block Carol Ln.  
St. Marys Rd./Topper Ln.

Loud Music  
900 Block S Thompson Rd.  
1800 Block Reliez Valley Rd.  
500 Block Mcbride Dr.

Loud Noise  
1700 Block Block Reliez Valley Rd.  
3500 Block Powell Dr.  
Springhill Ct./Springhill Rd.  
900 Block Colina Ct.  
3200 Block Marlene Dr.  
3200 Block Marlene Dr.

Loud Party  
1400 Block Reliez Valley Rd.  
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.  
3100 Block Sandalwood Ct.

Public Nuisance  
St. Marys Rd./S Lucille Ln.  
Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
St. Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.  
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.  
Upper Happy Valley Rd./El Nido Ranch Rd.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Happy Valley Rd./Deer Hill Rd.  
3500 Block Terrace Way  
Glenside Dr./Los Palos Dr.

Acalanes Rd./Hidden Valley Rd.  
Vandalism  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
200 Block Lafayette Cir.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.

**Other**  
H&S Violation  
900 Block Colina Ct.

Harassment  
800 Block Acalanes Rd.  
K9 Outside Assist Request  
Bollinger/680  
Loitering  
Broadmoor Ct./St. Marys Rd.

Threats  
300 Block Castello Rd.

Trespass  
1000 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.

3200 Block Deer Hill Rd.  
Trespass W/ Vehicle  
500 Block Merriewood  
Unwanted Guest  
600 Block Sweet Ct.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Violation Restraining Ord  
1700 Block Reliez Valley Rd.



**Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report**  
**May 19 - June 1**

Alarms	9
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	14
Traffic	60
Suspicious Circumstances	9
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	67
Patrol Req./Security Check	20
Supplemental Report	10
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	2

**Vehicle violations**  
Accident Property  
Mt Diablo Blvd./Dewing Ave., Laf  
Moraga Royale Retirement

Auto Burglary  
100 Block Paseo Del Rio

Excessive Speed  
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. (2)  
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.  
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.

Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
Moraga Community Club

Petty Theft From Veh  
Not Available  
30 Block Lenelle Ct.  
Reckless Driving  
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.

Tc - Property Damage  
Safeway  
Vehicle Theft  
100 Block Paseo Del Rio

**Other criminal activity**  
Fraud False Pretenses  
600 Block Augusta Dr.  
300 Block Fernwood Dr.

Identity Theft  
90 Block Courter Ln.

Shoplift  
Dollar Tree

**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbing The Peace  
Not Available  
Loud Music  
100 Block Donald Dr.

Loud Noise  
Not Available (3)  
200 Block Corliss Dr.  
1600 Block Camino Pablo  
Homegoods  
10 Block Miramonte Dr. (2)

Loud Party  
900 Block Augusta Dr.  
2000 Block Ascot Dr. (4)  
Not Available (2)  
Rheem Valley Shopping Center  
80 Block Miramonte Dr.

Public Nuisance  
Not Available  
Vandalism  
900 Block Country Club Dr.  
1100 Block Alta Mesa Dr.

**Other**  
Battery Domestic Misd  
Police Department

Fireworks  
Rimer Dr./Juniper Way  
Donald Dr./Carroll Dr.  
Not Available  
Harassment  
Not Available  
Public Assembly Check  
Rheem Valley Shopping Center (3)  
Safeway (2)  
Ordinance Violation  
Moraga Commons Park (2)



**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report**  
**May 3 - May 16**

Alarms	15
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	3
Suspicious Circumstances	5

Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	0
Service to Citizen	42
Patrol Req./Security Check	28
Supplemental Report	4
Welfare Check	2

**Vehicle violations**  
Auto Burglary  
60 Block Camino Del Diablo  
Las Piedras/Vista Del Orinda  
10 Block Arroyo Dr.  
10 Block Ivy Dr.

Dui Misd  
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.

Grand Theft From Veh  
100 Block Via Floreado  
Petty Theft From Veh  
100 Block El Toyonal

Vehicle Theft  
10 Block Dover Ct.  
10 Block Moraga Via

**Other criminal activity**  
Identity Theft  
100 Block Ivy Dr. (2)  
Petty Theft  
Cvs  
Shoplift  
Rite Aid  
Rite Aid  
Cvs

**Nuisance to the Community**  
Civil Disturbance  
10 Block St. Stephens Dr.  
Disturbance-domestic  
40 Block Don Gabriel Way

Loud Music  
10 Block La Fond Ln.

Loud Noise  
30 Block Heather Ln.  
Camino Sobrante/El Caminito

Public Nuisance  
St. Stephens Dr./Eb Sr 24

**Other**  
Accident Property  
10 Block Vista Del Orinda

Loitering  
Canon Dr./El Toyonal

Ordinance Violation  
10 Block Vista Del Orinda  
Glorietta Elementary School  
Wildor Sports Fields  
Miramonte High School  
Possession Of Stolen Prop  
Rite Aid  
Revoked License  
Wb Sr 24 Eo Wilder Rd.  
Violation Restraining Ord  
60 Block Charles Hill Rd.





# PREVENT FOOD WASTE



Now that we are eating more meals at home, we can reduce food waste by planning ahead.

- Shop your fridge first!
- Plan your meals.
- Shop locally to reduce your food miles.
- Store food properly in your fridge.
- Compost food scraps and food soiled paper in your green organics cart.



[www.recyclesmart.org](http://www.recyclesmart.org)



# Residents gather for peaceful protests amid pandemic



Photo Sophie Braccini

About 500 peaceful protesters came to the Moraga Commons park June 4.

... continued from Page A1

"There is a challenge that requires all of us to reach a little deeper into our sense of humanity," he said.

Noting that he had met with Police Chief Ben Alldritt and City Manager Niroop Srivatsa, Anderson said that the freedom of speech would be protected and would be ensured. To keep the community safe he said that the police would be increasing staffing, and that while people would be allowed to protest and assemble peacefully, violence and criminal activity such as was seen in Walnut Creek would not be tolerated.

"Let's go forward and try to be a beacon for our region and maybe even for the nation for how a community can in fact live together, work together and support each other everyday," said Anderson.

In a letter to the community Orinda Mayor Darlene Gee also expressed sadness and outrage at the murder of George Floyd and so many other victims of racial injustice, and in Moraga an official message from the town manager and the Chief of Police was issued via Nixle.

Protests continued to pop up across Lamorinda. One of the first was a car caravan May 31 from Acalanes High School.

News of the gathering spread by word-of-mouth, and within a short space of time the parking lot at the school was completely full, and still more cars were lining up to join in.

With signs and messages denouncing the killing of George Floyd and support for Black Lives Matter, the procession drove along Mt. Diablo Boulevard, entering Highway 24 on the west end of the town and ending up in Orinda Village where they were met with people carrying Black Lives Matter placards. As cars passed honking their horns, pedestrians showed support by clapping. More than 300

cars took part.

In Moraga, a large crowd of approximately 500, according to Moraga police department estimates, gathered at the Moraga Commons June 4 holding signs that read "Black Lives Matter," "Enough," "No Justice, No Peace," "Vote," among many others. Organized by Campolindo and Miramonte high school students, word of the protest expanded and residents of all ages, almost all masked, joined the peaceful protesters.

The two-and-a-half hour gathering opened with nearly nine minutes of silence, the amount of time Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who has been charged with second degree murder, pinned George Floyd to the ground on May 25 by pushing his knee into Floyd's neck.

The local protesters were reminded that they were living in a bubble where only 0.96% of the population is black and where prejudice is rampant. Reading off social media posts a Miramonte student illustrated the fact that racism is alive and well in Lamorinda. She called for a change in culture.

Gary Hill, a Moraga dad who is part of the 0.96% minority, said that seeing all the people coming to the Commons inspired him. He read a text he wrote called "Is it COVID or is it racism?" drawing a parallel between the two epidemics. Fear, uncertainty, fatigue, anger and death are, for Hill, common to both. There can be a vaccine to end COVID, but how to eradicate the other? Hill's recommendation is compassion, staying safe and making sure all others are as well, relating to each other's feelings and reaching out to those who are affected.

Gigi Crowder from the National Alliance on Mental Illness talked about Miles Hall, the 23-year-old black man who just a year ago suffered a mental breakdown and was shot and killed by the Walnut Creek police.



Photo Pippa Fisher

Protesters march up Mt. Diablo Boulevard June 7 in support of Black Lives Matter.



Photo Pippa Fisher

Cars gather at Acalanes May 31 ahead of a peaceful rally through Lafayette to Orinda.

Stereotypes and implicit biases were called out as something we all have and that police officers should be better trained.

Moraga police officers stood around the peaceful crowd without incident, mainly helping seniors cross Moraga Road when the gathering dismantled. Chief Jon King, who had posted on his department's website that he and his officers were all physically ill and disgusted by what they saw (the video of George Floyd's death), commented that the protest at the Commons was very well done, and that he was honored to be there to listen to the concern of the people in the community. He reached out to Crowder at the end of the gathering to discuss possible additional training for his officers.

There was a protest in Orinda June 6, and another much larger protest took place June 7 in Lafayette. The crowd of approximately 3,000 people squeezed onto Plaza Park to hear multiple speakers. Many more were crammed along both sides of Moraga Road and next to Safeway. A few Lafayette police officers, who kept a low profile during the event, kept the crowd spilling over onto Mt. Diablo Boulevard safe.

Several speakers, including Campolindo High School Counselor Patrick Turner, asked Lamorindans to imagine what it would be like to walk in their shoes, afraid for their lives when pulled over by police. They called for action and actual equality.

The event lasted over 3 hours and ended peacefully.

## Press Release

# Contra Costa to Reopen Outdoor Dining, Pools, Religious Services

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY'S ROAD AHEAD FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

DATE	OPENINGS	NOT CURRENTLY ALLOWED BY THE STATE
JUNE 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor dining</li> <li>Outdoor swimming pools</li> <li>Dog parks</li> <li>Outdoor religious services</li> <li>Overnight single family camping</li> </ul>	
JUNE 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hair salons</li> <li>Barber shops</li> </ul>	
JULY 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indoor dining</li> <li>Gyms &amp; fitness centers</li> <li>Limited indoor leisure (arcades, billiards, bowling alleys, etc.)</li> <li>Indoor museums</li> <li>Hotels (for tourism &amp; individual travel)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nonessential healing arts (massage, etc.)</li> <li>Other personal services (personal training, tattoo, permanent makeup, piercing &amp; nail salons)</li> </ul>
JULY/AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools, including primary, secondary &amp; higher education (contact your local school district for start date)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Movie theaters</li> <li>Basketball courts</li> <li>Playgrounds</li> </ul>

**4 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

- Social Distance
- Cover Your Face
- Enhance Hand Hygiene
- Stay Home if Sick

Submitted by Candace Andersen, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Contra Costa County residents may again enjoy outdoor swimming pools, outdoor seating at restaurants and dog parks under a new health officer order recently released.

The order, effective 5 p.m. June 5, also allows for outdoor religious services of up to 100 people, indoor religious services of up to 12 people, use of outdoor picnic and barbecue spaces, and overnight camping for people belonging to the same household.

Because of the progress made in the fight against COVID-19, Contra Costa health officers feel confident opening additional businesses and activities. The State of California has determined that while counties can move slower than state in reopening, they cannot move more quickly. The openings announced bring Contra Costa County in closer alignment to state guidelines. It also aligns with other Bay Area counties taking similar steps.

"We have made great progress slowing COVID-19 in our county," said Candace Andersen, chair of the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors. "I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to all who suffered and sacrificed to follow these health orders throughout this pandemic. I know it has not been easy. But you have helped save lives."

This order follows a modification earlier this week that allowed offices and many retail businesses to reopen and created guidance for small gatherings including people from different households.

Previous health orders requiring physical distancing and face coverings in public spaces remain in effect. Contra Costa residents should also continue to emphasize handwashing and other hygiene measures in their daily lives to reduce their risk of becoming infected.

"COVID-19 is still circulating in our community, and we need to take precautions to prevent outbreaks," said Dr. Chris Farnitano, the county health officer. "Another way we can keep ourselves and our families safe is to get tested, even if we feel well."

The new order includes guidance for safely conducting the newly permitted activities, including requirements for businesses. Details, including the full text of the order, are available at [cchealth.org/coronavirus](http://cchealth.org/coronavirus).



# Letters to the editor

## Orinda council ignoring residents

Orinda continues to proceed with its work on a Downtown Precise Plan, which is intended to add housing downtown by increasing density, despite a very recent survey showing that Orinda residents do not want more housing downtown. Orinda is doing so despite its statements that public feedback "will guide staff in the next steps" – statements that have now been exposed as false and misleading. The truth is that the public feedback is being ignored. Moreover, the DPP is costly, yet is proceeding despite a large revenue shortfall resulting from the pandemic. Work on the DPP should be stopped, and the funds budgeted for that work should be reallocated to higher priorities.

In the online "Downtown Orinda Survey" completed May 31, 2020, fewer than 29% of the 703 Orinda residents who responded were in favor of adding housing (including mixed use). Housing ranked only 5th overall among priorities. Sixteen of the 18 email submissions to the May 26, 2020 Joint Meeting of the Planning Commission and Downtown Planning Subcommittee (comprised of Councilmembers Miller and Kosla) opposed additional housing downtown. Indeed, the Planning Department is so desperate that it is now seeking to gin up support from school age children.

[https://nextdoor.com/news\\_feed/?post=150428833](https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=150428833) ("If you have school-aged children in Orinda, we would love to hear from them!") posted June 3, 2020.)

The DPP is an expensive project. Counting the expense of the many staff personnel working on it (five spoke at the Joint Meeting), the cost is at least \$1 million. Just in the last several weeks, the City has authorized consulting contracts totaling over \$300,000. Fortunately,

these contracts include a right to cancel without cause. The upcoming budget Mid-Cycle Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Update on June 16, 2020 will be an excellent opportunity to stop work on the DPP and to reallocate funds to things the public does want -- fire prevention and infrastructure -- consistent with the available money.

Nick Waranoff  
Orinda

### To Lauren Rodriguez – Wow

Your letter in the May 27th edition of the Lamorinda Weekly said more clearly and eloquently what I have been feeling than anything I could have come up with. Well done!

I've been having a series of passionate, fruitless, discussions with people who feel that they should be "free" to get a haircut (or some other trivial outing) regardless of the pandemic. From now on I think I'll just give them your letter.

Jeff Peacock  
Lafayette

### Planning Commission and City Council ignore financial warnings

As a long-term resident, strong supporter of downtown organic development, participant in the 3-year PPRTF (Planning Process Review Task Force), and past planning commissioner, I was surprised to see members of the planning commission basically ignore substantial public input that suggested now was not the appropriate time to move forward with significant expenditures for a "Downtown Precise" plan. Reference, "Joint Planning Commission/Downtown Planning sub committee," May 26, 2020.

Well hidden from the public in numerous ways, and including substantial misinformation, the downtown development plans in reality are based

on the Urban Land Institute's (ULI) recommendations that center on significant multi story condo/apartment development, which is necessary to meet economic goals of any large central development project. As ULI stated in their presentation, significant housing acts as the "value enhancer." Their presentation was based on six, five or six story buildings, at 40 units each, for a total of 240 units. Deniers can argue this is not the "Precise Plan," but fundamental financial development objectives require something very similar, and eventually these goals will be clear to the public.

Whether you agree or disagree with Organic Development (code compliant), vs. centralized multi-story condo/apartment development (non code compliant, 50' or 60' building heights, or more), now is not the time to divert the city's limited budget to yet more planning/code changing studies, involving substantial expenditures. It would seem, given the circumstances, that fire prevention, fuel mitigation, fire breaks, debris cleanup and other considerations, would be a far higher priority and a more appropriate use of our limited funds (already projected at \$1,000,000+ shortfall), as many residents recommended.

There is a history of asking for public input and then ignoring or discounting the public's input or even being told, we are wrong. It would be an interesting change to see if our local government (City management, Council, Commission, etc.) listen to and act on what the majority of residents want.

Chris Kniel  
Orinda

### A shout out for fuel reduction

We appreciate having the Lamorinda Weekly. It is a valuable resource which helps us keep up with local issues and opinions. Thank you! On April 29 we

attended a Zoom meeting of the Moraga Orinda Fire District Board for the first time. We were aware of the formation of a committee between the Orinda City Council and the MOFD Board (as well as possibly the Moraga Town Council) to elevate the priority of the critical issue of fuel reduction. We were interested in how prioritization of wildfire prevention might be demonstrated in the discussion and actions of the Board. That evening there was Mayor Gee and Council member Dennis Fay in attendance along with unprecedented numbers of residents who expressed their community support for this prioritization of efforts and funding for wildfire prevention on all fronts. Other topics discussed that evening were covered in the recent issue of the Lamorinda Weekly but not the key, very important Board decisions that reflected an interest in wildfire prevention. Definitely a noteworthy part of the meeting and deserving of a shout out.

Kathie Bain and Andy Norrell  
Orinda

### Orinda's downtown planning efforts

The state is pushing all communities to help address the housing shortage and all communities, including Orinda should tailor their response to that pressure to create the most advantageous outcome for current as well as future residents. Orinda's downtown planning effort affords us the opportunity to address this in a thoughtful way. We should build on the community that we have, hopefully enticing others who love what Orinda is and want to add to it. There are many reasons

why Orinda should be excited to welcome more people to live in our downtown.

Firstly, housing downtown greatly supports downtown vitality, helping to maintain a greater offering of shops and restaurants.

Second, many community members want an alternative to single-family housing. There are empty-nesters looking to downsize, families or individuals with a change of circumstance, those wanting a more walkable lifestyle, and those in the "boomerang" generation who grew up here and wish to return. Allowing for our community to remain intact, to sustain our social fabric and build upon that is a good that the city should promote.

Third, the Orinda School District has expressed the need to get creative in ways to compensate teachers given limited funds. The most impactful way to do this would be to provide housing dedicated to district teachers. The city should partner with the school board in achieving that goal.

Lastly, as developers include a percentage of below-market-rate units, the city should encourage units that suit the needs of families with school-aged children. There is no greater good that the city has to offer than access to our excellent schools and the schools have the room for it. They are expected to remain under-capacity in the most recent school board projections. Young families who value education are a great fit for this community and would add to our city.

I'm excited to see Orinda grow in this way.

Arran Schultz  
Orinda

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



## Thank You for Supporting LPIE

Thank you for Supporting LPIE. With our LPIE Rock the Yacht Power Party event moving to an online auction, the generosity of our in-kind business donors, parents and community members resulted in a successful fundraising effort for LPIE.

### A BIG THANK YOU to our LPIE Power Party Event Sponsors!

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## With Parks and Rec revenue gone, Orinda furloughs some staff

... continued from Page A6

The elimination of one half-time position will save an additional \$58,000 for fiscal year 2020-21, and an additional \$65,000 will be saved by foregoing a 3% cost of living adjustment for other non-represented employees. The current salary schedule will continue without change for the unrepresented employees.

Orinda has 36 regular employees. Of those, 19 are represented by the Teamsters Union and they are

currently in formal negotiations with the city. A second group consists of 17 managers and mid-managers, who are unrepresented. City Manager Steve Salomon is subject to a contract for which salary and benefit adjustments are made in the same manner as for the unrepresented employee group.

The city manager noted that the changes will impact individuals as well as service delivery. He suggested that the council should be open to new initiatives, given the

reduction in staffing. However, if recreation programs and facility rentals rebound, the furlough could be adjusted in future months to respond to changing operational needs. The city manager has been authorized to make additional adjustments to the unrepresented employee personnel policies when employees are assigned to a furlough status and report to the city council any material changes. The changes made by the city council are not intended to set a precedent.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.  
Send a letter to the editor: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)

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# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Some struggles, many silver linings for families at home



The Cook-Wolf/Harris pod, from left: Cathy Harris, Ellie Cook, Maura Wolf, Riley Harris, Richard Harris, and Bodhi Harris.

Photo provided

### By Sophie Braccini

For over two months families with young children in Lamorinda, like in many places all over the planet, have been forced to pivot and adapt to new dynamics and new ways to teach their children. The routine disruption was hard at first for the little ones. It was particularly challenging for students with special needs. But after several weeks, new social and emotional skills emerged, coping mechanisms developed, and as parents prepare for the summer, some of the new-found habits should be here to stay.

Carrie Rodrigues, a parent of a first- and third-grader at Burton Valley Elementary School, found it very hard to see her children struggle during the first few weeks of the confinement. "There were a lot of tears and tantrums," she remembered. As a school psychologist for the Piedmont schools she also saw how many parents struggled to get their own kids to work. "Some parents were thriving," she said, "but most were struggling, having to cope with major disruption of their work, while the children exhibited more worries, anxiety, and refusal."

Maura Wolf, who lives in Moraga, teaches leadership at Saint Mary's College and co-leads the startup Next Move, found herself with more work during the last two months while having her two children at home: a teenager and a fourth-grader. Her strategy was to get up very early in the morning, get work done before the children got up, and not engage with them between 7 and 11 p.m. Wolf, her husband and the children decided to live in a pod with their longtime next-door friends, the Harrises, which provided support on many levels.

Rodrigues noted that our high achieving culture led some parents to feel they were failing, and becoming hard on themselves. As an early-intervention specialist, she acknowledged that the time was particularly hard for special needs children. "Parents were concerned that their child was already behind and that valuable time was lost," she said. Some were faced with difficult behaviors at home and for them it was now 24/7, with no respite.

Dr. David Matz, a Lafayette psychologist who continued to see clients on Zoom, confirmed that he saw a wide range of situations, with, for the most part, people

adapting quickly. "What does not kill us makes us stronger," he said. He discussed the feeling of loss of control with some parents, and helped them recognize what they still had control over. Matz believes that this sort of hardship can be good for kids, if provided with the warmth and the confidence they need.

And indeed, many silver linings began to shine through. Several parents enjoyed discovering their children's learning styles. Rodrigues noticed her son needed movement to learn and used a standing desk and a little treadmill for him. Moraga dad Gary Hill took over rapidly and happily the teacher's role for his third-grader, understanding the way his son Luca's brain works and embracing the process. The Cook-Wolf and Harris' pod became institutionalized for both parents and children as they pooled their resources.

Working with the Orinda Union School District, Mindful Littles provided weekly lessons to third-graders to support the emotional health of the children. Lisa Sadikman who is one of the group's leaders used mindfulness practices at home, focusing on breath practices, using it as an anchor to find peace within, teaching her daughter to recognize emotions and feelings, and how to regulate them.

Gary Hill's wife, Joanna, who is a family therapist, talked about opening up to the many feelings adults as well as children were having. "When I have the opportunity to shed tears, I take it," she said, "When kids need to express frustration, I encourage it. They rebound quickly, as do I."

Most everyone said that one of the biggest benefits they rediscovered over the last two months was the healing power of nature. "What can we find in our environment to anchor us?" asked Rodrigues. "The tree outside, the feel of the wind. There is an opportunity to reorient and see clearly what is in front of us." Matz added that this slowing down might be an opportunity for some to reevaluate life choices.

The desire to embrace a slower pace was also expressed by parents who feel grateful to have dropped many of their social commitments. Sadikman, who used to say yes to everything, appreciated the break. She said she became more connected and attuned to her children and wanted to continue being that way. J. Hill on the other end decided to practice self-

compassion and forgiveness for the times when she was not perfect at every aspects of parenting.

There were many silver linings from the children's perspective as well. They enjoyed eating lunch with their parents, getting done earlier with school, having free time with family – playing board games, video games and spending more time with siblings. Some discovered new skills such as Riley Harris who created an online business reading to K and first-graders. Wolf said her children got much better at self-managing their lives, and expanded their digital media skills.

Parents are now entering a different summer. Rodrigues recommends high achievers not to worry about next year. She believes that students will be assessed and supported when returning to school. Educators will also focus on the emotional health of the children and practice "trauma-informed-education" – something almost no one has ever dealt with before. The recommendation for the summer is to just read 30 minutes a day, and include a lot of fun, creative and unstructured play, taking the pressure off. "This is an opportunity to get back to free play, the teachers will make up for the lost learning," Rodrigues concluded.

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## 'Papicha' – when women fight for their freedom

By Sophie Braccini

The film now available online through the International Film Showcase is the autobiographically inspired story of Algerian director Mounia Meddour. Set in the 1990s during Algerian "Black Decade," the movie portrays a group of pretty young women (Papicha: the friendly slang word for these girls) who refuse to conform to the tightening grip of Muslim fundamentalism, literally risking their lives as a result. "Papicha" is a beautiful compilation, sometimes tragic, also full of warmth and humor, about women's solidarity and complicity in the face of adversity.

Nedjma, 18, is a student living in a university girls-only dorm. She dreams of becoming a recognized fashion stylist. At night, she escapes from the locked-up dorm with her friends to go to the night clubs where she sells her creations to the papichas. Meanwhile the political situation is worsening, daily bombings

kill bystanders, and religious rigorism becomes more prevalent and threatening. Nedjma and her friends decide to defy all the rules to organize a catwalk show.

Deliberately paced, the film follows a variety of powerful and suspenseful events. Lyna Khoudri and Shirine Boutella as the two main rebellious papichas play their part very convincingly.

With this first full-length movie, Meddour denounces the religious fundamentalism's oppression of the woman's body with power and anger.

Meddour left her country in 1996 with her parents, fleeing the Islamist oppression that threatened her father. Like the girls in the movie, she lived in a dorm in Alger when the terrorist attacks exploded everywhere. She said in an interview that she remembers that when a woman wanted to be free and beautiful, she could lose her life.

The movie is a hymn to all the Algerian women who, as Meddour describes them,

have always resisted adversity. It shows a feminine world of solidarity and support, compassion and tolerance. Set in a time of unrest, it includes some violent scenes.

"Papicha" was presented at the Cannes Film Festival in 2019 where it was awarded the Best First Feature Film award, and the Best Arab Narrative Film at the El Gouna Film Festival in Egypt. The film was to represent Algeria at the Oscars. But the current regime refused to let the movie be distributed in Algeria (a condition to be included in the selection). Meddour, who now lives in France, said she was saddened by the exclusion, but that the movie secretly makes the rounds in her country of origin, and that it is what counts.

To view the movie, access it this month on the internet through the International Film Showcase website (<http://internationalshowcase.org/>) using the Chrome platform (viewers using Firefox reported difficulty accessing the movie).

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## 2020 writing contest winners announced

By Sora O'Doherty

Four high school students will be awarded \$500 each as winners of the 2020 Poul Anderson writing contest underwritten by the Friends of the Orinda Library. Six students were also awarded honorable mentions for their entries.

Two of the four prize winners also won the contest last year: Audrey Lambert and Julia Lima. This year Lambert won for her entry, "Ode to Grandma's House" in the Essay/Memoir/Biography category, and Lima also won in that category for her piece, "Dear Class of 2020." The other two winners are Sophia Kofoed, for her poem, "Al-

abaster Skulls" and Emma Leibowitz, for her short story, "That Night."

Five of the six honorable mentions were awarded to Miramonte students and one to Matthew Muren of Orinda Academy, who took honorable mention for his poem, "The Light." Honorable mentions were awarded for short stories to Eloise Anagnost, "The Curse of Chance" and Casey Marriner, "Not Good Enough." Two entries in the Science Fiction/Fantasy category won honorable mentions: Laura Boifort for "Invisibility" and Emma Leibowitz for "Conversations with Satan." Jenna Foster also took honorable mention for her poem, "Run-

ning Through the Neighborhood."

The writing contest is named in memory of Orinda resident Poul Anderson, a popular science fiction writer of over 80 books. Open to all Orinda high school students, the contest recognizes winning entries selected by a panel of judges who are involved professionally in reading, writing, or publishing. This year's contest was judged by Sally Hogarty, executive editor of Orinda News; Campolindo librarian Sarah Morgan; Glorietta librarian and author Anne Lowell; and Elizabeth Perlman, founder of the Intuitive Writing Project.

The winning entries can be read on the Friends of the Orinda Library website: <http://friendsoftheorindalibrary.org/2020/06/01/2020-writing-contest-winners-announced/>

## A small return to normal



Photos Sora O'Doherty



With Contra Costa health orders being relaxed, allowing for more businesses to reopen, and small groups to gather while keeping social distancing and wearing face coverings when warranted, a Danville couple enjoyed takeout from Siam Thai on the Orinda Library terraces while other local residents gathered at Loard's Ice Cream for a cool treat.

– S. O'Doherty

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# A perfect pairing in this super summertime dessert



Dark Chocolate Pistachio Butter Cups

Photo Susie Iventosch

## By Susie Iventosch

One day my son decided to pick up the ingredients to make dark chocolate pistachio butter cups. That sounded like a great idea to me! He loves Trader Joe's Dark Chocolate Almond Butter Cups, and since we all really love pistachios, he thought it might be a fun experiment. What's not to love ... dark chocolate, pistachios and sea salt? Plus it's a fun project for the family to do in the kitchen. They turned out so well that we recently made our second batch. They make a fun dessert to bring to a party and they keep really well in the freezer until you're ready to eat them. In fact,

we eat them frozen and they are really great that way – nice and cold for hot summer days! We made ours in mini muffin tins with liners so they are easy to get out of the pan.

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



## Dark Chocolate Pistachio Butter Cups

(Makes about 20 -24 mini muffin size cups)  
**INGREDIENTS**  
 12 ounces bittersweet or dark chocolate (Trader Joe's Dark Chocolate bar or Ghirardelli Dark 60% Cacao Chocolate Chips)  
 1 cup unsalted, roasted pistachios  
 4 teaspoons pistachio oil (La Tourangelle packages this), or almond oil  
 1/2 teaspoon sea salt

**DIRECTIONS**  
 Line two mini muffin tins with paper liners and lightly spray with cooking spray. Set aside.

Melt the chocolate in a small saucepan. Spoon enough chocolate to cover the bottoms of the muffin liners with a thin layer of chocolate. Freeze until firm.

Meanwhile, purée pistachios in food processor until very fine and getting mushy. Add enough oil to form a thick paste. Using a round half teaspoon measuring spoon or small melon baller, form pistachio butter into small balls and slightly flatten into a disc that will almost fill the width of the muffin tins, allowing a little room around the edge to pour the final chocolate shell. Chill until firm.

Place pistachio discs on top of the chocolate bottom in the muffin tins. Spoon remaining melted chocolate (you may need to re-melt the chocolate) over the pistachio filling, allowing the chocolate to completely cover the top and sides of the pistachio butter. Freeze or chill for about 10 minutes and then bring them out of the refrigerator and sprinkle the sea salt over the top. I actually just use my Himalayan pink salt grinder for this part, grinding a little salt over the top of each pistachio cup. Place back in the refrigerator or freezer until the chocolate is completely firm. Store in the refrigerator or freezer in an airtight container until ready to serve.



La Tourangelle Pistachio Oil is available at Diablo Foods in Lafayette.

# What will colleges look like in the fall?

## By Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D.

When asked about the impacts of COVID-19 on college campuses, University of Virginia's President, Jim Ryan, nailed it in a recent Face the Nation interview: "College campuses are difficult and challenging places for contagious viruses." Soon after, as if to verify this statement, the California State University system announced that classes at its 23 campuses would largely take place online. While colleges and universities nationwide are agonizing over whether they can safely welcome students back to campus in the fall or figure out how to offer a robust educational experience online, the overarching issue for school is their long-term financial viability.

Refunds for unused housing and dining plans account for the bulk of losses so far. For example, University of California President Janet Napolitano wrote in a letter to Gov. Gavin Newsom, "UC has already lost hundreds of millions in housing and dining revenue from students choosing to leave campuses, and anticipates losing more revenue by the end of the spring term." Making matter worse, some public colleges and universities are starting to see their budgets cut with surprising speed, as states reckon with the economic fallout of the pandemic. And, unlike bailouts for airlines and the

cruise ship industry, the rescue plan for colleges presently looks bleak.

Faced with these challenges, the next pressing concern for colleges, especially those already financially stressed, is 'If we open, will they come?' The answer is 'It depends.' COVID-19 and its trajectory will impact different types of college systems in different ways, and school size, its location and surrounding community's population density will each play a role in what schools decide to do. Take, for example, large public state universities like Georgia Tech, UC Berkeley and University of Michigan that are popular with both in- and out-of-state students. Aside from revenue losses, these systems may face political pressures to keep resident tuition and fees low.

Some states may also insist that their public universities offer more residents seats in their freshman and transfer classes. If that happens, to compensate, public universities could raise tuition and fees to non-residents and give them lower priority for scholarships. In this case it is likely that many families of non-resident students, especially those who are experiencing financial stresses, will look for a better offer from a private college or opt to attend their home-state university. This will have a domino effect by compounding the fiscal viability of public university systems.

Large public state universities with honors colleges may fare better in terms of student enrollment, especially those that are more geographically isolated. Honors colleges offer the academic experience of traditional liberal arts colleges – small classes, faculty attention and undergraduate research opportunities – but at a lower price tag and with the social and cultural benefits of that make larger schools so popular with high school students. Certain rural state university systems, like those in Louisiana and Iowa, are making plans to open in the fall. University of Iowa, for example, states that 90% of their student body is under 35 years of age and at lower risk of serious COVID complications. Still, these universities face challenges like protecting older faculty and keeping staff and students with underlying health conditions safe.

In contrast to large public universities, small liberal arts colleges as well as mid-sized private research universities will have different challenges with enrollment. Built around a residential campus experience, if forced to teach remotely in some capacity, these colleges will lose the unique quality that gives them their competitive advantage. The most highly ranked and well-endowed colleges, like Harvard and MIT, may offer incentives to make it worthwhile to enroll, including tuition and fee reductions, but

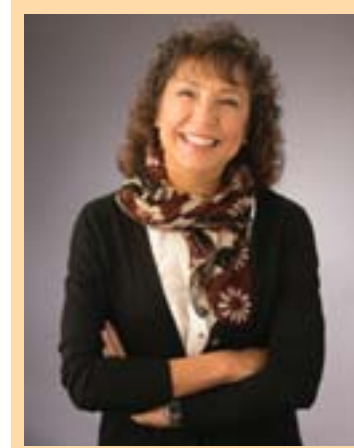
less selective colleges with fewer resources may be forced to close their doors or combine with other colleges in order to stay solvent.

Here are two concrete California college examples, one public and one private:

One of California's most popular and selective CSU campuses, San Diego State University announced the "SDSU Flex" plan, which will offer certain lab, art studio, and performance-based courses in person, including clinical offerings required for licensure, while offering lecture-based instruction via virtual modalities. They are investing in training faculty to adapt coursework instruction to enhance student engagement and success using online modalities. Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles announced that they are working to bring students back on campus on time in August for in-person instruction, likely ending the semester at Thanksgiving break, creating a January term for mostly online classes, and starting the second semester the first week of February. Staggered class schedules are also being considered.

Beyond California, some schools plan to open in the fall but offer another remote semester while others expect to offer in-person instruction with social distancing regulations in place. I believe most will plan on some sort of remote learning component, possibly just for large lectures,

and offer students and faculty a choice between classroom and online instruction. Some universities, like Penn State and Arizona State already have a time tested, well-tuned capacity to offer online degrees, however, the capabilities of other schools vary greatly. More college plans for fall should be announced by the end of June.



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

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## AAUW-OML awards scholarships to local students



Sophia Kofoed

### Submitted by Marielle Boortz

Since 1978, AAUW-OML (American Association of University Women-Orinda Moraga Lafayette Branch) has supported education of young women in the community by awarding college scholarships.

Since 1998, AAUW-OML has encouraged girls to study and pursue careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) subjects by awarding scholarships for local middle school students to attend the AAUW Tech Trek weeklong summer camp for girls entering eighth grade. And in 2016 AAUW-OML began holding an annual one-day STEM Conference for middle school girls.



Marielle Riesner-Hansson

AAUW-OML recently awarded its 2020 college and Tech Trek scholarships to local students. The awardees were chosen based on the applications they submitted, each with a written essay, and in-person interviews conducted by members of the AAUW-OML Scholarship or Tech Trek Committee.

AAUW-OML awarded college scholarships to four graduating high school seniors: Sophia Kofoed (Miramonte), Marielle Riesner-Hansson (Acalanes), Lynn Wolfe (Acalanes) and Kate Ye (Campolindo). Kofoed and Ye each received \$2,000 scholarships. Riesner-Hansson and Wolfe each received \$1,000 scholarships, splitting the \$2,000 AAUW-OML awarded for an Acalanes High School student.



Lynn Wolfe

The selection criteria for the college scholarships are academic excellence, community service and leadership. The four college scholarship winners are excellent students and have demonstrated leadership and helped others through community service:

Riesner-Hansson is lead Teen Wild Guide at the Oakland Zoo and volunteers at the Moraga Veterinary Hospital and Hospice East Bay thrift shops. Riesner-Hansson will attend University of Nevada, Reno.

Wolfe is Acalanes' Asian American Club president and member of the Acalanes High School Equity Board. She also worked with the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation on a documentary about



Kate Ye

Photos provided

life in WWII internment camps and for the Oakland Asian Cultural Center she documented artifacts created by Japanese Americans in internment camps. Wolfe will attend University of California, Davis.

Kofoed created the Brain Safety Alliance Committee and has advocated locally, regionally, and nationally for requiring that helmets be worn in women's lacrosse. She also participated in the Miramonte High School Peer Mentoring Program, Link Crew, Public Speaking and Debate Club. Kofoed will attend Saint Mary's College of California.

Ye (a violin player) founded the Music for the Soul nonprofit organization and with the other students in the group played concerts in senior

homes and at fundraising events (e.g., for Children's Hospital and California wildfire relief). She also founded the Campolindo High School badminton team and is communications director of Campolindo Peer Tutoring. Ye will attend University of California, Berkeley.

In addition to receiving the AAUW-OML college scholarships, Kofoed and Wolfe participated in AAUW STEM programs: Tech Trek camp and the AAUW-OML STEM Conference.

The Branch selected seven girls to attend Tech Trek camp: Camille Bradley, Helena Linnen and Bea Dean (Stanley MS); Vivian Tolajian and Georgia Stankus (Joaquin Moraga IS); Deya Murthy and Emma Wong (Orinda IS).

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 situation, AAUW-OML was not able to hold its annual awards event to honor these young women together and the 2020 AAUW Tech Trek camp and STEM Conference were canceled. AAUW-OML delivered certificates and flowers along with the checks to each college scholarship winner. For the selected Tech Trek campers, AAUW-OML provided each with a list of STEM resources and activities that they could pursue in lieu of the Tech Trek camp experience.

## Daughters of American Revolution sponsors kids' poster contest

### Submitted by Mary Carrillo

The national society Daughters of the American Revolution – an organization for women 18 years and over who can prove they are directly descended from American Revolutionary soldiers, sailors or patriots – is sponsoring a kids' poster contest with the theme of the United

States Constitution.

The poster should be an original design illustrating the spirit or meaning of the United States Constitution, size 11 by 17 inches with no raised surfaces, and must display "Constitution Week September 17-23" somewhere on the poster. The deadline for submission is Aug. 4. Each person may send up to two entries. Guidelines for judging

are: originality (1-15 points), followed rules for design (1-10 points), adherence to subject (1-10 points), organization of material (1-10 points), correct spelling and punctuation (1-10 points), grammar (1-10 points), historical accuracy (1-25 points).

Anyone of any age may enter and everyone who enters has an opportunity to compete nationally (DAR

Acalanes chapter will send the posters in for national judging). The DAR Acalanes chapter is additionally giving a \$100 prize for the winning poster from entries of children and students under 18 years of age. Please include contact information – name, address, phone and email, age, grade and school – on the entry form for this DAR, Acalanes chapter contest. For

consideration for national entry, each entry must include "By Signing below, I grant permission to the National Society to reproduce my entry for sale and I further state that I created the original design" and your signature, or if under 18, your parent's or guardian's signature.

Entries should be sent to Mary Carrillo, 30 Manzanita Terrace, Orinda.

## St. Perpetua students give back through food drive



Photo Sean Sabarese

Campbell Sabarese, K.C. Sabarese, and Hunter Sabarese

### Submitted by Britt Strottman and Lindsay Hanover

St. Perpetua School in Lafayette, whose motto is "Be the Good," had the privilege of giving back to the community by participating in Monument Crisis Center's food drive this spring during an unprecedented time of need. Families donated non-perishable items, such as pasta, cereal, household essentials and canned food to the center from

the end of March through the remainder of the school year. Lines at Monument Crisis Center were wrapped around the building when the school delivered food donations. It was a meaningful opportunity for the students and their families to look beyond themselves and serve their community.

Monument Crisis Center is a family resource center that provides food, education and referrals to individuals, families, children and seniors in need. They partner with local

organizations to provide resources and services to the community and ensure that 4,000 people don't grow hungry each month. "I am so proud of our school community! While we were trying to adjust to learning academics from home, the best lesson we could teach our children is to assist those in need," said St. Perpetua Principal Karen Goodshaw.

## In Memory

### Dale K. Filipas

May 27, 1949 - May 16, 2020, Resident of Moraga



Dale Kathleen Filipas passed away on May 16, after a brave eight-month-long battle with Lymphoma. She was born and raised in San Francisco to Lily and David Wong. She graduated from University of California, Berkeley in 1971 and married the love of her life Richard J. Filipas in 1972.

Dale was a tireless and dedicated teacher for 35 years. She taught at Mission High School for 10 years and taught preschool for the remainder of her career so she could also be with her four children. Dale and Richard had a collaborative and caring relationship based on mutual support and a deep love for each other. She was highly involved in her children's lives and Dale had the ability to

manage and balance her time between all of her children. Dale's energy was boundless, and in her retirement she helped care for all nine of her grandchildren.

Dale was talented and knowledgeable in so many things – sewing, knitting, and crafts. Her true passion was cooking and was always trying new recipes as well as mastering the recipes of her late mother-in-law. Her kitchen was the heart of her home and the setting for most family gatherings and Sunday dinners. Her welcoming and warm personality made these gatherings for friends and family special and will be missed by all. Dale loved watching a good baseball game and was an avid SF Giants fan.

Dale is survived by her loving husband, Richard, and her devoted children Kim Thompson (Ryan), Stefanie Sosnowski (Piotr), Robert Filipas (Aimee) and Joanne Verrips (Justin), grandchildren Jack, Olivia, Isabella, Alexa, Emma, Lilianna, Alessandra, Emilia, Otto and sister Christine Lee (James). In lieu of flowers, donations to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society are appreciated.

## Boy Scout Troop creates Birthday Buddies for Aegis



### Submitted by Karen Boccabella

Initially created to be summer program during the shelter-in-place order, Ben Boccabella, with the support of his Boy Scout Troop 237 in Orinda, organized Birthday Buddies for Aegis in Moraga. Having so much fun, however, the troop may extend the program throughout the year. The troop wanted to lift spirits of the residents of this assisted living center in Moraga during this challenging time. Scouts have been adopting a resident on their special day and dropping off birthday bags filled with decorations or flowers to make SIP a little brighter. Troop 237 has a long history of volunteering within the community.

Photo provided

Benjamin Boccabella, Boy Scout in Troop 237 of Orinda and recent eighth-grade graduate from St. Perpetua School in Lafayette.

### Community Service:

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



◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER

**Experience Native Ways:** Online Morning Camp. An experiential immersion into Native name choosing, tool making, art, and dwelling “building,” using simulated materials, all coming alive within the accompaniment of music and story. Ages 7-13. July 20-23, 9:30-noon. Cost: \$50. On Zoom. Details/register: www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org

**Sustainability Live Show on Local Food Systems:** Who, What, and How You Can Help from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 24. What does it mean to have a local food system? How can we help the most at-risk members of our community during this time? Join us over Zoom with special guests from White Pony Express, Loaves & Fishes, The Urban Farmers, and the Food Bank

of Contra Costa and Solano! Register at sustainablecoco.org/tv.

**Free Seminar for Young Adults:** Finding Motivation & Navigating Uncertainty. Moraga-based Next Move, with the support of the Moraga Community Foundation, is offering a free 4-week virtual seminar for young adults, ages 18-29, who are facing unexpected changes in their summer or future plans. Finding Motivation & Navigating Uncertainty will run for four consecutive weeks, beginning Wednesday at 7 p.m. June 24, and running through July 15. An information session is offered at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 18. To learn more, visit: www.nextmovenetwork.com/virtualevent.

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is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA 26,600 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

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**Photos:** Tod Fierner, Gint Federas  
**Layout/Graphics:** Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.  
**Mailing address:** Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133  
Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 925-263-9223; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com  
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## Filling the sports void for Lamorinda athletes



West Temkin



Nick Kresnak

Photos Gint Federas

### By Jon Kingdon

It's been a particularly topsy-turvy spring, particularly for high school students who were quarantined and forced to take their classes online, and with the cessation of all spring sports.

This spring was supposed to be a capstone to a great athletic career for Nick Kresnak, a graduating senior at Acalanes who will be attending the University of Washington in the fall and will be on their baseball team. With the Dons baseball team starting the season off 3-0-1, things came to a sudden halt. "We got a call from our athletic director and had to stop in the middle of practice," said Kresnak. "We just packed up and went home and that was the last time we were on a baseball field. We never thought it would last for the remainder of the season."

The Campolindo baseball

team which had begun the season with a 4-0 record, saw their season conclude the same way it did for Acalanes, said head coach Max Luckhurst: "It was on Friday, March 13th. We were about to start practice and they told us to shut it down immediately. When the season was officially canceled, I felt really bad for the seniors. We had a great group of kids."

The Campolindo community did what they could to acknowledge the senior players. On what would have been the last home game, parents had the seniors come on the field one-by-one for 15 minutes where they had their pictures taken with their banner and their moms so they could have these memories down the road, said Luckhurst. "Besides that, we did have a 'parking lot pickup' with social distancing for the kids to pick up their stuff which allowed the coaches to say goodbye." There are optimistic

plans for various types of summer baseball. "At this point, it's not going to be a game setting," Luckhurst said. "It will be more like workouts with 12 or fewer players with social distancing just to get the kids out there, throwing a baseball, batting and running."

West Temkin, an upcoming junior at Campolindo, is a goalie on the Cougars water polo team that won the NCS this past fall. At this point in the year he would normally be practicing with the Contra Costa United team which, said Temkin, "is one of the best teams and we were really preparing for a tournament called the junior Olympics, and were odds on to win it, but it was canceled which I was pretty sad about."

Though group training is not available at this time, Temkin has taken it upon himself to find a way to maintain his personal training by going to Aquatic Park in San Francisco for morning

swims. "I've been driving in with Marcus Longton (a Campolindo graduate who is on the USC water polo team). It's open swimming in the bay and it's not too crowded. I've been able to fit it in with my video classes at Campolindo."

Club teams have long been an essential tool in the development for so many athletes during their school team's off-seasons. Kim Everist, Campolindo's head coach for the girl's water polo team and a coach for Lamorinda Water Polo Club, has been equally frustrated at the suspension of her club team.

To maintain contact with their swimmers, Guy Baker and Bill Brown of the Lamorinda Water Polo Club responded within 48 hours of the shutdown to set up a home water polo program on Zoom for the club, said Everist. "We began a training program consisting of dry land training and water polo training along with a speaker series and with practical

training sessions."

As a coach, the quarantine is as tough on Everist as it has been on the players: "It has been a shock to my system being unable to coach. We miss the kids a ton and having those connections. It's become an alternate universe only being able to provide training in conversations via the internet. We may be getting pool access in June and will be following the guidelines set by the Lamorinda school districts to create a safe program for the kids related to all the COVID guidelines. We are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel and we're excited at hopefully seeing the kids soon and getting back into the pool regardless of whatever that looks like."

The Acalanes girls volleyball head coach Haley Walsh has also taken advantage of the current technology in lieu of having any spring or summer workouts:

... continued on Page C2

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## Madi Risch spikes her way to the University of Pennsylvania



Madi Risch

Photo Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

With so many different sports available in Lamorinda, it was volleyball that captured Madi Risch's interest, first as a 10-year-old beginning at LMYA and then playing for four different clubs, beginning with Vibe at the age of 12, NorCal Volleyball Club, Absolute and at 16 joining the Xcelleration Volleyball Club. With two older brothers who played football and rugby through high school and her father who also played rugby at UC Davis, Risch found her aggressive outlet through Tae Kwon Do where she earned a black belt.

Blessed with above average height from the beginning, "I've always been taller until my sophomore year," volleyball was a natural avenue for Risch to pursue. Yet it was more the overall aspects of the sport that drew her in. "It's such a team sport and it really depends upon the dynamic of the team," Risch said. "You really have to trust your teammates and bond with them to have a successful team. You play so many different positions in volleyball

and I just love the competitive nature of the sport."

As a four year starter at Acalanes, Risch was a two-time team captain and MVP, three-time first team all-Diablo Valley League, 2018 AAU Academic All-American Award winner, Scholar-Athlete Award winner all four years at Acalanes, CIF President's List all four years of high school and a member of the 2016 state championship team.

Risch is quick to share the credit for her accomplishments with many people, particularly her family: "My parents (Bill and Melody) and my brothers (Steven and Connor) were my number one fans which allowed me to go to late night practices, go to tournaments and discover my passion for the sport."

Next year at the University of Pennsylvania, Risch will be playing for a different coach for the third straight year. As a junior at Acalanes, she was coached by Ernie Rodriguez who she looks back on with great respect: "He taught me the power of believing in myself and he always had my back regardless of what the score was and it

led me to pursue the sport so intensely."

Risch also singled out Ian Schroder, the former club director at Xcelleration where she has played since she was 16: "He took me under his wing and allowed me to practice with the 18-year-olds after my team's practice. He was always my number one believer and he really inspired me to go full force with the sport."

As a senior at Acalanes, Risch had a unique relationship with the head coach, Haley Glass (now Walsh). Risch competed against Glass in open gyms as a player at Xcelleration. Knowing that Risch had already committed to attend Penn, Glass took a long-term approach to her coaching Risch: "Knowing that she was going to be playing at a Division I school, I tried to push her very hard. Madi was great at taking everything I had to offer. She did a great job in fighting through the adversity with that goal in mind. Even with her height (5'11"), Madi is very fluid with her motion and is a great back row player. She also brings a high volleyball IQ to the game, being able to anticipate what

her opponent was going to do."

The practices led by Glass left little behind for the players. "Haley brought in a new coaching style, incorporating a lot of competition within practice to keep everyone motivated," said Risch. "Every practice felt like a healthy competition, but you knew you needed to perform if you wanted to play in the games. She was honest with us and gave a lot of feedback and we would leave the gym feeling we had a big workout and accomplished a lot."

Starting as a freshman on a state championship team was a great stepping-stone to the rest of her high school career for Risch: "It was such a tremendous opportunity to join such a competitive team both athletically and academically."

One of the seniors on that team, Parker Jones, will be renewing her relationship with Risch as she will be a senior this year on the Penn volleyball team: "In high school, Parker was a big inspiration to me. I saw her on my visit to Penn. Though there was no connection between me and her going there, I'm excited to play on the same team with her again."

The University of Pennsylvania was always Risch's first choice and she is looking forward to studying at a school on the East Coast.

Penn's head coach Meredith Schuman was only hired three months ago but has studied Risch's play on video tape and has met with her and her teammates on Zoom on a weekly basis: "Madi has things that she can do in the front and back row and has a good arm. She is a solid stabilizing player that does not have highs and lows. She is highly organized, put together and poised which translates into her game because she is good in her areas of the court and all-round as well. Madi will fit in as a good outsider that can swing on both pins for us. She is a natural leader in her class because she is very mature, and I think that she is one who will come in and push the upperclassmen hard from day

one."

Risch has already become a fan of Schuman through Zoom: "You can tell she is so passionate about the sport. She has been amazing and proactive in communicating with the team, giving us fun little tasks so that the team can bond and get to know each other. I will be starting as an outside hitter with an open mind that wherever she puts me on the court, I'm going to do my best."

It's more than athletics that enabled Risch to be accepted to an Ivy League college. It's the intangibles as highlighted by Schuman and the academics which required a great effort and more than a little sacrifice, according to Risch: "It took a lot to keep up my grades, missing time hanging out with my friends, missing birthday parties or just a lot of milestones that teenagers have. I made a lot of sacrifices but as an athlete you learn to time manage and to have a schedule and, I would not procrastinate and I would do a lot of communicating with my teachers if I needed help to get something done on time. I really tried to make use of each minute that I had every single day to ensure that I would not be overwhelmed and bombarded with too much work."

With all this, Risch was still involved in many areas of high school: "I was in leadership all four years led by Katherine Walton which had a tremendous impact on me as a leader in the community. I was also in the environmental club and was a care leader, helping to lead workshops on equity and racial inequality at school."

Risch's final advice to all the underclassmen: "Time flies by and if you don't embrace each and every moment that you have, you will look back with regret, so take advantage of every opportunity and connect with the people around you. Pursue what you want wholeheartedly and with a passion. Believe in your hustle and not your luck. Hard work will never fail you at the end of the day."

## Filling the sports void for Lamorinda athletes



Nick Marnell at bat.

Photo provided

... continued from Page C1

"We have been having virtual workouts and lessons for our players which began in May. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, we lead them through a workout for 30 minutes and then we have a skills workout for 30 minutes. Mastering these skills now, our players will already be familiar with our strategy and technique so we can save 10-20 minutes at practice. At that

point, with we can just play and focus on implementing those skills."

The coronavirus has made things particularly difficult for Adam Cooper, the head coach for the Saint Mary's Men's soccer team. With many of his players who come from overseas, it's not just a matter for them showing up on campus: "We felt the best things was for all of our players was to go home and be with their families. However, getting

them back from overseas may be a little tricky. We don't know what that will look like this fall regarding U.S. travel rules and quarantining but it may take as long as a month in some cases."

Cooper is doing whatever he can to maintain contact with his players: "We have Zoom meetings each week with our team. They cannot consist of actual training, according to the NCAA. It's been more of welfare checks on the guys, making sure their academics are in order, they're healthy and just keeping in contact with everyone. We've been able to get all the guys joking and laughing and having some fun. It just our way of staying connected."

It's more than the high school and college athletes that feel the loss of sports activity due to the virus. Longtime Moraga resident and Lamorinda Weekly reporter, Nick Marnell, has been playing in the Redwood Empire Baseball League in Sonoma County since the 1980s. "I just love to play baseball," said Marnell. "There nothing like getting out on the field and I will do it as long as I can." Except this summer with the

leagues, at best, on hold.

Still Marnell remains cautiously optimistic: "We're at the mercy of the Sonoma county public fields. Until they reopen, there's nothing we can do. When the games do start up, there will be changes to the game due to the virus: umpires may not be standing behind the catcher, you may only have the next four batters in the dugout, no stealing so the first baseman does not have to hold the runner on, the batters and the catcher may have to wear masks and hand sanitizer will be omnipresent. However, as with everything else at this point, it's all up in the air."

Most overlooked in the sports world during this hiatus, have to be the umpires and officials who have been out of work since spring. There were over 80 umpires that were expecting to work the baseball and softball games in Contra Costa County this spring and summer. Dave Cutaia, a longtime official and supervisor speaks to the loss felt by the officials: "We started the season early in March and then the games and revenue went away. For some officials, the revenue is

critical, for others it's supplemental and there is a third group that does it as an avocation. With all three groups, it's a huge hit because you've gone from regular sports officiating to nothing."

It's also the intangibles that are felt by the officials, says Cutaia: "It's a huge loss. There is a lot of camaraderie among the officials - not just among themselves but with the coaches, staff and even with the players. We are making occasional Zoom calls for training and other things but there is a big void in the officials' lives because these people are very good friends and that interaction is not there. Things have stopped and all you can say is 'Now what?'"

Will all of the disappointment at what has happened in the world of sports, Max Luckhurst sees the need to put it all in perspective: "There's a lot more suffering going on outside of the world of sports. All the cancellations are disappointing, but we all need to take a step back. We can feel bad, but we have to see the big picture with how many people are struggling and losing their lives."



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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ... read on Page D12

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Photo provided

### By Amanda Eck

Your home is supposed to be a sanctuary, but in these uncharted times it may feel anything but peaceful. Sheltering in place has been both a wonderful time of being with my family (non-stop) but also a stressful time. We are all learning to navigate this new norm and the spaces we live in can make a huge impact on our well-being. That's why I've pulled together some of my favorite tips and tricks to help you create a beautiful home without ever having to leave the house.

### Rethink your space

Rethinking the layout of your space can make a huge impact in your environment. Consider moving furniture toward windows for more natural light.

Create an intimate reading space in the corner of a room or move a small desk into the bedroom for a quiet workspace.

### Get organized

Start with a clean slate. Remove papers, toys, shoes, or any other miscellaneous items that do not belong in the room. Use baskets and bins to keep things organized.

If you are currently working from your

dining room table, consider using a plastic bin or basket that you can store your laptop, papers, and such when you are done with your work. This works great for kiddos homeschooling work as well.

### Edit, Edit, Edit

Go through your space deciding on what can stay and what needs to go. Eliminate items that are cluttering the space or have no use.

Moving items to another room can bring new life and energy to the space. Try switching out lamps and art for a quick refresh.

### Shop your house

I like to cull accessories I have in various rooms and place them on my dining room table. Then I "shop" what I found to create new vignettes on bookshelves, side tables, and my coffee table.

Moving your rugs around is also a great way to create a new look in your space.

### Bring the outdoors in

Nothing brings more life into your home like fresh flowers or greenery. Why not grab your clippers and head outdoors for some fresh sprigs. Your clippings do not necessarily need to be of the flowering kind; I love the simplicity of something green. A few clippings from a nearby shrub are perfect.

### Create Moments

I love creating what I like to call "moments" in my home. It could be a little vignette of your favorite pieces you've collected on your travels. Or a tray in your bathroom filled with bath bubbles or soaps and a small candle. Or maybe it's a corner on your kitchen counter that is your coffee station. Whatever it is, make it pretty, so that it brings a smile to your face when you walk past it.

... continued on Page D13





**ORINDA - Gorgeous New Construction**  
 564 Tahos Road - The more than 3,700 sf of living space, includes 5Bd/4.5Ba with main-level master suite, lower-level bonus/family room, and an in-law apt. with full bath and separate entry. Postcard-worthy views and sunsets immediately grab your attention from just about every room. A large, flat yard offers endless possibilities.  
 New price \$2,795,000



**MORAGA - Desirable Creekside in Sanders Ranch**  
 5 Sierra Court - Beautifully appointed, single story home with 3Bd/2Ba, approx. 2,235 sf of living space, open floor plan, vaulted and coffered ceilings, bay window, hardwood floors, skylight, plantation shutters, updated kitchen and baths. Gorgeous gardens. New price \$1,298,000



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## Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	10	\$815,000	\$2,300,000
MORAGA	4	\$329,000	\$2,263,000
ORINDA	5	\$1,010,000	\$1,700,000

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

- 1173 Brown Avenue, \$1,791,000, 4 Bdrms, 4466 SqFt, 1990 YrBl, 04-29-20,  
 Previous Sale: \$815,000, 08-01-92  
 3955 Canyon Road, \$1,905,000, 3 Bdrms, 2778 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 04-20-20,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 09-21-12  
 980 Condit Road, \$1,785,000, 4 Bdrms, 1976 SqFt, 1957 YrBl, 04-27-20,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,125,000, 04-30-19  
 3271 Elvia Street, \$1,885,000, 5 Bdrms, 4029 SqFt, 1988 YrBl, 05-01-20,  
 Previous Sale: \$800,000, 06-04-99  
 3711 Highland Court, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1731 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 04-24-20  
 974 Janet Lane, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1473 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 04-24-20,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,040,000, 10-18-13  
 3221 Lucas Circle, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 3117 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 04-27-20,  
 Previous Sale: \$220,000, 01-01-86  
 3260 Marlene Drive, \$815,000, 3 Bdrms, 1449 SqFt, 1972 YrBl, 04-21-20,  
 Previous Sale: \$585,000, 06-16-15  
 9 Northridge Lane, \$1,790,000, 2 Bdrms, 4115 SqFt, 1994 YrBl, 04-29-20  
 3288 Sweet Drive, \$910,000, 3 Bdrms, 1150 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 04-28-20

### MORAGA

- 236 Calle La Montana, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 1942 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 04-28-20,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 03-18-15  
 2133 Donald Drive #19, \$329,000, 1 Bdrms, 560 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 04-24-20  
 14 Silvia Court, \$1,305,000, 4 Bdrms, 2170 SqFt, 1967 YrBl, 04-24-20  
 230 Sonora Road, \$2,263,000, 4 Bdrms, 4435 SqFt, 2018 YrBl, 04-29-20

### ORINDA

- 2 Irving Lane, \$1,320,000, 3 Bdrms, 1601 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 04-27-20,  
 Previous Sale: \$780,000, 09-23-11  
 204 La Espiral, \$1,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 2773 SqFt, 1942 YrBl, 04-23-20,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,195,000, 07-12-10  
 8 Rose Lane, \$1,015,500, 3 Bdrms, 1630 SqFt, 1938 YrBl, 04-22-20  
 10 Vista Del Orinda, \$1,010,000, 4 Bdrms, 2596 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 04-23-20,  
 Previous Sale: \$1,335,000, 08-16-17  
 15 Warford Terrace, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 1830 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 04-22-20,  
 Previous Sale: \$455,000, 07-07-98



# Just Listed



This charming 4 bedroom, 2 bath single story home with a peaceful yard and retreat-like setting has just been listed! The home is remodeled to the nines and has everything you need. Check it out before it's gone.

Listed at \$1,385,000

## 1092 Sanders Dr. in Moraga

If you're interested in working with us, listen to what your neighbor had to say " We chose Paddy in part because of the great reviews, but it was meeting him in person that really convinced us. He's one of the nicest, and most competent people you would hope to take care of something this important. It turned out that we were right: hiring Paddy was one of the best decisions we ever made. Our situation was a bit challenging: we needed Paddy to handle everything about the house sale while we were out of the country, since we had moved to Amsterdam (Netherlands). In fact, when we met Paddy, we had returned to California for a few days to pack up our house and ship a few things back to Amsterdam. From that

point on, Paddy took care of everything. We didn't want to put the house on the market until the following spring, since our (adult) daughter was staying there, and of course, we had no idea that a major pandemic would turn the world upside down in the interim. By the time our daughter had moved out, the shelter-in-place had started, and we were worried about not being able to sell. But Paddy pulled it off, and he got us a great price. Throughout, Paddy was totally accessible, promptly returning emails and phone calls. He cared about our home sale as if it were his own. We can't recommend him highly enough. He's awesome!"



PADDY KEHOE TEAM



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**COMPASS**







*519 Miner Road, Orinda*

+/- 7160 sq.ft | 5 Bed + Study & Office | 5 Full, 4 Half Bath | 3 Car Garage | Pool |  
2.04 Acre Gated Estate | \$8,995,000



*18 Charles Hill Circle, Orinda*

+/- 6137 sq.ft | 5 Bed + Den/Office | 5 Bath | 4 Car Garage |  
2.99 Acre Estate | \$3,595,000



*100 Sandhill Road, Orinda*

+/- 4917 sq.ft | 5 Bed + Studio | 4.5 Bath | 3 Car Garage |  
5.03 Acre | \$3,750,000



*106 Brookline Street, Moraga*

+/- 1906 sq.ft | 2 Bed + Office | 2 Bath | 2 Car Garage |  
Access to MCC | \$1,245,000

*Looking for a change of scenery? Here are 4 to consider.*

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## 3362 Stage Coach Drive, Lafayette

4 Bed | 3 Bath | ±3,395 Sq Ft | ±.43 Acre | Built in 1989  
Offered at \$2,100,000 | [3362StageCoachDrive.com](http://3362StageCoachDrive.com)

Drive through the private gate into Baywood & experience a phenomenal neighborhood made up of gorgeous homes, quiet destination streets and manicured yards that are surrounded by the beautiful hills and trails of Briones Regional Park.

Situated on a corner lot that flows into a cul-de-sac street, this stunning sun-drenched home has been updated throughout and enjoys a gourmet kitchen with many high-end amenities, serene master suite, and a coveted resort-like backyard oasis with sensational outdoor kitchen, saltwater pool/spa, gas firepit and a back gate that opens to Briones.



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# Matt Knows LAMORINDA *(and beyond!)*



**During this time of uncertainty and unpredictability,  
It's important to work with a Realtor who can serve as a trusted advisor.**

You can expect that I will understand exactly what's going on in today's market and bring calm guidance to help you make the best buying and selling decisions for your situation. Questions? I am happy to help. Contact me today.

## COMING SOON



**11 Ketelsen Court, Moraga**  
**Call Matt for Price**  
4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms,  
2,410 sf, .27 acre lot

## NEW LISTING



**472 Kingsford Dr., Moraga**  
**Offered at \$1,549,000**  
4 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms,  
2,405 sf, .46 acre lot

## ACTIVE LISTING



**1182 Glen Road, Lafayette**  
**Offered at \$3,595,000**  
4 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms,  
3,675 sf, .41 acre lot

## PENDING



**11 Candlelight Ln., Moraga**  
**Offered at \$2,195,000**  
4 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms,  
3,262 sf, 1.08 acre lot

## PENDING



**5 Buckingham Dr., Moraga**  
**Offered at \$988,800**  
3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms,  
1,364 sf, .23 acre lot

## SOLD



**320 Matchem Court, Alamo**  
**Sold for \$2,100,000**  
5 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms,  
4,251 sf, .68 acre flat lot

## HAPPY BUYERS



**24 Sanford Ln., Lafayette**  
**Sold for \$3,805,000**  
5 Bedrooms, 5 Bathrooms,  
5,169 sf, .55 acre lot

## HAPPY BUYERS



**112 Walford Dr., Moraga**  
**Sold for \$1,530,000**  
4 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms,  
2,410 sf, .23 acre lot

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**LAMORINDA EXPERTS - GLOBAL CONNECTIONS**

<p><b>Orinda</b></p> 	<p><b>Orinda</b></p> 	<p><b>Orinda</b></p> 	<p><b>Orinda</b></p> 
<p><b>New Listing! 20 Hacienda Circle \$4,250,000</b>                  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. <a href="http://www.20haciendacircle.com">www.20haciendacircle.com</a>                  Melanie Snow 925-360-0344; Laura Abrams 510-697-3225 Lic#00878893, #01272382</p>	<p><b>3 Valley View Ln. \$3,195,000</b>                  Prestigious Luxury Estate                  Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573  <a href="mailto:Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com">Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com</a>  <a href="http://www.OrindaRealty.com">www.OrindaRealty.com</a> Lic #01390784</p>	<p><b>200 Hall Dr - \$2,980,000</b>                  Secluded Orinda Estate! 5 BR 4 BA on over 5 acres                  Yan Heim 510-499-4709  <a href="http://www.200hallorinda.com">www.200hallorinda.com</a> Lic #01965925</p>	
<p><b>Orinda</b></p> 	<p><b>Orinda</b></p> 	<p><b>Orinda</b></p> 	<p><b>Orinda</b></p> 
<p><b>10 Rheem Blvd. \$2,050,000</b>                  Quintessential Masterpiece                  Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573  <a href="mailto:Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com">Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com</a>  <a href="http://www.10Rheem.com">www.10Rheem.com</a> Lic #01390784</p>	<p><b>9 La Fond Lane \$1,849,000</b>                  Pristine Treasure In Orinda                  Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573  <a href="mailto:Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com">Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com</a>  <a href="http://www.9LaFondLn.com">www.9LaFondLn.com</a> Lic #01390784</p>	<p><b>1 Madera Lane \$1,625,000</b>                  Cul-de-sac with views. Remodeled master retreat! 3 decks to enjoy outdoor living, large play area w/tree swing, 2 car oversized garage!                  Laura Abrams 510-697-3225  <a href="http://www.1maderalane.com">www.1maderalane.com</a> Lic#01272382</p>	<p><b>34 La Cuesta Rd. \$1,550,000</b>                  Mid Century Modern masterpiece                  Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573  <a href="mailto:Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com">Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com</a>  <a href="http://www.34LaCuestaRd.com">www.34LaCuestaRd.com</a> Lic #01390784</p>
<p><b>Orinda</b></p> 	<p><b>Orinda</b></p> 	<p><b>Walnut Creek</b></p> 	<p><b>Orinda</b></p> 
<p><b>15 Candlestick Rd. \$1,499,000</b>                  A Heavenly Vista Awaits                  Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573  <a href="mailto:Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com">Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com</a>  <a href="http://www.15CandlestickRd.com">www.15CandlestickRd.com</a> Lic #01390784</p>	<p><b>66 Tara Rd. \$1,199,000</b>                  Nature Lover's Paradise                  Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573  <a href="mailto:Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com">Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com</a>  <a href="http://www.66TaraRd.com">www.66TaraRd.com</a> Lic #01390784</p>	<p><b>1571 1st Ave. \$988,000</b>                  Single Level Open Concept                  Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573  <a href="mailto:Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com">Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com</a>  <a href="http://BestLamorindaHomes.com">BestLamorindaHomes.com</a> Lic #01390784</p>	<p><b>14 Berkeley Ave \$979,000</b>                  Romantic Retreat with a View                  Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573  <a href="mailto:Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com">Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com</a>  <a href="http://www.14BerkeleyAve.com">www.14BerkeleyAve.com</a> Lic #01390784</p>
<p><b>Richmond</b></p> 	<p><b>Martinez</b></p> 	<p><b>Martinez</b></p> 	<p><b>Walnut Creek</b></p> 
<p><b>5143 Coach Dr. \$825,000</b>                  Gorgeous &amp; smart 4BD/2BA updated home w/ views! Large flat lot w/owned solar!                  Soraya Golesorkhi 925-808-8390  <a href="http://www.soraya4homes.com">www.soraya4homes.com</a> Lic #01771736</p>	<p><b>1801 Castro St. \$815,000</b>                  DUPLEX 3/2 up and 1/1 down, Updtd Lrg lot, great rents, LOCATION!!                  Tom Stack 925-878-9964  <a href="mailto:Tom.Stack@cbnorcal.com">Tom.Stack@cbnorcal.com</a> Lic #01501769</p>	<p><b>0 Reliez Valley Rd \$459,000</b>                  Here is your chance to build the home you have always wanted on this beautiful mostly flat .72 acre lot.                  Chad Morrison 925-330-1416  <a href="http://ChadMorrisonHomes.com">ChadMorrisonHomes.com</a> Lic # 01905614</p>	<p><b>1493 Marchbanks Dr. #3 \$370,000</b>                  Updated upper unit, 1/1 Views                  Pool/2 car pkg, No rental restr                  Tom Stack 925-878-9964  <a href="mailto:Tom.Stack@cbnorcal.com">Tom.Stack@cbnorcal.com</a> Lic #01501769</p>



# Lamorinda Listings

**NEW LISTING**

**14 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Orinda**



3+ BD | 2 BA | 2,120± SF | 0.29± ACRES  
Offered at \$1,575,000

14sleepyhollow.com

**PENDING - MULTIPLE OFFERS**

**66 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Orinda**



3 BD | 2 BA | 1,883± SF | 0.37± ACRES  
Offered at \$1,435,000

66sleepyhollow.com

**PENDING - MULTIPLE OFFERS**  
**1024 Timothy Lane, Lafayette**



5 BD | 3.5 BA | 3,334± SF | 1.03± ACRES  
Offered at \$1,999,000

1024timothy.com

**PENDING**  
**1435 Camino Peral, Moraga**



2 BD | 2 BA | 1,159± SF | 0.09± ACRES  
Offered at \$665,000

1435caminoperal.com



Terri Bates Walker  
DRE 01330081  
510.282.4420  
terri@terribateswalker.com  
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New This Week!



4 bd | 2 ba | 1948 sqft | .21 ac  
Sweeping views from all vantage points  
with easy access to Lake Cascade, the  
Club, shopping, dining & commute.

Offered at 1,425,000



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Casa Serena, Orinda



5 Bed 5.5 Bath 5,800± SF 1.75± Level Acres

\$8,500,000

One of only a couple truly remarkable estate homes to ever come to market. The magnitude of timeless design, impeccable craftsmanship, attention to detail and effortless Napa Valleysque living ... is nearly beyond belief. What was previously only in vivid imagination, is now a once in a lifetime opportunity to own the finest luxury resort property in Orinda. You will never yearn to be anywhere else in the world.

[casaserenaorinda.com](http://casaserenaorinda.com)

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REAL ESTATE  
EXPERTISE



**Chris Swim & Tracy Keaton**

DRE 00943989 | 01051349

925.766.1447

[chris@chrisswim.com](mailto:chris@chrisswim.com)

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Orindawoods, Orinda



300 Village View Court

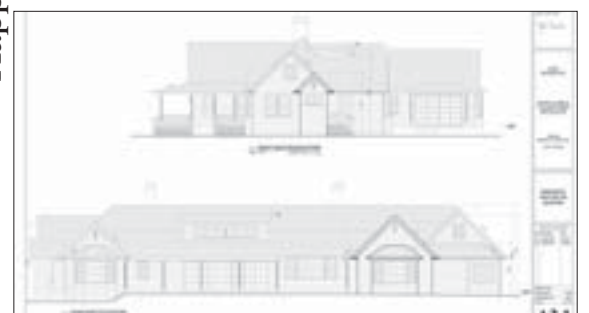
\$2,150,000

2+ Bed 2.5 Bath 2,500± SF 0.16± Acres w/Views

Warm and welcoming from the moment you step onto the property, this magnificent single level home exudes elegance redefined. With impeccable design, timeless finishes and worry-free living, you will rediscover what 'home' should be. The coveted end of cul-de-sac location offers unparalleled privacy and optimized outdoor living spaces for year round entertaining and enjoyment.

[300villageview.com](http://300villageview.com)

Happy Valley, Lafayette



3654-A Happy Valley Road

\$1,895,000

4 Bed 3.5 Bath 4,229± SF 1.01± Flat Acres

An irreplaceable opportunity just waiting for you! Last available level 1± acre building parcel in a beautiful close-in Happy Valley location. Fully approved plans including an approved landscape plan. Start building your dream home today!

[3654a-happyvalley.com](http://3654a-happyvalley.com)







## Elegant Entertainer's Estate 3540 Springhill Road, Lafayette

**Main Home:** 4 Beds | 2 Full Baths | 2 Half Baths | 3,985± sf  
**Detached Guest Cottage/Office:** 1 Bed | 1 Full Bath | 605± sf  
**Lot** 0.88± acres

An entertainer's dream with welcoming spaces to gather indoors and out. Located on a peaceful road inaccessible to through traffic near top-rated schools.

**Offered at \$4,250,000**



More photos and details at [3540Springhill.com](http://3540Springhill.com)

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a.newtoncane@ggsir.com  
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**Michael Dreyfus**  
650.485.3476  
m.dreyfus@ggsir.com  
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*it's April in Lamerinda for Real Estate*

## Blissful Backyard!



New Listing!

### 460 Moraga Way, Orinda

A Classic California Ranch-Style home welcomes you to an idyllic setting and blissful back yard. Enjoy dual pane windows, hardwood floors in many rooms, a warm and inviting kitchen with granite counters and a great-room feel in the living and dining rooms. The bedrooms are spacious and the bathrooms are updated. When you first step inside the home, your eyes are drawn to the magical backyard. There you will find a large lawn area, fruit trees, raised vegetable beds, paths and all in a very private setting. Great commute location with easy access to BART, commute corridor, downtown Orinda, and 12 years of outstanding schools.

**A Terrific Home at a Terrific Price!**

**\$1,049,000**

3 | 2 | 1,361 | **.48 ACRE\***  
\*per public records

Tour Online at [www.tourfactory.com/2747122](http://www.tourfactory.com/2747122)



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All information herein deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

## Victory Gardens 3.0



Queen Anne and Bing cherries are ripe and ready to be picked.



Fragrant and glorious pink Asiatic lilies in full bloom at beauty to our lives.

Photos Cynthia Brian

### By Cynthia Brian

*"In every adversity there lies the seed of an equivalent advantage. In every defeat is a lesson showing you how to win the victory next time."* – Robert Collier, Writer and Publisher

In March 1917, a month before the United States entered World War I, Americans across our lands were asked to plant produce to help feed the Allies fighting in Europe. It wasn't only farmers who were solicited to start planting. President Woodrow Wilson declared that "food will win the war," as he encouraged city folks to plant in vacant lots, fields, parks and pots. So began the "war garden" to sow seeds of victory.

During World War II, food shortages prevailed once again. Victory Gardens sprouted throughout America, Europe, Canada, and Australia supplying over 33% of the necessary food for our country. Eleanor Roosevelt even dug up part of the White House lawn to plant a vegetable garden. Turnips, tomatoes, lettuce, peas, beets, beans, cabbages, carrots, squash, onions, potatoes, and many other vegetables were easy to grow and preserve by canning for the winter months. By 1943 there were approximately 18 million Victory gardens

throughout the United States, 12 million of them in cities, and 6 million in rural areas.

Today we face major adversities from different kinds of conflicts. The COVID-19 pandemic combined with racial civil unrest throughout our cities, our country, and our world have the potential to increase food scarcity and shortages. We have already witnessed throngs of people emptying grocery store shelves of staples and canned goods. It is easier than ever to grow our own food no matter what our space limitations. If you have a yard, you can choose a small area to plant the vegetables, fruits, and herbs that you love. If you only have a porch or balcony, use pots to grow tomatoes, lettuces, basil, parsley and peppers. According to the U.S.D.A., 15% of the world's food supply is now grown in cities. Ready to get started?

#### FIRST

Only five things are needed to grow your Victory Garden 3.0:

1. A patch of land, raised bed, or pots that are two gallons or larger
2. Bags of high-quality garden soil
3. Healthy plants
4. Mulch

5. Water

#### SECOND

1. Find an area that will get at least six hours of sunlight per day.
2. If you are working a patch or raised bed, pull out any weeds and prepare the ground by adding new garden soil. If using pots, wash the pots, make certain there is a drainage hole at the bottom, add a few pebbles, or cracked pottery to help with drainage and fill the pots with your purchased soil. Vegetables need organic matter including compost or manure to thrive because the organic matter decomposes the essential nutrients of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium to enrich the roots.
3. Buy healthy plants from your local nursery or garden center. Check for vibrant green leaves. Look for any insect or snail infestation. Plant according to instructions.
4. Top with peat moss or other mulch. Peat moss adds aeration, retains moisture, and reduce the leaching of the nutrients. It is a great mulch and can also increase the efficiency in a compost pile.
5. Water thoroughly and maintain moisture while growing.

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# Creating a beautiful home without leaving your house

... continued from Page D1

## Go Shopping

And when you need some retail therapy, here are some of my favorite online resources:

- Horchow
- Perigold
- One Kings Lane
- Serena & Lily
- FrontGate
- Minted (great art resource)
- KathyKuo Home
- Etsy
- Little Design Co.

Hopefully these tips have given you some ideas and inspiration to create a space of peace within your own four walls. Stay safe friends!



Photos provided



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

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

Visit <http://amandacarolinteriors.com> for more design ideas.



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## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for June

Photos Cynthia Brian



**Buy seedlings of lettuce and tomatoes for swifter growing.**

**PLANT** tomatoes, peppers, lettuces, eggplants, arugula, cucumbers, beans, corn and pumpkins. Herbs to plant now for summer harvesting are basil, parsley and cilantro.

**STAKE** or provide a wire cage to support tomatoes so the fruit won't touch the soil and rot.

**APPLY** snail bait to newly planted seedlings and wherever you witness slugs or snails.

**FERTILIZE** trees, shrubs, and ground covers before the summer heat.

**SPRAY** crape myrtles to prevent powdery mildew with a natural fungicide such as neem oil extract, jojoba oil, or potassium bicarbonate.

**CHECK** irrigation systems and readjust sprinkler heads as needed.

**TACKLE** aphids with ladybugs or for a small infestation, spray with a mixture of water and dish detergent.

**CUT** dead canes of hydrangeas to the ground (anything without a green bud on it). Don't prune hydrangeas in spring or fall or the flowering buds will be cut off.

**BUY** a shorter variety or move a too tall hydrangea as they cannot be pruned to reduce height. Hydrangeas always replace their height. If a hydrangea is drooping on a hot day, it doesn't need water. It will rebound as the evening cools. Hydrangeas grow great in containers.

**ADD** Sulphur or aluminum sulfate to acidic soil to get blue hydrangeas. Rusty nails or copper do not work.

**TREAT** both upper and lower leaves of roses with organic Sulphur for fungus problems including black spot, rust and powdery mildew.

**PRUNE** azaleas immediately after spring flowering.

**PULL** out the dried fronds of spring bulbs. If a bulb comes out with the leaves, cut off the dried foliage and either replant the bulb in a new place immediately or put in a dark, cool space to replant in the fall.

**CELEBRATE** your gardening dad on Father's Day by buying a copy of "Growing with the Goddess Gardener" or "Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul" at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>.

**CARE** for your lawn by raking leaves, twigs and dead grass. Pull the weeds including dandelions, chickweed, bittercress and henbit. Aerate and leave the



**Potato vine and purple trumpet vine are happy companions.**

plugs on the grass. Cover bare patches by over-seeding with Pearl's Premium grass seed. Visit [www.Pearlspremium.com](http://www.Pearlspremium.com)

Water early in the morning and fertilize once more before the heat of summer. When mowing, never cut off more than 1/3 and leave grass clippings on the lawn at least every two times you mow.

**HARVEST** cherries, lemons, tangelos, loquats and tangerines.

**FEED** your family and friends in body, mind, and spirit by planting a Victory Garden 3.0.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Father's Day.



**Tomatoes can be planted in large pots or even buckets. Add basil for extra flavor.**



**A raised bed filled with cabbages, arugula, and Brussel sprouts.**



*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

# Victory Gardens 3.0

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Before planting your Victory Garden 3.0, research the maturity date for the crops you wish to grow as harvest dates vary greatly. If you plant from seeds, you'll have lettuce and radishes within two weeks. If you are planting zucchini or corn, the time frame is longer, perhaps 100 days. Citrus, apples, and peaches can be planted in large containers.

We are living through a frightening, complicated international crisis. If we have learned any lesson from history, it is that we can win the victory when we work together with empathy, caring, and intelligence. Growing even a portion of our own food will help us be healthier while creating a more sustainable lifestyle. We'll get exercise, sunshine, fresh air, and have fun growing with

our families. Plus, butterflies, bees, and birds will pollinate and entertain as our garden reduces stress and offers soul fulfillment. Don't forget to plant some "pretties" like Asiatic lilies, gazanias, trumpet vine and

hydrangeas. Annual and perennial flowers add fragrance, structure and beauty to our lives.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Plant your Victory Garden 3.0 today!



**Cynthia Brian** relishes these magenta hydrangeas.

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

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## ORINDA



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## ORINDA



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## ORINDA



### 258 Camino Sobrante

Traditional Orinda Country Club 5 bed/ 4 bath home perched above Lake Cascade offers ultimate privacy & luxury living. **\$3,150,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing!

### 737 Miner Road

Custom 5 bed/ 4 bath Orinda Country Club home w/ with easy indoor/outdoor garden living & breathtaking views. **\$2,595,000**

## ORINDA



### 69 La Espiral

Remodeled 4 bed/ 3.5 bath Orinda Country Club home with wine cellar, updated chef's kitchen & workout room. Views! **\$2,150,000**

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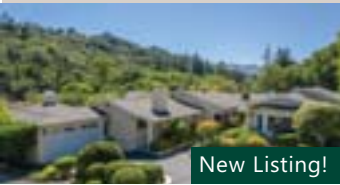


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New Listing!

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