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Diners enjoy the extra al fresco dining space on a stretch of Lafayette Circle, closed to traffic June 19.

Photo Pippa Fisher

Embracing European-style street dining in COVID era

By Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette City Council unanimously backed plans aimed at helping the city's restaurants stay afloat, with a multi-phase approach to expand outdoor dining options.

Following a site-walk during which City Manager Nirop Srivatsa, Police Chief Ben Alldritt, and Lafayette

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson identified several potential suitable areas, Senior Planner Sarah Allen and Planning Technician Adam Wright presented an update to the council on Lafayette's COVID-19 relief package and asked for direction on working with the Chamber of Commerce to allow outdoor dining in private and public opens spaces and rights of way.

Phase one relaxes restrictions on parking lots and sidewalks, enabling restaurants to add additional tables. Phase two, which began June 19 has Lafayette Circle next to Tutu's closed to traffic for street dining. During a future phase in July a section of Mt. Diablo Boulevard is being considered for closures to allow street dining.

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New Food Hall approved for downtown Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty



Rendering provided

A market hall along the lines of Oakland's Rockridge or Napa's Oxbow was unanimously approved by the Orinda planning commission June 9. The project for 25A Orinda Way, a vacant lot across the street from the library and the community center, was enthusiastically welcomed by the commissioners who applauded the developer, Paul Ugenti, for listening to the community and refining his project. Over 100 written comments from the public were also mostly favorable.

The 19,300 square-foot project is called "The Station." The property was a gas station long ago, and the land has been remediated and sitting vacant for over 20 years. Ugenti bought the lot and brought a plan for a mixed-use facility, combining retail and office space, to the planning commission, which approved the application that included Chase Bank as an anchor tenant on the ground floor and an Orange Theory gym. On appeal, the city council agreed with Orange Theory, but nixed a bank as an anchor tenant on the grounds that a bank did not bring the kind of traffic to downtown that was consistent with downtown development.

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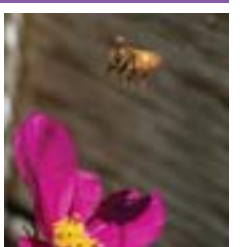
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A moment of Zen in one Moraga man's backyard - Page D6





See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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Chamber of Commerce:
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Planning Commission vote on Terraces pushed back again

By Pippa Fisher

The continuation of a very long May 18 Lafayette Planning Commission meeting to decide the fate of the 315-unit Terraces project has once again been pushed back. The meeting that had been scheduled for June 15 was postponed to June 29, the city announced in a statement issued on June 10. The statement said that staff and the city's consultants are working diligently to prepare information requested by commissioners regarding traffic impact analysis and potential

impacts on emergency evacuations, and needed more time to complete that task. The staff report and additional information will be made available June 22. Unlike at the previous meeting, the planning commission will be allowing live public comment during the June 29 meeting. The highly controversial project proposed for Deer Hill Road has been in the works in one form or another since 2011. Attorney for the developer Bryan Wenter warned the city in a letter dated June 13 that under the housing accountability act and permit

streamlining act, the city is in danger of running out of time to make a decision within the 90-day period. However city officials say that in the case of a land use decision relying on an addendum to the original environmental impact report, it is not clear that the same time constraints apply. Nonetheless they say the city intends to move forward with reasonable expediency. Save Lafayette Founder Michael Griffiths says that staff would not need these postponements if they had done a subsequent EIR in the first place. "An addendum EIR

is insufficient and inappropriate, given the long time since the last EIR, all the environmental changes that have taken place and the new information that has come to light," says Griffiths. Griffiths says the project proposal has changed little since the original EIR, while environmental circumstances – traffic, air pollution, wildfire – have worsened significantly. "Consequently, a denial of the project would be the most appropriate course of action by the city council," says Griffiths. In his letter to the city, Wenter says, "Rather than

continuing to placate Save Lafayette and other project opponents who will raise any issue they can imagine regardless of how implausible under California land use law, the city ought to be prepared to take all actions necessary to schedule any remaining SB 330 hearings expeditiously." Following the June 29 planning commission meeting, it is expected that there will be an appeal brought before the city council whichever way the decision goes. The council will then hear the matter de novo and must make its decision within two meetings.

Embracing European-style street dining in COVID era

... continued from Page A1

Although indoor dining is to be allowed by the county from July 1, Lifson points out that as yet there are no actual guidelines for reopening. Given social distancing requirements, says Lifson, numbers of indoor tables will be restricted. "No restaurant can survive operating at 50%," says Lifson. He says closing an area of Mt. Diablo Boulevard would be a great way to welcome back the community. The council had questions, particularly about the cost involved, with Mayor Mike Anderson saying the costs of barricades, kits (suggested to include sanitizers, and signage), set up and take down, along with the city's assistance program, was raising a caution flag for him. To address that, the direction to staff was to move forward with a cost not to exceed \$10,000. But overall all council members were enthusiastic. "Let's get to phase

two as fast as we can," said Vice Mayor Susan Candell. A further note of caution was raised by Council Member Cam Burks and echoed by Council Member Steven Bliss about any uptick in cases of the virus. Burks said that the city needs plans to pull back by themselves, even if the county is not suggesting it, if trends worsen. **How are the restaurants faring?** Immediately several restaurants took advantage of the opportunity, with the Coop expanding their tables around the side of their restaurant on Fiesta Lane. Millie's Kitchen owner Eva Clement says they are open for takeout service from their recently renovated windows and put tables under a canopy in their lower parking lot. She says they closed for two months initially and took advantage of the time to do some improvements, including painting, carpeting and flooring.

It has been a struggle for restaurants. Big O's Cheesesteaks was an early casualty of the pandemic, shutting down for good. "It was very depressing at first," says Locanda Positano owner Enzo Rosaro. But he notes in the early days they turned their focus and energy into doing something good for the community that he says is amazing. They started cooking for others, coordinating with the help of Lifson to bring food to essential workers at Safeway, senior centers, the police, and to Lamorinda Village members. Rosaro, who has now put extra tables in front of his restaurant on Brown Avenue in addition to his patio area, says he has 80% of his staff back. When they were operating with takeout only, they were doing 20% of their usual business. He says that with outside dining they are now up to 50% and when they can open indoor dining following social distancing guidelines,

they should be back to 70% of usual business. Most of the restaurant owners agree that takeout dining is here to stay for a while. Hideout Kitchen owner J.B. Balingit sees the opportunity to enjoy quality food at home with family as a good thing. Balingit says he took some time at the beginning of the crisis to look at the balance in his life and family. "One thing this time has taught us, is the importance of better balance," he says. But he has not been sitting idly by during this time. In addition to offering takeout, he has taken the time to do some painting and redecorating in his restaurant. He has built a large bench on his deck area, increasing the amount of outdoor seating. And he has been preparing the indoor areas too, focusing on health and safety, for the reopening. Balingit is constantly trying to adapt and says he is creating a sort of marketplace

in the second area of his restaurant known as the library, where they plan to sell wine, and gifts such as cookbooks and candles. He has made a series of videos released on social media to document the times. "It's a reminder we're here," he explains, saying his restaurant is hidden. He doesn't spend time feeling sorry for himself. He describes the situation as an "inconvenience," saying it's so much worse for some other small businesses such as those in the beauty industry who have had no business at all for the past three months. Although he had been anticipating a growth year, with much of his capital expenses of his first five years behind him, he says they are lucky to be in this supportive community. And, says Balingit, they are here to stay. *Editor's Note: Future articles on reopenings throughout Lamorinda will be featured in upcoming issues.*

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<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">8</p> <p>Support team members including qualified service providers</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">18</p> <p>2020 closed/pending/active/coming soon sales</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">50</p> <p>Combined years of residing in Lamorinda</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">28</p> <p>Years of combined residential real estate selling experience</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">40</p> <p>Million dollars in closed transactions in 2019</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">680</p> <p>Closed residential real estate transactions - career</p>

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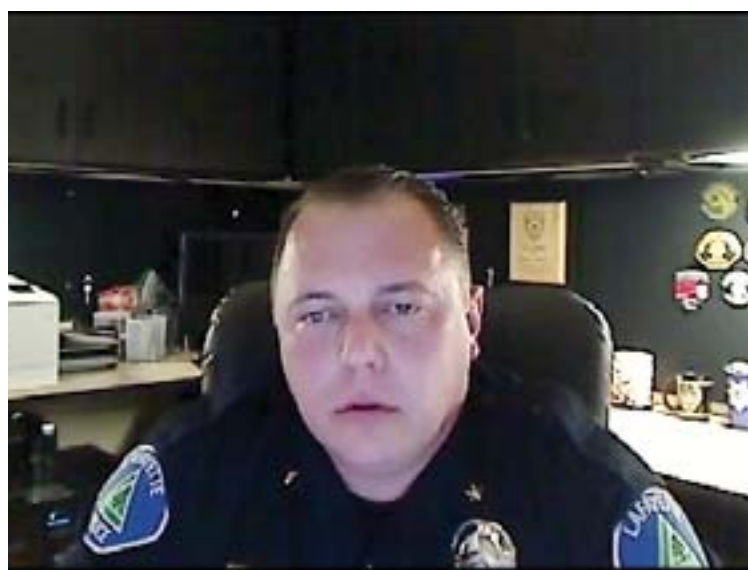
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Lafayette starts conversation about racism



Police Chief Ben Alldritt during the Zoom meeting

By Pippa Fisher

The city of Lafayette is opening dialogue to address racism within the community and among the first steps was a public safety subcommittee meeting attended by several dozen residents to hear the police response to the hundreds of community emails and questions about police policies and procedures, and a look ahead at the next steps. A town hall meeting will be scheduled in early July for further public input.

At the June 8 city council meeting Police Chief Ben Alldritt publicly condemned the death of George Floyd at the hand of a Minneapolis police officer and the failure of the three other officers to intervene. "It was murder," said Alldritt, unequivocally.

The city voted unanimously to issue a proclamation condemning the murder and pledging to address racism and prejudice within Lafayette.

The June 18 public safety meeting was a first step in that direction and focused its attention on police policies, taking a look at all the questions received on the subject. Alldritt outlined some of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office's policies, with which the city of Lafayette contracts for police services, and went over the eight procedural guidelines of a campaign designed to decrease police violence known as "8Can'tWait."

Recommendations include use of de-escalation techniques, required warnings by officers before shooting, required intervention by other officers in the event of excessive force, required comprehensive reporting of use of force incidents, and the banning of chokeholds and strangulations. The chief's document including the complete list can be found on the city website below.

"Most of the recommendations outlined in the "8Can'tWait" campaign are addressed in California statutes," explained Alldritt.

Alldritt, along with City Manager Niroop Srivatsa

were there to listen to the public. City council members Cam Burks and Steven Bliss both said they were encouraged by the "robust" attendance at the virtual meeting. "It's a unique opportunity to have an urgent discussion," said Bliss.

Several members of the public suggested that the current level of implicit bias training is not enough. Several acknowledged the good work done by the LPD but at least two members of the public questioned policing as a system, rather than problems with individuals and called for more drastic changes.

Another speaker spoke of the embedded systemic racism in the community that she said keeps people of color out of the town, suggesting that the community needs to take steps to encourage diversity and make POC feel safe here. Burks says he was very encouraged by the engagement. "The candor and call to action by so many residents of Lafayette and Lamorinda were inspiring. I appreciate the sincere efforts of the chief and our city manager to comprehensively address the many letters we have received."

"There is racism in our community," says Burks, "And we need to address it - and to stop it. It is my number one commitment to help bring Lafayette together to do this, and we have so many wonderful residents who have expressed to me over these past weeks that they want to engage, to better our city."

Burks says it was a first step in advancing racial equality in our community. And, he says, "In the law enforcement space, we clearly have a police chief who is open-minded and very eager to explore all options. His desire is one of transparency and trust across the entire community."

The city council was scheduled to look at options for the creation of a task force to develop strategies to further racial equality across the entire community at its June 22 meeting, after this paper went to print.

The police chief's community message is available on the city website: www.lovelafayette.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=6196



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, July 13, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Wednesday, July 6, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Don Tatzin Community Hall

Design Review

Wednesday, July 13, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Arts & Science Discovery Room

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
TBA
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Laf.
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

TBA
Regular Board Meeting
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MORAGA

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

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www.moraga.ca.us

Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



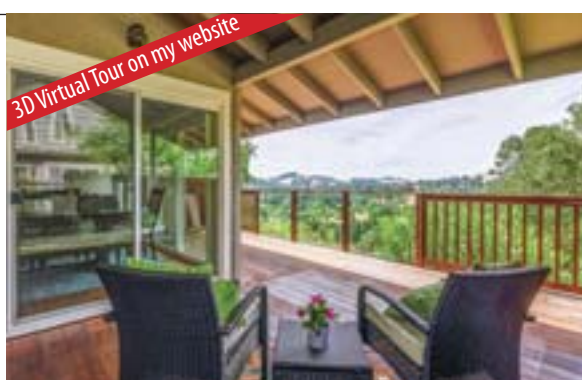
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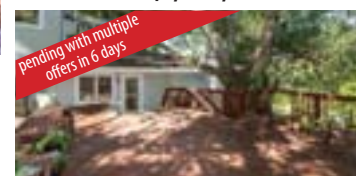


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Moraga Chamber's Town Hall meeting addresses COVID-19 related concerns

By Vera Kochan

Coronavirus questions and concerns were addressed by a panel of town experts under one "virtual" roof June 8 as part of a Moraga Chamber of Commerce Zoom conference organized by Executive Director Kathe Nelson.

According to Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen, new county cases of COVID-19 have been on the rise since the beginning of June. "While we were seeing our positive rates hovered around 2 to 2-1/2 %, we are now closer to 4% positive cases," she said, noting that although restrictions have

been relaxed, everyone must continue to take the recommended precautions.

The county has begun hiring 75 trackers/tracers who will target the cities with the highest positive cases and begin to educate that sector of the population on the importance of COVID-19 safety precautions. The county does not want to reimpose shelter-in-place orders, but may have to slow down the easing of restrictions.

All town staff employees have returned to work in the Moraga town offices as of June 8, according to Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg. "Work spaces have been modified as needed to

insure the safety of our employees," Battenberg said. "We are following COVID-19 workplace protocols to ensure people don't come to work sick and that high-touch surfaces are cleaned regularly." While the front doors still remain closed to the public, staff is available by phone, email or appointment.

Moraga Mayor Kimberleigh Korpus is hopeful that the council meetings will soon open up to the public again. Currently the public comment portion of the town council's Zoom meetings are done by emailing the town clerk in advance, as opposed to being done in "real time," and the com-

ment is read out loud. This process will continue, Korpus said, "for a variety of security related issues, in addition to the fact that we currently have a process that's working."

Moraga Police Chief Jon King thanked the community for their support, noting that all Moraga police officers have remained on regular duty and are healthy. The MPD has only made educational contact with the public regarding COVID-19 referrals to the health department. No enforcement actions were necessary. Crime statistics have been much lower than last year due to SIP, however property crimes have begun to

rise again (auto burglaries and theft).

Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt reported that her department suffered a huge impact from COVID-19 and the resulting cancellation of weddings, special celebrations and town events. "Over the past weeks that we have been SIP, it really showcased the importance of parks and open spaces as being so fundamental to our health and wellness," she stated. "Our parks and trails have seen unprecedented use during these times."

... continued on Page A10

Moraga stares down pandemic, presents balanced 2021 operating budget

By Nick Marnell

Though the coronavirus pandemic has thrown many financial forecasts into disarray, the relative stability of Moraga's revenue sources allows the town to forecast a balanced operating budget for 2021. But the town cautions that providing the current level of government services to the community will be a challenge in the years ahead.

Moraga general fund revenue, including transfers from outside funds, comes in at \$9.83 million, only \$10,000 below the 2020 projection. The pandemic has

not caused the property value volatility Moraga experienced during the Great Recession, and so property taxes, the town's No. 1 source of revenue, are forecast to rise \$206,000, 4.7% ahead of last year.

More than \$1 million is forecast in sales tax revenue, a figure nearly equal to last year. Despite the pandemic having wreaked havoc on many public financial statements, the town can thank its lack of major retail for the tax revenue stability. "We don't have huge brick and mortar stores, therefore the impact on us is less," said Norm Veloso, director of adminis-

trative services.

Franchise fees – charges paid by utilities for their ability to provide services to town residents – are the town's third highest revenue source, providing \$800,000 in 2021. Those fees have remained stable over the past five years.

While revenue remains flat, costs continue to escalate, especially pension expense.

The town has presented an improved financial picture since the 2017 declaration of fiscal emergency, but Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg noted that Moraga does not generate enough annual revenue to make

necessary infrastructure improvements, and that its operating budget is strained by an unfunded pension liability and increased pension payments. Projected 2021 expenses of \$9.82 million include significant pension costs.

Moraga recognizes two bargaining units: the Moraga Employees Association and the Moraga Police Officers Association. The town has in place defined benefit retirement plans with the employees of each labor group, and according to the records of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, the town is on the hook for \$7.32 million in

unfunded pension liability.

The 2021 town contribution to reduce its CalPERS liability is forecast at \$461,000, and that figure is projected to rise to \$708,000 in five years.

Acknowledging the future pressure on town finances, Battenberg explained that it will be difficult for the town to provide services to the community at the current level. And while Moraga carries six months of operating expenditures – \$4.87 million – in its general fund reserve, Battenberg stated in her budget message that the town "could be one emergency away from another fiscal challenge."

Canyon Road Bridge construction moves closer to completion

By Vera Kochan

Much has been accomplished regarding the first phase of construction for the new Canyon Road Bridge. The installation of "planks" spanning across the "dewatered" creek creates the false work used to build a new deck on top of it. The new roadway was moved eastward making the new bridge longer at 165 feet versus the original 100-foot long bridge.

A tall crane lifted large white sacks that created a diversion dam both up and

downstream of the construction site. This maneuver allowed for the installation of a large stormwater pipe between dams to continue the creek flow. Wooden forms were also erected to pour the bridge abutment walls.

Additional good news for commuters is that access through the bridge will now be open most days. According to Public Works Director Shawn Knapp, "There will be intermittent closures on an as-needed basis. Please go to the town's website (www.moraga.ca.us) or sign up on Notify Me to receive updates."



Construction of Stage 1 (the in-bound to Moraga from Canyon section)

Photo provided



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.

See also AUHSD meeting page A2



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Moraga Police Chief updates council on departmental procedures



Moraga Police Department

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Moraga Police Chief Jon King expressed his disgust in the actions leading to the death of George Floyd during his June 10 town council presentation, and assured council members that his department has facilitated conversations with staff regarding current events. It also continues to develop a diverse workforce that is training in crises intervention, de-escalation and implicit bias.

What King wants his department to be doing right now is listening and hearing the community. “As we know, listening is perhaps

the most overlooked portion of communication,” he said.

King stated that the entire Moraga Police Department Policy Manual is posted online and that MPD uses Lexipol, the nation’s leading provider of public safety policy and training solutions.

King also explained whether or not MPD uses eight policies recommended for use in police agencies by Campaign Zero, an American police reform campaign linked with the Black Lives Matter movement (www.8cantwait.org).

Restraint chokeholds/strangleholds have never been authorized

within MPD. However, the carotid control hold, which stops the flow of oxygenated blood to the brain rather than stopping the flow of air to the lungs, has been used. King suspended its use in early June.

With regards to a de-escalation requirement, MPD officers can only use that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary. Officers are required to give a verbal warning and must make efforts to identify themselves prior to use of force.

... continued on Page A12

Criminal charges filed against former Moraga Community Foundation treasurer



Lamo archive

Robert (Bob) Fritzky

By Vera Kochan

United States Attorney David L. Anderson and Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Special Agent in Charge Kareem Carter, through the Department of Justice, on June 17 announced charges filed against Francis Robert Fritzky, the former treasurer of the Moraga Community Foundation. Fritzky was charged with filing a false tax return, wire fraud and aiding

and abetting.

In early September the MCF revealed that Fritzky allegedly made unauthorized withdrawals as Foundation treasurer, between June 23, 2016 through July 24, 2019, of more than \$250,000 from MCF’s bank accounts to himself, to his majority owned company MedMatRx, LLC and to the Jeanette Fritzky Foundation which he founded and controlled. Fritzky also allegedly provided false financial reports to MCF’s board of directors.

According to DOJ, the maximum statutory penalty for wire fraud is 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. The maximum statutory penalty for making and subscribing a false tax return is three years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. However, any sentence will be imposed by the court only after consideration of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the federal statute governing the imposition of a sentence.

As a reminder, the charges at this point are allegations only. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of

law. The case will be prosecuted by the Special Prosecutions Section of the U.S. Attorney’s Office as a result of an investigation by the Moraga Police Department and IRS Criminal Investigation. Fritzky’s initial court appearance in this matter is awaiting scheduling.

Moraga Mayor Kimberleigh Korpus stated, “I can’t speak on this matter on behalf of the Town or the Town Council, but I personally remain horribly stunned and saddened by the entire situation.” She added, “I hope that justice is served in the end, and that Jeanette Fritzky’s children find their way to better days as quickly as possible.”

New town website now operational

By Vera Kochan

The town unveiled its new website June 15, which according to Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt, includes powerful new features and functions that will help improve information sharing.

Five headers include important facts about Moraga along with a tab for easy access to the Chamber of Commerce website, access to Administrative Services, General Government, the Moraga Library website, Moraga-Orinda Fire District website, Parks and Recreation (with a shortcut to the Hacienda de las Flores website), Planning Department, Moraga Police Department website and the Public Works Department. It also allows access to agendas, meeting minutes, committees and commissions, local agencies, town council

information along with town departments and offices. There’s also a header titled “How do I...” that functions as an informational page.

By clicking on “Notify Me” the public can sign up for various notifications, and “Report an Issue” acts much like the Mobile Moraga app whereby things such as graffiti, hazards and potholes can be reported. There is also an “Activity Guide” which mirrors the mail-out version put out by Parks and Recreation; “Maps and GIS (Graphic Information System)” includes an interactive parcel mapping app; and the “About Town Newsletter” has current and archived town news.

Users can offer suggestions for the website (www.moraga.ca.us) at the bottom of the home page by clicking on “What did we miss?”

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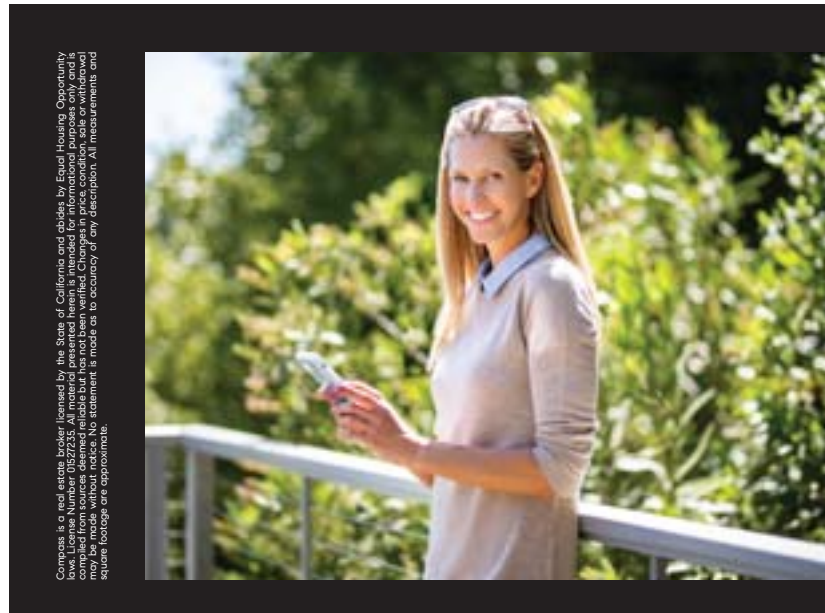
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El Toyonal affected by EBMUD work, parking plan

By Sora O'Doherty

El Toyonal is a long, narrow, twisty road in north Orinda that runs from Camino Pablo to Wildcat Canyon. The narrow street was made more narrow when the city installed berms to stabilize the road. Recently, the school bus route on the road was eliminated as bus drivers refused to traverse the treacherous route. Now the residents are going to be affected by major works by the East Bay Municipal Utility District. And the fear that residents could not evacuate in the event of wildfire, or that Moraga-Orinda Fire District engines could not access a fire has also prompted residents to ask the city for parking restrictions. Representatives of EBMUD were present at the June 16 city council meeting to discuss both issues.

Orinda is central to the work of EBMUD, which currently has six major capital improvement projects scheduled for north Orinda. The meeting was attended by EBMUD Director and Board President Margarite Young of District 3, which includes Orinda, and Senior EBMUD Engineer Chien Wang, who presented the overview of EBMUD's projects in Orinda.

The two pointed out that when these projects were envisioned, no one imagined

that everybody would be at home during a pandemic. In response to a question from Paula Reinman about the timing and frequency of trucks, the EBMUD officials said that all offhaul and equipment delivery will take place between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Concrete pours need to be for 12 continuous hours to ensure structural integrity of the concrete. Concrete delivery will be from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., but trucks will not be allowed to queue up or to idle before 6 a.m. There could be six to eight months of concrete activity. Trucks can do about eight round trips, or more than once every 10 minutes starting at 6 a.m.

The EBMUD officials said that many lessons were learned from the removal of dirt from Briones last year. Severin Borenstein, an Orinda resident, said that the last project involved quite a few trucks, and they did not adhere to start time. To ensure rules are enforced, EBMUD has designated a community affairs contact for the project, whose contact information is on its website. Young said she is committed to being "very on top of this," keeping in mind the project two years ago. "The bar has been raised as to what we expect from our contractors and will be raised further," she promised. Director of Public

Works and Assistant City Manager Larry Theis said that it would be helpful if EBMUD introduced some sort of fine for non-adherence to time limits.

Joan Chomak, who lives on Monte Vista Road, said that the most troublesome noise from the previous project was the high-pitched noise of backup beepers. Chomak asked that EBMUD and city of Orinda require use of white sound alerts, which are OSHA approved and less annoying than the usual beepers.

Starting in 2020, EBMUD is replacing the Encinal pumping plant with a new Westside pumping plant, including the installation of a new Encinal regulator and the demolition of Encinal reservoir and the existing Westside pumping plant. This project, estimated to last until 2023, also includes replacement of pipeline during 2020 and 2021.

The Orinda Water Treatment Plant will undergo disinfection improvements that involve extensive work, including demolition of the existing grounds maintenance building and construction of a new maintenance and UV electrical building, two new electrical buildings, a standby generator and fuels tank, and parking. The project started with community meetings in 2019, and construction is projected to be-

gin in 2021 and end in 2025.

Next year will also see the construction of the Duffel solar PV project, which will construct a five-megawatt solar photovoltaic energy generation facility on 20 acres, and the Briones reservoir tower retrofit project to seismically retrofit the inlet/outlet tower by installing a reinforced steel line inside the upper 70-foot section of the existing tower.

Construction of the Happy Valley pumping plant and pipeline improvement project is scheduled to begin in 2020 and end in 2023. This will include the construction of a new pumping plant at Miner Road and Camino Sobrante and the installation of 2,500 feet of 16-inch pipeline in Miner Road and 500 feet under Lauterwasser Creek.

Construction of the Dos Osos reservoir replacement project is scheduled for 2024 and 2025. Dos Osos reservoir will be demolished and replaced with dual reservoirs at a higher elevation, and the Dos Osos pumping plant will be rehabilitated.

Regarding parking on El Toyonal, residents have expressed concerns that in the event of a wildfire evacuation, they might not be able to either drive out of their community, or fire engines might not be able to drive in to fight a fire.

The council was pre-

sented with a report from contractor W-Trans, which held a public meeting in January with El Toyonal residents after conducting a parking study in December 2019. W-Trans recommended that the city prohibit all on-street parking and stopping on red flag days to keep the roadways clear. The city can model such a program to a similar one used by the city of Pasadena, according to the staff report. According to Orinda staff, there are about 20 to 30 red flag days each year. W-Trans also identified locations where parking should be prohibited owing to the narrow roadway width and obstructed sight lines. If parking restrictions are approved by the council, the city would use existing staff to enforce the rules.

The council discussed the situation in detail, wondering about services such as deliveries, garbage collection, and other services. Rather than create "carve-out" exemptions for such uses, the council decided it would be easier to understand if they prohibited parking rather than stopping, which would allow service vehicles to stop, but not to park. Staff will return with a resolution reflecting the council's preferences.

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New Food Hall approved for downtown Orinda

... continued from Page A1

The new plan for the project has a smaller footprint, with a large outdoor gathering area across from the community center. Orange Theory is still an anchor tenant. Some residents objected to the international chain, including the owners of Atma Yoga and In Forma gym, which occupies the building next door at 23 Orinda Way. Commissioner Ann Parnigoni did not support Orange Theory, but her objections were not strong enough to cause her to oppose the project.

Another commissioner suggested that Orange Theory will be less of a competitor to local gyms than another local fitness business would be.

Other public commenters objected to the parking provisions for the project, in which the developer pays fees of over \$450,000 in lieu of 50 parking spaces. The project provides for 36 parking spaces on site, instead of the 86 spaces that would be required otherwise. The developer suggested that pa-

trons may require less parking, owing to trends toward ride sharing, bicycling and walking.

All of the commissioners praised Ugenti for the way he responded to previous suggestions from the commission and the public and improved the project now approved. "The plaza center makes the whole thing work," said one commissioner. Parnigoni said that the developer should be really proud of himself for bringing a very different project forward. She said it felt like a community extension to the community center, and hoped that the plaza area would include a water feature. Other positive comments included, "fantastic for the city," "really goes along with the city master plan," and "consistent with what we expected in downtown Orinda." Several members of the public also commented favorably about the new development during the meeting.

The lot at 25A is 22,000 square feet. The approved project will contain 19,300 square feet over two levels and a mezzanine. The

height of the building will be slightly under 38 feet at its highest point, which goes up about three feet to the north of the building owing to the slope of the land. The mezzanine and second floor will house office space, while the ground floor has Orange Theory at one end and the market hall extending to the other end, beyond which is the outdoor open plaza, of approximately 3,000 square feet. The plaza is called "The Yard." There are also a few smaller retail spaces at the front of the building, which is only slightly set back from the street.

One issue that attracted a lot of discussion is the potential removal of some existing street trees to conform to the fire code. Planning Director Drummond Buckley urged the commission not to tie the approval of the project to the requirements of the fire code vis-a-vis the trees because neither the city nor the developer controlled those requirements. He added that the MOFD fire marshal has been very cooperative.




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 <p>Orinda Public Meetings</p>	<p>City Council Tuesday, June 30, 7:15 p.m. Regular Meeting By Teleconference Only</p>	<p>Wilder Council Subcommittee Special Meeting Thursday, July 16, 5:00 p.m. By Teleconference Only</p>	<p>Orinda Union School District Board Meetings TBA 8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda www.orindaschools.org See also AUHSD meeting page A2</p>
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Orinda begins conversation on policing

By Sora O'Doherty

Emphasizing that this is only the beginning of the conversation, the Orinda city council opened a forum on policing policies in the city in response to numerous communications received from the public. During the COVID-19 pandemic, all city meetings are held via the Zoom conferencing platform. Chief of Police David Cook submitted a video and was available by telephone to respond to the council and the public.

Cook began by extending his sympathy and condolences to the family of George Floyd, and added, "Let me be unequivocal in stating, I condemn the actions of the officer Chauvin and the officers who stood by and allowed it to happen. These actions have no place in law enforcement and are not reflective of how our officers or the deputy sheriffs of the office of sheriff do their job." Cook reviewed the hiring requirements of the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office, from which Orinda draws its police officers, and offered personal reflections on his training at the Sherman-Block Supervisory Leadership Academy, a course spread over eight months, that he said was foundational for him.

The police chief also offered praise for the organizers of the June 6 Black Lives Matter demonstration in Orinda, Neil and Tanya Pretlow, who also spoke at the meeting, and Cook spoke about the use of force by Orinda police, and responded to comments.

Nicole Reader asked if the council had reviewed the Police Scorecard for Contra Costa County, which, she pointed out, gave the County Sheriff's Office a grade of F. "In 100% of the fatal shootings by our sheriff's department, they did not first attempt to use less lethal force," she reported. "Also, in 70% of the interactions where our sheriff's department killed or seriously injured someone, the injured person was unarmed." She concluded, "Finally, our sheriff's department was six times as likely to use deadly force on an African-American person than a white person."

Reader and others asked the council to commit to a four-part pledge espoused by President Barak Obama: review your police use of force policies; engage your communities by including a diverse range of input, experiences, and stories in your review; report the findings of your review to your community and seek feedback; and reform your

community's police use of force policies. Mayor Darlene Gee said that Orinda is undertaking the four steps of the Obama Pledge. City attorney Osa Wolff reminded the council that they could only discuss what is on an agenda, and recommended a future noticed meeting to comply with the Brown Act.

A number of speakers sought data on the actions of the Orinda police department in regards to racial and mental health stops and arrests, as well as more information on the use of body cameras by the OPD. Cook said that the police do not track statistics on mental health calls received, but added that the OPD wants to be of assistance to the community and that it would not be appropriate to send in a social worker alone where someone is acting out. Cook also said that the OPD is a unit of the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office, so it is that office that tracks statistics.

Orinda officers do not currently wear body cameras, and it was suggested that the city determine the cost of implementing such a program. When asked about the mutual aid agreements and if Orinda officers were pulled away to assist at demonstrations in Oakland, Cook responded that there are two types of mutual aid agreements, a local day-to-day agreement between Orinda, Lafayette, Moraga and the Sheriff's Office, and the actual mutual-aid agreement managed by the Sheriff's Office. Cook explained that Orinda officers did not go to the aid of Oakland, but in fact had increased staffing in Orinda at the time.

The mayor thanked the public for its interest, saying that the city had received hundreds of emails. "We will take steps to move the topic forward," she promised.

Neil Pretlow expressed his gratitude for being invited and allowed to speak and voice concerns and recommendations for continuing the work together. "Orinda holds a very special place in my heart, despite the difficulties I faced growing up here," he said. The mayor said she was very happy that Pretlow chose to come back to Orinda. She acknowledged that Pretlow's involvement means that Orinda can create a community "that we can be proud of," she said, and concluded, "We want Miles [Pretlow's young son] to grow up in a community that all of us are proud of, fair and equitable and provides everything equally to all of our residents."

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MOFD suspends community chipping program



MOFD wood chipper on the job

Photo courtesy MOFD

By Nick Marnell

In the face of a passionate outcry from district residents to continue the program, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board June 17 passed on an opportunity to extend the district's highly acclaimed community chipping program through the summer months, citing the program cost and the need for the fuels mitigation staff to pivot from vegetation management to inspections of parcels in

violation of the fire code.

Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs told the board that from Jan. 1 through June 12 – the final day of the program – the district chipped 190 tons of material, serviced 385 homes and spent \$50,000 in the process. He noted that the program became so wildly successful among residents and neighborhoods that scheduling became a challenge.

So much so that the district had to put on the brakes. “This program was bud-

geted at a much lower amount than the demand required,” Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said. “We have limited staff available and we have an obligation to follow up on violations and complaints that we’ve received.” This year, MOFD has received 60 complaints of fire code violations from residents.

The chief pointed out examples of residents piling material along the roadside with an expectation that MOFD would respond to a chipping request which had been neither submitted nor scheduled. One resident left piles of firewood to be chipped. Several neighborhoods were scheduled for a single day of chipping, but that sometimes turned into 10 days as piles of new material were added to the roadside.

“There will be an insatiable demand by the public,” Winnacker said. “It will exceed what the district is capable of providing.”

Options were discussed, including expanding the program year round; a truncated, three-day-a-week program; shifting money from other operations; and a cost-sharing model between the district and residents. But the talks inevitably reverted to either the program cost or the inability of the fire district to support the program.

To continue the chipping program for the 10 weeks until Sept. 1, it would cost the district up to \$10,000 per week. But that may not meet the communitywide demand, the chief said, as it would include only one machine each day. At times, the district rented three chippers a day

this year.

“We’ve got to cut back spending, and now we’re going to throw \$100,000 at a wood chipping program?” Director Greg Baitx said. “(The residents) can do it themselves.” The district projects a \$1.5 million operating loss in 2021.

A cost-sharing proposal of \$50 per household went nowhere, though the idea of cost sharing as a motivational tool or incentive had some appeal. But the discussion came back to the use of district personnel.

“We have to do our inspections to make sure our evacuation routes are clear,” Director Michael Donner said. District evacuation routes are the top priority for compliance inspections this summer.

“If the idea is to make the community safer, I’m going to bet that for \$100,000, you’re going to reduce a lot more fuel in two and a half months through the chipper program than you are through the inspection program,” Director Craig Jorgens said.

As the 2021 fiscal year budget had been approved, the addition of the chipping program required the board to reconsider the budget agenda item. Only directors Jorgens and John Jex – who are up for re-election in November – voted in favor of reconsidering the budget item, and the motion was defeated 3 to 2.

President Stephen Danziger cast the tie-breaking vote. “I suggest that we bring this item back to the board at our next meeting,” Danziger said. The meeting is scheduled for July 15.

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Moraga-Orinda Fire District

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Board of Directors
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Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, David M. Cook
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report



Alarms	54
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	14
Traffic	115
Suspicious Circumstances	13
Suspicious Subject	13
Suspicious Vehicle	22
Service to Citizen	95
Patrol Req./Security Check	45
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Supplemental Report	18
Vacation House Check	11
Welfare Check	19
Ordinance Violation	5
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.	
3500 Block Brook St. (3)	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1100 Block Bacon Way	
Petty Theft From Veh	
3700 Block Highland Rd.	
Petty Theft Veh Parts	
3700 Block Highland Ct.	
Reckless Driving	
St. Marys Rd./S Lucille Ln.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24	

40 Block Knox Dr.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
Via Granada/Moraga Rd., Mor.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./2Nd St.
Oak Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24

Tc - Property Damage
700 Block St. Marys Rd.
Lana Ln./Foye Dr.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./2Nd St.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Greenvalley Dr.

Other criminal activity
Commercial Burglary
3400 Block Golden Gate Way
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Computer Fraud
1400 Block Edwards Ct.
Fraud Credit Card
500 Block Silverado Dr.

Fraud False Pretenses
3700 Block St Francis Dr.
1400 Block Sunset Loop

Grand Theft
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.
3200 Block Old Tunnel Rd.

Grand Theft Veh Parts
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.
Misc Burglary
1000 Block 2Nd St.

Petty Theft
3600 Block Brook St.
1000 Block 2Nd St.
3600 Block Boyer Cir. (2)

1000 Block 2Nd St.
1100 Block Hillcrest Dr.
1300 Block Masterson Ln.
Petty Theft Bicycle
900 Block Risa Rd.

Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Fireworks
600 Block Sky Hy Cir.
Loud Music
900 Block Carol Ln.
3100 Block Kingsley Pl.

3300 Block Springhill Rd.
Loud Noise
3500 Block Powell Dr.
3300 Block Springhill Rd.
1300 Block San Reliez Ct.

Loud Party
1200 Block Medfield Rd.
3300 Block Beechwood Dr.
Echo Springs Rd./Reliez Valley Rd. (3)

Westminster Pl./El Curtola Blvd.
Reliez Valley Rd./Echo Springs Rd.
Public Nuisance
900 Block Dolores Dr.
Hidden Valley Rd./Acalanes Rd. (3)

Las Huertas Rd./St. Marys Rd.
Glenside Dr./Los Palos Dr.
900 Block Acalanes Rd.
3300 Block Woodland Way
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

Trespass
1000 Block 2Nd St.
Vandalism
3400 Block Golden Gate Way
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
700 Block Old Jonas Hill Rd.
3900 Block Cowan Rd.

Other
Animal Cruelty
3400 Block School St.
Defraud Innkeeper
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

H&S Violation
3400 Block School St. (2)
Harassment
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1St St.

K9 Outside Assist Request
400 Block Lakehead Ct., Dba
Loitering
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3300 Block Springhill Rd.

Threats
900 Block Hunsaker Canyon Rd.
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.

Unwanted Guest
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Violation Custody Order
1200 Block Warner Ct.

Warrant Service
1000 Block N Thompson Rd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



June 2 - June 1
Alarms 11
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 10
Traffic 17

Suspicious Circumstances 12
Suspicious Subject 3
Suspicious Vehicle 3
Service to Citizen 50
Patrol Req./Security Check 22
Supplemental Report 11
Vacation House Check 0
Welfare Check 5

Vehicle violations
Excessive Speed
In Front Of 711
200 Block Corliss Dr. (4)
2200 Block Corliss

Corliss Dr./Lynwood
Larch Ave./Wandel
Corliss Dr./Lynwood Pl.
Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr.
St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd., Laf.

Mt. Diablo Blvd./First St., Laf.
Moraga Rd./Devin Dr. (2)
Moraga Rd./Ifo Commons Park
Ifo 235 Corliss Dr. (2)
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
Moraga Rd./Sky Hy Dr.
Ifo 211 Corliss Dr.

Ifo Commons Park
Reckless Driving
Camino Pablo Rd School
Safeway
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr.

Vehicle Theft
Donald Dr./Alice Ct.
Alta Mesa Dr./Moraga Rd.
1800 Block St. Andrews Dr.

Other criminal activity
Fraud False Pretenses
30 Block Corliss Dr.
Grand Theft
20 Block Carr Dr.

Petty Theft
Camino Pablo Rd School
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
Not Available
Rheem Valley Shopping Center

Loud Music
Not Available
Loud Noise
David Dr./Allen Ct.
Not Available

Loud Party
2100 Block Ascot Dr.
Vandalism
Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.

Other
Fireworks
1100 Block Rimer Dr.
Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo
Sanders Ranch Rd./Brandt Dr.
Larch Ave./Canning Ct.

Ordinance Violation
1900 Block Ascot Dr.
Other Non Criminal
Arco



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

Alarms	29
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	16
Traffic	20
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	9
Suspicious Vehicle	13
Service to Citizen	96
Patrol Req./Security Check	55
Supplemental Report	18
Welfare Check	7
Ordinance Violation	4
Vehicle violations	
Accident Injury	
Camino Sobrante/La Noria	
Accident Property	
30 Block Loma Vista Dr.	
Auto Burglary	
Bear Creek Rd Ifo Briones	

Overlook
Reckless Driving
Glorietta Blvd./Orchard Rd.
Tc - No Details
Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24

Tc - Property Damage
Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd.
Vehicle Theft
Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo

Other criminal activity
Commercial Burglary
20 Block Bryant Way
10 Block Orinda Way (2)

Grand Theft
Safeway
Identity Theft
300 Block El Toyonal
Police Department
10 Block Sanborn Rd.
10 Block El Sueno

Petty Theft
30 Block Knickerbocker Ln.
Shell Gas
Safeway
200 Block Courtney Ln.
10 Block Orchard Rd.

Residential Burglary
100 Block Crest View Dr.
Robbery Strongarm
200 Block Brookwood Rd.

Shoplift
CVS (2)
Warrant Arrest
CVS

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
20 Block Las Vegas Rd.
Disturbing The Peace
Theatre Square
100 Block Caro Ln.

Loud Music
10 Block La Fond Ln. (2)
Loud Noise
Happy Valley Rd./Orinda View Rd.
20 Block Moraga Via

Loud Party
Tappan Ln./Bear Ridge Rd.
Meadow View Rd./Glorietta Blvd.
Glorietta Blvd./Meadow View Rd.
10 Block Highland Ct. (2)

Vallecito Ln./El Toyonal
100 Block Barbara Rd.
Public Nuisance
Valley View Dr./Moraga Way
70 Block Brookwood Rd.

Vandalism
100 Block Ravenhill Rd.
10 Block Orinda Way

Other
Brandishing Weapon
40 Block Citron Knoll
H&S Violation
CVS

Loitering
Miramonte High School
Violation Custody Order
Orinda Theatre



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Moving into the likely reopening of schools

By Sophie Braccini

The current general thinking about the reopening of the schools in the fall is that a blended model will allow all students to be back in their schools at least several days a week. The push from parents is very strong to restore a more tangible link between the young people and their teachers. Plans depend on the county health services' order that is driven by public health data.

During a June 17 study session the superintendent of the Acalanes Union High School District, John Nickerson, cited a district parents survey which shows that only 5% of parents will want their children to continue distance-learning come the first day of school on Aug. 11. Numerous parents' comments in all three cities highlighted the desire to end isolation and free the youngsters to live their lives as kids. Keeping them and staff safe remains the number one concern for both parents and districts.

"The COVID-19 pandemic led us on a journey none of us thought we would experience in our lifetime," states the California Department of Education June report on safe reopening of the schools. To pave that new path, during the spring and beginning of summer, all the school districts continue working in committees of educators and parents to invent the new models of education. Schools are working on the three possible scenarios: 100% distance learning; blended model; or complete reopening. The blended model seems to be the most likely at this time. It is clear to all that being nimble and flexible will be key. During the coming school year, instruction may need to be delivered in different ways at different times, and districts are working on protocols if there is a local outbreak.

The blended model pro-

poses physical presence of students, but in fewer numbers to accommodate the social distancing state requires, along with mask wearing.

The four Lamorinda school districts are working together to harmonize their schedule and minimize stress on families. The AUHSD at this time favors splitting the student body in half alphabetically and has designed a block schedule where student group A would be on campus Tuesday and Thursday, while student group B would be back to the classrooms on Wednesday and Friday. School will be taught online on the other days. Other models include a morning/afternoon divide of the students. Carrie Nerheim from the Orinda Union School District proposed to send packets home for families where the students have a difficult time accessing the material over the computer. That district, along the others, stressed the importance of keeping students with special needs in the loop and may be increasing those students' access to campus if a blended model is chosen.

Splitting the student body in half is not going to make matters simpler for working parents. Stephanie Richards for the Moraga School District indicated that spaces to provide childcare for about 90 students had been looked at in every school. The Lafayette School District is working with the Parks and Recreation Department, which already offers afterschool enrichment classes.

All the schools have noted that distance learning this spring semester has led to students' loss of motivation due to lack of accountability, no grading system and a multitude of platforms. The AUHSD has now adopted Canvas as the new platform that will be used in the blended and online models. It allows for tracking day-to-day student engagement and performance,

according to AUHSD Aida Glimme, thus identifying those needing extra support. In the blended and online models, the AUHSD's Mondays will be dedicated to targeted interventions, counseling and wellness meetings, as well as extra-curricular offerings. Three hours on Monday afternoons are also planned for professional development. Teachers will need to learn the new platform and adapt their curriculum to the new normal(s).

The districts and their strategy committees are also revisiting the curricula, identifying essential standards. Mary Maddux of the Lafayette School District explained that cross grade level conversations were taking place to evaluate what the kids missed, how they will be assessed, identifying the gaps, and how teachers can move forward.

Even if campuses need to be closed for some time, the emotional well-being of the students will take prominence. Amy McNamara, who led the wellness group for the AUHSD, confirmed that whatever the model adopted, teachers will be trained to give a short emotional screening test to their students and will be asked to add in their classes routines of self-regulation. They will be encouraged to engage students in discussions, foster group connections, bring back a sense of fun in the classroom, whether online or on-site, and offer projects that are not screen time during online education.

A lot of other aspects are being worked on, such as access to campus, active or passive screening, arts classes, lab operation, extra-curricular activities, as well as food and transportation services. Of course, during this difficult budget situation, districts are scrambling to get funding for more custodial services, masks, gels, screens, and more.

The final model will likely be locked in mid-July.

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Moraga Chamber's Town Hall meeting addresses COVID-19 related concerns

... continued from Page A4

However, they have received numerous complaints about people not adhering to social distancing and wearing masks. Brandt reminded residents that playgrounds, play structures, basketball and volleyball courts are still closed.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker spoke about his crew having to work through the COVID-19 outbreak at the skilled nursing facility in Orinda, which resulted in almost all of its residents and a majority of the staff testing positive. "In response to that, we've enacted enhanced personal protective equipment measures to protect our firefighters and support from the Rescue One Foundation." He added, "We've sourced and put in service enhanced decontamination procedures for the back of the ambulance as well."

Saint Mary's College Assistant Vice President of Alumni and Community Engagement Mary Poppingo discussed the financial impact to the college and eventual need to cut costs, and cited the importance to "do all we can to get us back to doing what we do best, which is namely in-person instruction and providing students with a residential

experience." Fall classes are tentatively expected to resume Aug. 24, with the re-configuration of class size and on-campus housing layouts.

Acalanes Union High School District Superintendent John Nickerson, who assured everyone that the school district was closely examining state and county guidelines, touched on parental concerns regarding opening up schools. "Social distancing will be a challenge, but the basic model we're looking at is to do a six-foot distancing and to have no more than half the students in a classroom at a single time." Nickerson added that they will be depending on students' behavior and helping them understand they're doing social distancing for the community. Masks will be required.

Whether classes will be online or in-person is yet to be determined, but the district has plans for multiple scenarios: to open up and allow all students on campus at the same time, albeit with many restrictions; allow distance learning from home with opportunities to come to school; or a blended scenario whereby half the student body would be allowed on campus at a time with distance learning on other days (see related story above).

Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns acknowledged the tremendous effort both teachers and parents have done to keep students on point with their learning agenda given the circumstances. The district distributed hundreds of computers to families for participation in distance learning. "MSD is planning to open on Aug. 11, and what it looks like now is yet to be determined," stated Burns. "Staff has been gathering research from across the county, state, country and globally to prepare for three opening scenarios." Hoping that schools resume at a high level of normalcy, there is the possibility of all instruction continuing via distance learning. A blended model would allow students on campuses part-time in conjunction with distance learning. The challenge of social distancing and mask wearing is being examined with input from a few schools that have remained open during the shelter-in-place order.

The MSD's budget is experiencing a COVID-19 shortfall. "Thankfully, we have a healthy reserve - a rainy day fund, but it is raining." Burns added, "We'll exhaust that shortly, and in addition, we'll need to make significant reductions."

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Letters to the editor

Support local businesses

I have had the privilege of serving the Moraga Chamber of Commerce for 10 years: seven as Executive Director and, prior to that, three as its Administrator. On March 16, 2020, my role changed dramatically. Essential businesses, social distancing, no-contact payment, masks, gloves, innovation and re-imagining became the words of survival for the local businesses. Some of these businesses are owned by mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, many of them locals who had to make decisions whether or not to retreat and stay safely indoors with their families, or risk exposure and illness by keeping their doors open for the community in order to have the most essential needs available. As Gov. Newsom and our County leaders slowly and cautiously delayed re-opening, I never heard a complaint — no shop, restaurant or any other service gave up. The owners came to work to serve the community of Moraga. The businesses have suffered great financial loss, and in some cases, physical challenges along with two sink-holes, a bridge that is closed off and on, fires, power outages etc. but where legally possible, they stayed open to serve.

So, as we emerge from the womb of safety in our homes and have options to dine out, shop and move more freely, please remember to continue to support our local businesses and services. They have been here for us when we most needed them, now it is up to us as a community to be here and support them. Remember your Masks!

Kathe Nelson
Moraga

Please don't let "I told you so" happen ...

Lafayette businesses are so happy to be serving you again. And it's not just because they miss you. They must open if they are going to survive. We have a chance to help them and stay healthy at the same time. The citizens of Lafayette want to say thank you for the pro-active steps Contra Costa took to support the safety and health of our community. We know those measures were necessarily made with a broad brush and those decisions saved thousands of lives. We all sacrificed much - please don't stop now. We have done a lot of hard work to keep everyone safe. As retail and restaurants open I want to remind everyone that our work is not done.

Community Members – as cities and towns around the country have started to reopen there have been spikes in new cases and Northern California is no exception. We should all agree that basic safety precautions need to be followed by all businesses and customers. This includes crowd control, social distancing, extra space in isles, masks and in some cases gloves, proper postings for staff and customers, and enforcement by business owners. Anything less should be considered non-conforming and irresponsible.

Businesses - we have fought hard with county health officials to be reasonable and allow prudent businesses to operate safely. But now it is up to you to ensure your customers and your employees are SAFE. No shortcutting. You would not believe list of mandatory guidelines businesses must implement before they can open their doors. You can visit these necessary measures <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/#top> Contra Costa has done such a good job, but we all know we can do better. Put the masks back on. I hate them too. I really do. But I want to hang around a little longer. We are closing in on 5,000 COVID-19 deaths in California. We can do better than this. Be kind. If you are not doing it for yourself, please consider the rest of us.

Jay Lifson
Executive Director, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

A moment of hope

Lafayette, Calif. managed to have a protest on June 5. We borrowed enough black folks from somewhere so that we looked appropriately diverse. It wasn't a big party and everyone went home around 5 p.m. I have good news. A terrible festering problem is now in full view and those who care will strive to make changes. Leaders will hopefully rise up and lead us where we need to go. Perhaps some who now hold government in disrepute will be voted in and legislate to everyone's benefit. I dare say some who protest, and perhaps even riot, will become police officers and protect others in the future who have grievances.

The bad news. Human history indicates inhumanity. Human history indicates that every nation, every ethnic group and tribe participated in slavery, and other atrocities. Every possible act of selfishness and "me first" will continue.

I am a person who be-

lieves that only God can change us at our core and enable us to become who we were intended. Our nation was founded on that, and that is where our hope lies. (Those who rewrite history don't want you to believe that.) God bless America, and hurry up, we're losing it!

Kent Gordon
Lafayette

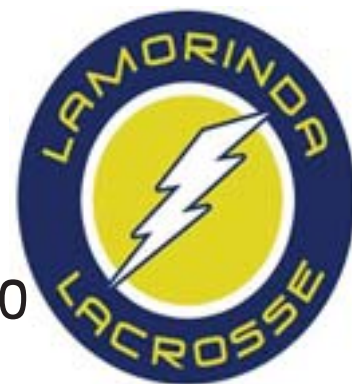
Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising 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 for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570



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Campolindo High School:

GIRLS: Kate Norton, Julia Parsons, Kendall Monkarsh*, Devon Ortman*, Mallory Louis, Cami Ingersol, Molly Mithune, Chloe Schaffel
BOYS: Jean-Luc Axelrod*, Jake Crumbach, Cooper Krznaric, Patrick McLin, Carson Niederhaus*, Tucker Shea, Connor Spires



Acalanes High School:

GIRLS: Sophie Benveniste, Maile Broad*, Kat Gunn, Natasha Malinovsky, Ellie Meyer, Sydney Norstad, Olivia Pellegrini, Jordan Pratt*, Isabel Rurka*, Natalie Seiler*, Keri Wendt*, Lauren Westergren*, Maddie Wilson
BOYS: Charlie Bettencourt*, Carson Burrill*, Ben Clark, Leo Cohen*, Matt Hess, Avery Howell*, June Jung*, Mattew Montaquila, Rob Montoya, Oliver Rotundo*, Cole Schoenheide, Renn Strandberg*

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Moraga Police Chief updates council on departmental procedures

... continued from Page A5

The policy of requiring officers to exhaust all other reasonable alternatives before using deadly force is not always possible, according to King. MPD's officers are trained to go to the most appropriate level of force for any particular situation. It is based on the totality of circumstances and reasonable officer standards.

The requirement of officers to intervene in order to prevent the use of unrea-

sonable force by another officer is expected in the MPD.

Officers can shoot at a moving vehicle in Moraga "when an officer reasonably believes there are no other reasonable means available to avert the threat of the vehicle."

The Use-of-Force Continuum is outdated in that it implies that officers must use a lower level force option before using higher level ones. MPD officers are allowed to choose the appropriate level of force given the

situation.

To require comprehensive reporting is a staple within MPD which requires internal reporting and notification for any use-of-force incidents.

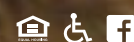
"There's more communication going on right now with California police chiefs about best practices," stated King. He asks his officers to have respect for everyone, "I think that's how we have to do our jobs."

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A crack in the door: 'Live' art returns to Lamorinda



Murder Mystery with Mr. Grim

Photo Malcolm Cowler

By Sophie Braccini

Much like in the spring when little flowers start poking their heads out of the ground, art projects are gently sprouting again in Lamorinda. A new painting was installed at the Moraga Commons Park, Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery in Lafayette reopened alongside the Moraga Art Gallery, the Orinda Starlight Village Players are offering a live murder mystery online, while Lafayette's Town Hall Theatre invites audiences to revisit Oscar Wilde's "An Ideal Husband."

It has been a very difficult three-month period for artists, very often deprived of revenue but still having to face fixed costs linked to their art, and unable to share their productions with the public. The community has also been deprived of artistic nourishment, but the tide is, slowly, turning.

First signs of new art are visual. Two galleries are re-opening to the public, on a limited basis to comply with the county health services' order. Jennifer Perlmutter in Lafayette whose gallery occupies the large former bank at the corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard feels very comfortable with distance and masks. At this time no receptions or events are being planned but the doors are open for the public to see the new exhibition by Dana DeKalb and Jane Fisher, "Domesticated," Wednesday through Saturday between 2 and 6 p.m.

The spacious Moraga Art Gallery has reopened, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. The artists collaborative that manages the gallery says that it will continue to implement safe practices for protection of visitors and staff alike. Face masks are required, the number of customers is limited to four people at a time, and if there is a need to touch the artwork, a box of gloves is available at the front desk.

Free for viewing in Lamorinda are the statues displayed in public places in the three cities, including a project of the Moraga Art in Public Spaces committee, consisting of a new original art piece by student Anna Chao, photographed and turned into a wrap for the large electric utility box at the Moraga Commons Park.

According to the latest health order, theaters are not

to reopen before July 15. Professional entertainers are finding creative ways to keep working and producing.

The Orinda Starlight Village Players are offering every Thursday of the week in July a live Zoom murder mystery called "Betsy." It is described as a combination between an escape room and dinner murder mystery, hosted by mysterious Mr. Grim (Malcolm Cowler). A group of eight actors will tell the story and act the different parts while up to nine guests will play live online to discover "who did it." The Players are offering this online entertainment for free, but donations will be appreciated. To reserve a spot on a Thursday night please email Info@orsvp.org or call (925) 528-9225.

Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette is also offering online entertainment for free, and is grateful for donations. The team is offering through July 17 Oscar Wilde's "An Ideal Husband," one of its archival videos recorded during a live performance, which has the feeling of an in-person viewing. Although the play is set in 1895 London, the themes could not be more relevant today. Director Susan Hovey stated that the topic is timeless. There is political intrigue and scandal, but the show does not hit you over the head with it. It's scathingly witty and thoroughly entertaining at the same time. The video is accessible on the theater's website link (www.townhalltheatre.com/town-hall-video-archives.)

Cal Shakes will not be seen at the Bruins Theater in Orinda this summer, but is busy with engaging youth in its summer conservatory.



Photo Jay Yamada

From left: Heather Kellogg and Dennis Markam in "An Ideal Husband" by Oscar Wilde.

Return of normalcy ... a la goat



Photo Pippa Fisher

Hard-working goats were back the week of June 16, doing their part to help prevent fires by chomping their way through the vegetation

on the Cancer Support Community's land next to the Lafayette Reservoir. - P. Fisher

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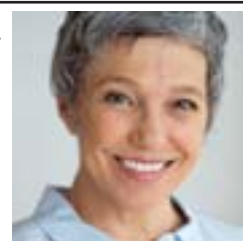
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Local plans for 'virtual' Fourth of July celebration



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Banners in Orinda boast of the "Best Hometown Parade," but the parade will be "virtual" in 2020 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

By Vera Kochan

Patriotism is alive and well in Lamorinda despite coronavirus restrictions. Moraga's annual family friendly Fourth of July celebration, traditionally held in the Moraga Commons Park has been reconfigured this year. Fireworks have been canceled along with all of the Fun Runs, food booths and music in favor of a "vir-

tual" celebration designed to adhere to social distancing concerns that would typically be impossible at this type of event. Orinda will not be holding its annual parade, but is promoting a decorating contest where residents don their homes in red, white and blue and document it on film. There will be an Orinda-wide video presentation at 10:30 a.m. narrated by Steve Har-

wood, and residents are encouraged to recognize local workers and frontline heroes with five minutes of noise at noon.

The Moraga Parks and Recreation Department has devised some scaled down participation-style activities to boost town morale during the holiday. The Dog Parade encourages owners to dress their four-legged friends patrioti-

cally, go for a walk and take a photo to post on social media by using #moragadogparade or tagging Moraga Parks and Recreation.

A Kids' Bike Parade is also encouraged. Families can ride around their neighborhood, through the town or on the trails with decorated bikes. Stop and take photos to share with the community by using #moragabikeparade or tagging Moraga Parks and Recreation.

No Fourth of July is complete without a barbecue. Both Moraga Parks and Rec and Orinda are suggesting that residents bring the grill to the front yard for a social distancing party with neighbors beginning 4:30 p.m. Moraga residents can send photos of the festivities to #moragafrontyardbbq or tagging Moraga Parks and Recreation.

If you have a secret/never-fails barbecue recipe that you're willing to share, send it to: recdesk@moraga.ca.us and it will be posted on the Parks and Rec website.

Have another way to safely celebrate the Fourth? Send them to #moraga4thofjuly or tag Moraga Parks and Recreation. If you don't have social media you can send your photos to: recdesk@moraga.ca.us. All photos will be compiled into a real-time slideshow and available for viewing between July 4 through July 11 on the town's website: www.moraga.ca.us. Orinda home decorating contest entry forms and more information can be found on the Orinda Association website: <https://orindaassociation.org/4th-of-july-parade>

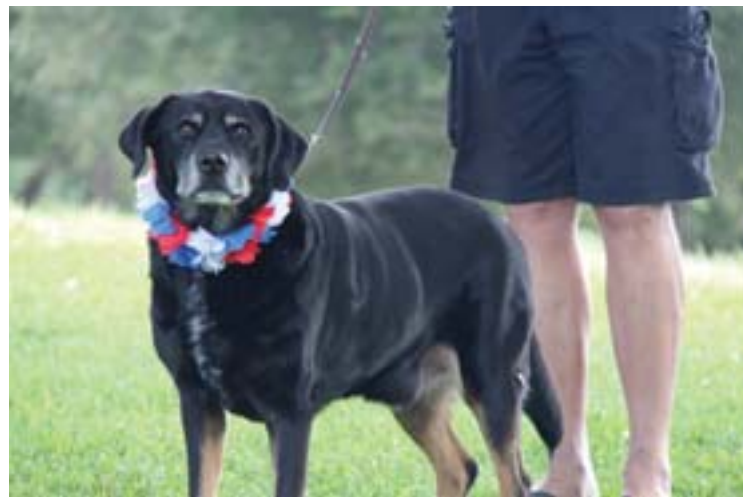


Photo provided

Sumptuous potato salad for summer barbecues



Blue cheese potato salad

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

Summer is my very favorite season because I love warm evenings and the unbridled anticipation of outdoor dining, patio barbecues and picnics in the park. And, when you think of barbecues and picnics, potato salad isn't far behind! This one calls for blue cheese dressing instead of mayonnaise, along with bacon, caramelized shallots and boiled eggs. Try this one out for your Fourth of July celebration. If you love blue cheese, you are going to love this potato salad!

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



Blue Cheese Potato Salad

INGREDIENTS

- 2 1/4 pounds red potatoes
- 1 teaspoon lemon pepper (or plain salt)
- 6 strips of bacon, cooked and crumbled (I use turkey bacon, but pork is fine too)
- 2 stalks celery, sliced or diced
- 4 hardboiled eggs, chopped
- 3 large shallots thinly sliced and caramelized in olive oil
- 2 tablespoons minced parsley
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon
- 1/2 teaspoon white pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup yogurt blue cheese dressing (recipe below or can use bottled)

DIRECTIONS

Fill a large pot with water and add the lemon pepper. Scrub the potatoes and put them in the pot with the water. If you have large potatoes, halve or quarter them, but if they are the small red potatoes, just put them in whole. (Do not put the potatoes in already boiling water because they don't cook evenly that way and the outsides cook much faster than the insides.) Now this is where cooking potatoes gets a little tricky. Boil them for anywhere from 5-15 minutes, depending upon the size of your potato chunks. The smaller the potato pieces the less time they will take to cook. Test them regularly during cooking to avoid overcooking them. They are done when a knife easily inserts through the potatoes and they are tender all the way through.

Remove potatoes from the heat and strain out the liquid. Cool completely. Once cooled, cut the potatoes into bite-sized pieces and put into a large bowl. Toss together gently with bacon, celery, eggs, caramelized shallots and parsley. Drizzle olive oil and lemon juice over salad and toss. Toss again with blue cheese dressing. Season to taste with salt and white pepper. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Garnish with parsley sprigs or minced parsley and a dash of paprika.

Yogurt Blue Cheese Dressing

(Yields 1 1/4 cups dressing, but you won't need all of this so save it for later!)

INGREDIENTS

- 5 ounces crumbled blue cheese, softened to room temperature
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/8 teaspoon white pepper
- 1/2 cup plain nonfat yogurt

DIRECTIONS

In a small bowl, smash blue cheese until fairly smooth using a fork. Stir in white wine vinegar, olive oil and white pepper. Blend until well integrated. Add yogurt and mix well. This makes a very thick dressing. Add more olive oil or yogurt as desired to arrive at the dressing consistency you enjoy. Refrigerate until ready to use.

Does your health care advocate really know what you want?

By Linda Fodrini-Johnson

Most of us have a health care directive, also known as the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care. Actually, everyone over the age of 18 should have one – life happens, and you want an advocate when it does!

This is a legal document, but it does not have to be generated by an attorney. However, it must contain language valid and approved in your state and have witnesses to your signature. Most elder law and estate planning attorneys do generate these documents after discussion with clients.

So, how long ago did you read yours? If you have an older family member for whom you would need to make decisions, do you know

their wishes? Do they have this document so that you can advocate for them at a distance?

With COVID-19, many of us are questioning what we would want in the way of treatments. Do we want to be ventilated or just have oxygen? This is just one of many challenges one could have during this time. Once ventilated, you cannot very well communicate. So, who is going to give direction to the medical providers? Does that person know what you want and, more importantly, what you don't want?

In California, many of us have a document generated by the California Medical Association called the Advance Care Directive. Some of us might have used a document called the "Five Wishes" that gives a little more detail.

I suggest that you look at the Regents of the University of California's "Prepare for your Care – Advance Health Care Directive"

www.prepareforyourcare.org/advance-directive-state/ca and use it as a discussion tool with the person who would make decisions for you. What you have currently might still be appropriate, but this document can give you some important issues to discuss when comparing to existing documents. They also have this document for other states. Some of the topics covered in this document include:

- Questions with scales to answer them. For example, put an X along a line to show how you feel today in your current health and then another such question that asks you to put an X on the scale if you were so sick that you may

die soon.

- Questions about how much flexibility you want your decision maker to have.
- Hard questions that your decision maker might be asked. For example, would you want dialysis if your kidneys stopped working or a feeding tube if you can't swallow?

You might have articulated that you don't want to be hooked up to machines or ventilators. Many of us also have said, usually because of our age, that we don't want to have CPR because we have heard of the harm it can do. There are a multitude of decisions to make, but having a discussion now will help us to be prepared and able to live life our way.



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

NCL Acalanes Area Chapter continues volunteer efforts during pandemic



Pam and Kelsey Severson

Photo Todd Severson

Submitted by Jillian Esopa

Members from the National Charity League, Inc., Acalanes Area Chapter, continue to serve NCL's mission and its commitment to service by helping the local community and disaster relief efforts.

NCL is evolving with the current shelter-in-place restrictions in Contra Costa County and beyond, finding creative and meaningful ways to be of service to the community. Sewing masks, making face mask strap adapters for healthcare workers and weaving life-saving paracord bracelets for first responders and troops are just a few of the many new efforts at hand. They are also transitioning from previous on-site volunteer efforts such as weekly help at Aegis Senior Living running Bingo and brain games, to off-site projects. These new, off-site efforts include

video making, window posters and birthday drive-by parades for resident seniors to help foster connection during this socially distant time.

The mother and daughter members of NCL, Inc., Acalanes Area Chapter collectively contributed 8,531 hours to various local philanthropies during the previous year, which ended March 31. NCL, Inc., Acalanes Area Chapter currently partners with 33 local philanthropies and is always looking for new ways to serve the community including expanding its list to help during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information about the NCL, Inc., Acalanes Area Chapter, visit <https://acalanesarea.nationalcharityleague.org/> Established in Los Angeles, California in 1925, and incorporated in 1958, National Charity League, Inc. is the nation's premier mother-daughter nonprofit organization.

Lamorinda teens shield the vulnerable



Photo provided

Submitted by Carly Hoskins

People during this pandemic have been in more need of medical attention and care than ever, and thousands of first-line medical workers risk their own health and safety to help others in need, relying only on facial protection to keep themselves safe from the deadly virus. It Takes a Village, a local nonprofit organization created to help solve the supply versus demand mask issue, took charge by gathering 30 teenagers from Lamorinda to assemble 4,300 face shields for these modern-day heroes within six days.

Materials were distributed to the teens, who assembled 100-200 shields each. Like any project with a time crunch and no time for planning, some issues arose, such as missing materials, logistical hiccups, and a need for over 80 large boxes. However, the motivated teens rose to the challenge, and just six

days later all 4,300 shields were boxed and ready to be distributed. "At first it was challenging because we had to figure out how to correctly assemble the masks. After my family and I got the hang of it, the time passed by quickly, and it was super fun making them," Ellie Foster, a teen volunteer, said.

The face shields were delivered on May 15 to Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and San Leandro's Fairmont Hospital. In caravans of 14 cars stuffed with shields, teens and parents delivered the masks personally to the nurses and doctors. During the drop off, the volunteers were greeted with sincere gratitude and joy. "It was really cool to meet the doctors that would be using the shields, and I felt like all the hard work was worth it," expressed Miramonte student Lauren Cunningham.

It Takes a Village is just one example of everyday people doing what they can to help those who help us the most.

Campo Key Club food drive continues through end of June



Submitted by Tim Freeman

Sophia Taylor picks up a donation for the Campo Key Club Food Drive benefitting the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. The food drive extends through the month of June. Donations of non-perishable food items in paper bags, placed near mailboxes, are picked up each Friday at your doorstep. Email campokeyclub@gmail.com to arrange a pickup.

Photo provided

Troop 234 offers food drive through June 28

Submitted by Kindra Sampson

Moraga's Boy Scout Troop 234 is holding a food drive to benefit those impacted by the coronavirus in Contra Costa County through the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. There are a variety of ways to donate: by donating food at a local drop-off location (see below), by donating cash at the troop's table at the Moraga Farmers' Market (June 28) or by simply donating online: <https://give.foodbankccs.org/team/301118>

Drop-off barrel locations:

- Campolindo Cabana Pool Club
- Campolindo High School
- 500 Rheem Blvd. in Moraga
- 1070 Larch Avenue in Moraga
- 256 Draeger Drive in Moraga
- Saklan School

Food Drive shopping list:

- Natural Peanut Butter
 - Whole grain cereals
 - Hearty Low-Sodium Soups
 - Beans and Lentils (dry or canned)
 - Canned Tuna and chicken in water
 - Canned Fruit in Juice
 - Nonperishable, low-sodium chili, ravioli, etc.
 - Low-sodium canned vegetables
 - Brown Rice
 - Whole Wheat/Grain Pasta
 - Canned Tomato Products
- Troop 234 and the Contra Costa community appreciate your support.



Photo provided

Rhys Pullen and Colin Sampson in front of one of the collection barrels at Campolindo.

For information, contact Colin Sampson (925) 388-9352 or Rhys Pullen (925) 388-9172.

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

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Not to be missed

ART

LAA MEMBER SHOW at aRT Cottage "Summer Musings 2020". The Lamorinda Arts Alliance is looking for members to submit their entry into the "Summer Musings 2020" show at aRT Cottage. All mediums and all works will be accepted. The Exhibit Dates: Wednesday, July 1 to Saturday, August 22
The Entry Period: Monday, June 15 to Friday, June 26
Reception: Saturday, July 11 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.
Registration fee is \$20 per piece for a 2-month show. 3D pieces sold as a grouping of small sculptures or similar set

items; the fee is \$20.00 per pedestal.

Moraga Art Gallery Exhibit "Kaleidoscope" is Now Open for Limited Days and Hours! Our temporary open hours will be Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m. In addition, the Moraga Art Gallery's "Shelter in Place Virtual Tour" featuring the work of our member artists is still available for viewing online. From the comfort of your home, you can view the exhibit and hear from the artists about their artwork and what motivates them. The tour was produced by gallery president Lucy Beck and filmed and edited by Ben Ellis.

Not to be missed

View the tour by visiting the gallery's website at <https://moragaartgallery.com>. 432 Center Street, Rheem Shopping Center, in Moraga

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

Not to be missed

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.

Please submit events:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

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Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services

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

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ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Facebook Premiere Community Worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Go to facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/

Sunday Worship Services are accessible at our website at about 10:15 a.m. each Sunday (after they have premiered on Facebook). Visit our website to access the current and recent sermons.



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Creative workouts continue as studios prepare to reopen July 1



The Daily Method

Photo provided

By Jon Kingdon

The gym and workout studios have not been immune to the effects of the coronavirus. Gold's Gym, a national chain filed for bankruptcy in May, temporarily closing its 700 global gyms while permanently closing 30 of those locations, while 24 Hour Fitness filed for bankruptcy, hoping to reopen in July, permanently closing 100 studios and keeping 300 clubs remaining open. It will be closing a total of 42 clubs in California though the only club that will be closed locally will be the Ygnacio Center in Walnut Creek.

Looking forward with great anticipation to reopening are the local workout studios like 9Round Fitness and The Dailey Method, both located in Lafayette. Last week, it was announced by Contra Costa County that the workout studios and gymnasiums

would be allowed to reopen on July 1.

"We had been hoping to have a June 15th opening but we never got approval so we've been waiting to hear when we can officially and are now preparing to open back up on July 1st," said Christine Olson, co-owner of The Dailey Method which has group fitness classes inspired by Pilates, yoga and ballet.

Vladimir Volkov, the owner of 9Round Fitness, says that his clients will see a number of changes instituted for their safety: "We will be following all of the state and local guidelines. Though we have always stressed having a clean studio, we will make sure to clean each piece of equipment that people come in contact with after every three-minute session."

Even with the clubs on hiatus, there has been an attempt to maintain contact with everyone: "We have been

doing virtual classes, streaming one or two live classes a day," said Olson. "We are planning to stream our classes live and slowly add more classes as we see people wanting to come back. We used to have seven to eight classes a day. If we see that there are waitlists for one class, we'll add another class and as that waitlist grows, then we'll add another class, so by demand, we will continue to add live classes to the schedule. Even if the class is already filled, the class will be live streamed, and the people can still take that class at home or can come in for the next class that is available."

9Round has also made available on their website a daily workout for those who have wanted to continue to maintain their conditioning: "Even after we reopen, we will still make available a daily online workout for those members who want to take some time before they return to the gym," said Volkov. "Once they do return, we will start slowly to allow our clients to get back into the shape they were in when we had to shut down. After being away for three months, a lot of things will change so we will take it slow to build up their strength, power and techniques."

Avoiding any unnecessary contact will be strictly followed at The Dailey Method, said Olson: "Everything as much as possible will be touchless. All payments and scheduling will be taken care of online. When we open, to make sure that we follow all the precautions with our group fitness classes, which used to entail 22 students and one instructor, it will now be limited to nine students and one instructor. We will have the regular barre classes with more slow and isolated movements, which is our main

class. Prior to the virus, we offered interval classes and other classes where you got your heart rate up and would be sweating a lot, but we are not going to be offering those classes at the beginning."

9Round is also taking the social distancing concept to heart, says Volkov: "We are going to stay with our philosophy of people being able to show up for an unscheduled workout. If our social distancing is filled, we will ask them to wait outside and it should only take a few minutes for a spot to become available."

Volkov and Olson sent out questionnaires to their clients and received a varied, yet mostly positive response in anticipation of their gyms reopening: "There were a few that were still a bit hesitant and will take their time to see how everything goes," said Volkov. "However, the majority of the members were excited at the prospect of coming back."

"We surveyed our clients

and the reactions ran the full gamut," said Olson. "Many of them said how eager they were to come back and we had a good portion that will continue to work out at home with the Zoom classes. We even had a very small number that are going to wait for a vaccine before they will agree to come back to the studio."

Olson is going to put together an informational video for their website and Instagram along with emailing all of her clients, explaining how things will work at the studio, along with their new safety precautions: "We are installing an air scrubber into our AC and fan system so the air filtration is purified in the studio along with all of the sanitizing that we will be doing. Everyone will be wearing masks when they enter the studio and when they're in place and six feet apart, they will not have to wear their masks."

... continued on Page C2

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Creative workouts continue as studios prepare to reopen July 1

... continued from Page C1

Volkov is also making similar adjustments to his studio: "We will have facemasks available for anyone that would like to use one and we have purchased gloves for those who are coming in for the first time to see if they would be interested in becoming a member of the studio. We now have an air purifier

which will remove the air-borne bacteria and along with our fans, allow the clear air to move through the studio." To encourage new membership, 9Round is offering a free month's trial for potential new clients.

There are also a number of 9Round members that have continued to pay their monthly membership fees, which has helped Volkov

greatly: "As a small private gym, this has allowed us to point to the July 1st reopening and to not suffer the fate of many of the gyms that have been forced to close permanently."

If there is only one exercise that they could recommend for their clients or anyone else, for Volkov, it would be jumping rope for "its cardio benefits, burning calories and


overall coordination."

For Olson: "At the Daily Method we would recommend planks, push-ups and squats because they efficiently build core musculature as well as upper and lower body strength."

As for her anticipating her studio's reopening, though speaking for herself, Olson's sentiments are certainly shared by all of the studios

and gyms around the country: "We are really excited to have our community return. It's been so wonderful to see them on the Zoom classes and be able to see each other's faces, practicing something that we have done together for so long, but we have really missed seeing everyone live so we're excited to see the people in our community come back."

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A moment of Zen in one Moraga man's backyard
... read on Page D6

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Planet pivots



Photos Cynthia Brian

Pale pink roses imbue solace in warm weather.

By Cynthia Brian

“I should like to enjoy this summer flower by flower as if it were to be the last one for me.”
– Andre Gide

Summertime and the living is easy! Or is it?

This year will be a year like no other highlighted by the frightening health pandemic and sorrowful civil unrest. As the economy slowly reopens, people are clamoring to shop, dine, socialize, get haircuts, and have their teeth cleaned. The

line of masked individuals waiting outside reopened stores for their turn to enter is a testament to the yearning to gather. Protesters fill the streets across the country demanding needed national changes. It’s time to listen, re-evaluate, and educate ourselves. Connecting with the natural world is one prescription for finding healing and balance.

While I was researching grants to assist the literacy charity, Be the Star You Are! (www.BetheStarYouAre.org) financially survive during this crisis, I marveled at a constant question: How have you pivoted? At first, I had no idea what that question meant. What did we have to do to pivot? Where were we supposed to pivot to? After many Zoom conferences, meetings, webinars, and phone meetings, I finally understood.

But how can pivoting apply to gardening? The entire world is experiencing chaos. People who have spent minimal time with nature, who have never thought of growing anything, have become interested in planting and protecting. I’ve had emails from individuals from many walks of life who want to get their hands in the dirt as they are sheltering at home. As they decide to pivot, nature is a salve. When times are stressful, gardens become a refuge. Shoveling, digging, pruning, planting, and watching seedlings grow into something to admire or eat are therapeutic endeavors.

Whether you decide to grow a few herbs on a windowsill, tomatoes on a balcony, or an abundance of your favorite vegetables, flowers, and fruit in a large garden, there is nothing better than a summer of flavor and colors grown in your personal paradise. When you pivot to your garden, you’ll slow

down a bit and feel appreciation. Research consistently indicates that being around growing plants benefits you physically, psychologically and emotionally. You’ll decompress, gain more muscle mass, increase aerobic endurance, reduce stress and experience more joy.

Summer has always been my most favorite season because of the delightful warm weather and bountiful baskets of fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs that I harvest from my orchard and potager. The plethora of glorious blooms constantly changes keeping my elation peaked. Unlike most people, I prefer not to travel in the summer months to other destinations. Instead, the beauty of my backyard becomes the playground for family and friends where we barbecue, engage in lawn games, watch the flamboyant sunsets, and wander the grounds watching the parade of wildlife.

Flowering plants are hummingbird, bee, and butterfly magnets while the seeds attract the birds. Agastache, echinacea, hollyhock and roses enchant for months. In my orchard, the loquats, mulberries, tangelos, citrus and plums are ripe. The birds, deer, turkeys, squirrels and I skirmish for our fair share. Soon apricots, prunes and peaches will be ready for harvesting and the wrangling will begin again. I adore these encounters with nature. There is abundance for all.

My field of chamomile is richly fragrant and the petals when plucked and dried will make a comforting tea. The seeds from nigella (love in the mist) have scattered throughout the orchard creating a sea of blue. Bumblebees race from star-shaped blossom to blossom grabbing the sweet nectar.
... continued on Page D15

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	5	\$1,188,000	\$2,700,000
MORAGA	4	\$690,000	\$1,820,000
ORINDA	7	\$1,325,000	\$2,113,500

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

- 3682 Happy Valley Road, \$2,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 3317 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 05-04-20
 1074 Leland Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1926 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-04-20
 3989 Los Arabis Drive, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 2554 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 05-08-20
 3760 Sundale Road #3762, \$1,188,000, 4 Bdrms, 2375 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-07-20,
 Previous Sale: \$947,000, 04-11-14
 3411 Woodview Drive, \$1,265,000, 3 Bdrms, 1762 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 05-12-20,
 Previous Sale: \$975,000, 06-02-16

MORAGA

- 263 Calle La Mesa, \$1,491,000, 5 Bdrms, 2653 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 05-06-20,
 Previous Sale: \$367,000, 08-01-87
 232 Calle La Mesa, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 05-08-20,
 Previous Sale: \$1,475,000, 11-27-17
 1248 Larch Avenue, \$1,820,000, 5 Bdrms, 3392 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 05-08-20,
 Previous Sale: \$1,510,000, 01-05-09
 102 Miramonte Drive, \$690,000, 2 Bdrms, 1302 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 05-15-20,
 Previous Sale: \$453,000, 05-04-04

ORINDA

- 169 Ardith Drive, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 1764 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 05-12-20,
 Previous Sale: \$268,000, 05-01-87
 10 Ardor Drive, \$1,557,000, 3 Bdrms, 1972 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 05-11-20,
 Previous Sale: \$975,000, 03-01-18
 2 Jack Tree Knolls, \$1,558,000, 10 Bdrms, 5332 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 05-08-20
 103 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 2378 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-15-20,
 Previous Sale: \$1,650,000, 04-24-14
 539 The Glade, \$1,550,000, 2 Bdrms, 2175 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 05-14-20,
 Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 03-26-18
 312 Village View Court, \$1,786,500, 2 Bdrms, 2167 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 05-11-20,
 Previous Sale: \$920,000, 05-23-02
 73 Windy Creek Way, \$2,113,500, 4 Bdrms, 3380 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 05-12-20,
 Previous Sale: \$23,750,000, 03-06-15

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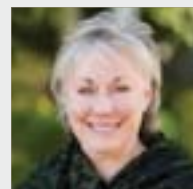
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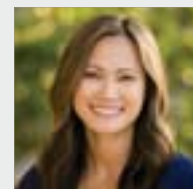
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One local gardener's awakening



Photo provided

By Mike Bernhardt

In the beginning: dark, damp soil.

A small, black plastic pot of hope. Nothing seems to be growing but my own impatience.

A few evenings later, the dirt has begun to mound and rise, swelled by a pushing from below. In the morning a white nub has appeared below the broken surface of the soil. By evening the protuberance has thickened, a loop of pale white rope tinged with green. The next morning a head is crowning, something large and thick and green dragged up out of the dirt. By the end of that same day, the head has revealed itself, the stalk straightening and hoisting up the bean from which this miracle was born.

Another day and leaves unfurl like the wings of a newborn butterfly, the bean split into drying halves that hang limp from the stem. A week later and the plant is over six inches tall with broad, heart-shaped leaves, and between them: another nub, green and tender, the beginning of a vine.

Once planted in the ground it will reach for its support pole and then, finding it, wrap itself counterclockwise—always counterclockwise—and upward, sprouting leaves and flowers and bean pods and clinging to everything it touches. It will grow over six feet long, topping the pole, still reaching skyward until, finding nothing to hold, it will collapse gently onto its neighbor and they will wrap themselves together in a season-long embrace. In two months, I'll be picking beans and steaming them for dinner.

Until now, I hadn't paid close attention to how seeds grow. My life for the last few years has centered on travel and so I usually buy plants, put them in the ground, and set my drip irrigation system. ... continued on Page D8

FOUND!

rustic home on 1-acre lost valley lot



12

Snow Court

OFFERED AT: \$1,095,000

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3 bedrooms | 2 bathrooms | 1,421 sq ft | .98 acres

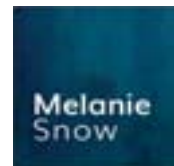
12SnowCourt.com



Spectacular one-acre flat lot with a 1,421 sf rustic 3 BR, 2 BA home, located at the end of a peaceful cul-de-sac. Level entry and walkway into the home and all around the garden. The interior is wood paneled with a slab foundation, with a mid-century modern vibe design. A living room, kitchen and great room, glassed in patio dining room, and 3 bedrooms, (master bath ensuite), and additional full bath, oozes with charm.

This park-like setting has a huge outdoor space, privacy, and features a fruit tree orchard, a detached red barn and a surprising wood structure under the oak trees (potential home office?).

In consideration of the current climate, showing by appointment only.



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One local gardener's awakening

... continued from Page D6

While I'm away somewhere vegetables pop out, ready to pluck and eat on my return. But like all Californians, I've been cloistered at home for months along with my family, and I don't know when I'll be able to travel again. I'm longing for the newness of places I've never been.

Yet, newness is all around me: the spider skittering across my patio with an enormous egg sac; the constant squawks, growls and honks of the blue herons that nest in a hundred-foot-tall eucalyptus down the street; the heady aroma of compost, fungi and microorganisms in the freshly turned soil of my vegetable beds.

Wild radish, four feet tall, billows with flowers of white, pink, and pale yellow for hundreds of yards along a paved path near my home. I've walked that path for over 20 years; how is it that I'd never noticed those prolific blooms until now? I startled a crow on the sidewalk and as it exploded into the air, I thrilled to an unexpected shrok-shrok-shrok

from its wings, like a muffled hand saw enthusiastically cutting wood.

Unlike the beans, my basil seedlings are growing very slowly. They took the same time to germinate but have hardly changed in weeks. Are they ill, or are they secretive, preferring for now to let their roots do the growing, out of my view?

I don't know what the future holds, for them or for me. While I wait, I'm delighting in the present. The laughter of the Amazon driver who said, "You made my week!" simply because I smiled and said good morning; the rush of a crow's wings; sounds as memorable to me as the haunting call to prayer I once heard sung by a quavering old man in Chefchaouen, Morocco.

When I can travel again, I hope I'll continue to be enthralled not just by what's exotic, but also by what's right in front of me.

Mike Bernhardt lives in Moraga with his wife, Yvonne, their two cats and, for now, their Class of 2020 son.



Photo provided

perfection in CANDLELIGHT ESTATES

PENDING



14

Candlelight Lane

OFFERED AT: \$2,195,000

14 Candlelight Lane, Lafayette, CA

5 bedrooms | 4 bathrooms | 3,355 sq ft | 1.03 acres

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Orinda

3 Valley View Ln. \$3,195,000

Prestigious Luxury Estate
 Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573
Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com
www.3ValleyViewLn.com Lic #01390784

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200 Hall Dr - \$2,980,000

Mediterranean, artistic design. 5BR/3.5BA, 4400 sq ft on 5 acre secluded estate
 Yan Heim 510-499-4709
www.200hallorinda.com Lic #01965925

Lafayette

14 Candlelight Ln. \$2,195,000

5 BR, 3.5 BA 3355 sf, 1 Ac
 Chic craftsman classic design
 Melanie Snow 925-360-0344
www.14Candlelightlane.com Lic #00878893

Orinda

10 Rheem Blvd. \$1,999,999

Quintessential Masterpiece
 Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573
Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com
www.10Rheem.com Lic #01390784

Orinda

9 La Fond Lane \$1,849,000

Pristine Treasure In Orinda
 Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573
Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com
www.9LaFondLn.com Lic #01390784

Orinda

1 Madera Lane \$1,625,000

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
www.1maderalane.com Lic#01272382

Moraga

127 Warfield Drive \$1,649,000

Updated/VIEWS!!/Pool
 Tom Stack 925-878-9964
Tom.Stack@cbtnorcal.com
www.TomStack.com Lic #01501769

Orinda

34 La Cuesta Rd. \$1,550,000

Mid Century Modern
 Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573
Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com
www.34LaCuestaRd.com Lic #01390784

Orinda

15 Candlestick Rd. \$1,499,000

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Orinda

66 Tara Rd. \$1,199,000

Nature Lover's Paradise
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Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com
www.66TaraRd.com Lic #01390784

Orinda

12 Snow Ct. \$1,095,000

1 acre, 3 BR, 2BA, 1421 sq ft
 Gorgeous Lot Mid Century
 Melanie Snow 925-360-0344
www.melaniesnow.com Lic #00878893

Walnut Creek

1571 1st Ave. \$988,000

Single Level Open Concept
 Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573
Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com
BestLamorindaHomes.com Lic #01390784

Orinda

14 Berkeley Ave. \$979,000

Romantic Retreat with a View
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Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com
www.14BerkeleyAve.com Lic #01390784

Richmond

5143 Coach Dr. \$825,000

Gorgeous & smart 4BD/2BA updated home w/ views! Received 8 offers over asking!
 Soraya Golesorkhi 925-808-8390
www.soraya4homes.com Lic #01771736

Martinez

0 Reliez Valley Rd \$459,000

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ChadMorrisonHomes.com Lic # 01905614

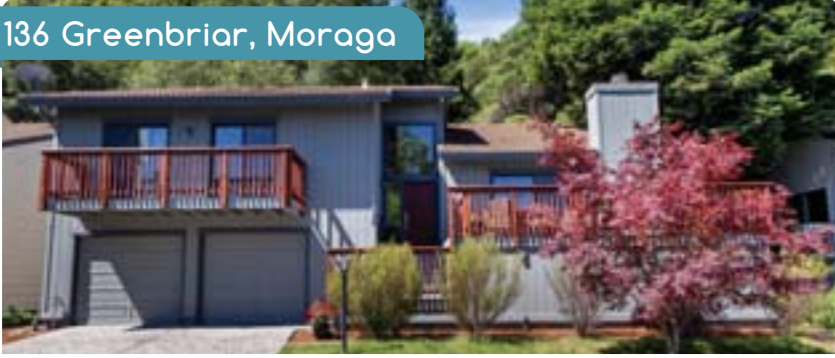
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 5 Moraga Way | 2 Theatre Square, Ste. 117 | Orinda | 925-253-4600

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The Olsen Team continues to help people buy and sell homes in a way that is smart and safe. We have dramatically changed our business to reduce in-person showings and interaction, while still creating a safe path to success for buyers, sellers and renters. Virtual showings for every property through Matterport 3D scans are listed below.



839 Augusta Drive, Moraga | Available Now
Offered at \$1,195,000
3 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 2,142 Sq. ft.
3D tour at www.839AugustaDr.com



133 Donna Maria Way, Orinda | Available Now
Offered at \$1,500,000
3+ Bed | 2 Bath | 2,285 Sq. ft. / .24 Acres
3D tour at www.DonnaMariaWay.com



1176 Alta Mesa, Moraga | Coming Soon
Offered at \$1,250,000
4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 2,785 Sq. ft.
3D tour at www.1176AltaMesa.com



651 Augusta Drive, Moraga | Pending with 4 Offers
Offered at \$1,295,000



3390 Orchard Valley Lane, Lafayette | Now Pending
Offered at \$1,295,000 Buyer Rep



105 Devin Drive, Moraga | Just Sold
Offered at \$1,610,000 Buyer Rep



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BEST KEPT SECRET | 21 GREENWOOD CT, ORINDA | 5BD | 3 BA | 2308 SQFT | .56 ACRE | \$1,650,000



COUNTRY CLUB NEIGHBORHOOD | 15 LINDA VISTA, ORINDA | 4 BD | 2 BA | 1948 SQFT | .21 ACRE | \$1,435,000



COUNTRY CLUB NEIGHBORHOOD | 21 LOS ARBOLES, ORINDA | 4 BD | 3.5 BA | 3736 SQFT | .68 ACRE | \$1,725,000



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2020 Lamorinda Sales

1024 Timothy Lane, Lafayette



PENDING, offered at \$1,999,000 (seller)

3357 Springhill Road, Lafayette



PENDING, offered at \$1,845,000 (buyer)

14 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Orinda



PENDING, offered at \$1,575,000 (seller)

824 Solana Drive, Lafayette



SOLD for \$1,900,000 (buyer)

66 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Orinda



SOLD for \$1,505,000 (seller)

4 Huff Court, Moraga



SOLD for \$1,325,000 (buyer)

104 Brookline Street, Moraga



SOLD for \$1,200,000 (buyer)



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

1435 Camino Peral, Moraga



SOLD for \$660,000 (seller)



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for July

Photos Cynthia Brian

PIVOT for stress relief to your garden sanctuary.

PREVENT grubs (the larvae of June bugs) by treating your lawn with an organic granular treatment to get rid of larvae. Raccoons, skunks, and moles enjoy grubs as a source of protein.

BOND with children or a partner by planting edibles you will enjoy together.

DRESS for the dirt by donning gloves, sunscreen, hat and an apron. If you are doing heavy weeding, wearing overalls is a win.

DRY three to five sprigs of blue hydrangeas for a long-lasting summer arrangement.

COLLECT the white blossoms of chamomile for a soothing tea.

PLANT Lilliputian miniature roses in a container for a movable dash of color.

PICK a basket of mulberries if you are lucky enough to have a tree.

GROW citrus to maintain a constant supply of vitamin C. Dwarf varieties of lemons, limes, tangerines, tangelos, oranges and grapefruit are available to be grown in half barrels.

PREVENT fires by removing debris, dead branches and refuse from around your home and yard.

CUT all tall grass and keep lawns and shrubs watered.

SAVE rose petals to make bath balms and rose water splashes.

SUCCESSION planting is the key to a plentiful supply of summer greens including lettuces, arugula, beets, carrots and radishes. Sow your favorite seeds every three weeks as you consume.

CHECK yourself for ticks after every outdoor excursion. (To date, I've removed three!)

ADD hydrogen peroxide to fountains to purify the water without harming the birds.

MAINTAIN social distancing and wear a mask when you leave your home.

TAKE care of Mother Earth.

BE SAFE on Independence Day.

Happy gardening. Happy growing. Have a flowerful Fourth of July!



Miniature roses flanked by African daisies (osteospermum)



Mulberries are tasty treats for people, birds, squirrels, and deer.



A field of chamomile.

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Planet pivots

... continued from Page D1

Roses mixed with osteospermum (African daisy) will provide continuous blooms into the fall with frequent deadheading. Lovely on the shrub, the blue hydrangeas are almost as stunning in a dried arrangement. An intriguing plant is arum italicum, also known as Italian Lords and Ladies. In late spring, the creamy-white flower is cupped at the base of the plant resembling its relative, Jack-in-the-Pulpit. In mid-summer, striking red-orange berries rise in a columnar formation where the foliage has died back. This tuberous perennial plant self-sows and can become invasive if your yard is small. If you have a woodland area where bergenia, heuchera or hellebores thrive, it is quite stunning. Beware, all parts of the plant are



Cynthia Brian adheres to "Never leave home without it!"

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

poisonous. Don't let it grow in your vegetable patch!

This summer is destined to be unusual. I plan on adhering to COVID-19 directives to shelter-in-place while refraining from attending large gatherings or even small ones. I'm working from home, wearing a mask and gloves whenever I venture out, constantly maintaining a minimal six feet distance between others, and am continuing to sanitize everything. Hopefully, we won't go back to what was considered normal in the past and instead take better care and be more aware, of one another and the health of our planet.

This year I am happy and grateful to enjoy the summer flower by flower. My planet pivot is to play in my personal garden paradise.

What's your planet pivot?

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay strong. Wash your hands. Cover your face!



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737 Miner Road

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21 Los Arboles

Large 3736 sqft 4 bed/ 3.5 bath home on private cul-de-sac w/ easy access to commute, top schools, & recreation. **\$1,725,000**

ORINDA



21 Greenwood Court

Charming renovated 5 bed/ 3 bath home on private .56 acre parcel including detached studio w/ separate entrance. **\$1,650,000**

ORINDA



294 Orchard Road

Spacious 4 bed/ 3 bath on .46 acres w/ solar heated pool, spa & outdoor kitchen in highly sought after location. **\$1,595,000**

ORINDA



73 La Espiral

Sophisticated 4 bed/ 3 baths home sits on a lush .64 acre knoll top parcel offering an abundance of light & picturesque views. **\$1,595,000**

ORINDA



15 Linda Vista

Beautifully maintained home with 4 bed/ 2 bath w/ spectacular sunset views across the Orinda Country Club & beyond. **\$1,435,000**

LAFAYETTE



44 Prado Way

Private & gated 3 bed/ 3.5 bath on 19.9 acres with 2 additional rooms in highly coveted neighborhood. **\$4,275,000**

LAFAYETTE



3554 Springhill Road

Upgraded spacious 5 bed/ 4.5 bath contemporary of 5983 sqft at end of Springhill. Includes private office. **\$4,298,000**

LAFAYETTE



1982 Reliez Valley Road

Dream home boasting 4 bed/ 4.5 bath on 1.12 acres with amazing gardens, pool, spa, outdoor kitchen, and views. **\$2,880,000**

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1010 Woodbury Road 301

Sought after elegant top floor 3 bed/ 3 bath condo w/ 2 + car garage. Secure access building with elevator. **\$2,735,000**

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