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Adam Dolberg shows his Black Lives Matter rock garden at the trail entrance near Stanley Middle School.

Photo Pippa Fisher

Stanley student undeterred in anti-racism effort

By Pippa Fisher

For one Lafayette boy who simply wanted to highlight Black Lives Matter with a rock garden along the trail near Stanley Middle School, his work has been turned into one of persistence and determination. That's because, despite finding his work vandalized on an almost daily basis, he refuses to give up.

Adam Dolberg, a 12-year-old student at Stanley,

says he was inspired to create his rock garden following the June 7 BLM rally in Lafayette which he attended with his mother, Becky Webster. Adam found the speakers' stories at the rally moving, and searched for a way he could do something. "I just wanted to support the cause," says Adam.

Adam explains that he wanted to do something to draw attention to BLM and the racism endured by Black, Indigenous, people of color. After hearing how a friend of his mother's in Sacramento created a rock garden, he decided to do the same.

Using small rocks he painted with individual letters, Adam spelled out "Black Lives Matter." Through word of mouth he encouraged others in the community to decorate rocks to add to his display located near the entrance to the trail by Stanley.

Adam checks his display every day and, since the very beginning, was finding most mornings that the rocks spelling "Black" were taken out of the message.

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Assembly member supports extended AB 5 waiver for newspaper carriers

By Sora O'Doherty

Assembly Bill 5 was enacted Sept. 18, 2019 by the state legislature in an attempt to protect workers in the "gig economy," such as Lyft and Uber drivers. However, the broad wording of the legislation caught up many other professions, including artists, journalists, and newspaper carriers. As a result of an outcry from many of those professionals, they were temporarily exempted from AB 5, but that exemption is scheduled to expire at the end of 2020.

The publisher of the Lamorinda Weekly, Andy

Scheck, appealed to Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan during her July 31 "Breakfast with your Assemblymember" online event in Lafayette to exempt newspaper carriers from the provisions of AB 5, which regulates independent contractors. The bill's sponsor, Lorena Gonzalez, has introduced a cleanup bill, AB 1850, to exempt many of the disputed categories, including writers and editors. However, newspaper carriers have not been included in the bill.

Bauer-Kahan said that she supported extending the exemption for newspaper carriers. She explained that

both bills, AB 5 and AB 1850, are responsive to actions of the court and that a recent California Court of Appeals decision, Martel v. Hearst Communications, affirmed that newspaper carriers are employees and not independent contractors.

The complex litigation turns on legal matters such as who controls the worker. The Martel case was about the San Francisco Chronicle, however there are a variety of delivery methods in the industry, according to Scheck. The Lamorinda Weekly is delivered by a business that delivers other newspapers as well. Delivery of the Lamorinda Weekly oc-

curs once a fortnight, so cannot be made into permanent, full-time employment. While much of the newspaper industry is turning to digital, online publication, Scheck believes that many of his readers enjoy receiving the printed paper. Additionally, while revenues may support the digital production of daily papers, such revenues are not available to newspapers that publish less frequently.

The California Newspaper Publishers Association has written to Gov. Gavin Newsom seeking at least short-term relief, including extending the existing exemption that allows newspa-

per carriers to be classified as independent contractors, not employees. In its letter to the governor, the CNPA explained that the current COVID-19 pandemic has hit the newspaper industry hard, and that these economic effects, combined with the increased costs for newspaper delivery will wreak havoc on the industry. Newspapers face an average increase of up to 85% in distribution costs if the legislature does not extend the exemption. This will cripple the news industry and result in the closure of many more papers.

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LAFAYETTE

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

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Lawsuit win comes with hefty price tag for taxpayers

By Pippa Fisher

The California Supreme Court denied a Petition for Review, brought by a group of neighbors who alleged the city had used biased procedures including an improperly held closed session meeting in violation of the Brown Act, in reaching a land use decision in 2016 in its approval of a neighbor's cabana.

Defending the lawsuit cost the city \$936,319.08.

A city statement July 23 reads, "The Court of Appeal affirmed the trial court's findings that the city council's closed sessions were justified and that the decision was based on a fair, thorough process."

The statement also says, "The Court of Appeal found that the city committed a minor technical violation of the Brown Act but that no prejudice resulted from it and it had no impact on the city council's decision. In its order, the Court found there was no evidence that anyone at the City of Lafayette - councilmembers, staff, or the city attorney - was biased."

"We are very pleased that the Supreme Court has denied the Petition for Review and that our trial court victory stands," said Mayor Mike Anderson, adding, "The unfortunate outcome, frankly, is that the legal fees to defend the city against this lawsuit have cost Lafayette taxpayers so

much."

The litigation stems from the application for a now-completed tennis cabana, which went before the planning commission at four meetings between December 2015 and May 2016. Following the planning commission approval the neighbors appealed to the city council, which considered it at four further meetings.

While approval was pending, the applicants' attorney threatened to sue the city if denied. The city attorney notified the council of the litigation threat orally during a July 25, 2016, closed session meeting. Record of this litigation threat was not made public, although notes were

kept and could be viewed at the planning department if the public knew to ask for them. The court determined, "This availability is illusory if an interested person would not know the question to ask."

Lafayette resident and plaintiff Lori Fowler says this was not a 'minor technical violation' of the Brown Act. "The city is attempting to whitewash this ruling," she says.

Plaintiff and an attorney in the case Scott Sommer says that the decision states the city did not meet its duty to make the litigation statement available to the public and "violated the Brown Act."

"The court specifically

ruled, 'the statutory scheme does not allow an agency to thwart its duty of public disclosure in this manner,'" says Sommer, noting that the city has changed how closed sessions to discuss pending litigation are disclosed since the decision.

"Thanks to this ruling, the city can no longer try to conceal important information from the public by hiding it in closed sessions," says Fowler. She says she feels vindicated explaining that because "even though I can't change the damage that was done to our plaintiff group, others won't be subject to the unfair process that we encountered."

PG&E reports on PSPS plans - council and community remain skeptical



A downed power pole obstructs Camino Diablo in Lafayette on Oct. 27.

Photo Lamo archives

By Pippa Fisher

In its presentation to city leaders Pacific Gas and Electric Co. sought to highlight several ways in which the utility says it is improving over its performance last year, specifically with regard to public safety power shutoff procedures implemented to

keep the public safe when weather conditions put the area at risk for wild fires.

However as the testy exchanges following the presentation demonstrated, not everyone was reassured.

PG&E Diablo Division Senior Manager Vic Baker took the council through a series of slides explaining the com-

pany's goal this year to reduce the number of customers impacted by PSPS events compared with 2019 by one-third. Baker explained the installation of sectionalizing devices will enable them to cut power to smaller, more specific areas rather than large swathes of residences.

The utility should be able

to restore power to customers twice as fast following a PSPS, said Baker. Unlike last year, PG&E will now be able to use infrared equipment to inspect power lines at night and has added more field crews to speed the necessary inspection of all lines before re-energizing.

And in the area of communication, which was acknowledged to be severely lacking last year with PG&E's website crashing and no information available to the public, Baker said the company has grown its IT infrastructure and will be improving customer alerts both before and after a PSPS event, along with bolstering its website.

Predominantly on the minds of the council members was the fire that broke out in Lafayette during a PSPS

last October, in a section of the city that had not been de-energized. Prompted by a question from Vice Mayor Susan Candell on whether there had been an investigation on the cause of the fire, PG&E Public Affairs Representative Tom Guarino said he would find out the status of any investigation and get a report back to council.

Lafayette Homeowners Council President Bill Bucher had sent a letter to council members stating LHC's serious concern regarding PG&E's activities "and in some cases lack of activities in Lafayette."

The LHC concerns include the exposed 50-year-old pipeline in Briones, which remains in need of in-line inspection and weld-testing.

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New policing recommendations approved encourage transparency, public engagement



Photo Pippa Fisher

By Pippa Fisher

The city council voted unanimously July 27 to approve five recommendations addressing concerns and questions raised by the community regarding police policies and procedures for immediate implementation by the Lafayette city manager and the police chief.

The recommendations address what the mayor described at the meetings as “A whole lot of tense accusations ... that came rolling in,” prior to two public subcommittee safety meetings, and center on areas of oversight, transparency, mental health, city oversight and training.

City Manager Niroop Srivatsa and Chief of Police Ben Alldritt first presented the recommendations at the July 21 Public Safety Subcommittee meeting. The suggestions are in response to the public’s calls for more transparency and accountability within Lafayette policing, prompted by the nationwide outcry following the death of George Floyd at the hands of police officers in Minneapolis in May. It was the second meeting of a specially formed task force.

City Council Member Cam Burks explained that, although this task force focuses on the police and is separate from the newly formed racial equity task force, it would feed into the latter.

City Council Member Steven Bliss acknowledged the value of having a deep conversation around the subject. “It is a very important dialogue,” he said.

Alldritt answered questions at the July 21 meeting arising from a previous meeting and from the deluge of emails from the public, including explaining current training programs, the procedure for hiring police officers

and their diversity, how complaints are handled, requests for public oversight committees, mental health training and responses, and the budget.

Srivatsa explained the public safety subcommittee would be holding open meetings quarterly to receive updates, increasing opportunities for interaction with the police chief, herself and the subcommittee members.

The chief will also submit a quarterly, rather than annual, summary report to the council and the public, allowing for increased transparency.

In the area of mental health, Srivatsa is working with the County Public Managers Association and the County Health Department to explore alternatives to law-enforcement responses to mental health issues.

With increased accountability the goal, in the event of an internal affairs complaint filed against a police officer, the city manager would meet with the chief when the complaint is filed and at the conclusion of the sheriff’s internal affairs investigation.

The chief will evaluate adding additional training to the department’s current mandatory courses in crisis intervention, de-escalation, implicit bias, and cultural and racial diversity through the sheriff’s office. Alldritt said he hopes to come back with a specific plan in three months.

As with the previous subcommittee meeting, robust attendance included plenty of public comment. Burks and Bliss have both said it’s very clear a large part of this involves listening.

As Burks observed, between the two meetings there had been over five hours of discussion, “And it’s just a start. It’s moving in the right direction.”

Racism, discrimination discussion; city leaders listening

By Pippa Fisher

In a meeting attended by approximately 160 people on Zoom and on the city’s YouTube channel, Lafayette continued listening to people’s experiences of racism and discrimination within the community in its second special task force meeting.

Circle of Education Co-Founder Tiffany Hoang, hired by the city as a facilitator, acknowledged the uncomfortable nature of the discussion at the meeting July 30, which she explained is why it is important to take the time to address how the community can

be better together.

Hoang started with some definitions of terminology around racism and discrimination, before welcoming close to 20 people who shared instances when they felt discriminated against either intentionally or unintentionally, or in some cases stayed silent while witnessing discrimination.

Some gave suggestions for ways in which the city could take steps, with several pointing to having more affordable housing to encourage more diversity.

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Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Aug. 10, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette’s YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting
Wednesday, Aug. 17, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Don Tatzin Community Hall

Design Review
Wednesday, Aug. 10, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center.
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Arts & Science Discovery Room

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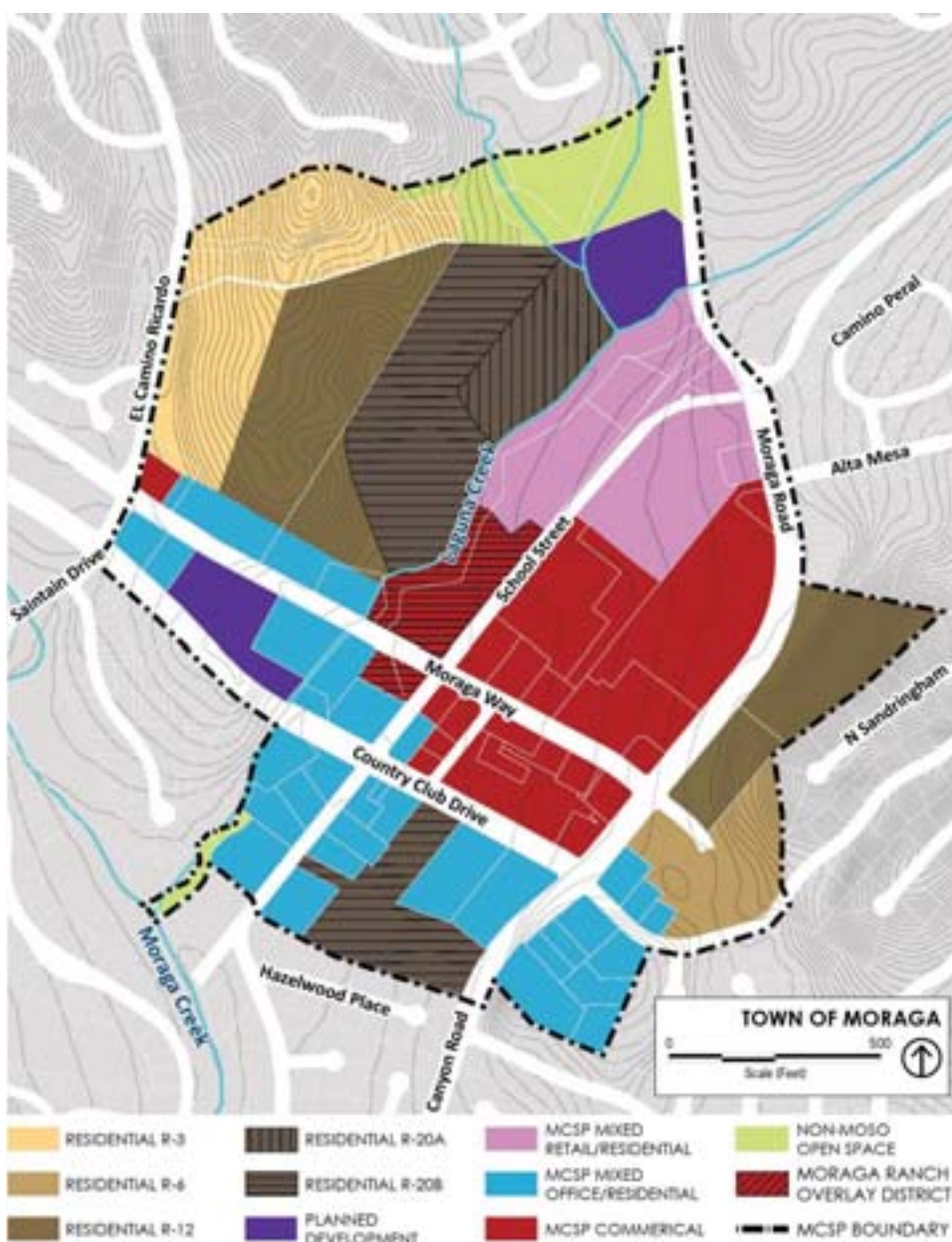
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MCSP update goes to Planning Commission after massive public input



By Vera Kochan

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on July 20 to consider the Moraga Center Specific Plan Implementation Project before giving its recommendation to the town council. The televised hearing drew roughly 40 email/letter comments from residents giving voice to their concerns about the project and its effect on the town.

The project includes a revised zoning map, updated zoning districts, amendments to Title 8 of the Moraga Municipal Code, and updates to the Town of Moraga Design Guidelines consistent with the MCSP document

adopted in 2010. The MCSP area comprises approximately 187 acres and is located around the Moraga Road and Moraga Way intersection.

Senior Advisor David Early of Placeworks, a community design firm, began the meeting with an overview of MCSP's progress to date, noting the number of dwelling units, which is consistent with the adopted Housing Element; the allowance for a higher density infill and mixed-use, transit-oriented development; the economic/market assessment and a comprehensive traffic study; the range of housing types; and a completed analysis of environmental impacts.

Early also reminded everyone of the formation of a Citizens Advisory Committee which conducted four meetings between July and October 2019 in order to advise solely on issues about zoning and development standards. As a result CAC made 17 recommendations to the MCSP with some of the key discussions revolving around zoning being consistent with the Specific Plan; the entire MCSP being based on the principle of Transit Oriented Districts; providing step-backs on taller buildings to create visual relief; portraying full build-out allowed under the Specific Plan; retaining Moraga Ranch as focus for a hotel; extending School Street to St. Mary's Road; and including the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail along School Street.

The prospective land use entails both residential and non-residential buildings. Residential housing would include between 510 to 630 units total for active seniors, single family, workforce housing and compact single family. Non-residential facilities include retail/entertainment (90,000 sq. ft.), office (50,000 sq. ft.), bed and breakfast/boutique hotel (85 rooms), and assisted living/congregate care (150 rooms).

According to the staff report by Early, his associate Carey Stone and Moraga Planning Director Afshan Hamid, there are many positive points to creating a mixed-use "Village." It would "address current resident concerns about lack of shopping choices; provide a range of housing types; encourage residents, visitors and workers to walk and avail alternate modes of transportation; and locate the community's needed higher density housing uses within walking distance of existing and planned retail uses and services."

Moraga Deputy Town Attorney Karen Murphy discussed the recently approved (January 2020) Senate Bill 330 aimed at ensuring zoning-compliant housing projects. While it has many provisions, the ones that apply to MCSP-IP are that the new zoning regulations may not reduce the allowed intensity or number of units for residential land uses/parcels. They also cannot impose or enforce a moratorium on housing development or any new non-objective design stan-

dards on proposed developments. Additionally, they may not implement or enforce limits on the number of residential building permits issued.

The complete Draft Zoning Code would reflect the MCSP's land use and policy direction along with CAC recommendations regarding topics such as shared parking, Moraga Center design requirements, a Town Square, trail design standards along with creek and channel setbacks.

The town was awarded a \$140,000 grant fund in May 2018 from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to implement the MCSP, not to revise it. The completion and implementation of the MCSP grant expires by the end of 2020.

Moraga Police Chief Jon King discussed emergency evacuation issues that could be hindered with an increase to the town's population, noting that there are only three major roads out of town (Canyon Road, Moraga Road and Moraga Way). The best-case scenario would be to turn these two-way roads into one-way roads leading out of town.

The bulk of the public comments and concerns entailed safe and swift evacuations in the event of fire, earthquake or other disasters. With the possibility of an additional 630 dwelling units comes the concern that many additional vehicles would need to evacuate the town. Running along those same lines is the possible addition of a minimum of 630 commuters adding to the morning and evening rush hours.

More issues raised included tall buildings in the center of town ruining the open space sightlines and the destruction of areas that harbor wildlife habitats. The coronavirus topic came up regarding an unstable economic climate. Would retail and office space remain empty given the health mandates still in effect now and in an unforeseeable future?

After nearly three hours, Planning Commission Chair David Stromberg determined that further discussions on the MCSP topic would continue during the next planning commission meeting scheduled for Aug. 17. In the meantime, commission members requested additional information and clarification from staff to also be presented during that time.

Town Council
 Wednesday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room,
 335 Rheem Blvd.
Planning Commission: Monday, Aug. 17, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room,
 335 Rheem Blvd.
Park and Recreation Commission: Tuesday, Aug. 18 7 p.m., Council
 Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.
Moraga School District Board Meetings :
 Special Board Meeting Tuesday, Aug. 11, 6 p.m.
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us. See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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Town council gets update on Laguna Creek Restoration Project



Photo provided

Hacienda Pavilion flooding during 2005-06 winter storms

By Vera Kochan

The Hacienda de las Flores, located at 2100 Donald Dr., is owned by the town of Moraga and is the subject of the proposed Laguna Creek Restoration Project. Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp gave an informative update during the town council's July 8 meeting as to future steps in the continuing project.

Heavy winter storms during 2005-06 triggered the Laguna Creek's rise and eventual flow over its banks in the western vicinity of the Hacienda Pavilion. Damages were incurred to the wooden footbridge and wrought-iron gate. Additionally, more than 200 feet of chain-link fence, walkways, retaining walls, head walls, wing walls and banks of the creek bend were either damaged or washed away. The creek slope failed causing the Pavilion to flood.

The Project entails the removal of an underground culvert near the Pavilion and

replacing it with a natural channel to improve flood protection for the various Hacienda facilities. The upstream end of the culvert is located approximately 400 feet south of Donald Drive.

Watersheds from the neighborhoods of Campolindo, Carol Ranch, Rheem Valley and others contribute to the southward flow of Laguna Creek via underground storm drains or open channel creeks, all of which eventually deposit into the Upper San Leandro Reservoir.

The restoration project will reduce the flood risk by daylighting the creek and retrofitting or replacing the existing 8-foot diameter culvert. During 2007, repairs to the damaged pavilion were completed at a cost of \$37,000. Additional repairs to the creek wall and bank stabilization were completed in 2013, costing \$1.04 million. In 2014, the town council directed staff to proceed with the daylighting and restoration of the Laguna Creek

channel after a Hydraulic Study and an Alternatives Study revealed this to be the best-case scenario.

Besides removal of the existing culvert, the project will involve the construction of a natural channel to provide habitat for endangered species; the relocation of a Central Contra Costa Sanitary District sewer line; the construction of a vehicular bridge over the creek; and the improvement of public accessibility and protections.

The public works department has secured funding from the California Natural Resources Agency (\$399,980) not capable with the Federal Emergency Management Agency grant; East Bay Regional Parks District (\$599,743) the maximum possible award; and the FEMA (\$803,331) 66% allowable costs for up to \$970,000.

FEMA has approved Phase 1 of the project which entails field and geotechnical investigations and surveys; a hydraulic study and FEMA coordination; a biological resources study; California Environmental Quality Act studies; and design (up to 65%). With the 65% design, FEMA will complete the National Environmental Policy Act evaluation prior to authorizing Phase 2.

The town will incur up to \$28,066 in project costs for Phase 1. However, \$15,000 may be reimbursable and the remaining \$13,066 would be reimbursed by the EBRPD grant if the project was completed. There is also adequate funding available in Department 730 - Storm Drain Maintenance. Staff will return to council in the fall to consider the awarding of a design contract.

Moraga welcomes new planning director



Photo provided

Moraga Planning Director Afshan Hamid

By Vera Kochan

Coming from her previous duties as the city of Vallejo's planning manager, Moraga's new kid on the government block is Planning Director Afshan Hamid. "I started July 6," stated Hamid, "and that was the same day as my first Planning Commission meeting. So, I was excited to jump right in!"

Hamid holds impressive educational credentials with a master's degree in architecture from MIT, an undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago and membership in the American Institute of Certified Planners.

The town's size won't prove any less challenging than her previous position. "Although Moraga is a smaller town, it has all the

complexities of development and land use that a larger city like Vallejo has," Hamid said. "One of the greatest opportunities is that due to a smaller scale, I am less removed from the process and able to be more hands on. I am able to engage with all levels of project review and provide more flexibility with my skills."

Having recently completed a zoning update in Vallejo, Hamid's experience with General Plan and Specific Plan policies will hold her in good stead when the Moraga Center Specific Plan begins rolling into fruition. She looks forward to creating improvements along corridors, in the commercial center, and in general, making Moraga a better place to live.

"I am also well versed with recent state law, and recognize development challenges and opportunities for improvements and streamlining," said Hamid, noting that Vallejo's growth and flexibility allowed for economic development in a managed way. "The MCSP implementation is similar in that it creates walkable, pedestrian friendly spaces that are connected and allow for improvement and new development over time. The MCSP-Implementation Plan respects the town character and the importance of having design guidelines."

With a master's in architecture, Hamid is using her strongest asset in design ex-

perience to provide input with the town's Design Guidelines. As future projects come up, she looks forward to maintaining the town's character while making recommendations to applicants with the knowledge that these important tools can shape a community and point it in the direction of positive economic development.

Besides the massive MCSP, other planning projects on the horizon incorporate some of the town council's goals for 2020. An initial re-evaluation of the development process, regulations and needs, and design guidelines while incorporating a town grant for improvements and taking into account resident and stakeholder feedback is one of Hamid's priorities. Another is to update the zoning code to incorporate new accessory dwelling unit legislation to comply with state regulations. Additionally, California will require all cities and towns to update the Sixth Cycle Housing Element to conform with regional housing needs assessments.

Hamid lives with her family in Danville, but is excited to be part of the entire Moraga community. "I am open to listening and hearing from residents, business owners, and boards and commissions to make improvements that align with the town's vision."

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Public comment continues at third Orinda Downtown Precise Plan community workshop

Figure 1. ODS Proposed "Character Areas"



Figure 2 is provided as a preview of proposed Character Area 1 in the Village District. An in-depth discussion of each sub-area will be provided at the Community Workshop.

city to restrict housing to teachers. Buckley said that a community is allowed to filter out affordable housing to people who work in the community, but not just to teachers. He noted the largest employers in Orinda are the two school districts.

Pete Hassleman, a retired architect and member of Orinda Vision, urged the group to consider providing for contemporary pitched roofs that provide for various amenities, while Council Member Nick Kosla supported a variety of units, some smaller, some larger. He also questioned the 35-foot height limit, suggesting that it might promote cheaper types of buildings.

"The community may be in favor of higher buildings if they are higher quality," Commission member Ann Parnigoni said. Planning Commission Chair Brandyn Iverson strongly agreed that allowing more height in the right locations would allow more architectural buildings. Iverson concluded that there was a consensus recommendation of 25 dwelling units per acre in the downtown commercial district and 30 dwelling units per acre in the downtown office district with flexibility on height.

Iverson suggested that for the purposes of the EIR there might be flexibility to go to 45 feet, and maybe more in certain areas. Commission member Robert Hubner said he likes flexibility but nobody in Orinda wants buildings 70 to 80 feet tall. At 50 feet, he suggested, you probably couldn't even tell the difference from 35.

Kosla also clarified that all current property owners and existing uses are grandfathered in, so there is no risk of them losing their businesses. Property owners Vickie and Pete Peterson, who are a part of the family group that owns the property where CVS is located said that while they all have deep, deep connections with Orinda, there has been no incentive to do anything with the buildings on the parcel, and no ability to get a clear vision of what could be done. Vickie Peterson said that they are "committed to revitalizing, not destroying, what we love."

Iverson welcomed comments by Miller who suggested that there is a possibility that allowing any residential units in the downtown office district might allow the state to "take it all over."

"Certain things," Miller said, "are triggered even if it is only one unit." That is going to be an issue at the city council, she concluded. Hubner noted that he wants to study the issue, but doesn't want to lose control over the area. Parnigoni was surprised that something so important to the process came up so late in the discussion.

Buckley said that a lot more detail can be provided when the matter comes before the city council.

By Sora O'Doherty

A joint meeting via Zoom teleconferencing of the Orinda Planning Commission and the city council downtown planning sub-committee was held July 28. This third workshop was intended to begin the conversation on objective design standards, residential density and building heights, according to the staff report presented by Planning Director Drummond Buckley and Associate Planning Winnie Mui.

Staff asked the commission and the committee to consider five questions: whether the maximum allowed dwelling units per acre in the downtown commercial district should be

increased; whether residential use should be allowed in the downtown office district; what the overall maximum density should be for the village district; what the overall maximum density should be in the theatre district; and should the maximum allowable building height be increased in some areas.

After hearing a presentation by Opticos Design, Inc., the contractor for the downtown objective design standards, and public comment, it was decided that staff had sufficient guidance to proceed without a formal vote.

Recent acts by the California legislature have moved toward limiting local control over housing, according to the staff report, culminating in Senate Bill 35

that last year eliminated most, if not all, of the design review discretion for projects that meet the eligibility requirements. Such projects are subject only to ministerial review that involves little or no personal judgment by the reviewing body, but instead applies fixed standards or objective measurements.

The city hopes to adopt objective design standards that would apply in such cases, which will "allow Orinda to specify the desired development aesthetics that align with the goals and vision of the downtown precise plan."

Attendees expressed concern that adding more residential density to downtown Orinda would pose a threat to public safety in the event of an emergency evacuation, an issue that would be included in the environmental impact report.

In regards to density, Buckley said, "It's a fact that the existing maximum density of 10 dwelling units per acre has never been utilized to construct any units." He noted that there has been almost no revitalization of downtown Orinda since the construction of Theatre Square in the mid-1980s. "One way to spur development is to allow higher density than currently allowed."

Another issue broached was the possibility of dedicating downtown housing to teachers and city employees. Dan DeBusschere suggested that adding 240 housing units could both fulfill that need as well as meet the new housing element requirement coming in 2021. While Orinda Union School District board member Jason Kaune said that the district is very interested in a teacher housing element, Council Member Inga Miller asked if there were any laws that allow the

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Orinda considers body-worn cameras for police, advocates greater communication

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council heard again from Orinda Police Chief David Cook and city staff as the city reviews its policing policies following the May death of George Floyd while in Minneapolis police custody, which caused a storm of local and nationwide protests. The staff came back to the council with three main recommendations: that the city explore the cost of a body-worn camera program; that the Orinda police chief be required to report annually to the city council; and that all members of the public should be encouraged to contact either the police chief or the city manager with any concerns about interactions with the Orinda police department. Council Member Nick Kosla asked that the annual report also include the use of drones.

Orinda, like Lafayette, contracts with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office for police services. Currently there are 14 police officers, including the chief and two sergeants – three officers are minorities, and there currently are no women on the force. Cook explained that OPD officers are hired from the pool of county sheriff's deputies, and that the city also relies upon the sheriff's office, as well as neighboring police departments, for coverage if Orinda officers are unavailable. Lafayette and Moraga police departments already require officers to wear cameras, but the Sheriff's office does not have such a requirement, according to

Jimmy Lee, Contra Costa Sheriff's Office Director of Public Affairs.

When asked during the public comment portion of the meeting how the police department deals with language issues, Cook explained that it is not a common occurrence, but when necessary officers can use contract translation services available through dispatch. Another concern involved "5150" calls – named from the California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5150 that deals with detaining people who are considered, as a result of a mental health disorder, to be a danger to themselves or other or are gravely disabled. Cook explained that a police officer does call in on all 5150 calls to protect the safety of all involved and to help determine if a person meets the standard for detention under section 5150. Mental health issues were highlighted by several speakers, particularly in light of the fatal police shooting of Miles Hall in Walnut Creek.

Cook told the council that he has heard some anecdotal evidence of people of color being stopped by OPD and has listened carefully to Black Lives Matter advocates Neil Pretlow and his wife. During his 10-month tenure, Cook said that he has not received any complaints, but feels that it is important that people can feel free to come to him. "Conversations are important for perspective, understanding and moving the conversation forward on sensitive topics," he said, but if anyone does not feel comfortable talking to the police

chief, he suggested that they talk to Steve Salomon, Orinda city manager, or even call the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office. The city council members also suggested that any member of the council is also open to and available for such conversations.

"People need to feel that they can make a complaint," Salomon said. "A number of people of color have said that they have been treated inappropriately. They should feel free to call police chief or me, they can even call anonymously. I do get some complaints, but I have not gotten a racial complaint since I have been here. Do people in Orinda feel comfortable complaining? Absolutely. I get complaints about traffic tickets, etc., and we address the complaints."

When asked about whether or not police will respond if a person reports another person as suspicious because they are a person of color, Cook replied that he has talked to staff and expects a supervisor to contact the caller and find out why they think the person is suspicious. If the sole reason is that it is a person of color, the police won't respond, he said.

When asked if some calls can be handled by unarmed civilians, Cook stated that right now the department cannot afford a civilian employee and that civilians cannot handle traffic stops, noting that "the vehicle code delegates traffic stops to police officers. Traffic stops are considered very dangerous and are appropriate for police officers."

Salomon noted that police

services cost the city about 40% of its budget, including insurance, legal assistance, etc., and Mayor Darlene Gee added that funding the police is the single largest item in the city budget.

One of the public speakers during the Zoom meeting suggested the chief publish photos and biographical information, including race and ethnicity of all officers, and have those officers engage in public activities.

Several public speakers thought that there should be a mechanism for citizen oversight of the police. Joel Schaffer, a 25-year Orinda resident

and son of the San Francisco Assistant District Attorney asked why there is no function for citizens to be part of a community review committee to assure that the community gets information not just from the city council. William Hudson agreed that the piece that is missing for him is a feedback group that is independent of the police force to address "some things we are concerned about; we want to be sure we are a welcoming and fair community," he said.

The review of policing policies will return to the city council in September or October.

Cal Shakes cuts costs and moves staff to Orinda



Photo Sophie Braccini

Sarah Williams works in the eucalyptus grove at the Bruns.

By Sophie Braccini

The California Shakespeare Theater decided to cancel its entire season as soon as the March 16 shelter-in-place order was issued, before rehearsals for the summer plays at the Bruns amphitheater in Orinda had even started. For Sarah Williams, managing director of the nonprofit, the decision made by the team led by artistic director Eric Ting, was logical, given the shows' high starting cost and deep uncertainty of the times. With the reopening future still un-

known, deep cost cutting needed to be made.

The company has furloughed the majority of its staff and conducted layoffs, and the entire company is leaving its Berkeley office where the theater company lived year round – with its rehearsal space, offices, production shop, and large storage area – and relocating to the hills of Orinda, next to the stage.

Nonprofit theaters always operate on very narrow margins, explains Williams. Cal Shakes' revenue today comes through donations as

well as some online camps and classes. Certain foundation partners were able to turn some existing project grants to operating support or accelerated the cycle of new grants. With 40% of Cal Shakes revenue coming from ticket sales, the remaining percentage comes from donations, but most of this happens during production season when people are most engaged, Williams says.

The lease on the Berkeley space ended at the end of July and there was no easy solution for finding space for the costumes, props, and other staging equipment. Because there is tremendous solidarity between theater companies in the Bay Area, Cal Shakes was able to move materials to different locations provided by fellow theater companies. The Bruns is located on land owned by the East Bay Municipal Utility District that Cal Shakes leases, and the company owns all the buildings that are on it.

Those other than facility personnel work remotely, but the director hopes that as the pandemic gets under control people will be able to come to Orinda to work, either inside or outside.

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Letters to the editor

COVID-19 and our business community

Like every city in every country in the world, we find ourselves at a “tipping point” where our actions will dictate our future. Change in the road ahead is imminent. How will we face down this pandemic is still ours to decide! Our business community has become a vital part of the fabric of life in Lafayette. Convenience, variety, and a preference to “small business” has made our downtown vibrant and fun. Many of these same merchants who know you by name, support your schools and causes and provide commerce in a local setting are at the brink of losing everything. Their businesses, their homes, their savings are all at stake.

Sound local leadership closed many of our businesses in the spring to stop the spread of COVID-19. And merchants took one for the team when they closed, and then did everything possible to reopen successfully. Our inability to keep this virus under control boils down to misleading information, a sense of invincibility, ignorance and Bad Behavior. We must do the “right thing” and flatten the curve. The only way to do that is to be more diligent in wearing masks, washing hands, social distance and staying at home when possible. What’s good for our businesses is good for us. Collecting sales tax is so important to the health of our city. Sales Tax pays for police services, public works, and many of the other services you have come to expect in Lafayette. Every business has the right to refuse service, as long as it is not discriminatory. No Mask- No Service.

One city. One push. We can do this! Let us be leaders in the fight against the virus. 25,000 people, wearing masks, keeping social distancing, and helping

keep our merchants in business. Stop the spread of rumors. Know the facts www.cdc.gov. Get Tested!

- WEAR A MASK
- PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING
- STAY AT HOME WHEN POSSIBLE

It’s not complicated, yet it’s imperative. Lafayette has always been a community that gets it! A little sacrifice now means a lot less sacrifice later.

Jay Lifson
Executive Director, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

Happy Trails

Here we go again! Another group of homeowners is fighting the establishment of a trail or trail-head [“Outcry over proposed trail staging area...”, *Lamorinda Weekly*, Wednesday, July 22]. In this case, it’s the residents of Wilder.

Those residents fear that the establishment of a staging area will lead to the increase of unwanted, illegal, dangerous activity. Their fears are real, but let’s look at the history of previous similar situations in Lamorinda. The residents of Lafayette, particularly those on Moraga Blvd., whose back yards abut the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail, fought the trail over similar concerns. When the Lafayette-Moraga Trail was extended to the Valle Vista Staging Area, residents of Moraga Country Club and residents on School Street—mostly those whose back yards were on the other side of the creek from the trail—fought that trail out of fear that burglars would be able to scope out their homes for later thefts. When Orinda’s St. Stephens Trail was under consideration, the residents above the trail were concerned that potential burglars would be able to snoop on their

properties. All of those groups also feared that the presence of more people on the trails would bring noise and litter, as well as more dangerous activities. None of those fears were realized. In fact, time and time again, it has been shown that the mere presence of law-abiding citizens actually discourages illicit activity.

Stan Oberg
Moraga

Thumbs Up for Downtown Momentum

In a landscape of doom and gloom for much 2020 thus far, there is a glimmer of positivity on the horizon. The City of Orinda has been slowly plugging away at a revised Downtown Precise Plan (DPP) that will address at long last a decades old conversation about how to thoughtfully modernize Orinda’s Downtown district. Much work has been done to identify ‘existing conditions’ including current zoning, land usage and structures and Orinda’s DPP would update the City’s downtown development standards and create objective design standards for multi-family residential and mixed-use projects.

This update is necessary on many levels. First, it will help Orinda attract high level development which will in turn entice an attractive mix of new businesses and increase vitality in our Downtown District. Secondly, it will allow Orinda to make decisions on how to incorporate housing into our Downtown district in a thoughtful way that is in keeping with the City’s unique personality and aesthetic. It is no longer a question of whether Orinda needs to update and change to allow for modernization and revitalization, but how we will do so on our own terms. Applause to our City

Planning Department and City Council for diving in and doing the work to keep the future of Orinda’s Downtown in the hands of Orinda’s citizens for generations to come!

Kirsten Larsen
(Representing the What’s Up Downtown Orinda Steering Committee)

Voice your opinion on downtown development in Orinda

Amid all that is wrong in the world these days, the visual cacophony of downtown Orinda is at the bottom of a very long list. But it is something we can change by offering ideas and opinions as the City Council takes steps toward encouraging the private property owners to renew and redevelop our dowdy commercial district.

The new façade at 43 Moraga Way is an inspiring bright spot, a hint of how charming the street could appear. Meetings on Aug. 18 and 26 are opportunities for all Orindans to ask questions and express concerns. (Details on Orinda’s website.) Please encourage our city officials to proceed with necessary changes to the existing design standards, so that in a calmer future, carefully considered improvement plans are ready to get underway.
Barbara Bennett
Orinda

Lafayette litigation and Brown Act

I read with dismay the misleading spin placed by Lafayette officials on the conclusion of litigation brought by Lafayette residents concerning the city’s violation of public open meeting laws, commonly referred to as the Brown Act. The city pretended it was exonerated and that residents were to blame for the city’s resulting litigation costs. That is false.

Instead of the Lafayette City Council holding a new hearing and spending nothing, they spent \$936,000 on some of the Bay Area’s most expensive lawyers litigating their Brown Act open meeting violation. While residents did not obtain all of the relief they requested, they proved that the city had violated the law. The California Court of Appeal ruled the city council’s closed sessions “violated the Brown Act” and the “statutory scheme does not allow an agency to thwart its duty of public disclosure in this manner.” The city must now disclose with its public agenda litigation statements that are scheduled for closed session.

The Lafayette community should be outraged. Four current Council members were not involved in the original decision, but they should demand an immediate review of the City Attorney who allowed the Brown Act violations and advocated litigation instead of correction. This is not the first time the City Attorney has endorsed such violations. Perhaps wasting taxpayer money doesn’t mean much to the city, as long as it can pretend to blame residents whose position the city violated open meeting laws was confirmed by the court.

Eliot Hudson
Lafayette

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PG&E reports on PSPS plans – council and community remain skeptical

... continued from Page A2

The letter also addressed the “major safety concern” of the manually operated shut-off valves situated roughly one mile into Briones past locked gates, and several miles from downtown Lafayette – something the Gas Safety Task Force has repeatedly directed attention to.

And the LHC also questioned the lack of report on October’s fire. “No report after ten months?” the letter asks.

Contra Costa County Fire

Protection District Assistant Chief William Pigeon noted its own review done right after the incident showed it was caused by downed power lines.

“I don’t feel any more assured after hearing what PG&E had to say because we heard the same assurances last year,” said Michael Dawson of the GSTF addressing the council to make comment. He said he would like to have more local information such as about the downed power pole.

“If PG&E knew within 24

hours that this was something they caused, to now stumble and bumble and say maybe we have a cause, maybe we don’t, just seems disingenuous,” said Dawson, adding he was glad they would be getting a report.

Dawson also said he’d been told by residents along St. Mary’s Road where PG&E is engaging in vegetation management tree cutting, that a PG&E employee had threatened the homeowner who refused to allow the tree cutting on their property, saying if they didn’t allow the utility to

take down the tree the homeowner would have to pay the full cost of removal themselves if needed at a later date, which Dawson said was false.

Guarino took great exception to that, saying that he sincerely doubted any PG&E employee had done that, but that he would want to hear about it if it had taken place.

The discussion became more inflammatory as both Candell and Council Member Cam Burks defended Dawson. “You’re calling him a liar,” said

Candell.

“Our town almost burned down because of you,” said Burks. “There is zero trust between Lafayette and PG&E,” he said, adding, “We are getting close to a real critical time and last year the example you set was an F.”

Mayor Mike Anderson ended the discussion, noting that the audits will be helpful and that they want to move in the right direction but he also warned, “Let’s not diminish the concerns of the public.”

Racism, discrimination discussion; city leaders listening



... continued from Page A3

A survey was done before the meeting that collected over two dozen experiences – including those of discrimination based on religion, gen-

der identity and race – and ideas for change from the public, either given anonymously or with a name, which is available on the city website. It relates stories of discrimination in the com-

munity, in the schools, and from the police.

And it also has the opinion of a few who say there is no such thing as racism in Lafayette.

Vice Mayor Susan Can-

dell, chair of the Task Force to Effect Change and Action in the Area of Racial Equality in Lafayette commented after the meeting: “I know that we are all at different places on the spectrum of understanding racism in its many forms, and some likely still believe that we don’t have any racist issues in our city, but I hope that last night you heard enough to move yourself on that spectrum.”

Candell says she is especially thankful “to all of the very brave people who shared their stories with us involving racism in our city.”

Task Force Vice Chair Council Member Cam Burks said at the meeting it was clear there was a “swift undercurrent of racism in our

town.” According to the city, there will be another town hall meeting on racial equality held on Aug. 20. Details will be available on the city website.

Candell promised there would be action in the near future, and that any recommendations arising from these listening sessions will be taken back to the full council for approval.

“I look forward to working with our task force members, staff, and our full city council on our journey towards a more welcome and just city for all who live, work, or visit Lafayette,” said Candell, adding, “I know we can become a better community for all.”

Cal Shakes cuts costs and moves staff to Orinda

... continued from Page A7

While shop space, rehearsal space and storage space is missing, Williams says the company is lucky to have a production space located outside. She knows that in the age of social distancing Cal Shakes may have to adapt its model and rescale production with fewer patrons at a given time.

Williams is very concerned for the artists and technicians in the community whose benefits ended at the end of July; she does not know how some of them will survive. Cal Shakes is implementing several ideas to put

some cash in their hands. The first program was Mystery Shakespeare Theater 1592 where artists provided live commentary for a small stipend. The company is looking at more funding to playwrights and artists who are creating work relevant to this moment. Cal Shakes is also thinking about how to utilize the outdoor space, such as the eucalyptus grove that has many picnic tables interspaced at a large distance to accommodate movie nights, presentations, or lectures.

Meanwhile, the company is offering an online 10-week

in-depth dive into Shakespeare with Cal Shakes’ resident dramaturg Dr. Philippa Kelly. “Hamlet,” “King Lear,” “Julius Caesar,” “Measure for Measure,” and “The Taming of the Shrew” are on the syllabus. Kelly will explore the vital question: what makes these plays so potent for the moment we are living in right now? Each play’s exploration includes two one-hour classes on Tuesday nights and one one-hour Saturday study session, for the price of \$60 per play. Classes began Aug. 4 on Zoom.

Williams says that there is no precise end in sight for

the crisis, the industry has been hit to its core and it is going to be a very long recovery process.

For more information, visit calshakes.org.

Town Hall Theatre cuts staff

Town Hall Theatre’s board decided to eliminate the artistic director position from its permanent staff list and Susan Evans, who had held that position for three years, was let go. Dennis Markam, the managing director is one of the three paid staff left with the production manager and development director. The director of education was not replaced. Markam explained that the situation was not sustainable and that the theater company will be reinventing itself in the coming weeks/months. The current staff and volunteer board members will conduct outreach to the community in the near future to evaluate its theatrical needs.



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Stanley student undeterred in anti-racism effort

... continued from Page A1

"At first I thought it was a prank," says Webster. She says she became very discouraged but that Adam refused to give up. He has replaced his stones more than 20 times, even decorating a heavy, larger paving stone that they hoped would discourage theft, but that was taken too.

They say they will con-

tinue replacing the rocks as long as needed, and they encourage other members of the community to decorate and add their own rocks to spread the anti-racism message.

Adam joined the first Zoom meeting of the Racial Equity Task Force and explained his experience. Webster has asked Lafayette Vice Mayor Susan Candell, chair of the newly formed task

force, about the possibility of finding a protected space for the rock garden and together they have been looking at a new location, possibly near the Lafayette Community Center.

The matter is expected to be placed on an August city council meeting agenda, as such an action would require a full council vote.

Assembly member supports extended AB 5

... continued from Page A1

According to Scheck, the decline in newspapers will translate into a decline in the community. "We report on local news and events, information that cannot be found elsewhere. If we are not supported, those services will decline or cease to exist altogether." He agreed with the

CNPA position that extending the exemption for newspaper carriers will help newspapers weather the immediate storm of the drop in advertising caused by COVID-19.

CNPA has also suggested that prioritizing California news outlets for state advertising (outreach and education campaigns) will help the industry recover from devas-

tating revenue losses due to COVID-19, further stabilizing the news industry. Newspapers throughout the state have been fighting the inclusion of newspaper carriers within the scope of AB 5.

For information regarding AB 5 and the carrier exemption, visit www.savemypaper.com.



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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Lamorinda Village prepares for fire season with help from community



Volunteers work hard Aug. 1 to fill emergency go-bags which will be delivered to seniors in the Lamorinda Village community.

Photo Pippa Fisher

By Pippa Fisher

Lamorinda Village has partnered with the National Charity League to put together 350 emergency go-bags for seniors. It is just one of the ways in which the Village is rallying to help the most vulnerable, with the support of the community.

With fire season rapidly approaching, the folks at Lamorinda Village are keenly aware that seniors, many of whom have limited mobility, have been disproportionately affected during devastating wildfires in recent years. Combine that with the current pandemic and, says Lamorinda Village Operations Manager Kathryn Ishizu, "seniors are much more vulnerable than anyone during these catastrophes."

Lamorinda Village is a community-based network of older people living in the area with the purpose of providing the support needed to allow seniors to remain living in their own homes as long as it is safe for them to do so.

Ishizu says that they were recently given a generous grant from a family foundation that had heard about Lamorinda Village's work. "This wonderful grant has allowed us to create and fill 350

emergency go-bags," she says. "Using the Lamorinda Residents Evacuation handout as a guide, we have filled the bags with N95 masks, flashlights, new batteries, cotton gloves, first aid kits, toiletry kits, sunglasses, water bottles and protein bars. These are all packed into a large duffel bag with room to add the personal essentials of extra clothing, shoes and socks."

In partnership with mothers and daughters in the Acalanes Chapter of the NCL, 350 bags were loaded up on Aug. 1 ready for delivery to seniors – social distancing and face mask protocol followed, of course.

Mother/daughter pairs, limited to five per one-hour shift in order to maintain social distancing, arrived and worked outside and in the opened garage, stuffing the bags with necessities throughout the day.

Ishizu says she is excited to see the community coming together to help support this project.

And the community certainly is coming together for them. Starting in March, when shelter-in-place began, Lamorinda Village has been offering free grocery shopping and prescription pickup and delivery, adding over 250

new SIP members and over 200 community volunteers.

"We've done almost 800 shopping trips and over 1,000 check-in phone calls," says Ishizu. These friendly phone calls allow them to make sure seniors have everything they need.

Noting that isolation has been shown to have serious health consequences, Ishizu says they are hoping the phone calls alleviate some of the loneliness that is being caused by this isolating pandemic. "We also have numerous interactive Zoom presentations, activities and discussions throughout the week to engage seniors," she says.

Both the Acalanes and the Lamorinda Chapters of the NCL have been a tremendous help in the shopping delivery program, says Ishizu.

Also with wildfire preparedness in mind, Lamorinda Village has been working with a local company to get a group senior discount for installing backup batteries to counter the likely imminent electricity public safety power shutoffs.

Ishizu says she has received numerous emails and phone calls from seniors and their families expressing their gratitude.

... continued on Page C2

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Laughing Kindergarteners run the bases after launching a kickball into the outfield during LMYA's new Summer League camp.



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In an effort to provide a safe and fun outlet for the kids over the summer, LMYA Sports launched an all new Summer League format. Baseball and Softball leagues were reimagined and Kickball and Wiffleball teams were formed, all in strict adherence to CC Health and School District ordinances. Next up is Fall Soccer and a continued goal of providing healthy activity in a safe environment to the families in our community. **Thanks for playing with us!**

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Fun and flavorful frittata beats the heat



Broccoli Cheddar-Feta Frittata

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

This summer I was slated to be Discovery Bicycle Tours' camp "chef" for a couple of weeklong cycling adventures in Vermont. I was really excited about the idea of planning and cooking a camping menu for this adventure and for my first visit ever to Vermont. Unfortunately, the trips were "Covided" just like so many 2020 plans all over the world. In any case, as I was planning the menu for the tours, I tried to come up with interesting and hearty breakfasts that would fortify our cyclists for a long day of rugged mountain riding. The only catch was that everything had to be cooked on a grill or a propane camp stove. There'd

be no oven in the great outdoors!

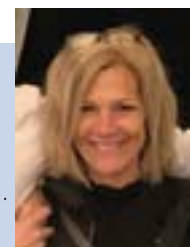
When the idea of a frittata came to mind, I had to figure out if it could actually be cooked all the way through on top of the stove, since they are generally finished off in the oven. Just this week, I finally got around to testing my theory that the frittata could indeed be cooked through over a flame. It turns out that it can, provided you have a lid that fits your pan. This allows the heat to be trapped to cook the eggs all the way through. This one turned out beautifully puffy and in fact, I used a combination of whole eggs and Eggbeaters and it turned out just right. The trick is to allow plenty of time to cook the frittata over medium heat so you don't burn

the bottom. This is a fun breakfast dish for any of you who love to cook outdoors, go camping, or hang out at the lake for your summer adventures.

I also have a little tip I'd love to pass on regarding outdoor cooking. We are big fans of our Weber barbecue and cook on it all year long, but this summer we purchased our first 3-burner camp stove and have absolutely loved using it, even on our patio. We selected the Camp Chef brand and we also bought the fry griddle accessory, which has been fantastic for making large batches of pancakes or burgers, grilling onions

and making egg and bacon breakfasts. You can find this through Amazon as well as on the Camp Chef website.

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. Or visit <https://treksandbites.com>



Broccoli Cheddar-Feta Frittata

(Serves 6 for breakfast)

INGREDIENTS

2 tablespoons olive oil
 6 sausage links of your choice, cut into bite-sized pieces
 1 red onion, chopped
 2 cups broccoli florets, pre-cooked
 12 eggs (or equivalent using egg whites or Eggbeaters)
 1/2 cup Half & Half
 1/2 teaspoon white pepper
 1 teaspoon pink salt (I love Himalayan pink salt, but any salt will do!)
 1 cup sharp cheddar, grated
 1/2 cup feta cheese, crumbled

DIRECTIONS

In a 10-inch cast iron skillet, heat olive oil and cook onions over medium heat until translucent. Add sausages and broccoli and cook until all are slightly browned.

Meanwhile, whisk eggs with Half & Half, salt and white pepper. Stir in feta and half of the grated cheddar.

When veggies and sausage are ready, pour egg mixture over them in the skillet and cook, covered, until all of the eggs are cooked through and beginning to look puffy. This takes about 15-20 minutes over medium-low heat. When eggs are cooked through and set, remove lid and sprinkle remaining cheese over the top. Cover again and cook until cheese is melted.

Remove from stove top and allow frittata to set up for 5-10 minutes before cutting and serving. Frittata will deflate slightly as it cools, but not to worry, this is normal.

*If you are not camping and do happen to have an oven handy, you can cook the eggs, uncovered, over medium heat on the stove until the custard begins to pull away from the edges of the pan. This will take 5 minutes or so. At this point, put the frittata in a preheated 400 F oven and cook for another 10 minutes or until eggs are cooked through. Sprinkle remaining cheese on top and continue to cook until cheese begins to brown.



In Memory

Donald Frederick Thielke

December 19, 1930-July 9, 2020



Born on Dec. 19, 1930 during the Great Depression in North Tonawanda, NY, Don Thielke was raised in a faithful Lutheran family. His childhood was spent in simple pursuits playing in empty lots, building snow forts, lake swims and taffy pulls.

Always a tinkerer, he worked as a mechanic in his youth. A 1949 graduate of North Tonawanda High School, Don enlisted in the Air Force, was sent to (Harlingen, TX) and later sunny, dry Sacramento at Mather AFB, rising from airplane mechanic to plane owner. This sealed his fate for a future California residency.

Upon return to New York, Don was finally able to secure a blind date with the ever social Phyllis (née Huk) Thielke to Niagara Falls. Theirs was a love story for the books and they married on Oct. 27,

1956 sharing nearly 63 years until her passing in 2018. Whether in Buffalo, Chicago, Alameda or Lafayette, "Don & Phyllis" will long be remembered for their mutual care giving for one another's health, hearts and dreams. After 15 years of marriage, a miracle baby (Kathy) brought them joy and the opportunity to become "parents" to countless friends in her growing up years. He knew the value of being a loving and generous dad.

After attending Spartan College of Aviation and Technology in Tulsa, Don flew with a variety of carriers in the advent of the jet age. He proudly served American Airlines as a flight engineer for 37 years and also as an executive with the Flight Engineers International Association. He cared deeply about flight safety and trained in accident investigations at USC. These roles led him to world travel, though his favorite became Kaanapali beach in Maui with his family and friends.

A Lafayette resident and member of Trinity Lutheran Church for 52 years, Don held every role imaginable. His easy going style and can do spirit were felt by neighbors too, where he served the Happy Valley Highlands HOA for decades. Don was the master of ceremonies, who could tell a joke or story that would keep you on the edge of your seat. A friend to many, he never stopped reaching into new social circles as the years went on with YoungLife, cardiac inmates, men's fellowship breakfasts, fishing buddies in Alaska, Jazz circles, Lutheran Golfers, the Grey Eagles. His dry wit and sly grin were his trademark, as much as his warm smile and knowing eyes.

He was happiest in his own "back-forty" maintaining the yard, fending off poison oak, taking in a swim with family and tackling the next project with a dog at his side. Or perhaps it was surf-side at Half Moon Bay with old friends, crab, chowder, a good sourdough and cold beer. Most likely it was sharing one of his "9 lives" stories with granddaughters and eating fudgesicles.

He is survived by beloved daughter, Kathy; son-in-law, Pete; grandchildren Leilani, Kalea and Malia; nephews, Alan, Mike and Chuck; nieces Elaine, Phyllis, Laura, Anne, Cindy and Linda.

Knowing that "he had some projects to do" heavenward, Don passed peacefully at home. He lived a blessed life knowing Jesus. May he dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Lynn's Top Five Thoughts for managing your investment portfolio during a global pandemic

By Lynn Ballou CFP®

Given all the economic uncertainty and volatility in markets, I knew it was time to focus this column on how we can keep our plans on track despite our current life experiences. In writing this piece, I was very fortunate to catch up with Adam Phillips, partner and director of Portfolio Strategy for EP Wealth Advisors. You may have seen him on Bloomberg, CNBC, in the Wall Street Journal or other investment news channels and publications. Adam is not only a brilliant portfolio strategist and Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), but he's also a Certified Financial Planner which makes him uniquely qualified to think not only about portfolio management on a macro level, but also about the impact of today's evolving economic situation and uncertainty on the portfolios and lives of real people. I think you'll find his wisdom very useful.

1. Start with your financial plan. It all begins with a plan. A successful journey begins with a roadmap and itinerary leading to a destination. What's your financial destination? To determine if you are on track and if your portfolio is properly allocated to help you reach those goals, you need to dust off and update your financial plan, using current, real numbers to reveal the impact of economic life during this global pandemic. An important aspect of this process must include a thorough review of your portfolio holdings, objectives and allocations. Ask yourself if the assets you own are supporting your goals and vision of your future financial life. Lean on your trusted team of advisors to help you assess where you are and if changes should be considered. As you embark on this process take into account the following thoughts as well.

2. Don't panic - THINK! It's so easy to be swayed by public opinion and the non-stop news and market coverage. However, that may be more entertainment than true guidance and it's never

personal to your own situation. During our conversation, Mr. Phillips reminded me that "Periods of market volatility can test the mettle of even the most disciplined investors, but short-sighted decisions can have long-term implications for one's financial plan. In fact, history shows that the best days in investing often follow the worst days, and missing out on the best five days so far in 2020 would have left an investor with a loss of 30% through the first half of the year. Meanwhile, investors who resisted the urge to sell in the throes of the first quarter sell-off were rewarded for their discipline as they saw the S&P 500 recover to within a few percent of where it began the year by the end of June."

3. Unless you are a knowledgeable investor, work with pros who are. While most of us know the difference between a stock and a bond, very few of us also know how to construct and manage a personally appropriate, diversified portfolio that holds the right variety of assets in different asset classes and sectors. For example, let's say one of your goals is to own stocks that pay dividends. As Mr. Phillips notes, "It's important to know what you own and look beyond what's on the surface, such as a stock's price or attractive dividend yield. For instance, just because a stock boasts a high yield doesn't mean that dividend is sustainable." Unless you have the skills, data access and time to take on the task of keeping up with the ever-changing evolution of each of your portfolio holdings, consider the benefits of a trusted investment advisor on your team to manage and guide this part of your investment journey.

4. Tax loss harvest when it makes sense, but it may not always be the right move. As we've explored in past columns, tax loss harvesting in your taxable accounts can be a way of making lemonade out of lemons by selling positions you still like but which have an otherwise unrealized loss.

... continued on Page B4

Bookmark Contest winners announced

<p>Kindergarten - Grade 2</p> <p>Left to right: Annabelle Jois Oakley Gupta Norah Taylor</p> 			<p>Grades 3 - 5</p> <p>Left to right: Audrey McCall Phaley Kim Ileana Gasquy</p> 		
<p>Grades 6 - 8</p> <p>Left to right: Phil Liao Emme Cain Jill Seeter</p> 			<p>Hall of Fame</p> <p>Left to right: Matt Roberts Jonah Mateo Sela Sarbiewski Carrie Zhang</p> 		

Submitted by Kay Pekrul

The 2020 winners of the Friends of the Lafayette Library Bookmark Contest received their awards quietly this year without a gathering at an Awards Ceremony. The public can view the winning bookmarks in the Friends Corner Book Shop or the Lafayette Library and Learning Center when the Book Shop and all libraries open. Complimentary framing was done by Anthony's Custom Framing.

Lacrosse Against Hunger: Two Acalanes sophomores making a difference



Photos provided

Two Acalanes Varsity Lacrosse players, Zach Appel and Owen Estee, have launched Lacrosse Against Hunger, to offer lacrosse coaching sessions to 7-14 year olds in exchange for a charitable donation to White Pony Express during the COVID-19 pandemic. The mission of White Pony Express is to "help eliminate hunger and poverty by delivering the abundance all around us to those in need - with love." Over the past six years, White Pony Express has provided more than 9 million fresh, high-quality meals to Contra Costa residents in need.

So far, the two rising sophomores have raised more than \$1,000 to support White Pony Express. This funding will provide meals to more than 1,600 individuals. "When COVID-19 started spreading through Contra Costa County, I wanted to do something to help people in need. Through Lacrosse Against Hunger, I am able to share a sport I love with other kids, while making a difference," said Zach. Lacrosse Against Hunger is a creative, non-traditional youth-led approach to raising money to help those served by White Pony Express. "I love lacrosse and being able to share it with others, especially playing for a good cause and helping others during this strange



time," said Owen. All money raised goes directly to White Pony Express through Lacrosse Against Hunger's GoFundMe page. Requested donation per session is \$25 or more. To make a donation to White Pony Express through Lacrosse Against Hunger, visit www.gofundme.com/f/lacrosse-against-hunger.

DAR awards Linus Eukel with conservation award

Submitted by Brenna Shafizadeh

The Acalanes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has awarded Linus Eukel with the Conservation Award for 2020. The criteria for this award include: outstanding volunteer record in educational work; distinguished teaching; major re-planting efforts by an individual; wildlife and nature center work; resource management; youth leadership; conservation related media work; and park establishments.

Eukel has over 30 years of work in conservation, and currently serves as the executive director for the John Muir Land Trust. The JMLT was founded in 1989. It protects 3,100 acres of local land, with over 2,000 acres having been protected under Eukel's guidance. He is especially

noted for his strategic planning and for his gift in identifying properties that will benefit the surrounding communities. He works enthusiastically to build community coalitions, to educate the public, and to preserve the area's natural splendor. With the Conservation Award, the Acalanes Chapter recognizes Eukel and his important work.



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.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

Galleries revived: 'Domesticated' and 'Dark and Light' open



"Domesticated" exhibition at Jennifer Perlmutter gallery Photo Sophie Braccini

By Sophie Braccini

All is not scarcity in the world of art. Two local art galleries are opening their doors to patrons so they can enjoy new exhibits: Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery in Lafayette and Moraga Art Gallery in Rheem. The large well-ventilated spaces surrounded by art where everyone wears a mask offer patrons, if only for a few minutes, the deep serenity and joy that creativity and beauty bestow on onlookers.

Jennifer Perlmutter is showcasing two artists, Dana DeKalb and Jane Fisher, through Aug. 15 who have been friends and co-inspirators since the early '90s. The two have produced several themed exhibitions together. "Domesticated" was Fisher's idea. The painter explains that she rescued an unusual dog in Indonesia that looked like a wild Australian dingo. She was then drawn to doing research on the domestication of dogs through the ages and started a reflection through her art on the human influence on animals.

DeKalb, who Fisher calls her kindred spirit, loved the idea and started painting animals as well. She says that her own art is about concept, control and lack of it, and metaphors. One of her loveliest paintings in the exhibition portrays a man holding a bird house to a flock of birds. She also shows dyptichs representing animals and the contraptions humans have invented for them.

Fisher's technique is remarkable and the dogs' renditions she presents in the exhibit are both descriptive and strikingly modern, self-confident and almost ascetic.

Both women say they have been immersed in their art during this difficult period, with some challenges due to the fact they had to move their studios to their East Bay homes. They think that during confinement the line between what is wild and domesticated was breaking down. We saw foxes in London, coyotes in San Fran-

cisco; while humans, caged in their residents, were super domesticated.

In the Rheem Shopping Center the Moraga Art Gallery, "Dark and Light, A Delicate Balance" will run through Sept. 12. Mary Leigh Miller, one of the three artists in the exhibition, explains that the title refers to the play of the colors in the artwork presented, but also to the artists' expression of their inner and outer takes on life.

Miller is a ceramist who has been a part of the art collective for many years and her work has evolved from ceramic objects that can be used in everyday life to more abstract art. This tireless explorer of art forms through ceramics is seeking surprises given by her media. It can mean exploring new forms, playing with texture or with the different colors that the various cooking processes produce. The masks, totems, and wall art she is presenting have been created with use of the raku technique, a low-firing process that creates crackling and interesting colors.

Miller is joined in the exhibition at Rheem by another MAG member, Irene Needoba. The artist displays an attractive and feminine style, using vibrant colors. For this exhibition she wants to attract viewers' attention to the environment, climate change and the effect it has on ocean pollution and on forests fires.

The two painters are welcoming guest artist Claudette McDermott who is featuring jewelry and encaustic paintings. McDermott creates mixed-metal modern jewelry crimping colorful stones, such as earrings, bracelets or necklaces. Her encaustic paintings are lively and highly decorative.

The Moraga Art Gallery is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m. The Jennifer Perlmutter gallery is open Wednesday to Friday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 6 p.m. Both locations require their patrons to wear a mask.

Sunflower dwarfs two Lafayette brothers



Lafayette brothers Joshua and Joseph Sanchez pose with a prize-sized sunflower that towers between them.

Service Clubs Announcements



Zoom Meetings Every Friday at 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82609498205>

AUGUST WEEKLY MEETINGS

- 7: Dr. Michale Yassa, Perfect Memory
- 14: Ana Lukner Rolji, Rotary in Slovenia
- 21: Dr. Linda Halderman, COVID-19 Update
- 28: Claire Roberts, Member Magazine

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Lynn's Top Five Thoughts for managing your investment portfolio during a global pandemic

... continued from Page B2

Most investors will buy a similar position as a placeholder as soon as that sale occurs so as not to "miss out" if the markets appreciate during the 30 days they are prohibited from repurchasing that sold asset. While this is often a very helpful income tax management tool, there might also be potential portfolio and performance disruption. Navigate this issue by choosing your replacement holding wisely. Also understand that sometimes selling your "placeholder" investment to return to your previously owned position might generate short-term capital gains. Do the math to be sure it's worth it!

5. Review your holdings and your objectives regularly, not obsessively. We are all missing competitive sports but this is not the time to turn to day trading for some action and adrenaline! Unless you have

money you can afford to lose, design a portfolio that helps you score your successes as they relate to your real life goals in the long-run and not just churn for fun or sport as a substitute for short-term entertainment. Limiting your thoughtful portfolio and investment holding reviews to be no more frequently than quarterly can keep you from making emotional versus logical decisions.

Bottom line, while it's very important to be informed and stay informed, don't obsess and don't take action just for action's sake. Periodically research, review, discuss with your trusted advisors and implement thoughtful changes, but only as appropriate. And then disconnect and go for a walk in these beautiful hills and on these amazing trails we are so fortunate to enjoy in our community. Stay safe, everyone!

All expressions of opinion reflect the judgment of the author and are subject to change. Content does not involve the rendering of personalized investment advice and should not be construed as a recommendation or solicitation to buy or sell a particular security. Tax information is general in nature and should not be construed as legal or tax advice. Always consult an attorney or tax professional regarding your specific tax or legal situation.



Lynn Ballou is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and Regional Director with EP Wealth Advisors, a Registered Investment Advisory Firm in Lafayette. Information used in the writing of this column is believed to be factual and up-to-date, however, we do not guarantee its accuracy. This column does not involve the rendering of personalized investment advice and is not intended to supplement individualized professional advice. A financial, tax and/or legal professional should be consulted before implementing any of the strategies directly or indirectly suggested and discussed. All investment strategies have the potential for profit or loss.

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Publishers/Owners: Andy and

Wendy Scheck;

andy@lamorindaweekly.com,

wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

Editor: Jennifer Wake;

jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com

Sports Editor: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Advertising: 925-377-0977,

Wendy Scheck;

wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

Staff Writers:

Vera Kochan;

vera@lamorindaweekly.com,

Pippa Fisher;

pippa@lamorindaweekly.com,

Nick Marnell;

nick@lamorindaweekly.com,

Sora O'Doherty;

Sora@lamorindaweekly.com,

Jon Kingdon; sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Digging Deep; Cynthia Brian;

Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

Food: Susie Iventosch;

suziventosch@gmail.com

Contributing Writers:

Conrad Bassett, Sophie

Braccini, Diane Claytor,

Michele Duffy, Fran Miller,

Jenn Freedman, Mona Miller,

Kara Navolio, Moya Stone,

Margie Ryerson, Linda

Fodrini-Johnson

Calendar Editor: Jaya Griggs;

calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Photos: Tod Fierner, Gint

Federas

Layout/Graphics:

Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.

Mailing address:

Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box

6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133

Phone: 925-377-0977;

Fax: 925-263-9223; email:

info@lamorindaweekly.com

website:

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Change of sports seasons a challenge for all in Lamorinda

By Jon Kingdon

It's been about five centuries since the four seasons of spring, summer, winter, and fall were established. It has taken the coronavirus only five months to alter the Gregorian calendar for high school sports in California. The California Interscholastic Federation announced July 29 that "in collaboration with our 10 sections, education-based athletics for the 2020-2021 school year will begin with a modified season of sport schedule."

There are now only two sports seasons – fall and spring. Winter, for all intents and purposes has been eliminated. The fall sports are cross country, football, water polo (boys and girls) and volleyball (boys and girls) with their first day of practice beginning on Dec. 14. In the spring, there are three different starting practice dates: Feb. 22 - soccer (boys and girls) and tennis (boys and girls), March 9 - swimming and diving and March 15 - wrestling, basketball, baseball, golf (boys and girls), lacrosse (boys and girls), softball and track and field.

This was a decision that the California Interscholastic Federation, the state's governing board for high school athletics, did not make easily, said Ron Nocetti, California's top prep sports administrator in the Bay Area News Group on July 21: "What started out with multiple plans came down to the one that everyone thought gave as many opportunities to as many students as possible to have close to a full season. This allows for our facilities to operate with less overlap and, while we do know that there are going to have to be some choices made, I think this is our best plan moving forward at this time. But as we've seen, no one can predict what's going to happen here."

The decision was a long time coming for the schools, said Raymond Meadows, Campolindo's athletic director: "We've been in a waiting

game which is true in all facets of life now. We're just hoping to get back to some normalcy for these kids. The main issue for the CIF was that they did not want to cancel any sports or seasons outright."

Acalanes' Athletic Director Randy Takahashi had anticipated that there was going to be a delay in the fall season: "I knew that in conversations with the CIF and North Coast Section that there were a lot of things they had to take into consideration such as what most of the school districts were doing, such as going to distance learning which necessitated pushing everything back to December."

Working out the details for their schools' athletic teams is going to take an expert in algorithmic analysis, particularly in the early spring when football, two soccer teams, two lacrosse teams and the track and field team will all be competing for time on the practice fields. "There's going to be a lot of planning and we're going to have to strike a balance within our coaching staffs," Meadows said, "but I think everybody, including our parents and athletes are staying positive with the idea that we're going to get the kids back on the fields, gyms and pools."

With things changing constantly, it's an ongoing process that makes it difficult to predict how things will look once the "fall" season begins in December, Takahashi said: "I'm meeting with all of the field sport coaches and discussing with them how we're going to use the stadium."

Despite having to wait until December to begin practicing, the football coaches are as a group glad to know that there is going to be a season. "The whole process had us so worn down, we were going to be happy with anything," Campolindo head coach Kevin Macy said. "The way it stands now, we're pleasantly surprised that we're going to be able to have a scrimmage and a 10-game season and some playoffs. The reset may work

in a lot of ways – January may feel like the start of school for everybody."

The inability to have a summer program won't, in the long term, affect the football teams, Acalanes head coach Floyd Burnsed said: "With practices starting on Dec. 14, we'll have ample time to prepare for the season. We can work out now in groups of 12 and we're allowed to share equipment so our QB's and WR's can throw and catch."

Miramonte head coach Jack Scharff is looking forward to when larger groups of players will be able to work out against each other, but will accept whatever comes his way: "Before the season starts, we would like to be able to run 7 on 7's against other teams, something that we have normally done in the summer. If we can get any type of activity in early we'll do that, but if we can't, we'll just have to be ready to go on Dec. 14."

A majority of the states are planning to play high school football in the fall, though that number can change daily. It may be prohibitive to play in January through March in Green Bay, Wisconsin where the average temperatures for each month are 18, 21 and 32 degrees. The average temperature for Lamorinda in those months is 47, 52 and 54 degrees, which is not the major concern for the coaches – it's that these months are the height of the rainy season. "We're aware of the weather conditions at that time of the year," Macy said. "However, with a new quarterback and running backs, if we get the heavy rain, that will definitely affect us by making it harder to put our offense together."

"If we get a lot of rain, it's going to be a mess," Takahashi said. "Putting the rain and temperature aside, at the end of the day, if we're out there playing sports, whether it's raining or not, everybody will look at it and say that it's pretty awesome that we're back."

With so many sports

overlapping, there is a concern as to how things will work out for the multi-sport athletes and it is an issue that is being addressed, according to Meadows: "There were some discussions in our league meetings about the possibility of some teams not having enough athletes. The coaches understand that this is going to be a little bit different and practice times may be a little bit scarcer, but we want our kids to have the opportunity to play multiple sports. I'm asking our coaches to be flexible and to think outside the box to figure out how to make this work with a completely different framework from what we've been used to."

Normally girl's tennis, golf and volleyball were played in the fall and the boys teams played in the spring, but bringing them all together in the spring seemed to make the most sense, according to Michael McCollum, Miramonte's boys and girls tennis coach: "Consolidating the tennis seasons is what I thought was going to happen. It's the best thing for the kids and the efforts that have gone into arranging the seasons is an indication of real professionalism by our administrators, school, and sports leaders. I'm hoping we can get in 10 league matches. The matches are doable, but the hard part is going to be trying to figure out how I can get enough drivers to get our players to the matches."

With both teams sharing the season, court time will be at a premium. Fortunately for Miramonte and Acalanes, their courts have stadium lights which will allow them to split the practices and play later in the evening. "I'm hopeful and happy that this is all going to work out," McCollum said. "I have two of the best teams in the area and I'm anxious about showing them off."

Campolindo, like Acalanes and Miramonte, has lighting on the football field but not on the tennis courts. "We need lights and we've been trying

to get lights, but we won't have them this year," said Meadows. "This may lead to shorter practices and in the past, we have had to move some of our games off site to places that did have lights so we're thinking creatively on how we can still offer as much as we can, but we may run into some scheduling issues along the way."

Meadows also raises the possibility of some teams practicing before school: "The CIF rules that you can practice 18 hours so some of our teams like aquatics and basketball in the past have at times used the early hours to get their workouts in. It's not done too often and if it were to affect the kids, we will find different ways to work things out."

The athletic directors have not been operating in a bubble and have all been working together to make the best of a difficult situation, Takahashi said: "Amy McNamara, the associate superintendent in the district office, has put aside time every week and half to go over what our status is so we have had a lot of support and communication from the district office. We've been hearing from athletic directors from other districts and they're not getting anywhere near the kind of guidance we've received about opening things up."

It was John Jay (1813), one of our country's founding fathers that said, "To hope for the best and prepare for the worst, is a trite but a good maxim." It's an attitude that everyone is forced to live by today.

"It's been a roller coaster," said Meadows. "There has to be a lot of things to happen for all of us to be out there playing in December. I'm crossing my fingers and we're going to plan for it accordingly. If everyone goes in with an open mind and are flexible and accommodating, knowing that it's not exactly how we have done it in the past or want it to be, we'll take it, having the kids out there even with the adjustments that we'll all have to make."

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Lamorinda Village prepares for fire season with help from community

... continued from Page B1

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“Personally, I am so grateful to be part of an organization that was able to adjust and adapt to all the challenges that this pandemic threw at us,” says Ishizu. “I’m

also blown away by the tremendous response from the community who came together to help those who were most vulnerable. I feel very lucky to live in Lamorinda.”

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ... read on Page D14

Feng Shui

Front entrance Feng Shui refresh



Plant red fruit or flowers near the front door.

By Michele Duffy

The front door entry area to one's home remains, especially during a pandemic, the "Mouth of Qi" and one of the most powerful places to thoughtfully ignite healthy Feng Shui.

The front door is often called the 'Mouth of Qi' so when the energy here is positive and activated, it will help nourish the entire home, much like when we take food into our mouths our whole body benefits. The front entrance sets the tone for the entire home and should be welcoming, well lit, and tidy.



Photos Michele Duffy

Sturdy front doors are ideal.

Very active or yang front door colors include red, yellow, orange and black, all excellent choices. It's also good to grow red fruit or flowers in the front yard, and especially along the pathway toward the home. This nod to fruitful abundance at the "Mouth of Qi" will transfer to the home especially if the Bagua is also applied to the entire home and property.

The front entrance door should be sparkling clean, in good working condition, function without squeaking or loose hardware, be constructed solidly with minimal glass for stability and safety, and must be visible from the street. If there is fo-

liage overhanging the front path, everything should receive a tidy trimming so the path to the front door is unobstructed. The front path, if meandering and curvy, would be a positive bonus. If the front pathways are straight and direct, consider planting annuals in pots along the path to slow the rushing Qi down.

Leading up to the home one should be aware of the land forms surrounding the home, including streets in front (and maybe also behind the home). For health and longevity, prosperity and harmonious lives, it's best to avoid homes close to power lines, eyesores, waste, refuse or recycling centers, noisy fire or police stations, homes below the road, on dead-end streets, or with steep drop-offs or water behind the home.

General home Feng Shui guidelines include:

- 1) Gently moving water in front, support/mountain in back of home;
- 2) Home has sufficient natural light;
- 3) Home is above the road;
- 4) Road toward home is gently active; and
- 5) Even shaped land for secure home.

If your home is challenged with any of these you can address them with the following universal Feng Shui antidotes:

- 1) Lacking moving water in front, place an upward flow fountain near the front door; and if the backyard is not higher than front door or at least level, create a boundary in back with potted plants, a retaining wall, or hanging lights to stop the Qi from rolling away from house;
- 2) Adjust a dark house with abundant lighting solutions including recessed ceiling lights and adding high wattage but energy-friendly lamps;
- 3) Home below the road needs a fountain in front, add metal wind chimes from eaves of the house to lift Qi, or place a weathervane on the roof, or add flags to lift Qi (traditional and Tibetan prayer flags);

... continued on Page D4



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Previous Sale: \$910,000, 03-28-18

916 Dewing Avenue #B, \$900,000, 2 Bdrms, 1016 SqFt, 1992 YrBl, 06-24-20,

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3269 Gloria Terrace, \$1,775,000, 4 Bdrms, 2815 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 06-26-20

3357 Mcgraw Lane, \$2,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2867 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 06-18-20

633 Michael Lane, \$1,480,000, 3 Bdrms, 2295 SqFt, 1977 YrBl, 06-18-20,

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3235 Mt Diablo Court #203, \$1,174,000, 41753 SqFt, 2017 YrBl, 06-26-20,

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COMPASS



Feng Shui

Front entrance Feng Shui refresh



... continued from Page D1

- 4) Narrow roads choke Qi to the house and need a water fountain and bird feeders in front so good news always travels toward your door;
- 5) Adjust uneven land placing lights, grounding/heavy objects/sculpture, or plant flowers, or place conversationally arranged outdoor seating vignettes.

To ensure our front entrance is doing its job of welcoming positive Qi into our homes, remember the front entrance door is the first of “The Three Pillars” or power areas of the home. (The second pillar is the master bedroom/bed placement and the third is the kitchen/stove placement.)

A few must-do front entrance Feng Shui tips:

Ensure the house numbers are displayed horizontally versus vertically, and are visible, above eye level, easy to spot, and placed before the driveway so Qi flows to the front door versus rushing past the home;

Paint the front entrance door a lively, eye-catching, Qi-attracting color like red, yellow or tangerine;

If you see garage doors instead of the front entrance, the Feng Shui adjustments might include landscaping lighting that points toward the front door, an artistic welcome sign, or thoughtfully placed directional arrows that point toward the front door;

Place healthy eye-catching and Qi-attracting activating flowers or red fruit trees so they flank the door or are at least in the front yard near the front door;

Front entrance doors should ideally be solid construction materials, any glass is best along the top of the door for security reasons, maintain a proportionate sized door to the size of the home, so definitely no double front doors on smaller homes;

Actively enter your home using the front door and even if you enter your home via a secondary door make sure to ask guests to use the front door;

Front entrance welcome mats should be colorful and fit the door frame size so not smaller than the dimension of the door frame;

Landscaping and house lights are a must at the front entrance area; If possible a meandering path is best, versus straight paths to the door;

And placing a soothing water feature fountain and one tinkling metal chime in front, it would nearly be complete!

If we’ve learned anything in COVID it is all about impermanence and change. Embracing this can help you make small changes and then perhaps tweaking and adjusting and adding Feng Shui over time. Notice what shifts. Create mindful changes and work at your own pace, listen quietly and then intuit what comes next for you in your space. If the vibe at home suits you then you will have accomplished the single most important Feng Shui aspiration!

If you have before and after pics of your front entrance I would be honored to review your good Feng Shui efforts so please email me at spaceharmony@gmail.com.

Happy Summer to all!

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating “Space as Medicine” Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2020 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.





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Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

MORAGA ... continued

- 1357 Camino Peral #C, \$465,000, 2 Bdrms, 951 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 06-19-20, Previous Sale: \$435,000, 07-14-17
1463 Camino Peral, \$700,000, 2 Bdrms, 1159 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 06-16-20, Previous Sale: \$650,000, 09-12-17
105 Devin Drive, \$1,610,000, 4 Bdrms, 2316 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 06-15-20, Previous Sale: \$1,165,000, 11-04-19
228 Fronteras Drive, \$2,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 4685 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 06-19-20
18 Harrington Road, \$1,390,000, 3 Bdrms, 2235 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 06-23-20, Previous Sale: \$1,010,000, 07-30-12
411 Kingsford Drive, \$1,905,000, 5 Bdrms, 2646 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 06-26-20, Previous Sale: \$875,000, 06-07-02
37 Miramonte Drive, \$595,000, 2 Bdrms, 1152 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 06-15-20, Previous Sale: \$125,000, 09-01-88
165 Natalie Drive, \$1,415,000, 4 Bdrms, 2062 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 06-16-20, Previous Sale: \$663,500, 04-18-02
45 Sanders Ranch Road, \$1,775,000, 4 Bdrms, 3523 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 06-19-20
207 Sonora Road, \$2,110,000, 3 Bdrms, 3036 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 06-26-20
215 Sonora Road, \$2,170,000, 4 Bdrms, 4435 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 06-24-20
177 Willowbrook Lane, \$1,975,000, 3 Bdrms, 3003 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 06-26-20, Previous Sale: \$1,923,500, 12-19-16

ORINDA

- 71 Bates Boulevard, \$1,975,000, 4 Bdrms, 2579 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 06-23-20
412 Dalewood Drive, \$2,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 3037 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 06-18-20, Previous Sale: \$240,000, 06-01-78
564 Dalewood Drive, \$2,727,000, 5 Bdrms, 3986 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 06-16-20, Previous Sale: \$2,430,000, 07-27-06
2 Fleetwood Court, \$1,675,000, 4 Bdrms, 2564 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 06-16-20
383 Miner Road, \$2,450,000, 5 Bdrms, 4023 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 06-17-20, Previous Sale: \$2,450,000, 06-14-20
20 Monte Vista Road, \$946,000, 2 Bdrms, 1404 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 06-17-20
457 Moraga Way, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1396 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 06-19-20
58 Oak Drive, \$2,415,000, 4 Bdrms, 4132 SqFt, 2004 YrBlt, 06-18-20, Previous Sale: \$1,780,000, 01-07-13
6 Rabble Road, \$3,750,000, 6 Bdrms, 5988 SqFt, 2010 YrBlt, 06-23-20, Previous Sale: \$2,740,000, 10-18-12
9 Sally Ann Road, \$2,030,000, 4 Bdrms, 2527 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 06-15-20, Previous Sale: \$950,000, 05-22-15
66 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,505,000, 3 Bdrms, 1883 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 06-19-20, Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 05-19-06
32 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$2,035,000, 5 Bdrms, 2306 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 06-18-20, Previous Sale: \$1,450,000, 10-27-05
469 Tahos Road, \$1,736,000, 4 Bdrms, 2710 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 06-18-20

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LAMORINDA EXPERTS - GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

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<p>20 Hacienda Circle \$4,250,000 Stunning state of the art Orinda estate designed by Orinda architect Richard Bartlett includes 8000+ sq. ft. comfortably situated on a flat 1.3-acre site adjacent to the Orinda Country Club's 13th hole. www.20haciendacircle.com Melanie Snow 925-360-0344; Laura Abrams 510-697-3225 Lic#00878893, #01272382</p>	<p>53 Tappan Lane \$3,350,000 Modern exterior, renovated pool, wine cellar, breathtaking views Melanie Snow 925-360-0344 53tappanlane.com Lic #00878893</p>	<p>3 Valley View Ln. \$3,195,000 Prestigious Luxury Estate Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573 Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com www.3ValleyViewLn.com Lic #01390784</p>	
<p>Orinda</p> 	<p>Orinda</p> 	<p>Orinda</p> 	<p>Lafayette</p> 
<p>10 Rheem Blvd. \$1,975,000 Quintessential Masterpiece Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573 Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com www.10Rheem.com Lic #01390784</p>	<p>212 El Toyonal \$1,695,000 Light filled Remodeled 2-Stry Rancher w/ Stylish architectural touches Laura Abrams 510-697-3225 www.212eltoyonal.com Lic#01272382</p>	<p>1 Madera Lane \$1,625,000 Views! Sunsets! and More Views! Private end of the cul-de-sac location with decks and lawn. Hide from the world! Laura Abrams 510-697-3225 www.1maderalane.com Lic#01272382</p>	<p>972 Carol Ln. \$1,175,000 Private haven, steps from the Lafayette Trail Soraya Golesorkhi 925-808-8390 www.soraya4homes.com Lic #01771736</p>
<p>Danville</p> 	<p>Moraga</p> 	<p>Walnut Creek</p> 	<p>Walnut Creek</p> 
<p>944 La Gonda Way \$1,175,000 Gated w/views in Westside Danville. Close to town. Soraya Golesorkhi 925-808-8390 www.soraya4homes.com Lic #01771736</p>	<p>38 Buckingham Dr. \$995,000 Lovely home with huge potential. Soraya Golesorkhi 925-808-8390 www.soraya4homes.com Lic #01771736</p>	<p>1549 Pyranees Pl. \$969,000 Reduced Lovely Townhome In Heart Of Walnut Creek Ana Zimmank 925-640-6008 ana.zimmank@cbnocal.com Lic #00469962</p>	<p>1972 Magnolia Way \$955,000 Lovely w/huge yard in coveted Parkmead Soraya Golesorkhi 925-808-8390 www.soraya4homes.com Lic #01771736</p>
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2.04 Acre Gated Estate | \$8,995,000

PENDING

*101 Hillcrest Drive, Orinda (Seller!)
18 Charles Hill Circle, Orinda (Seller!)
12 Kimberly Drive, Moraga (Seller!)*

SOLD

*257 Overhill Road, Orinda (Seller & Buyer!)
20 Ellen Court, Orinda (Buyer!)
100 Estates Drive, Orinda (Buyer!)
50 Don Gabriel Way, Orinda (Buyer!)
106 Brookline Street, Moraga (Seller!)
100 Sand Hill Road, Orinda (Seller & Buyer!)*



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Two Fabulous Homes Just Listed in Lamorinda!



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95 Hardie Drive • Moraga
4 Bedrooms | 2 Baths | 2137 sf | .29 Acre



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New Listing



300 Village View Court, Orinda **\$2,095,000**
2+ Bed 2.5 Bath 2,500± SF 0.16± Acres w/Views

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300villageview.com

New Listing



3223 Brookwood Drive, Lafayette **\$1,195,000**
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3223brookwood.com



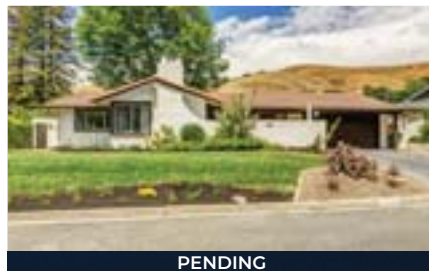
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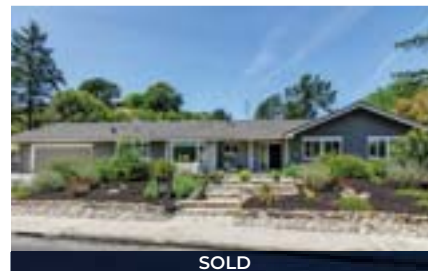
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MY RECENT ACTIVITY... THE MARKET IS STILL MOVING!



PENDING

1143 SANDERS DRIVE, MORAGA
3 BD, 3 BA, 2,113+/- SF
OFFERED AT \$1,249,000



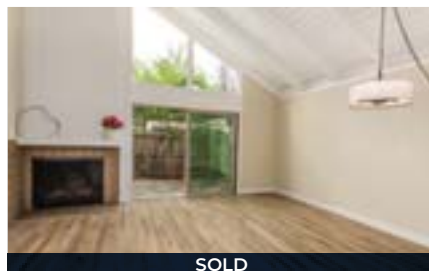
SOLD

217 CORLISS DRIVE, MORAGA
4 BD, 2.5 BA, 2,357+/- SF
SOLD FOR \$1,570,000



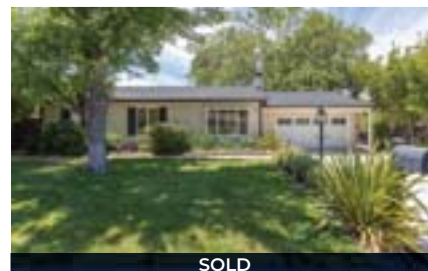
SOLD

18 HARRINGTON ROAD, MORAGA
3 BD, 2 BA, 2,235+/- SF
SOLD FOR \$1,390,000



SOLD

511 CHALDA WAY, MORAGA
3 BD, 2 BA, 1,322+/- SF
SOLD FOR \$705,000



SOLD

85 MONTE CRESTA AVE., PLEASANT HILL
3 BD, 2.5 BA, 1,833+/- SF
SOLD FOR \$1,036,000
CO-LISTED WITH SHELLEY RUHMAN



PENDING

2233 PINE KNOLL DR. #1, ROSSMOOR
1 BD, 1 BA, 842+/- SF
OFFERED AT \$325,000
CO-LISTED WITH SHELLEY RUHMAN



Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Some like it hot!



Blackberries are sweet and profuse this season.

By Cynthia Brian

“Summer afternoon – summer afternoon; the two most beautiful words in the English language.” ~ Henry James

The blackberry bushes flanked the horse stables on my grandparents’ ranch. My grandmother was a genuine horse whisperer. She lovingly cared for a herd of adopted steeds and rode in parades in her fancy Western wear. She even trained the horse for the television show, “My Friend Flicka.” Together, after an early morning gallop through the fields and vineyards, she would give my cousin and me an empty pail and challenge us to a blackberry picking contest. Our reward was a big bowl of berries with fresh cream dusted with cereal. I adored my horse-loving grandmother and those luscious summer blackberries.

Although I’ve always treasured horses, I stopped liking blackberries when I started growing my own. The thorns are menacing, and the bushes sprout everywhere with their

underground runners. In the heat of summer, my days are filled with pulling out blackberry vines from flower beds instead of picking fruit. But this year I have a bumper crop of big juicy berries in an area where I’ve allowed them to flourish. I decided to risk the scratches to re-live the free-flowing glory days spent with my grandmother riding horses and gobbling blackberries in rich purple cream. It’s a short season for blackberries and they like it hot.

Meteorologists have predicted that 2020 has a 75% chance of being the hottest ever recorded. The good news is that we grow many specimens in our gardens that thrive in the heat. The bad news is that the Arctic is rapidly warming and climate change is sinister. We must strive to reduce our carbon footprint while we indulge in the summer flavors of favorite fruits and vegetables and the beauty of heat-tolerant blossoms.

Unless you can water deeply and daily, August is not an optimal month to plant any-

thing. But it is a month to enjoy the high-temperature lovers. Tomatoes, tomatillos, beans, peppers, eggplant, beets, zucchini, basil and corn are a few of the vegetables/fruit that demand six to eight hours of sunshine to flourish. Other summer fruits that require heat to ripen include peaches, pears, plums, nectarines, cantaloupe, watermelon, apples, blueberries, figs, and, of course, blackberries. Limes are the only citrus that require a blistering summer to be at their best. By growing your choices in containers, specifically tomatoes, peppers and herbs, substantial sunlight can be guaranteed by moving the pots to different areas and watering when necessary.

I have a pistache planted in a large ceramic cask that has already turned a vibrant red while other in-ground pistache trees are still a brilliant green. Crape myrtle trees, hollyhocks, and agapanthus pop into magnificent blooms when the thermometer rises.

... continued on Page D16



Oleanders come in all colors and bloom throughout the warmer seasons.

Photos Cynthia Brian

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Some like it hot!



This pistache in a pot has already changed to its autumn red coat.

... continued from Page D14

Lavender, salvia, sage and roses grow vigorously in summer. Ubiquitous oleander and the common geranium beat the heat with a profuse of petals lasting until the cold weather begins.

As a child, the four o'clocks lining our country road opened daily exactly at the prescribed hour. The ones that perennially sprout in my Lamorinda garden germinated from those ranch heirloom seeds do not live up to their namesake. My errant sun-worshippers open at 8 a.m. and close by 4 p.m. Blissfully, right on cue, just as my hillside is



Four o'clocks can grow in poor soil and are supposed to open at 4 P.M.

looking drab, dry, and dismal, my Naked Ladies poke their long necks out from their mounds. Every year I delight in their ability to shimmer when most everything else is withering.

The big question in the cauldron of August is when and how to water. Just because a plant is drought resistant or heat-tolerant doesn't mean it doesn't get thirsty. To keep our garden healthy, we can't under-water or over-water. What's the secret? The optimum time to water is very early morning to prepare your garden for the day. The roots will retain the moisture and the plant will stay hydrated.

... continued on next Page

... continued from Page D14

Watering in the afternoon wastes water as it evaporates before it can saturate the soil. The evening is also a good time to water as long as the leaves have enough time to dry out. Watering at night encourages fungus, insects and rot. Deep-root watering is always better than sprinkling. Adding three inches of mulch around all plants and trees will aid in keeping the moisture level correct while keeping the roots cooler.

If you have a swimming pool, pond or fountain, you may discover that honeybees appear to be suicide bombers this month. Rescue them. When it is scorching, bees search for water then return to the hive to let other bees know the location of the source. A group of 15 or more may tap the pool surface bringing back the droplets to receiver bees. According to entomologists, the water is then deposited along the edge of the wax comb while bees inside the comb fan their wings to circulate the air conditioning. Bees prefer hive temperatures of 95 degrees Fahrenheit, so they like it hot, too!

August will be a sizzling month. Make sure you and your garden stay hydrated. Enjoy the fruits, vegetables, and flowers that relish the swelter. Pick a basket of blackberries, with or without horse-back riding.

Stay cool and enjoy a summer afternoon of hot, hot, hot!



A favorite of hot weather, watermelon Crape Myrtle.



A white agapanthus glows at night.

Cynthia Brian's Garden Sales Tips

It's important to frequent and support your local nurseries, garden centers and stores, however, during the pandemic, many people are safely sheltering-in-place as much as possible. If you prefer armchair shopping with delivery to your home, these are affiliate suppliers that offer quality and satisfaction for almost everything outdoor and garden related. Some have current sales and others offer free shipping with minimum orders.

- High-quality gardening products including umbrellas canopies, gazebos, hammocks, furniture, and more with a 15% off sale through Aug. 10. Use Code SELECT15: <https://bit.ly/30L5yUA>
 - An extensive selection of live plants, seeds and gardening accessory products, plus trees, shrubs, fruit trees, perennials and bulbs. <https://bit.ly/2P6FAFL>
 - Furniture and structures for both outdoor and indoor living including pergolas, bridges, gazebos, sunrooms and birdhouses, plus a kids' corner with play structures and more. <https://bit.ly/2D4ymPL>
 - Automatic gates: Go direct to <https://bit.ly/2ZUxJB4>
 - Fountains, firepits, hammocks, carts, umbrellas, bird feeders, relaxation products, and more. <https://bit.ly/3eXqNHU>
 - Get a free flower coloring book download at <https://bit.ly/39CnSDv>
 - For beautiful botanical art and a variety of seeds, go to <https://bit.ly/39spMXe>.
 - And if the pandemic will be ushering in a new baby in the family soon, congratulations, check out the gear, furniture and décor at <https://bit.ly/2WQv7lJ>
- Happy gardening. Happy growing.



Geraniums of all hues enjoy the heat of summer.



The long necks of Naked Ladies sprout from the dry ground.



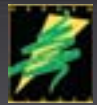
Cynthia Brian likes it hot, hot, hot!

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

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519 Miner Road

Resort-like 7160 sqft 5 bed/ 5 bath/ 4 half bath custom gated estate built in 2017 by Diamond Construction. **\$8,995,000**

ORINDA



14 Los Dedos Road

Santa Barbara style 4232 sqft 5+ bed custom beautifully designed by Mark Becker! Fabulous knoll site w/ pool & expansive lawns. **\$3,490,000**

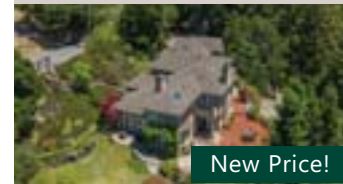
ORINDA



220 Crestview Drive

Secluded 6 bed/ 5.5 bath home on expansive 1.4 acre lot, offering a unique indoor/outdoor park-like experience. **\$3,295,000**

ORINDA

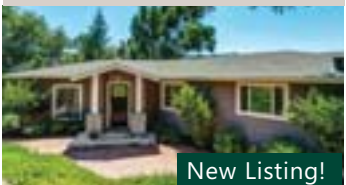


New Price!

737 Miner Road

Custom 5 bed/ 4 bath 4088 sqft Orinda Country Club home w/ easy indoor/outdoor living & breathtaking views. **\$2,295,000**

ORINDA



New Listing!

38 Linda Vista

Wonderful 4 bed/ 3 bath home w/ functional floor plan for comfort & entertaining. Close to BART & Lake Cascade. **\$1,750,000**

ORINDA



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. **\$1,689,000**

ORINDA



15 Linda Vista

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

ORINDA



325 El Toyonal

Custom 5 bed/ 3 bath home w/ updated baths & kitchen, hardwood floors, & charming curb appeal. Great location! **\$1,395,000**

ORINDA



30 Rio Vista

Well maintained 3 bed/ 2 bath home w/ workshop, rec room, & separate office. Just 1/2 mile to downtown. **\$1,250,000**

MORAGA



651 Moraga Road # 15

Peaceful upper end single level 3 bed/ 2 bath condo w/ updated kitchen & baths. Washer & dryer included. **\$640,000**

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. **\$3,988,000**

LAFAYETTE



3541 S Silver Springs Road

Completely renovated 4 bed/ 4 bath home within walking distance to town, schools, & bike trail. **\$3,250,000**

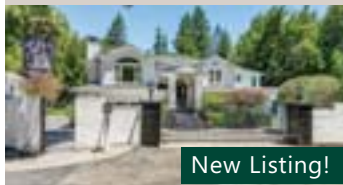
LAFAYETTE



3971 Canyon Road

Private gated 6 Bed/ 4 Bath/ 2 Half bath estate including two-story guest house located in desirable Happy Valley. **\$3,175,000**

LAFAYETTE

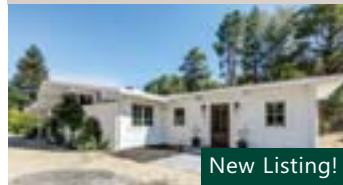


New Listing!

3696 Happy Valley Road

Private gated 6 bed/ 6.5 bath 5500 sqft custom home including chef's kitchen, guest house, & pool on flat .85 acres. **\$2,795,000**

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing!

160 Brodia Way

3 Bed/ 2 bath 1851 home located at the end of the street w/ courtyard, BBQ station, grassy play area & views. **\$1,375,000**

The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby

Patricia Battersby

Shannon Conner

Meara Dunsmore

Linda Ehrich

Emily Estrada

Joan Evans

Linda Friedman

Claudia Gohler

Dexter Honens II

Susan Layng

April Matthews

Hillary Murphy

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