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Hip-hop dance class outside at Joy in Motion in Moraga.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Parking lots evolve into active sites during pandemic

By Sophie Braccini

Public health restrictions on indoor gyms have hurt many local big and small fitness businesses. Several have migrated to Zoom to deliver classes over the internet to compensate for the revenue loss and make sure clients stayed active. Some are taking to the streets, or to parking lots, to deliver live classes outdoors. Feeling each others' energy, getting active with the group and the instructors, some believe that there is no better way to fight the pandemic.

Joy In Motion in Moraga has a very large parking lot adjacent to its studio that is quite convenient to conduct outside classes. Justin Cole, the company co-founder with Linda Craig, started at the end of August to offer dance classes for children and adults after polling his 500 family clients on their level of comfort

with such activities. On a typical weekday evening, a maximum of 16 children or adults come, masked, to the back area. There, large squares have been delineated on the floor to maintain separation. Each participant stands in a square, while on the stage – what used to be an unloading bay for a post office – Cole and Justin Madfes lead a hip-hop class to the sound of upbeat music.

A group of young dancers observed at the beginning of September seemed to be having a blast; one could almost feel that pent-up energy was being released. Jennifer Winn, mother of one of the participants, explained that her 10-year-old daughter was not interested in doing a dance class on Zoom, but jumped at the opportunity to come and dance again with friends.

Lamorinda CrossFit in Lafayette was founded 11

years ago by Anni Guzman and the energetic business owner was not going to be taken down by a virus. Like many, she moved classes online, and went a step further by starting a landing program for her community of clients. Dumbbells, ab mats, kettle bells, boxes for jumping could be borrowed. In July it looked like the activity might start again, but with the frustration created by county orders that closed the space, Guzman and her trainers decided that they would move the classes outside to avoid another shut down.

Tom Westernoff at The Karate Fitness Place in Lafayette had the same reaction and, after "Zooming" classes, felt that the students who wanted live instructions should be indulged. His facility shares a large parking lot with other tenants and he reached out to be able to use it for classes.

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Orinda prepares for potential power shutoffs

By Sora O'Doherty

The threat of COVID-19 has caused the city of Orinda to rethink its plans for providing assistance to residents during potential upcoming Pacific Gas and Electric Co. public safety power shutoffs (PSPSs). During fire season, under certain circumstances, including red flag warnings, the presence of gusty high winds, low humidity and hot weather, PG&E will schedule PSPSs in order to reduce the risk of fires starting by PG&E transmission equipment.

Last year Orinda staff provided services, including cooling and charging for electronic devices, in Room 8 of the Community Center. This year, with the threat of transmission of the novel coronavirus, public works thinks it will be safer to provide such services in the library parking lot and on the library terrace. With little going on at the library, the parking lot is little used and can be closed off to provide

a shaded place with good ventilation and plenty of space for social distancing.

City engineer Jason Chen explained Orinda's plans to the city council at its Sept. 1 meeting.

Chen told the council that PG&E plans to reduce the time needed for visual inspection of power lines, cutting the time needed to restore power in half. PG&E has also promised to notify customers of upcoming PSPSs two days before the outage, one day before, just before, during the actual outage and once after power has been restored. In addition, customers can view the seven-day potential for a PSPS on the PG&E website.

During a PSPS, the city will operate out of the Sarge Littlehale Conference Room. Residents using the community resources center will be required to wear masks and to provide basic contact information in case contact tracing is required later. Staff agreed to a request by Vice Mayor Amy Worth to

provide small bottles of water. Portable toilets will be provided and will be cleaned frequently. In the event that smoke becomes too much of an issue, the CRC will be moved to the Founders Auditorium and Room 8 of the Community Center.

Owing to reduced staffing, no temporary stop signs will be provided during a PSPS, but people should remember that in the event of a power outage, intersections normally controlled by traffic signals should be treated as four-way stops. The expected cost to prepare for an upcoming PSPS is about \$5,000, including \$3,000 for temporary toilets and \$2,000 for other supplies. It is expected that total costs for PSPSs will not exceed \$10,000.

Further information about PSPSs can be found on PG&E's website: https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/pssp-weather-map.page?WT.mc_id=Vanity_weather

Lamorinda steps up to aid LNU Complex fire victims

By Nick Marnell

A director from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, an Orinda business owner and a young Lafayette girl responded to the aftermath of the LNU Lightning

Complex Fire in a big way by donating time and energy, food and even hair to raise money for Vacaville fire victims.

The complex of fires charred more than 363,000 acres in the hills around Napa, Fairfield and Vacaville, de-

stroying nearly 1,500 structures and killing five. The fires began early in the morning of Aug. 17 after a barrage of lightning strikes in the area.


Michael Donner of MOFD, who spent 31 years with the Oakland Fire Department, said

he distributed \$50,000 that he collected from donors to victims of the Paradise Fire in 2018. He wanted to do something similar for the Vacaville fire victims.

Through his fire network, Donner got in touch with Eli

Held, a firefighter-paramedic with the Folsom Fire Department. Held, owner of Muertos Coffee in Vacaville, helped save his parents' home in the middle of the night during the LNU Complex fire.

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City council candidates share their views on Lafayette hot topics



Carl Anduri Photos provided



Cam Burks



Gina Dawson



Farschad Farzan

By Pippa Fisher

Four candidates, Carl Anduri, Cam Burks (incumbent), Gina Dawson and Farschad Farzan, contest three seats on the Lafayette city council in the upcoming election. Lamorinda Weekly asked for their comments on three questions. **Lamorinda Weekly:** With the General Plan update that will influence the city for the next 20 years now getting underway, which of the following issues

concerning land use, housing, downtown vibrancy, open space, and safety are most important to you and why? **Candidates:** "All the issues are important and interrelated," says Dawson, a statement echoed by all candidates. "Together they define a community," says Anduri, noting that safety from both crime and natural disaster, especially

wildfire, must be a factor in every decision. He says that downtown vibrancy is essential to the city's financial health and to the sense of community, together with protecting open space that he says will be under greater pressure over the next 20 years. Anduri notes that land use and housing present potential for conflict within the community and are issues that will require the most leadership and a thoughtful, collaborative approach.

Farzan and Burks draw attention to housing laws being imposed from the state capitol. Simply put, says Farzan, "There are local issues we have to consider when we are updating our General Plan." While recognizing the need for housing, he says, "We also have to protect our small community with local control because housing issues in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Lafayette are not

the same." Burks points to his record as a council member of fighting the legislature through lobbying and coalition-building, on what he refers to as "the overzealous, 75-mile screwdriver of a state legislature ... intent on assuming absolute power over our planning process and department, with no regard for a jobs/housing balance." Burks notes too that the selection process for the GP update is important. "It's critical that we first select a diverse community team to lead our effort." Dawson considers safety a priority. "Utility and infrastructure maintenance, traffic impacts on emergency response times, and an increase of fires and other natural disasters from climate change are all issues that our community should tackle to preserve our homes, protect our downtown vibrancy, and safeguard our community," says Dawson. ... continued on Page A11

AUHSD set to continue Free Community Meals Program



Photo provided

The Campo food service team, from left: Jessica Arone, Lead Steven Nelsen, Irma Aviles, Tume Bayar and Maria Pena.

By Pippa Fisher

The hard-working food service staff throughout the Acalanes Union High School District is happy to make its free Grab and Go breakfast and lunch meals available once again during distance learning to any child aged between 1 and 18 years old, no matter where they live and with no identification required. The program officially started again on Sept. 8 and will be offering meals to pick up Monday through Friday on

school days between 7:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. from all four high schools in the AUHSD. AUHSD Food Services and Safety Coordinator Rebecca Ward explains that since the district went to distance learning at the start of the shelter-in-place back in March food services staff provided upwards of 1,500 meals a day to children across the Bay Area operating three days per week out of Las Lomas and Campolindo high schools. Usually during the regular school year they are restricted to serving only students within the district.

"We were one of the only districts in the area doing it," says Ward, going on to say how amazing the staff were, giving up their month-long summer break to keep the program going over the summer. Operating under strict USDA guidelines, Ward says that the AUHSD Food Services teams are grateful and proud to be able to offer free, nutritious meals to any child under 18 years old in need during this very stressful time. "We are dedicated to supporting our communities."

More information is available at www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=2601160046326731



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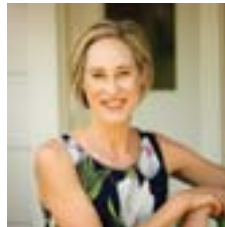



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Donations help wildfire-displaced animals



Photo Pippa Fisher

Donations now being accepted at Perks, next to the Lafayette Library.

By Pippa Fisher

Lafayette resident Vickie Balestrieri is taking the lead in gathering donations of pet food and other supplies to help support animals displaced by the Bay Area wildfires.

With a drop-off spot right beside Perks (formerly Caffino) next to the Lafayette Library, Balestrieri is hoping to gather supplies such as crates, pet carriers, pet food, clean old towels, blankets, pet beds, leashes as well as cash donations.

Balestrieri decided to help after hearing friends of hers from Saratoga discussing on social media the plight of ani-

mals that had been rescued from the fires, including horses, chickens, goats, cats, dogs, and rabbits that are being held now at the Gilroy Fairgrounds. She has been delivering carloads of supplies over the past few weeks.

More locally Balestrieri is now working to collect donations for Jelly's Place and the Milo Foundation, community nonprofit rescue shelters that are also welcoming animal victims of the fires. All are grateful for any supplies.

The collection drive at Perks is set to continue until Sept. 20.

Questions should be directed to vickiebalestrieri@gmail.com

Lafayette wants to hear from you!

The city of Lafayette is updating its General Plan – a blueprint for how Lafayette will look and feel in 20 years. The public is invited to participate in many ways, the first being the General Plan Advisory Committee.

GPAC is a group of volunteers who will represent the Lafayette community through the general plan update.

No experience is required – individuals of all backgrounds and experiences are encouraged to apply.

Five members of the committee, one at-large and four from each geographic

region of Lafayette, will be selected at random by lottery from the applications received.

The planning department will hold an informational video session to discuss the GPAC and its application process at 6 p.m. Sept. 24. Visit the website below for details on how to join the meeting.


The application is available at www.planlafayette.org

To obtain a hard copy of the application, call (925) 284-1976.

– P. Fisher

 <p>Lafayette Public Meetings</p> <p>City Council Wednesday, Sept. 28, 7 p.m. Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel: http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube</p>	<p>Planning Commission Meeting Monday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Don Tatzin Community Hall</p> <p>Design Review Wednesday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center. 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Arts & Science Discovery Room</p>
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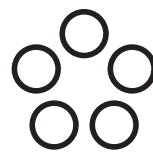
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MCSP Town Hall takes a new turn regarding public comments

By Vera Kochan

Up until now, any public comments regarding the Moraga Center Specific Plan Implementation Project predominantly revolved around safe and efficient evacuation in the event of an emergency. With a potential increase of 630 dwellings in the Moraga Center area, the distinct possibility for that many additional vehicles trying to vacate the town creates a chaotic mental scenario to a situation that hasn't even arrived yet.

Staff planned on holding two Town Hall meetings. The first one was to have taken place on Sept. 1 at the Hacienda de las Flores as an in-person event, but limited to 100 attendees in order to comply with coronavirus county health mandates. However, it was canceled as a safety precaution.

The second meeting was conducted via Zoom on Sept. 2 with approximately 30 viewers in attendance.

On hand to answer the public's questions regarding fire, evacuation safety and housing laws were Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker, Moraga Police Chief Jon King and Assistant Town Attorney Karen Murphy. However, after briefly touching on those topics, the public's comments and questions began to gravitate around the MCSP's viability given the fact that it was adopted 10 years ago and in a different economic climate than today's.

Historically, the vision for a high-density, mixed-use town center was defined in the Moraga General Plan adopted in 2002 after a three-year public process. Work on the MCSP began in 2003 to be followed by

seven years of public input and analysis resulting in the adoption of the 2010 Moraga Center Specific Plan.

One resident was concerned about empty storefronts, because many people have taken to shop online – a pattern that was magnified by the COVID-19 shelter-in-place mandates. Planning Director Afshan Hamid explained that the MCSP's mixed-use office/retail allows for a variety of businesses that are not reliant on online sales. Even limited-sized schools could be a possible tenant.

Another question concerned updating any differences from 2010 to present-day standards, to which Murphy replied, "The zoning updates will bring the project up to 2020 standards."

There was a suggestion to put the MCSP issue on a ballot

and let residents decide whether to proceed with its implementation.

A concern arose as to whether the public's views or comments, in actuality, carry any weight against the property owner's vision for the development. Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg responded, "We are trying to implement the Plan to where everyone is pleased."

There was also a question about MCSP addressing affordable housing needs, to which it was pointed out that the Plan allows for senior and workforce housing.

Several residents questioned whether the MCSP could be amended to the current concerns of the town. The answer was "no." Amending the MCSP falls out of the scope of the Implementation Project. Any amendment of the Plan

would have to be implemented through a separate project.

Aesthetically, what held true in 2010 can still be applied to 2020's standards upheld by the MCSP. The Plan calls for an economically viable and environmentally sensitive approach to development while creating a mixed-use village with local-serving commercial development and a range of residential opportunities. This also takes into consideration the revitalization of the existing Moraga Shopping Center and the Moraga Ranch complex, along with the preservation of the creek corridor. While the Plan doesn't authorize immediate construction, it is considered to be an important step toward the future development potential to the area and an influx of tax dollars into the local economy.

Town council candidates respond to Moraga's interests now and for the future



Kendall Langan



Teresa Onoda



Ursula Schilling



Renata Sos



David Stromberg

By Vera Kochan

Of the 13 goals listed in last year's "Town Council and Community Goals for 2020 – Building for the Future," most have either been accomplished or are in the process – quite a

feat considering what Moraga has gone through economically in recent years. With the Moraga Center Specific Plan, retail expansion and residential development being top of mind recently, the five candidates seeking to fill three

positions on the town council were asked to respond to issues most often raised during MCSP discussions, meetings or town halls.

In alphabetical order, the five candidates are: Kendall Langan, Teresa Onoda, Ursula Schilling, Renata Sos (incumbent) and David Stromberg.

Lamorinda Weekly: One of the town council goals for 2020 was to enhance Moraga's business environment and work collaboratively with the Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders, yet several stand-alone storefronts have remained empty for years, especially in the Moraga Shopping Center. Granted, COVID-19 has currently stymied any productive business environment, but what can the town do post-pandemic to fill the vacancies and prevent them in the future?

Candidates: Stromberg noted that as chair of the planning commission he supported merging the design review board with the commission in order to streamline the planning department's approval of applications; voted for signage upgrades to the Rheem Shopping Center; and promoted new municipal codes to attract a wide variety of businesses.

Sos discussed the Small Business Relief Program, recently approved by the town council, which offers to reimburse businesses up to \$2,000 in COVID-related expenses; as well as the town's efforts to simplify local regulations to promote and maintain businesses in Moraga. She stressed the importance of the community shopping

locally when purchasing goods and services.

Onoda has met with both Moraga Center and Rheem Center's property owners to discuss ways to enhance their properties to make them more attractive to shoppers and include the Chamber in the discussions; she has given new businesses ideas to become more successful; and worked with Art in Public Spaces to put sculptures in key areas around town to add attractive notes to the retail districts.

Onoda and Langan both agree with the importance of using social media to promote the town. Langan suggested a "Shop Moraga" campaign with the Chamber taking the lead in addition to promoting Moraga's office spaces as an alternative to "high priced office spaces in Orinda, Lafayette and Walnut Creek: More businesses, more shoppers."

Both Langan and Schilling made note of the abundance of parking available. Schilling added, "Building on what seems to thrive in our two shopping centers, Safeway, TJ Maxx, Home Goods, Ace Hardware, Moraga Liquors among many successful businesses, and a very popular Sunday Farmers' Market." She'd like to promote Moraga as a place to dine and shop.

Lamorinda Weekly: The MCSP will bring many changes, not only to the Center area proper, but to the town as a whole. Are there any aspects of the MCSP that you personally have issues with; and if you could go back in time to 2010 during MCSP's inception what would you change?

Candidates: Sos emphasized the importance for everyone to understand that the MCSP merely "provides clarity to both property owners and public officials as to what is

allowed to be built." As a current town council member about to consider proposed zoning codes she cannot express her personal views, but if there was anything in the process she would change it would be for the zoning to have been completed much closer to 2010.

Onoda conceded that more housing would lead to revenue growth. "On the other hand, housing will increase traffic, which would become even more problematic if a fire ever forces people to flee en masse." Besides additional commuter traffic, Onoda is concerned about protecting the ridgeline views and the detracting aesthetics of new housing.

Langan felt that MCSP preserves open space by concentrating development in the Moraga Center area while being situated on regional trails. While he feels that the Plan has flaws, Senate Bill 330 is requiring Moraga to grow. Schilling feels that MCSP needs more common ground and consensus building.

Stromberg has worked on the MCSP since 2015, and while he looks forward to affordable and senior housing adjacent to a mixed-use development, he felt that a "Build It Green Single-Family GreenPoint Checklist" should be mandatory rather than discretionary. "I would have preferred stricter building height limits and larger setbacks, design concepts that are more consistent with Moraga's semi-rural feel." Additionally, he wanted a mandatory pedestrian/bicycle trail along one side of the Laguna Creek and greater protection for Moraga's orchards.

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LINDA EHRICH



Margaret DePriester – two-term mayor during the 1980s passes away leaving her imprint on Moraga



Photo provided

Margaret DePriester

By Vera Kochan

With a can-do attitude and an indomitable spirit, Margaret DePriester could easily have been given the title “Moraga’s Ambassador of Good Works.”

DePriester passed away on Aug. 19 at the age of 98, but not before making her mark on the town she and her husband, Coral, called home since 1968.

“She wanted to contribute to the community, and her goal was to make it an even better place to live,” stated her daughter Susan Freeman. “She really loved Moraga.”

DePriester played an integral role in the incorpora-

tion of the town of Moraga in 1974; was the first woman appointed to the planning commission in 1975; was elected to the town council in 1980 and served for eight years, including two terms as mayor in 1983 and 1987; was voted Moraga Citizen of the Year in 1986; served as president of the Moraga Historical Society in 1993 and 2004 (she chaired the committee that raised funds to build the Moraga History Center and worked as an archivist there); was the founding president of The Hacienda Foundation of Moraga, Inc. in 2006; and was elected president of Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club during 2005-06.

Her friends Sam and Susan Sperry and Dave and Debby Trotter would often take DePriester and her close friend Elsie Mastick (both of whom had moved into Moraga Royale) out to dinner locally. “I met her when I joined the Kiwanis in 2002,” recalled Sam Sperry. “She immediately impressed me as a person of strong values and a firm resolve.”

Susan Sperry praised DePriester’s work for the Historical Society: “She worked tirelessly and was a valuable asset for many years, especially doing computer and email work.”

Dave Trotter added, “Margaret was a very dear friend. An influential and widely respected town leader, Margaret was a force to be reckoned with, and also admired, at the same time. Margaret loved Moraga and its history. I learned a lot about both over the past three decades by listening very carefully, and heeding what she had to say.”

During a recent Kiwanis Club meeting, members paid tribute to DePriester with recollections and praise: “You never could really say ‘no’ to Margaret;” “She was very persuasive in convincing people to serve on boards and committees within town;” “She didn’t put up with any shenanigans;” “Daffodil planting started with Margaret;” “She always had time to have a conversation with you. She was always interested in what you had to say;” “She was a legend and a hero to people;” “When she passed away I thought how is that – she was not mortal;” and “She was instrumental in passing a safe roof ordinance while on the town council.”

One Kiwanis member described DePriester’s imprint on Moraga succinctly: “She was a mighty politician and friend to everyone. What an incredible lady.”

Town council candidates

... continued from Page A4

Lamorinda Weekly: What areas of the MCSP do you feel will most benefit the residents and the town as a whole?

Candidates: Schilling felt that a slow, sensitive and measured growth would preserve the history and charm of Moraga.

Onoda and Sos both noted that while SB 330 has put controls on the town’s housing development, MCSP is meant to provide affordable housing for students, seniors and workforce within a walkable area of shops and transit. They also agree that the Plan will provide clear guidelines as to future development and minimize

disagreements between the town and developers.

Stromberg appreciates the centralizing of retail/commercial/ residential within a Town Center along with an extension of the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail; a possible Bed and Breakfast; and the preservation of Moraga Ranch.

Langan agreed with the importance of preserving Moraga Ranch in addition to creating an educational, recreational and shopping destination to help the town thrive.

The Moraga Citizens Network will host Candidates Night online. The event will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 30. All five candidates will at-

tend. For updates and information regarding login access for the event go to:

www.MCNMoraga.org. To submit a question for the candidates email:

MCN94556@gmail.com by the Sept. 25 deadline.

Parking lots evolve into active sites during pandemic


... continued from Page A1

Modifications had to be made: no dojo means no bare-foot practice on asphalt, so the classes are led in kimono and wearing sport shoes. There is no close contact, of course, but still plenty of exercises to boost participants’ fitness.

Guzman also had to make some accommodations to abide by the health regulations. First, she bought stall mats, the thick rubber mats that can be used for horses and are installed in gyms. Each participant in Lafayette is asked to stay on their mat, so there is no contact. One at a time they get the individual equipment that will be used that day, and that will be disinfected after the practice. Brittany Haas who is part of

that CrossFit community with her husband says that the extra precautions make her feel safe and she could not wait to come back to train live. She says that being there with the trainer and others in the class that she knows make a big difference, and it is a nice break from a work-day at home.

Westernoff says that about a third of his clients come to the live classes. Cole who recently started has seen only about 10% of his regular following in the outdoor classes, but he has big plans for the coming months, including hopefully a Halloween outdoor party. If restrictive measures stay in place, everyone is thinking about rain protection with umbrellas or sails, because stopping is not an option.



Town Council
Wednesday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission: Monday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m.

Park and Recreation Commission:
Tuesday, Oct. 20 7 p.m.,

Moraga School District Board Meetings:
Special Board Meeting, Oct. 13, 6 p.m.
www.moraga.k12.ca.us. See also AUHSD meeting page A2



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 www.cityoforinda.org
 Phone (925) 253-4200
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.orindachamber.org
The Orinda Association:
 www.orindaassociation.org

ORINDA Orinda Public Meetings

City Council
 Tuesday, Sept. 29, 7 p.m.
 Regular Meeting
 By Teleconference Only

Planning Commission
 Tuesday, Sept. 22, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

Finance Advisory Committee Regular Meeting
 Wednesday, Sept. 23, 6:30 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

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- ◆ CARPETS
- ◆ RUGS
- ◆ LINOLEUM
- ◆ TILE
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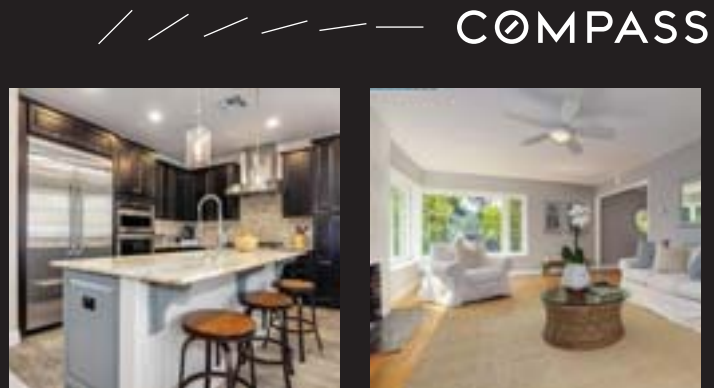
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 \$1,095,000

Crossroads Park hits snag with PG&E

By Sora O'Doherty

With reluctance, the Orinda City Council agreed to put the Crossroads Park project on hold for up to three years in order to obtain either a long-term lease or title to the small park that serves as the entry to Orinda. Located at the corner of Camino Pablo and Brookwood Road, the mini-park is currently owned by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. The 20-year

lease under which the city held the land has expired, and staff offered several alternatives to the city council. PG&E has contacted

Orinda staff, indicating that the utility plans to transfer title of the land to the city, either by sale or donation. However, it is expected that it will take three years to accomplish the transfer. There is also a license involved that allows the city to perform work on the park, but it could be terminated at any

time for any reason. Public Works Senior Engineer Sivakumar Natarajan presented the staff report to the council.

After some discussion, the council unanimously adopted the third alternative, to perform interim maintenance and a vegetation replacement project, and place the Crossroads Park project on hold before incurring expenses and continuing any further construction tasks that might be at risk. Under

that option, the city will spend no more than \$25,000 on the interim maintenance and landscaping, and, as clarified by Council Member Inga Miller, the Orinda Community Foundation will not have to match that money. City Manager Steve Salomon advised the council that it would not be prudent to invest money, given the current state of PG&E, and the tremendous amount of bureaucracy involved in the transfer of the land.

Wilder Homeowners Association appeals approval of memory care facility on Wilder Road

By Sora O'Doherty

At a special meeting on Sept. 29, the Orinda City Council will hear an appeal regarding the planning commission's approval of Wilder CountryHouse Memory Care to be built by Agemark, owned by Orinda resident Richard Weston, at 1 Wilder Rd. The Wilder Owners Association appealed the certification of the final environmental impact report, the approval of the design review ap-

plication, the general use permit and the approval exceptions granted by the planning commission on July 14. The approved project consists of 38 assisted living units in a one-to-two-story, 32,084-square-foot congregate care facility.

The WOA appeal addresses a number of alleged inadequacies in the facility. Chief among them appears to be the allegation that the project includes kitchens in the units which are, according to the ap-

peal, specifically forbidden in dementia housing because of the potential danger. The approval allows for the installation of kitchen appliances that would be locked, inaccessible to the resident, and only accessible to staff and guests. The appeal alleges that "the city is sneaking around its own regulations to permit an inappropriate, impermissible facility in an inappropriate zone."

The appeal also asserts that the project will have ad-

verse impacts on health and safety, that the evacuation plan is inadequate, that the EIR cannot be legally certified, and that the project plan set is inadequate to support responsible design review. In addition, the building height exception is not supported by the required findings. The full text of the appeal will be included in the agenda packet for the Sept. 29 special meeting of the city council.

Orinda management staff get 3% salary hike

By Sora O'Doherty

Management employees of the city of Orinda will receive a 3% cost-of-living salary adjustment, postponed since July. The increase will be effective Oct. 10. As the city has struggled to deal with reduced revenues owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, general employees, who declined postponing the 3% COLA, received the increase in July, but three general employees were laid off. The management unrepre-

sented group agreed to postpone the COLA which has now been adopted. The city attorney, although not an employee of the city, will also receive an increase of 3%.

The city experienced several unexpected improvements to its budget picture, including quick actions of the city to reduce costs, an unanticipated vacancy of one senior planner position, the adoption of the state budget that included federal grant funds under the CARES Act being made available to the

city in response to the costs of dealing with the COVID pandemic. Other budget savings were effected in the Parks and Rec department, which in normal circumstances brings in a lot of the city's revenues. Three unrepresented positions in that department, including the department director, were furloughed, reducing their hours by 40%, and one part-time position was eliminated.

In other changes, the Director of Planning will receive a 13% salary increase, as human resources had found that

his salary was below other cities in the identified labor market by more than 20%. In addition, the Finance Director will be reclassified to an existing Administrative Services Director position, with a consequent increase in salary as an equity adjustment. The staff report was presented to the city council by Ginger Station, Orinda's Human Resources Manager. The full list of salary adjustments in available in the agenda packet for Sept. 1 on the city's web site.

Re-Elect Darlene Gee to the Orinda City Council

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- ✓ Don Perata, Past President pro tempore California State Senate
- ✓ Candace Anderson, Contra Costa County Supervisor, District 2
- ✓ Amy Worth, Vice-Mayor, City of Orinda
- ✓ Inga Miller, Councilmember, City of Orinda
- ✓ Dennis Fay, Councilmember, City of Orinda
- ✓ Nick Kosla, Councilmember, City of Orinda
- ✓ Victoria Smith, Former Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Sue Severson, Former Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Joyce Hawkins, Former Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Laura Abrams, Former Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Dean Orr, Former Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Bobbie Landers, Former Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Bill Judge, Former Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Joan Kiekhaefer, Former EFO President
- ✓ Alex Evans, Former MOFD Director
- ✓ Melanie Light, Chair, Orinda Firewise Council
- ✓ Cara Hoxie, President, OUSD Board
- ✓ Hillary Weiner, Board Member, OUSD
- ✓ Carol Brown, Board Member, OUSD
- ✓ Linda Landau, Former President OUSD and Orinda Citizen of the Year
- ✓ Carlos Baltodano, President, Orinda Association
- ✓ Steve Harwood, Former EFO President and Orinda Citizen of the Year
- ✓ Craig Jorgens, MOFD Director, Division 5
- ✓ Rebecca Saltzman, BART Director, District 3
- ✓ Pat Rudebusch, Former President OUSD
- ✓ Ken Jew, President, Orinda Rotary
- ✓ Terry Murphy, Former Chair, Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission
- ✓ Jud Hammon, Chair, Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission
- ✓ Richard Nelson, Former Chair, Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission
- ✓ Brad Barber, Former MOFD Director
- ✓ Orinda Firewise Council
- ✓ OrindaVision
- ✓ What's Up Downtown Orinda?
- ✓ Tom Trowbridge, Former Chair, OrindaVision
- ✓ Pete Hasselman, Orinda Citizen of the Year
- ✓ Bob Thompson, Former Chair, Finance Advisory Committee
- ✓ Cassandra Forth, Former OUSD Board Member
- ✓ Dick Burkhalter, Co-Founder, Orinda Community Foundation; Volunteer of the Year
- ✓ Richard Westin, Co-Founder, Orinda Community Foundation; Citizen of the Year
- ✓ Robert Burt, Former Member, Finance Advisory Committee
- ✓ Mark Roberts, Former President, Orinda Association



“Darlene is an exceptional asset for Orinda – her infrastructure expertise, executive management experience, and open, responsive style make her a valued and trusted voice for our community.”

Amy Worth, Vice Mayor, City of Orinda

“Darlene has demonstrated that she is responsive to residents' needs. The Orinda Firewise Council supports re-electing Darlene to the Orinda City Council.”

Melanie Light, Chair, Orinda Firewise Council

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Orinda city council candidates respond to questions



Darlene Gee

By Sora O'Doherty

The Lamorinda Weekly posed three questions to the three candidates vying for seats on the Orinda city council, incumbents Mayor Darlene Gee, council member Inga Miller, and challenger Latika Malkani. **Lamorinda Weekly on Diversity:** Orinda is a wealthy city with a limited amount of ethnic and racial diversity. And yet, Orinda residents are very concerned about being inclusive to all. Do you have ideas about how the City Council can



Inga Miller

promote increased diversity, or if it in fact should be concerned with that?

Candidates:

According to Malkani, "In the last few years, my competitors have either rejected or taken no action to implement many simple, practical, resident suggestions, including an Orinda 'City Day' focused on celebrating diversity, an official city proclamation that 'All Are Welcome Here' with resident-provided signs visibly posted on city windows, an implicit bias training for staff and councilmembers, and a resident review committee to oversee and review police practices that includes all



Latika Malkani

stakeholders (concerned residents, the Police Chief, the police unions, and others)," she said. Malkani suggested many innovative ways to foster an inclusive culture while also promoting other city values, such as educating our children, supporting local business and creating more vibrant downtown spaces. Post-COVID, she said that she would like to see the city partner with local businesses and restaurants – like our landmark Orinda Theatre – to host a speaker or art series showcasing presenters of color. "Orinda's residents are brilliant and generous volunteers, so why not create (as

other cities have done) a city committee to recommend and help implement social justice policies and events? The possibilities are exciting and endless, so let's act to value diversity and inclusion."

Gee, however, said that the council did adopt a proclamation in September 2019 on these important issues and that it should remain the guiding framework for actions that reflect this statement of values. She pointed out that, outside of direct employees of the city or appointees to committees and commissions, diversity happens through the process of growth, change and the mix of residents who choose to live in Orinda. In her term as mayor, Gee is proud that the city has taken important steps to create a more welcoming and equitable community, including initiated dialogue with the Orinda Union School District. The city has also, Gee said, taken multiple actions toward ensuring positive community policing, and she vowed to continue to build on this progress.

She added things that the city can and should be doing to foster respect and positive community experience include

ensuring that city staff and police have the training and knowledge to conduct their community interactions at the highest level of best practice and respect, reviewing performance at regular intervals; having adequate means of receiving direct community feedback about problem interactions, as well as having adequate city council and public oversight to ensure corrective actions are promptly implemented. She also espoused ensuring that public facilities reflect and honor diversity, including artwork, parks, buildings and streetscape.

Miller said that she has been saddened by the stories she has recently heard from her neighbors who have experienced racism and feel unwelcome in Orinda. In an effort to embrace Orindans who unbeknownst to so many of us have felt marginalized in our midst, Miller said, "we have opened a public dialogue about policing, which includes steps that the police department has taken and continues to take to avoid implicit bias in policing in Orinda and to improve transparency in police business."

... continued on Page A9

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Company that defaulted on MOFD construction contract convicted of fraud

By Nick Marnell

Principals of the Federal Solutions Group, a San Ramon-based government contractor that failed to live up to the terms of a 2017 construction agreement with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit insurance premium fraud and related felonies Sept. 2. According to the Contra Costa County District Attorney's office, the company principals also admitted to an aggravated white collar crime enhancement for a loss exceeding \$500,000 through a pattern of criminal activity.

Scott Alonso of the DA's Office explained that investi-

gators determined that the defendants, Selina Singh and Kabir Singh, obtained government contracts, including construction contracts that required compliance with workers compensation laws. The defendants then used Federal Solutions Group and their other companies to hire, employ and pay laborers to complete construction work, even as the defendants fraudulently misrepresented the construction payroll to insurance carriers as accruing in less dangerous industries, such as clerical and consulting, in order to lower their insurance rates.

"An audit by a forensic accountant at the DA's Office concluded that the scheme

evaded over \$2 million dollars of insurance premiums that law-abiding competitors would have had to pay in seven years, in addition to over \$200,000 of payroll tax owed to the state of California," Alonso said in a statement.

MOFD awarded Federal Solutions Group a contract to rebuild Orinda Fire Station 43 in September 2017, but two months later the district terminated its agreement with the company over a contract violation.

Per terms of the fire station construction agreement, the company was to obtain a performance bond but it failed to do so, constituting a material breach of the con-

tract. "We couldn't risk taking a waiver and proceeding with the construction without the bond," board President Kathleen Famulener said at the time.

The district hired a new contractor in March 2018 and the Orinda fire station re-

opened in May of the following year.

The Federal Solutions Group principals will be sentenced Nov. 19 in Contra Costa County Superior Court. Each defendant faces a maximum sentence of 11 years and eight months.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire
Board of Directors
Tuesday, Sept. 22, 1:00 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Lamorinda steps up to aid LNU Complex fire victims



Maddie before



Maddie after Photos provided

All Good Living Foundation in Alameda.

"We thought it would be cool to do something to help others," said Maddie's mom, Sarah David. "What the heck, we're stuck in quarantine anyway."

The family got in touch with Donner, who suggested they take the cash to the Vacaville fundraiser. Maddie met many of the fire victims and posed for photos throughout the event. "Her mom must be very proud," Carroll said.

Michael Karp, owner of the Fourth Bore Tap Room and Grill in Orinda Theatre Square, also heeded Donner's request for help. Karp spent four years reconditioning a 1971 fire engine, adding an oven to the vehicle, and the Vacaville fundraiser proved to be one of the first public events where he could unveil the new apparatus. "It was a no-brainer to bring it there," Karp said.

Karp provided 75 pizzas and 60 meatball sandwiches to the attendees over the fundraising weekend. "I had so much fun putting smiles on people's faces," he said.

For many of the August wildfire victims, those may have been their first smiles in more than a week.



Michael Karp and Sasha Zukanoff of Fourth Bore



Michael Donner, center, with Ashley Gall and Eli Held

... continued from Page A1

"It was lucky for us, but not so much for many members of the community," Held said.

Held drew upon his numerous connections in the Vacaville business community, including Ashley Gall, who runs the Rise and Redemption clothing and home decor boutique in the city. As a way to help fire victims in the area, Gall and Held agreed to put on a downtown fundraiser the weekend of Aug. 29-30.

"Some of these people may have been lucky enough to find a place to live, but some don't even have a place to sit," Held said.

Donner met with Held and Gall and worked through a list of those who had lost their homes and reached out to many of the victims. "Those we determined to help were based largely on our instinct," said Donner, who at the event

distributed more than \$15,000 he said he collected from many Lamorinda residents.

Recipients were given personalized cards infused with cash. Some folks cried. Some screamed with joy. One mother of three appeared so bewildered as she accepted her donation she could not even speak.

Chloe Carroll and her two boys lost their Vacaville home in the fire. The family received \$1,000 cash and gift card. "I was blown away. Someone had given my name, and told me to meet downtown. It opened my eyes that there are still good people in the world," Carroll said.

But the biggest star of the fundraising event was a 12-year-old Lafayette girl.

Maddie David did a complete head shave, live over Facebook the last week of August, and raised \$1,650 for the fire victims, plus \$1,500 for the

What does LNU Lightning Complex mean?

LNU stands for the Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit – the name of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection operational unit in charge of the fire response.

Lightning Complex refers to the amalgamation of eight fires in the North Bay and East Bay sparked by lightning strikes the morning of Aug. 17.

California comprises 21 Cal Fire operational units. All of Lamorinda resides in the Santa Clara Unit – SCU, in Cal Fire-speak. - N. Marnell

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Police Department Traffic Issues
94549Traffic@gmail.com
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Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, David M. Cook
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 23 - Sept. 5

Alarms	29
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	15
Traffic	81
Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subject	22
Suspicious Vehicle	23
Service to Citizen	54
Patrol Req./Security Check	39
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	22
Vacation House Check	5
Welfare Check	18
Ordinance Violation	3
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
1200 Block Quandt Ct.	
3200 Block Acalanes Ave.	
20 Block Olympic Oaks Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
900 Block Hough Ave. (2)	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Police Department	
Reckless Driving	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette	
Reservoir Entrance Rd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Brown Ave.	
Stolen Vehicle Recovery	
200 Block Lafayette Cr	
Vehicle Theft	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

Brook St./Oak St.
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1500 Block Rancho View Dr.

Other criminal activity
Extortion
3100 Block Plymouth Rd.
Forgery
Police Department (2)
Fraud False Pretenses
3500 Block Terrace Way
1200 Block Warner Ct.
Grand Theft
800 Block Las Trampas Rd.
Identity Theft
Police Department
400 Block Peacock Blvd.
1000 Block Pine Ln.
900 Block Carol Ln.
800 Block Mountain View Dr.
Misc. Burglary
3300 Block Johnson Rd.
Petty Theft
1200 Block Del Arroyo Ct.
3500 Block Terrace Way
900 Block Oak St.
1200 Block Sunset Lp
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft From Veh
1100 Block Nogales St.
3700 Block Rose Ct.
1000 Block Windsor Dr.
10 Block Crest Rd.
Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
200 Block Happy Hollow Ct. (2)
1000 Block Dewing Ave.
3500 Block Brook St. (2)
1000 Block Carol Ln.
3300 Block Moraga Blvd.
Disturbance-fight
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Disturbing The Peace
Boyer Cir./Dewing Ave.
Fairholm Ct./Reliez Valley Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Drunk In Public
3400 Block Golden Gate Way
Loud Noise
1000 Block Howard Hills Rd.
Loud Party
Camino Vallecito/N Peardale Dr.
900 Block Hough Ave.
Brook St./Cerrito Ct.
3600 Block Brook St.
1400 Block Reliez Valley Rd. (2)
Public Nuisance
3600 Block Chestnut St.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette
Reservoir Entrance Rd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Olympic Blvd.
Vandalism
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

3500 Block Terrace Way
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

Other
Covid19 / Ordinance Violation
El Curtola Blvd./Camino Diablo
Phone Harass
700 Block Glenside Dr.
Threats
3100 Block Plymouth Rd.
Trespass
3500 Block Terrace Way
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
Unwanted Guest
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block 2Nd St.
3400 Block School St.
3500 Block Plaza Way
Violation Restraining Ord
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.
3100 Block Stanley Blvd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 25 - Sept. 7



Alarms	10
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	11
Traffic	31
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Service to Citizen	41
Patrol Req./Security Check	45
Supplemental Report	3
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	7
Ordinance Violation	0
Vehicle violations	
Dui Misd	
Moraga Rd./Brook St., Laf	
Excessive Speed	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (2)	
Moraga Way/Theater Dr.	
Moraga Way/School St. (2)	
St Andrews Dr./Country Club Dr.	
Park St./Rheem Ifo Nations	
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr., Ori	
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way	
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.	
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.	
700 Block Moraga Way	
Reckless Driving	
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd. (2)	
Butterfield Pl./Tharp Dr.	
Sanders Dr./Carr Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. (2)	
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.	
St Marys Rd./Rheem Blvd.	
Moraga Rd./Buckingham Dr.	
Other criminal activity	
Identity Theft	
1000 Block Baitx Dr.	

Residential Burglary
300 Block Fernwood Dr.

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
50 Block Laird Dr.
Disturbance-fight
300 Block Rheem Blvd.
Loud Music
1900 Block Ascot Dr.
Canyon Club Brewery
Loud Noise
200 Block Tharp Dr.
Juniper Way/Rimer Dr.
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.
2000 Block Donald Dr.

Other
Accident Property
20 Block Hour Fitness
Animal Cruelty
Homegoods
Safeway
Failure To Obey
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.
Fireworks
Joaquin Moraga Int School
Ordinance Violation
Not Available
Public Assembly Check
Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Trespass
50 Block Laird Dr.

ORINDA POLICE



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 23 - Sept. 5

Alarms	33
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	13
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	6
Service to Citizen	66
Patrol Req./Security Check	59
Public/School Assembly Check	6
Supplemental Report	13
Welfare Check	3
Ordinance Violation	1
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
200 Block La Espiral	
100 Block Diablo View Dr.	
Reckless Driving	
Orchard Ct./Moraga Way	
Overhill Rd./Glorietta Blvd.	
Tc - Property Damage	
20 Block Via Callados	
Cvs	
Throw Moving Vehicle	

Camino Sobrante/Orinda Way
Vehicle Theft
10 Block Orinda Way
10 Block Las Vegas Rd.

Other criminal activity
Defraud Inkeeper
500 Block Moraga Way
Dependent Adult Abuse
50 Block Bates Blvd.
Fraud False Pretenses
10 Block La Espiral
Grand Theft
20 Block Lind Ct.
600 Block Fox Run
Grand Theft From Veh
10 Block Hillcrest Dr.
Identity Theft
60 Block Moraga Via
Misc Burglary
400 Block Moraga Way
Panhandling
Camino Sobrante/Orinda Way
Petty Theft
40 Block El Gavilan Rd.
70 Block El Gavilan Ct.
200 Block La Espiral
600 Block Fox Run
Residential Burglary
10 Block Van Tassel Ln.
10 Block Monte Vista Rd.
Shoplift
Safeway
50 Block Moraga Way
Simple Assault
Loma Linda Ct./Ardor Dr.
Warrant Arrest
Brookwood Rd./Camino Pablo
Police Department
Nuisance to the Community
Loud Music
Lucille Way/Knickerbocker Ln.
Loud Noise
Miramonte High School
Loud Party
20 Block Don Gabriel Way
Public Nuisance
St Stephens Dr./Eb Sr 24
El Nido Ranch Rd./El Castillo
Vandalism
Donald Dr./Alice Ln.

Other
Accident Property
Miner Rd./Camino Pablo
Fireworks
Tumbling Brook Rd./Vista Del
Orinda
Violation
80 Block Meadow View Rd.

Lafayette resident simplifies self-storage

By Pippa Fisher

A Lafayette resident has come up with a unique start-up – a concept so simple, it’s brilliant.

The company, Stash-It, provides a platform to match people looking to store their belongings (Stash-it users) with neighbors (hosts) who have unused space available, such as a garage, eliminating the need for more expensive, conventional public storage facilities for any items ranging from a box of clothes to an RV or boat.

Stash-it Founder Kurt

Winter explains that the idea came to him as he searched for his own storage dilemma. Winter had parked his boat outside his Lafayette home but, threatened with fines for code violations, he looked to a local storage facility only to discover the high cost of storage and restrictions of longer-term contracts.

Knowing he was not the only one facing these frustrations he began to look for a different solution. As he researched it dawned on him that there are empty spaces all over neighborhoods so why not rent the unused

space your neighbor might have in their garage, barn or on their driveway, shed or even storage closet? Winter says this makes Stash-It a local, green, efficient solution to self-storage taking advantage of storage space that exists already, rather than paving over dirt.

Winter acknowledged that it is easy to love your own idea, but says that everyone he spoke to also loved it. “Stash-It solves a problem,” he says. “Many startups today are a solution looking for a problem.”

About three years ago Winter hired Stash-It Presi-

dent Jeremy Hass. Together they explored the concept further, looking at the process of contract, examining nuances around city ordinances and developed the platform that could break into the \$32 billion storage industry. The company launched its working product last year.

Stash-It’s goal is transparency with hosts and Stash-It users. Rates are established upfront, agreed between both parties with 20% retained by Stash-It to keep the platform up and running. Mandatory background checks are done on all hosts. Both parties are present during the storage

drop off and pictures are taken of contents to be stored and uploaded to the app.

With hosts and users currently in California, Texas, Ohio and Tennessee, Winter says Stash-It is growing monthly at a rate of 100%. He points out, “As a host, who wouldn’t want to make a little money with their empty garage? And as a Stash-It user, who wouldn’t want a personal, local storage space for their extra stuff?”

More information is available at www.stashitselfstorage.com/

Orinda city council candidates respond to questions

... continued from Page A7

Miller added that as a former newspaper reporter she is committed to striving for improved transparency and also to maintain public confidence that the Orinda city council is working to continue to make Orinda safe.

Lamorinda Weekly on private roads: Approximately 20% of Orinda residents live on private roads. That being said, the private roads arose from very different sources, some were inherited by the city when it incorporated in 1985, some have been the product of deals done with the city in order to bring new residential developments to the city. Private road residents have become much more vocal, especially since the Miner Road sinkhole disaster. Do you have any ideas about how to satisfy residents of both public and private roads in the future?

Candidates: Gee has been the city council member most obviously sympathetic to the plight of residents of private roads. She believes that ultimately all Orinda roads desiring inclusion should be included in the City public system. “While most cities have some private roads,” she said, “the scale and history of Orinda’s situation is very unusual.” While she believes that Orinda’s patchwork system often results in time and costs to the city that she believes waste resources, she also acknowledges that there are very real costs to adding private roads and drains to the public network that the community at large would need to be willing to share in some manner. Gee recommends a number of steps, the first being to again

revise Orinda Resolution 59-18. Gee notes that she was the only “no” vote in 2018 when the city council “took action to make it virtually impossible to adopt private roads into the public system.” Second would be to ascertain which private roads want to remain private. Third would be a field survey of the private road conditions by the city, excluding Wilder and the Pulte developments because they are so new as to already be rated in excellent condition, conducted in the same manner as the public roads.

Gee wants to establish an accurate cost estimate of bringing the private roads up to good to excellent condition – recognizing any extraordinary costly issues such as landslides, failing structures, unusual drainage etc., initiating a city-led pilot program for incrementally bringing the private roads to a condition where they could be adopted under a revised Resolution 59-18 – starting with about 8 to 10 miles of older roads that had previously been offered but not accepted as public roads by the county.

Gee believes that the city needs to evaluate a fair methodology for how costs might be shared to bring the road to a condition that it could be transferred into the public system. “For example,” she says, “private road residents should be credited for the garbage truck impact fees they pay but are not able to use toward their road maintenance, but the public should not be unfairly burdened with road maintenance issues private road residents may have ignored for years.”

Private roads should be added to in stages so the city

can plan to take on the additions from a legal and workload standpoint as well as ensure the ongoing maintenance costs are incorporated into future funding plans.” The city should also allow any new future developments or subdivisions to allow public roads from the beginning. Additionally, Gee believes that infrastructure should be community asset that is shared by the residents for the benefits of all, not as a liability to be argued over.

Miller agrees that the city’s policy on private roads needs revision. “I believe the city should hold a public meeting to hear whether residents as a whole believe we should lower the standard – perhaps to the average condition of existing roads in Orinda – and whether we should have more flexibility in cases in which there is significant public benefit to the community.” However she sees the adoption of private roads to be a very expensive endeavor that would displace other items in the city’s capital improvement plan.

Miller gave an example of a resident who lives on a private road that terminates at a walking trail, serving as a significant shortcut from a hillside between Orinda Woods and Camino Sobrante to the Orinda Village, who said that many more people in North Orinda could walk to Orinda Village on city right of way if the private road was made public. Miller suggested that this might be a significant public benefit and might warrant the city investing in some or all of the cost of road and drainage infrastructure to bring the road up to city standards in exchange for the ac-

cess this road would then provide pedestrians.

Malkani, on private roads, said, “There are some rules, but often there is no rhyme or reason why some Orinda roads are public while others remain private.” She understands that many private road residents perceive an inequity, and have requested a low-cost study on the extent of needed repairs. From there, she says, “I can’t tell you exactly what the long-term solution looks like because it would need to address revenue generation, cost sharing, and conversion of private to public roads,” but adds, “What I can tell you is that the city can’t continue to ignore this complicated mess and hope it goes away – the study is a reasonable step to understanding the scope of this problem.”

Lamorinda Weekly on Downtown Development: Orinda’s downtown has been pretty static since the development of Theatre Square expansion in 1989, over 30 years ago. Given the pressure to build housing coming from the State legislature, what are your goals for the redevelopment of Orinda’s downtown?

Candidates: Council Member Miller is one of the two members of the Downtown Subcommittee. She has met with city leaders in San Luis Obispo to learn how they have protected their creek while providing opportunities for Creek-side dining.

“The Thursday night Food Truck gatherings spearheaded by our What’s Up Downtown Orinda leaders in concert with our Planning Director Drummond Buckley shows what we can do when we work together and how much we Orindans

value the opportunity to be together,” she said.

Miller believes that downtown housing is necessary and she is committed to doing the hard work to analyze impacts of more people living downtown on things like traffic, emergency evacuation, parking, parks, our library and schools. “State intervention into land use means the city has to be diligent in utilizing the tools that are available, such as utilization of objective design standards to retain and enhance the look of downtown.”

Malkani said that she has seen little downtown development during her 16 years living in Orinda, but finally that is changing. “I know many Orinda residents join me in their excitement to see our downtown become a walkable, connected, vibrant community space,” she said. We should move forward with the Downtown Precise Plan’s vision of updating objective design criteria for mixed-use and residential land uses. I support moving forward sensibly but promptly with smart, sustainable growth that builds on Orinda’s existing splendor to create vibrant, bustling community spaces and housing.

Gee’s first goal is the completion of an excellent Downtown Precise Plan in 2021. Her second goal is for the City to build a much more active, ongoing dialogue with the downtown property owners and the Chamber. “We also want to facilitate industry communication that shares a renewed vision of Orinda without sacrificing the elements that so many residents appreciate.”

Candidate Forums via Zoom, presented by the Orinda Association, will feature Orinda City Council candidates and MOFD candidates 6:30 to 8 p.m. Oct. 8.

Re-Elect John Jex

Moraga-Orinda Fire District - MOFD

FIRE SAFETY IS A CHOICE- PRIORITIZE PREVENTION

Endorsed by:

Moraga FireWise Neighborhood Leaders

Orinda FireWise Council (1400 Homes)

Numerous Moraga Leaders and Residents (see website)

- ★ Proven management experience, 25 yr. managing partner at international accounting firm
- ★ Identified \$23 Million accounting error and fought to correct it
- ★ Strengthened MOFD financially by funding pension trust
- ★ Championed Free Chipper Service that removed 109 tons of flammable material in 2020

Master’s Degree in Accounting – 47 year Moraga Resident

Fighting for Moraga, not outside special interests



“I greatly value the accounting expertise and financial conservatism (actually fiscal SANITY) that you have brought to the MOFD and its Board. I also applaud both your strong support for funding the Pension and OPEB reserves that are designed to pay down the MOFD’s huge unfunded liabilities, and your aggressive advocacy of setting up a General Fund Reserve. I strongly support John’s re-election to the MOFD Board.”

Richard J. “Dick” Olsen
Former: MOFD Board, Moraga Citizen-of-the-Year and President of the County Fire Commissioners Association

VoteJex.com

Paid for by John Jex MOFD Board 2020 FPPC #pending.

Letters to the editor

Carl Anduri endorsement

I have lived in the town of Lafayette for almost twenty-two years. When I first moved here in 1998 from Los Altos on the Peninsula, I was impressed how well the town was run as it evolved from a sleepy suburban community to much more cosmopolitan mecca for the commuters from San Francisco. The town was beginning to face the challenges of growth even back then, but the City Council and city staff seemed to meet that challenge. Growing pains existed, particularly in regards to land use and limited financial resources, but the council was diligent in sorting out options and strategies. It had then and continues to have one of the best fiscal reputations in the state.

Carl Anduri was a leader and source of stability and wisdom through this challenging process. He served as mayor on more than one occasion where his legal experience and negotiating skills were invaluable in sorting through many knotty meetings between citizens with different perspectives. He handled these situations with tact and firmness necessary to make forward progress and ultimately to reach decisions.

Lafayette again is facing challenges from growth, and the Council will benefit from Carl's previous experience. He is well known by the present Council and will pick-up where left off. His reputation speaks for itself.

Donn Walklett
Lafayette

Orinda Measure R

When we moved to Orinda in 1973, it was not long after the county had completed restoring Camino Sobrante around the north side of Lake Cascade. That piece of road was neglected for the next 40 years! From a smooth roadway, it became something to avoid. And, that's the history of just one of the nearby roads that declined during those 40 years. Because we really cannot let Orinda's infrastructure decline like this for the next 40 years, I'm supporting Measure R this November.

Ronald W. Phelon
Orinda

Vote yes on Measure R

I will never forget frantically packing the car with my one year old and a diaper bag to flee the approaching flames of the Oakland fire in 1991. After we moved over the hill from Oakland to Orinda nearly 20 years ago, I was struck by the magnitude of fire hazards I saw here --from piles of dry branches to the lack of defensible space around most houses.

While our family was spared that time, the situation now in Orinda is dire with decades of fuel that is ready to burn with the next freakish lightning storm or spark from a lawn mower. Orinda is clearly not ready.

Efforts such as the chipper program are a big help, but need to be greatly expanded to make a substantial dent in fuel reduction. Dead trees and branches need to be removed before they potentially block major escape routes, trapping people in their cars as they did in Paradise.

For these and many other reasons, I strongly support Measure R, the half-cent sales tax measure on the November ballot. For people who say now is not the time, the next firestorm is not going to wait. We cannot rely on existing city funds as only 7% of property tax actually stays in Orinda. The money generated from a very small tax increase (50 cents per \$100 spent in Orinda -- not including food at Safeway) can pay for programs that directly help homeowners do large scale brush and branch removal to protect their home and their neighbor's.

The city has pledged that a majority of the funds from Measure R will go to fire

prevention, just as the current sales tax has vastly improved Orinda roads. This is our chance to save our town from the devastation we have seen from wildfires all over Northern California.

Please join me in voting YES on Measure R.
Elisabeth Jewel
Orinda

Gina Dawson for City Council

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for Gina Dawson for Lafayette City Council. We have known and worked with Gina on various community projects since she and her husband moved here in 2008, first as part of Sustainable Lafayette and more recently as active supporters of Save Lafayette Trees. We have found her to be hard-working, balanced and fair, passionate, and always digs into the details and does her homework on every important matter she gets involved in. Watching Gina and her husband Michael take a stand against PG&E's misguided effort to cut down 272 trees has been truly inspiring. They started out trying to protect the trees and beauty of our community and ended up spending hundreds and hundreds of hours talking to experts and learning what PG&E could actually do to increase the safety of our gas pipelines. Throughout that ordeal Gina has exhibited an incredible ability to engage community leaders, to patiently pursue what's in the best interest of the community, an openness to learn, and a willingness to compromise. In short, she has exactly the skill set and passion that our City Council needs and deserves right now. We couldn't recommend her more highly, and encourage you to visit her web site (www.ginadawson2020.com) and learn more. Steve & Sharon Richard (Co-Founder of Sustainable Lafayette)

Vote for Gina and Farshad

"Maintain Lafayette's semi-rural atmosphere!" Did you know words to that effect actually are a part of Lafayette's mission statement? Has the City's recent glut of approvals of multi-unit housing (twice as many as have been required by the City's State-mandated RHNA) improved Lafayette's semi-rural atmosphere? Fortunately, perhaps, several of those in City government who may have been responsible for this violation of our City's vision have recently moved on, or soon will, leaving Lafayette voters with a chance to elect City Council members who care about the concerns of most Lafayette residents. In this regard, I have heard many positive things about City Council candidate Regina Dawson. Also, candidate Farshad Farzan has been described as an independent thinker who advocates for the environment and diversity, and was one of the few Planning Commissioners who voted against The Terraces. Come November, I encourage you to vote for Gina and Farshad.
William Gilbert
Lafayette

Elect Carl Anduri to Lafayette City Council

Carl and I served together on the Lafayette City Council from 2002 through 2004. Prior to that, Carl served on our Planning Commission for five years, where he studied and focused on complex, land-use laws, regulations and policies. He took this commitment to detail and applied it to the many issues faced by the City Council. Carl's other committee work, which focused on housing, roads and hillside development, gave him further insight into community concerns.

At public meetings, I witnessed Carl's ability to explain complex policies and laws and how they applied to issues at hand. His insights made it easier for the public to understand the City's position. A

careful listener, Carl always showed respect for all speakers' viewpoints.

As a re-elected Lafayette City Council member, Carl will bring experience, proven leadership, fiscal prudence, competent judgment, integrity and an open mind that will consider all points of view. I urge you to vote for Carl Anduri, who was once a fifth grade public school teacher.
Erling Horn
Lafayette

Renata Sos for Moraga Town Council

We've endorsed Renata Sos for Moraga Town Council and encourage you to vote for her on Nov. 3.

Since the early 2000s, we have watched Renata work hard to protect our community's semi-rural feel and natural resources: first, as a concerned citizen, when she and other community members successfully advocated for a significant reduction in size of a development in the Rheem Valley open space; next, as a Planning Commissioner, where she carefully considered the impacts of proposed developments on scenic corridors, open space, and sensitive habitats; and, most recently, as a member of the Moraga Town Council, where she voted to deny an application for an outsized development in Bollinger Valley.

This is not to suggest that Renata is a single-issue candidate. To the contrary, Renata is a well-rounded leader who has devoted significant time and energy over the years to many aspects of our community, including our schools and youth sports. But her commitment to Moraga's physical environment are of particular importance to us.

We both feel fortunate to live and raise our sons in a community that is surrounded by undeveloped hills and that still has abundant open space and park lands. To us, those things make this Town special and unique. We know that Renata shares in that view, and that she is committed to preserving what's best about this community for future generations.

Please join us in supporting Renata Sos for Moraga Town Council.
Renatasos2020.com.
Serina and Tim Culleton
Moraga

Re-Elect John Jex to MOFD Board

John Jex, a 40+ year Moraga resident, strongly supports fire prevention and the best interests of our community. He has demonstrated by his actions that his number one priority is fire prevention and town safety. He fought to keep in place and continue funding the Chipper Program, aimed at eradicating vegetative fuels that ignite wildfires, but was outvoted by the board majority whose campaigns were over 90% funded by outside interests. This is a program that our Firewise Neighborhood in Moraga, the Bluffs, used this past spring to eliminate much of our fire fuel. We are safer in our neighborhood because of this program, and John saw the wisdom and benefit in continuing it while others did not.

John has also championed the effort for fiscal prudence to protect local taxpayers by insisting on transparency and acumen in the use of MOFD funds. Similarly he successfully urged the establishment of a reserve account to preclude the prior Board habit of deficit spending. Our firefighters deserve their pay and their benefits. Moraga residents deserve both exceptional fire protection as well as wise fiscal management. It's not one or the other. Both are possible.

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

Join me to Re-Elect John Jex to the MOFD Board, who votes to protect Moraga's citizens, not outside interests. He has earned and deserves your vote.
Anne Obsitnik
Moraga

Re-elect Jex to Reduce Fire District Financial Risks

Having an accounting and financial background I read with interest the recent Lamorinda Weekly article about the MOFD directors 3-2 split vote on the adequacy of minimum general fund balance of 17% of revenue. As a resident of Moraga, I am shocked that three of our directors thought this was all that was needed for MOFD to securely maintain or expand needed fire protection services such as the year-round chipper services (which was discontinued during a critical period this summer again by 3-2 vote). Anyone familiar with public service entities financing knows that a minimum reserve of 50% is needed, enough to cover six months of operating costs. These reserves are our only way to ensure our critical emergency services are maintained throughout tough economic times like COVID-19, when revenues go down and expenses go up. I admire Jex and Jorgens for voting against a policy which continues to leave MOFD at risk of declaring a fiscal emergency like Moraga did in 2019 after the sink hole and bridge failure, dropping its reserves to 19%, far below their 50% policy. This resulted in the city having to cut public services. I would encourage fellow community members to support the reelection of John Jex and Craig Jorgens to ensure the financial safety of the fire district.
Julius L. Helvey
Moraga

Measure R endorsement

I am writing in support of Measure R on the November ballot. We are blessed with a wonderful community in a beautiful environment. We have worked hard to maintain what we have been given and must keep the efforts up. A major concern and responsibility is, as it should be, protection and enhancement of our infrastructure that includes fire prevention, roads, and storm drains.

Why city involvement in fire prevention when we have a fire department? There has always been a cooperative effort between the city and MOFD to address the shared concern for fire prevention. The fire department is allocating increased resources to fuel management, but more needs to be done. Remember we are citizens and taxpayers of both agencies and we all need to work together. This measure will allow the city to do more on this front as well as address other important infrastructure needs such as road maintenance and storm drains. While the measure does not restrict the city's allocation of the funds, knowing this community's involvement in Orinda's operations, there will be accountability including a citizens' oversight committee and audits.

As a founding director of MOFD, serving from 1997 to 2014, I have seen the community engage when needed. We brought paramedics to Orinda and the community rallied to bring our roads up to the level we have now. It is time to commit to maintaining that standard and bring our fire prevention efforts to that same level. Measure R will do that.
John Wyro
Orinda

... continued on next Page

Vote to Re-Elect Inga Miller



Let's continue the progress we have made to guide Orinda into the future while preserving our community's unique charm.

Inga for Orinda City Council

Dedicated • Thoughtful • Balanced

Paid for by Inga Miller for Orinda City Council 2020 FPCC # 1388379

www.IngaForOrinda.com

City council candidates share their views on Lafayette hot topics

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Lamorinda Weekly: Traffic has long been a concern in Lafayette – especially for the northeast quadrant residents. What steps should the city be taking to address the issue and, especially, what steps can the city take to improve evacuation scenarios, for example in a wildfire?

Candidates: Farzan, Dawson and Burks all stress the importance of signing up for the Community Warning System and frequent evacuation drills to help prepare for a wildfire evacuation. Dawson would like to see the city increase the number of annual drills and reissue the Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation Guide on a regular basis.

Farzan notes the worsening traffic in Lafayette, with the worst of it in the northeast quadrant. “In Lafayette, not only do we have Pleasant Hill Road as a route of regional significance, but we also have four inter-jurisdictional routes in Moraga Way, Moraga Road, Mt. Diablo Boulevard, and the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail. We cannot fix our traffic issues on our own because it’s clearly a regional issue.”

Minimally, says Farzan, “I would

propose pushing the CCTA to contract with StreetLight Data to get real-time traffic data analysis on which to guide our decision-making including working with local, sister, and county officials on improving our evacuation scenarios.”

Dawson says the city must identify transportation safety as a priority then implement and enforce measures for traffic reduction and safe routes for residents to travel. “I recommend the city construct additional safe walkways and bike routes and expand reliable public transportation options,” she says as a way to address congestion.

Anduri says that traffic is a problem everywhere. “With respect to traffic in the northeast quadrant, there is benefit each time the city focuses on the area,” he says. “The problem comes from topography, regional traffic flows and systems like WAZE. The city should make the northeast quadrant a priority focus once more with an emphasis on regional collaboration.” But, he notes, “Other areas also need to be the subject of focused attention.”

Regarding downtown traffic Anduri says the city should improve its infrastructure with measured implementation of the Downtown Congestion Plan,

which he says was the result of at least four years of citizen, staff and consultant effort.

Citing safety as his first priority and complete confidence in Lafayette’s police and fire departments, Burks says, “This is why I have decided not to ‘campaign’ for this re-election but to instead commit the thousands of dollars I would have spent ... to the Contra Costa County Deputy Sheriff’s Association; the Contra Costa County Fire Protection Benevolent Fund; and the The National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases,” adding, “We do not need any political distractions during a time of a pandemic, catastrophic wildfires and a major local and national movement to advance social justice.”

Burks says County Supervisors have done little to benefit Lafayette, regarding the traffic in the northeast quadrant. “We must engage these local jurisdictions ourselves, build coalitions and do everything that is legal to compel commuters to use main freeway routes such as the 680/24 interchange,” and he wants to see police enforcement “to discourage commuters taking shortcuts.”

Lamorinda Weekly: How would you propose to maintain

Lafayette’s “semi-rural character” while addressing concerns of a growing body of residents calling for inclusivity and diversity? Can semi-rural character be compatible with inclusivity and diversity?

Candidates: All four candidates want to promote the city’s semi-rural character.

Anduri says while he would like the city to maintain a semi-rural atmosphere, particularly in its neighborhoods, he would also like to see it become more inclusive and more diverse. “I do not think these goals are incompatible,” says Anduri. “However, I think we will need to reimagine what this means for our downtown corridor, where we should proactively guide the development of housing so that it is more inclusive. Also, we need to remain mindful that diverse citizens are drawn to a community where they feel welcome and included.”

Farzan says, “Inclusivity and diversity should have no bearing on our ‘semi-rural character,’ which we can and should maintain. We should be an open and warm community for everyone,” and he goes on to point out, “Inclusivity and diversity help us live up to our values and create a stronger community, which just happens to have a ‘semi-

rural character.”

Dawson says, “The General Plan update provides an opportunity to reinforce policies which balance a focus on multi-family development and affordable housing in our downtown core close to public transportation and public services, while preserving our scenic hillsides and ridgelines, and protecting and enhancing our open space.”

Noting that he created a new task force on racial equity, diversity and inclusion, Burks says, “I am passionate about advancing equality in our community and our Task Force is but one example of a start to a movement that has been needed for quite some time; we need to embed qualities and elements of greater inclusivity and diversity in absolutely every policy and decision we make as a city government.” He adds that he is grateful Lafayette’s two school districts and residents are passionate in this area, “which I believe will be a force-multiplier in sustaining our community values and semi-rural character,” adding, “This is ... why I have decided to redirect campaign funds to the charities above plus a donation, instead of campaigning, to the Others and Belonging Institute of Cal Berkeley.”

To learn more: Inclusive Lafayette together with Sustainable Lafayette will hold a candidates forum at 7 p.m. on Sept. 25. To register for the webinar visit https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Wf1FeqlsSjKK27u4Fe0c7w Lafayette Homeowners Council will hold a candidates forum on Oct. 1. Visit <https://lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org/> for details on how to join the meeting. Zoom webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85049934441?pwd=em1nbGxWbU5nbHlicVY2a2k2Ym5iUT09> Passcode: 701591

Letters to the editor

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Split MOFD board declines to change reserve balance policy

Director Jex appears to have failed Leadership/Management 101. His use of Ad hominem attacks focused on MOFD Board members closes out any thoughtful discussions or deliberations. Director Jex describing board members who disagree on policy as “incompetent” does not lead to clear and cogent discussions on policy matters.

During Director Jex’s almost four years as a MOFD Board member he has made a significant contribution in the auditing of MOFD’s Financials. His skill as an auditor are more than adequate; however, Director Jex has demonstrated repeatedly a lack of understanding of the mission of MOFD and conflates MOFD’s life-saving mission with the administrative operations of a private sector company. In an executive role, Director Jex notably demonstrates a lack of understating of public sector financing, local government organizational requirements, and the key role of Contra Costa County’s Teeter Plan. His executive thinking is reflective of a commodity-based private enterprise not an organization dedicated to saving property and lives. Further, Director Jex does not understand the fiscal history of MOFD. Over the last decade, the MOFD board, acting with fiscal prudence, has raised the reserve balance three (3)

times to its current level of 17%. With multi-million dollar balances in various District funds, Director Jex has forgotten the cardinal rule of governmental accounting: all dollars are fungible.

Director Jex’s statement of Board incompetence blocks any meaningful discussion on policy differences. His Ad hominem attacks simply demonstrate a need for less “deep dives” into accounting and more training in executive/enterprise management. Stephen Anderson Orinda

Carl Anduri for Lafayette City Council

As a former Planning Commissioner and City Councilperson, Carl has been a highly respected member of our community for years. In brief, he sets the standard for the ethics, attention, knowledge, and outlook required to be effective.

Carl was co-chair of our Senior Housing Task Force. The task, facilitating the development of low income senior housing in Lafayette, involved researching potential sites downtown, selection of a nonprofit senior housing development partner, and meeting the City’s ordinances. Efficiently completed, it was the ONLY 100% affordable housing project to be built in Lafayette in the last 30 years. Carl’s leadership was critical in that process as we successfully blended planning requirements with design, costs and financing.

Lafayette faces continuing planning challenges to meet local and external requirements. Carl’s knowledge and experience in Planning and on the Council are needed.

For more information: www.anduri2020.com Will Lovitt Lafayette

Support for Inga Miller

Inga Miller, running for re-election to Orinda’s City Council deserves our unqualified support.

I agree with Steve Glazer, State Senate Representative (and former Mayor of Orinda), who has endorsed Ms. Miller (as well as Darlene Gee!).

She is a strong supporter of completing Orinda’s road repairs. As Mayor, Ms. Miller helped guide the City, in 2019, through a shocking, difficult time when the Halloween shootings occurred. Starting in 2019, she began working with the Police Chief Cook on wildfire preparedness. Ms. Miller operates her small business right here in Orinda; that is, her law practice focusing on real estate issues. She finds time to be a volunteer driver helping Orinda non-driving seniors to get to important appointments.

Ms. Miller helped bring to the November 2020 ballot the much needed – and timely - measure to beef up fire safety (on City and private road rights of way), flood

prevention and road repair. She works to keep Orinda road maintenance/repair costs in check.

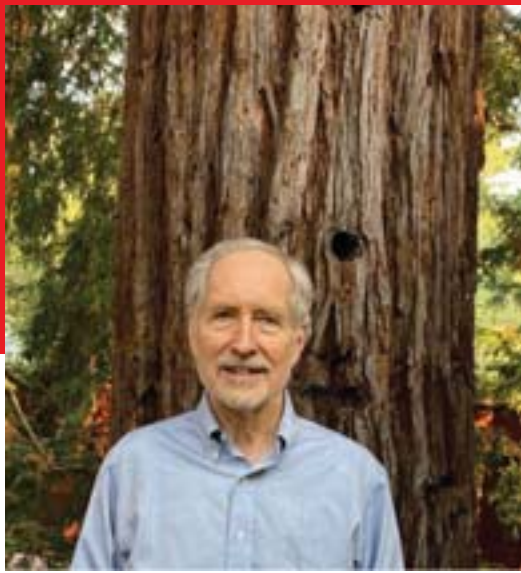
Ms. Miller supports our downtown Orinda Library, a long-time center for students seniors and avid readers. She worked with the Council and The Friends of the Library to place a measure on the ballot, and advocated passage vigorously in the press, to maintain library hours and services; continue programs for children, families, and seniors; undertake building maintenance and repairs. The measure passed by 75% Yes (June 2018), providing \$500,000 annually for 7 years. The measure included an independent resident oversight committee, reflecting her commitment to fiscal prudence.

Ms. Miller addresses social issues that resonate in this City. On June 7, she marched, as a City Council member (with 3 other council members), in support of Black Lives Matter, a gathering which drew a large, dedicated crowd.

Inga Miller grew up here in Orinda. She has the temperament for public service, and the experience, having worked as Mayor, Vice Mayor and council member, during a challenging, stressful 4-year period.

She knows our City. She has my vote, and I hope, that of my fellow Orindans as well. David Anderson Orinda

... continued on Page A12



“Carl and I served together on our City Council. He cares deeply about our community and its future. I know Lafayette will be in good hands with Carl’s proven leadership.”

Mike Anderson, Mayor, Lafayette

Carl Anduri

Lafayette City Council

Proven Experience

- Lafayette City Council: Councilmember, 2002-2012; Mayor, 2005 and 2011
- Lafayette Planning Commission: Commissioner, 1997-2002; Chair, 2001 and 2002
- Served on numerous Lafayette task forces and committees, including the Hillside Task Force, the Open Space Task Force, the Environmental Task Force (Co-Chair), the Senior Housing Task Force (Co-Chair), the Park Theater Task Force and the Roads Task Force (Co-Chair)

Please Join Your Friends and Neighbors Who Support Carl!

- | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
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Letters to the editor

... continued from Page A10

Let's Make This Happen

As a resident of Lamorinda since 1972 living in Orinda for the past 21 years, I was an early proponent for refreshing a very tired-looking downtown with a Downtown Plan to guide efforts to renew Orinda. It is now thrilling to know that a plan is finally in place and is being further refined with input from Orinda residents. Yahoo! We are on our way!

The many letters to the editors of the Orinda News and Lamorinda Weekly in favor of the still-in-process Orinda Downtown Precise Plan give me great hope that someday Orinda will be more welcoming, beautiful, walkable, functional, with more restaurants, shops, residential choices, and a more cohesive appearance and feel. The DPP will provide the changes needed to accomplish these goals. When I lived in Lafayette and Moraga, I used to come to Orinda to shop at Blacks and Phairs or enjoy a meal at The Vintage House, now that I live in Orinda we drive to Lafayette and Moraga to shop and dine out; it's not a happy situation.

Bravo to the Orinda City Council and everyone who has participated in bringing the DPP this far. It is not too late to let the Orinda City Council know what elements you would like to see in this new plan or give your support to the effort. Attending Council zoom meetings is an easy way to stay abreast of the exciting things that are happening in Orinda as well as providing a way to make your ideas and support known. To learn the date and time of the next meeting go to the city's website, click on Meeting Calendar and drop down to Council Downtown Subcommittee Meetings. Together we have the ability to make Orinda a very special and especially charming city that will attract new businesses, shoppers, and diners from near and far. Let's make this happen!

Laurie Renny Reich
Orinda

Onoda endorsement

Please elect Teresa Onoda to Moraga's Town Council. She has proven herself to be an advocate for the safety of children in Moraga. She served on the town council from 2014-2018. During that time, she was instrumental in passing a town ordinance intended to protect children from accidental firearm shootings.

When Teresa heard the concerns of citizens regarding the possibility of accidental shootings in homes where firearms are not secure, she truly listened with an open mind. She did not make her decision immediately, but she did take the time and energy to educate our group on how to engage with the town council on this topic. After listening to all of her constituents, she voted in support of the safe storage of firearms, so that small children are protected from accidental shootings, teens and adults are protected from impulsive suicides, and firearms are not easily accessible to burglars.

Her commitment to the safety of children stretches back to her first introduction to local politics, when she worked towards getting a sidewalk for elementary children to use so that they could safely walk to and from school.

During my discussions with Teresa, it became clear to me that she cares deeply about the citizens and the town of Moraga and she consistently engages with people in a constructive and respectful manner. She is running for the right reasons: to give back and to make our community even more vibrant. She knows how to get things done. Her ability to listen to a variety of stakeholders and apply her creativity and knowledge of how town government works makes her the ideal candidate for Moraga Town Council. Please cast your vote for Teresa Onoda.

Stephanie Dickerson
Moraga

Safer Orinda - Vote Yes on Measure R

Measure R will address urgent fire safety issues, repair critical storm drains and protect our hard fought investment in our roads.

When I was campaigning for City Council in 2018, I talked with a couple that has lived in Orinda for a very long time. At one point they asked me to come into their house and showed me a picture of Orinda from the 1940 or 50s. The picture showed hills with a few oaks and not much else. If you look at that same location now, it is covered with trees and other vegetation. We need to make up for years of growth that was not abated, and we need to do it quickly because climate change is increasing the risk of wildfires.

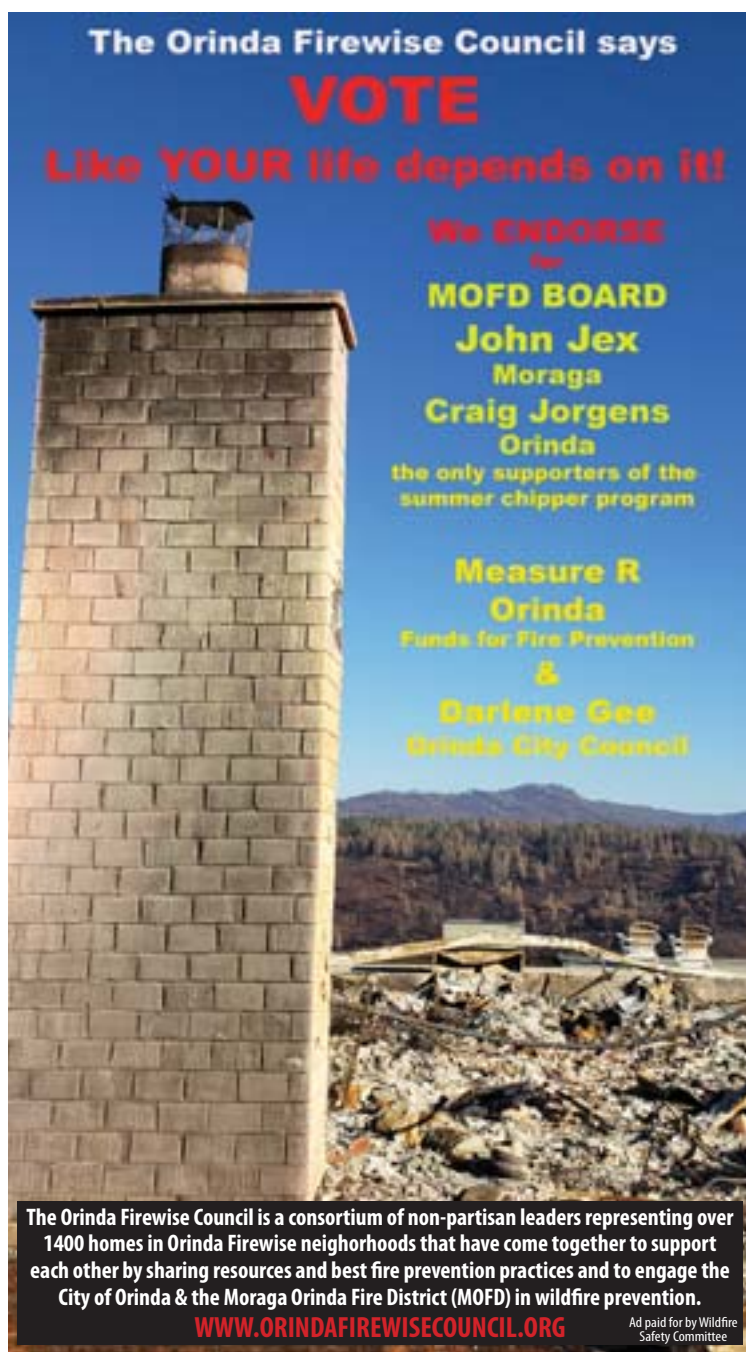
Last year, Fire Chief Winnacker received a grant (around \$4 million) for the North Orinda Fuel Break. This was very helpful, but he believes we need to do more. We rely on the Fire Chief's frank assessment of fire related issues, and when he says we need to do more to protect our residents, the City Council listens.

Measure R will allow Orinda to start immediately on urgently needed fire fuels reduction, followed by repair of failing storm drains. After the critical storm drains have been repaired and wildfire fuels have been mitigated, which is about the time roads will need additional resources, sales tax revenue will then be available for road maintenance and to maintain the progress made in fire fuels reduction.

After spending the last decade implementing a plan to improve our roads, we need to protect our investment and provide funds to keep the roads in good condition.

Please join me in voting Yes on Measure R for a safer, better Orinda.

Dennis Fay
Orinda



The Orinda Firewise Council is a consortium of non-partisan leaders representing over 1400 homes in Orinda Firewise neighborhoods that have come together to support each other by sharing resources and best fire prevention practices and to engage the City of Orinda & the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) in wildfire prevention.

WWW.ORINDAFIREWISECOUNCIL.ORG

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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Crossing Borders: Art collective disrupts at Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery



Photos Sophie Braccini

By Sophie Braccini

At the intersection of "happening" and "exhibit," the Global Art Project offers an immersion into contemporary mixed-media art in the downtown Lafayette Jennifer Perlmutter gallery. Perlmutter has opened her space to Carl Heyward who invited several GAP partners inspired by the idea of pushing their practice and crossing borders. The exhibit opened on Sept. 5 and will be on display at 3525 Mount Diablo Blvd. through Oct. 3.

Heyward is a Bay Area mixed-media artist whose work has been nourished by his musical background as well as his visual art training. His focus is to create art that impacts people. He is interested in experimenting and working alongside other artists, even if the result is ephemeral. What counts for him is unadulterated spontaneous inspiration, as he believes that when pure creativity manifests, the artist that trusts it will be able to deal with anything.

About 10 years ago when

Heyward started getting interested in social media and its potential immediate impact, he started collaborating with kindred spirits from all over the Western world and together they started GAP. The collaborative organized yearly residencies in Europe, Africa, North and South America until the pandemic stopped the engrossing experiences.

The co-creative process had to evolve and the exhibition "Crossing Borders" came to be at the invitation of artist-gallerist and GAP member Ron Weijers. The first iteration was presented in a 14th century cathedral at Campo-Santo in Ghent, Belgium, the second one is in Lafayette.

The large space at the gallery is filled by art pieces that are each unique but create a harmonious journey. Observing one creation after another feels like meandering in a varied landscape where a new discovery awaits at each bend in the path.

Thirty different artists from the Bay Area to Europe,

Africa and Asia explore personal, psychological, political and even aesthetic limitations imposed by the dynamics of fear. In the words of Heyward, the resulting work stimulates thought, sheds light into corners of darkness and through a reciprocal process, then elevates thought and experience and in some cases, perhaps, offers options to habitual automatic modes of thinking and being.

Na Omi Judy Shintani, for example, is a local artist that thinks of herself as a narrator who tells people's stories through different media. The piece she presents at the exhibit, called "Dream Refuge," evokes the immigrant children that are imprisoned in the United States. The child figures on the floor with their mylar foil blankets are surrounded by the Japanese-American children who were camped during World War II, a story close to home for Shintani. The large 3D display includes a soundtrack mixing sounds of the night and of children.

French/Columbian Mar Daines sent "Waiting to Fly" – a beautiful hanging piece where origami representing boats are held in a fishing net. What the artist asks here is "Where is home?" Is it a place where you were born? Is it a place where you feel you belong? Is it where you can be yourself and be loved? Can you be true to yourself, when where you call home is not really your original home? Does the fact of not living where you were born condemn you to be an immigrant throughout your life?

Several displays talk about children, voices that are not being heard, children who have disappeared. Others evoke passage from one region to another, from one state to another. It deals with relationships, connections and disruptions. Heyward noted that at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has created a myriad of borders and challenges to our very existence, GAP moves forward, creating platforms for collaboration and communication, appreciating the fragility of life and the necessity to continue with compassion and humanity.

The gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday from 2 to 6 p.m. The experiential voyage is sure to inspire and ignite the imagination of viewers.



Na Omi Judy Shintani with her creation "Dream Refuge."

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A cool treat to beat the summer heat



Oreo Cookie Frozen Yogurt

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

It's really hard to pass by a gelato shop without at least sampling a taste! The display cases are beautifully designed in a rainbow of pastels with pieces of fruit or candy on top to depict each flavor. They are so inviting and irresistible. And, they give you a teeny tiny little plastic spoon so what's the harm really? I had an urge to try making my own frozen yogurt this summer, so we bought a Cuisinart ice cream/frozen yogurt machine and started testing our skills and sampling different flavors. The first one I tried, I used a vanilla nonfat yogurt, but it was too sweet. Then, I

bought plain nonfat Greek yogurt and it was ever so much better. That is definitely the way to go. So far, I've made four different flavors — mocha, maple-pecan, huckleberry (it was a bumper crop this year ... be on the lookout for a huckleberry jam recipe soon) and finally Oreo cookie! All were delicious, and this is the easiest recipe ever. You simply take Greek style plain nonfat yogurt, strain it a little to eliminate some of the liquid and then mix it with sweetener and flavoring and turn on the machine. We haven't made ice cream yet, but with the yogurt, we find that it's best to start it just a few minutes before you want

to serve it, because it can get too hard to serve pretty quickly in these little machines. If you don't have time,

and want to make it ahead, just remember to take it out of the freezer for about 10-15 minutes before serving in or-

der to allow it to soften to a serving consistency!

Oreo Cookie Euro Tart Frozen Yogurt

(Serves 4-6)

INGREDIENTS

2 cups plain nonfat Greek yogurt
1/4 cup agave syrup (use the light colored one and not the amber one)
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
6-8 Oreo cookies crushed

DIRECTIONS

Ice Cream Machine:

Prepare your ice cream machine by putting the freezer bowl in the freezer for two days ahead of time, so it is nice and cold. This will come into play when making the frozen yogurt. When you are ready to make your frozen yogurt, have the machine all set up and ready to go.

Yogurt:

Line a strainer with cheesecloth and place it over a bowl.

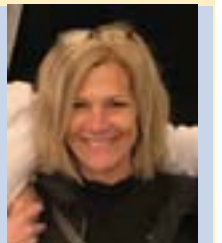
Spoon two cups of yogurt into the cheesecloth and allow it to strain for about 30 minutes. Discard any liquid in the bottom of the bowl and remove the yogurt to a larger bowl. Add agave and vanilla to the yogurt and stir well. (Here is where you could add different flavorings if you prefer, like Kahlua, coffee, or Bailey's Irish Cream, or maple syrup in place of the agave, which is delicious if you're making maple-pecan or maple walnut yogurt.)

Place the freezer bowl onto your machine, place the paddle inside the freezer bowl and put the lid on the machine. (Do not pour the yogurt into the machine until everything is in place. I made this mistake and it was a frozen mess!) Turn on the machine and pour the yogurt mixture into the freezer bowl through the hole in the lid. (You may have a different kind of ice cream machine, and if so, just follow those instructions.) The yogurt will start freezing almost immediately, (mine only takes about 5 minutes to get to the consistency we like). Stir with a wooden spoon or a rubber spatula every so often to keep the yogurt from freezing to the sides of the bowl. When the yogurt reaches the consistency you like, sprinkle the Oreo cookie pieces into the bowl and allow to churn for a minute or two more.

Remove the yogurt from the freezer bowl and place it in another container to keep it from freezing too firm. Serve immediately with your favorite chocolate sauce, or store in the freezer until ready to serve. Remember to allow 10-15 minutes for the frozen yogurt to soften up if you have frozen it ahead of time.



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>



Family Focus

Practicing civility

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

We need Miss Manners more than ever now. All around us are more and more instances of people treating each other rudely, dismissively, or even hostilely. Some of our local Nextdoor postings got so nasty that the leader needed to remind participants of the rules of conduct for using the site.

Society had already slipped in decorum before COVID came along. The example from certain leaders of our government has been one of hurling insults and inflammatory remarks at people too many times to even count. I was already concerned about the message this crude conduct sent to our children, grandchildren, and impressionable youth in general. But now, frustration with so many parts of our society has seeped down to us average citizens and some people are not holding back.

Disagreeing respectfully seems to have lost its allure.

One controversial subject surrounding us at this time is how to keep safe during COVID or whether to even try very hard. Some are strictly observing recommendations for wearing masks and keeping distance, while others are not. Some in each contingent are denigrating those who are behaving differently. One family I see on Zoom

is so divided on this issue that they couldn't remain sheltered in place together. They live in another county, and I've changed their names so they won't be identifiable in this column. "Aaron" and "Leah" are a couple in their 50s. Leah had cancer and chemo three years ago and is in the high-risk group for the coronavirus. They have three children in their teens and early 20s.

One daughter, age 22, a recent college graduate, had to remain at home when she had been planning on finding a job and living with roommates. "Anna" became very willful about getting together with friends whether or not she was following safe protocol. Both parents pleaded with her to take more precautions and to think about protecting them, especially her mother. But things deteriorated as Anna continued to indulge in risky behavior by going to parties and group gatherings. Aaron was furious and the household was full of conflict and screaming for months. The final straw was when Aaron, who had never acted out in anger before, threw a vase at the family room wall. It shattered and so did this family's living arrangements.

Aaron and Leah decided that Anna could no longer live with them, and they rented a guest cottage for her from some neighbors. This was an

expensive solution, but one that brought more comfort to Aaron and Leah. Anna has refused to see them at present, and they are hoping to repair the relationship soon. They are still giving Anna money to live on because they know she can't easily find work during this pandemic.

Aaron's loss of control was out of character for him, and he was very concerned. It is much easier to lose one's temper when there is underlying fear involved. When there is a threat to our safety (one of our most basic needs, according to Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs), we often have a fight or flight response.

If we understand how easily we can be provoked when we're more frustrated and fearful, maybe we can avoid controversy with others. I think just about all of us are feeling less in control (i.e., more helpless) and more anxious these days. Worry, stress and isolation can affect levels of brain serotonin and cortisol, which can then have a negative impact on our mood.

With so many challenges facing us, it is especially important to try to conduct ourselves reasonably, even if other people we may encounter occasionally are not. It is enervating to battle with others when we need to preserve our strength and determination to be safe from the

virus, healthy in general and economically secure, to function at work and keep our jobs, and to help our children navigate their current school and social situations, and so much more.

How can we be good role models for our children and others and not allow ourselves to be negatively triggered? Some of the techniques for anger management can be quite useful in these times.

First, recognize that you have the right to think and feel any way you want; it's what you do with your thoughts and feelings that makes a difference. Then, take time and think before you speak or sound off in person or on social media, texts, or emails. It's helpful to first write down some iterations of what you want to say and then decide how you want to phrase your thoughts.

Once you're calm, if you want to express your anger use "I-statements." An I-statement starts with expressing a feeling, then what caused you to feel this way, then what you would like to see happen. An example could be, "I'm worried about getting takeout at this restaurant when I see you're not wearing a mask. Could you please put one on?" Or, "I'm upset that you called me _____ (insert derogatory name or curse word). I don't think I deserve to be treated this way and

hope you won't do this again."

If you're highly upset, take a time out if you can. Find calming techniques for yourself, such as slow, deep breathing, yoga, music, writing in a journal, or talking things out with a trusted person. Identify possible solutions instead of focusing on what made you angry. These steps will help you feel more in control and less at the mercy of your emotions.

Some may feel better unleashing their anger, but that is usually only a short-term payoff. Long-term positive feelings about ourselves come from either exercising restraint in certain situations or speaking up without blame or judgment — in other words, with civility.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a local marriage and family therapist. She is the author of "Appetite for Life: Inspiring Stories of Recovery from Anorexia, Bulimia and Compulsive Overeating" and "Treat Your Partner Like a Dog: How to Breed a Better Relationship." Contact her at (925) 376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com.

Summer virtual tour of 'Dark and Light, A Delicate Balance' exhibit offered



Photos provided by Mary Leigh Miller, Two Masks, ceramic



Irene Needoba, Jungle Talk, oil, resin and mixed media

Submitted by Carla Gelbaum

The Moraga Art Gallery is offering a "Summer Virtual Tour" of the exhibit

"Dark and Light, A Delicate Balance," which features the work of member artists Irene Needoba and Mary Leigh Miller and is available to view through Oct. 10 on the Moraga Art Gallery website.

Irene Needoba, works with oils, resin and mixed media. In this series of paintings, she seeks to bring attention to the role we have in our environment. Her paintings reflect climate change, pollution within the ocean and fires that result from extreme changes in weather.

Mary Leigh Miller works in clay. Her work in this exhibit explores our inner selves through a series of masks and everyday objects, and the outer reality of our intimate surroundings captured in a grouping of garden totems.

In addition the gallery is featuring the jewelry and encaustic paintings of guest artist, Claudette McDermott.

Moraga Art Gallery is a cooperative featuring the work of 19 established local artists and artisans whose work includes painting, sculpture, jewelry, print media, ceramics, pho-

tography and woodworking.

The gallery is located at 432 Center Street, Rheem Shopping Center, in Moraga. The gallery hours are Saturday and Sunday from noon to 3 p.m. Because of the need to change hours if there are new health directives, please call first to confirm the gallery is open.

Everyone visiting the gallery must wear a face mask and maintain social distancing by keeping at least six feet apart. The gallery has hand sanitizer for guests to use when entering the gallery and gloves will also be available at the front desk for handling prints and ceramics. The gallery limits the number of customers to four people at a time.

For more information, visit the gallery's website: <https://moragaart-gallery.com>, call (925) 376-5407 or email moragaartgallery@gmail.com.

‘Conviction’ – an intense French court drama now available online



By Sophie Braccini

Ten years ago, Jacques Viguier was judged for the second time for the murder of his wife because the prosecutor had filed an appeal after his first acquittal. This movie, although fictionalized, is based on that true story. Fascinated by the trial where he sat as a spectator at the time, film director Antoine Rimbault decided to explore the French judicial system in the film “Conviction” that is now being offered online by the Orinda-based International Film Showcase. This detailed exploration of a system and the passionate quest for truth by Viguier’s lawyer and a regular woman is a brilliant cine-

matographic coup. During an interview at a European film festival Rimbault explained that he stayed as close as possible to the real proceedings of the trial, using verbatim the transcripts for all the debates. He created one fiction character, Nora, who becomes obsessed with the fight. All the other characters are real, and their real names have been used in the movie. Filming the debates in court and outside for the counter-inquiry, Rimbault, a young director, has been able to construct a riveting thriller. As a spectator at Jacques Viguier’s trial, accused of murdering his wife, Nora is sure he is innocent. There is no material proof, and the wife’s body was never found.

She reaches out to Eric Dupont-Moretti, a very well known French criminal defense lawyer. Together they lead a fierce fight against injustice.

Dupont-Moretti is well known in France for his tireless fight to protect the presumption of innocence and the benefit of the doubt. Here, he works to debunk manufactured proofs and demonstrate that the only elements against Viguier are the police and other stakeholders’ convictions. One of the last scenes of the movie is the lawyer’s final address, an eloquent piece of rhetoric where Dupont-Moretti addresses each of the jurors in the eye and asks them to decide for themselves what is justice.

It is chilling to see the judicial system ready to crush a man with no hint of material proof.

Actor Olivier Gourmet worked with Dupont-Moretti to get as close as possible to the lawyer’s state of mind during the trial. As an interesting aside, this famous defense lawyer was appointed French Minister of Justice in July of this year.

Gourmet is a subtle and powerful actor and forms a great duo with Marina Fois, who plays Nora. Fois has had a very unique career in France, where she was able to portray a wide array of characters from the most truculent to the most dramatic. Here, her own obsession to prove Viguier innocent can prove just as insane as the passion of those accusing him.

The film is available to be rented online on the IFS website. Details can be found at <http://internationalshowcase.org/> (IFS founder Efi Lubliner recommends to use a Chrome browser to access the site more easily.)

Local cyclists participate in Cycle for Hope event during pandemic



Bob Frick at an earlier event.

Photo provided

Since receiving “a dare” from one of his MBA students at Saint Mary’s Graduate School of Business in 2007 to ride 540 miles across Minnesota for Habitat for Humanity, Lafayette resident Bob Frick, 83, has participated in cycling to support this cause, raising \$627,602 during three cross-country rides in 2008, 2012 and 2015, with his wife as SAG and fellow Lafayette resident Len Holmes in 2012 and 2015.

This year, due to the pandemic, the Cycle for Hope event will be done differently – on a curated Cycle of Hope course, or a cyclist’s own path to their goal. Participants might organize a socially distant ride with friends, ride on their own or establish their own team to ride.

According to Cycle of Hope organizers, “However you ride, you ride with us. Plus, you can still expect a premier ride experience with stacked swag bags, opportunities to (safely) connect with our cycling community, and access to our official ride app – RaceJoy – for Cycle of Hope official courses, progress tracking, results submission, and your very own virtual cheer squad to keep you riding!”

There are eight designed rides in the East Bay, and four in Silicon Valley – or on courses created by riders anywhere they like – of 11, 32, 62 and 100 miles each, plus children’s rides of shorter distances. Frick and his long-

time friend, Len Holmes, will be participating Oct. 1-25, with a total of 16 possible days to ride, assuming the terrible smoke and “dirty air” goes away. Frick says he is sensitive to “dirty air.”

Frick says he may ride his own route, which he has done many times in training to Suisun on the river – about 35 miles one way. “I’ll leave from my house and ride to Martinez, over the Benicia Bridge, and then roughly parallel to Highway 80, back across Highway 80 to Suisun and the River/Marina.”

The purpose of the fundraiser is “to build and preserve homes for low/moderate income families,” said Frick. “Home ownership can provide an opportunity for LMI families to transform their lives – pride of ownership, build equity, stability of home ownership, self reliance, and a total better living environment.” He added that “housing is a critical issue, and having an impact on the housing crisis can be as simple as riding a bike for a cause.”

For information about the fundraising event, visit www.HabitatCycleOfHope.org. Also, contact Bob Frick at kesrobfriek@comcast.net to obtain a price discount for riding, and he will donate \$100 to Habitat. – J. Wake

Volunteers help distribute food kits to Latinx children and their families



Photo Lauren Miltello

Katie Pintado, building manager of the Orinda Masonic Lodge and volunteer for White Pony Express, helps assemble food kits to aid Latinx families who have recently immigrated.

Submitted by Steve Spraitzar

White Pony Express assembled some more “food kits” for its Blessings Project, which is designed to help recently immigrated Latinx families who are particularly vulnerable at this time. One of the volunteers helping on Sept. 8 was Katie Pintado, who is the building manager of the Orinda Masonic Lodge.

WPE’s idea is to deliver food and spices that are familiar to Latinx neighbors. The food kits include fresh produce, rice, Masa flour, beans, tomato sauce, cheese, assorted peppers, an array of spices, Mexican chocolate, corn husks, and other items.

Although WPE picks up surplus food items from supermarkets and food distributors every day, it does not get everything needed for these food kits. For the Blessings Project, WPE needs the community’s participation.

If you know of an individual or group that would be interested in sponsoring this initiative, or know someone who could host drives for food items needed to complete the food kits, contact Eve Birge, Executive Director at (202) 251-4174, evibirge@whiteponyexpress.org for sponsorships, and Pete Olsen, WPE’s School Pantry and Food Sourcing Manager at (925) 322-0604 x 129, petersolsen@whiteponyexpress.org for food drives.

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.

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ART

Valley Art Gallery announces the show by gallery artists, "Sea to See" will continue through Sept. 25. A new show featuring Catherine Fasciato – oils, and Nancy Meaden – ceramics will open Sept. 29, and run until Nov. 7. Meet the artists Saturday, Oct. 3 from noon to 5 p.m.. Valley Art Gallery 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek www.valleyartgallery.org, (925) 935-4311 or valleyartgallery@gmail.com

Literature

October events at Orinda Books. Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 4 p.m. Virtual Book Club. Allisson Wood will introduce her new memoir, "Being Lolita," a stunning coming-of-age story that shines a bright light on our shifting perceptions of consent, vulnerability and power. Wood is an award-winning writer whose essays have been published in the New York Times, Catapult, and Epiphany. Buy the book in store, online, or by phone (925) 254-7606.

After purchase, you'll receive a link to the meeting. 276 Village Square, Orinda www.orindabooks.com

Prayer Garden open to all for quiet meditation at Christian Science Church, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda. Everyone seeking a better sense of peace will find a welcoming haven in a lovely outdoor setting. Pray, read, meditate. Books and periodicals with a spiritual perspective on current issues are free to all. Attendant on site from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., but all are welcome any time during daylight hours.

Other

Piedmont Diversity Film Series presents "Suppressed 2020: The Fight to Vote" on Sept. 17 at 4:30 p.m. on Zoom from your own home, 554 Boulevard Way, Piedmont. The film focuses on the Stacy Abrams governor's campaign in Georgia, revealing rampant voter suppression. Find out how to prevent this in Calif. Cost: Free, register at website. For more info see <http://diversityfilmseries.org> or call (510) 599-9227 or

email janet@diversityfilmseries.org.

Friends Corner Book Shop at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center campus reopens for curbside service only beginning Tuesday, Sept. 8. Hours will be Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Shop is still unable to accept new donations. If there is a specific book you would like to purchase, please request at friendscornerbookshop@gmail.com. A volunteer will let you know whether or not it is available. There will also be an opportunity to "window shop" as we will be placing books and other items in the windows. Please provide exact change or a check for purchase; checks may be made out to FLLLC. In addition to the books offered for sale in the shop, it has over 1,800 books for sale on Amazon. Masks and social distancing will be required at time of pick up.

Political

American Association of University Women Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch (AAUW-OML) General meeting Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m., via Zoom. League of Women Voters discuss the 12 propositions on the November ballot. The program is free and open to the public. To obtain a Zoom link to the program, visit AAUW-OML's website at <https://oml-ca.aauw.net>.

The Moraga Citizens Network will host Candidates Night online. The event will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 30. All five candidates will attend. For updates and information regarding login access for the event go to: www.MCNMoraga.org. To submit a question for the candidates email: MCN94556@gmail.com by the Sept. 25 deadline.

Garden

Lafayette Garden Club Monthly program begins Thursday, Sept. 10 at 10 a.m.

on Zoom, featuring guest speaker Dr. Douglas Tallamy, Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Delaware. He will present a follow up webinar to his previous "Bring Back the Natives Tour." The tour included 40 fabulous private gardens that provide habitat for wildlife, are pesticide-free, conserve water, and contain 60% or more native plants. The webinar is free. For details on this presentation and membership information please email MaryanneKain@comcast.net

Please submit events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Carey Schueler – in a league of her own



Carey Schueler

Photos provided

By Jon Kingdon

Having a father who is a professional athlete does not necessarily imbue one with athletic ability, but in the case of Carey Schueler, it didn't hurt. Carey's father, Ron, was a pitcher in the major leagues from 1972 to 1979. After retiring as a player, Ron Schueler worked and coached in the league, eventually becoming the general manager of the White Sox from 1991 to 2000. Carey and her older sister Kacey's early lives were somewhat akin to that of army brats, moving from city to city. "There was a decent amount of jumping around," Schuler said, "but from the age of 7 (1982) until college, we

lived for the most part in Lafayette and Moraga. It was a bizarre and messy time when my father was fired by Chicago and my mother got ill. That was when my dad announced that we were going to California. It was a whole new experience for me and though I came to adore California, it was a difficult transition with everything going on."

It was at that young age when Schueler discovered a love for baseball: "I was at the ballpark a lot and I always played baseball. There were some other girls that played in Lafayette Little League, but I was the only one that moved on to Pony League and travel baseball. I had to fight to be able to try out and play for the boy's baseball team at Cam-

polindo because it had never been done before. I just loved baseball and competing with the boys."

Even with the passage of Title IX, there was still some resentment towards Schueler's playing on the same teams with the boys: "It wasn't terrible in little league in terms of the other boys because I always had the support of really good friends and teammates, but sadly, it was more from the parents that I would get some grief. I would hear it from the stands when I was playing. It did change when I began playing in pony league and in high school, but you would not believe some of the stuff that I heard."

Coached initially by her father, the left handed (actually ambidextrous) Schueler developed a number of pitches as a starter and reliever for the Cougars, even playing some first base: "I threw a fastball, curve, change-up and slider with decent velocity." Hanging around the Oakland A's didn't hurt either as she also got tips from A's pitchers Bob Welch and Dave Stewart.

Schueler did not play baseball as a senior, focusing on basketball in anticipation of getting a scholarship to college. She started as a freshman on the state championship team and played the next three years under Scott Brown, who Schueler loved playing for: "Scott was my favorite and best coach. His knowledge was incredible, and he had the ability to relate to his players and you knew that he cared and was someone you wanted to play hard for."

Brown remembers Schueler as a special player: "Carey's attitude was that if we're going to do something, let's do it well. I loved her work ethic at practice and in the games. She was a great

role model and leader. She wasn't afraid to have the ball in her hands at the end of the game, whether it was to make the clutch shot, drive to the basket or dish the ball for the winner. She was always confident that good things would happen, and they usually did."

Despite not playing baseball as a senior, the Chicago White Sox drafted Schueler in the 43rd round (1208th pick overall) in the 1993 MLB draft. Her father initially opposed it, Carey said: "The scouting department went to my father and said how they had seen me grow up and what I could do as a player and that I had earned a chance to play if I wanted to. My dad told them how I was going to play college basketball and he did not want to talk about nepotism. However, the scouts listed all the reasons why they wanted to draft me, so he finally agreed to it."

Schueler was not shy, but never sought out the attention when she played sports: "My attitude was that you do your job well on the court or field and that's what you're supposed to do. After being drafted, I said no to more interviews than I said yes to. I understood the interest, but it just did not intrigue me. Growing up with my father who was a Kansas farm boy, it was you just do your job and don't seek out the glory. I'm

sure I got a lot of that from him."

After playing basketball for two years at DePaul, leading the team in assists one season, Schueler transferred to Saint Mary's, planning to continue her basketball career but constant ankle sprains and issues with her back became too much for her to continue her athletic career. She graduated with a degree in sports management and a business minor.

After graduation, Schueler worked for a gym in Chicago and privately with clients, starting a youth and teen personal and sports specific training program designed to help these student-athletes get to the college level and beyond.

After being diagnosed with Hashimoto's disease (a thyroid autoimmune disorder), Schueler was prompted to take a more holistic approach to confronting her condition: "I had terrible fatigue, fibromyalgia, my body was in constant pain and I had brain fog. It just became my mission to get my health back."

Schueler was told she would have to take medication for the rest of her life and live with it but the competitive side of her attacked the disease from many different directions:

... continued on Page C2



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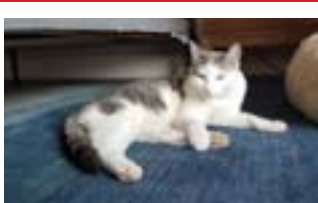
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Carey Schueler – in a league of her own



Ron Schueler with Carey, center, and her sister Kasey.

... continued from Page C1

"I changed the way I ate, as nutrition is massive. I changed the way I exercised and worked extremely hard on reducing stress and learned ways to improve my sleep. I learned how to reduce the toxins in my body daily. I added supplements to my diet that were specific to my

needs. I did specific functional medicine labs that revealed the state of my gut health [and] internal inflammation, and I worked with an amazing coach who taught me the immense value and importance of mindset."

It was this thinking that sent Schueler to a functional doctor rather than a general practitioner: "My functional

doctor helped me discover the root cause of my illness. I found out I had a leaky gut and that there was an overgrowth of bacteria. I was able to balance my adrenals so that my body stopped believing I was in a constant state of stress and panic, helping me to improve my sleep, and so on."

This led Schueler to get certified as an Integrative Healthy Practitioner and to start her own business, 4 My Health. "I look for underlying root causes, finding imbalances or deficiencies in someone's health to restore the equilibrium in a homeostasis or balance in their health. It's all designed to figure out what is causing their health disturbances and get them back into balance. I work closely with a functional medicine doctor here in Chicago and we have a business relationship where we will refer and often talk with each other"

Scott Brown has been a client of Schueler's and speaks highly of the results: "4 My

Health is fabulous. I have reached out to Carey about what I needed to do to have a healthy lifestyle and what to look for. I really appreciate what she has done for me. She answered all my questions and responds to any of my comments on Facebook. Our roles have changed as she is now my coach."

Most of her work with clients these days has been virtual, either on the phone, Zoom, Facetime and emailing text messages: "With these tools it has worked out incredibly well even with the quarantine." Still, Schueler offers this proviso: "The information I provide is for informational purposes only and is not intended as a substitute for advice from your physician or other health care professionals or any information contained on or in any product label or packaging. You should not stop taking any medication without first consulting your physician."

Schueler and her wife, Kate Varde, were married in

2015 and each carried one of their children to term, 5-year-old Schueler Varde and 6-month-old Grace Varde. If genetics means anything, baseball and softball will be a big part of their lives. Varde played softball at Cornell and was inducted into the Cornell Sports Hall of Fame. "My son loves baseball," Schueler said. "It's such a beautiful game. We will share our love of sports with Grace as well."

It's been a few years since Schueler has been back to Lamorinda, but she still carries great memories of the community: "It's such a beautiful area and all three high schools are incredible schools and have great athletic programs. Academically you could not go wrong with any of them and it was an idyllic place to grow up. I don't think I really knew how good I had it when I was young. It's been a number of years since I've been out there, but it would certainly be interesting to come back and visit."

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

Squeaky clean hacks for the home



Photo provided

By Amanda Eck

Since we have all been spending more time indoors this year, I decided to do some research on some fun and interesting cleaning hacks. Having everyone at home 24-7 has definitely led to a messier house. I am excited to try out some of these tips this weekend. Maybe I can convince the kiddos to join in?

Use dryer sheets to clean your pans

Who knew dryer sheets could also clean your pots and pans? Stubborn baked on food can easily be removed by placing the pan in

the sink with warm water, soap and a dryer sheet. Let it sit for an hour or so and then rinse off with clean water.

Scrub your cast iron skillet with a potato

Add some coarse salt into the pan and then use a potato cut in half to scrub off the grime. Rinse with warm water and dry immediately.

Detox garbage disposal with lemons and limes

I have been using this trick for years and it works. Toss in a few cut up lemons or limes

and turn on the disposal.

Use a squeegee to remove hairs from carpet

This is a great tip if you have pets or even humans who shed (my husband hates it because he's always finding my long hairs all around the house). Use the squeegee to rake the carpet before vacuuming, this will help keep your vacuum from getting clogged up.

Clean your blender

We like to make smoothies every morning and sometimes (OK, many times) I forget to clean it out right away only to have to spend the evening scrubbing it out. Get into the habit of immediately adding warm soapy water to your blender and turn it on for a bit to clean it out. If you have stubborn stains use warm water and baking soda.

Use vodka to get rid of mildew

Who knew that the bottle of vodka in your freezer was not just for quarantine stress relief? If you've got mildew in your bathroom this will get it out in no time. Use a mix of 50-50 water and vodka in a spray bottle. Spray the area and let it sit for 10-20 minutes then rinse with warm water.

Use a paper towel tube on the vacuum cleaner

If you have hard areas to reach with a vacuum (i.e. the rails of your slider doors, window sills, etc.) Take an empty paper towel tube and attach it to the end of the vacuum hose, pinch it to the size you need and get into all those nooks and crannies.

... continued on Page D4

Lamorinda home sales recorded

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LAFAYETTE	21	\$905,000	\$4,820,000
MORAGA	22	\$390,000	\$2,210,000
ORINDA	19	\$970,000	\$4,125,000

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

LAFAYETTE

- 611 Burton Drive, \$2,495,000, 4 Bdrms, 3362 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 08-04-20
- 4026 Canyon Road, \$4,239,000, 5 Bdrms, 5602 SqFt, 2012 YrBlt, 08-03-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 09-27-10
- 21 Carolyn Court, \$905,000, 2 Bdrms, 1080 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 08-07-20
- 370 Castello Road, \$2,580,000, 5 Bdrms, 3364 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 07-28-20,
Previous Sale: \$2,100,000, 09-12-19
- 330 Denise Lane, \$1,265,000, 4 Bdrms, 2422 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 07-29-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 06-25-15
- 3526 Eagle Point Road, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2866 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 08-07-20
- 1182 Glen Road, \$3,520,000, 4 Bdrms, 3676 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 07-29-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,235,000, 07-27-15
- 696 Glenside Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2186 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 08-03-20,
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 11-24-08
- 3368 Kim Road, \$3,577,000, 5 Bdrms, 4581 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 08-04-20
- 42 Knox Drive, \$1,610,000, 4 Bdrms, 2082 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 07-31-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,005,000, 07-11-14
- 3619 Lincoln Way, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1780 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 08-07-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,132,000, 10-26-15
- 3193 Lucas Circle, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 2120 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 07-27-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 06-10-15
- 512 McBride Drive, \$1,660,000, 3 Bdrms, 1937 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-03-20
- 1521 Rancho View Drive, \$1,802,000, 3 Bdrms, 3613 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 07-28-20,
Previous Sale: \$765,000, 07-01-90
- 1634 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,990,000, 4 Bdrms, 2770 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 07-31-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 12-26-12
- 3168 Rohrer Drive, \$1,138,000, 4 Bdrms, 1752 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 08-05-20,
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 05-21-14
- 1231 Rose Lane, \$4,820,000, 4 Bdrms, 4617 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 08-06-20,
Previous Sale: \$3,190,000, 08-05-15
- 204 Seclusion Valley Way, \$2,285,000, 4 Bdrms, 3369 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 08-07-20,
Previous Sale: \$3,400,000, 08-16-16
- 1141 Silverhill Court, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 3292 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 07-31-20
- 91 Silverwood Drive, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2157 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 08-04-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,500,500, 03-27-20
- 1162 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,280,000, 4 Bdrms, 2588 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 07-29-20,
Previous Sale: \$885,000, 07-30-04

... continued on Page D8

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O: 925.937.4000 F: 925.937.4001

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O: 925.800.3510 F: 925.800.3520

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60 EAGLE ROCK WAY, #B
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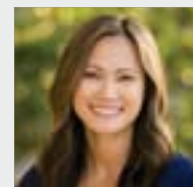
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Squeaky clean hacks for the home

... continued from Page D1



Stainless and Chrome faucets/sinks

This tip I learned years ago while working in a veterinarian office. Wipe down the stainless or chrome faucet with rubbing alcohol, then add a little mineral oil to a soft cloth to buff out fingerprints and make them shine.

Banish stray marks from col- oring time

Toothpaste will erase marker stains from wood. Use a soft cloth and a dab of toothpaste to rub out marker stains. This will not work if it's permanent marker (ask me how I know), but Magic Eraser to the rescue for permanent marks – just be careful on real wood pieces, you may want to test an area before trying this.

Smells like home

Now that you've cleaned everything it's time for some yummy welcoming smells. Yes, lighting a candle is easy, but due to our poor air quality we've had lately that is the last thing I want to do. So, a good stove top simmer to the rescue. Toss in some sliced lemons or oranges to a pot of water and add some cinnamon sticks or cloves, place them on low heat for an hour or two. Make sure to keep an eye on it so the water doesn't evaporate and leave you with burning lemons. But hey, if it does happen, you'll know to use dyer sheets to get it out!

I hope these tips inspired you to do a little deep clean in your home this weekend. Stay safe everyone and until next time!



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

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

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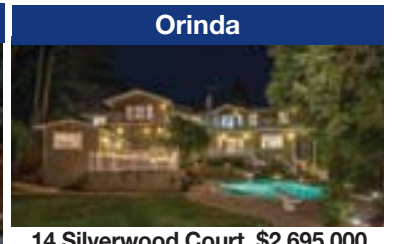
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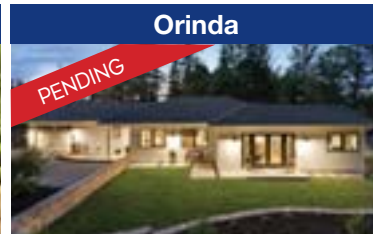
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338 Birchwood Drive \$1,495,000
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 338brichwood.com Lic #01373412



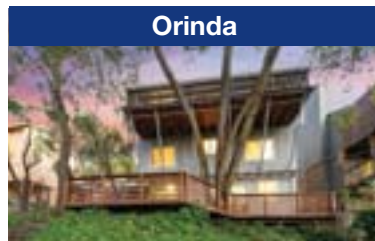
Lafayette

1238 Laurel Lane \$1,495,000
 Fabulous home on private lane with views from every window!
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 michelemckay.com Lic #01902466



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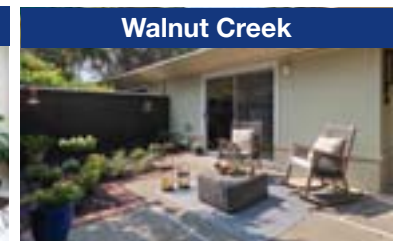
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Orinda ~ 2 Rabble Road

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Walnut Creek ~ 738 Old Stable Place

The light-filled living space showcases a fresh, contemporary interior with wide-planked white oak flooring, high ceilings, crown molding, stylish fixtures, and dual pane windows that frame garden views. SF 3,532 | BD 5 | BA 3.5 | Car Gar 3 | Pool | \$2,075,000



Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

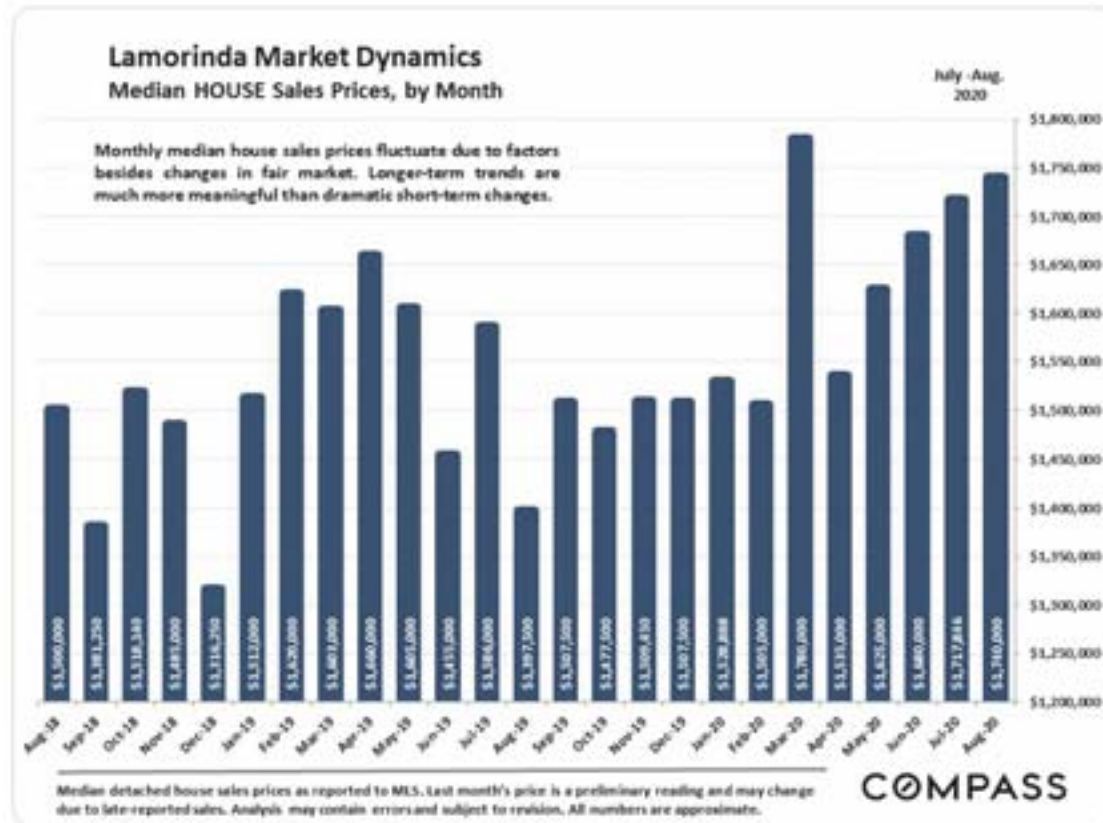
MORAGA

116 Alta Mesa Court, \$940,000, 2 Bdrms, 1698 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 08-04-20, Previous Sale: \$850,000, 03-04-19
 123 Alta Mesa Court, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1954 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 07-29-20, Previous Sale: \$787,000, 11-26-08
 1176 Alta Mesa Drive, \$1,290,000, 4 Bdrms, 2785 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 08-03-20, Previous Sale: \$1,240,000, 04-11-18
 2079 Ascot Drive #136, \$390,000, 1 Bdrms, 785 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 07-31-20, Previous Sale: \$175,500, 09-11-08
 2083 Ascot Drive #231, \$620,000, 3 Bdrms, 1472 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 08-03-20
 883 Augusta Drive, \$907,500, 2 Bdrms, 1743 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 07-28-20, Previous Sale: \$637,500, 09-11-14
 891 Augusta Drive, \$963,000, 2 Bdrms, 2333 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 07-31-20, Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 06-26-19
 617 Augusta Drive, \$1,075,000, 2 Bdrms, 2187 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 07-31-20, Previous Sale: \$900,000, 04-19-16
 16 Brandt Drive, \$2,210,000, 5 Bdrms, 3344 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 07-27-20, Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 05-08-00
 1862 Camino Pablo, \$1,126,000, 4 Bdrms, 1966 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 07-28-20
 2 Doral Drive, \$950,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 07-28-20
 459 Fernwood Drive, \$2,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2579 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 07-31-20, Previous Sale: \$826,000, 05-12-99
 200 Fronteras Drive, \$1,910,000, 4 Bdrms, 3318 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 08-06-20
 216 Fronteras Drive, \$2,010,000, 4 Bdrms, 3318 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 08-07-20
 110 La Quinta Street, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 08-06-20, Previous Sale: \$1,280,000, 08-04-14
 651 Moraga Road #34, \$510,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 07-29-20, Previous Sale: \$417,000, 03-21-16
 3844 Paseo Grande, \$1,755,000, 5 Bdrms, 2450 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 07-30-20
 1544 Saint Marys Road, \$1,109,000, 4 Bdrms, 2000 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 07-28-20, Previous Sale: \$111,000, 02-01-78
 265 Sandringham Drive, \$1,635,000, 4 Bdrms, 2696 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 08-06-20, Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 02-16-16
 226 Sonora Road, \$2,180,000, 5 Bdrms, 4714 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 08-07-20
 3780 Via Granada, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 1948 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 08-07-20
 127 Warfield Drive, \$1,870,000, 4 Bdrms, 2155 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 08-03-20, Previous Sale: \$1,268,000, 06-29-06

ORINDA

217 Alice Lane, \$1,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 2479 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 07-27-20
 14 Berkeley Avenue, \$980,000, 2 Bdrms, 1360 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 07-30-20, Previous Sale: \$599,000, 11-30-10
 15 Camino Del Diablo, \$2,272,500, 6 Bdrms, 3894 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 08-07-20, Previous Sale: \$1,897,000, 07-25-08
 258 Camino Sobrante, \$3,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 4952 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 08-03-20, Previous Sale: \$2,312,500, 10-20-05
 57 Charles Hill Road, \$4,125,000, 5 Bdrms, 4621 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 07-29-20, Previous Sale: \$1,600,000, 11-15-17
 59 Citron Knolls, \$1,349,000, 3 Bdrms, 1954 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 07-27-20
 42 Don Gabriel Way, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 1489 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 07-31-20, Previous Sale: \$580,000, 08-14-00
 133 Donna Maria Way, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 2140 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 08-04-20, Previous Sale: \$1,190,000, 08-02-05
 28 Honey Hill Road, \$1,731,000, 3 Bdrms, 2845 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 07-29-20
 45 Ivy Drive, \$970,000, 3 Bdrms, 1458 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 07-31-20
 215 La Espiral, \$2,995,000, 4 Bdrms, 2656 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 08-05-20, Previous Sale: \$1,075,000, 02-09-18
 9 La Fond Lane, \$1,760,000, 4 Bdrms, 3010 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 08-03-20, Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 06-25-15
 215 Moraga Way, \$1,366,500, 3 Bdrms, 1947 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 07-30-20, Previous Sale: \$765,000, 11-06-09
 29 Overhill Road, \$1,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 2798 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 07-31-20
 9 Sager Court, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2026 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-07-20
 15 Saint Stephens Drive, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2780 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 07-30-20
 127 Scenic Drive, \$2,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2969 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 08-06-20
 236 Sundown Terrace, \$2,795,000, 4 Bdrms, 3757 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 07-31-20
 619 Watchwood Road, \$1,350,000, 2 Bdrms, 2014 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 08-04-20

Lowest Levels of Inventory below \$1.7M in Lamorinda & Highest Levels of Demand



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COMPASS



LISTINGS FROM THE OLSEN TEAM

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

COMING SOON ——— ACTIVE LISTINGS



272 Tharp Drive, Moraga
Offered at \$1,295,000

3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,580 Sq. ft. / 0.25 Acres
3D tour at www.272Tharp.com



51 Laird Drive, Moraga
Offered at \$3,195,000

4 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3,847 Sq. ft. / 1.02 Acres
3D tour at www.51Laird.com



5 Berrybrook Hollow, Orinda
Offered at \$2,195,000

4 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3,332 Sq. ft. / 1.32 Acres
3D tour at www.5BerrybrookHollow.com

PENDING



1156 Larch Avenue, Moraga
Offered at \$1,450,000



26 Martha Road, Orinda
Buyer Rep \$2,195,000



53 Knickerbocker Lane, Orinda
Buyer Rep \$2,295,000



439 Stonefield Place, Moraga
Buyer Rep \$1,695,000



BEN OLSEN



SUE OLSEN



LORI TRUE



ERIN KELLY



The Olsen Team
925.200.6000
Mail@TheOlsenTeam.com

DRE #01409268





50 Charles Hill Road, Orinda



5 bd | 3 ba | 3013 sqft | 1.46 acres
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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Fall in a pot!



A view through the crape myrtles to the smoke-shaded sun.

Photos Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

“Truth comes out in wine.” ~ Pliny the Elder
“The people who give you their food give you their heart.” ~ Cesar Chavez

The fires and smoke have ravaged farms and vineyards throughout Northern California, including my family vineyards in Napa County. The grapes are plump, juicy and ripe. Harvesting would normally be in full swing this month, but, sadly, with so much smoke suffocating fields throughout the region, wineries require red grape samples to be tested for smoke taint.

Smoke taint is concentrated in the skins and during fermentation glycosides break down, releasing the volatile phenols and smoky flavors into the wine. The result tastes like licking an ashtray. The damage is not detectable by looking at or eating a grape. It is only noticeable in the wine. Since white wine isn't barrel-aged nor use skins, white wine doesn't experience this smoke taint.

The largest testing laboratory, ETS in St. Helena, is swamped with results backlogged for weeks or, as some growers are finding

out, over a month away. If a grower or winery is not a client, they won't be able to process samples until November. By then the window for harvesting will be over. The grapes will be dried raisins, not suitable for pressing.

What this means for viticulture in 2020 is that farmers may lose their entire crop and face increased financial hardships as the grapes hang on the vines. There may not be a 2020 red wine vintage as wineries are not allowing deliveries of grapes under contract until the lab results have confirmed an absence of smoke taint. Truth is always evident in the wine.

With the stifling smoke of the past weeks, my normal September gardening tasks have been placed on pause. I am sheltering indoors and suggesting to clients and readers to do the same to maintain health as smoke inhalation peril is increased during COVID-19. But this doesn't mean that I'm avoiding my garden. I've been asked to write another gardening book and am brainstorming in my library. And, I'm bringing the fruits of my labors inside to my kitchen while I chef it up.

“Oh, I can smell the sauce from here,” my charity collaborator and friend, Terry in Washington, emailed me when I wrote her that, to mask the smell of smoke, I was making my family's traditional homemade spaghetti sauce with ingredients from my waning garden. My process reminded her of being in her Italian great-grandmother's kitchen.

With the intense sunshine and heat of the summer, tomatoes, onions, garlic, peppers and herbs are filled with flavor. Being Italian, neither my Nonie, mom, nor relatives measured anything. A recipe was handed down throughout the generations by watching, doing, and adding “a little of this, a pinch of that,” lots of garlic, and several splashes of wine. We have always cooked by taste, adding spices as needed. Naturally, numerous “malfatti's” or mistakes occurred, which oftentimes, were our greatest successes.

The best cooks that I've ever encountered have also been avid gardeners. Gardeners experience nature using their senses. Gardeners amble through a potager snipping, smelling, nibbling, feeling, and seeing with a profound sensitivity to the innate characteristics of each legume, bloom, or crop.

... continued on next Page



A vintage box filled with various basils and herbs makes for easy picking.



Black mission figs are a perfect dessert,

... continued from Page D12

Being an astute chef requires one to know how to mix and match fruits, flowers, vegetables, and herbs to enhance any dish, allowing the natural essences to imbue their zests and aromas. Food must look good, smell good, taste good, and be ultimately satisfying, making one feel good.

Autumn is harvest time. Besides eating our tasty produce now, it is also the perfect opportunity to can or freeze fresh crops to savor during the winter months.

What herbs can you dry or freeze:

Basil
Bay
Oregano
Sage
Rosemary
Dill
Thyme
Parsley

I prefer to freeze basil and parsley or make “sauce ice cubes” with those. The rest of the herbs, I dry, then store in labeled jars.

OAKMONT

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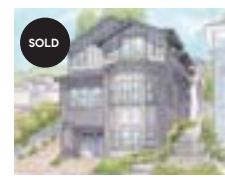
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OAKMONT

The Golden State Series



THE TILDEN | 4517 Howe Street



THE YOUNTVILLE | 4519 Howe Street

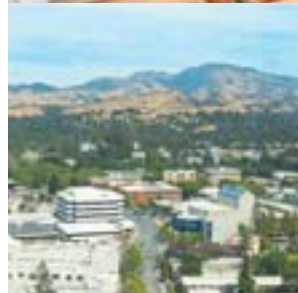


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Cynthia's Italian Family Spaghetti Sauce "Recipe"

- In a pestle and mortar grind together oregano, sage, rosemary, and thyme. You can also use a blender if that is easier for you.
- Chop red and yellow onions and several cloves of garlic.
- Saute onions and garlic in olive oil until translucent.
- Stir in chopped mushrooms.
- Add 3 or 4 whole bay leaves and a handful of the mashed herbs.
- Gently brown meat (ground beef, lamb, pork, chicken) in the mixture. If you want a vegetarian sauce, skip this part.
- Cut 6-10 tomatoes into small pieces. Smash half of the tomatoes. Add cut pieces and the tomato paste to the meat mixture.
- Pour in red wine.
- Tear 4 or 5 basil leaves into pieces and stir into pot.
- Continue adding more wine as necessary.
- Simmer at lowest heat for several hours until all the flavors have melded together. Turn off the burner to let sit.
- Sprinkle sea salt and freshly ground pepper to taste.



Using a mortar and pestle to make Cynthia's heritage spaghetti sauce handed down for generations.

Optional ingredients include peppers or eggplant. To make a Puttanesca, add olives and capers.

The final sauce will be thick, rich and delicious. Don't be afraid to make this in advance as flavors are more delectable the next day. Freeze or can any extra sauce. (I always make a big pot and freeze tubs for later consumption.)

Pour over spaghetti, ravioli, lasagna, or any pasta. Toss lightly to blend the sauce. Top with chopped parsley, torn basil leaves, and grated parmesan. Serve with crusty sourdough, a romaine lettuce salad, and a glass of sustainable, locally grown, aged, and bottled Captain Vineyards Petite Sirah. Finish off your meal with fall fruits: a bunch of grapes, tangy tangerine segments, crunchy Asian pears, and a few figs. Buon appetito.

What are you harvesting in your garden right now? Do you have a family "Fall in a Pot" recipe to share with others?

My mom taught me that expressing love came from gardens and homemade food. My dad taught me that farmers feed the hungry and wine is the nectar of the gods. Both gave their hearts. During these very challenging times as we pray that our California vineyards survive this ordeal, let's toast to life with a glass of local vino and welcome fall with a pot of goodness from our gardens.

In my next column, I plan to be outside once again offering you guidance for autumn gardening. Until then, limit your outdoor exposure when it's smoky and make sure to water your landscape deeply in the early mornings or late evenings. Be aware that your containers may need a daily dose of H2O. For the next two to three months until the rain begins to fall, our area is at imminent risk of fire danger. Be ready to evacuate. Read my article on what you need to know and do to be prepared.

<https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1414/Are-you-ready-to-evacuate.html>
For a Zoom presentation of, "Tips, Tricks, and Tonics in the Garden" join me on Thursday, Sept. 17, as I kick off the 50th Anniversary of the Moraga Garden Club. For information on this Zoom meeting, call Membership Chair Jane Magnani at (925) 451-7031 for times to join in the conversation and presentation. I'll be participating from my patio for a light, fun, informative, and hopefully smoke-free lecture. Happy gardening. Happy growing.



Cynthia Brian in her library contemplating a new gardening book.

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 c, celebrating 21 years of service to the community. www.BetheSTARYouAre.org. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Buy copies of her best-selling books and receive extra freebies, Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, and Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Cynthia is available for virtual writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com



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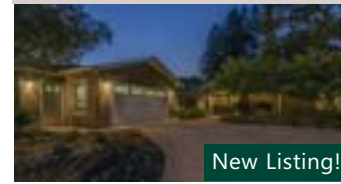
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14 Silverwood Court

Beautifully remodeled, fabulous custom 5 bed/ 5.5 bath home in a coveted & central Orinda/Glorietta location.

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859 Santa Maria Way

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ORINDA



New Listing!

50 Charles Hill Road

Gorgeous & spacious 5 bed/ 3 bath on 1.46 acre parcel w/ views of Mt. Diablo, lovely gardens, grassy lawns & privacy.

\$1,799,000

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

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15 Linda Vista

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3554 Springhill Road

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\$3,988,000

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

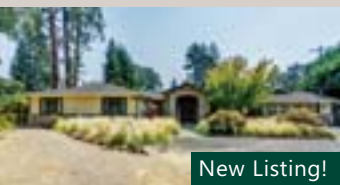


3696 Happy Valley Road

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

LAFAYETTE



New Listing!

3177 Stanwood Lane

Single story 4 bed + office/ 3 bath 3591 sqft remodel on large .41 acre flat lot in excellent Lafayette neighborhood.

\$2,650,000

ALAMO

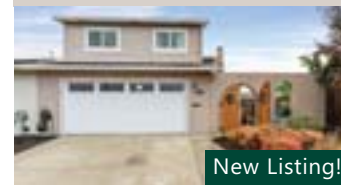


10 Serenity Lane

Majestic gated 12 bed/ 13 bath/ 3 half bath chateau w/ vineyard, 20 showcase car barn, & trophy club room.

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